

# Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

January/February 2015 Issue

## Mayor's Corner

### State of the City 2015

*Jae Pudewell, Mayor*

As we start a new year, it is customary to step back and review the State of our City, what we've accomplished, the issues we face, and our priorities and goals going forward. The short answer is that Coburg is in a better place than we've been in a long time, though we still have a ways to go and many things we need to do.

Thanks and credit first goes to the City Council. Council has shown maturity, courage, and dedication in taking on numerous challenging and difficult decisions with thoughtful and prudent consideration. To their credit, Council has refused to duck any issues, questions, or problems. We also have a strong cadre of citizen volunteers staffing commissions and committees. Volunteers clearly make Coburg work.

Headlining this year's accomplishments, after more than two years of construction and over a decade of hard work and planning, is the completion

of our new wastewater treatment system. Obviously, our primary objective was to improve and preserve the quality of our well-based water supply, but the economic benefits have also been substantial. We saw an immediate uptick in residential construction as the wastewater system came online. Commercial development began even before the system came online, starting with new businesses on Roberts Road and culminating with the completion and full occupancy of the Coburg North Industrial Park, Oregon's first industrial condominium. Next year will see the completion of Serenity Lane and the Oregon State Police facility.

This year we also moved into a new City Hall, a much needed upgrade. We now have the facilities needed to support our staff and Council and to provide for future growth. A significant accomplishment has

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PLEASE JOIN THE CITY OF COBURG FOR A

# WASTEWATER PROJECT RIBBON CUTTING

AT COBURG CITY HALL  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13TH  
FROM 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

91136 N WILLAMETTE ST.  
COBURG, OREGON  
KINDLY RESPOND BY JANUARY 3RD TO  
541-682-7852 | [SAMMY.EGBERT@CI.COBURG.OR.US](mailto:SAMMY.EGBERT@CI.COBURG.OR.US)

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



# Business and City Infrastructure Year-In-Review and 2015

Coburg is a special place. Coburg citizens, businesses and organizations do remarkable things to help us thrive. It has been a great year for Coburg.

## Celebrating Success

**Coburg is over 70 businesses and organizations strong.** For a community of just over 1,000 people, we have a great employment base. Several businesses have located in Coburg in the last 18 months which has helped to diversify and strengthen our local economy. Camping World, Old Dominion Freight Lines, Coburg Crossing Café, and McDonalds have located along Roberts Road/S. Industrial Way. Steve Lee has reimagined the previous Monaco site as Coburg North Condominium Commercial Industrial

Park and has successfully attracted companies such as: CBT Nuggets, Hamilton Construction, Pacific Headwear, APEL Extrusions, Carry-On Trailers, and REARS Manufacturing. Meso Nutso, Design Works, Cottage Books, The Oregon Handwork Studio, and Walt's Photography are among the new and welcome additions to our charming Central Business District. In 2015, we anticipate the completion of the Serenity Lane Health Services campus and an Oregon State Police facility.

**The City has been busy improving services and infrastructure.** On August 1st, Coburg's first municipal wastewater system was completed after

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## A Piece of Coburg's Heritage

### Hugo Hallin House | Olson House – 32654 W. Dixon Street



Built in 1899, this Victorian Eclectic home was constructed by the Coburg Mill's Superintendent Hugo Hallin. Hallin came with his father from Sweden to America when he was 12 years old. He lived in this residence until his new house on E. Dixon Street was completed in 1906. It was then sold to his sister and brother-in-law, the Olsens, who lived there until 1916. It sat empty from 1916 to 1920, when it was bought by Mona Besso, who lived there until the 1950's. Today, this house maintains several of its original architectural features and is inside Coburg's National Historic District.

*from page 4 - Year-in-Review and 2015*

nearly four years of construction. The west side of the I-5 interchange and system-wide water improvements were completed. Three segments of the Coburg Loop Path system have been funded for a combined community investment of nearly \$50 million over the last four years. In April, City Hall moved up the street, fulfilling a 25-year old need for a new space to serve the public. Future improvements are needed to complete the City Hall vision, but we are “in” at 91136 N. Willamette St. and welcome you to visit. We appreciate all the support that has been given this year; from the LID contributions to tolerating city-wide construction.

## **What's Next?**

There are a number of opportunities and initiatives that may affect your business as we move into 2015. It's anticipated that both the Coburg **Transportation System Plan** and the **Urbanization Study/Urban Growth Boundary Expansion Study** will be adopted within the next six months. These long-range plans will set the wheels in motion to expand Coburg including new street design standards and additional residential land and commercial land. For more information call 541-682-7852 or visit [CoburgOregon.org](http://CoburgOregon.org) for project details. It is a great time to build in Coburg!

