

# Our Town

*A Publication of The City of Coburg*

*March/April 2014 Issue*

## Mayor's Corner

### Another Option: Move On

*Jae Pudewell, Mayor*

My heartfelt thanks for Coburg's support of Councilors Pech and Behney and me in defeating this most recent recall. Now that the recall is over—a vote the City of Coburg had to pay for—I think it would be instructive to step back and review the number and impact of these persistent interferences in our affairs. A February 18, 2014 Register Guard Guest Viewpoint asserted that "a recall election was the recall petitioners' only option." There is another option: accept the votes and move on.

Mr. Ledford is charming, suave, likeable, and doesn't live or own a business in Coburg. He doesn't help pay for our water system or sewer system. Yet over the years he has had much to say about what he doesn't like about Coburg—e.g., the sewer project, Coburg City Hall, Lane Council of Governments—but when I asked him directly about what he would

like to build or create, he was at a surprising loss for words.

In the fall of 2009, the opponents of the sewer system clamored for a public vote; Mr. Ledford was a strong voice in the mix. Most citizens just wanted confirmation that the majority still supported the sewer project. Council concurred. The vote was held and the sewer project was approved in March 2010. And again in May, thanks to Mr. Ledford. Nearly everyone accepted the majority view and let Coburg move on.

But in August 2010, Mr. Ledford instigated a petition drive to cancel the sewer ordinance. When the petition failed, Mr. Ledford was behind a suit brought against the city for improper council action, which also failed. This would have been a good time for Mr. Ledford to accept the judge's ruling and move on.



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# City Council Brief

*Highlights of actions and topics the Coburg City Council has recently addressed.*

## JANUARY

### CITY COUNCIL

Discussed – Council Liaison Positions

Discussed – Wastewater Project

Discussed – City Administration Report

First Reading – Ordinance A-208-B City Fees and Charges

Approved – Resolution 2014-01 System Development  
Charges, Construction Cost Inflation

Discussed – Police Department Budget

Discussed – Major project Updates



## FEBRUARY

### CITY COUNCIL

Discussed – Wastewater Project

Appointed – Councilor Smith as Council President

Proclaimed – Arbor Day

Discussed – Water Rate Study (Phase 2)

Discussed – City Hall Transition Plan

### City of Coburg is accepting applications for The Budget Committee

Applicant must be a qualified elector and have  
resided in the City one year immediately preceding  
appointment to the position.

Applications may be picked up at City Hall,  
Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,  
or contact City Recorder

## Historic District of Coburg Information Needed

The Coburg Police Department is looking for information on the National Historic District of Coburg. Any old photos, newspaper clippings, stories, or information that one might have can help show how far this city has come since 1847. This town has a great history with many helping build up the city along the way. Coburg P.D. would like to share that history and acknowledge those who contributed to making this city what it is today. Any photos and information can be sent to Chief Larry Larson at Coburg Police Department. Let's all bring the history of Coburg to life!

## Volunteer Help Needed



We currently have need for help at the food pantry. We are looking for people that would be able to work on Mondays and could commit to twice a month for about 4 hrs./mth. If you have time to give, and are interested in helping, call Kathy Emerson at 541-434-6404 for more details.



# Coburg Quilt Show Planning is Underway!

The 2014 Coburg Quilt show will be held on July 26 in Pavilion Park. The planning committee is meeting the first Wednesday of each month at the Coburg Community Grange at 6 p.m. If you are interested in helping to plan this fun community event, please join us at the meeting. There are lots of little jobs that need done and the more volunteers we have, the easier to get those jobs done.



Even if you can't serve on the committee, it is time to think about finishing up those quilts for display in the show! Registration is online at [www.coburgquiltshow.org](http://www.coburgquiltshow.org)

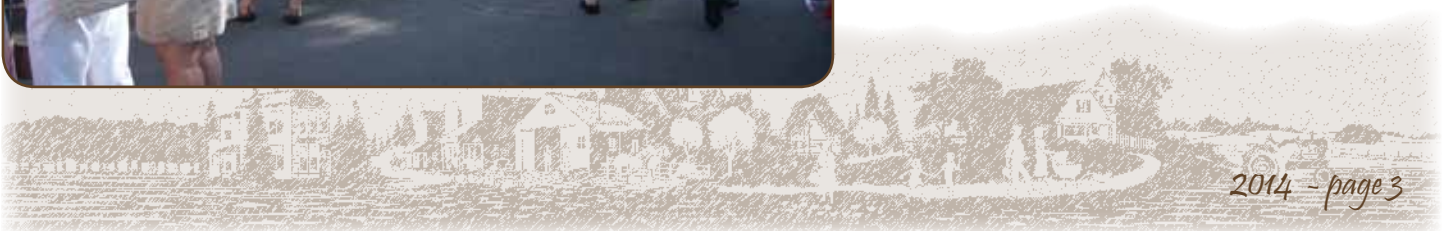
The Coburg Quilt Show committee has two goals:

1. Showcase our love of quilting at ALL skill levels. This is not a juried show and we encourage anyone to submit a quilt for hanging in the park.

