

OUR TOWN

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2007



Annamieke Henke is enjoying the last day of Connections' Summer and Lunch Program. *Photo supplied by Connections*

CCC OFFERING CLASSES

By Judy Volta
Coburg Connections Director

Some great Holiday events are being sponsored by Coburg Connections! If you have not signed up yet for these Connections opportunities, now is your chance! We try to offer a variety of classes and events for all ages and interests.

Come build a beautiful **Christmas wreath**, Monday, November 26th at 6:30 pm, in the Coburg school Cafeteria. For just \$20, you will receive a sturdy frame, a fragrant assortment of fresh cedar boughs, firs, and holly, wire, and some ribbon.

Bring your own ornaments or additional ribbon for the personal touch. Our own Interior Designer Extraordinaire Dori Koberstein will

give us expert guidance. Sturdy work gloves are advised, glue gun optional. Hot cider and cookies and Christmas music provided. Pre-registration is required.

You can still be a part of **Codger Ball** every Thursday night (except Thanksgiving) through Dec. 13th (6:30 to 8 pm) in the Coburg Gym. A Codger is defined as any one who wants to play pick up basketball (or volleyball) where having fun is more important than rules or ability. Dale Hunt is Chief Codger this term. \$1 donation suggested. Come and bring a friend!

Register now for our 4th Annual **Breakfast with Santa!**, scheduled for Satur-

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POLICE ADVISE A LITTLE CAUTION

By John Bosley
Police Chief

The police department has recently become aware of some uncertainties with residents who call the police department and are unable to reach an officer after hours. The Junction City

Police Department provides dispatch services to the Coburg Police Department. In the event that you need, or want to speak with an officer, citizens are encouraged to call the JCPD non-emergency number at 998-1245. An officer will then be dispatched to either con-

tact you in person or by telephone. In the event that you call the Coburg Police Department after hours and no one answers, you will be directed to leave a message on the department's voice mail system. Please keep in mind, that it could be several hours

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IN PRAISE OF SMALL TOWNS

By Judy Volta
Mayor

Much of society values Bigness, whether it is in numbers, enrollment, dollars or size. Bigness reigns as King.

I would like to give tribute to Smallness; specifically, Small Towns. It is an irony not lost on my siblings that having grown up on a Montana farm thirteen miles from nowhere and openly pining to live in New York City, that I now find myself ensconced in a town of 1,000 and happy as a clam to be here.

There are many who sneer at small town life. Full of rubes and characters. Life in a fish bowl. Everyone knowing everyone else's business. Rumors and gossip as the regular diet at the little market. All at least partially true, by the way.

Small towns definitely have their quirkiness. For example, many people who have lived here their entire lives don't identify addresses by the streets. We identify

someone's address, as "kitty corner from the old Smith place", or "next door to the Broughtons". And the unspoken rule is that a newcomer's home cannot be identified by their own name. I lived in the Healy house for ten years, and now that I have moved to my new place, I find that I am living in the old Neil Canady house. Maybe when I am dead and gone, my house will finally be identified as my own. But that is okay. I find it strangely comforting to live in the houses of people who decades ago slept and lived in Coburg.

It's true that there are downsides of small town life. We have a small tax base, but yet often must provide the same essential services to our citizens that cities with 100 times our population provide. Our school enrollment is constantly under a microscope even when best science indicates small classes are more conducive for learning. And many of our own residents assume that life must be better somewhere Bigger. We

seem to always live on the edge of being eclipsed, being swallowed by the Bigness that is all around us.

One of my concerns about our small town, is the morphing of our community from a stand-alone city into a bedroom community. I feel sad for many of our bedroom community residents, who leave us early and come home to us late, only able to savor small town life on weekends. They may not even know what they are missing. And small towns historically have more difficulty in recruiting city council and committee members, even more so when commuting makes time such a premium. I feel very fortunate for a full slate of committed council members, many of whom have small children and/or come to meetings after long hours at their "real jobs". Together we tackle such Herculean tasks as budget, wastewater projects and planning for Coburg in 2025.

