



CITY OF SILVERTON

SUMMER 2017

Mayor's Corner

Another busy season ahead

It's been a busy few months and I envision a busy summer ahead for our community. Above all, it's been encouraging to experience some bonafide summer weather after the dismal winter we've had.



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Our Public Works staff is already hard at work maintaining our parks and city right-of-ways as well as planning for and executing the typical list of good weather projects that we have scheduled.

The City Budget Committee and Urban Renewal Budget Committee wrapped up the process of fiscal planning for the 2017-18 period. My thanks to the council and our citizen members for their service and thoughtful and respectful interaction with city staff during the meetings. On that note, I appreciate the staff's time spent in preparing a detailed budget document that made it easier than ever to navigate.

Most citizens know by now that we filled a council vacancy by completing a very public process that included two phases of interviews before appointing 26-year-old Rhett Martin to finish the final 20 months left on that term. To my knowledge, it was the first time such a process was used in Silverton. Councilor Martin is not the only voice of his generation that was added to our process however, as we also affirmed the appointment of Rowan Leiggi, a coming senior at Silverton High School, to our Environmental Management Committee.

Citizens active on social media will note that we have a new "designated site" for community notices such as garage sale signs. The Silverton Rotary Club approached the city last year, offering to install a site for notices in the city-owned Lewis Street parking lot. Paid for with two Rotary grants, volunteers installed the sign in early June, just in time for the season. We hope that those offering sales and those seeking them will embrace the site, and remind citizens that historically used sites such as McClaine at Main Street are in fact in violation of city code. Enforcement was suspended until the new site was completed. Removal of signs in the right-of-way will be in force again.

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What's Happening in Silverton?

The city thanks the Silverton Rotary Club members for their time and effort in funding and installing a new Silverton Community Notices bulletin board.

The city's new board, located at the Lewis Street parking lot, provides a place to post garage sale signs, community notices and special event flyers. The sign was installed to eliminate safety concerns and current violations of the city Code surrounding illegal signage, specifically with regard to yard sale signs.

"Giving the citizens a place to post garage sale signs ensures the safety of pedestrian and bicycle traffic at the Main and McClaine intersection," said Silverton Police Chief Jeff Fossholm, "and will reduce the number of people walking into traffic to get pictures of all the locations."

Fossholm reminds residents of Silverton that there are important guidelines to follow regarding the posting of yard sale signage within city limits.

Currently, garage sales do not have to be registered with the city, and the city does not maintain a list of them.

"According to city Code", Fossholm said, "People posting signs are supposed to put them up ahead of the sale and take them down after the sale is over. Our Code clearly defines what is allowed and what is not."

Utility Bills Will Reflect Water Rate Changes

Silverton utility customers will see changes on their upcoming utility bills.

"At the February City Council meeting, a 15 percent increase for all water rates was approved," said Kathleen Zaragoza, Finance Director. "Sewer rates will only change for industrial customers flow component of their bill as previously discussed and approved by the city's industrial business partners."

Other changes include a 2.1 percent park fee increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and an increase of \$3.00 in the street maintenance and storm water fees, in addition to the CPI.

Zaragoza said changes are calculated based on needs, and will go into effect July 1, 2017.

"The increases are needed for system improvements and capital projects," she said.

The additional funding received from the water



The new Community Notices board is located at the Lewis Street parking lot and was donated by Silverton Rotary Club.

Any sign installed or placed in a public right-of-way or on city-owned property will be removed by city staff without prior notice to the owner of the sign.

"The city may store any sign removed for a period of 30 days, and may require the sign owner to pay removal and storage fees," Fossholm said.

The city requests that residents no longer post signs at the intersections of Main Street/McClaine Street and First Street/C Street, and instead enjoy this new one-stop location.

fee increases will go toward updating the city's water lines and facilities.

"The Water Treatment Plant will be able to be updated in the near future," Zaragoza said. "Increases in the sewer rates will be utilized for sewer system improvements. The park fee increases will help fund park expenditures. The street maintenance and storm water fees will go toward the city's ongoing street projects and storm system needs."

Customers can find utility rates and how to calculate their bill on the city's website at www.silverton.or.us/116/finance or get help by calling 503-873-5321.

"Silverton has an online bill payment option that makes it convenient for customers to pay their bill 24/7," Zaragoza said. "When they create their online account, they will also be able to see up to two years of bills."

