

Dan Hoffman:

Hello, and welcome to another edition of the Rouss Review. I'm your City Manager, Dan Hoffman, and with me is Communications Director Amy Simmons. Hello, Amy.

Amy Simmons:

Hello, Dan.

Dan Hoffman:

That was kind of British.

Amy Simmons:

That was terrible.

Dan Hoffman:

That was awful British accent. Our special guest for part two may already be in the room, so-

Amy Simmons:

Maybe.

Dan Hoffman:

... in a moment you may hear his voice. But in order to get to that fun part, first I'm going to talk about the first, the council meeting tomorrow night. A few interesting things that you might want to stop by and take a listen to. First off, I believe we are talking about the Smalts property. Now, if you don't know where the Smalts property is, and Mike, we are talking about that next, tomorrow, right? I'm pulling up the agenda. Yeah. So I believe we're talking about the Smalts property-

Amy Simmons:

He can be prepared.

Dan Hoffman:

Yes, exactly. I'm very prepared with this, as always. The Smalts property, it's over off of National Avenue. You probably know it from the several buildings that are completely covered in vines and the other derelict buildings sitting there. So currently not a great look in one of our main corridors. And yeah, we'll be talking about a plan to redevelop it. I'm going to pull up the thing here in a minute and confirm that that's actually on the agenda. The other thing that I know is on the agenda, two other things that you might be interested in. The legislative agenda. That will be the document that we transmit to our delegation in Richmond. That's going to be approved. It was discussed at the last meeting. Council's had a couple weeks to chew on it, now they're going to give it a formal thumbs up tomorrow night.

Also, City's done pretty well this year. The economy's been booming. We're in pretty good shape. So kind of in line with the bonus that the schools just announced, and that was part of their budget last year, as part of the governor's budget, they actually did this. It was required as part of the governor's budget for schools. There was about a two, that cost the City locally, about \$250,000. That's the part that wasn't covered by the state. We are going to be proposing doing the same thing for city employees

and also increasing starting pay for public safety. So if those are areas of interest to you, tune in tomorrow. Now Amy, what do you have coming up on your announcements?

Amy Simmons:

Well, I am to slide this all over to a better voice. <Laugh>

Dan Hoffman:

There you go.

Amy Simmons:

All right, Mike.

Dan Hoffman:

Here we go, Mike. Read.

Mike Ruddy:

Well, Thanksgiving is this week. City offices, the Jim Barnett Park Rec Center, and the courthouse will be closed Thursday and Friday. WinTran's routes will be closed on Thursday only, and trash collection on Thursday, November 24th is moved to Wednesday, November 23rd. Trash collection on Friday is on schedule or schedule.

Amy Simmons:

<Laughs> Very good, Mike. Very good.

Dan Hoffman:

Very good. All right. If you want to hear more of those dulcet tones, stick around for part two when we'll be talking to Mike about planning and development. Thank you very much, Mike. Amy-

Amy Simmons:

All right.

Dan Hoffman:

... what else you got?

Amy Simmons:

Back to the usual boring southern accent. Okay. For Wednesday, the Park Rec Center will close at noon and the courthouse will close at 1:00 PM. One cool announcement that I'm happy to talk about is that we are recycling the glass we've collected at the Shawnee Springs Trail. So next time you go there, you won't see a bunch of gravel on some parts you'll see crushed glass.

Mike Ruddy:

Ooh.

Amy Simmons:

So ooh. That's right, Mike. We're using the glass pebbles from the glass crusher that our community has been recycling, and it's the same size and consistency as the gravel we usually use, but it's saving us money and it's prettier.

Dan Hoffman:

Oh, it is very, very pretty.

Amy Simmons:

Yes. But it is safe for pedestrians and tires, don't worry.

Dan Hoffman:

It's not going to cut your feet.

Amy Simmons:

Yes.

Dan Hoffman:

It's not going to cut your hands.

Amy Simmons:

They're rounded.

Dan Hoffman:

Just sand.

Amy Simmons:

Yeah. Little, little pieces.

Dan Hoffman:

Little, yes.

Amy Simmons:

Not quite sand.

Dan Hoffman:

Kind of pretty much sand.

Amy Simmons:

Yes. Okay. So-

Dan Hoffman:

Splitting hairs.

Amy Simmons:

... details.

Dan Hoffman:

Details, details.

Amy Simmons:

All right. The Old Town Holiday Parade and tree lighting ceremony, that would've been better but Mike's saying that one.

Dan Hoffman:

Oh yeah.

Amy Simmons:

Are next Monday, November 28th, the parade starts at 7:00 PM and we'll start at on Piccadilly Street. Is Piccadilly a...

Dan Hoffman:

Piccadilly is a British word. It has its own circus, right?

Mike Ruddy:

Piccadilly has a circus. There you go. Leicester has a Square.

Dan Hoffman:

Oh, that's true. By the way, it's pronounced Lester, not Lee-ster or Lee-sesster.

Amy Simmons:

Lee-cesster.

Dan Hoffman:

Leicester. It's Lester folks. There you go.

Amy Simmons:

I thought Tim looked into that and that he-

Dan Hoffman:

Yeah, it's-

Amy Simmons:

Okay.

Dan Hoffman:

... very muddy.

Amy Simmons:

We digress.

Dan Hoffman:

How we got to this particular point, but...By the way, Piccadilly Circus is, it's not a circus, we think a circus with acrobats and elephants and clowns, right?

Mike Ruddy:

No.

Dan Hoffman:

A circus in England is something else.

Mike Ruddy:

So like a circular, a square area where traffic comes together and moves around.

Dan Hoffman:

Like a traffic circle?

