

Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

March/April 2023 Issue

Mayor's Corner Spring is Coming

Nancy Bell, Mayor

As I walk around Coburg, I see signs of renewal and change everywhere - trees are beginning to bud, bulbs are pushing up through still cool soil, people are in their yards (some with lawnmowers chugging), weeding parties are in our parks and yes, there are marks on our streets and right of ways (ROW) indicating coming projects.

Some of us may have been surprised that our property does not extend quite as far as we thought. It is human nature to utilize what we see as unused property, but sometimes what we view as unused is really city ROW. This may include areas next to streets, drainage swales, quiet streets, alleys and sidewalks. As we move forward with trenching for fiberoptic cable, upgrades to sewers, wastewater management upgrades to water systems

(including replacing old pipes), and on-going street maintenance and expansion we may find ourselves wondering where our property lines really are. If in doubt check with staff at City Hall and they will help you find the answer.

To improve safety, particularly to ensure safe routes to school and walkability in Coburg, you will notice some street re-design and perhaps the addition of sidewalks in select areas, improved lighting, additional crosswalks and traffic calming devices in designated areas. At two of the crosswalks on Willamette Street bright orange flags have been placed for your use. These help to increase visibility when you are ready to cross the street, but always make sure traffic stops in all directions before stepping into the fray to protect yourself,



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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.



JANUARY 2023

- Oath of Office administered to Mayor, Nancy Bell; Councilor Engebretson; Councilor Lehmann; Councilor Wells; and City Administrator, Anne Heath
- State of the City by Mayor Bell - "People Make Coburg!!"
- 2022 Citizen of the Year awarded to Claire Smith
- 2022 Employee of the Year awarded to Sara Athey
- Councilor Blain was appointed as Council President
- Approved Resolution 2023-01 Applying a construction cost in cost inflation factor to existing system development charges
- Adopted Ordinances A-199-I and A-200-M Amending the Coburg Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Maps
- Appointment Karen Coury, Tom Beatty, Coleen Marshall, Lonna Meston, Joe Morneau, Mary Mosier, and Claire Smith to the Park Tree Committee for calendar year 2023
- Work session was held January 24, 2023 on Utility Rates

Upcoming City Council Meetings:

Tuesday,
March 14
6:00 pm

Tuesday,
March 28
6:00 pm

Work session on
City Alleys

Tuesday,
April 11
6:00 pm

FEBRUARY 2023

- Council Retreat was held on February 4, 2023 to discuss 2023-24 Work Plan, Goals and future agenda items
- City Council & Urban Renewal Agency accepted the June 30, 2022 Audits as presented
- Approved Resolution 2023-02 Authorizing Grant proposal to the regional Fiber Consortium for extending fiber line to the sewer plant and North Coburg Rd.
- Appointed Ronald Spores to the Heritage Committee
- Authorized a contract with Lane Council of Governments to provide recruitment services for City Administrator position



Share your skills and experience and make a difference in Coburg!

Apply today for City Council or Planning Commission

Thank You for your dedication to our community!

CONGRATULATIONS

Council Members



Cathy Engebretson, John Lehmann, and Alan Wells

Employee of the Year



Sara Athey

Citizen of the Year



Claire Smith

Meet Your Councilor - Cathy Engebretson

Cathy has been a Coburg resident for 20 years, and is honored to serve the people of Coburg on the City Council. Cathy grew up on a farm in South Dakota, lived in the Wyoming Rockies after college and then made her way to western Oregon to enjoy the mild climate. She soon joined the Coburg Planning Commission, thinking it would be a good way to give back, meet the locals, and preserve the special charm of this place, and she's been involved in some way ever since.



The thing about Coburg is, people love it. Not just a suburb or gated development, it's a true community, with people of all ages, means and backgrounds. It's close to a small city, yet savors its own identity and notable history. It's a town facing challenges and opportunities from thriving commerce and light industry near the busy interstate highway. Most of all, it's a town that seems like a step back in time, where neighbors get to know each other, participate in civic and community life together, stroll down the streets on nice days, and gather on main street for good food, shopping and events. Coburg citizens are passionate, which sparks lively debate at times, but at its core it's because people know just how exceptional this place is.

The Coburg charm is preserved by volunteers and staff who watch over everything from land and transportation, planning and historic preservation, to economic development, public safety and works, the fire district, school, and faith and community groups, to name a few. Last and not least, it's carried forward by you, the people who live and work here, who look out for one another and for this special place we call Coburg.