Slurry Sealing Season Underway

Several Silverton streets have been slated for slurry sealing this summer.

"The city is once again partnering with Marion County on a slurry seal project," said Christian Saxe, public works director. Of the partnership between the city and county, he added, "All parties involved benefit from a better price structure due to the combined quantities of work."

Slurry sealing is a popular low-cost pavement preservation technique where a topcoat mixture of oil and sand is placed on an asphalt street, Saxe explained. The placement of the coating is typically preceded by a process of crack sealing and/or skin patching of areas that have particular wearing or cracking of the asphalt surface, he said.

"The slurry sealing that follows fills in the areas where the finer aggregate components of the asphalt street have been stripped away by storm runoff and traffic wearing," Saxe said. "The slurry seal restores the surface of the street and extends the average lifespan of the roadway up to 10 years."

The first step will involve a contractor sealing the cracks on the selected roadway segments. This work began in

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Rhett Martin, 26, Becomes City's Newest City Councilor

The Silverton City Council recently had a changing of the guards. Former Mayor Rick Lewis was appointed as State Representative for House District 18, Council President Kyle Palmer became Mayor, and for the first time that anyone can recollect, the city council opted to recruit for the vacancy on the council. During that process, there were several applications from community members younger than 40. Who remembers the last time that happened?

Replacing Palmer is 26-year-old Rhett Martin, whose motivation is to get more involved in his community.

"My biggest motivation, though, for applying is that the younger population in our community is entirely unrepresented at this level," Martin said. "I believe it's important for younger people and our younger generations to not only be involved in the community, but to also know that their opinions will be heard and valued."

Fast forward a couple of months to the city council's appointment of another young community member, 17-year-old Rowan Lieggi, to the Environmental Management Committee.

"Being a part of something bigger like this opportunity is just really cool," Lieggi said. "I hope to contribute a lot and open more opportunities for other young people like me in the community."

The passion Rhett and Rowan have showed inspire other young people to participate in local government for the community's future.



City councilor Rhett Martin at his swearing in ceremony.

They may not have the wisdom or life experience; that will come with time, but they are ready to engage the community.

Like other cities around the country, Silverton is moving forward with visions, and plans on ways to preserve its character as it continues to grow. And hopefully more of the long-standing community members can pass on their wisdom and experience to the younger generations now participating. Another changing of the guards, if you will.

Contact the city for information on how to get involved in local government by calling 503-874-2204.

Neighborhood Teams Forming for Emergency Preparedness

Map Your Neighborhood is slowly rolling along into Silverton.

"The nationwide program has gathered considerable interest, but volunteers are needed to help make it happen in every neighborhood," said Dianne Hunt, administrative services director. "The city has the support of Marion County Emergency Management who has offered supplies and training for the neighborhood coordinators."

A Map Your Neighborhood meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m., July 20 at the Council Chambers, located at 421 S. Water St., and is open to anyone who would like to know more about forming a neighborhood group or volunteer.

Currently operating in 39 states, the program is designed to improve disaster readiness at the neighborhood level during the

hours or days before first responders arrive. Goals were generated to create awareness of the program, including developing a list of volunteers to introduce the program to community groups and host a meeting in their neighborhood.

"Former Mayor Rick Lewis discussed the program at his Monday morning coffee," Hunt said. "During November through January, staff attended four mobile home park meetings throughout Silverton to introduce the program. There are four volunteers and one staff member who reach out to residents."

Volunteers are needed to train with Marion County Emergency Management, she added.

"Some residents said they would like to implement the program, but want to wait

for summer," Hunt said of the interest the program has generated. "Currently, there are five mobile home parks in the process of getting started. A resident of the Silver Cliff Mobile Home Park coordinated and successfully implemented the program within a 110-unit complex with glowing feedback."

Hunt found the meetings to be "a great opportunity to educate the citizens of Silverton on emergency preparedness and the city's emergency plans, especially the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Silver Creek Dam Emergency Action Plan."

Information about the program and other emergency preparedness planning can be found on the city's website, www.silverton.or.us, or by contacting the city's emergency management coordinator at 503-874-2204 or dhunt@silverton.or.us.

City Partners for Healthy Living

Silverton is all about being healthy and fit.

