

Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

May/June 2022 Issue

Mayor's Corner Property Annexation in Coburg

Ray Smith, Mayor

The Coburg City Council voted to annex approximately 107 acres on the eastern boundary of the urban growth boundary, and east of I-5, into the city. This is the next step in years of planning that will provide development of employment based land and increase Coburg's tax base while providing more users of city utilities. This property was brought into our Urban Growth Boundary by a vote of the City Council in 2017. The City received an application for annexation from the property owner in September of 2020. The following month, the owner submitted an additional application requesting a Light Industrial zoning.

In the months since the applications were submitted, the following steps have occurred in this process:

- The Council and Planning Commission held a work session in October 2020, to learn about the process of annexation.
- In December 2020, the City informally notified the properties in the vicinity of the Urban

Growth Boundary by mail that an application had been received by the City.

- A second work session was held on February 23, 2021 to discuss the application and the specifics of the annexation agreement.
- A meeting was held with city staff, the adjacent residential property owners, and the developer to discuss their concerns with the buffer zone. The buffer zone included in the annexation agreement is a reflection of that meeting and follow up discussions.
- A meeting was held with nearby commercial property owners in order to discuss the transportation access and the plans for developing the property. Their concerns were invited and addressed by the property owner in the annexation agreement.
- In the spring of 2021, the public was provided with a mini-newsletter on this subject in the utility billing. In addition, a similar newsletter was in the community newsletter March/April edition.
- The application was reviewed by multiple agencies including the City staff, Engineering staff, Lane County, and ODOT.



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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.



MARCH 2022

- Proclaimed April 29, 2022 "Arbor Day in the City of Coburg"
- Proclaimed April 2022 "Child Abuse Prevention Month"
- Reading of Ordinance A-200-J Annexing Territory to the City of Coburg. Reopen the record for all parties until March 25, 2022 and the applicant April 1, 2022
- Approved Resolution 2022-06 Authorizing Grant Funding Application to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Approved Resolution 2022-07 Authorizing Grant Funding Application for a local government grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for development of a plaza at Pavilion Park
- Approved Resolution 2022-08 Authorizing Grant Funding Application to the Oregon State Homeland Security Grant Program
- Appointed Tim Gaines as Budget Officer for 2022-23
- Council held a Work Session to discuss goals and work plan for 2022-23

APRIL 2022

- Adopted Ordinance A-200-J Annexing 107 acres of Territory to the City of Coburg and rezoning it to light industrial
- Approved Resolution 2022-09 Authorizing the application for street project funding to Oregon Infrastructure Bank
- Approved Resolution 2022-10 Adopting a Capital Improvement Policy and Project List
- Adopted the City Council Goals for Fiscal Year 2022-23
- Discussed amending the 1992 City Charter

*City Council Meetings are livestreamed at www.coburgoregon.org
To participate by Zoom, pre-register with the City by 3:00 pm
the day of the meeting.*

Upcoming City Council Meetings:

Tuesday, May 10, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 pm



General Election November 8, 2022

Position of Mayor and three (3)
Council positions will appear on
the Ballot.

Filing period for interested
candidates begins on June 1, 2022.
The filing process, including
signature verification, must be
completed by August 30, 2022.

Coburg Committee Highlights

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

Planning Commission

March/April

- Held joint work session with Ad-Hoc Code Review Committee on March 17 to review draft of the Form Based Code for the Central Business District
- Presentation on Building Program by Faye Stewart, Cottage Grove Public Works Director

Park/Tree Committee

March/April

- Work Party in Norma Pfeiffer Park on May 16
- Work Party in Jacob Spores Park cleaned around the sign
- Planting two red maples for Arbor Day on April 28
- Brainstorming ideas for Coburg Creek Park subdivision

Heritage Committee

March/April

- Historic Homes and Gardens Art Contest cancelled
- Selected preservation plaque recipients

Budget Committee

May 24, 2022, Budget Committee, 6:00 pm

May 31, 2022, URA & City Budget Committee, 6:00 pm

.....
Budget Committee Recruitment closes on May 20, 2022.

Contact City Hall for application and more information.

