

# Our Town

*A Publication of The City of Coburg*

*May/June 2023 Issue*

## Mayor's Corner Spring is Here

*Nancy Bell, Mayor*

Welcome to Spring and the beginning of Summer. These last few months have seemed especially grey and rainy so I'm glad to finally see some rays of sunshine and feel a warmer breeze.

As COVID loosens its grip, many exciting things are returning to Coburg. Main Street will be hosting block parties, a bike event, an Emergency Response Fair, as well as concerts in the Pavilion Park, Farmers Markets and the much-anticipated Antique Fair. Of course, summer wouldn't be complete without the Vintage Car Show sponsored by the Grange and don't forget to check out the food options including restaurants and food trucks. So many things are being planned that I'm sure to have missed some, so watch for more details soon.

We have also welcomed Coburg



Commons. If you haven't heard, many different resources are available in the rededicated space. What many of you have known for years as the United Methodist Church has taken on a new life as an event space, a yoga studio, practice space for a community choir, acoustic jam sessions and a soon to be opening independent bookstore- what a great rededication of space and a wonderful addition to Coburg. Our vibrant community is bouncing back, and it is exciting to see!

The recruitment of a new City Administrator is moving forward, and we will anticipate having a new person in the role with the transition completed by the end of August when we say goodbye to Anne.

Budget season occurs every year beginning in May and continuing



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# City Council Brief

*Highlights of actions and topics the Coburg City Council has recently addressed and issues likely to be discussed in the next couple of months.*



## MARCH 2023

- Proclaimed April 28, 2023 "Arbor Day in the City of Coburg"
- Proclaimed April 2023 "Child Abuse Prevention Month"
- Permitted Chief Larson to assist Junction City Police Department for 3.5 months
- Appointed Anne Heath as Budget Officer for 2023-24
- Adopted the 2023-24 Council Goals and Work Plan
- Approved recommendation to OLCC for granting a new liquor license to "The Green House" at 91070 N. Willamette Street
- Appointed Councilors to liaison positions for 2023
- Council held a Work Session to discuss providing water service for Premier RV, Alley Encroachment and Vacation and Tree Fees

### Upcoming City Council Meetings:

Tuesday,  
May 9  
6:00 PM

Tuesday,  
June 13  
6:00 PM

## APRIL 2023

- Appointed Claire Smith as City Councilor
- Approved Resolution 2023-03 A resolution allocating American Rescue Plan Act funds to certain projects of the City
- Approved Resolution 2023-04 Authorizing a grant request to Oregon Water Resources department for the purpose of funding water projects
- Approved contract with Northcore USA LLC for waterline replacement on N. Willamette, E. Macy, and N. Harrison
- Approved 5 year lease with West Point Lodge #62 (IOOF)
- Discussed the Utility Billing Rate increase
- Held a Work Session to discuss Homelessness

### Budget Committee Meetings:

May 16  
6:00 PM

May 30  
6:00 PM

### Budget Committee Recruitment – Closes May 16, 2023

The City of Coburg Budget Committee is seeking applications from citizens interested in serving a three year term. The Budget Committee is a twelve-member advisory group created by Oregon law to review the proposed budget and budget message, take public comment or testimony on the proposed budget and to recommend approval with any changes of the proposed budget to the City Council. Contact City Hall at 541-682-7850 to apply.



# Water and Sewer Rates Increase

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Coburg City Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM. The purpose of this hearing is to take public testimony on the adoption of proposed water and sewer rate increase.

Resolutions establishing the Water and Sewer rates will be considered at this meeting. If approved the new rates will be reflected on the utility bill you receive in August.

Submit testimony to Council:

- In person: Attend Council meeting, please sign up upon arriving. Mayor will call on you during the public comment portion of the meeting.
- Written Comments: Mail or deliver to Coburg City Hall, 91136 N. Willamette, PO Box 8316, Coburg, Oregon 97408
- Email comments to: [sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us](mailto:sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us)



## Noxious Vegetation Enforcement - June 1 - October 30

It's that time of year again! The sun is shining which means the grass and weeds are growing!

**REMINDER!** City's Ordinance states: "Between June 1 and October 30, no owner or person in charge of real property shall allow noxious vegetation on the property or in the right of way of a public thoroughfare abutting the property."



