

Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

July/August 2012 Issue

Mayor's Corner

Jae Pudewell - Mayor (Acting)

Hopeful Progress

Last month I wrote about Coburg being in transition. This is obviously still the case. The wastewater project continues to move forward. Both Phase 2 (the collection system) and Phase 3 (the treatment plan) are on schedule and within cost targets. Construction is always inexact and somewhat unpredictable because there are always so many unknowns.

We must also continue to improve our water system. We've invested in our billing processes to ensure everyone is paying their share. We're continuing to invest in new water meters to reduce system loss and improve billing accuracy. And in July, we'll be initiating a new water rate study to ensure rate payer equity and fiscal soundness.

Coburg is doing many things right. We're paying down our legacy debt, keeping our budget conservative, and investing in our future. But we still have many unmet needs and too few resources.

I know that most of us—all of us—are concerned about the affordability of our infrastructure. What we need are more rate payers. Fortunately, infrastructure enables economic development. Economic development increases infrastructure usage. Increased infrastructure usage lowers the rates for everyone. The emergence of the Coburg North project on the former Monaco site is a promising prospect.

And yet growth is worrisome for many. Change can be unnerving and disconcerting. But change is also essential for opportunity: managed growth, Coburg style. This will be possible because we don't really have that much vacant land within the Urban Growth Boundary. And the Planning Commission is working hard to ensure that as Coburg grows, we maintain its character and charm.

I continued to be amazed at the dedication and commitment of our citizen leaders and City staff. If you believe in the direction of our City, the City needs you.

Here's to hopeful progress,



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Looking Back

I served in elected office for a little over twelve years, three years as council member and nine-plus as mayor. I had been involved in the community before that, almost as soon as we moved to Coburg (1997) in the Chamber of Commerce, and with the school closure threats at that time. Some neighbors came and tried to recruit my husband to run, and he said, "Go ask Judy. She likes politics". The rest is history.

I had never thought I would be a mayor, although I come from a family of volunteers. My dad was on the school board for twelve years and my mom always was serving in some church committee. I am a strong believer in "servant leadership" and also that "you can't gripe if you're not part of the solution" so I decided to practice what I preach!

The main accomplishments have been launching our long-overdue wastewater system, although it means temporary inconvenience (i.e., torn up streets). It is such a necessary step to being a viable city! I also think keeping our local school in Coburg has been very rewarding. I hope that we can keep and enhance that vital school-city link.

There are so many people and events that come to mind...some still with us, some departed. I still miss Fern Sage's wonderful hamburgers at Golden Years and Marcella Boss and her gracious smile. Of those still around, I have especially admire Jim Broughton, and not just because of his lemon cucumbers! There are just too many to mention but we have hundreds of wonderful citizens who make Coburg a better place.

I fondly remember our Connection Years, putting on fun events like Heritage Days, running homework plus and coordinating community classes. Watching kids taking "covered wagons" around the school grounds on our own Oregon Trail was priceless.

I do have definite regrets and worries. I have been distressed by our economic downtown and how it has affected our businesses and citizens. But I am hopeful we are on the upward climb. I wish I had been able to see that we had a town hall with a little museum, a water feature and a pretty town clock. I wish we emphasized our historic treasures more. I regret often being too busy to stop and smell the roses or just chitchat with folks.

*Thank you, citizen of Coburg
for a wonderful twelve years of
the privilege of serving you.*

Of course, I very much appreciate our past and current city staffers. Our council has been dedication personified. Unless someone has actually served in an unpaid elected position, I don't think they realize the incredible sacrifice of time and energy that it takes. One of my pet peeves includes folks who take cheap pot shots at local elected officials without even knowing the issues or individuals.

While I DON'T miss the late night meetings and extensive required reading, I DO miss many things about being Mayor. It sounds weird, but I love to chair meetings! I like the "let's get this show on the road" feeling. I miss the fellowship of other local mayors. I miss stopping in city hall during the week to encourage our staff. I loved riding in the parade at Golden Years or the Light Parade and knowing so many of our townspeople by name! I guess I am just a sappy baby-kisser

at heart.