Coburg Capital Projects Update

At the City we often get questions regarding the capital infrastructure projects of the City. Communicating facts to the public is important to us. Therefore, we have prepared a newsletter for citizens with updates on our Capital Projects. Information in our mini newsletter contains information on:

- Park Projects
- Street Projects
- Water Projects
- Sewer Projects
- Public Works Shop
- Funding/Financing

The mini newsletter will be sent out in the May utility billing and can also be found on the City's website - www.coburg.oregon.org/projects





The Circus is coming

The Coburg Grange is excited to welcome the circus back to Coburg! The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus is coming to town on May 19. There will be two (2) shows, one at 5:00 pm and one at 7:30 pm.

Students and community members are welcome to watch the "BIG TOP" go up that morning as well as meet the circus animals. Skeeter the Clown will also be in town the week of the event handing out tickets. Watch for more details on I Love Coburg's Facebook page.



Planning Underway for 2022 Antique & Vintage Fair



The Coburg Antique & Vintage Fair will be back on Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm in the wonderful Coburg City Parks.

The 35th Annual Coburg Antique & Vintage Fair will be a great time to shop through the Coburg historic district for treasures from the past. Enjoy lunch in the park from one of the many food vendors and listen to the great sounds of the band, Vinyl Revival.

You can also be a volunteer and help us welcome these wonderful vendors and visitors to Coburg. Please contact Megan Dompe, Coburg Antique Fair Director at 541-913-6570 for more information.

Author Talk

Join us on Saturday, May 14 at 1:00 pm at the Coburg United Methodist Church for an afternoon with author Dr. Randy Woodley. Dr. Woodley wrote "Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth". For more information contact Naphtali Renshaw at Naphtali.J.Renshaw@gmail.com



Coburg Fire District

As many of you know, Coburg Fire District is composed of almost all volunteer responders. In fact, most fire districts and departments in the United States are volunteer. Years ago, fire districts were flooded with farmers, mill workers, and other community members wanting to volunteer to fight fires in their communities. Many factors have changed which has created challenges in recruiting new volunteers.

One of the key challenges presently is the number of hours required for training. We aren't only firefighters anymore, our volunteers spend numerous hours becoming certified as Emergency Medical technicians of all different levels. Fire Districts have evolved over the years, and we are the first response for medical emergencies. To serve our community the best way possible, we train extensively for medical emergencies. For the past 10 years, volunteer numbers have dropped at an alarming rate. Despite constant efforts in recruitment and retention, Coburg Fire District has felt the decrease in volunteer numbers. While our numbers are trending down, we are still able to provide a service to the community, however, we need to stay in front of this issue to continue serving our customers.

We have identified our challenges, now what is the solution?

We need to focus on keeping our current volunteers while attracting new ones. To do this we will beef up some existing programs which are: tuition assistance, response based incentives, additional paid staff, and new volunteer responders. With emergency calls significantly increasing each year, the amount of volunteer hours increases. With additional volunteers, the workload can be distributed evenly and not cause

burnout. We cannot and do not want to have only paid responders. The cost would be too high, and we would never have the amount of responders needed for larger incidents. Coburg Fire will always rely on volunteers, as they are the backbone of our agency and always will be. Having increased paid staff simply evens out the workload and takes some stress off our responders who answer almost every single call.

What can YOU do?

There are many ways to support Coburg Fire! Of course, we would be thrilled to have anyone willing and able to become an emergency responder! But we understand that isn't a reality, so, a huge help to us would be passing along to friends and family that we are recruiting. If you have Facebook, follow us and share our posts. Vote! Our operating levy is incredibly important to our day to day operations and our future. Last and certainly not least, if you see our volunteers out and about, let them know you appreciate them!

**Appreciatively,
Coburg Fire District**



Coburg Community Grange

The Coburg Community Grange is happy to share some upcoming events. Please watch "I Love Coburg" and our website (coburgcommunitygrange.org) for more information.

On **May 19** we will be sponsoring the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus. Our goal is to give each student at Coburg Community Charter School a free ticket to the circus. We hope you'll come out with your family and join in the fun!

On **May 28th at 2:00 pm**, we will be hosting a memorial service for Tony Sweetman, who recently lost his battle with cancer. Tony was a big part of Coburg and helped with numerous community events. Tony sent me a note and asked me to share with the Coburg community that he was so appreciative of all the help and support he received from everyone and he wanted to THANK you all!