And there is a side of small

town life that is irresistible. Walking into that corner market which also serves as the town post office and greeting half a dozen townspeople that you know by first name. Attending a school sing, complete with gap-toothed third graders, overalled farmers and well-heeled soccer moms, all sitting side by side and loving it. Getting stuck behind a wide-berthed farm seeder at sunset, and knowing there is a long procession of cars behind you, chomping at the bit to get somewhere. Going to a funeral of a community leader, finding it cramp-packed with folks you haven't seen in years but it seems like yesterday. Driving down the tree-lined streets and hearing that still voice saying, "This is your home. You belong here."

So we continue in our Small Town ways as best as we can, for as long as we can, raising our children in the relative safety of our quiet streets and our deliberate naiveté. And we are grateful.

*****LOOKING BACK*****

Looking back is a historical peek back at events and times in the Coburg area.

**The Daily Eugene Guard
11-28-1903**

Coburg Bridge Finished

The county bridge over the McKenzie River near Coburg has been rebuilt and

is now completely finished. The bridge is an entirely new structure. The new piers have 100 loads of rock in each. The bridge was raised 26 inches and a 100 foot covered span added to the south end of the bridge. While the bridge was closed for several weeks private parties were running a ferry boat just a

short distance above, charging \$1 a team for ferrage. These individuals it is understood cleared over \$400 in three weeks time, and on this account Mr. Taylor reopened the bridge while it was being rebuilt, every 30 minutes teams being allowed to cross. The travel over the bridge is

very heavy. Mr. Taylor says it exceeds 100 teams a day.

The entire cost of the new bridge will amount to less than \$1400 and on account of delays in lumber and high water the cost is from \$150 to \$200 higher than it would have been had all circumstances been right.



“Christmas in Coburg”



Saturday, December 8, 2007

- **Breakfast with Santa**

From 9:30 to 11 am at Coburg Gym. Fun starts with a delicious breakfast and entertainment from Barb's Gymnastic Elves, the Razzle Dazzle Kids and more...Best of all, Santa pays a personal visit! Cost just \$6 for 12 & up, \$4 for kids age 3 through 11; Free for kids 2 and under. Pre-paid registration required for this event

- **Coburg Community Grange's Annual “Christmas Basket” Food Drive.**

From 9:30 am to 12:30 pm we will be going door to door to collect any non-perishable food items that can be included to fill our Christmas food boxes that we distribute to designated families of Coburg.

- **Holiday High Tea**

4:00 pm at Coburg Elementary Cafeteria, enjoy a scrumptious and elegant High Tea. This is a benefit for the Coburg Connections. Limited seating is available. Please Call Judy at 334-4705 for registration and to pre-pay the \$15 ticket price.

- **Lighting of the Park**

The 2007 official “Lighting of the Park” will be at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, December 9, 2007

- **Community Sing-Along**

5:30 pm Concert featuring the Dublinaires from Sheldon High School, Razzle Dazzle Singers from Coburg Grace School and a Special Guest Harpist, with a chance to sing wonderful, old Christmas favorites.

- **Coburg Parade of Lights**

7:00 pm Parade with staging @ 6:30 (on Bottom Loop Rd) this wonderful display of lighted vehicles will proceed from Bottom Loop Rd to Van Duyen To Willamette to Delaney.

- **Lighting of the Park & LIVE REINDEER Display**

Live Reindeer display at the pavilion park from 5 to 9:00 pm with Santa being available after the parade to chat with the kids.

- **Coburg Community Grange
Free Chili Feed & Bon Fire**

7:30 pm (or right after parade) come and join us to warm yourself inside & out!

Free chili inside the grange building and a blazing bon fire outside.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**Gary Powell, pastor
Coburg United Methodist
Church**

As I write these words, there is a gentle rain falling outside my warm office. Our women's group is busy next door in Fellowship Hall preparing crafts for sale at our Annual Holiday Bazaar which is just around the corner (November 17). Another group just finished packing up overseas school kits (the other half of our Coburg School

backpack project). Still another group is meeting this month, brainstorming the best way to provide food baskets and gifts for needy families in our community. Finally, a fourth group is busy planning for our annual Community Sing-A-Long as part of our Christmas in Coburg celebration on December 9th. And because this is Coburg, there are more than a few people involved in all four efforts, plus the Grange, the Lodge,

and the School.

