

Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

November/December 2021 Issue

Mayor's Corner City Water System

Ray Smith, Mayor

Regular Mayor's Corner readers know that I usually write about upcoming issues in our city government. Today, I want to look back and share a success story of something we recently completed.

The city water system is a precious commodity. City Councilors and staff are keenly aware of the seemingly high price we pay to keep this system operating to provide Coburg with safe, clean drinking water and provide fire protection for our homes and businesses.

Over the last few years, the City of Coburg has invested about \$130,000 to install 579 new electronic water meters at every home and business. The cost includes a new billing software and extensive monitoring capabilities.

The most obvious impact of this new system is the hours of staff time saved from reading meters and working with the billing system. Public Works Director Brian Harmon says, "It

used to take two days for a Public Works employee to walk to every meter and record the meter reading for the monthly bill. Now all of the meter readings can be gathered in 30 minutes. Also, we have a huge decrease in time spent re-reading meters because of this, going from 15-20 re-reads a month to one to five."

The new software is able to download usage information from each meter that allows staff to alert users of possible leaks in their water system. With the cost of water, this has been a huge benefit to our customers.

The efficiency of meter reading and accuracy of the auto read has cut down billing adjustments and time spent trouble shooting issues with customers.

Having all new meters also allows our Public Works team to more accurately measure our water consumption and compare it to our water production. This can help us monitor "lost water" which is usually indicative of leaks



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City Council Brief



Highlights of actions and topics the Coburg City Council has recently addressed and issues likely to be discussed in the next couple of months.

SEPTEMBER 2021

- Approved Ordinance A-253 Non-Exclusive Franchise for the Construction and Operation of Fiber Optics Telecommunication System
- Approved Resolution 2021-20 A Resolution Adopting Amendments to the Salary and Classification Schedule for Fiscal Year 2021-22
- Accepted donated police cars
- Approved Contract with Roger Langeliers Construction Co. for Van Duyen Sidewalk and Driveway project
- Approved contract with D & I Excavating Inc. for waterline extension project
- Accepted High Visibility Overtime Enforcement Grant from ODOT for Police

OCTOBER 2021

- Council and Planning Commission had a joint work session to review Annexation Agreement
- Approved contract with City of Springfield for inmate housing
- Approved contract with Professional Credit Services to provide collection service for delinquent Utility Billing accounts and Court
- Appointed Paul Thompson, Marissa Doyle and Seth Clark to Planning Commission terms expiring October 2023
- Accepted Street Banner donations honoring Veterans

**Upcoming
City Council
Meetings:**

Tuesday, November 11, 7pm
Tuesday, December 14, 7pm

Construction in Town

Construction is under way in Pavilion Park for the new **Coburg Bike Hub**. The hub will feature a fix-it station, lockers, signage, water, and a charging station for residents and tourists cycling in and through Coburg.

Travel Lane County has facilitated the creation of bike hubs in Lane County to develop regional bicycle improvements and increase bicycle education and awareness.

Construction is due to be complete by December and we look forward to seeing more bike riding around town.



Coburg Committee Highlights

Updates on what the Coburg Committees have recently accomplished or are currently addressing.

Planning Commission - Megan Winner

September/October

- Interviewed candidate for vacancy and made recommendation to City Council to appoint applicant.

Park/Tree Committee - Brian Harmon

September/October

- No updates

Heritage Committee - Megan Winner

September/October

- CLG Projects continued

Finance/Audit Committee - Tim Gaines

September/October

- No updates



The clock in front of The Old Shed has a new addition on top.

Coburg Heritage Committee

At the beginning of November, the Coburg Heritage Committee will be honoring the Diamond House built in 1890, the NC and Rebecca Burns House built in 1894, and the Alice Batch House built in 1906 with plaques recognizing the properties historical significance in the Coburg community. Funding for these plaques was made possible with a Certified Local Government grant from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. This grant is offered to local communities across the state bi-annually.



The Heritage Committee is planning to award three more plaques in 2022 to the oldest buildings and sites in Coburg. Nominations can be made through May of 2022 and recipients will be celebrated at the 2022 Community Antique Fair. The goal of this program is to raise community awareness and generate support for the unique history within our local National Register Historic District.

Stop by City Hall for a Walking Tour Booklet featuring the winners, as well as additional historic homes in Coburg.