My Tree: A Poem by Tom Beatty

I planted a tree today. Not for summer shade against the west wall of my house or for protection from chilly winter winds. And not to keep my bathroom window private from the street and not to reduce the noise level from my neighbor's power tools.

Purifying and cool air, stabilizing the soil on my steep bank and reducing surface water runoff are all good reasons for planting a tree that could have come to mind. But they did not...

A dense canopy and an annual fruit crop will provide food and habitat for birds. Summer flowers will attract beneficial insects for planting a tree, but not my reasons...

Beautiful flowers and delicious fruit are healthy for soul and body...Autumn leaf drop will give me mulch for my rhododendrons, and when composted, will provide a rich humus for next year's plantings. In the shade of a tree, I can plant a new shade garden, full of woodland wildflowers from childhood memories. But these are not the reasons why I planted a tree...

And neither are rustling leaves in the afternoon breezes or dappled sunshine creating a troop of shadow dancers on my rock wall my reasons...nor is my reason for planting a tree the soothing sounds of quaking leaves changing to various hues of red, orange, yellow, purple, gold, and buckskin as they calmly color autumn's pall. The tree's ascending branches will enhance the vertical lines of my home and the tree's fullness will soften the sharp corner of my dwelling. I'm told a tree's architectural form and other landscape benefits can raise property values 20% or more. But that's not why I planted a tree...

You can find peace and quiet and a place to think under the enduring strength of a tree. Many picnic reunions of family and friends commence beneath trees...children will climb them and build strong bodies...and tree houses. I could have planted my tree as something to pass on to those children...I could have planted a tree to measure the passage of time, to honor someone, to mark an important moment or event...

All these are good reasons to plant a tree...but not my reasons.

Today I planted a tree just because it felt good.



WE NEED YOUR HELP TO UPDATE LANE COUNTY'S NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN



Lane County is a beautiful place, but we are also at high risk for natural disasters, including flooding, wildfire, severe winter storms, and major earthquakes.



Lane County's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is updated every five years. Mitigation means taking action now to reduce our long-term risk from natural hazards. It is our local blueprint to help protect people and property.



Tell us what you think
the updated plan should focus on:
WWW.LANECOUNTYOR.GOV/MITIGATION
or request a paper survey by calling 541-682-6967
or emailing PublicInformation@LaneCountyOR.gov



Coburg Main Street

The Coburg Main Street Board held their first Board Retreat and focused on setting goals for 2023 and planning events for the year.

Goals for the upcoming year include: bringing art work to Coburg (murals, lamp post banners, colorful signage), adding signage to the north and south ends of town (as well as off of I-5), continuing to create partnerships with Coburg businesses and residents and hosting quarterly mixers; planning community events; and providing community education through continuing education classes, speakers, or community meetings.

As spring arrives, we will all be outside more and

looking forward to upcoming events in Coburg. Think about ideas you have to enhance Coburg and ways you can engage with your community. There are so many amazing projects happening in town and giving back to your community (whether you volunteer, sponsor an event, or help plant a tree) can be fun and rewarding too!

Concerts in the Park and the Coburg Market will now be on **Wednesdays** instead of Thursdays. The first concert/market will be Wednesday, July 12.

For up-to-date information on events in Coburg, be sure to check out coburgmainstreet.com. Happy Spring!

Coburg Commons

A new-and-used indie bookstore is coming to Coburg Commons! Small bookstores can be vibrant parts of a neighborhood's life through author events, poetry slams, art shows, childhood literacy efforts, live music, and more. I can't think of a better expression of the vision for Coburg Commons.

The whole goal for the building is to become a hub of connection and creativity for the common good of all Coburgers. It began when United Methodist Church leadership trusted the former congregation's hope that the building might continue as a vibrant asset to Coburg. So while the west half of the building (the sanctuary) will continue to be available for events, classes, weddings, and funerals, the east half will host the yet-to-be-named bookstore. Book sales will subsidize future programs and the building's upkeep while keeping event space affordable. We're building something to last.

And we'd love your help! We want this space to grow as a hub for the community—your space. Help usher in the next chapter by:

- **Painting** – Both the interior and exterior walls could use a fresh coat of paint. Work party dates will be announced soon.
- **Restoring Floors** – Beneath the old fellowship hall's carpet is some well-loved fir wood flooring. Help us rip out the old carpet

and restore the floor to its former glory.