This winter, we plan to **update the Coburg Sign Code**. It needs to reflect new sign techniques, technologies, and streamlined enforcement. We will contact the business community when the Planning Commission begins reviewing draft ideas.

Bicycle-related tourism contributes \$400 million into Oregon's economy and Willamette Street is part of

the State's Willamette Valley Scenic Bikeway. There are a lot of bicyclists around here! In partnership with Travel Oregon, the City is promoting the **Oregon Bike Friendly Business Program** which is designed to provide tips and tools for businesses to attract cyclists by offering amenities they seek. All businesses in Oregon are welcome to participate. Once officially recognized as Bike Friendly by Travel Oregon, tourism-related businesses will receive special recognition through Travel Oregon's marketing channels, including [TravelOregon.com](http://TravelOregon.com) and [RideOregonRide.com](http://RideOregonRide.com). For details on the Bike Friendly Business Program, go to [Industry.TravelOregon.com/BFB](http://Industry.TravelOregon.com/BFB). For more information on the Scenic Bikeways program, go to [RideOregonRide.com](http://RideOregonRide.com).

The **Coburg Chamber of Commerce** is behind most Coburg community events such as the 'Coburg Antique and Vintage Fair' which attracts over 20,000 visitors each year; and 'Christmas in Coburg', a long-loved tradition including a light parade, 'Breakfast with Santa', and a bonfire barbeque. Currently, a very small group of small business owners work to make these events happen. We strongly encourage the rest of the business community to join, contribute, or volunteer time to the Chamber.

We appreciate feedback! We also want to hear from you about your ideas, concerns, or plans for Coburg. Contact City Hall at 541-682-7852, visit our website at [CoburgOregon.org](http://CoburgOregon.org), and/or 'City of Coburg, Oregon' Facebook page for event information.

Best to you and your endeavors in 2015,

Petra Schuetz  
City Administrator

## Coburg Food Pantry

Once again, Coburg Food Pantry celebrated the holiday season with some extra surprises. With monetary donations that come in, we are able to purchase foods that are often not received from donations. We purchased 32 turkeys for Thanksgiving, and were able to provide our clients with stuffing, veggies, cranberries, and lots more, thanks to the Coburg Charter Schools' food drive. At Christmas, a 'Giving Tree' was placed at Coburg United Methodist Church, and the members of the church provided gifts to all of the children, as well as socks and gloves. We purchased whole chickens for each family, and provided fresh fruits, a variety of soaps, and other items not often received in donations. We also were able to purchase needed items, such as tuna, mac and cheese, jams, ketchup, mayonnaise, and salad dressings.

It's hard to believe that it's been 12 years ago that I talked with Judy Volta, then mayor, and the idea formed to open a pantry here in Coburg. The pantry is now serving 50 families. Chuck Shepard has been very generous to us, providing us with a building. We are small, but it serves us well. We are staffed 100% by volunteers. While we receive the majority of our food from FFLC, we also receive a large amount from our community at our food barrels located at the Dari-Mart, CUMC, and Retro Rejuvenation, and through our postal food drives. This community



*Oregon Food Bank makes a visit to Coburg Pantry*

has been very supportive, eager to help each other, and preventing hunger amongst us. The postal food drive in December brought 1459 pounds of food to our pantry, and even more was donated through the grange during the chili feed. I feel very blessed to live in this community!

Thank you Coburg!

—Alicia Hines



*Santa and Kathy Emerson bring cheer to the Coburg Food Pantry*

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also been the work of our staff in coping with this year's challenging fiscal situation. We learned last March of an esoteric, near decade old, accounting problem. The staff, budget committee, and Council stepped-up and made the necessary but very difficult decisions to reduce expenses as needed. Our new Finance Director has also risen to the challenge of implementing the required procedural corrections. The early word is also that our 2013-14 audit is on track without issues and our finances are trending positive. All good news!

Much of the credit for the continued success of our City belongs to our committed, talented, and capable staff. We have a very lean operation—everyone is essential and all do their jobs well. But we are very short staffed. The biggest worry is that we do not have the resiliency we need for coverage, cross training, and the unexpected. There are also services we cannot staff or for which we have insufficient coverage. We also have important projects we've had to defer.

Our administrative staff is stretched, particularly with the increased demands of additional billing systems for the wastewater and the local improvement district assessments. Our current planning resources are seriously stretched and we need to strengthen our downtown, residential, and commercial building codes to better envision our long-standing master plan.