When we think of being, "home for the holidays" we often think first of our own home and our own family. But a large part of the quality of our "home" involves the community where our home is located. It's the neighbors, the school, the park, the store, the church, or the lodge where we connect with each other, support each other, and join hands to work

together to make our community better.

One of our Church leaders loves to remind us that "many hands make for light work." I also believe that many hands make for great friendships. And friendships are what strong communities are built around. We look forward to seeing your "hands" along with your smile, voice, and gifts around town.

COBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DISTRICT RECEIVES FEDERAL

Volunteer firefighters for the Coburg Fire District will be sporting new protective gear this year, after receiving a grant from the U.S. Fire Administration. The grant totaled \$46,270 and will allow the District to purchase 28 sets of code compliant personal protective equipment. The Fire District is responsible for paying 5 percent of the grant cost, or \$2,314. The 5 percent match was budgeted in the current fiscal year, hoping the District would receive the grant. This protective gear is

also known as "turnout gear" to firefighters, according to Fire Chief Chad Minter.

The biggest change to the public will be the color of the gear. Currently, the Fire District uses PBI turnouts that are brown in color. The new gear is made of a stronger material that is black in color and is significantly more tear and abrasion resistant. The new material is a Nomex /Kevlar blend that should have a longer life than the previous turnouts.

The Federal standards and codes are continually changing. A majority of the current turnouts in use today do not meet current standards. The turnouts in use today were purchased more than 10 years ago when there weren't the higher safety standards. "Our volunteers will be safer with the new turnouts," says Minter.

The Fire District has worked very hard over the years to keep our volunteer's in the safest equipment possible while trying to keep the cost

to our taxpayers at a minimum. Had Coburg not received this grant, the turnouts would have been replaced at the taxpayer's expense. The Fire District has received \$154,640 in grants since 2005 from the U.S. Fire Administration. In 2005, Coburg received a grant for new air packs. In 2007, there have been only fourteen U. S. Fire Administration grants awarded to fire districts throughout the State of Oregon, and Coburg was one of them!

COBURG SITE UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Coburg's NEW Senior Meal site coordinator, Jim Broughton, invites you to join him, your neighbors and friends every Wednesday at noon at 100F Hall for a good meal...share news on what's happening in and around town...all for a suggested donation of \$3.70 for your lunch! Such a deal!!! See you there! Need more information

CONT. FROM PAGE 1: *POLICE*

before your call is returned as officers spend limited time in the office after hours. In emergencies, please call 911.

The department is proud to announce that our fund raising effort to purchase automatic external defibrillators has been met and exceeded! These funds will purchase two AED devices and related accessories. One device will be placed into service by the on duty officer. The second device will be mounted within city hall. The department wants to thank all of those who generously gave to see this program become a success.

The police department would like to thank all of those who participated in the recent police services survey. We received 13% of the surveys back, which statistically is very high. The department appreciated all of the com-

ments and words of encouragement and support we received! In response to one survey question regarding safety information published in the newsletter, the department will begin a "Safety Tip" series beginning with this issue.

SAEFTY TIP #1

Security Tips.... Never automatically open your door. Make sure you know who is on the other side before you open it. Insist on identification from repair and sales persons. If in doubt, call their company for identification. Don't rely on their ID.

O Do not admit persons asking to use your telephone.

O If you live in an apartment, be attentive and careful if you are alone in the laundry room or garage by yourself, especially late at night.

O Secure all outside doors with deadbolt locks.

O Have good lighting at all entrances.

O Add auxiliary locks to sliding glass doors to prevent lifting and sliding.

O Add auxiliary locks on all windows to prevent lifting and sliding.

O Know your neighbors and work out a mutual watch and warning system to prevent burglaries and other break-ins.

O If you come home and find a door or window open or signs of forced entry, DO NOT ENTER. Call the police.

O Identify your belongings by engraving your driver's license number on your possessions.