**Noxious Vegetation includes:**

- Weeds and grass more than 10 inches high.
- Vegetation that is, or is likely to become, a health hazard, a fire hazard, or a traffic hazard because it impairs the view of the public thoroughfare, or otherwise makes use of the thoroughfare hazardous.
- Poison Oak, blackberry bushes, bamboo, or ivy that extends into a public right-of-way.



Contact City Hall at 541-682-7850 for more information or to report a noxious vegetation violation.



# Park & Tree Committee - Pruning Cuts

Spring is here and it's a great time to enjoy the city parks! With the increase of park space in our community, the need for help to maintain the parks also increases. THANK YOU if you have participated in a work party, pulled weeds while visiting the park or picked up trash during a walk!!

Park work parties are the third Monday of the month usually beginning at 9:00 AM. Locations vary so it is best to check the city website or "I Love Coburg" Facebook page. There is a short form that needs to be completed which can be done either at City Hall or at the work site. Weeding, flower planting, and pruning are some of the tasks done by volunteers to make our parks look nice. All volunteers are welcome! It is a great opportunity to work alongside people who truly enjoy gardening.

Design is progressing on the newly acquired space to Pavilion Park. The City hopes to complete the project in 2024. Plans include new restrooms, adding trees and bushes, additional tables, benches, and a water feature.

Perhaps you have noticed the addition to the basketball court in Norma Pfeiffer Park. The court was adapted to accommodate pickleball, a very popular activity, yet is still usable for playing basketball.

## Who's That Employee?

### Meet Greg Peck, Finance Dept.

Greg is the newest member of the Finance Department and started working with the city in March.

He has lived in Oregon the past 25 years and currently lives on the beautiful McKenzie River in Vida.

Greg has 25 years of experience working in the Human Resources field, which have included aspects of finance as well.

His favorite thing to do is spend time with his family and they enjoy camping and having family get-togethers. He also enjoys being out on the river fishing with his drift boat, hunting, camping, and cooking up some good food on the grill or in the Smoker.

Greg is very excited and grateful for the opportunity to work for the City of Coburg. Welcome Greg!

### Meet Madison Balcom, Admin Asst.

Madison Balcom was born and raised in Eugene, Oregon. She graduated high school in 2022, and is now a college student. She worked in a temporary position at City Hall for 1 ½ years before being officially hired.

In her free time, she enjoys camping, doing crafts and spending time with her animals. Madison is our new Administrative Assistant I. She is running our Facebook page, taking payments and park applications, and helping with anything else that is needed. Next time you are at City Hall stop by and say hi to Madison!



# Coburg Main Street

With spring finally here, and summer around the corner, we are busy working on upcoming events and activities in Coburg!

The Wine Walk scheduled for May 20 has been postponed until early 2024 to give us more time to work with wineries and artists to make the First Annual Wine Walk in Coburg a success.

Concerts in the Park and the Coburg Market will be on **Wednesdays** this year and the first Concert/Market will be July 12. See Page 9 for the musicians performing this summer.

As we kick-off the 2023 Event Season, Coburg Main Street will be seeking sponsors for events and having fundraising opportunities for friends and neighbors to contribute to helping us continue to bring these wonderful activities and community events to Coburg. If you are interested in sponsoring Concerts in the Park, Christmas in Coburg, or any of the upcoming events, please

reach out to Main Street Coordinator, Tracey Pugh, at [tracey.pugh@ci.coburg.or.us](mailto:tracey.pugh@ci.coburg.or.us) for more details or go to our website - **[coburgmainstreet.com](http://coburgmainstreet.com)**

Watch online for details about a Family Bike Safety event in June in Norma Pfeiffer Park.

On July 7, we will have **Coburg Night at the Emerald's Game**. Bring your family and friends for an evening of fun watching baseball and mingling with your neighbors. July 7 is also Anime Night and Beach Bag giveaway. The Emeralds will be playing the Tri-City Dust Devils and the game starts at 6:35 PM. Scan the QR Code below to get your tickets.



## Coburg Commons

### Volunteer Opportunity:

Painting Party & Bookshelf Assembly at Coburg Commons.

Coburg Commons is on track to open its bookstore by the end of June! To make that happen, we'll be hosting two volunteer work parties for Coburgers to help prepare the space.