2. Showcase the City of Coburg and all the wonderful businesses and features that make Coburg so special.

The Park looks beautiful with all the quilts blowing gently (and sometimes not so gently) in the afternoon breezes but it is only as beautiful as the quilts we have entered in the show. Please consider becoming involved in this event....by working on the committee, entering your quilts, or volunteering the day of the show.

More information about all of these opportunities are available on the Coburg Quilt Show website ([www.coburgquiltshow.org](http://www.coburgquiltshow.org)) or by phoning Alice Brooks at 541-746-8655.



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In November 2010, however, Mr. Ledford instigated a recall of Mayor Volta, which also failed. Another chance for Mr. Ledford to accept the will of the people and move on.

For several years, Mr. Ledford and a few others have asserted a minority view that the Coburg Urban Renewal District (URD) was improperly chartered. This is not a new debate. Mr. Ledford knows full well that the challenge period for the URD passed well over a decade ago. Why persist in raising concerns that can't be addressed? It's time to let this topic be and move on.

Many dedicated city officials and staffers have worked—and continue to work—very hard to help Coburg recover from the city's fiscal debacle of a decade ago. There is no dispute that funds were improperly co-mingled or that accounting records were inadequate. Past tense. All the city could do was fix its procedures, untangle the funds as best it could, and move on.

A February 18, 2014 Register Guard Guest Viewpoint also asserted that the Coburg City Council has ignored repeated calls for a forensic audit (a detailed and expensive review of accounting transactions and records) of some of the URD transactions. A forensic audit is needed, the author asserted, because "To date, no documentation of any of these phantom expenses has been produced [by the city] — no invoices, no time cards, nothing." Exactly—but not for a lack of looking!

In a recent Lane County District Attorney review of this topic—the same review cited in the aforementioned Guest Viewpoint—the DA wrote that because "there is no evidence of money being funneled off to benefit decision-makers or some other criminal enterprise, we should...consider the possibility of a benign explanation rooted in inexperience and the errors of predecessors. Perhaps

Coburg has been run by a succession of lay citizens who have struggled to do their best with the mistakes of their predecessors."

This is also not a new debate. Rather than ignoring the "repeated calls" for a forensic audit, the city council has publically debated the topic numerous times, most recently, at the January 11, 2014 council meeting. After a lengthy debate, council decided against spending upwards of \$30,000 chasing records that likely don't exist. Councilors are elected to assume responsibility for these decisions and it's time to accept the council's decision and move on.

Last month, Coburg defeated yet another recall attempt instigated by Mr. Ledford. Yet in a February 26, 2014 Register Guard article—after the recall vote was known—Mr. Ledford was quoted as having said, "If we have to, we'll try to disincorporate [Coburg]." The impossibility of disincorporation aside, what further evidence is needed to convince us that Mr. Ledford is just against Coburg and that he has every intention of continuing to treat with disdain and disrespect the majority will of its residents and elected officials?

The above actions have cost the residents of Coburg—you and me—tens of thousands of dollars in unbudgeted expenses, staff time, attorney's fees, increased sewer project costs, etc. Time and money that must be redirected away from Coburg's other needs and priorities.

We've discussed, debated, and decided. It's time for Coburg to stop listening to Mr. Ledford and move on and forward.

Sincerely,



Jae Pudewell  
Mayor, Coburg



# Coburg Community Charter News

Welcome to spring! Hopefully there is not snow on the ground when you are reading this! The start of the year definitely reminded us of the power of Mother Nature as many of us were without power ourselves.



*Linda Egbert and Jim Broughton share some of Oregon's history with students on Heritage Day.*

The school lost one of our big trees to the ice. It took out four windows as it fell onto the building. A big thank you to the Fire Department, Jim Dunn, Ben Logan and Patrick Claypool for helping get the mess cleaned up and the classroom ready for students again.

Students had a wonderful time experiencing life on the Oregon Trail during our annual Heritage Day event on January 31st. Volunteers from all over the community helped to provide students the opportunity to load their wagons, sing around a campfire, make biscuits, pan for gold, navigate a mountain pass, solve pioneer problems, learn about local Native American tribes, discover how things worked in a pioneer kitchen, and experience some old time hobbies and toys. This event was capped by a Free Community Pioneer Dinner in the evening.

CCCS students raised over \$800.00 to pay for the dinner and will donate the remainder of the funds to the Coburg Food Pantry. If you didn't get a chance to come to the dinner this year, be sure to check it out next year. Good food and good neighbors make for a great community event.

The annual school auction took place on February 22nd. It was a great event. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the auction. A special thank you to Lisa McCormick and Nanci McKibben for heading up our auction committee this year and to all who helped organize this important evening.