O Use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to give the appearance you are home.

O Stop mail and other deliveries when you are gone for any length of time, or have a trusted neighbor pick them up.

O If you plan on being gone for any length of time, come to the police department and fill out a "Vacation Security Check". Officers will then do random security checks of your home.

O Do not hide spare keys, give them to a trusted neighbor.

O Close and lock doors and windows every time you leave your home.

O Have your locks re-keyed every time you move into a new house or apartment.



CONT. FROM PAGE 1: *CONNECTIONS*

day, Dec. 8th from 9:30 to 11 am. This is part of our Christmas in Coburg celebration. Coburg Gym will be decked out, and the fun starts with a delicious breakfast, with entertainment from Barb's Gymnastic Elves, the Razzle Dazzle Kids and more...Best of all, Santa pays a personal visit! Cost just \$6 for 12 & up, \$4 for kids age 3

through 11; Free for kids 2 and under. Pre-paid registration required for this popular event.

Also part of the Christmas In Coburg celebration is the **Holiday High Tea**.

This event starts at 4:00 pm at Coburg Elementary.



Please attend this scrumptious and elegant High Tea. Seating is limited, so to pre-register and to purchase your \$15 tickets, please call Judy at 334-4705.

Coburg kids in Middle and High School are invited to Coburg Gym on Thursday, Dec. 27th for a **Coburg Youth Night**,

from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Games, music, movie, food and fun! Donation requested of \$3 at the door.

For further information on these events or to know more about Coburg Connections, call Judy Volta at 334-4705.

PUBLIC WORKS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Water ... The main responsibilities of the Coburg Public Works Department are to provide safe drinking water to all the City's water customers and an adequate and dependable water supply for the fire department.

To assure that the drinking water is safe for the City's water users and complies with State requirements, the City uses chlorine to disinfect the water, destroying all harmful bacteria. The chlorine level is tested by certified staff, and monitored seven days a week. Pump stations are also monitored and checked once a day to insure that the system is operating properly and that there are no problems with the system itself.

Another state requirement is that the city must have a Backflow Program to prevent any kind of contamination to the City's water supply. Backflow is the reversal of normal flow in a system caused by a negative pressure vacuum in the supply piping. A cross-connection is a direct arrangement of a piping line which allows the potable water supply to be connected to a line which contains a contaminant.

One example is the ordinary garden hose, the most common offender, which can be easily connected to the potable water supply and used for a variety of potentially dangerous applications.

The state requires that this Backflow Program be administered by an individual certified

by the Oregon Health Division. Water customers who have backflow devices on their premises must have them tested once each year.

Backflow devices are also installed at each fire service. When not in use, the water in a fire service is stagnant and has a high content of metals stemming from the iron pipe that is used, making a backflow device imperative.

Another program that the City of Coburg is proud of, is the Wellhead Protection Program. Ours was the first in the state to be approved by the State of Oregon Health Division. The program aids the City in protecting its groundwater supply and educating the City's water users.

In 1998, Lane County joined with the City of Coburg to build two bioswales to treat storm water from Willamette Street and from Pearl Street, prior to discharging it to the groundwater aquifer. Bioswales are landscape elements designed to remove silt and pollution from surface runoff water. Pollution can take the form of heavy metals, bacterial and viral agents, oil and grease, or pesticides and fertilizers. The City maintains the bioswales and the storm-water collection systems on Roberts Road, Roberts Court, and Huntley Court, as well as a number of catch basins throughout the City.

Streets... The public works department is responsible for maintaining approximately 13 miles of City streets. All typical

overlay to existing streets has been designed in-house, saving the City the cost of having to hire an engineering firm. The City staff also reviews all new street construction within the city limits, such as those within new subdivisions.

Approximately 12 years ago, the City purchased a used street sweeper from the City of Eugene for \$2500. Public works staff currently sweeps Willamette Street, Pearl Street, Industrial Way, and Roberts Road. The street sweeper is also used to pick up leaves and to clean water-valve boxes.