Do you know of a building or site that should be honored with a historic plaque or want to share a challenging maintenance issue? Please, let us know! The Heritage Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Email the committee at megan.winner@ci.coburg.or.us

New Businesses in Coburg

One of the newest additions to Coburg is the **Coburg Candy Company**. Alison Davis-Hockaday and her husband, Jared, are the new owners of the candy store located in the Mill Street Square. Alison grew up in Ferndale, CA and remembers going to the local candy store as a child. She moved to Springfield about 15 years ago and moved to Coburg this past year. She loves the Coburg community, and her daughter is in first grade at the Coburg Community Charter School. Alison thought a candy store would be the perfect addition to Coburg. The store has a lot of “sweet” treats and will definitely get you in the mood for the holidays! Stop by Monday through Saturday and pick up a tasty treat! **Welcome Coburg Candy Company!**



Another new addition to Coburg is the hair salon, **Studio Seven**. Danielle Anderson was born and raised in a small town in Montana. After moving to Oregon, she started behind the chair in 2012 at a day spa in downtown Corvallis. Falling in love and following her heart brought her and her career down to the Eugene area. Making her dreams a reality, Danielle opened her very own salon, Studio Seven Coburg this fall in the new Judy Bailey Building on Harrison Street, across from Norma Pfeifer Park. **Welcome Studio Seven!**



Farm Kitchen Candle Co. is also new to Coburg and is a true small family business owned and operated by husband & wife team Kay and Marco Franciosa, with their two small children Rye and Hazel. Marco is the packing and shipping specialist and also staffs their farmers market booths in between school pick ups and drop offs. Kay hand pours small batches of quality soy wax candles on the premises for their online retail shop, farmers markets and craft shows, wholesale accounts and more. They are proud to use only the best quality ingredients: 100% American grown soy wax, essential oil infused fragrance oils and natural cotton wicks. Their candles are ALWAYS phthalate, additive & dye free. They are located on Harrison Street in the new Judy Bailey Building. **Welcome Farm Kitchen Candle Co.!**



CHRISTMAS IN COBURG

Friday, Saturday and Sunday
December 17, 18 & 19

Friday, Dec. 17

Tree lighting in Pavilion Park
6:00 Pm

Saturday, Dec. 18

Breakfast with Santa
8:00-10:00 am

Holiday Market
11:00 am-4:00 Pm

Block Party on Mill St.
4:00-8:00 Pm

Sunday, Dec. 19

Shop Local in Coburg

Holiday Light Parade
6:00-7:00 Pm



Brought to you by The City of Coburg, Coburg Main Street, Coburg Grange,
Coburg Chamber of Commerce, and Coburg Community Foundation

Coburg Leaf Pickup Program

We want to get a jump on getting you involved with the Leaf Pickup Program this year. City crews will be starting on **December 13th** and working through late January. We will be working in zones again this year to pick up the leaves.

ZONE #1 is Pearl St. South and S. Willamette St. East

ZONE #2 is W. McKenzie St. South and S. Willamette St. West

ZONE #3 is Pearl St. North and S. Willamette St. East

ZONE #4 is W. McKenzie St. North and N. Willamette St. West

It is very important that you have piles ready to be picked up because we are only going through each zone twice. If you do not have your pile out to the right of way by **January 21st** we may not be able to pick up that pile.

We also ask that you help us by following these simple rules:

1. Nothing but leaves! Please no branches, rocks, grass or trash!
2. Put piles where they can be reached safely!! They should be located in the right of way and not in the street.
3. Do not block the piles!! Please do not park in front of or near piles as crews will need to get to them easily!

If crews do encounter any of these issues, we will not be able to pick up your piles and it will be your responsibility to pick up the leaves. City crews will be working diligently to get the leaves picked up and will be as efficient as we possibly can!

Thank you!

Coburg Community Grange Update

Welcome to Fall. The Coburg Community Grange is always trying to stay busy. We have decorated for Halloween along with most of the town and all of the displays look great. November is Veteran's month so the Grange has started a project of putting banners on light poles to honor veterans and their families who have served. **THANK YOU VETERANS.**

Christmas in Coburg is happening this year and that means the Grange will be putting on the chili feed. Be sure to come out and get a bowl of chili. More details to come!

Texas Hold Em' is the first Friday of the month at 7:00 pm. Registration is at 6:30 pm and the buy in is only \$20. Our monthly meeting is on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm and the meetings usually last no more than an hour. Come see first hand what The Grange is all about.

