

MAYOR'S MARCH/ APRIL, 2017 REPORT

The big day finally happened. We sold the Granada Theatre and handed over the keys to the new owners, Chuck Gomez and Debra Liddell, on April 7th. Now we all wait to see the Granada returned to its former grandeur and operating. Gomez and Liddell are experienced theatre developers who successfully operate a theatre even smaller than the Granada in Washatz, Illinois. If you have a chance to meet them, ask about their great plans for opening during this year's Car Cruise.

We are also expecting the National Neon Sign Museum, located in the old Elks Club building, to open its doors during the Car Cruise. That will be a great weekend. Be sure to put it on your calendar.

The City Council accepted its Updated Transportation System Plan which includes road, bicycle, pedestrian, transit and parking issues. On the 17th of April, there will be a special City Council meeting to review our Housing - Buildable Land Inventory Report, a proposal for Tourism Services by the Chamber of Commerce, a Grant application for construction of a Gorge Bike Hub at the Lewis and Clark Festival Park and alternative routes for the end of the Riverfront Trail. We have so much work to do; we have scheduled 3 meetings this month.

Budget committees have been selected for both the City and Urban Renewal. Staff is preparing budget books for each member and hearings will be open to the public. If interested, watch for announcements.

The City Manager and City Council held a luncheon for public works employees to thank them for long hours and hard work during this year's unusual winter. We know there is still gravel on the road but efforts are underway to pick up as much as possible.

The City placed 3,400 tons of gravel onto our roads. Our street cleaner load capacity is only 3-4 cubic yards per load. We have one older model street sweeper that has continued to experience mechanical problems. Rest assured we are working hard to complete the job.

On Thursday the 13th at 1pm, there will be a groundbreaking ceremony at The Dalles Waste Water plant. Construction will begin on upgrades and installation of a system to capture methane gas for energy conservation. All of this will be completed without having to raise sewer and water rates or having to issue bonds. We are staying within our current assets.