- **Building Shelves** – Bookstores need bookshelves, and big ones are hard to come by. We'll either need to build new ones, or locate used shelves to haul on site! Let us know if you have either to share.
- **Donating Books** – This spring we will be holding a used book drive! Donate your gently used books to help us stock our shelves in time for opening day. 501(c)3 status is on its way for monetary and material donations.

Be the first to know about volunteer events by signing up for email newsletters at www.coburgcommons.com/newsletter.

I hope to open the store by the summer. In the meantime, you can continue to find several popular activities at the Commons, including:

- Erik Lovendahl's Full Breath Yoga,
- Dave Fitch's Coburg Community Choir, and
- Janet Nelson's acoustic jam nights.

Check out everything that's happening at coburgcommons.com/events.

Have questions or ideas? Shoot us a line at hello@coburgcommons.com.

Update from the Mayor...

Dear Coburg Community,

Some of you may have heard that Anne Heath has made the decision to retire as City Administrator as of August 31, 2023.

Anne was first hired as Finance Director of Coburg in 2014 and since being hired she served as interim City Administrator in 2017 before being selected as permanent Administrator in 2018.

She is now choosing to spend more time traveling and pursuing other passions and projects with her newly retired husband. We will miss her, but she is leaving us in good shape with both a dedicated city staff and an excellent City Council.

Because Anne wanted to give time for a smooth transition, she gave us plenty of time to recruit the right person for this integral role in our city and we have already begun the recruiting process. As we move forward in the selection process some of you may be asked to be part of the hiring team.



Please join me in thanking Anne for her service to this community and wishing her well in semi-retirement.

If you have questions, concerns or comments, send me a message and I will do my best to address these with you.

Mayor Nancy Bell
mayor@ci.coburg.or.us

Coburg Police Department



Speed Awareness with additional traffic enforcement will be happening from March 1st - 31st.

Be sure to mark your calendar for two upcoming community events planned by the Coburg Police Department. On Saturday, April 15, in partnership with the Rural Fire District, a community Shred-A-Thon will take place at City Hall. Excess paper in your home can become a fire hazard, and unsecure personal information can lead to identity theft. Avoid potential danger by safely and securely disposing of unnecessary documents. And bring a canned good item to donate to the Coburg Food Pantry.

The following weekend, on Saturday, April 22, you can bring your unused or expired prescriptions to City Hall for a safe disposal.



Coburg Community Foundation

On February 22, Coburg Community Foundation kicked off its first event of the year, Trivia Night and nachos at the IOOF Hall. Competition was fierce, but laughter and a lively sense of camaraderie overwhelmingly dominated the evening. Teams played for various prizes; and since everyone was a winner, no one went home empty handed. A truly good time was had by all!

This was the first event of the year sponsored by the McKibben Community Building Fund. This fund was made possible by the generous donation from Judi and Tim Welch, and additional community events will be coming throughout 2023!

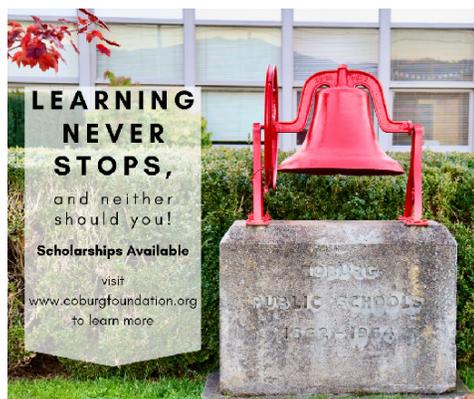
CCF also welcomes community partner, Kara Schmidt and Elevate Real Estate Group. Be on the lookout for reusable grocery bags and other swag at future events. You may remember Kara and her family for organizing a holiday food drive that collected 1,400 pounds of food and other essentials benefiting the Coburg Food Pantry! Thank you, Kara, for your support!

We want to remind community members wishing to apply for one of CCF's three \$500 educational scholarships that the application deadline is March 15, 2023. These scholarships are available to community members of all ages and can be used to further lifelong learning in both academic and vocational programs. The Application and additional information are available on CCF's website, coburgfoundation.org. Scholarship

awards will be announced by April 15, 2023.

CCF also would like to thank Coburg Rural Fire Protection District for its contribution to the Foundation's end-of-the-year newsletter. Coburg Rural Fire District (CRFD) is currently looking for emergency responders for emergency medical and fire response to service our area. CRFD offers a unique volunteer opportunity for community members to help each other and learn valuable life skills. E-mail coburgfire@nu-world.com for more information.

