

Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

January/February 2016 Issue

Mayor's Corner

On Transition

Jae Pudewell, Mayor

This is my last Mayor's column of 2015—or the first of 2016—it's all in how you look at it. I'm writing this in December 2015, but you're reading it in January 2016. Many things in life change, sometimes dramatically, when you alter your perspective, often for the better. For example, I never aspired to public office and for most of my life, it would be fair to say I had a rather disparaging view of government. So I guess you could say it was serendipity—and the (gentle) prodding of Mayor Volta and others—that I came to serve on the Coburg City Council, and then as your Mayor. What finally persuaded me was the realization that it was disingenuous for me to complain about outcomes if I was unwilling to help shoulder the responsibility of decision-making.

As a consequence of being on City Council and serving as Mayor, I've

also gained a profound respect for those willing to take on the challenges and responsibilities of shaping Coburg's priorities and direction. I've come to believe strongly in the value of service, however and wherever one chooses to serve.

Over the past year, however, increasing professional and personal obligations have put a severe strain on my time and energy, and consequently, on my ability to serve the City in the manner you deserve. It is therefore with profound reluctance and regret that I must inform you that I'm stepping down as your Mayor, effective as of the February 9, 2016, City Council meeting.

Coburg has accomplished much in the past few years, but we also have much more to do. I see such promise for our little town. We

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Calendar

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.

NOVEMBER 10TH

Reviewed – SR-02-15 LUBA Appeal Revised Findings

Approved – 5-year employment agreement for City Administrator

Approved – City Attorney contract

Annual reappointment of Planning Commissioner

Appointed new Heritage Committee Member

First Reading – Ordinance A-237 adopting riparian and wetlands protections.

DECEMBER 8TH

Approved – SR-02-15 LUBA Appeal Revised Findings

Appointed – Christopher Page to City Council Position 2

There are currently vacancies for the following committees.

See www.coburgoregon.org or stop by Coburg City Hall for more information.

Budget Committee Vacancies – Two positions terms ending June 2018

Planning Commission Vacancy – Term ending October 2016

Representative Phil Barnhart, Town Hall at City Hall, January 5th, 7 pm

Senator Jeff Merkley, Town Hall at City Hall, January 9th, 4 – 6 pm

Reminder of Annual Local Improvement District (LID) Payments

Annual LID payments were due in December. Bills were mailed to homeowners in November. If you signed a contract to pay your LID annually, then this will be your second payment on that contract and is due now. If you did not receive a bill, or have questions, please contact Anne Heath in Finance at 541-682-7870.

A Good Year for the Chamber

2015 was a year of positive momentum for the Coburg Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has been a long-standing participant in community, spearheading the Antique Fair, Music in the Park and other Coburg events for years. But 2015 brought new life and new direction in the form of business-to-business networking and future thinking economic development discussions.

Last spring the Chamber launched its year by bringing together over 30 businesses, organizations and event committees in the first ever Coburg Conversations. This was an opportunity for those who are actively working in and for Coburg to meet one another and to introduce themselves to the community.

Re-instituting monthly Chamber meetings gave members an opportunity to discuss economic development activities that might benefit the community as a whole. Topics included in those conversations have been:

- building upon Coburg's already 'bike friendly' character

- working more closely with the various community partners to improve all community activities
- creating stronger ties among all businesses—downtown, I-5 and outlying
- exploring ways to market Coburg as a year-round destination.

In December the Chamber launched another first with the 2015 After Hours Holiday Happening. This evening event for Chamber members and area businesses was generously hosted by Johnson Brothers Greenhouses. This was also the first of what will be a continuing series of Chamber After Hours events. The next is scheduled for early March in the new Serenity Lane complex.

A Chamber of Commerce exists largely to create opportunities for area businesses to connect and to be a positive economic influence in the community. 2015 saw significant strides made toward both those ends. The Coburg Chamber looks forward to continuing that progress in the coming year.

City of Coburg State of the City Address



Presented by Mayor Jae Pudewell

Tuesday January 12, 2016 6:30 p.m.