To manage the City's finances, our Finance Director is, against all best practices, a department of one. We do have contract financial support, an active Finance and Audit committee, and though we've made efficiency improvements, the Finance Director could really use some help.

The demands on and responsibilities of Public Works have increased significantly, but with only limited additional resources. Though Public Safety has also provided excellent service, particularly given their limited resources, they are unable to provide the coverage our community expects or deserves. Growth will only exacerbate the challenges in these and all departments.

Going forward, our project list includes finalizing a future water supply, providing municipal water to the east side, lobbying to complete the Coburg I-5 interchange, and figuring out how to rebuild most of our local streets. We also need to complete our Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion. We ran into some co-adoption hiccups this past fall but the City will continue its efforts this year, hopefully with success. Clearly, however, rationalizing and simplifying the UGB expansion process is critical to Oregon's continued economic recovery and health.

Many times I've been asked, "Why can't Coburg stay the same and stay small?" No one wants Coburg to lose its essential character. But to be viable into the future, given the complexities and sophistication of the demands now facing Coburg, and every Oregon city, Coburg needs the additional resources that can only be funded through modest growth. Managed well, however, modest growth can reinforce and enhance the charm that makes Coburg the small town we know and love.

Best regards,



Jae Pudewell  
Mayor, City of Coburg

## The Long Goodbye – An Update

Last fall I wrote about caring for my aging parents in Portland. Mom just turned 89 and dad will turn 90 this coming May. Both of my parents are also suffering from Alzheimer's disease along with several other physical limitations. After talking with their doctors, their neighbors, their friends, and their pastor, "we" (their three boys) decided that the time had come to move our parents to Assisted Living.

We worked with a "consultant," visited half a dozen facilities, and finally settled on a wonderful Assisted Living facility in southwest Portland. Even though it was out of their old neighborhood, it is closer to most of our family. And even though we tried to "sell our parents" on the benefits, they remained completely opposed to the idea. For nearly a month, we went back and forth, listening to their concerns, answering their questions, and explaining why this was the "right thing" to do.

When moving day finally arrived, my sister-in-law took mom and dad to her house for lunch. In the meantime, two sons and four grandchildren descended on their house, packed up their living room and bedroom and unpacked them in their new apartment. When my parents arrived, their furniture was in place, their pictures were on the wall, even the magazines were arranged on the coffee table the way they like them. We did the best we could to make it feel like home!

The first few weeks were rough--lots of phone calls, lots of tears, lots of trips to Portland to try to smooth things over. We're now nearly two months in, and things are finally settling down. It may never feel like "home" but my parents are safe and secure, they are eating regular meals, the staff is nice, and they are sharing in more activities than when they lived on their own. On a scale of 1-10, they would probably give it a 7. To me, that is a victory!

If I have learned anything through this process, it is that we probably waited too long. No one, including

*"We're now nearly two months in, and things are finally settling down. It may never feel like home, but my parents are safe and secure... "*

myself, wanted to go against their wishes. But in the end, we needed to do "the loving thing" which was not "the easy thing." Oh how I wish they had decided themselves to move 3-4 years ago. But I know now that they simply couldn't.

In the end, it took the efforts of their family, their neighbors, their friends, their church, along with skilled professionals to help them transition to a better place. "It takes a village . . ." is more than a cliché. It is a reminder of how we care for and support each other.

So here we are in a new chapter. Now we start the process of sorting through the family home of 60+ years! (...to be continued)

Pastor Gary Powell  
Coburg United Methodist Church

## What's Happening Broncos?

The holiday season came and went quickly at CCCS! This year we were lucky to have members of the VFW of Coburg talk to the students about Veterans Day and the importance of the American flag. Students enjoyed showing off their school to their grandparents and special friends. And students participated in Christmas in Coburg as part of the light parade.



*CCCS middle schoolers ready for the Coburg Light Parade and Preparing a Float for the Christmas in Coburg Light Parade!*



We have several big events coming up these next few months including Skill Days and our Coin Drive. If you have a skill or hobby you would like to teach at CCCS please contact Jen Kelley for details at [j.kelley@coburgcharter.org](mailto:j.kelley@coburgcharter.org) or by calling the school. Help out CCCS by dropping off your loose change this January! This is a great way support CCCS and lighten



your pocket! Funds collected go towards our annual community dinner and the Coburg Food Pantry.

"It's a Time to Celebrate" this February with CCCS at the Annual Auction & Dinner! There are so many milestones CCCS and the community have to celebrate, one being this is the 5th year of the auction and we have finally made our goal of creating a community school offering Kindergarten through 8th grade. This is the first time since 1964 the town of Coburg has had a school with grades K-8.