Mike Ruddy:

Like a circus. Kind of that general idea, yeah.

Amy Simmons:

They call it a circus?

Dan Hoffman:

We circus.

Mike Ruddy:

If it were to be planted here in the middle of Valley Avenue.

Dan Hoffman:

So the next time we propose a traffic circle.

Amy Simmons:

It's gonna be a-

Dan Hoffman:

We're going to call it a circus.

Amy Simmons:

Yes.

Dan Hoffman:

And no one will know what we're doing.

Amy Simmons:

Yes. And that's probably much what it is in the beginning before people figure it out.

Dan Hoffman:

Probably. And maybe they'll actually like it.

Mike Ruddy:

There may well have been a circus there at some point.

Dan Hoffman:

Exactly.

Amy Simmons:

Okay, so sorry. Okay. Back to what I was saying. The parade starts 7:00 PM and will start on Piccadilly Street at Cameron, and then it'll turn left onto Braddock and then left onto Cork and then end at Cameron Street.

Dan Hoffman:

Yep.

Amy Simmons:

Then the tree lighting ceremony with Santa will start immediately after.

Dan Hoffman:

And me.

Amy Simmons:

And you.

Dan Hoffman:

I think I'm introducing Santa again this year.

Amy Simmons:

Oh, fun. Okay. And it'll be on the Loudoun Street Mall. Will you be on a float?

Dan Hoffman:

No, I'm not in the parade.

Amy Simmons:

You're just introducing Santa.

Dan Hoffman:

We are doing a, evidently a full blown parade again this year, so.

Amy Simmons:

Yes. A long one. Yes.

Dan Hoffman:

It's a long one. So people...

Amy Simmons:

Got a lot of applications.

Dan Hoffman:

You wanted it. It's back The Christmas Parade.

Amy Simmons:

Full blown. Yes.

Dan Hoffman:

So show up.

Amy Simmons:

Okay. Hopefully it's not too cold. Road closures will be, in fact, of course, for the parade. And check our latest news section on our website for the list. There's a lot of them. Also, the parking authority will be offering parking at all four garages for \$5. They're accepting card only, no cash this year, and that's starting at 4:30. but please note that if you park at the Braddock Auto Park, you will not be able to exit until the parade is over. Safety reasons.

Dan Hoffman:

Safety.

Amy Simmons:

But there are no restrictions at the other three garages so park and leave whenever you want the other three. And speaking of the holidays, the park has many events and programs coming up to celebrate. So from Santa Letters, kids can write letters to Santa, get a letter back, to a mini sleigh, fly-in movie, create your own mini sleigh.

Dan Hoffman:

Oh wow.

Amy Simmons:

Watch the movie in it.

Dan Hoffman:

What movie?

Amy Simmons:

Arthur Christmas.

Dan Hoffman:

Arthur Christmas?

Amy Simmons:

Yes.

Dan Hoffman:

Mm, not heard of that one.

Amy Simmons:

Me either. Cookies with Santa is always fun and popular crafting event for kids and families, because parents have to be there. Parents night out. You don't have to be there. Drop the kids off, let them have fun with our childcare staff.

Dan Hoffman:

There you go. They'll be very safe.

Amy Simmons:

Yes. And they also get dinner and then a holiday open house. So a lot of things happening at the park for Christmas and the holidays. On December 6th, Social Services is hosting an employment open house. If you or someone you know is looking for a career in Social Services, stop by from 4:00 to 7:00 on December 6th and learn more and chat with staff. And then if you meet the qualifications, they will set you up for job interview.

Dan Hoffman:

Awesome.

Amy Simmons:

And I'm happy to report nothing's changed since the last podcast. I'm still on schedule with the-

Dan Hoffman:

The calendar?

Amy Simmons:

With the calendar, yes.

Dan Hoffman:

Looks great.

Amy Simmons:

It's at the printers.

Dan Hoffman:

They're, and this year we're going to take bets in the over under on how many typos or mistakes there are in the calendar.

Amy Simmons:

Ohhhh. Don't say that...don't put that in the universe.

Dan Hoffman:

I think the over under is three. So we'll have to see.

Amy Simmons:

I went to great lengths to make sure it didn't, but I'm not spending money on it. <Laughs>

Dan Hoffman:

Exactly. All right. And maybe next year ... if you find one.

Amy Simmons:

Ooh, maybe there'll be a prize.

Dan Hoffman:

Oh yes. If you can find one. And if you're the first person to bring it to Amy's attention or just write a letter to the Winchester Star.

Amy Simmons:

No, please don't do that. <Laughs>

Dan Hoffman:

<Laughs> I'm just kidding. Don't do that. Ever.

Amy Simmons:

Oh. Torture.

Dan Hoffman:

No, if you're the first person to point out a typo to Amy...

Amy Simmons:

Only.

This Rouss Review transcript was exported on Nov 18, 2022 - view latest version [here](#).

Dan Hoffman:

There will be some type of prize. We've got a lot of Halloween candy leftover. You can stop buying some Halloween candy but yeah, everyone's super excited about the calendar.

Amy Simmons:

Yes, very.

Dan Hoffman:

And they should be in their mailboxes...

Amy Simmons:

Hopefully by mid-December, before Christmas this year.

Dan Hoffman:

Before Christmas. All right? Okay. So that's it for part one of the Rouss Review. Stick around for part two, the City Works Edition with Mr. Mike Ruddy.

Amy Simmons:

Yeah.

Dan Hoffman:

If you're not sticking around for that, that's your loss.

Amy Simmons:

Mm-hmm.

Dan Hoffman:

And it's just poor planning and decision making in your part. And until then, I will see you around City Hall.