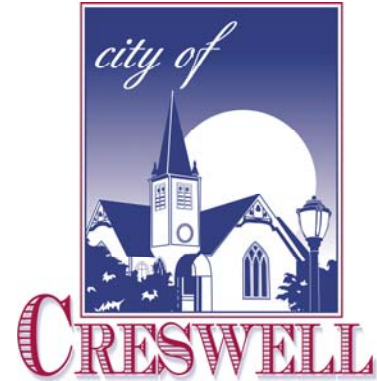


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Creswell State of the City Address  
Mayor Bob Hooker  
February 8, 2010

Hello everyone and welcome to a new decade....two thousand and ten.

What a year Creswell had in 2009. In spite of the continued economic downturn which has affected many citizens in Creswell, as well as every community across our country, Creswell was still able to complete many of the projects that have been years in the planning. Not only did these projects add improvements to the city, but they also provided much needed work for many individuals and businesses that worked on or supported our city projects.

The new water treatment plant went on line and is now producing quality water for the citizens of Creswell. The fire suppression system at the airport is finally complete and hopefully we can now look forward to much needed improvements at Hobby Field. The new city hall is almost ready. There have been some delays, but we should be able to move in sometime in late February. The Ron Petitti Garden Lake Park Pavilion was completed and is a huge success. It was an extremely exciting time having the Marines here to help and I know that if it wasn't for them, this project would not have been completed as quickly as it was. The Lane County Harvey Road Improvement Project and the city's 5<sup>th</sup> and "A" Street Projects were both completed, enhancing safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Even in these tough economic times we had the great pleasure of welcoming three new businesses to the area; the Comfort Inn and Suites, Emerald Valley Dental and Heidi Tunnell Catering Company. We thank them for joining our community.

In 2009 we had one of our most successful 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations and just one month after that we had the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Creswell. We also dedicated the Ron Petitti Garden Lake Park Pavilion and completed an unbelievable time capsule for the city that hopefully will be opened in 2059. I don't know about you, but I think it was one of the most eventful years that we've seen in a long time. I can't say enough about the support of those who continually step up to make all these events great. My thanks go out to the businesses, volunteers and staff for all you did in 2009.

We did, however, have some really sad losses in 2009. Scott Henderson of Scotty Air lost his life in an airplane accident at Hobby Field. We also lost a local resident, Stephen Thurston, to a violent, meaningless and tragic crime.

On May 11<sup>th</sup> the Siuslaw Valley Bank in Creswell was robbed. But, in true Creswell fashion some of our citizens stepped up, chased the bank robber and held him until our deputies arrived to take him into custody. The Lane County Sheriff's Office recently presented Daniel Benner, David Kastrava and Martin Heymann with a Sheriff's Appreciation Award for their heroic actions which resulted in the robbery suspect being arrested immediately without anyone being injured. I guess we can honestly say that crime doesn't pay in Creswell.

Along those lines, we do plan to put a lot of effort into making sure that Creswell remains a safe and desirable city for all of us to live, work and raise our families. We received a grant to hire a part time Code Enforcement Officer. This should take some of the burden off our deputies and allow them to focus their attention on keeping us safe instead of following up on code violations. We have several very good applicants and should be filling that position soon.

We also have interest in the community to revive the Neighborhood Watch Program. We really need a solid community commitment to make this work and we're hoping we can count on all of you to help. We are hoping to get the program up and running within the next few months.

So for the rest of two thousand and ten....I would like to see this be our stabilization year. Essentially doing fewer capital projects and instead focusing on planning, such as continuing to have our RARE intern, Titus Tomlinson, move forward with implementing the Cobalt Feasibility Study, continuing grant opportunities for Garden Lake Park to create recreational opportunities by improving the connection between the trails and the pavilion and to continue to improve signage and environmental information, and to continue our ongoing planning efforts on the Interchange Area Management Plan, the Transportation System Plan and the Local Wetlands Inventory. All of these things will get us back on track to update the city's 1982 Comprehensive Plan.

We are going to continue our relationship with Rick Dancer of Rick Dancer Media Services who is partnering with the city, local businesses and the school district to create videos to promote economic development, do local interest stories and help improve the lines of communication to the citizens of Creswell.

We also look forward to continuing the support of the Community Sharing Program satellite office that was opened on January 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a pilot project that will allow residents of the South Lane County rural community in and around Creswell to fill the basic needs of food, housing, utilities and clothing. In 2010 Creswell will be the focus of the next grant application through the Lane County Regional Housing Rehabilitation Consortium. St. Vincent de Paul administers the program which brings assistance to homeowners to improve and/or weatherize their homes. With the completion of the

Downtown Plan, we hope to see the fruition of the “pocket park” that is planned which will provide an outdoor venue for events such as the farmer’s market. We are also planning to bring wireless internet to the downtown area for businesses, patrons and the general public.

One really exciting project for this year is the establishment of a Youth Advisory Council. This group will consist of middle and high school students. The council and city staff will work together with our youth to gain their input on city issues, help educate them in city government and work alongside them in our community. We plan to partner with Creswell School District and other local groups to ensure these young people get all of the guidance and support they deserve. I believe they will make a tremendous contribution to our community and I would encourage everyone to support them in their efforts.

Also in 2010, in an effort to further our communication with the community, I am going to begin sessions of what I am calling “City Chat”. These will be casual discussions starting Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 10 am at Mom’s Snak Shak and will take place the third Saturday of every month. I invite anyone and everyone to come join me in discussing anything that may be going on in Creswell. We may from time to time have a city councilor or two and maybe even some city staff to join in the discussions.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to all the councilors, commissioners and committee members who have donated their time, energy and enthusiasm to this city. It hasn’t always been smooth and we don’t and probably won’t always see eye to eye. But I do feel that this is a good team that has the strength and determination to continue to help Creswell build, grow and resolve issues.

Remember why we are all doing what we do. To ensure that the community we are passionate about today is the community we can be proud to leave our children tomorrow.

Thank you.