For the past several years, as a service to the citizens of Coburg, the City has had a leaf-pickup program, one week during the fall in which the street sweeper clears away leaf debris. While beneficial in many ways, one clear benefit is that virtually all leaf burning has been eliminated, leading to a much improved air quality in the fall months.

Parks... Currently, Coburg Public Works Department maintains 4 city parks. The total acreage of park land is approximately 3 acres. Permits are required when a group of 35 or more people requests exclusive use of a park area.

Facilities... At this time, the public works department maintains 12 different facilities: city hall, public works building, visitor's kiosk, the pavilion, park restrooms, 2 wells, 2 well buildings, a pump station facility, and 2 - 500,000 gallon water reservoirs.

FOOD PANTRY IN NEED OF HIGH PROTIEN ITEMS

By Kathy Emerson
Coburg Pantry Manager

We, as a community, are doing an excellent job ensuring that no one in our community will go hungry! We currently serve about 20 families every time we are open. This includes about 40 adults and 30 children. Some families come only once a month, some may choose to come twice each month. Families are allowed 15 visits per year. Some are in a temporary situation, and find they need a food basket more often until their situation changes, while others want to space their allotted

visits over the entire year.

This past week before going home, one of the kids that has visited the pantry several times with his family, stopped by to say "HI. I asked if they were coming to shop that particular day, and he told me they had been to the grocery store and wouldn't need to. Instead he and his brother helped me break down boxes and clean up. They were great helpers!

FFLC is currently experiencing a shortage as I'm sure you have read. While we have enough food, we are low on some items. We like to re-

ceive foods high in protein, and that will make balanced meals. We are low on tuna, canned chicken, cereals, canned fruits, and soups. We have LOTS of peanut butter and beans.

We now have a FFLC barrel at the local Dari-Mart Store (thank you Jerry). Any donation made there will stay at our local pantry on Pearl Street. Any and all donations will be appreciated. You can call me at 434-6404, any time with questions, needs, or interest in helping out. We are open the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month, 2 - 4p.m.



We, as a community, are doing an excellent job ensuring that no one in our community will go hungry?

Kathy Emerson
Pantry Manager

SCHOOL WISHES YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY

Rose Turtura, Secretary
Coburg Elementary School

As the holidays approach, our students and families become increasingly busy with activities and travel plans. We hope that everyone will take some time to relax and enjoy their families and friends and that they'll use extra caution when traveling during winter weather. Our school has several events we'd like to invite our families to attend, so please check the dates below and mark your calendars. We'd also like to thank all those who helped make our annual Community Harvest Festival a great evening of fun and food on October 26th. We enjoyed seeing all the great costumes, eating some delicious food, winning yummy desserts at the cake walk, and watching the children use their creativity at the craft table. The pumpkin decorating contest, game booths

and the 50/50 raffle added to the festivities, plus we collected a wagon load of canned food for Food for Lane County. We want to thank all our volunteers, and the businesses who donated food and prizes, for pulling on the same end of the rope to make it such a successful evening. Upcoming events are:

November 5, Parent Meeting. 7:00 p.m. in the library.

November 9, Early dismissal at 12:15 for teacher planning.

November 12, Veteran's Day Holiday, **No School.**

November 21, Grandparents Day. Grandparents, parents and other special friends are invited to a turkey lunch, art walk and bingo. Please RSVP.

November 22-23, Thanksgiving holiday. **No School.**

December 10, Parent Meeting. 7:00 p.m. in the library.

December 14, Early dismissal at 12:15 for teacher planning.

December 22, All School Sing-A-Long @ 11:00 and Movie/popcorn Day.

December 24 - January 7, Winter Break. **No School.**

January 8, Classes resume.

Remember to drop off your newspapers in the bins behind the fire station. This is an easy way to donate to our school. We'd also like to thank all Coburg Community members who participated in our Sally Foster gift wrap sale and the Poinsettia fundraiser. We appreciate your continued support of our school.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 687-3408 or stop in the office. Happy Holidays from a very merry Coburg Elementary School Staff.