“In 2013, Silverton City Council decided to put healthy options within reach of all residents by partnering with the Oregon Public Health Institute in the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities campaign,” said Dianne Hunt, administrative services director. “As a participant in this program, the city supports healthy eating and increased physical activity levels for all residents by creating policies that address more livable communities and a culture of wellness.”

As of May 2017, approximately 39 cities have added health goals and policies to their general plans, including Silverton.

“The city’s Comprehensive Plan includes street connectivity, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and increasing the number of parks, open spaces and recreational trails,” Hunt said.

Development Code policies support active living by requiring the provision of direct pedestrian routes and continuous and safe pedestrian connections. Steps taken include focusing on bike and pedestrian connectivity throughout the city, and connecting Coolidge-McClaine Park with the Park Terrace neighborhood via a developer-designated 5 acres for trails.

The Silverton Bike Alliance meets monthly with staff to further bicycle and pedestrian projects. And during the annual community Pet Parade, the Silverton Police Department, Silverton Bike Alliance, Fall Line and SACA partner to provide bikes to kids in need in the community.

The city also supports and promotes local agriculture and brings healthy foods to residents by: approving Saturday Farmers Market during spring and summer months; assisting organizers of the Farm2Table event to be held in September; and supporting local retailers that offer fresh fruits and vegetables.

“HEAL also embraces a healthy city infrastructure,” Hunt said. “Silverton created safe routes to local schools, including improving Eureka Street so that Robert Frost Elementary students could safely walk to school. Staff is also working with the Oregon Department of Transportation



HEALTHY EATING ACTIVE LIVING CITIES CAMPAIGN

to develop James and Jefferson Streets as a safe route to Silverton Middle and High schools.”

Additionally, a Safe Routes to School survey was conducted and discussed by Silver Falls School District Board and the City of Silverton City Council, Hunt said.

HEAL advocates employee wellness, and the city has added two bikes with helmets for staff to use for business or personal activity. The city also supports and pays for any employee who participates in the annual Silverton Legacy Fun Run.

“The city developed a policy allowing department directors to excuse employees from their duties, using flex time or accrued leave, to participate in a health-related program,” Hunt said.

For information on this topic contact Hunt at 503-874-2204.

Five Goals Drive Fiscal 2017-18

Following two work sessions, the Silverton City Council formally adopted goals and objectives for the coming fiscal year.

“Each year, the city council holds a series of meetings to determine priorities and action steps for the coming fiscal year,” said Christy Wurster, city manager. “The council held work sessions facilitated by the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments on Feb. 27 and March 13, and the goals were formally adopted by the council at their meeting on April 3.”

The goals and objectives serve as the framework to focus efforts of the city council and staff on specific plans of action in the next year, Wurster said.

“This work plan, aimed at fulfilling the community’s vision, is then reflected in the departmental priorities and becomes part of the city’s annual budget and capital improvement plans,” she explained.

The five primary goals include:

- Develop a 10-year Strategic Plan.
- Improve and expand public outreach, communication and participation.
- Maintain and improve infrastructure and facilities for current and future citizens in an efficient manner.
- Implement policies and programs to maintain safety and quality of life.
- Provide efficient and fiscally sound municipal services.

“As part of each goal, a set of objectives and time frame for accomplishment was also established,” Wurster said.

For more information on goals/objectives for the city or Urban Renewal Agency and the city’s 10-year plan, visit the city’s website at www.silverton.or.us.



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Mayor *From 1*

By now residents have also begun to see the city's street maintenance program in its seasonal mode. As was the case in 2016, we have partnered with Marion County to perform crack sealing and slurry sealing on selected streets. To be clear, only streets that have no significant structural defects are selected for this approach, which is specifically designed to extend the life of the asphalt. Streets with more serious issues (McClaine Street is often cited) will require more extensive, and expensive work. Commonly, citizens have expressed concern over the attention given to preventive maintenance when our more deteriorated streets would appear to be more critical.

We had all of our pavement graded and catalogued. In the long run it's just good business to be proactive. The cheapest way to fix anything is to avoid its deterioration in the first place. The council also felt strongly that the trade-off of having a monthly street fee is that we want you to see the value of those dollars in the form of regular work being done. Fewer potholes and more improvements are residents' common wishes.

