

# Mayor Bell's Summer Update

July 2024

June is over, and summer has arrived after an icy winter and damp spring. Lots of happenings are coming soon to Coburg: Concerts in the Park and Market start July 10th, upgrades to parks continue, vintage car show, street repairs, increased farm vehicle traffic, more retail shops and eating opportunities, and more kids, bikes and pedestrians on the streets and byways. All good things, but they also can create congestion, changes in traffic patterns and a need for increased awareness.

**Police Department:** Our streets are heavily traveled by commuters and unfortunately this may lead to speeding, failing to acknowledge crosswalks or other types of unlawful activities. For a small town, we sometimes aren't the "Mayberry for the Modern Age" as described in a recent edition of Eugene Magazine. Thanks to our police department for monitoring and addressing safety issues in Coburg and working with county, state and federal agencies as needed to keep Coburg the place we all love.

**Budget:** the budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 has been reviewed and approved by the Budget Committee and City staff. As in nearly every town across the nation, revenues are not enough to cover rapidly rising costs so hard decisions were made to maintain essential services and projects to keep Coburg the place we love to live. If you are interested in more detail, you can find the approved budget on the city website.



**Street work:** Major improvements to N Willamette, Macy and N Harrison are scheduled to begin in July and be complete in October. This is a major project and will be disruptive to neighborhoods, so every effort will be made to inform neighbors of road closures. I think most people will be pleased with the final result and added features. Many of the safety features included were recommended by citizens on the Ad-Hoc Transportation Safety committee, kudos to the hard work of citizens, staff and elected officials. Staff will present the final recommendations to Lane County Transportation in an effort to address safety concerns on both county roads (Pearl and Willamette Streets) in Coburg.

**Park upgrades:** include the Veteran's Memorial with improved rose garden, paths and flowering trees; the new restroom building will be open and available in Pavilion Park just in time for concert season. Phase 2 of the project will include more paths, lights, tree/shrub plantings and a commemorative water feature. All infrastructure has been completed to allow final work to move forward quickly with the plan in place for a Spring completion. Johnny Diamond Park will be closed July 29-August 7 so our Public Works team can accomplish some much-needed maintenance. All of these projects are possible because of dedicated staff, countless hours donated by members of the Park Tree Committee and effective leveraging of local general fund revenues that support Parks projects and maintenance, along with Police, Municipal Court and our land use development services. The community can help out by volunteering during park work parties, making a donation to a favorite project, and reporting concerns (graffiti, unsafe actions) to City staff by calling or completing a Citizen's Inquiry Form or in some cases calling 911 for police action, if needed.

**Summer Water Use:** Water is an increasingly precious resource and during summer we use a lot more outside. Scan this QR code for some tips on controlling your water usage. This will help preserve our water delivery system and potentially lessen the impact on your bill.



**Questions or Concerns?** I know it's easy to post on social media, but here are some other ways to be heard in Coburg: participate in council meetings, join a committee, run for city council, or file a citizen's inquiry form at <https://www.coburgoregon.org/administration/page/citizen-inquiry-form>.

I hope everyone safely celebrates the 4th of July. Please respect your neighbors by keeping fireworks to a minimum to prevent fires and to lessen the noise the is often frightening to people and animals. If you see an immediate public safety issue, please call 911. I'll see you around town and at the many upcoming celebrations. Enjoy a safe and fun summer!

~ Nancy Bell, Mayor of Coburg