



City of Corning

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THE CORNING FRIDAY NOTES

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER JOHN L. BREWER, AICP JLB
DATE: JANUARY 10, 2014

CITY MANAGER:

“Utility Line” Insurance:

Mayor Strack has received yet another letter from an Insurance company that intends to do a mass mailing to all City homeowners regarding insuring the operation of the private water and sewer pipes that connect their dwellings to the City water and sewer mains. While the City will repair clogs or breaks that occur in the main lines, homeowners are responsible for repairs to the lines serving the respective dwellings. Similar previous mailings have typically generated some confusion and multiple inquiries as to whether the City is sanctioning these insurance policies. We are not. This particular company; Home Emergency Insurance Services, did include a “Frequently Asked Questions” that clearly states they have no relationship whatsoever with the City of Corning. However, Council is advised to be prepared for the next round of questions that the mailing will likely generate.

Skatepark Video:

Kanten Russell of Stantec; the company that designed the Skate & Bike Park, sent us the link to the finished video they made of the opening of the Park. The video is very professionally done. We may be showing the video at the Jan. 14th City Council meeting. Until then, if you'd like to view it, the electronic link for the video is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAoIeTwP1j0>.

Meeting at Caltrans-Redding:

John Stoufer and I met with Michelle Millet of Caltrans on Wednesday January 8th to discuss the Corning Bike and Pedestrian Transportation Improvement Plan Grant.

Mobile Digital Computer Meeting:

Police Chief Don Atkins and I met with Red Bluff Police Chief Paul Nanfito and City Manager Rick Crabtree at Red Bluff City Hall on Tuesday, January 7th to discuss the details of the joint Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) Program. We'll be preparing a staff report seeking Council authorization to expend funds for the purchase of a new computer server that'll facilitate use of the MDC's that'll be installed in the police vehicles.

Martini Plaza:

Chris Demo is completing the wrought iron “window” coverings and gates so that we can isolate the covered areas of the restroom building at Martini Plaza when the Park is closed. We're also going to remove the ivy that covers the rear fence to improve visibility. These measures are intended to improve security and reduce vandalism at the Park.

We'll also be presenting a new Parks Ordinance that will include some smoking and alcohol limitations at Martini Plaza and other Parks. At this point we expect the Ordinance will be presented for Recreation Commission consideration at their February 4th meeting, and then presented for its first reading at the February 11th City Council meeting.

Corning Community Park-Phase 2:

City Engineer Ed Anderson has received the soils testing results for Phase 2 of the Park. He can now design the footings/foundations of the light standards and the pedestrian bridge. Patrick Walker is working with Dawn Grine to complete the final accounting of Phase 1 so that we can better determine the budget for Phase 2. We do have some recreation Development Impact Fees with which to supplement the grant funds if necessary.

Airport Commission Meeting:

Pat Walker, Martin Spannaus and I attended the January 6th meeting of the Corning Airport Commission. The agenda had two current items: Discussion of a possible "Mud Bog and Rock Climb" event for the May Madness Car Show at the Airport, and the Fire Department's Plan to utilize a portion of airport property, near the Blackburn Water Well site, for a Fire Training Facility. The Airport Commission was generally supportive of both proposals. Councilmember Tony Cardenas presented the Mud Bog matter and told the Commissioners that the idea was one of several the Chamber of Commerce was considering to replace the "Burn-Outs" event which has been discontinued.

The Airport Commission recommended two conditions to be appended to the Fire Department proposal. The conditions include: Amending the Airport Directory to disclose the fire training location that would include occasional burn/smoke events, and to make sure that the Fire Department maintained a portable radio tuned into the Airport frequency when the facility was in use. This would ensure that incoming and/or outgoing Pilots can be immediately advised regarding the training purpose of the smoke events. The next step for the matter is to present it for City Council consideration. If Council concurs, we'll then present it to the Tehama County Airport Land Use Commission and ultimately to the Corning Planning Commission for a Use Permit to authorize the use.

Sewer Rates:

Our last authorized sewer rate increase occurred in April of 2013. We're currently evaluating our sewer enterprise budget to determine to what degree we'll need to increase sewer rates to keep up with inflation and other maintenance and/or operational expenses. Among those costs are energy costs. We currently have a Lease Option Agreement with Ecoplexus that entitles them some time to research the feasibility of installing and operating solar power arrays at the WWTP (Wastewater Treatment Plant). We are currently working with Bill Brick of Ecoplexus to research potential savings that could result from either the Solar Use Lease or a Power Purchase Agreement. The savings could then be factored into the spreadsheet and ultimately lessen the sewer rate increases.

Garbage Collection Rate Increase Notices:

We have prepared notices of the proposed Garbage Collection Rate Increase (just under 1% proposed) and mailed them to the customers. If approved, the residential rate would increase from \$21.17 to \$21.38. The rate increase hearing is scheduled for February 11, 2014.

CITY CLERK:

Tire/E-Waste Collection Event:

The Tehama County Sanitary Landfill Agency will conduct a Passenger Tire Collection Event from 8 a.m. to noon on January 18th at the Corning Park & Ride (northeast corner of Third & Solano St.). No more than 9 passenger car or light truck tires per visit accepted and tires must be off the rims. No large truck/equipment/off-road tires (17" or larger). No oil/paint/batteries/appliances will be accepted.

Televisions, computer monitors and equipment, microwaves, DVD/VCR players, cell phones and other small electronic waste will be accepted free of charge also. There is no quantity collection limit on the e-waste. This free passenger tire recycling event is paid for by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Martini Plaza:

There has been additional vandalism in Martini Plaza. Public Works has removed the vegetation on the fence separating Martini Plaza from the alley. This has been done to improve security and visibility in the Park for patrons. Public Works will be trimming additional shrubs and trees in the Park in the upcoming week.