And I miss the “this is my town and responsibility” that was always present. It has been my practice to silently pray for our city and our residents whenever I drive through our streets. By the way, I continue that practice. (And Chief Larson, I DO keep my eyes open so don’t worry.)

What advice would I give to current council? Have courage. Don’t be afraid of bullies. Listen to ALL voices, including children. Don’t assume that the loudest or most contentious voices are the ones to follow. Try to separate issues from personalities. Always remember that the choices and policies you make today should be designed not just for the present but for the future generations. Take the long view.

I would strongly encourage level-headed, community-minded, cooperative citizens to get or stay involved in our city, whether it is on the Charter School Board, the various committees or city council. There is much work to do and it takes all of us to do it. Don’t spend your life as a couch potato while your local community goes without your valuable insights and energy.

I plan to stay involved as much as I can in Coburg events; working full-time, but with my last daughter graduating & moving on to college; I will have an empty nest (I still have cats and chickens). Being a self-confessed workaholic, I always find ways to fill my time! There are many folks who already are “pulling at my sleeve” wanting my time. I hope I have lots of chapters left to write before I’m done. As do you!

Thank you, citizens of Coburg for a wonderful twelve years of the privilege of serving you.

Judy Volta



8th Annual Coburg Quilt Show and Tea



Saturday, July 28th! To become a vendor, or to volunteer to help the day of the show, please visit the Coburg Quilt Show website at

www.coburgquiltshow.org

or email Alice Brooks at *brooks91554@gmail.com*

or phone 541-746-8655.



Please remember to ***cut your weeds*** to below 10 inches between now and September.



Final trench patching for the Wastewater Project

collection system will be completed by the end of August.



Would you like to be on Coburg City Council?

2012 Election packets are available at City Hall.



Let Us Remember

One of the things people often notice in the Fellowship Hall at Coburg United Methodist Church is a very large American flag. This particular flag was a gift to our congregation from a former member who was serving in Iraq in 2008. Beneath the flag is a display with pictures of people who are currently serving in the Armed Forces around the world. Each picture carries a brief description of their name, rank, assignment, family, and how they are connected to our community. It is one small way that we keep these persons before us as well as in our prayers.

*Let us continue to remember
the sacrifices of our men and
women in uniform, along with
their families.*

It has been nearly eleven years since the war in Afghanistan began. More than two thousand men and women have lost their lives, with countless others wounded. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of men and women are still deployed in Afghanistan and other parts of the Middle East, along with Europe, Asia, Africa, and the South Pacific. They stand watch on Navy ships out at sea. And they guard the skies here at home.

*And while we are praying,
let us continue to pray for
peace in our world.*

Let us continue to remember the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, along with their families. A personal note of appreciation. A surprise package from home. A heartfelt prayer will go a long way to lift their spirits.

We would also welcome additional pictures for our Armed Forces display board. Feel free to drop them by the Church. You can also email them to coburgumc@qwestoffice.net. Tell us a bit about the person you are remembering and we will keep them in our prayers.

And while we are praying, let us continue to pray for peace in our world.

*Dr. Gary Powell
Coburg United Methodist Church*



Park Playground Renovation

The Coburg Public Works Department, in conjunction with the Coburg Park/Tree Committee and the Coburg City Council, recently completed a major renovation of the Norma Pfeffer park playground. The purpose of the project was to bring the playground into compliance with industry safety standards for fall protection. The project included installing a twelve inch concrete curbing around the playground which was then filled with twelve inches of "playground" chips. In addition, several pieces of the playground equipment were repaired and will soon be repainted. For additional information on the project, please call Public Works at 541-682-7856.



Norma Pfeffer Park

Wastewater Update

Work on the wastewater project is well under way. Thanks to everyone who has had to put up with machines and ditches in the street in front of their houses. This is almost done. The bulk of the work that involves digging up the streets is done. The project will be moving up to Van Duyn and North Coburg Road now that school is closed. Installing pipe should be done in early to mid-July, repaving the ditches will take a little longer.

