

Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

September/October 2014 Issue

Mayor's Corner A Few Common Questions

Jae Pudewell, Mayor

I thought I'd use this opportunity to answer a few common questions I'm often asked.

"Why can't Coburg stay small?"

"Why does Coburg have to grow?" Coburg can't stay the same because the world around us is constantly changing. For example, most of our city services are funded from the general fund, but administrative costs are rising, for a variety of legitimate reasons, faster than general revenues such as property taxes. Additionally, while most residents I've spoken with would appreciate more local businesses, to survive, businesses need more customers than Coburg currently provides. So this question is really a choice between two other questions: "How much can Coburg grow and still be small?" or "Which services do you want us to cut?" I welcome your comments.

"Given all that has happened in Coburg over that last decade or longer, why should I trust you now?" This is an incredibly important question. Trust is difficult to win and easy to lose. To be trustworthy as an elected official means to act with integrity, to be open and communicative, to be accountable, to be stewards of your money and time, to address as best we can the issues the City faces no matter how challenging, and to strive to make the most prudent and reasonable decisions possible for the benefit of the whole of Coburg.

Trust is also a two-way street. It is greatly appreciated by Council and city staff when residents seek to be informed, question inflammatory claims and rumors, and participate as best they can. Residents also need to recognize that Council faces many complex issues and decisions cannot always benefit



In This Issue

PAGE 2

Celebrating Coburg Kids
We Need You

PAGE 3

Coburg Antique & Vintage
Fair

PAGE 4

Mayor's Corner (cont.)

PAGE 5

Meet City Staff-
Brian Harmon
License Your Dog

PAGE 6

Another Successful Quilt
Show

PAGE 7

LID Assessment
CCCS News

PAGE 8

Coburg United Methodist
Church

PAGES 9-10

City Council Brief

PAGE 11

Calendar

continued on page 4 - Mayor's Corner

Celebrating Coburg Kids!

On June 16, 2014 three of our local Coburg teenagers were recognized at the Cal Young Middle School promotion for their OUTSTANDING performance over the past three years. Kelsy Valentine was one of the two recognized for not missing one day of school in middle school. Way to go Kelsy, congratulations on your achievement! There were thirteen students who maintained a 4.0 GPA during middle school and two of them live here in Coburg. Marnie Pagter and Breanna Lindsey we are so proud of you. Congratulations to all three!



- Submitted by Michelle Sunia

Do you have a success story you would like to share?

Please email your story – and a photo - to sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us

We Need You!

Have you considered volunteering for the many City committees? Our volunteers are critical to the shared success of our town! There are currently vacancies for the following committees. See www.coburgoregon.org for more information, or stop by City Hall.



- Audit and Finance Committee (meets quarterly)
- Budget Committee (meets weekly in Spring for 3-5 meetings)
- Planning Commission (meets monthly or less)

Coburg Antique & Vintage Fair

Sunday Sept. 7, 2014 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Out of the ordinary Not out of the way!



Historic Coburg is once again coming to life with the 27th Annual Coburg Antique & Vintage Fair, Sunday, September 7, 2014. The spotlight shines on the 250+ Antique & Vintage Dealers from four states who have a wide range of specially selected antiques & vintage treasures in every price range. From wonderful rust to fine antiques you will find it all in Coburg for this one day event.

Every year the Coburg Area Chamber of Commerce needs community volunteers to help make this event the largest one day outdoor antique & vintage show in the Northwest. There are several ways for a non-profit group to raise some funds for your organization as well. If you would like to be part this fun upbeat event please contact Roxann at 541-683-0916.



from page 1 - Mayor's Corner

everyone. I know we won't always agree, but to be trustworthy is my pledge, and I ask that it be the pledge of everyone in Coburg.

"My [septic] tank was fine. Why do I have to pay the same as everyone else?" I fully understand the frustration some residents feel; my tank was also just fine. But it's also not really the point. One of the first steps of a waste treatment process is to separate the solids and liquids. In a typical sewer system, this separation process is centralized at a treatment site, typically in settling ponds. If the City had chosen this design, each of our septic tanks, both functioning and failing, would have been filled with sand and decommissioned.