Terri Morneau, Secretary/Treasurer

Scarecrow Contest Winners



Bicycle Built for Two

Coburg Daze



Bee Happy

Reusable Dude



Here Comes the Bride

The Scarecrows in Coburg were wonderful this year! Thank you to everyone who participated in the scarecrow contest. All the entries were amazing and it truly showed the wonderful spirit the Coburg Community has!

Thank you to Coburg Pizza, Blue Valley Bistro, Hayworth Wine Bar, Coburg Antique Mall and Coburg Candy Company for donating prizes for the winners!!



Flower Power

Coburg Chamber of Commerce

The leaves are falling, the temperatures are coming down and we are snuggling in for fall and winter. The Coburg Area Chamber of Commerce is taking the opportunity that has been presented to us by the cancellation of all our summer and fall events to review and revise our bylaws. It has been over a decade since it was last done and we felt it was the perfect time to do it. A committee has been formed with chamber elected officers and community members to review and discuss our bylaws to see what amendments should be done. Those amendments will be presented to the chamber for a vote upon completion by the committee chair, Katie Brushett. So enjoy the season and we'll see you soon.



HOW ARE ALLEYS USED IN COBURG?

The City is conducting an analysis on the alleys. We invite you to take this survey to let us know how the alleys are used in Coburg.

<https://tinyurl.com/CoburgAlleys>

If you don't have access to the survey online, call Megan at 541-682-7862.



Coburg Police Updates Shop with a Cop

The Coburg Police Department is accepting donations for its annual Shop with a Cop program. This is the 10th year the Coburg Police Department will be holding this event. The concept behind this program is for police officers to develop positive relationships with the underprivileged children in our community. The activity pairs up the children with police officers in a positive situation, such as shopping for Christmas presents. The officers get a chance to interact and begin building relationships with the kids while they help them select Christmas presents for their families. Each child will receive a \$125 gift card. After shopping they spend the rest of the afternoon wrapping presents and eating pizza together. Kids are selected by the Coburg Community Charter School.



If you would like to help, please make donations to the Coburg Police Department, Shop with a Cop program. All donors will receive a tax receipt in the mail. 100% of your donation will be used for Shop with a Cop.

If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by or call Chief Larry Larson at 541-682-7855.

Make your donation to:
Coburg Police Dept., Shop with a Cop Program
PO Box 8306
Coburg, OR 97408

CHETT Program Accepting Donations

The CHETT Program (Community Help Easing Troubled Times) is a funding stream consisting of monies donated by the community intended to provide resources to meet the short-term emergency needs of the most vulnerable in Coburg. Funds from this account are to be used for victims of crime, those displaced by crime or critical incident (including innocent family members of perpetrators), or people in the community with little hope or few options.

Examples of uses could include, but are not limited to: meals, lodging, transportation, crime scene damage repair, and/or other immediate short-term emergency assistance. A motel room for a victim of domestic violence and a new car part for someone

stranded were provided by Coburg officers using CHETT funds.

This program was inspired by the Springfield Police Department and Coburg's Chief Larson received an unsolicited donation to the Coburg Police Department from a Coburg resident. A decision was then made to use the money to start a Coburg-specific CHETT program in the community. To keep this program robust, we need your support. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please contact Larry Larson, Chief of Police, at 541-682-7855 or larry.larsen@ci.coburg.or.us, or mail to P.O. Box 8306, Coburg, Oregon 97408.

Coburg Community Foundation Update

I flipped the calendar to November and realized that 2021 is quickly coming to a close. It is the time of year that we think about what we are thankful for and try to draw a little closer to the ones we love. At the Coburg Community Foundation, we are thankful for our beautiful community and all the wonderful individuals and families that have volunteered and participated in our community over the last year.

We are looking forward to Christmas in Coburg and #Trashytree2021 will be making the rounds again this December. I love to follow the adventures of the Trashy Tree.

If you are lucky enough to get a visit from Trashy Tree this year, remember to post a picture (#TrashyTree2021) and help the tree get to its next stop as soon as possible. Enjoy the coming holiday season and thank you for making Coburg such a wonderful place to call home.



The holidays are a busy time for the **Coburg Food Pantry**. Please remember that donation barrels for the pantry are available at the Coburg DariMart near the mailboxes, at Coburg Community Charter School, on the boardwalk at the Coburg Inn near Blue Valley Bistro, and in front of the Pantry at 32697 East Pearl Street. Items that the Pantry currently needs include canned fruit, jam, crackers, salad dressing, condiments, and canned vegetables (excluding green beans and corn). Let's get those barrels filled and make sure everyone has a full cupboard for the holidays.