All community members are invited to celebrate this milestone February 28th at Valley River Inn, doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the CCCS office, \$40 each, or \$400 for a VIP table seating eight.

If you are unable to attend, but would still like to be a part of this celebration by donating please contact Lisa McCormick (541) 579-7122 or Abigail Dowd (541) 554-5229.

### Upcoming Events at CCCS:

- January 5                      Classes Resume
- January 12-30                Coin Drive
- February 6,13, 20, 27      Skill Days
- February 28                 Auction



*John Bosley, Coburg Public Works talks to CCCS students on a recent community service project*

# City Council Brief

*Highlights of actions and topics the Coburg City Council has recently addressed.*

## NOVEMBER

### CITY COUNCIL

Discussed – Wastewater Project

Discussed – City Administration Report

Discussed – Healthy Eating Active Living Campaign

Discussed – Bike Friendly Business Program

Discussed – LID Status Report

First Reading – Ordinance A-163-M Adopting Oregon Criminal Code

Approved – Resolution 2014-16 Approving the Updated Procedures and Bylaws of the Audit/Finance Committee

Approved – DEQ Interim Loan for Wastewater Project

Discussed – Greenhouse Gas Scenario Planning

Approved – Planning Commission Reappointment

Discussed – Diamond Ridge Public Safety Fee Feasibility

Discussed – Pioneer Valley Estates Remaining Rate Increased

Endorsed – Public Event Planning Policy

## DECEMBER

### CITY COUNCIL

Endorsed – Lane County Drivers Registration Fee Support to County to Place on 2015 Ballot

Discussed - City Administration Report

Discussed – Wastewater LID Status Report

Discussed – Financial Report

Approved – Resolution 2014-17 HEAL Cities Campaign

# Park and Tree Committee

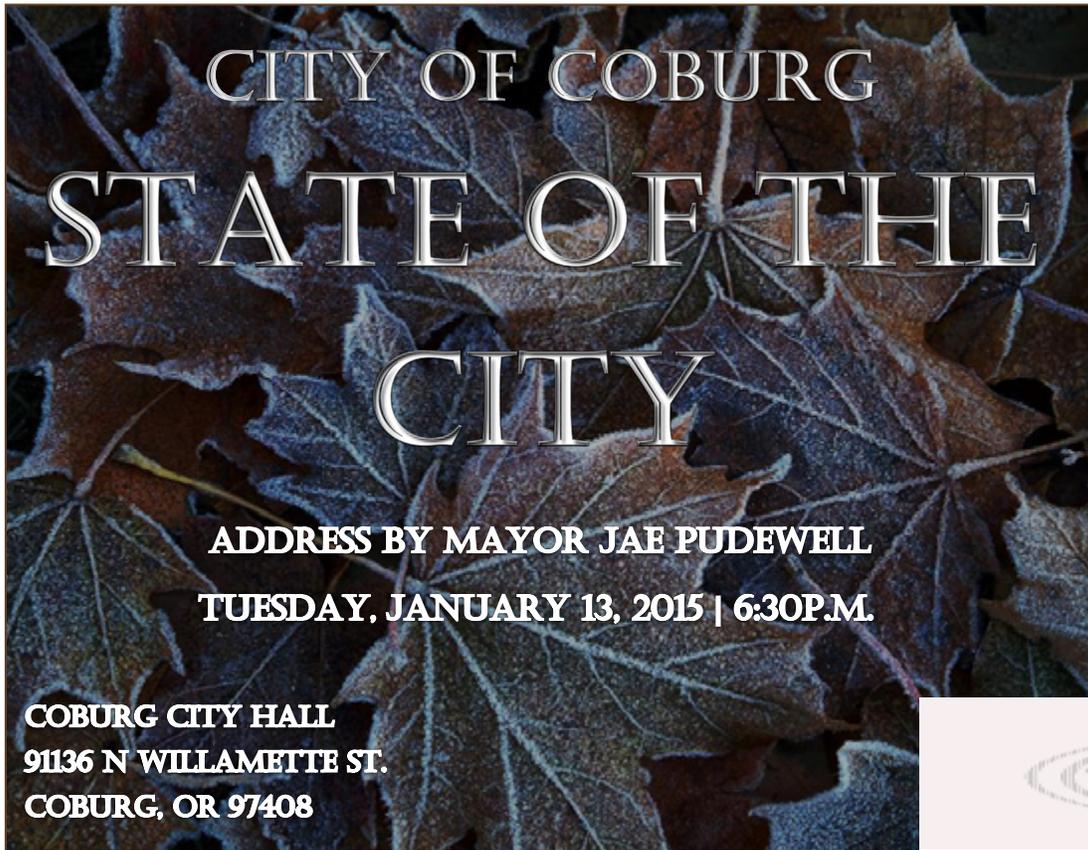
The Park and Tree Committee consists of seven community members, one staff member, and a non-voting Council member. We meet monthly to discuss, plan, and promote interest in Coburg parks, and to recommend improvements, and offer ideas to the City Council, in accordance with the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