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Public Works is working on a water leak at the Sewer Treatment Plant. They are having difficulties determining the exact location of the water leak because of numerous pipes and electrical conduits in the surrounding area.

Leaf Pickup:

Public Works has completed leaf pickup for this season. Residents will now need to use their recycle bin for leaf disposal until next fall.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Patrol:

In addition to responding to 172 calls for service, a total of 25 officer reports were taken and there were 135 officer-initiated incidents. Officers made 8 misdemeanor and 4 felony arrests, 74 traffic stops and issued 14 citations of which 8 were misdemeanors, 1 was a felony, 3 were infractions and 2 was parking-related during the period of January 1 through January 7, 2014.

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions®

Thomas Rusin
Chief Executive Officer, USA
601 Merritt 7, 6th Floor
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December 23, 2013

Gary R Strack
Mayor
794 3rd St
Corning, CA 96021-2598

JAN 01 2014
CITY OF CORNING

To the Honorable Mayor Gary R Strack:

Homeowners in your community generally know that inside the four walls of their home, if something breaks they're responsible. But what about outside? Six out of ten homeowners¹ believe that their municipality, utility or homeowners insurance will cover repairs to water and sewer/septic lines on their property. This is a common misunderstanding in municipalities across the US and of basic homeowners insurance coverage.

In addition, America's water and sewer infrastructure is aging and failing with increasing frequency. In fact, there are over 650 water main breaks each day across the US, and the average age of these failing pipes is only 47 years.² As you probably know all too well, this trend is clearly having an impact on municipal systems and budgets as highlighted in the media. But less acknowledged is that this same problem is creeping up on US homeowners as well. Household service lines are connected to this aging infrastructure. Homeowners may say that they've lived in their home for decades and it hasn't been a problem, or representatives at your local public works may say it hasn't happened very often during their tenure; and while this may all be true of the past, it's not the case for the future. As the Alton, Illinois public works director acknowledged in an August 9, 2013 article,³ "Now, our generation has to fix the problem."

Through mailings to communities like yours, Home Emergency Insurance Solutions is educating the majority of American homeowners who don't know that they are responsible for the important water and sewer/septic lines on their property. What's more, we are offering a way out for the 64% of Americans surveyed⁴ who don't have a thousand dollars or more set aside to cover the cost of a water or sewer/septic service line repair, and for those who don't have the ability to arrange for the repairs in an emergency. In fact, just for our customers alone, Home Emergency Insurance Solutions local, licensed and insured contractors have performed thousands of service line repairs or replacements each year – it's a real situation that American homeowners face.

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions is the emergency home repair partner of choice for over 35 utilities across the country. These companies are on the front line of infrastructure issues and have decided that offering home repair service is in the best interest of their customers. In total, we provide coverage to over 1.3 million homeowners in the US and Canada, who hold more than 2 million service contracts.

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions has delivered over \$100 million worth of services to our customers over the last three years. We deliver the services using licensed, insured and qualified contractors. These tradespeople live and work in the communities we serve so the funds flow back into the local economy and help maintain jobs.

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¹Ipsos Public Affairs on behalf of Home Emergency Insurance Solutions, December 2011-January 2012

²Water is Your Business (www.waterisyourbusiness.org)

³"Hole in State Street to stay open during repairs," The Telegraph, August 9, 2013

⁴National Foundation for Credit Counseling, July 2011

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions FAQs

1. Who is Home Emergency Insurance Solutions?

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions is an independent provider of emergency home repair service plans. For over a decade, Home Emergency Insurance Solutions plans have been protecting homeowners against the expense and inconvenience of water, sewer, electrical, HVAC and other home emergencies by providing affordable coverage and quality service. Home Emergency Insurance Solutions serves over 1.3 million homeowners in the US and Canada. Home Emergency Insurance Solutions provides its emergency repair plans through leading utilities and directly to customers.

2. What is the relationship between Home Emergency Insurance Solutions and the local water company or municipality?

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions is an independent company not affiliated with the municipality. You are not obligated to purchase the coverage offered by Home Emergency Insurance Solutions—it is optional. (The letter tells consumers this.)

3. How did Home Emergency Insurance Solutions obtain my name and address?

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions uses mailing lists supplied by outside vendors, and the vendors obtain the names and addresses from publicly available sources.

4. Was I previously responsible for my water service line or is this a recent change?

Many people don't realize they are responsible for the water service line on their property from the meter/valve/connection point at the property line to their home. This is common with municipalities. Anything that goes wrong on the homeowner's property—is the owner's responsibility.

5. Is this service required? Is it mandatory, I am confused?

No, the Home Emergency Insurance Solutions service plan is optional. (The letter tells consumers this.) As with any service purchasing decision, we encourage you to do your research to determine if this option is best for you and your situation.

6. Doesn't my homeowners insurance cover my water service line?

All insurance policies are different. You would have to check with your homeowner's insurance provider to find out. However, basic homeowners insurance typically does not cover repairs to water and sewer/septic lines to your home.

7. How likely is it that my water service line will fail?

It is very difficult to determine when a pipe would fail. Key contributors to pipe failures include the type of piping material, age of the service pipe, soil conditions and installation quality. Older homes usually have older pipes, leaving them more susceptible to the types of repairs that are covered by the service plan Home Emergency Insurance Solutions is offering.

8. Do you know who does the work under the service plan?

Home Emergency Insurance Solutions recruits licensed, insured and qualified plumbing contractors from the local area to make the repairs under their plans.