### Indoor Painting Party

Saturday, May 13th  
9:00 AM to Noon

Bring your painting clothes to tape, edge, and roll some fresh paint for the bookstore. Lunch provided by Coburg Pizza Company.

### Shelf-Building Party

Saturday, June 3rd  
9:00 AM to Noon

Details TBA

Lunch provided by Coburg Pizza Company.



Register at [coburgcommons.com/workparties](http://coburgcommons.com/workparties) so there'll be enough pizza for everyone.

To stay in the loop, sign up at [coburgcommons.com/newsletter](http://coburgcommons.com/newsletter).

# Slow Down in Coburg!

Recently, many community members have expressed concerns over speeding vehicles and crosswalk safety in downtown Coburg. The City is taking action to address the safety concerns, including but not limited to, placement of the speed trailer to monitor and record traffic data and alert drivers of their speed, establishing a transportation discussion group, and developing a Slow Down, Coburg campaign in collaboration with the Safe Lane Transportation Coalition (SLTC). The SLTC has provided "Slow Down Neighbors Ahead" yard signs which are available to be picked up free of charge at Coburg City Hall.

The Safe Lane Transportation Coalition will also be putting on a FREE Oregon Friendly Driver training

course at the IOOF Hall on May 18 from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The Oregon Friendly Driver training course is a free, 60-75 minutes presentation that aims to make Lane County safer, by educating people who drive, on how to properly share the road and be mindful of all road users. Participants will also have the chance to win prizes during the training course. Prizes include gift cards to Dutch Bros, Papa's Pizza, Lithia, and more.

In 2020, the most recent data available, there were 23 fatal and serious injuries in Lane County due to people driving a vehicle and striking someone riding a bike or walking. Speeding was a leading cause in these crashes. **Slow down, it can save a life!**





# Coburg Council Discussion on Alleys and Right-of-Ways in Coburg

The City Council has been discussing alleys and right-of-ways (ROW) in Coburg for about a year. A public survey was conducted regarding the use of the alleys and the Council held discussions at work sessions as well as the City Council retreat.

- An **Alley** is a public or private way permanently reserved as a secondary means of access to abutting property. It is a public right of way shown on a plat which provides secondary access to a lot, block, or parcel of land.
- **Public Right-of-Way** (ROW) means territorial limits of any street, avenue, road, or way that is for any highway purpose under the jurisdiction of the city and is open to public use.

In Coburg, there are multiple properties out of compliance due to encroachment in the alleys and/or right-of-ways. This includes buildings, fences, garden sheds, garages, debris piles, junk, vehicles, etc. Some of these encroachments date back several decades, and therefore present a complicated answer to how to bring property owners into compliance. Additionally, there are property owners who dump their garden refuse and junk in the alley, which is against the City Ordinance and creates a cost to the City and taxpayers for the clean-up efforts of our Public Works team.

Right-of-Ways abutting the public streets creates another challenge as many properties have built their landscape out into the right of way by planting lawns, trees, shrubs, etc. When the City plans to widen, change, or provide preservation and/or maintenance to a street, a property owner may face removal of their landscaping. Additionally, utilities are in the right-of-way. Often, property owners are surprised to see paint on their front lawn due to a locate requested for a utility. In these cases, property owners should be aware that their lawn is most likely in the right-of-way, and therefore, is subject to the work of the City when work needs to take place.

The City will begin a public education campaign regarding the use of alleys and right-of-ways including letters to property owners abutting alleys. Properties who are out of compliance and encroaching in the alley can also expect a letter in the near future.

The City Council understands that encroachments are an existing problem that can date back decades, and therefore, there is not a short-term solution. However, property owners need to be aware that at any time the City plans work, either in the alley or right-of-way, it may require that structures be removed. Additionally, the City will be much more proactive in avoiding additional encroachments in the future by not allowing unlawful obstructions in the alleys or right-of-ways.



# Coburg Food Pantry

We are so grateful to our wonderful community for your support of The Coburg Pantry.

We had a fabulous food drive recently at the Charter School. We brought in 374 pounds of food. We want to thank the students, their parents, and the teachers at the school for your help in coordinating, donating, and collecting this much needed food.

We have the Postal Food Drive coming up May 13th. We want to thank you ahead of time for your help. Please keep in mind these little reminders:

- We can't distribute any food that is opened or outdated.
- Most of our shoppers do not have large kitchens or refrigerators therefore, storage is hard. They rarely take the large, family sized foods.