But this isn't what the City chose to do. Rather, the City chose a Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) system design which resurrected and repurposed the existing septic tanks as an integral part of the sewer system. This decision substantially reduced the projected system cost by several million dollars. My point is that the decision to either reuse or decommission the septic tanks was a system decision, not a per connection decision. Once the system decision was made, it then became important to reuse as many tanks as possible to keep the total system costs down.

"Why does the [Local Improvement District] assessment keep rising? Can't you guys just figure out what it's going to be?" From the outset, we've known that it was likely the LID would need to cover "what's left" after the other funding sources have been finalized. Costs and funding projections have changed relatively little; the roll-up of the uncertainties into one factor means the LID is likely to fluctuate more.

There are also a number of estimates we have to make which are material to setting the LID assessment. For example, one factor we have to consider is ensuring we have sufficient funds in ten to twenty years so that we aren't faced with stiff monthly rate increases. A critical projection is the future growth we assume. The most conservative stance is to assume no growth. But zero growth is also unrealistic and would cause us to set the LID assessment unnecessarily high.

At this writing, the Council is actively engaged in discussions on the LID assessment. For a variety of reasons, Council needs to set the LID assessment in September. Our goal is to ensure the fiscal soundness of the sewer project while minimizing the impact on residents and property owners. I want to thank the many of you who have written, taken the time to talk with me or with Councilors, or who have voiced your concerns and preferences at Council Meetings. I can attest that Councilors have been listening carefully and thoughtfully.

Best regards,



Jae Pudewell
Mayor, City of Coburg





Meet City Staff

Brian Harmon, Coburg Wastewater Operator



I grew up just up the road in Harrisburg, graduating from Harrisburg High School in 1994.

I started my Public Works

career in 1996 for the City of Harrisburg, then moved to Eastern Oregon and went to work for the City of Heppner. While there, I become the Public Works Director and held that position for over six years. I then moved to the City of Prineville and became their Public Works Superintendent. I moved back to the Willamette Valley to be closer to family and recently married my high school sweetheart.

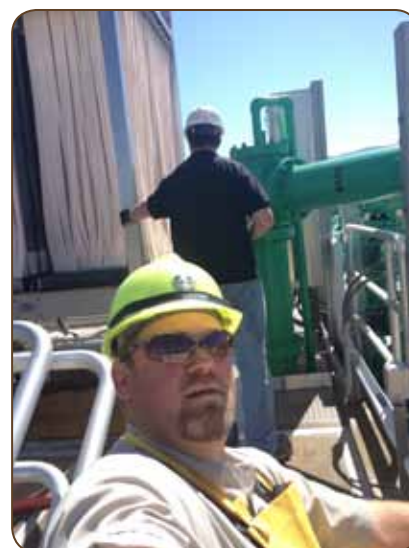
plant runs smoothly including maintenance of the facility, testing and reporting, and meeting the many treatment facility requirements of a public system. I like working for Coburg because I am getting to work in a brand new system with the latest technology and I love the challenge. Everyone I have met has been great to work with and I have always loved working for cities that have that 'small town feel'!

- Brian Harmon

career in 1996 for the City of Harrisburg, then moved to Eastern Oregon and went to work for the City of

Heppner. While there, I become the Public Works Director and held that position for over six years. I then moved to the City of Prineville and became their Public Works Superintendent. I moved back to the Willamette Valley to be closer to family and recently married my high school sweetheart.

I have been working for Coburg for over a year. It is my responsibility to make sure the wastewater treatment



Is Your Dog Licensed?

Did you know that Coburg dogs require a Coburg dog license? Applications are available at City Hall during business hours. Dog licenses are required to help keep our community pets and their owners safe and responsible. Several Coburg area dogs are lost each year. Licensing helps the Police Department return your pet. (\$20 fine for unlicensed dogs). Also, please remember that dogs are required on a leash in public spaces inside Coburg. Contact judy.bailey@ci.coburg.or.us, 541-682-7853.



Another Successful Quilt Show

The Coburg Quilt Show committee has two goals for the show each year:

1. Showcase a love of quilting at ALL skill levels.
(Encourage beginning quilting!!!)
2. Showcase the City of Coburg.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 10th annual Coburg Quilt Show and Sale such a success. It takes about 200 volunteers to get the show organized, stands erected, quilts collected, quilts hung, show day activities, and quilts taken down



and returned to owners. Thank you to the many volunteers who made this year's show possible. Also thank you to the quilters who entered their quilts. We wouldn't have a show without you.