With winter sliding into the rearview mirror and spring in our sights, we anticipate warmer weather and more opportunities for community connection. In this, the "Year of Giving Back," CCF is looking forward to hosting several in-person social events for 2023. To be kept abreast of coming events, go to CCF's web page, and be sure to follow us on Facebook!



Coburg Community Charter School Open Board Seat Share your Passion!

Coburg Community Charter School embodies the culture of our Coburg Community and thrives with your support, dating all the way back to 1862. To continue in this tradition, our Board of Directors invites you to share your knowledge and expertise in the important mission of providing a solid educational foundation for our students.

The CCCS Board of Directors is accepting applications for open board seats beginning in the 2023/24 academic year. As a charter school, it is our CCCS Board of Directors that governs the oversight of school business, as well as upholds the mission and vision. If you would like more information or to request an application, please reach out to board@coburgcharter.org. Board applications are due March 15, 2023.

Coburg Food Pantry

Hello from the Coburg Pantry!

We anticipate an increase in need as the federal state of emergency for the Covid outbreak comes to a close. Most folks who qualified for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will see a decrease in their monthly benefits as those emergency allotments will expire as of March 1st.

We'd appreciate you thinking of us as you are out grocery shopping. If you see any of the following items on sale, please consider grabbing an extra bag, bottle, or box for our fellow Coburg residents who might be in need. You can drop these donations in the barrels at The Food Bank next to Retro Rejuvenation at 32697 East Pearl Street, or we have a barrel at

the post office in Dari Mart.

These donated items are so appreciated! Thank you!

Most needed items:

Ketchup/Mustard, Cereal, Brown Rice, Salad Dressing, Crackers, Olive Oil or Canola Oil, Jams/Jellies



Senior Meals

The Senior Meals Program helps Lane County adults aged 60 and up maintain their independence by providing healthy meals and opportunities to develop and maintain vital social connections. The program is run by Senior & Disability Services (S&DS), a division of Lane Council of Governments (LCOG). The program operates 11 Café 60 Dining Rooms throughout Lane County.

In Coburg, the Senior Meals Program operates a Cafe 60 at the I.O.O.F. Hall on Wednesdays at noon. It offers to-go meals. If you are 60 and up, you are

eligible to pick up a meal, regardless of income.

The Senior Meals Program also includes the Meals on Wheels program, which serves adults aged 60 and up outside the Eugene metro area. It provides nutritious meals, safety and wellness checks, and access to many other community-based services to seniors in their homes through the Meals on Wheels program.

For more information, call the Coburg Cafe 60 Meal Site at 541-525-6407.

Coburg Community Grange

Coburg Community Grange is living up to their name. We have been busy with fundraising. The Grange has invested about thirty thousand dollars back into the community. With donations to Coburg Charter School and to public works for help with Christmas decorations in the park, Veteran Banners that hang in November in honor of ALL Veterans. Just a couple examples. We are always upgrading the Grange and are excited to show it off. Come see us the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm and see what we're about. This is a slow time of year for events so we're enjoying the down time after the busy holiday season. Waiting for Spring.

Terri Morneau, Secretary/Treasurer



Council to Review Water & Sewer Rates

Due to the dramatic increase in the cost to operate our sewer and water systems, and the rising costs of projects needed to insure safe and reliable water in Coburg now and in the future, City Council began discussing utility rate increases nearly a year ago. These discussions are guided by the Water Master Plan that includes:

- **Additional Water Source**
- **Extending Water to the Eastside of I-5**
- **Aging Water Infrastructure Replacement**
- **Upgrades to Utility Monitoring**
- **Upgrades or Replacement to Reservoirs**
- **Rehabilitation to Existing Wells**

The first Water Master Plan was adopted in Coburg in 1966, and was amended in 2016. Implementation of the plan began in 2019.

The City applied for and received loans in the amount of \$5.5 million for funding the projects necessary. The debt of the water department must be paid back with user fees and reserves over a 30-year period.

In late 2022, the City received analysis and updated costs for completing the water projects. Due to the cumulative price increases of 8% between 2021 and 2022, and similar price increases in constructions costs, the operations of the utilities, as well as the capital projects, have been greatly affected forcing the City Council to consider utility fee increases.

The cost of providing water and wastewater system services is funded by revenues from user fees, system development fees, and when available, grants.

Utility bills include water, sewer, transportation utility fee, tree fee. The base monthly bill for a single family residential customer using 700 cubic feet (5,236 gallons) per month is currently \$148.70.