If you have looked north you will see that the treatment facility is rising out of the ground and taking on some form beyond a big pile of gravel. Work on the treatment facility will continue for another nine

or ten months, with the facility being ready to receive effluent in April of next year. In the meantime, the engineers have been visiting homes and businesses around Coburg to talk about where the final elements - the septic tank with a pump and the electrical connection for every house and business - will be located. If you have not had your visit there is still time to do that. If you choose to not sign the easement to allow the work to be done, then the City will not make plans for your property.

Once again, thank you for your patience and for coping so well with the disturbances. Real progress is being made. Less than a year to first flush!!



City Council Brief

Highlights actions and issues that City Council addressed

May

Mayoral Interviews and Appointment deferred to June

Written Department Summaries

Project Updates: Wastewater, Coburg Transportation System Plan, Coburg I-5 Interchange Improvements, Coburg Loop

PASSED: Resolution No. 2012-03 Consider approval of supplemental budget in the water fund for FY2011-12 for a Utility Relocate for the Coburg I-5 Interchange Project

Public Hearing, Second Reading, PASSED: Ordinance A-224 Water

APPROVED: Play area improvement at Norma Phieffer Park

APPOINTED; Park/Tree Committee member Claire Smith

June 12 - City Council Meeting

APPOINTED: Mayoral Interviews and Appointment of Jae Pudewell

Written Department Summaries

Project Updates: Wastewater, Coburg Transportation System Plan, Coburg I-5 Interchange Improvements, Coburg Loop

June 12 - City Council Meeting (con't)

PASSED: Resolution No. 2012-04 A resolution allowing the City to receive State Revenues

PASSED: Resolution No. 2012-05 A resolution allowing the City to receive State Shared Revenues

PASSED: Resolution 2012-06 City Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013

Considered Wastewater Relief Methodology for low income households

Considered several contracts

2012 General Election information

June 26

Public Hearing, PASSED: Resolution No. 2012-08 A resolution which transferred appropriations between existing fund categories in the FY2012 Budget

PASSED: City Attorney Services Contract Renewal

PASSED: Wastewater Management Contract Renewal

PASSED: Wastewater Relief Methodology for low income households



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 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

2nd Thursdays

METROPOLITAN POLICY COMMITTEE

11:30 am, (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

4th Wednesdays

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

7:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

541-682-7852

July/August Events Schedule

July 28 - Saturday

COBURG QUILT SHOW AND TEA

9:00 am,

August 4 - Saturday

COBURG CAR CLASSIC AND SHOW AND SHINE

August 18 - Saturday

PARKFEST

August 9, 23, and 30 - Saturdays

COBURG CONCERTS IN THE PARK

ParkFest 2012 Just Around the Corner

The second annual Coburg ParkFest will be held August 18 from 4-10 pm at Gazebo Park on Willamette Street. ParkFest is sponsored by the Coburg Park/Tree Committee in an effort to raise funds to improve and expand Coburg parks. This year's event includes free musical entertainment, barbeque, Coburg Fire District blow-up slides, and Coburg Police dunk tank. There will also be informational booths offering information on the Coburg Park/Tree Committee and the Coburg Planning Commission. Coburg ParkFest is an all ages family event.



Coburg Police Chief Larson dunked at ParkFest 2011

For those interested in the Coburg Park/Tree Committee or volunteering for the upcoming ParkFest, please contact the Park/Tree Committee Chair, Joe Morneau, at 541-228-1502 or cnh_iron@yahoo.com for more information. The Coburg Park/Tree Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at Coburg City Hall.





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Address Correction Requested

Volunteer Opportunities

Planning Commission Vacancy:

Help Shape Our Future!

- Requirements: Must be at least 18 years old
- All but two positions must live within Coburg City Limits
- Voluntary, two-year term
- Reappointments are made in October by Planning Commission recommendation & City Council appointment
- No term limits
- Meetings are held 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7pm, Coburg City Hall.

For more information, please contact Petra Schuetz, Planning Director at 541-682-7871
or petra.schuetz@ci.coburg.or.us.

APPLICATIONS are available at Coburg City Hall, 91069 N Willamette St., Coburg, M-F, 8am-5pm, or
www.coburgoregon.org.