REVELL TO SPEARHEAD GOLDEN YEARS

By Terri Morneau
Grange Secretary

Hello Coburg. When I was asked to write an article for our newsletter, I saw that I had another opportunity to let everyone know about the Grange. Ideas and thoughts were thrown at me and this is what I got. The Coburg Grange has been in town since around 1937. The Grange used to be a gathering place for farmers and families to get together for social gatherings and discuss their years' crops. It was basically the social hub of town. Now days, the Grange isn't seeing too many farmers gathering to discuss crops, yet it is still very active in the community even with the changing needs

of the community. With computers, cell phones, meetings and just the busy lifestyle of people, it's hard to find the time to be involved. I'm here to tell you that the Grange is very involved in almost every aspect of the Coburg community and another meeting is always just around the corner. But of course, Coburg, is our hobby. The Grange can be a small part of your life as well. Try and come to a meeting and see how the Grange works. We have been able, over the years, to scale back some of the rituals that the Grange has had and we are very informal these days. We get together and sit around the tables downstairs and have a

meeting that is quite comfortable. We would like to take this opportunity to once again invite you to a meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, or come to a Golden Years meeting on the fourth Wednesday at 7 and see what goes on.

At our last Golden Years meeting Joe Morneau and Bill Judd decided to take a step back and take some time to not be so involved (finally). Mark Revell will be spear heading the Golden Years this year. We had some interested citizens show up and put their ideas out there and they were great. The Fire dept. is getting very involved

and that's what we like to see. We are eager to get fresh ideas. With more people and fresh ideas, things can and will change with our long standing festival. After spear heading the festival for years, it is easy to get a bit burned out and the ideas don't come easy. That is why we are very happy to have Mark on board with all his ideas.

If you would like to come to a meeting or you are just curious please give me a call at 521-2467, and I would be more than happy to discuss any questions or concerns you have.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM CITY HALL

Wastewater System Town Hall Meeting-

On Tuesday, November 27th, the City Council will sponsor a Town Hall meeting on the Wastewater System at 7:00 pm at the Coburg Grange. Things are moving forward on this project quite steadily, so please come to this information session to find out what is in store for the next few months. Refreshments will be provided.

Business License Requirement - The City of Coburg is instituting a business license requirement for all businesses and non profit

organizations located or doing business in Coburg. This requirement goes into effect on January 1, 2008. All businesses and non-profits need to be registered with the City by then. The purpose of this requirement is so the City can gather and maintain demographic and emergency contact information about businesses in town. Home-based businesses will be subject to this requirement, too. The annual fee is \$50.

Street Tree Fee - During the October meeting the City

Council instituted Street Tree Fee ordinance #214. This ordinance will assess each water billing customer \$2 per month and the money will go to a fund for maintaining the City's street trees.



Budget Committee Openings - The Budget Committee needs your help. Two positions are open and need to be filled by the end of January. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please apply at Coburg City Hall.

Remember That Old Speeding Ticket You Forgot to Pay? - The Coburg Municipal Court has recently contracted with a collection agency to pursue unpaid traffic fines. There is a considerable amount of money in these old unpaid citations and we are optimistic that we can get some of it collected using this firm. Just don't let it be your ticket, because it is going to be more expensive once the collection agency starts working on it. You might want to come in and clear it up now.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

November

- Nov. 1st — **Oddfellows and Rebekahs meeting**, 7:30 pm, 100F Hall.
- Nov. 2nd — **Poker Night**, 7:00 pm, Grange Hall.
- Nov. 7th — **Senior Meals**, noon, 100F Hall, **Planning Commission meeting**, 7pm, City Hall.
- Nov. 8th — **Coburg Quilters meeting**, Grange, 6:30pm.
- Nov. 12th — **Food Pantry Open**, 2pm to 6pm, Pearl St.
- Nov. 13th — **City Council meeting**, 7 pm, City Hall.
- Nov. 14th — **Grange meeting**, 7 pm, Grange Hall, **Senior Meals**, noon, 100F Hall.
- Nov. 15th — **Oddfellows and Rebekahs meeting**, 7:30 pm, 100F Hall,
- Nov. 16th — **Poker Night**, 7:00 p.m., Grange Hall.
- Nov. 19th — **Park/Tree Committee Meeting**, City Hall, 7:00pm.
- Nov. 21st — **Senior Meals**, noon, 100F Hall, **Chamber of Commerce meeting**, noon, Truck N Travel.
- Nov. 26th — **Food Pantry Open**, 2pm to 6pm, Pearl St., **Build A Christmas Wreath**, 6:30pm, Coburg Elementary Cafeteria.
- Nov. 27th — **Wastewater Town Hall Meeting**, City Hall, 7:00pm.
- Nov. 28th — **Senior Meals**, noon, 100F Hall, **Golden Years Potluck meeting**, 6:30 p.m., Grange.