You should be getting a note in the mail soon asking you to leave food by your mailbox. If you have a mailbox in the Dari Mart, please leave your bag of food in the Food for Lane County barrel in the Post Office.

We would really appreciate the following items:

- Cereal
- Condiments, especially Mayonnaise (no family sized bottles please)
- Soup
- Crackers
- Jam
- Oil (no family sized bottles please)
- Canned meals – Spaghetti-Os, Ravioli, etc.
- Brown rice



We are always looking for monetary donations as well. Please send checks made out to "The Coburg Community Foundation" with a note in the memo area that specifies **The Coburg Pantry**. Send to The Coburg Community Foundation PO Box 8104 Coburg, OR 97408

Your donations are always greatly needed and appreciated.

## Coburg Community Foundation

We are excited to announce the recipients of the 2023 academic scholarships: Kailee Wheeler and Francesca Critelli. Please join us in congratulating these two very purposeful and determined women!

Kailee grew up in Coburg, attending Coburg Elementary. After graduating high school, she worked full time at OHSU in Oncology while also attending pre-nursing classes. She has recently been accepted into the Accelerated BSN nursing program at Concordia University, St. Paul, with the goal of working as an RN in an ER or an ICU, and eventually becoming a nurse anesthetist.

Francesca also grew up in Coburg. Through her studies of sociology and the legal system, she plans to obtain her JD and, through the University of Oregon's Prison Education Program, work hands-on with those in the community negatively impacted by incarceration - largely revolving around access to education.

CCF has several events coming up. Back by popular demand, CCF will host a second Trivia Night at the IOOF Hall on Tuesday, May 30. Doors will open at 6:00 PM for the chow line, and play will begin at 6:30 PM. To register your team (of up to six members), please send an e-mail to [info@coburgfoundation.org](mailto:info@coburgfoundation.org) with your team's name and

number of players.

Coming this summer, CCF will be hosting **Dumpster Days** and will be providing hot dogs during one of the Concerts in the Park. In addition, mark your calendar for Wednesday, August 16, for Sports Day, a family fun event at Norma Pfeiffer Park!

For updates on these events and to keep abreast of other coming events, go to CCF's web page, [coburgfoundation.org](http://coburgfoundation.org), and be sure to follow us on Facebook!

Interested in giving back to your community? Go to [coburgfoundation.org](http://coburgfoundation.org) and donate today!



# Coburg Community Charter School

While the school year may be coming to a close, there is still plenty of activity at Coburg Community Charter School and will be over the summer months as well. During the late spring months, the Coburg community will likely see groups of students and staff out and about in our town taking walking field trips, going to lunch at the park for a special treat, or participating in one of the Community or Skills Days which are hallmarks of the CCCS programming.

The school grounds have also been getting a lot of use from the community as of late. Elementary, and now middle school, basketball teams have been practicing in the gym. The baseball field has had some work done and the T-ball teams will be using the field on a regular basis all season. The

CCCS School Garden is getting underway, and once again we plan to have workgroups maintaining the garden all summer. We also will be seeing some of the local cycling groups using the driveway - always a true sign of summer in Coburg.

Visitors may notice some work on the track in the next couple months, and we just ask people to notice and follow any caution signs that may be posted. CCCS notices and appreciates our community members stopping by after school or on the weekends to enjoy the grounds, taking a moment to pick up a piece of paper or pull a weed, and generally helping to keep an eye on things. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our school, please contact our director, Dave Wallace, at [director@coburgcharter.org](mailto:director@coburgcharter.org).

## Coburg Concerts in the Park

July 12 - Hank Shreve  
July 19 - Inoke  
July 26 - Inner Limits  
August 2 - Lloyd Tolbert Band  
August 9 - Teresa Cunningham  
August 16 - Outlaw Shine  
August 23 - TBD  
August 30 - Rifle



## Utility Billing Limited Income Assistance

OPEN ENROLLMENT is from June 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

The City of Coburg offers a *reduced fee* to income-eligible customers who are having trouble paying their utility bills. Applications and information will be available in May.

## Coburg Community Choir

Join us for a FREE concert on Saturday, June 10 at 3:00 PM at Coburg Commons.

