

City of Willits

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 19, 2010
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Paul Cayler, City Manager
Subject: Administrative Progress Report

The following developments may be of interest to you and the community-at-large. Please contact me at (707) 459-4601, if you have any questions.

WATER MAIN FLUSH PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY

This week the Water Department started flushing water mains. The large water transmission pipe from the water treatment plant to the 3.0 million gallon storage tank on Baechtel Creek Hill was the first section to be flushed. This large diameter pipe required a lot of water to flush it. Water storage suffered due to the volume of water needed for flushing, therefore further flushing had to be delayed two days until the treatment plant could catch up with flush water volumes and normal demand requirements. The Water Plant is reporting that the cold temperature of the source water in the reservoir is making it hard for the water treatment plant to keep up. On Thursday, flushing continued in the Baechtel Creek Road and Shell Lane area. Again flushing depleted water storage to the point where further flushing operations had to be suspended until storage volumes can recover. Right now, the plan is for flushing to resume on Monday, March 22nd.

A special Flushing Program public information telephone line has been set up. Interested people may call 459-7104 for a recorded message. This message is updated often to report where flushing operations will take place from day-to-day.

BALL FIELDS CONCESSION STAND AND RESTROOMS

Reports from Frank Howard, Building Inspector, are that the Ball Fields Concession Stand and Restrooms project is proceeding well. This is an effort being lead by volunteers. It is the kind of thing that makes me proud to be part of a caring community like Willits. I understand the roof is ready to be installed. The facility will most likely not be ready for the baseball season's Opening Day on March 27th. I look forward a successful completion of this project.

OTHER COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AT WORK...

Speaking of community volunteers doing good works... I am getting reports of many community spring cleaning and garden planting projects happening in Willits this weekend.

Today (March 19, 2010) at 10:00am, I understand that Tom Woodhouse, community volunteer extraordinary, will be leading a group of students and volunteers with the goal of cleaning out the berry vines that are engulfing the maintenance sheds at the High School. Tomorrow (March 20, 2010) at 10:00am, Mason Giem, Americorp Worker, will lead a team of volunteers at the community gardens at Brookside School and the WISC center. I understand that Mason and his crew will be preparing the garden beds, and planting veggies and flowers. Also tomorrow (March 20, 2010) at 10:00 am, Tom Woodhouse has organized a town cleanup effort to pick up trash and cover up graffiti throughout the town. On Sunday (March 21, 2010), WHAT will be hosting the 10,000 steps walk for health.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESS

A special email address has been set up so that the public may send email to all Willits City Council Members. Email received by this new email account will be printed out and placed in the Council Member mailboxes. The new email address is citycouncil@willitscity.com. You can get to the link for the address by going to the City's website and clicking on City Government and then scrolling down.

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 25TH

I mentioned this in my last blog, however it deserves repeating: due to the planned absence of a City Council Member, we will be cancelling the Regular City Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 24th, and conducting a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 25th. The meeting start time will be 6pm.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GREEN WEEK

The Willits Chamber of Commerce has organized Green Week which started Wednesday March 17, 2010, and will run through Sunday, March 21, 2010. The downtown merchants will be staying open tonight (Friday, March 19, 2010) until 8:00 pm. The merchants will be featuring green products. Booths will be set up from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Quinton Roland, Water Conservation Specialist, and John Sherman, Code Enforcement Officer, will be representing the City of Willits with a booth featuring information on Green Buildings, Green Streets and Water Conservation.

SEWER TREATMENT PLANT 404 PERMIT IS HERE!

Late breaking news... While writing this report I checked my mailbox in City Hall, and I am happy to report that the United State Army Corp of Engineers sent to the City the 404 Permit to permanently fill 16 acres of wetland as well as other work necessary to construct the Willits Waste Water Treatment Plant. This is a huge step forward for this project! There are a lot of hard working people to thank for making this permit happen. I am not going to try and list all the people involved, because I know that I'd hurt feelings if I forgot somebody.