

Our Town

A Publication of The City of Coburg

January/February 2022 Issue

Mayor's Corner

Welcome 2022!

Ray Smith, Mayor

Happy New Year! We have slogged through another year of the COVID pandemic. As we start the third year of this cursed pandemic, I hold hope that we can begin to see some normality return to our lives. I still feel very fortunate to live in our wonderful little town. We closed out the year with a successful Christmas in Coburg weekend. Although the parade was a bit soggy, it was still well attended. It was good to see people gathering again.

In spite of the pandemic, Coburg has maintained its services and our businesses have remained open. Staffing for the restaurants has been an issue, but the customers have been patient and keep coming in. A new, smaller residential development has started construction on the north edge of town.

The city signed a lease with the

International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) for the use of the first floor and parking lot of the IOOF hall.

This space is now available for community use and is being used to serve the Senior Meals every Wednesday. Soon after signing the lease, the City secured a grant for about \$7,000 to upgrade the IOOF kitchen. At the time of this writing, we have purchased a commercial refrigerator, a commercial dishwasher/sanitizer and a commercial sink unit. We have also updated to safer more functional and decorative lighting.

Coburg has a lot going on in 2022. We should start seeing some street improvement projects coming this summer. These will be funded by our recently implemented Transportation Utility Fee (TUF) and the increased gas tax revenues. We also hope to begin work on a new well and elevated water storage tank this year.



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In This Issue

PAGE 2

City Council Brief
State of the City

PAGE 3

Coburg Committee Highlights
Coburg Heritage Committee

PAGE 4

Coburg Main Street
Christmas in Coburg photos

PAGE 5

Transportation Utility Fee

PAGE 6

Coburg Grange Update

PAGE 7

Who's That Employee
Student Artwork

PAGE 8

Police Update
Coburg Charter School

PAGE 9

Coburg Community Foundation
Coburg Chamber of Commerce

PAGE 10

Mayor's Corner (cont.)
Inspirational Quote

PAGE 11

Calendar

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.



NOVEMBER 2021

- No Council Meeting held in November

DECEMBER 2021

- Ordinance A-200-J Annexing territory to the City of Coburg identified as tax lot 00202 of assessors map 16-03-34-00 and consisting of 107.43 acres, and amending Ordinance A-200-G to change the Coburg zoning map to rezone said territory from Lane County zoning district exclusive farm use (E-40) to Coburg Zoning District Light Industrial. First Reading and Public Hearing
- Approved City Administrator's Employment Agreement
- Appointed Alan Wells as Planning Commissioner

Upcoming City Council Meetings:

Tuesday, January 11, 7pm

Tuesday, February 8, 7pm

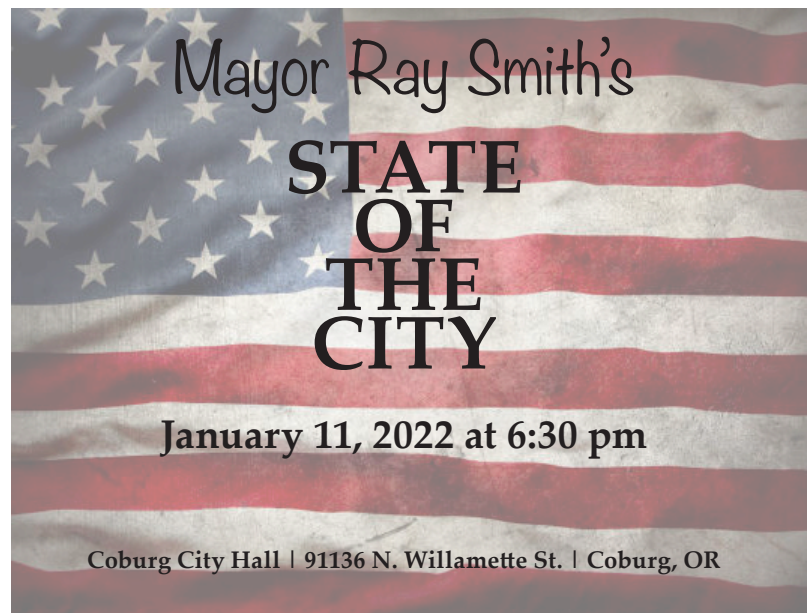
City Council Retreat

February 5

State of the City

Mayor Smith cordially invites you to attend the Annual State of the City on Tuesday, January 11 at 6:30pm at City Hall or livestreamed at coburgoregon.org

Hear about the progress of Coburg and the many accomplishments over the past year, and learn what is in store for the Coburg community in 2022.



Coburg Committee Highlights

Updates on what the Coburg Committees have recently accomplished or are currently addressing.