The Coburg Community Foundation has taken the Coburg Food Pantry under its fiscal umbrella. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Coburg Food Pantry, please make your check payable to the Coburg Community Foundation and include "Food Pantry" in the memo area. All monetary donations can be mailed to the Coburg Community Foundation at PO Box 8104, Coburg, OR 97408.

Coburg Community Charter School

Over at CCCS we've been loving connecting to our community with Community Days this fall! We've had students cleaning up around the park, learning about our local city government and businesses, planting trees from Rexius, having conversations with our local police department, learning about Coburg's history, meeting and learning from local farmers and much more! Thank you to all our community members and businesses that help our students learn and grow!



in our water mains. Old meters can be notoriously inaccurate and an abundance of old meters made our system difficult to monitor.

As we continue with our capital improvement project to modernize and expand our water system, more efficiencies will be realized. Many of our underground water lines are up to 50 years old. We are replacing these to avoid expensive repairs and disruptions of service. In the next year, the city hopes to add a new well, a new elevated water storage tank, and finally provide city water to the East side of the freeway.

These improvements have been planned for years and the costs have been built into our monthly bills. This is part of the reason our bills seem so high. We consider future improvement costs as part of our billing consideration and the City Council reviews our utility billing annually. We have been very fortunate that our staff has been able to keep costs down through efficiency and smart moves like refinancing existing debt to lower interest rates.

Inflation seems to be becoming a concern in our economy. The city will continue to do everything possible to keep our costs down while maintaining high quality and uninterrupted service to our homes and businesses.

I am hearing lots of discussion on holiday events in our community. **Keep an eye on social media and public postings for times and dates.** We are all hoping we can get back to a more normal life this holiday season. I hope we can enjoy some community events and celebrate the holidays together.

Have a safe and happy Holiday Season!



Mayor Ray Smith, City of Coburg

541-729-7045 or mayor@ci.coburg.or.us

Random Acts of Kindness

As we go into the holiday season and think about the people and things we are thankful for, remember your neighbors and the businesses in our community! Everyone is busy and many of us forget to say a simple please or thank you, or appreciate someone's time helping you. All it takes is a minute to make someone's day!!

Say hello to a stranger, buy a friend a cup of coffee, or tell the server at your favorite restaurant you appreciate them!! A little kindness goes a long way!



Calendar



STANDING MEETINGS

CCCS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

2nd Mondays
6:00 pm

COBURG FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

4th Mondays
7:00 pm, Fire Hall

CITY COUNCIL

2nd Tuesdays
7:00 pm, Coburg City Hall
Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder
541-682-7852

PARKS/TREE COMMITTEE

3rd Tuesdays
6:00 pm, City Hall
Contact, Brian Harmon, Public Works Director
541-682-7857

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

4th Tuesdays (or as scheduled)
6:30 pm, City Hall
Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder
541-682-7852

GRANGE MEETING

2nd Wednesdays
7:00 pm, Coburg Community Grange

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesdays
Contact, Megan Winner, City Planner
541-682-7862

PLANNING COMMISSION

3rd Wednesdays
7:00 pm, City Hall
Contact, Megan Winner, City Planner
541-682-7862

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

3rd Wednesdays
Noon, City Hall

METROPOLITAN POLICY COMMITTEE

1st Thursdays
11:30 am (usually at the Eugene or
Springfield library)
Contact, City Administrator
541-682-7871

SEW 'N SEWS QUILTING GROUP

2nd Thursdays
6:30 pm, Coburg Community Grange

POKER NIGHT

1st Fridays
6:30 pm Registration, 7:00 pm game begins
Coburg Community Grange
541-746-8655

ODDFELLOW MEETING

3rd Saturdays
11:00 am, I.O.O.F Hall

Our Town is a publication of the City of Coburg. If you'd like to be added to our newsletter mailing list or have something you would like to add to the newsletter, please email Tracey Pugh (tracey.pugh@ci.coburg.or.us).

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Questions About City Happenings?



We work for you! The City wants you to get the information you need and care about. Currently, Our Town, the Coburg website coburgoregon.org, the 'City of Coburg, Oregon' Facebook page, 'Coburg Police Department' Facebook page, monthly utility bills, the Post Office (Dari-Mart), and City Hall are all places to get information about what is happening in and around Coburg. Council and committee meetings are also great resources.

What do you want to hear about? How do you like to get information? Let us know.

- Coburg City Staff