Coburg City Hall 91136 N. Willamette St., Coburg, OR 97408

Coburg Food Pantry News

I would like to thank the entire community for its generous support of the food pantry over the holiday season! The postal food drive took in over 800 pounds of food and Pacific Headwear donated 652 pounds, including several boxes of fresh fruit and a check for \$520! The Coburg Charter School Holiday food drive supplied us with food at Thanksgiving, and also money to purchase needed items. A total of over 4,000 pounds of food was collected from our community, and well over \$1500 during the holidays. This allowed us to purchase turkeys and chickens for our clients at Thanksgiving, and to decrease our order from Food For Lane County (FFLC). We are able

to purchase items that are often not received from FFLC, and get more variety for our clients. We also purchased soaps and personal care items that are not allowed to be purchased with food stamps.

Our clients often voice their appreciation of the pantry. Many have jobs and are not able to make ends meet at the end of the month, some have lost their jobs, and some are on social security or other limited fixed income. Again, thank you Coburg! This would not be possible without your support!

Kathy Emerson
Pantry manager

Save Money and Reduce Stress This Winter

The cost of gas, vehicle maintenance, and the stress of driving to work can all add up – but it doesn't have to – try carpooling for your commute!

At DriveLessConnect.com, you can search for carpool partners with a similar schedule and route. It's easy to use, just register, create a ridematch trip, and contact your matches. Keep in mind, your carpool partner doesn't have to be someone just down the road from you, it can be someone driving in from a

further distance, or you can even meet at a designated location or Park & Ride and commute from there.

During the month of January and February, new users who log five daily trips (bus, bike, carpool, vanpool, or walk) within their first 30 days of registering at DriveLessConnect.com will receive a coupon for a FREE drink at Dutch Bros.

For more information call 541-682-6183.



Shop With a Cop

A special thanks to the people who supported the 4th annual Shop with a Cop program this year. Due to the generous donations we were able to take five kids from Coburg shopping for Christmas this year. As you can see from the photo they were pretty thrifty shoppers with baskets full of gifts.

This is the 4th year the Coburg Police Department has held the event. The concept behind the Shop With A Cop program is for the police officers to build relationships with children in our community. Shop With A Cop is an attempt to identify those kids and pair them up with police officers in a positive situation, such as shopping for Christmas presents. Each child receives a \$100 gift card. The officers, with the help of volunteers,

help shop with the kids, wrap presents and share a pizza afterwards. This is a great event for everyone involved. Kids are selected by the Community Charter School.



It was a great event and thank you for the continued support.

John and Coleen Mitchell, Alison Cramer, Donald and Donna Osborne, Janet Potter, Linda Egbert, Sue Mavis, Vern Solomon, Beth Brex, Truck N Travel, Coburg Pizza , McDonalds, the Steve

Lee Family and all the volunteers who helped with the shopping and wrapping presents.

Thank you,
Chief Larry Larson



Reminder

Wastewater Control Panels are property of the City. Do not paint or modify in any way.

If you hear an 'Alarm' sounding from your panel, push the red button and call the Public Works emergency pager 541-683-0081 (this number is on the control panel.) Leave a message with address and contact number. Public Works responds to these calls 24 hours a day.

CCCS Board of Directors

Coburg Community Charter School as a non-profit organization seeks passionate volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors. We currently have two openings. The position requires a willingness to maintain the integrity of our Mission and Vision and make sound decisions. The Board has particular interest in individuals with experience or background in areas such as business finance, public relations, information dissemination, donor development, education, or collaborative commercial capabilities. You are invited to attend board meetings normally held the 3rd Monday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday January 19, 2016, 6 pm at Coburg City Hall. For more information and the Board calendar check our school website www.coburgcharter.org or email the Board at CCCSBOD@gmail.com. Applications are available upon request.

—CCCS Board of Directors



Leaf Pick-Up

December 14 - January 22

Leaves only!! Leaf piles with yard debris and garbage will not be picked up

Leaf piles must be in the city right-of-way

Leaf piles must be accessible by backhoe

Questions: 541-682-7857

The Coburg Grange

We hope you had a great holiday season! The Coburg Grange would like to thank the community of Coburg and surrounding areas for your support during this season. The canned food drive will help so many families in our community. We have a barrel on the porch at the Grange for those who still would like to donate canned food items. Next year we hope to double our efforts. Thank you so much!