Open enrollment for the 2014-15 school year began Monday, March 3rd. New student applications will be available on our website [www.coburgcharter.org](http://www.coburgcharter.org) and in the

school office by March 3rd. Informational meetings have been held for everyone interested in the school and in enrollment for next year. It's not too late to apply. Coburg area students

have priority placement at CCCS, and we encourage all local families to apply.



*CCCS students try their hand at panning for "gold" as part of Heritage Day.*



# When the Worst Brings Out the Best!

As I write these words, the “Great February Ice Storm” is slowly melting away. However, the results will linger on for many years to come in our changed landscape. All around town chain saws are cleaning up downed limbs. And heavy equipment will soon arrive to remove those trees that are too damaged to survive another season.

Snow storms have a way of catching us off guard in the Willamette Valley. Even with all of our technology we have no way of knowing whether the next storm will bring a “dusting of snow” or an “all out blizzard.” I still can’t believe that while we were shoveling snow in Eugene, our friends in Roseburg were basking in a balmy 50 degrees!

But for all that was “bad” about last month’s storm, there were also things that were “good.” We saw neighborhood children and parents laughing as they sledded down the hill in front our house. A young woman “swished” up our sidewalk on cross country skis. Up the street we witnessed college

students helping rescue stuck cars. And on Sunday afternoon we hosted a spontaneous potluck with some friends who had lost power. Later that night, a neighbor called begging for extra freezer space since they too were without electricity. Soon, across the street the children came bearing everything from chicken and beef, to milk and eggs.

It’s funny how communities come together in a time of stress. The “we’re all in this together”

*“It makes me glad I live in a place where people care.”*

impulse momentarily trumps the “mind your own business” impulse as we join hands to battle the common enemy – whether it

is cold and hunger, or downed trees and stuck cars. It makes me glad I live in a place where people care. And it makes me ask myself, “Why don’t we do this more often?” Why not host an impromptu neighborhood potluck without the storm? Now that’s an idea I could get behind!

*Dr. Gary Powell*

*Coburg United Methodist Church*

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## Earn Money for Your Non-profit Organizations at the Coburg Antique & Vintage Fair

It’s that time again to start planning for the 27th annual Coburg Antique & Vintage Fair, sponsored by the Coburg Chamber of Commerce. Each year the money raised at the show is used by the Chamber to support the community of Coburg. Again this year the Chamber is offering to non-profit community groups the opportunity to raise money during the fair through the payment of honorariums. Honorariums must be paid directly to the group

and not to individuals. Each group must have a coordinator who will be responsible for organizing their volunteers and work with fair management. Preference will be given to groups with a connection to Coburg. From setting up tables, dumping garbage cans to manning information booths, there are jobs for youth groups, church groups, school groups, or any 501c3 organization. For a complete list of jobs and honorariums contact Roxann at 541-683-0916 or check out the chamber website at [coburgorchamber.com](http://coburgorchamber.com).

# 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 Monday

### **CCCS SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

6:30 pm

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

1st Thursdays

### **METROPOLITAN POLICY COMMITTEE**

11:30 am, (usually at the 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

## MARCH/APRIL EVENTS

April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt 10 am



### **Upcoming Events at Coburg Community Charter School**

March 10-14 - Book Fair in the Gym

March 14 - Bingo Night

March 17 - CCCS Board Meeting at 6:30

March 22-30 - Spring Vacation – No school

March 31 - Grading Day – No School

April 1 & 2 - Spring Conferences –No School

April 11 - March Madness – Students vs. Staff  
basketball night

April 21 - CCCS Board Meeting at 6:30

April 25 - Talent Show at 6:30

*Do you have a community event to share? Call 541-682-7852 or email [sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us](mailto:sammy.egbert@ci.coburg.or.us)*



## *Our Town*

*A Publication of  
The City of Coburg*



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*Address Correction Requested*

## **Michelle Sunia, 2014 Citizen of the Year**

Michelle's civic involvement began in January 2001 after she was elected to the Coburg City Council, although she has long been involved in school and community efforts. As a council member, she was known for her thoughtful consideration of issues during some very difficult times for our city. She served on the City Council through June 2007.

Michelle became involved with Coburg Community Connections, serving on the Advisory Board for many years. She and her husband played a primary role in coordinating the upgrade of the Coburg Athletic Field, securing large donations of both time and in-kind contributions. Michelle was also instrumental in the successful launch of the Coburg Community Charter School.

She currently serves with Leah Claypool as co-chairs of The Ford Family Foundation Coburg Hills Project. In all of her efforts, Michelle has demonstrated diligence, integrity and dedication to keeping Coburg a vibrant place to live. We are privileged to have people like Michelle Sunia in our city, and I am happy to award her the 2014 Coburg Citizen of the Year!