

STATE OF THE CITY OF CAVE JUNCTION ADDRESS

JANUARY 10, 2022

The City of Cave Junction saw a lot of positive activity in 2021.

In Jubilee Park the old dugouts at the ball field were taken down and replaced with new ones in time for the 2021 playing season. The remodel began on the pavilion. This involved bringing it up to Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, improving lighting, and adding storage for new tables and chairs. This will allow the pavilion to be a truly multipurpose facility.

In March the city bought the golf course property to protect vital city services. A contract with the Illinois Valley Country Club was signed to establish and operate a golf course including the golf course restaurant, Gimmies Restaurant.

On its third application the city was accepted into the Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps program for the 2021-2-22 term of service. We were fortunate to match with graduate Rowan Fairfield, who has a Masters Degree in planning. Rowan has been instrumental in helping start the Oregon Mainstreet program and beginning the review process of the city Charter.

The Oregon Main Street (OMS) program was established by the legislature in 2007 to assist cities in revitalizing their downtown. This proven strategy is a focused, deliberate path to revitalizing downtowns. After two successful community meetings, the Main Street Cave Junction board of directors was established and is underway working on downtown revitalization projects. In a parallel and complementary Travel Oregon program, The IV Chamber of Commerce was one of eleven cities to be accepted into the 2021/22 Destination Ready Program. This program will help assess and identify primary and emerging destination experiences and projects that will bolster our community assets. The City of Cave Junction and the IV is on its way to a long overdue makeover.

The city Public Works department has been kept busy updating and upgrading our aging and hardworking public works infrastructure. The Water treatment Plant has begun the process of replacing and updating the 23 year old centralized system that monitors and controls the entire process of water production, treatment, storage, and distribution. The streets, distribution and collections team has been kept busy making repairs to underground sewer and water systems damaged as new fiber network is being laid in the city.

In November the City was notified that it was the recipient of not one, but two federal Community Development Block Grants- the Rockydale wells restoration and expansion of the Cave Junction library.

Moving forward to the year 2022, in addition to maintaining and upgrading city facilities and providing the usual city services- water, wastewater, street maintenance, and day to day city administration there will be some major infrastructure projects: the Rockydale Well Restoration project, which will bring these wells back on-line to expand the city's drinking water options and

decrease our reliance on our Illinois River water rights; the city will be working with and assisting the Josephine Community Library Foundation on the Cave Junction branch library expansion; an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), grant from Josephine County will allow the city to replace a major water main at Highway 199 and Watkins Ave; another ARPA grant from Representative Lily Morgan and the state will allow the city to move the bulk storage facility out of a residential area to a commercial area and expand its size and capabilities; Jubilee Park will get its spray pad; and the City Charter revisions will be put before the voters in the November election.

The year 2022 has the potential to be an exciting and productive year for the staff, residents, and the Cave Junction City Council.