The Grange is very proud to support the "South Willamette Valley Honor Flight". They will be taking the next group of veterans to Washington DC to visit the military memorials at the end of April. More than 750 veterans have gone on this trip since the organization started in 2012. The organization is part of the National Honor Flight network. It takes over 65 volunteers to take 50 veterans on this trip. For more information visit their website at swvhonorflight.org

We are also excited to share that we now have air conditioning in the upstairs of the Grange. We do rent out the building for special events. If you are interested in renting the Grange please give us a call.

Joe Morneau, Grange President, 541 228-8650

Utility Bill

Limited Income Assistance

The City of Coburg offers a reduced fee to income-eligible customers who are having trouble paying their utility bills; Ord. A-224-A (11.8).

If you are currently enrolled in the program you must re-apply every year during open enrollment. All rates are reset on July 1st.

If you would like to apply, the Limited Income Assistance for Water and Wastewater Application and income verification must be turned in to City Hall by June 30, 2022. The information packets for fiscal year 2022-2023 will be included in your May water bills.

Noxious Vegetation Enforcement

June 1 - October 30

Noxious vegetation (which includes grass, weeds, blackberry bushes, bamboo, ivy, poison oak) that is more than 10" high on your property, or that extends into the alley or other public right away, must be maintained by the owner of the property.

To report concerns of noxious vegetation, please fill out a Citizen Inquiry form.

**Thank you
for helping to
keep Coburg
beautiful!**



Coburg Main Street

There are many exciting projects and events happening in Coburg in the coming months. The Main Street Art Committee has created new welcome signs for the summer and is finishing artwork for the Bike Hub in Pavilion Park. The Marketing Committee is working on a Downtown Business Map/Directory Brochure as well as Wayfinding Signage. Flower pots in downtown will be back out in May - **thank you to Rexius for donating soil and Johnson Brothers for providing the flowers.** Concerts in the Park and the Coburg Market will be back on Thursday nights in July

and August (July 21-August 25). Main Street is also working on a new website where you'll be able to find information about events in the community and a directory of local businesses. Watch for more information in the coming months! Thank you for being a part of this amazing community!



Coburg Food Pantry

Save the Date - July 9, 2022

The food pantry will be holding a Food Festival in Norma Pfeiffer Park, on July 9th, from 9:00-11:00 am. This will be a fun and informational gathering to get the word out that our pantry is here and available for our Coburg Residents. We are hoping to emphasize that we are available to many more families than what we currently serve. You do not need to be desperate before turning to us for help. The qualifying income

numbers are listed on the door to our pantry at 32697 East Pearl Street. Please stop by to see if you and/or your family meet the requirements. Or, as always, feel free to give us a call. Peggy-541-345-6645 or Patty-831-345-3866. More information on the Food Festival to come!



Oregon RAIN

Entrepreneur Meet Up

Blue Valley Bistro, Coburg
Last Friday of the Month
10:00 am

Come talk to us about
your business!



You can still sign up for Rainmaker at <https://raincatalysts.org/sign-up-for-rainmaker-2022>

If you haven't already, please feel free to book a **FREE** meeting time with Aqsa Khan, your Lane County Venture Catalyst.

Coburg Police - Distracted Driving in Oregon

DRIVE DISTRACTION-FREE

Distracted drivers pose a deadly risk to everyone on the road. Drivers engage in a range of distracting activities from eating, grooming, reading, talking, or texting on their phones. Hands-free is not risk free, as dangerous mental distractions exist even when drivers keep their hands on the wheel and eyes on the road.

There are four types of driver distraction:



VISUAL

Looking at something other than the road



AUDITORY

Hearing something not related to driving



MANUAL

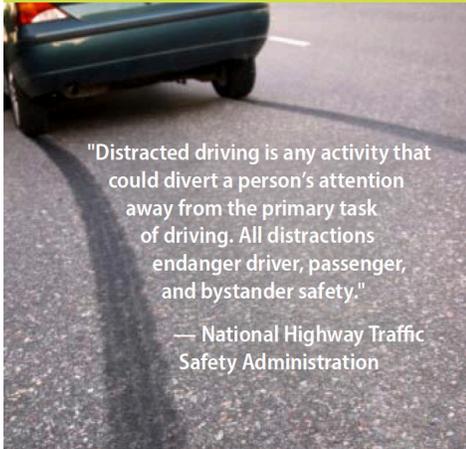
Handling something other than the wheel



COGNITIVE

Thinking about something other than driving

Distractions often involve more than one of these types, with both a sensory and a mental component.



"Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. All distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety."

— National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DISTRACTED DRIVING LAWS PROTECT EVERYONE

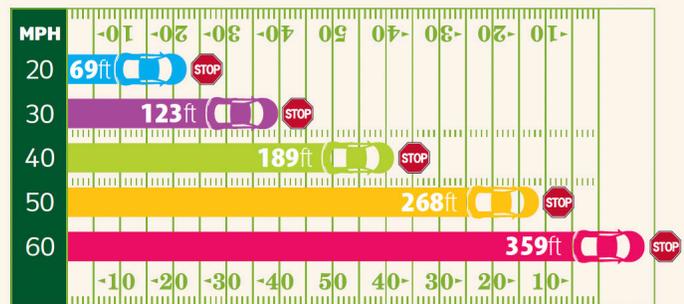
Oregon's cell phone law prohibits the use of any mobile electronic device by drivers unless you are using a hands-free device (drivers under age 18 are banned from using any kind of mobile electronic device, hands-free or not). No driver of any age is allowed to text while driving. Oregon's law is a primary offense, so police can stop a driver just for violating this law. Drivers caught violating ORS 811.507 could face a Class B traffic violation with a presumptive fine of \$260 (maximum \$2,000) for the first conviction.

TIPS TO AVOID DISTRACTIONS

- **Turn it off and stow it.** Turn your phone off or switch it to silent mode before you get in the car. Then stow it away so that it's out of reach.
- **Use a cell phone app** that automatically notifies callers when you are driving and stops tempting notifications.
- **Pull over.** If you need to make a call, pull over to a safe area away from traffic.
- **Ask a passenger** to operate the phone for you while you're driving.
- **X the Text.** Don't ever text and drive, browse online, read your email or social media while driving. It's dangerous and against the law in most states. Even voice-to-text isn't risk-free.
- **Prepare your route.** If using a GPS device, enter your destination before you start to drive. If you prefer a map or written directions, review them in advance. Pull over to a safe area away from traffic if you need to review.
- **Mind the kids.** Pull over to a safe place to address situations involving children in the car.
- **Secure your pets.** Unsecured pets can be a big distraction in the car.
- **Focus on driving.** Multi-tasking behind the wheel is dangerous. Refrain from eating, drinking, reading, grooming, smoking, and any other activity that takes your attention off the road.

5 SECONDS

is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When driving at 55 mph, that is enough time to cover the length of a football field.



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

Keep your **eyes up**, and your phone down.



Wear **bright-colored clothing** or reflective gear if walking at night.



Look **left, right and left again** before crossing the street.



Make **eye contact** with drivers before crossing the street.



Always walk on sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.



Do not run or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.



Thank you to everyone who donated food for the Coburg Food Pantry and brought paper to shred at the Shred-A-Thon.

We took in 126 pounds of food and \$300 cash for the Coburg Food Pantry. We also took in approximately 5,000 pounds of paper that was shredded.



Coburg Community Foundation

Spring has definitely sprung, and we are feeling hopeful. We are hopeful that we will once again be able to celebrate proms, graduations, and weddings together. We are hopeful that we will get to truly gather as a community once more and enjoy the summer traditions we have all missed these past two years. We hope you are feeling hopeful as well.

Coburg Community Foundation's first annual scholarship program is launching this year. Information about the program and scholarship eligibility, along with eligibility forms, will be available on our website, coburgfoundation.org, beginning May 1st. This year we are excited to be able to offer three \$500 scholarships. Scholarship funds may be used to assist with the cost of tuition, fees, materials, and tools needed to attend an accredited academic or vocational/technical program. High school seniors, current college students, adults seeking training or retraining opportunities, and non-traditional students are all encouraged to apply. Scholarship awards will be announced by June 15.

