

LEBANON EXPRESS

Column: Aziz welcomes Hlavac, new medical students; encourages citizens to take water service survey

AUGUST 01, 2013 5:15 PM • [FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK, A COLUMN BY MAYOR PAUL AZIZ](#)

I want to thank the Lebanon Express staff for doing an excellent job of covering our town and keeping the citizens aware of what is happening.

We have a newspaper staff that really cares about the community, not just their jobs.

Congratulations to the whole staff on bringing home 23 awards, including the first place award for general excellence and page one design. Keep up the good work!

In other very exciting news, the Lebanon City Council has hired Dana Hlavac as our new city manager. He will start work on Aug. 26.

The hiring process included a public meet-and-greet where citizens were able to give written comments on the candidates.

The next day we had two committees with citizens and city staff who held interviews with each candidate.

The third committee comprised of the city council, myself and Jon Nelson, and we interviewed each candidate.

Taking in all of the input from citizens, the interview committees and our council interview, we chose Dana because we felt he was the leader to take Lebanon in the right direction.

He really researched our town and knew a lot about Lebanon. He was well prepared.

I have talked with Dana, and he has been preparing and getting ready for his new job. I know he is going to be an excellent city manager.

Interim City Manager Jon Nelson has a new format for our city manager's report, and it is very informative.

It gives details on all the projects from all of the city departments.

It is included in each month's council agenda, and you can read it online on the city's website under the city manager section.

Many of the councilors and I have received complaints about the city's water payment policies, and we asked the staff to do a survey for water customers. Please take the time to fill out the survey.

This is a great opportunity to voice your opinion on the payment policies.

The deadline to complete the survey is Aug. 5, and the results will be presented at the Aug. 14 city council meeting.

After talking with many of the downtown merchants in April, I heard that there were some safety concerns downtown.

Nothing major, but some issues that needed to be addressed nonetheless.

After hearing their concerns I met with Police Chief Stevenson and I mentioned how nice it would be to have a bike patrol downtown, maybe utilizing some of our reserve officers.

Chief Stevenson took off with the idea and improved on it.

He found bikes from a previous program, got them tuned up, and they recently did a test run that received very positive feedback.

Soon you will see Lebanon police on bike patrol downtown.

I am excited about this program as it will give merchants and shoppers a sense of security and community.

It will give the officers a chance to interact with the public much more than from a patrol car.

Speaking of a sense of security and our police, National Night Out is coming up on Tuesday Aug. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m.

I will be there and I hope you can come out and enjoy the festivities.

Last year was a blast and, from what McGruff the Crime Dog has been telling me, this year is going to be even better!

August is back to school for many including the students at COMP-Northwest.

I will be attending several upcoming events including welcoming the new students.

It is exciting to see another new class starting at the medical school.

This past weekend I attended the Oregon Mayor's Association Conference. It was very helpful to meet other mayors and find out about their town and how their city councils work. The networking and information I gained will be very helpful.

We have accomplished a lot in the past seven months.

I am pleased and encouraged on the direction we are headed in Lebanon.

Mayor Paul

Website: www.mayorpaul.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/LebanonMayor