The Parade of Lights and Christmas in Coburg was a busy time for our little grange. On Saturday morning about 150 people participated in Breakfast with Santa. Then Sunday was the busiest day. Six large roasters were made up full to the brim with chili! If you missed it, the chili was really good. A large bonfire kept only the hearty warm and the little and big kids were able to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus after the parade at Pavilion Park.

Special notice goes out John Bosley and his elves for getting all the decorating done just in time for Santa's arrival. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with handing out all the stuffed animals during the parade, those who helped get the bonfire put together, and all the kitchen helpers for the breakfast and chili feed, and the cleaning of those awful roasters!

Park/Tree Committee

The Coburg Park Committee will be providing support for recruiting donations of materials and volunteer labor for the installation of the new playground structure to be installed in the early part of 2016. We have also been working with the Heritage Committee on a design for a sign that will provide information on railroad history in Coburg, and also names of contributors and park rules.

Six trees in Norma Pfeiffer Park were removed in preparation for the new playground. The removal of the trees will also provide more room for the existing trees to flourish.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in the future of Coburg parks and would like to join the Park/Tree Committee, please contact: coburgclaire@gmail.com. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

After the Christmas season you will see us at the grange once again doing more updating on the inside. We have totally re-done the restrooms and they look fantastic. Our next project will be replacing the carpet. It has seen better days. The counter tops will be next. We are fund-raising for some other projects. Our building needs to be repainted and so much prep work will need to be done. It's a 77-year-old building that's showing its age. We also are working towards a new roof!

Busy times ahead, so if you would like to volunteer for any or all projects, we will gladly welcome the help. We always look for new members. A one year single membership is \$60 and a family membership is \$100 per year. With the dues paid you get one free Grange rental. That comes in very handy for birthday parties, baby showers, weddings, anniversaries etc. Contact Alice Brooks for Grange rental information at 541-520-3901.

Our monthly meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm and we try to keep them to an hour. Come check us out! We look forward to seeing you and also the new faces that are in our community. Need more Grange info? Call Joe at 541 228 8650.

Historic Coburg

Wilkins-Seavey-Wassom House

91212 N. Miller Street

Date Built: 1902

Jasper Wilkins was born in 1850 on his father's farm in Coburg. He built the Wilkins family home pictured here. His brother, Francis Marion, was born in 1848 and served as a mayor of Eugene.

The Wilkins family is one of the oldest in Oregon's history. Their father, Mitchell Wilkins lived in the Coburg Hills and worked as a dairy farmer, and later a cattle and wheat farmer. He met their mother, Parmelia Ann Wilkins, in Missouri where they married in 1844.

Their wedding journey was made on horseback through the snow to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where they remained until 1847, when they left with a party of 90 wagons for Oregon. After many hardships on the plains, they arrived in the Willamette Valley in late September that year. They first settled in Clackamas County, where they lived until 1848, when they moved to Lane county, settling in Coburg.

It was Jasper who planted the maple and fir trees in Coburg, after he returned from a prosperous trip to California in 1876. He used his new money to buy the saplings.

Wilkins Farm

This farm was begun in 1902 by Jasper Wilkins, the second son of Mitchell Wilkins. Jasper was a surveyor, farmer, and Oregon state legislator from 1870 to 1907.



Jasper Wilkins House, Coburg, about 1908. Mrs. Wilkins and their four children (l. to r.) Mitchell, Herman, Grace, Althea

Jasper Wilkins was born November 2, 1850, on his father's donation farm, ten miles northeast of Eugene, near Coburg. He received his first schooling in Linn County, walking 4 miles to school; afterward attending school at the Van Duyn schoolhouse near Coburg, three months out of each year. In the fall of 1870 he entered the Christian College (now Western Oregon University in Monmouth), remaining there that winter.

In the spring of 1872 Jasper received the nomination for county surveyor and was elected by a 108 majority. For several years after this Mr. Wilkins looked after the farm and did survey work. Jasper was a delegate to the Republican state convention in 1880, 1882, and 1886. He was elected to the state legislature in 1890, by a 112 vote majority, and again in the next election by a 350 vote majority.