And speaking of students: what would be a better way to celebrate your special graduate than with a handmade candy lei? You can get your smarty a sweet and colorful lei to honor your student's many years of hard work! Suitable for Kinders through PhDs, leis are three for \$25. Payment is due upon pickup (cash or check only), and orders will be accepted through May 13. Please go to coburgfoundation.org to place your order! Pickup will be the week of May 23-27. Specific pickup information will be provided when your order is placed. For questions or assistance, email info@coburgfoundation.org or call 458-215-1189 to leave a message.



Coburg Community Charter School

The school year is coming to a close...

We want to express our gratitude for the support of the community this school year. We've had so many wonderful volunteers in the building, not just from our families but from community members as well. We are thankful to have the support of so many local businesses that have chosen to sponsor our school this year. If you're interested in being a sponsor for next school year, please reach out to community@coburgcharter.org. As a public charter school, we rely heavily on volunteers and community support!

Our lottery was successful, and we are looking forward to meeting the new CCCS families soon! We are excited for our collaborations with community partners next year. This Summer we encourage you to enjoy our special little town of Coburg, and check out our student's artwork displayed in local businesses!



- A public hearing was held in front of the Planning Commission on November 17, 2021, in which the public was invited to provide public testimony on the application. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council approve the application and the zoning to be applied as Light Industrial.
- A second public hearing was held in front of the City Council on December 14, 2021, in which the public was invited to provide public testimony on the application. The first reading of the ordinance to approve the annexation and rezone was read before the adjournment of the meeting.
- On January 11, 2022, the City Council reconvened on this matter. A second reading of the ordinance to approve the annexation and rezone was expected to occur on January 11, 2022. The public was invited to provide public testimony before the second reading of the ordinance. However, City Council requested more information be provided before a second reading of the ordinance and rendering a decision. No decision on the application was rendered at this meeting. The required two readings of the ordinance would start over with a first reading occurring on February 22, 2022 (see below for details).
- The City Council and the Planning Commission held a joint work session on February 22, 2022, to receive more information on the process of a Master Plan Development. Development of the subject property will require this process for each parcel.
- Following the work session on February 22, 2022, at 7:30 p.m., the Council held a special meeting regarding the Annexation and Zoning designation application. At this meeting, Council had the 1st reading of Ordinance A-200-J and held the quasi-judicial public hearing that included: Staff Report, Applicant's Comments, Written Testimony received entered into record, testimony in favor or opposition for the record, Applicant rebuttal testimony.

After the applicant made a presentation during the February 22 meeting, the City Council voted to open a new public comment period from March 8th to March 18th to allow citizens a response to that presentation. All parties then had one week to address/rebut any new information placed into the record with the applicant having the final week to provide final written rebuttal. The record was then closed on April 1, 2022 to all parties.

This left the second reading of the ordinance and the vote of the Council on April 12, 2022.

This annexation vote was not an easy decision for our City Council. The vote was 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention. The Council asked some tough questions and voiced some concerns about the effects of the future development on our city. While we are all concerned about growth in Coburg, I think a key element of this specific annexation is that it was part of our long range plans to help pay for services and utilities. Development of this property was built into our financial projections which are used to set our utility fees. Without this annexation and future development, I am sure our utility fees would have to be raised significantly to cover our costs.

This was a significant element of the 2017 City Council decision to include this property into our UGB. Coburg had just invested \$30 million in a new sewage treatment system to protect our groundwater. Growth was the answer to how we would pay for it. Today's reality is that is still the answer.

The new lands will create new jobs and new revenue for the city. It will also give us more leverage to get state and federal funding to upgrade the related infrastructure, especially the I-5 interchange.

I want to thank our City Councilors for their efforts in making this decision. This was personal to all of us, and the questions and statements made by our Councilors took a lot of courage and thought while considering a very complex issue. The emotion and commitment were very palpable throughout this process and our citizens were well represented by our City Council.



Mayor Ray Smith, City of Coburg
541-729-7045, mayor@ci.coburg.or.us

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

PARK/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, Planner
541-682-7862

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

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).



Our Town

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The City of Coburg*



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Address Correction Requested

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE OR
PERMIT NO. 679

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