Planning Commission - Megan Winner

November/December

- Recommended approval of the annexation and zone change (ANX 01-20 and ZC 01-20)
- Alan Wells was appointed to the Planning Commission
- Reviewed 2021 goals

Park/Tree Committee - Brian Harmon

November/December

- No updates

Heritage Committee - Megan Winner

November/December

- CLG Projects continued
- Historic Art Contest in the works

Finance/Audit Committee - Tim Gaines

November/December

- No updates



Seeking Applicants!!

City Hall is currently accepting applications for the Finance/Audit Committee, the Heritage Committee, and the Budget Committee.

For additional information or to receive an application, contact Sammy Egbert, City Recorder at 541-682-7852 or sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us

Coburg Heritage Committee

The Coburg Heritage Committee honored the Diamond House built in 1890, the NC and Rebecca Burns House built in 1894, and the Alice Balch House built in 1906 with plaques recognizing the properties historical significance in the Coburg community. As a continuation of this Certified Local Government (CLG) project, three more historic preservation plaques will be awarded by the Heritage Committee in 2022.



Alice Balch House



Diamond House



NC and Rebecca Burns House

Coburg Main Street

The City's Economic Development Committee transitioned into Main Street last year, becoming part of a nation-wide Main Street program. Main Street America is a four-tier program that focuses on economic vitality, organization, design, and promotion.

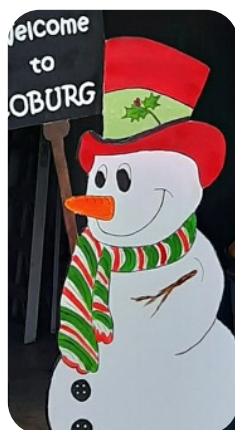
Tracey Pugh was hired last August as the Main Street Coordinator, and is working to create a nonprofit 501 (C) 3 organization and Board of Directors that will work to inspire partnerships and community engagement bringing art, events, downtown beautification, promotion of businesses, and community vitality to Coburg.

The Coburg Main Street Mural Committee created the snowmen at the north and south ends of town and are working with the Grange and Charter School to put up artwork on the west side of the Grange.

Proposed projects for 2022 include: additional artwork and/or murals in downtown, business map and directory, wayfinding signage, central website for businesses and events, and hanging flower baskets in downtown.

If you would like to learn more about Coburg Main Street, help on a committee, or volunteer at events, please call Tracey Pugh at 541-682-7858 or email tracey.pugh@ci.coburg.or.us

Christmas in Coburg Photos



Transportation Utility Fee - What Happens Next?

You have probably noticed the Transportation Utility Fee (TUF) on your monthly utility bill. This fee is a result of Ordinance A-252 which implemented a fee on utility bills in order to create a revenue stream for addressing the road conditions in Coburg.

Residents and business owners may be asking what is next? Here are a few facts you should know regarding this fee.

1. Funds raised through the TUF may only be spent on the roads as established in Ordinance A-252.
2. Local streets can't all be fixed at one time. City staff and engineers must be thoughtful in planning how repairs and treatments will take place. Fixing only the worst roads first is not the best action. It is equally important to treat the roads in good condition in order to maintain good condition. A balance of repairs and proactive treatments is the best plan moving forward.
3. Road construction, repairs and treatments must happen in the dryer months. This limits construction and maintenance to 4-5 months per year.
4. The City has obtained funding for some of the roads in Coburg which are time sensitive. For example, regional funding will help with the repairs needed on our collector streets such as stretches of Coleman, Mill and Skinner. However, those repairs will need to wait until 2023 when the funding is allocated. McKenzie Street rebuild in the Central Business District (Harrison to Willamette) is partially funded through Small Cities Allotment Grant, this project must take place in the summer of 2022. In addition, the City is in the process of applying for transportation loans and grants which will fund future projects.

When can I expect my road to be improved?

City staff have designed a transportation project list that will schedule all road construction and treatment over a five-year period. Obviously, we want to get to the worst roads as soon as possible. However, we must be thoughtful about the timing of when roads are torn up, and consider detours, and business, commuter and truck traffic. Our goal is to make disruption as painless as possible for our residents and local business. In addition, the City has water projects planned on some roads that are scheduled to have

repairs. Our hope is to align these projects as closely as possible in order to minimize the interruption to the community.

What should I expect when road construction is happening in my neighborhood?

Road construction in your neighborhood can be an inconvenience. Contractors do their best to consider the residents in the timing of their work. However, building roads to standards has requirements that can feel disruptive to the nearby residents. Therefore, there are rules about when roadwork can take place such as avoiding nights and weekends unless it is absolutely necessary.

Can I share my concerns regarding the street in front of my house?

Yes, the City has a Citizen Inquiry form that can be filled out and turned in. City staff will address your concerns in a timely manner. While we might not be able to address your concern immediately, we can let you know when to expect your concerns will be addressed.