RATE INCREASE EXAMPLE

A 3% water and 1.5% sewer increase would increase the base bill \$2.89 a month - the total monthly bill would be \$151.59.

Residential Water currently pays a monthly base rate of \$53.00. A 3% increase would add \$1.59 a month - total bill = \$54.95.

Residential Sewer currently pays a monthly base rate of \$86.70. A 1.5% increase would add \$1.30 a month - total bill = \$88.00.

Timeline

April, 2022 - City Council work session on Water Project updates and Utility Rates

January, 2023 - Feasibility and cost analysis presented to City Council for Water Project

March 14, 2023 - Council will receive presentation on Utility Rate setting

April 11, 2023 - Council will hold a public hearing on Utility Rate setting

May 10, 2023 - Council will hold the 2nd public hearing on Utility Rate setting and make a decision on Utility Rate increases

July 1, 2023 - New rates will take effect

How can I get involved and share my voice as a citizen?

Council invites all citizens to attend the March 14, 2023 Council meeting to watch the presentation on Utility Rates. Council will then hold (2) public hearings at the April 11, 2023 and May 10, 2023 regular City Council Meetings. Testimony is limited to (3) minutes and all comments must be addressed to the whole Council.

Council Meetings are held in-person at City Hall, or by Zoom. To participate by Zoom you must pre-register with the City by 3:00pm the day of the meeting. To watch the Council meetings by live stream, or recording of the meeting, go to coburgoregon.org

Public Testimony Options

1. Written testimony submitted by 3:00pm the day of the meeting:

- Submit via email to City Recorder
- Mail to City of Coburg, Attn: City Recorder, PO Box 8316, Coburg, Oregon, 97408
- Drop off at Coburg City Hall, 91136 N. Willamette St, 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday

2. Zoom participants must register with City Recorder to receive link to meeting and sign up to provide testimony by 3:00pm the day of the meeting.

3. In Person participants will sign up at the meeting.

from page 1 - Mayor's Corner

children and pets. Council and staff are exploring ways to further improve safety, so watch for more information in the future.

Increases in the population of unhoused people is a national challenge and Coburg is not entirely immune. Recent court rulings have emphasized the basic rights of all people to sit, stand or sleep on public property. Our police staff works hard to find solutions for all people in distress, but rapidly changing economic and legal environments can make this more difficult. In an effort to increase basic services to our most vulnerable populations, City Council and staff are working with state and county agencies to expand resources. Be patient and know we are always putting Coburg first as we move forward. A shortage of land for homes in Coburg requires creativity to meet the needs of a changing population as well as state requirements for increased housing density and affordable. This sometimes leads to the division of building

lots to allow for the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADU'S), duplexes, smaller homes or multifamily housing. These types of alternative homes can meet the needs of our citizens who might be just starting out, as well as those hoping to downsize while remaining in Coburg.

I hope you all had a chance to review and provide input on the use of alleys in Coburg, the re-design of Pavilion Park and proposed changes to Macy Street. There will be more opportunities for input during the public comment section of our City Council meetings. Watch for information coming soon on upgrades to our water system and a survey about possible changes to our city's logo/brand.

As always, it is a privilege to serve you and to quote Bill and Ted remember to "be excellent to each other!" and enjoy the warmer Spring rain.

Mayor Nancy Bell

mayor@ci.coburg.or.us

Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming 2023 Events



May 20 - Art/Wine Walk

June 17- Colossal Clutter Clear-Out

July 7 - Coburg Day at the Emerald's Game

July 12 -August 30 - Every *Wednesday* evening
Concerts in the Park / Coburg Market

August 5 - Coburg Car Classic

September 10 - Coburg Antique Fair

October 13 - Scarecrow Harvest Block Party

December 9 - Christmas in Coburg

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

6:00 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)

6:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

541-682-7852

GRANGE MEETING

2nd Wednesdays

7:00 pm, Coburg Community Grange

MAIN STREET COMMITTEE MEETING

3rd Wednesdays

4:00 PM, I.O.O.F Hall

Contact, Tracey Pugh, Main Street Coordinator

541-682-7858

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesdays

Contact, Megan Winner, Planner

541-682-7862

PLANNING COMMISSION

3rd Wednesdays

6:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Megan Winner, Planner

541-682-7862

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 added to the newsletter, please email Tracey Pugh (tracey.pugh@ci.coburg.or.us).

COBURG CITY COUNCILORS

Mayor Nancy Bell - mayor@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