

Today's Top News from
Salem Cherry Pits

For Downtown Salem Business and Property Owners

Spring 2020



**SALEM'S NEW HOMELESS SHELTER
OPENING IN LATE 2020!**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT BY SALEM
POLICE CHIEF TO SHARE THEIR NEW DIGS!**

**FINALLY A
SOLUTION!**

POLICE CHIEF DECIDES TO DO HIS PART TO SOLVE HOMELESSNESS IN SALEM

On Wednesday the Salem Police Chief stated “the homeless problem has gone on long enough, it is time to share”. With this brief statement the Salem Police Chief offered to donate 1/2 of the new police station for homeless residences.

The police chief realized the new police building is 10% larger than the entire city hall, so he had plenty of space to donate to a solution for Salem’s top problem. His wisdom and generosity will be greatly appreciated by the homeless population in our community.

Mayor Chuckles has nominated the Chief for the Volunteer of the Year award given out to a community member with the largest member.

In addition to donating 1/2 the new police building to house the homeless, the Mayor and Police Chief have both offered to volunteer “to take a homeless person home with you” each night. Each night some lucky homeless person will be chosen by lottery to accompany the Mayor and Police Chief home for dinner, a shower, a bed and the use of a washer/dryer as was specified in the 2017 Homelessness Task Force chaired by useless City Councilor Cara Kaser.

It is hoped at this generosity will flow over into the rest of City Council with each of them taking a homeless person home with them every night for a rub a dub. It is hoped this will save on power washing of downtown sidewalks and lower the cost of damage to downtown businesses.

CAN FLATULENCE SPREAD CORONA VIRUS?

Recently network news medical reporter, Dr. John La Poop reported that any orifice in the human body which expels a spray can potentially spread Corona Virus.

So that you are better prepared to protect yourself from flatulence in public we have created guidelines for your protection.

1. PANTS: Regular long legged pants are the best protection from corona virus spread, especially jeans as the fabric is more tightly woven. Also, cotton underpants add another layer of protection against spread. Avoid polyester underwear.
2. SKIRTS/DRESSES- As you might well imagine, skirts and dresses (and kilts) do not provide the same level of protection as skirt/dresses aim the spray in a downward direction so children are more at risk. Skirts and dresses also provide a “umbrella effect” for the spray to linger and spread in the air.
3. SHORTS- Of all clothing items covering your lower extremities, shorts fail to provide adequate protection for children and pets but also for adults. The shorter legs in shorts provide an opportunity for Corona Virus spray to escape above the knee.

As the weather warms, and more citizen desire to wear shorts, it is recommended that you add a coffee filter pinned inside your underpants to inhibit the spray before it leaves the underpants area and thus provide added protection for those around you and your loved ones. Underpants fart masks should be used whenever shorts are worn.

4. SWEATPANTS- Obviously sweatpants protection falls somewhere between pants and skirts as sweatpants material is thicker than jean material, but it is more loosely woven so may not protect to the same level. Do not fart in sweatpants, or wear a fart mask.
5. SWIM SUITS- Obviously swim suits provide the least protection and their use must be limited during this pandemic.

And absolutely NO FARTING in public, even if you think it will be a silent one!

TIGER KING COMES TO SALEM TO HELP DURING PANDEMIC

The Salem City Council has been at its wits end about what to do with homeless people in our community, coupled with keeping our populace inside their homes, the Mayor proposed inviting the Tiger King to bring his menagerie to clean up the streets of downtown, AND keep citizens in their homes during the Covid 19 pandemic.

On alternate weekdays City staff will release lions, tigers and ligers into different neighborhoods to remind people to stay inside during the pandemic. The citizens who ignore the Stay-At-Home decree will become dinner for hungry beasts. For the first offence the menagerie will just chew off a leg, repeat offenders can expect accelerated punishments and loss of additional limbs before torsos become designated lunch snacks.

On weekends, the menagerie will be released in the downtown area to prevent citizens from shopping or picking up take-out orders.

