

# Falls City Newsletter

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY AND PLANTING THE  
SEEDS FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

## FALLS CITY REPORT

City Staff and the volunteers of our Fire Department have been busy reorganizing the Fire services after the break down of contract negotiations with SWRFD. We had to temporarily suspend some of the Emergency Medical Response protocols while we secured a new Supervising Physician. I am glad to report that by the time you receive this newsletter we will be answering medic calls and providing EMR services, a huge thank you to Sharon Volk Grieve, our volunteer EMS Coordinator, for going beyond the call of duty in securing our new Physician.

We were also left weak in our operating equipment; we were down to Engine 122, the pavement princess, a 1991 Pierce Arrow and Engine 123, the 1965 Ford. These Engines were barely adequate to fight fires within our City, but did not carry enough water to help our neighbors outside the City. Volunteer Jay Epperson was able to reach out to the Santa Clara Rural Fire Department and found us a new Engine, a 1986 Ford Brush Truck with a 1000 Gallon tank, that we purchased for a Dollar, another big Thanks to Jay and the Santa Clara Department for the donation. We are also reaching out to another Department for a tanker, if we receive this we will be equipped with the Apparatus we need for the City, although we will still be short a 4x4 Engine for gaining access to help on wild land fires.

We still need to get a quick response rig, this will be a Suburban or 4 door pickup to use on Medic calls, to help transport patients from rough locations to the ambulance, and to use for support crew to help secure traffic and help with structure fires. We also need to equip the new trucks with all of the items that a Fire Truck needs to respond to our emergencies.

Council instructed staff to add to the May 2018 ballot a 5 year local option levy for Fire operations. The City will be asking for \$1.00 per thousand of property valuation to be used for re-equipping the Volunteers with the proper gear to keep us and them safe and to help with supplementing operations cost. The Chief and Council believe that with this added \$40,000 a year, we will be able to not only bring our Station back to the standards we were at, but to make a stronger Department to address our future needs.

This is the first time the City has asked for the community's help for all of the wonderful things our Department volunteers do for us.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS:

**On February 24, 2018 Polk County Search and Rescue** along with Benton and Marion County Search and Rescue will be performing a mock exercise in Falls City along with our Fire Department and Polk Sheriff's Office. They will be stationing out of the Fire Department, the Mill Lot, and using the upper Park for helicopter transport. We are proud that they are using our Community and Department to help train, please expect to see EMS type equipment and volunteers around town, make sure to thank them for their work.

**Falls City Direct Connect**, is up and operating. The free van service runs every Tuesday and Thursday to Dallas, with every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday to Monmouth. This is operated through a grant with Polk County and we will only keep the service if there are enough riders taking advantage. Stop in at City Hall or Produce give away for a schedule.

**If any organization has upcoming events that they would like to see in the newsletter, email event information to: [mayorungricht@fallscityoregon.gov](mailto:mayorungricht@fallscityoregon.gov), before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

Safety Tips from your Volunteer Fire and EMS Dept.

## KNOW THE EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF A HEART ATTACK

Every 7 seconds someone dies from a Heart Attack. Knowing the early warning signs and what to do can save a life and possibly prevent serious heart damage. Some of these signs are:

Sudden uncomfortable pressure in the chest/ pounding heart rate.

Feeling of fullness or squeezing in the chest. Sharp jabbing in chest that won't go away.

Shortness of Breath for no reason. "Feels like an elephant sitting on your chest". Sharp or dull pain spreading to the shoulders/arms. Tingling in arm or hand. Chest pain with exertion. Complaints of "Not feeling right". Lightheadedness, Anxiety with any of these symptoms. Women: Sudden Back Pain for no given reason or Sudden severe Jaw pain, or all of your teeth ache at once. May experience Dizziness, Nausea or Vomiting with any of these symptoms. Many times our patients think it was indigestion or acid reflux.

Call 911 Immediately! Do Not Wait to see if it gets better on it's own!

If person becomes unresponsive, not breathing, begin CPR immediately!

Prevention Hints: See your Doctor regularly. Exercise, walk daily. Stop smoking.

Eat more fresh vegetables and fruits. Limit fats. Lower Cholesterol. Stop energy drinks!

Enjoy Hobbies or a new pet. :-)

## Scheduled City Meetings



**All meetings are in the Community Center at 320 N. Main unless otherwise noted.**

**City Council 6:00 pm  
February 8, 2018**

**Parks & Recreation 6:00 pm  
February 14, 2018**

**Public Works 6:30 pm  
February 15, 2018**

**Historical Landmark  
Commission**