Continued next page

Meet City Staff

You probably recognize this man. Mike Lee has worked for the City Police Department as a Patrol Officer—and much more—since 2009. Before coming to Coburg, beginning in 2005, Officer Lee worked for the Lane County Sheriff's Office in the Corrections Division and was part of the LCSO Special Operations Response Team. He also worked for the McMinnville Police Department before being hired by the City.

Officer Lee currently holds an intermediate certificate from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. He is an ODOT-certified truck inspector, field training officer, is advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement certified, and is a building search instructor. He earned his Associate of Applied Science degree from Lane Community College and Bachelor of Arts from Northwest Christian University in Business Management.



Officer Lee has also served in the military for thirteen years. He was in the United States Marine Corps for seven years and is currently enlisted in the Oregon National Guard.

Officer Lee is an experienced, dedicated public servant and we are privileged to have him serving the Coburg community.

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Jasper Wilkins



Clara Seavey Wilkins

On Feb. 1, 1888, Jasper married Clara Seavey. She was born in Springfield, Oregon on December 1, 1866.

Clara was a life-long resident of Coburg, a member of the First Methodist Church of Coburg, and the first PTA President of the Coburg School system.

Jasper died in 1907 and Clara married cattleman Douglas Wassom in 1910. Daughter Grace married horse trainer Bill Clark, and lived on the farm until 1918, when she moved to California. Grace returned to Coburg in 1953. Clara Wilkins-Wassom died in 1969; Grace lived in the house until she died in 1984.

Pink House Move



Recently, residents of Coburg saw an unfamiliar site: a house on wheels moving down the street. This of course was a coordinated move of the Drury House from Diamond Street around the corner to Locust Street. This house, commonly known as the “Pink House”, was built in 1906 by Coburg’s first mayor, George Drury.

The City of Coburg has many great historical structures from the Golden Years era, which helped establish the Coburg Historic District. Since the historic district was established 30 years

ago, the city has lost some structures, so it is important to save the ones we can, as Terry Dawson explains, “...the opportunity to preserve a treasure like the Drury House is a real celebration point for Coburg.” Mr. Dawson is the Chair of the Coburg Heritage Committee, a group supportive of the house being moved to a different location in order to save it.

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have a strong City Council, an excellent municipal staff, and a wealth of talented and dedicated volunteers. Our town is in good hands.

Happy New Year!

Most sincerely,

Jae Pudewell
Mayor, City of Coburg



P.S. I hope to see you at the State of the City address on January 12th!

Calendar



STANDING MEETINGS

4th Saturdays

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

8:00-10:00 am

3rd Mondays

CCCS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

6:00 pm

3rd Mondays

ODDFELLOW MEETING

6:30 pm, I.O.O.F Hall

4th Mondays

COBURG FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

7:00 pm, Fire Hall

2nd Tuesdays

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 pm, Coburg

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

541-682-7852

2nd Wednesdays

GRANGE MEETING

7:00 pm, Coburg Community Grange

3rd Wednesdays

PLANNING COMMISSION

7:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Petra Schuetz, Planning Director

541-682-7871

3rd Wednesdays

PARKS TREE COMMITTEE

7:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Bob Butler, Public Works Director

541-682-7857

3rd Wednesdays

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Noon, City Hall

4th Wednesdays (or as scheduled)

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

7:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

541-682-7852

4th Wednesdays

GOLDEN YEARS MEETING

7:00 pm, Coburg Community Grange

1st Thursdays

METROPOLITAN POLICY COMMITTEE

11:30 am (usually at the Eugene or Springfield library)

Contact, Petra Schuetz, City Administrator

541-682-7871

1st Fridays

POKER NIGHT

6:30 pm Registration, 7:00 pm Game Begins
Coburg Community Grange

JANUARY/FEBRUARY EVENTS

TOWN HALL AT CITY HALL

Representative Phil Barnhart

Jan. 5th 7 pm

Senator Jeff Merkley

Jan. 9th 4 – 6 pm

*Do you have a community event to share? Call 541-682-7852
or email sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us*

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*Phone: 541-682-7850
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petra.schuetz@ci.coburg.or.us*

Address Correction Requested

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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 www.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