Any loss in the homeless populations will work toward the Oregon Legislature's request to "do something" about our homeless population before the State will commit funds to help our unsheltered population.

Anyone wanting to hire tigers/lions for special attention to a pesky neighbor should contact the Mayors office for scheduling events. A slight fee is charged for the rental.

With luck, our homeless problem will be partially eliminated and your pesky neighbors who have chosen to ignore the Stay-At-Home rule will receive proper punishment. Children will love watching the tigers, lions and ligers from your picture windows at home. For a twist on the zoo experience, the tigers, lions and ligers get to run free, and humans are now in cages for the tigers enjoyment.

NEW DOWNTOWN CLOTHES LINE INSTALLED!

You may have recently been astounded by the new, modern clothes line the city spent \$192,764 to install. The new clothes line has two purposes:

It functions as a clothes line for homeless persons to hang their clothing and shoes while the rain washes them clean, a service listed on the Salem Homelessness Task Force recommendations. Any Salem citizen can sign up to use the clothes line with a months notice. The clothes line is the brain child of Kristin Retherford. Director Rutherford deemed the current historic alley lighting to be too strong for proper thieves to apply their trade in our alleys. And we had spent thousands of Urban Renewal funds to bury all our overhead power and communication lines years ago because they were eye sores, so it was time to undo that solution.

To accommodate the new clothes line, the city removed the glaring LED lights on armatures in the alley bounded by Liberty, Commercial, Chemeketa and Court. The lights on the armatures were too bright for proper thievery to be commenced.

The new clothes line is a pilot project to show the rest of downtown how it can lower its lighting needs in the future. The City is thinking of rolling out the new clothes lines in all the alleys downtown so there will only be low light to assist lazy thieves who do not require much lighting. It will also come in handy for rapists,taggers, monsters, ghosts, bats, nutria, and other near-do-wells.

Anyone living on a second floor downtown can use the clothes line as a bow string to shoot arrows long distances. There will be world renowned archers invited to the grand opening of the clothes line. The archers will compete to see who can be first to lob an arrow from the alley to reach Riverfront Park. Prizes are to be determined. If they hit any citizens, the archers get to keep the wounded citizens as souvenirs. Health care and recovery costs are not included.

WHERE DOES DOWNTOWN URBAN RENEWAL MONEY COME FROM?

Urban Renewal is a federally recognized program, adopted by states and cities who want to improve property values in a currently blighted area of town. The purpose of Urban Renewal is to increase property values, and thus increase property tax income to the government.

To form an Urban Renewal district the city must identify a boundary around a blighted area they wish to improve. In the case of Downtown Urban Renewal, the district is bounded by Ferry Street, Church Street, Market Street, to the middle of the Willamette River. Once the district boundaries are drawn, the city must maintain a current UR plan to show how funds will be invested each year. The budget is voted in by a majority at city council in late June each year. The City's new fiscal year starts July 1 of each year.

UR funds have few restrictions on how they can be spent, and any unspent funds can be rolled over into future years. All funds must be invested within the district boundary and they cannot be used for maintenance. Each year downtown about \$7 million dollars of new funds come into the UR fund from the increase of property value (and thus taxes) within the district. So the best investments should be improvement to privately owned property in downtown as the best, and fastest method of increasing tax income to the city.

Urban Renewal Agency FY 2021 Fund No. 265 Riverfront Downtown Capital Improvements