Will the Transportation Utility Fee Sunset?

The TUF will be analyzed each year based upon the cost of the work that needs to be done, the amount of revenue the City is receiving, and the amount of debt that the City has had to take on to get the road work done. This helps the City Council with an informed decision about the length that a TUF will be charged, or if it can be reduced. With the volatility of construction costs at this time, it is very hard for the City to know what costs will be a few years from now. Our hope is that they will stabilize.

Can I apply for a reduction in TUF Costs?

Yes, residents who qualify for low-income assistance may apply for a TUF reduction. If you have already been approved for utility assistance, then it is likely that this reduction has already been applied to your bill.

What if I feel that my business TUF is improperly calculated?

Ordinance A-252 allows for an appeal of the TUF fee for businesses. Businesses must provide a reason why they feel that the associated trips to their business has been miscalculated. Appeal forms are available on the City website and at City Hall.

Coburg Community Grange

The Coburg Community Grange spent the month of November honoring our local Veterans and putting up banners for 15 of them.

We were very happy to team up with the City of Coburg to get these banners up. We plan to add 12 more banners next year, so if you know a Veteran who lives in the Coburg Fire District and served prior to 1975, please get a picture of them and send it to the Grange with a copy of their DD214, and their branch of service. At this time, we are honoring our living Veterans.

Thank you to Brian Harmon and the Public Works crew for all their help getting this project done.

The Grange also worked with Coburg Main Street to promote and produce this year's "Christmas in Coburg" event. Although it was a great success, we did have a few growing pains, but the committee learned a lot to incorporate for next year. Thank you to Tracey Pugh for putting together a fantastic event. Also a special Thank You to both John & Alice Brooks for helping with Snacks with Santa at the Grange, and for leading the parade and then greeting all the kids at Pavilion Park. We also hosted the annual Chili Feed in conjunction with the Block Party.

The Grange was also very happy to help support the annual Christmas light display that was set up in Pavilion Park. Please, if you see any of our Coburg Public Works crew, take the time to say thank you for the AWESOME job they did setting up this display. (If you happen to see our huge blow up Santa, that someone decided to borrow, ask them to please return it so the entire town can enjoy it.)

The Grange has also invested a few dollars into our building. Porch rails on the front and back of the Grange, new rails on the ADA ramp with new floor and sand paint to help the slipping on the porch, and we also added a new hood over the kitchen stove.

Keep your eyes open and focused on the west wall of the Grange building. We have partnered with the Main Street Art Committee and Coburg Community Charter School to display art work produced by students in K-8. Thank you Teri Kohley for taking the lead and moving this project forward. This is just the start of this ongoing project.

Please join the Coburg Community Grange in supporting Coburg Main Street.

Joe Morneau, President
Coburg Community Grange
541 228-8650



THANK YOU COBURG PUBLIC WORKS AND VOLUNTEERS



A special THANKS to the amazing Public Works crew for setting up all the wonderful holiday decorations in Pavilion Park for Christmas in Coburg. The park looked beautiful and helped make the holidays extra special for Coburg!

Thanks also to all the volunteers that helped with Christmas in Coburg! Your help and dedication to our community is what makes Coburg an amazing place to live!!

Student Artwork of "Old Coburg"

The Coburg Main Street Art Committee has been working with the Grange and the Coburg Community Charter School to bring some art into the Coburg community.

Every student in kindergarten through 8th grade drew a picture of what they thought "Old Coburg" looked like. A picture from each grade was selected to be printed and displayed on the west side of the Grange.





Coburg Police Updates

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the CHETT Program (Community Help Easing Troubled Times) and Shop with a Cop!

The CHETT Program received \$1,250 in donations. Donations are used to provide resources to meet the short-term emergency needs of the most vulnerable in Coburg.

The Shop with a Cop program received \$1,825 in donations and enabled underprivileged youth in our community to “shop with a cop” for Christmas presents for their families. Thank you so much for your support!!



Coburg Community Charter School

We are a Community Charter School in Coburg with a school history dating back to 1865 when the first Coburg school house was built. The school survived World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. Though times were tough, the school went on educating and supporting its students. Through the years, and many changes, the school still lives on to fulfill this mission. Today, times are tough in many ways for our teachers, students, and parents as we navigate Covid guidelines and bring our students back up to their academic potential.

We are well aware that it takes a Community to raise a child and it was the Coburg Community that gave our Charter School its start both financially and by physically standing in support for keeping a school in Coburg. Our Board of Directors is a self selecting board and we presently have an open board seat. Our Governance Committee is looking for a dedicated individual with

leadership skills in finance, and budgeting. Leadership skills in a variety of areas are always considered and we have Strategic and Educational Committees where you may find a fulfilling role as well. If you are passionate about Education and helping CCCS students come and join us. For questions about board responsibilities or becoming part of one of our School Committees, please email board@coburgcharter.org and our Governance Committee will contact you soon.