Featuring Linda Zang playing Chopin on the piano!

Interested in singing?? Contact David Fitch at 541-510-0759.



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into June. This is a very busy time for the volunteers serving on the budget committee, staff and City Council. It is time for us to evaluate the needs of the community and pair them with the anticipated resources, and just like at home there are often compromises as “wants” are weighed against “needs”. We are fortunate to have such dedicated teams of staff and the community involved in making these decisions.

Changes around Coburg continue with the major water infrastructure project involving Coleman Street nearing completion and other street and water projects to the north of town ramping up. I understand these projects are disruptive to our neighborhoods and your patience is appreciated. A big thank you to our Public Works staff for coordinating the projects and doing a great job communicating with citizens to ensure a smooth flow of work and minimize disruptions.

Periodically people ask why we have an independent water/sewer system in Coburg- wouldn't it be easier or cheaper to have aligned with a larger system like EWEB? I'd like to briefly address those questions.

1. Coburg did consider joining a larger system, but the cost to hook up to an existing system was considerably higher than establishing our own system. Not only was the cost higher, to hook up the costs had to be paid in advance, which simply wasn't an option for us.

2. I have also been told by others who worked on the initial project that larger systems weren't interested in having us join their infrastructure.

3. In more recent years we have been told that in

case of utility disruptions, the Eugene/Springfield areas would be served first, potentially leaving Coburg without drinking water or waste disposal.

4. Being dependent on an organization with no ties to our community seems to be contrary to the fierce independent Coburg spirit!

Regarding our police coverage, you may have heard that Chief Larson is working part-time in Junction City. He was asked by regional law enforcement authorities to temporarily cover an unexpected administrative vacancy. We were able to honor this request because we have two full-time officers with the necessary experience and credentials to cover the duties of Chief of Police for 10 hours a week as well as enough reserve officers to cover open shifts. There has been no change in law enforcement coverage, and we continue to appreciate the dedicated service that our officers provide to Coburg and neighboring communities.

We know that change is inevitable but that doesn't make it easier for us to accept. Some days it feels like too many things are happening to keep up with, but then I walk around my neighborhood and our community and see kids playing in the parks, friends chatting in the street, and I'm greeted with waves and smiles as I pass. In this rapidly changing world, it's great to live in Coburg, where people still are engaged in local activities and look out for neighbors. I'm grateful to be part of Coburg and I hope you are too!

Nancy Bell, Coburg Mayor  
mayor@ci.coburg.or.us

# Calendar

## STANDING MEETINGS

### CCCS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

2nd Mondays  
6:00 PM

### COBURG FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

4th Mondays  
7:00 PM, Fire Hall

### CITY COUNCIL

2nd Tuesdays  
6:00 PM, Coburg City Hall  
Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder  
541-682-7852

### PARK/TREE COMMITTEE

3rd Tuesdays  
6:00 PM, City Hall  
Contact, Brian Harmon, Public Works Director  
541-682-7857

### CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSIONS

4th Tuesdays (or as scheduled)  
6:00 PM, City Hall  
Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder  
541-682-7852

### GRANGE MEETING

2nd Wednesdays  
7:00 PM, Coburg Community Grange

### MAIN STREET COMMUNITY MEETING

3rd Wednesdays  
4:00 PM, I.O.O.F Hall  
Contact, Tracey Pugh, Main Street Coordinator  
541-682-7858

### HERITAGE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesdays  
6:00 PM, City Hall  
Contact, Megan Winner, Planner  
541-682-7862

### PLANNING COMMISSION

3rd Wednesdays  
6:00 PM, City Hall  
Contact, Megan Winner, Planner  
541-682-7862

### SEW 'N SEWS QUILTING GROUP

2nd Thursdays  
6:30 PM, Coburg Community Grange

### ODDFELLOW MEETING

3rd Saturdays  
11:00 AM, I.O.O.F Hall

*Our Town* is a publication of the City of Coburg. If you'd like to be added to our newsletter mailing list or have something you'd like added to the newsletter, please email Tracey Pugh

## COBURG CITY COUNCILORS

Mayor Nancy Bell - [mayor@ci.coburg.or.us](mailto:mayor@ci.coburg.or.us)  
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The City of Coburg*



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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 [coburgoregon.org](http://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 happening 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*