This has really become a city wide event with lots of collaboration of businesses, civic organizations, and public groups. Thank you to City of Coburg, Coburg Fire Department, Coburg Community Charter School, Coburg Police Department Reserves, Coburg Food Pantry, Coburg Community Grange, Coburg Pizza Company, Dotson's Antiques, and Stella Lighting. Your contributions made the work of the Quilt Show Committee much easier.

The Quilt Show donated 5 large barrels of donated food to the Coburg Food Pantry. We collect canned foods instead of charging admission to the show. The Coburg Police Reserves took care of parking for the event and raised about \$400 to support their program. Almost as important as those two items is that we bring LOTS of



people from outside of Coburg to visit our beautiful little town. Our evaluation comments show that people love the show but also love our town.

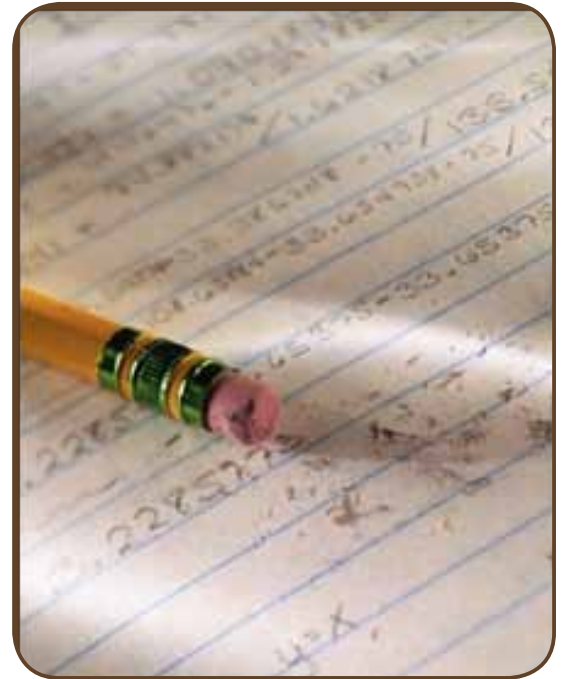
If you are interested in becoming involved in the Coburg Quilt Show and Sale committee please contact Alice Brooks at 541-746-8655. Our next meeting will be in February 2015.



Local Improvement District Assessment Coming in September

Please be prepared. A Local Improvement District assessment is coming within the September utility billing cycle. It is a method used by local governments to pay for a portion of the cost of developing a local improvement, such as a sewer or a street. The assessment is charged to properties in the district and the district is formed of all the properties that receive a benefit from the improvement. LID's can be used to help properties finance improvements to make their property safer, provide needed utilities, improve ascetics or make it more marketable for development.

Coburg's LID was adopted in 2011 and it is to be implemented at the end of the Wastewater Project. The Wastewater Project is complete, so after six months of discussion, City Council may act on setting the amount of the LID assessment at the September 9th City Council meeting. See [www.coburgoregon.org / Wastewater Project](http://www.coburgoregon.org/WastewaterProject) for more information. Contact sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us, 541-682-7852 about meeting information.



Broncos News –

What's Happening at Coburg Community Charter School?

The start of school is just around the corner and we are very excited to begin the year offering Kindergarten-8th grade! We also welcome several new staff members and families.

We had a great summer participating in the Coburg Golden Years Parade for the first time since becoming a public charter school. A big THANK YOU to the volunteers that helped in the Kid Zone and Kids Rodeo!

We have an upcoming event that all community members are welcome to attend October 24th. It will be our annual Harvest Festival and Community Dinner. We hope to see many community members at the event. More details will follow as the date nears.

We are always looking for ways to participate in the community and looking for community members to be a part of the school. If this interests you, please contact our Community Coordinator, Jen Kelley at 541-344-4113 or j.kelley@coburgcharter.org.



The Long Goodbye

I have thought about those now famous words that Nancy Regan used to describe that last decade of her life caring for her husband, former President Ronald Regan. These days, I too am in the midst of “the long goodbye” with my parents who are nearing the age of 90 and living in Portland. Both of my parents are suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and I currently spend one day each week in their home doing everything from paying bills and running errands, to sharing meals and sorting 50+ years of accumulated life. The other day, at the suggestion of my wife, I took out my ukulele and we sang old songs together. For a few treasured moments, it felt like old times, and I cried on the drive back to Eugene.