Coburg Community Foundation

Happy New Year! The Coburg Community Foundation has some exciting news for 2022. Thanks to a generous donation from the Coburg United Methodist Church, CCF will be able to offer scholarship opportunities for local residents.

The scholarships will be available to anyone residing in the Coburg Rural Fire District. The funds might be used by a graduating senior to help cover higher education costs or by an older student seeking help to retrain. The idea is to support lifelong learning in both academic and vocational settings. These funds could be used not only for tuition but also for the cost of tools or other needed supplies. It is the hope of CCF to give people the help they need to enjoy a brighter future.

CCF appreciates the support of the Coburg United Methodist Church in launching our scholarship program. It is our hope to continue the supportive and caring legacy of Coburg UMC into the future of our community. We truly believe that the good we do today can make our community great in the years to come.

A special thank you to all those who responded to our recent mailing. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Funds from these donations will be used to offer other funding opportunities for projects in our community.

If you missed our letter and would like to support CCF's work in our community, please visit our website and click the Donate button. Watch for more information regarding scholarships and other funding opportunities on our website, www.coburgfoundation.org, in the coming months.



Coburg Chamber of Commerce

We have a brand new year in front of us. We can only hope that we see a return to a more "normal" life in our community. Let us hope we see Concerts in the Park, Golden Years, Classic Car Show, Coburg Antique Fair and The Farmer's Market on the agenda once again. While we wait to see if Covid cooperates with us, I want to remind the community that we need volunteers for all of the above events. Whether you have two hours or two days to volunteer please contact Tracey Pugh, director of Coburg Main Street, at City Hall and she will hook you up. It's a great way to help out in your community and meet new friends. All our events require many volunteers with all kinds of skills. Some of the things we need help with

are as simple as making sure the bathrooms are stocked with toilet paper during our events, setting up chairs and/or tables, helping vendors into their spaces, dumping garbage, etc. A fun idea is volunteering with your kids. Teaching our kids service to their community is important and it's even better when they are doing it with their parents. So think about volunteering in your community this year as one of your new goals for 2022. It does take a village.

Sharyl Abbaspour, President
Coburg Area Chamber of Commerce

from page 1 - Mayor's Corner

I have been an active participant in the creation of the Coburg Main Street non-profit. This will be a 501 (C) 3 organization that will help to recruit and coordinate volunteers throughout Coburg. Our hope is to apply for and receive grants for many projects throughout our community. Many goals include creating a website that will be constantly updated with information for anything related to Coburg, and links to our businesses and organizations. We hope to support a full-time executive coordinator to do a lot of the tasks needed to produce our festivals, events, and celebrations. We have so many talented volunteers but we have always lacked a non-profit with staff that can coordinate records, tasks and finances to run our community events efficiently. This will help to relieve some of the workload of our city employees that constantly support so many of our events.

We face many challenges in 2022. With Covid

continuing to be a factor in our lives, I feel very lucky to live in Coburg. Seeing friends and neighbors and patronizing the local businesses reinforces the rewards of living in a small town. The City is well positioned to help meet the challenges and needs of our residents and businesses. The elected and appointed officials continue to work diligently to keep our town a place we all love and enjoy. Our staff is dedicated to supporting the policies and goals set by our City Council with input from our residents.

We move forward with a positive attitude and with goals to make Coburg better and better.

Happy New Year!



Mayor Ray Smith, City of Coburg

541-729-7045, mayor@ci.coburg.or.us



Be the **CHANGE**
you wish to see in
the **WORLD**
-Gandhi

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

7:00 pm, Coburg City Hall

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

541-682-7852

PARKS/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)

6:30 pm, City Hall

Contact, Sammy Egbert, City Recorder

541-682-7852

GRANGE MEETING

2nd Wednesdays

7:00 pm, Coburg Community Grange

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesdays

Contact, Megan Winner, City Planner

541-682-7862

PLANNING COMMISSION

3rd Wednesdays

7:00 pm, City Hall

Contact, Megan Winner, City Planner

541-682-7862

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

3rd Wednesdays

Noon, City Hall

METROPOLITAN POLICY COMMITTEE

1st Thursdays

11:30 am (usually at the Eugene or
Springfield library)

Contact, City Administrator

541-682-7871

SEW 'N SEWS QUILTING GROUP

2nd Thursdays

6:30 pm, Coburg Community Grange

POKER NIGHT

1st Fridays

6:30 pm Registration, 7:00 pm game begins
Coburg Community Grange

541-746-8655

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 would like to add to the newsletter, please email Tracey Pugh (tracey.pugh@ci.coburg.or.us).

Our Town

*A Publication of
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, 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