

October 2024

MAYOR BELL'S

Fall Updates

Suddenly summer is over and it's October! We have said goodbye to concerts in the park, summer festivals, the vintage car show, the antique fair and long summer evenings. Now we are enjoying scarecrows, fall festivals, crisp mornings, trick or treaters, falling leaves and of course, looking forward to holiday gatherings too numerous to name.

I know many of you are wondering what's happening in Coburg, so I'll give you a brief recap.

- Code enforcement is coming in the near future. Abandoned vehicles, on City right of ways (areas between paved roads and private property included) will be recorded, tagged and removed. This must be addressed not only to keep our community beautiful, but also to address possible health and safety issues.
- As a courtesy to neighbors and all community members, please clean up clutter, and bring in garbage/recycle bins in a timely manner so that paths and roads are unobstructed.

Street Projects

- The street project on North Willamette and Macy street is nearing completion with a much-improved driving surface, sidewalks, cross walks, parking and storm drainage. This was a big project that impacted a number of residents and I'm sure they are ready to enjoy the relative quiet after so much heavy equipment noise! A big thank-you to both the construction crew and our Public Works staff for managing this complex project with sensitivity to the neighborhood.
- We continue to work with our Lane County partners to address safety and traffic concerns on Pearl and Willamette streets. There is on-going dialogue but nothing concrete to report yet.
- "Running on Empty - Facing a Revenue Crisis" was the title of a recent article by Dave Drotzmann, Mayor of Hermiston and the President of the League of Oregon Cities, an advocacy group dedicated to addressing a variety of issues in all Oregon towns and cities. He went on to explain both the impacts and causes of this financial emergency as well as efforts by cities, agencies and advocacy groups to manage this growing gap. I'm sharing this with you, so you know that Coburg is not alone in experiencing shrinking revenue and rising operating costs inc. This is a topic of discussion in every town in Oregon and ways to increase revenue while retaining core services are being explored in every community. These questions will be a hot topic at upcoming City Council and Budget Committee meetings, so attend and let your voice be heard as we make difficult decisions.



Parks:

- Phase 2 of Pavilion Park improvement project is underway with the bid awarded to a local construction company. During this stage all of the requirements of the grant will be addressed including pathways accessible to all, improved lighting, and expanded landscaping. The park will be beautiful and ready for summer fun by the end of May. As a reminder, this effort began in 2022 when Coburg was awarded a grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. This grant allowed us to acquire land to enlarge the park by 20% as well as make significant improvements to a well-loved and utilized public space. In addition to the grant received (2022 dollars do not equal 2024 costs) we were also able to utilize System Development Charges (SDC'S) restricted for use to expand parks. Thanks to Parks and Tree Committee for their tireless work to make Pavilion Park the jewel of Coburg.
- Home construction in the Coburg Creek Neighborhood (North of N Colemand Street) is nearing completion and with that preliminary conversations have begun on ideas for the land designated as open space. This will be a community asset, and I anticipate it will require a great deal of community input and resources over several years before plans are finalized.



Police overview: In case you think there is not much to keep our police staff busy in “sleepy ole Coburg”, I want to share a few statistics with you for the Quarter (3 months) that ended June 30.

- 192 traffic stops- 40% ended in citations.
- 49 routine patrol checks on businesses & homes.
- 34 calls related to crimes on people
- 43 calls for property crimes
- 83 calls related to crimes against society (e.g. driving while impaired; illegal camping; animals running loose; suspected prowler, etc.)

In the future watch for home security & safety community education opportunities. Topics may include outdoor lighting, vegetation around your home, locking doors, windows and vehicles and other crime prevention strategies.

As November approaches, so does election day. Your ballot is due by November 5th, and includes local, state and national candidates and issues that impact each of us. Voting is a privilege many of us may take for granted. In this country, how you mark your ballot is private, so how you vote is up to you, but make your voice and selection count! Just be sure to vote and exercise this right and privilege.

Happy Fall and I'll see you around town.
Your Mayor, Nancy Bell