GOOGLE FIBER TO EXPLORE BRINGING CITY ULTRA HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

On February 19, Mayor Kent Studebaker announced that Lake Oswego is on a short list of cities working with Google to explore the possibility of bringing the ultra-high-speed Google Fiber broadband network to the city. At up to 1,000 Megabits per second, Google Fiber is 100 times faster than today's basic broadband – which averages 9.8 Megabits per second - allowing Lake Oswego residents access to “Gigabit” Internet connections almost instantaneously.

“The City of Lake Oswego is eager to work with Google in bringing fiber-based broadband service to our residents,” stated Mayor Kent Studebaker. “Our city is ideally suited for this. Many of our residents are executives, professionals, and knowledge workers, and having this business-class Internet service available in every home will be a tremendous economic development tool. We’re attracting more young families, and many of them are cutting the cable and depend on the Internet for their communications and entertainment. And I know our outstanding school system will jump on the bandwidth and use it in ways we can’t even imagine today.”

There is huge consumer demand for faster Internet speeds, because no one likes to wait on the web. Unfortunately, many of the things people love to do online (like gaming, watching movies, video chatting) require a lot of bandwidth which means that, using today’s connections, consumers often get stuck waiting for pages to load or for videos to buffer. Statistics show that people walk away from slow-loading sites. And gig networks aren’t just about entertainment. And I know our outstanding school system will jump on the bandwidth and use it in ways we can’t even imagine today.

The next 100x leap in broadband speeds — to gigabit Internet — will lead to innovation that’s unimaginable today, just as the shift from dial-up to broadband did.

Google will work closely with the City on a joint planning process to explore what it would take to build a brand new fiber-optic network capable of delivering these gigabit speeds throughout Lake Oswego. Google will begin compiling a detailed study of local factors that might affect construction plans. Simultaneously, city leaders will begin meetings with Google to discuss what it would take to plan and prepare the city for a fiber project of this scale.

If all goes as planned, construction in Lake Oswego would begin in late 2014 or early 2015. Google hopes to “start connecting homes” by summer 2015. Lake Oswego residents would be offered similar service packages to those available in Kansas City: including gigabit Internet, Google Fiber TV, and the option of “standard” Internet speeds (similar to cable modems) for only the cost of installation.

In addition to Lake Oswego, Google will be working with Portland, Beaverton, Hillsboro, Gresham, and Tigard.

Google will provide an update on which cities will get Google Fiber by the end of this year. Google Fiber is currently available in Kansas City, Kansas; Kansas City, Missouri; and Provo, Utah, and will be available in Austin, Texas, later this year.

To learn more about Google Fiber and sign up to receive updates, go to https://fiber.google.com/newcities/.

WATER PIPELINE WORK RAMPING UP

Preparations have begun for installation of the new water transmission pipeline north of Oswego Lake. Crews have relocated sanitary and storm sewer lines to make room for the larger pipe, with equipment. Pipeline has been installed in Waluga Park, and workers are preparing to move east. By early March, the pipe installation will be in full swing.

Construction will start on Lanewood Street and continue for about three weeks. This will be followed by construction along the southerly leg of Douglas Circle, then on to a portion of Upper Drive between Twin Fir Road and the Hunt Club. Detours will be in place, so please watch for flaggers. Access will be allowed for local traffic only.

For more information about Partnership projects in your neighborhood, including traffic diversions, email lorwater@ci.oswego.or.us or visit lotigardwater.org. You can also sign up to receive periodic emails about pipeline work, Waluga Reservoir work, or any other facilities you are interested in. Your patience is appreciated as these important improvements to your water supply system are made.

WEB REZONE UPDATE

On February 4, City Council remanded the rezone application back to the Planning Commission so that it may consider as part of its analysis a conceptual development plan for the West End Building property. The remanded Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for March 10. For more information about the West End Building Sale and Rezoning, go to http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/boc_pc/lu-13-0053-west-end-building-rezone.