We agree that McClaine is a mess and that it's an important, frequently traveled street. We also know that it will require a complete rebuild from the ground up, to the tune of an estimated \$1 million. To focus only on that one street would require us to do no other street work for several years. We are exploring creative funding to do the project sooner and pay for it over a few years rather than slowly save until we can do it.

Finally, this is the season of festivals and other events that are important to our culture and to many organizations that benefit from the fundraising opportunities. I've been involved with the Homer Festival for 13 years over two stretches of time, and I want to express my appreciation for the support that all of the community events get from our city staff. From Public Works assistance with facilities to Police assistance with parades, they don't help because we've told them to; they do it because they are also part of our community. From the new Fischer's Mill Music Festival, to old standbys such as the Strawberry Festival, Homer, the Pet Parade, the Arts Festival and the Silverton Shindig – having a cooperative city is a huge part of the success of these events.

Later this month, I will complete the annual "State of the City" presentation, which will be video-taped and available via the redesigned city website at www.silverton.or.us and likely on social media. Among other things, the presentation will cover a recap of projects that have been completed as well as an update on major projects that are planned or already in progress.

If you have a question or concern about the city, need an issue clarified, or simply want to talk, please contact me. I'm available on social media ([facebook.com/silvertonmayor](https://www.facebook.com/silvertonmayor) or [Twitter @kylepalmer66](https://twitter.com/kylepalmer66)) or by phone at 503-932-8550 or e-mail at kpalmersilverton.or.us. Contact information for all councilors is available at silverton.or.us/176/City-Council.

Swim Time! Pool Repairs Complete

With just a few minor repairs to be done, Silverton's city pool is ready for swimmers!

"The City of Silverton Public Works Department recently completed our spring pool closure and cover removal activities," said Christian Saxe, public works director. "During this year's closure, we worked with multiple companies to assess the conditions of the pool. Several minor repairs were completed and a very positive assessment was issued by the consultant."

The report provided a short list of recommended items, some of which the city will be looking to implement in the coming months to ensure the continued operation of the facility, Saxe said.

The Silverton Community Pool is currently funded by a special tax levy that is due to expire in June 2018.

"Based on the positive condition assessment we received, the recommendation provided to the Pool Task Force Committee was to expand the existing levy an additional five years, with no increase," Saxe said.

This measure, if approved by city council, will go before voters on the November ballot. Passing of the ballot measure will allow the city to continue the year-round operation and maintenance of the pool, Saxe said.

For information on the Pool Task Force Committee contact Public Works at 503-873-8679.

City Calendar

** Denotes meetings available on SCAN TV.*

JULY

- July 4 – City Hall Closed for Independence Day**
- July 11 – Planning Commission 7 pm ***
- July 17 – City Council 7 pm ***
- July 18 – Environmental Mgt. Committee 3 pm**

AUGUST

- Aug. 7 – City Council – Regular Meeting 7 pm ***
- Aug. 8 – Planning Commission 7 pm ***
- Aug. 15 – Environmental Mgt. Committee 3 pm**
- Aug. 21 – City Council – Work Session 6 pm**

SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 4 – City Hall Closed for Labor Day**
- Sept. 5 – Tourism Promotion Committee 6 pm**
- Sept. 11 – City Council – Regular Meeting 7 pm ***
- Sept. 12 – Planning Commission 7 pm ***
- Sept. 18 – City Council – Work Session 6 pm**
- Sept. 19 – Environmental Mgt. Committee 3 pm**



Meetings are held in the Silverton City Council Chambers 421 S. Water St. unless otherwise noted.

Slurry *From 2*

late June, with scheduling updates regularly posted on the city's website. The slurry seal portion of the project is tentatively scheduled for late July, depending on the phasing of work with Marion County, Saxe said.

"During this portion of the project, the public can expect moderate delays and detouring as the slurry seal product will need to dry before traffic can be allowed back onto the selected street(s)," he said. "The final phase of the project will be the restriping of the roadway which will have a limited impact to drivers."

Saxe encourages residents and visitors to refer

to the city's website to view which streets are included in the project, the tentative work schedule, and any applicable detours associated with work in progress.

"The city of Silverton Public Works Department is very excited about the opportunity to partner with Marion County on this important and beneficial project," Saxe said. "We ask for your patience during the upcoming summer months as we continue our efforts to maintain your vital infrastructure."