



City of Corning

794 Third St. Corning, CA 96021 (530) 824-7020 Fax (530) 824-2489

THE CORNING FRIDAY NOTES

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL
FROM: CITY MANAGER JOHN L. BREWER, AICP 
DATE: JUNE 28, 2013

CITY MANAGER'S NOTES:

Vacations:

Fire Chief Martin Spannaus and City Clerk Lisa Linnet are currently on vacation. Martin returns July 8th, and Lisa on July 9th.

City Manager Out of County:

I will be out of town overnight Saturday June 29th, returning on Sunday the 30th. Public Works Director Patrick Walker will be the acting City Manager during my absence.

Green Waste Disposal:

Our City Public Works crew regularly collects tree and shrub trimmings and grass clippings from the parks, street trees and other City properties. We then transport those wastes to the former burn dump on Carona Avenue. The City's Contract Tree Trimmers similarly dispose of their debris at the same place. The wastes accumulate and are stored for up to a year until they are grinded and then transported offsite. In the past we have utilized private wood waste grinding contractors who come to the site, grind the waste and then transport it as fuel to Wheelabrator-the waste to energy plant in Anderson. Because the waste is clean; i.e. without contaminants like painted or treated wood, the waste is desirable as fuel and has a higher value. That higher value then justifies the transportation costs. Our previous arrangements have given the waste value to the contractor in exchange for the service (grinding and transport) they provide. As a result our costs for greenwaste disposal have been greatly reduced.

We recently learned that Wheelabrator has converted their plant to utilize natural gas as an alternative to burning greenwastes. So, our previous "quid-pro-quo" method for disposal of City generated greenwaste may have to change-particularly when natural gas costs are lower. Public Works Director Pat Walker is looking into other options that might be available in the future.

We have a substantial pile of greenwaste stored at the site. For our immediate needs, we'll seek proposals and employ a grinding contractor to grind and transport the greenwastes out of the City.

Note that this affects only City-collected municipal greenwastes. It does not affect Corning Disposal's refuse customers. Corning Disposal collects greenwastes from residential customers throughout the City. They then transport the green wastes to their composting facility in Chico.

Another Utility Insurance Flyer:

We received yet another "interest letter" from a company that wants to offer homeowner insurance policies for replacement of water and sewer line laterals. We seem to be receiving these

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PUBLIC WORKS 824-7025 • POLICE DEPARTMENT 824-7000 • FIRE DEPARTMENT 824-7044

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notices more frequently. The letter; addressed to the Mayor, states that "Home Emergency Insurance Solutions", from Stamford Connecticut, will be mailing solicitations for utility insurance to homeowners. The insurance offered will cover the cost of sewer or water line replacement between the residence and the City water meter or the curb line. As with the previous solicitations, we are concerned that homeowners might assume the insurance offered is somehow associated with the City of Corning, which of course, it is not.

We emailed the company to advise them of our concerns and to request review of the flyer they intend to send to make sure there's no inferred connection with the City of Corning.

Blackburn Grant Re-imbusement:

I need to correct the response to a question posed at Tuesday's Council meeting regarding state reimbursement for City costs incurred as part of the Blackburn Grant. After speaking with Dawn Grine, who tracks grant expenditures and reimbursements, it turns out we have been reimbursed for some General Administrative costs associated with the grant. I then spoke with our Grant Consultant, JoAnn Anders about those costs and whether the state would ask for repayment since we were unable to complete the project. She said they would not ask for repayment because the costs were "administrative" and not "activity delivery"; i.e. construction costs. She also said the City would not suffer any "performance penalty" associated with the grant, since we had made the effort to identify a housing sponsor to get the project completed. We'd also followed the advice of the CDBG not to construct prior to getting the required housing units constructed. When imposed, performance penalties can keep communities from being awarded subsequent grant funds.

CITY CLERK:

7-19-2013 Sacramento Valley Division Membership Meeting:

The League of California Cities Sacramento Valley Division Membership Meeting will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on July 19th at Mayahuel, 1200 K Street, Sacramento. Guest Speakers will include Alan Milligan, CalPERs Chief Actuary and Randi Kay Stephens from the Institute for Local Government. Also noted is the Division Elections for 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Region Representatives.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Safe Routes to School:

Contractor Tom Williams is now preparing the sidewalk on the north side of Fig Lane. Today he is grinding the asphalt on Marguerite Avenue to prepare for the overlay from Moon Road to Fig Lane.

Corning Community Park:

Trent Construction is currently working on the skateboard bowls. Also they are preparing the base in the parking lot and Fig Lane entrance.

Public Works:

Crews have been doing some asphalt work this last week. There was some repairs that have been done at the wastewater treatment facility that needed patching and crews are patching an area at Lincoln Ave. that needed patching after the curb was replaced earlier in the year.