A friend recently recommended that I check out the book *When Two Worlds Meet*. It is written by a Harvard trained minister who writes about caring for her aging mother with Alzheimer’s disease. I’m hoping for some insights. Or perhaps just the knowledge that others have traveled this road before me.

In the meantime, here are a few things that I have learned. First, as a family, we didn’t do much planning for this “season” of our parent’s lives. As a result, we have had to scramble to pull together their

legal documents, and learn about everything from doctors and dentists, to finances, and pharmacies. All of this would have been much easier, if we had started talking when everyone’s memory was “sharper.” Second, family is everything. We three boys are all on the same page. We also have the support of spouses to help share the frustrations, the phone calls, and the decisions. I can’t imagine trying caring for aging parents, when the children themselves don’t see eye to eye. Third, location matters. My parents are blessed with wonderful neighbors who, more than once, have stepped in to help out with everything from meals and medicine, to yard work and rides. Fourth, it just comes down to love. In the final season of life, it becomes more important than ever to say, “I love you.” We won’t always agree on everything. But as long as we keep loving each other, we’ll get through it.

If you are a “care giver” right now, give yourself a hug. If you are a neighbor, don’t forget to check on the “old folks” next door. If you are a child or grandchild of aging parents, take the time to ask questions, tell stories, and share love. You’ll be glad you did!

Dr. Gary D. Powell
Coburg United Methodist Church

In the final season of life it becomes more important than ever to say “I love you.”



City Council Brief

This section highlights actions and/or topics Coburg City Council has been working on.

MAY 13TH 2014

CITY COUNCIL

Discussed – Wastewater Project, City Administration Report, Financial Report, Heritage Committee, City Hall Transition, Consent Agenda

Approved – Wastewater change order for a ‘traffic pad’

Approved – Wastewater Branch Engineering Inspection Contract Amendment

Approved – Wastewater LCOG Project Management Contract Amendment

Approved – Limited Income Assistance for Utility Bills for FY15

Approved – Donated Office Furniture and Equipment

Public Hearing/First Reading – Nuisance Ordinance Update

Public Hearing/Second Reading/Approved – Transportation System Plan Update Ordinance

Public Hearing/First Reading – Urbanization Study and Urban Growth Boundary Expansion Ordinance

Approved – Resolution to Receive State Revenues

Approved – Resolution to Receive State Shared Revenues

JUNE 10TH 2014

CITY COUNCIL

Discussed – Wastewater Project, City Administration Report, Financial Report, Heritage Committee, City Hall Transition, Consent Agenda

Approved – Wastewater Project Change Order for Interest

Approved – Annual Contracts

Second Reading/Approved – Nuisance Ordinance Update

Public Hearing Continued from May & Closed – Not Approved - Urbanization Study and Urban Growth Boundary Expansion Ordinance

Approved – Resolution for a Supplemental Budget

Approved – Resolution Extending Workers Compensation Coverage to City Volunteers

Approved – Resolution Adopting Salary Classification Schedule

Approved – Resolution Assigning Official Names to Three Parks



from page 9 - **City Council Brief**

JUNE 26TH 2014

Approved – Resolution Adopting City Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

JULY 8TH 2014

Discussed – Wastewater Project, City Administration Report, Financial Report, Heritage Committee, City Hall Transition, Consent Agenda

Approved – Resolution applying for Small City Allotment Grant

Approved – Sale of Back-up Generator

Considered – Ordinance expanding the Urban Growth Boundary

Approved – Resolution extending Workers Compensation coverage to volunteers

JULY 29TH 2014 – WORK SESSION

Discussed - Urbanization Study

AUGUST 12TH 2014 – (NO QUORUM)

Discussed – Wastewater Project, City Administration Report, Financial Report, Heritage Committee, Consent Agenda

Proclamation – Look Me in the Eye campaign

Mayor Appointed – Audit and Finance Committee members

AUGUST 19TH 2014 – WORK SESSION

Discussed – Local Improvement District Assessments



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 Monday

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*



*Coburg City Hall
PO Box 8316
Coburg, OR 97408*

Phone: 541-682-7850

Fax: 541-485-0655

petra.schuetz@ci.coburg.or.us

Address Correction Requested

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 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