Riverfront Downtown URA Resources

Resource Type	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Mgr Rec	BC Rec	Adopted	Difference	% Chg
	FY 2018	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2021	FY 2021	from FY 2020	from FY 2020
Internal and Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ 289,220	\$ -	\$ 294,210	\$ 300,090	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (300,090)	-100.0%
Loan Principal / Interest	48,950	49,723	48,950	51,410	49,720	25,000	-	(24,720)	(24,720)	-49.7%
Bond Proceeds	-	-	-	-	-	8,700,000	-	8,700,000	8,700,000	-
Du Jour Financing	6,500,000	6,500,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,500,000	6,000,000	-	(1,500,000)	(1,500,000)	-20.0%
All Other Revenues	339,220	142,688	354,210	336,487	75,000	605,090	-	530,090	530,090	706.8%
Interfund Transfer	613,000	613,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beginning Working Capital	9,310,630	10,794,409	16,017,080	15,250,230	17,253,000	6,189,660	-	(11,063,340)	(11,063,340)	-64.1%
Total Resources	\$ 16,811,800	\$ 18,389,040	\$ 23,420,240	\$ 22,932,337	\$ 25,177,810	\$ 21,519,750	\$ -	\$ (3,658,060)	\$ (3,658,060)	-14.5%

BAD BOY AWARDS

The editorial staff at Cherry Pits are recommending a new award ceremony starting this year, this month, right now.

The award for this month is:

“THE WORST OF THE WORST”

First, for a 12 year stretch of bad behavior our first award goes to Mayor Chuckles. Mayor Chuckles was the city councilor representing downtown for 8 years, and now he has spent the last 4 years as Mayor. Things have gone from bad to much worse under Mayor Chuckles.

At first the jury returned a tied vote between Mayor Chuckles and Brad Nanke. The jury soon decided Mayor Chuckles was a much worse elected official, but Brad Nanke had more opportunity to do bad because he has been on city council since Jesus was born.

For example, the Toolbox Loan program was pretty much deleted. For the past two years it has only received \$94,000 in funding - not enough to do anything to restore a historic building or increase property value and thus taxes. Again this year, the same \$94,000 is budgeted (see center fold).

The Toolbox Grant Program has been gutted and now whether or not you are eligible for this grant is fully dependent on whether city staff like you or not. If they don't like you, you are told you do not qualify for the grant. It doesn't even go to city council, you are stopped at the staff level.

Recently a citizen applied for a downtown noise permit with the city. The staff person accused the citizen of “holding a house party” and denied the permit. This was untrue, there was NO house party planned. So the citizen filed an appeal to the denied permit. The city staff person claimed they did not “deny” the permit, he just refused to issue it, and thus, no appeal was allowed. Mayor Chuckles loves these kinds of denials because staff get whatever they want to decrease their work loads, even lying is not going too far.

So, no permit, and no appeal all based on a lie by staff. How much further do we need to go to realize we are now living in a dictatorship? Great job Mayor!

FORGIVENESS COLUMN

Because we are all trapped in our homes with just our used-to-be-loved-ones, it is important to discuss forgiveness.

The editors of Cherry Pits would like to take this opportunity to provide some forgiveness advice so we all make it out the other end in one piece.

YOUR ARE FORGIVEN IF:

You pressed fast-forward whenever a TV commercial begins with “In this difficult time” when selling you something you don't want or need. You are forgiven for loving that fast-forward button.

You neglected to thank a Front Line Worker when they waited on you in an essential business. But, even if you thank them, you could still give them Covid. So stay home. You are forgiven.

If you forgot to thank a nurse or doctor who treated you, go back right now and thank them, then you are forgiven, but not excused.

If a restaurant ask you to donate to help them feed front line workers and you bought yourself a pint of Haagen Dazs instead, you are not nice, but you are forgiven.

If you neglected to sew face masks for yourself or your loved ones, shame on you. Go pull out a pillow case or tea towel right now and get working with thread and needle. You are forgiven if you don't have a sewing machine, or fingers.

If you are amongst the fools who are out waving flags and guns while you demand the government open everything up again so you don't have to be bored and quarantined with your used-to-be-loved-ones. Please either crawl back in your cave, and take your guns with you, or go out and catch that virus like an experimental lab rat ready to die for the Dow. The rest of us don't value consumerism over death, or causing someone else's death, by spreading Covid.

Finally, you are forgiven for just being human. We are all afraid of something, but really, consumerism can wait until we all have a safe future.