Recently, the Committee decided to sponsor a park event each month in 2015. Events will include helping our city with clean-up projects, special events, or a variety of other activities. All events will start at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday of the month, unless otherwise posted, and weather permitting.

On Saturday, January 10th, 2015, we will be hosting a clean-up of landscaping along Industrial Way. On February 14th, we will host a “pruning and care for roses” event in Norma Pfeiffer Park. More information will be posted at Dari-Mart, City Hall, Coburg Community Grange, Camping World and the Coburg Fire Station. Please join us for these and other events to follow.

For more information, contact Claire Smith at: [coburgclaire@gmail.com](mailto:coburgclaire@gmail.com)





## Coburg Community Charter School

This year regularly scheduled board meetings are every 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 pm (rather than 2nd Monday as published), with two exceptions: MLK day (scheduled for Jan. 20 instead), & President's Day (scheduled for Feb. 17 instead).

## West Point Lodge #62 of the Independent Order of Oddfellows

Meets twice monthly

1st and 3rd Mondays at 6:30 PM

Every Thursday except holidays the Hall will be open for game night: Pingpong tournaments, dart board, and hope to add foosball! Free popcorn & coffee.

Information 541-484-0250

## Sheldon Booster Christmas Tree Pick Up

Saturday January 3rd, 2015. If you live in the Sheldon Attendance Area, please call, email, or text to have your tree picked up & then recycled by Rexius! Phone 541-344-5400 | text 541-914-800 | or email [mwflamingo@comcast.net](mailto:mwflamingo@comcast.net).

Please leave your name, phone number and address. Please attach a flyer and your payment to the tree. You may also mail your payment: Attn: Sheldon Booster Club, 1280 Rio Glen Dr, Eugene, OR 97401.

Cost for green trees is \$10.00 (sorry no flocked trees). Please have trees to curb by 8 AM. Many thanks to Rexius for their continued support of the Sheldon Booster Club that supports 80+ clubs and/or sports.

-Dana Schull

# Calendar



## STANDING MEETINGS

1st Wednesdays

### PARKS TREE COMMITTEE

6:30 pm, City Hall

Contact, Bob Butler, Public Works Director  
541-682-7857

1st Fridays

### POKER NIGHT

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

2nd Mondays

### CCCS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

6:30 pm

2nd Tuesdays

### CITY COUNCIL

7:00 pm, Coburg

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder  
541-682-7852

2nd and 4th Wednesdays

### GRANGE/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

3rd Wednesdays

### PLANNING COMMISSION

7:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Petra Schuetz, Planning Director  
541-682-7871

4th Mondays

### COBURG FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

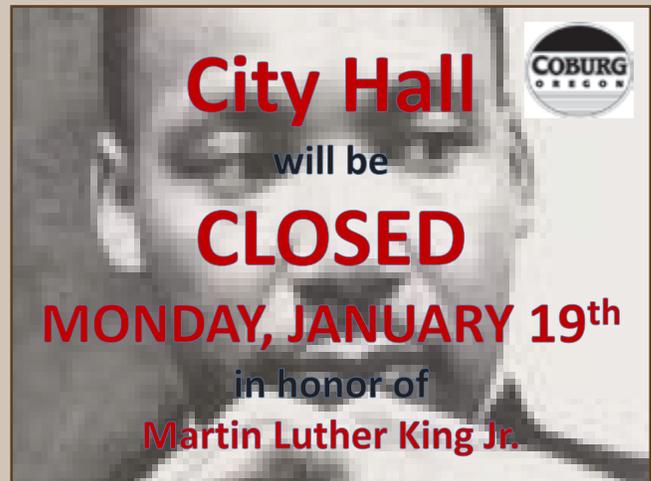
7:00 pm, Fire Hall

4th Wednesdays

### CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

7:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder  
541-682-7852



*Do you have a community event to share?*

*Call 541-682-7852 or email*

*sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us*



## *Our Town*

*A Publication of  
The City of Coburg*



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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](http://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 going on 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*

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