December

- Dec. 5th — **Senior Meals**, noon 100F Hall, **Planning Commission meeting**, 7 p.m., City Hall.
- Dec 6th — **Oddfellows and Diamond Rebekahs meeting**, 7:30 p.m., 100F Hall.
- Dec. 7th — **Poker Night**, 6:30 p.m., Grange Hall.
- Dec. 8th-9th — **CHRISTMAS IN COBURG**
Saturday — **Breakfast With Santa**, 9:30 to 11am, Coburg Gym, **Christmas Basket Food Drive**, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, door to door,
Holiday High Tea, 4pm, Coburg Elementary, **Lighting of the Park**, 7pm, Downtown Coburg.
Sunday — **Community Sing Along**, 5:30, United Methodist Church, **Coburg Parade Of Lights**, 7pm, Downtown Coburg, **Lighting of the Park and Live Reindeer Display**, 5 to 9pm, Pavilion Park, **Grange's Free Chili Feed and Bon Fire**, 7:30pm, Grange.
- Dec. 10th — **Food Pantry Open**, 2pm to 6pm, Pearl St.
- Dec. 11th — **City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall.
- Dec. 12th — **Senior Meals**, noon, 100F Hall, **Grange meeting**, 7 p.m., Grange Hall.
- Dec. 13th — **Coburg Quilters meeting**, Grange, 6:30pm.
- Dec. 19th — **Senior Meals**, noon, 100F Hall, **Chamber of Commerce meeting**, noon, Truck N Travel.
- Dec. 20th — **Oddfellows and Diamond Rebekahs meeting**, 7:30 p.m., 100F Hall.
- Dec. 21st — **Poker Night**, 6:30 p.m., Grange.
- Dec. 24th — **Food Pantry Open**, 2pm to 6pm, Pearl St.
- Dec. 26th — **Senior Meals**, noon, 100F Hall.
- Dec. 27th — **Connections Coburg Youth Night**, 6:30 pm to 9:30pm, Coburg Gym.



A PUBLICATION OF THE
CITY OF COBURG

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WATER RATES TO INCREASE

City Hall

Nobody likes to see a headline like the one on this article. But just about every newspaper in every Oregon community has recently had this headline, and for some communities, it is a headline that has graced the paper many times in the last few years. It has not appeared in Coburg since 2001.

At its October 9th meeting, the Council voted to raise water rates as recommended by a citizen committee. The base fee for in-town residential customers will go from \$30 to \$33. The consump-

tion charge (for consumption in excess of 700 cubic feet) will go from \$1.96 per 100 cubic feet to \$2.22. Commercial customers will see similar increases and an additional charge for fire suppression infrastructure.

This increase was required because the water utility has been operating at a loss since a year after the last rate increase. Yes - by 2002 the expenses were already higher than the new revenue level. This was primarily for one reason. The City took out two loans to pay for water system improvements and

the loan payments started becoming due.

The Council and staff have worked hard to keep operating expenses in check. The operating budget for the water system is no larger now than it was in 2001. The debt service budget is much higher and that is what is driving the need for the rate increase. And the loan proceeds are paying for essential water system rehabilitation and improvements: a new well, replace-

ment of aging pipes and pumps, and reservoir repair and replacement.

The rates you pay are the sole source of income for the water utility. No property taxes are used to support it. If the utility does not generate enough money to pay for itself, then the City has to borrow money to make up the difference. With this rate increase, the Water Fund should come close to being self supporting, and may even become so.

