

2020-2021

# ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY REPORT



# MAYOR'S ADDRESS

As proud as I am of how this City and community have weathered 2020, I won't be a bit sorry to see it in the rear view mirror. I suspect we all share that sentiment.

No one would have predicted a pandemic, a very real wildfire threat, and division among our citizens based on quarantine orders, face coverings, race, politics, guns, and freedoms, as well as an overall significant spike in how social media plays a role in our daily lives as so many people were at home with few other outlets for interaction.

Despite these challenges, my pride in our City, dedication to our citizens, and hope for our future has never been stronger.

Your City Council is wrapping up the sixth consecutive year of reaching respectful decisions 100% of the time despite a diversity of opinions that ensures that all views are heard - that's rare in any legislative body and I am thankful for it every day. I deeply value my professional relationships with each of them and will miss what Councilor Carter and Councilor Plummer have brought to our process as they move on from this body at the end of the year. I look forward to how the additions of Councilors-elect Elvi Sutton and Jess Miller will further enhance the body that works for you every day.

I couldn't be more impressed with our staff - from our City Manager Christy Wurster's leadership, to our department heads, to our supervisors, to every hard working team member in every department - these people have seamlessly navigated the pandemic and it's ever-changing impacts on our community, operated our Emergency Operations Center during the wildfires, worked swiftly to free up funds to help businesses, taken steps to support our ratepayers, and helped shape code changes that have allowed businesses to better use their outside areas. They don't get enough credit, and they'll be first to say they don't need it, but I want to give it to them here, publicly.

All said, however, I remain deeply concerned for our local economy and the emotional and financial stability of our residents. We must get back to having businesses be able to be safely open, we must get our residents back to work, and we must get our children back into in-person school, and we must be able to do it safely. In the meantime, I urge you to use whatever holiday shopping resources you may have to support our local businesses. This is the time when our actions might be the difference between surviving or closing and every closure is a little ripple that resonates through our greater community. These are our neighbors and we need to do whatever we can to help them.

In terms of the measurements that we use on a daily basis to track where the city is heading, please take the time to read through the detailed information in this report - it was tailored by our staff to address many of the most common questions we receive and I hope it will help expand your knowledge about our city. Nothing is more important to us than having citizens who are always informed and always engaged in the business of ensuring that Silverton continues to be the best community anywhere.

On a less statistical level, I encourage each of you to join me in looking toward a 2021 that we can each fill with kindness, support for one another, and a willingness to listen. Get to know your neighbors, celebrate the things that make you unique and find a way to let the things we have in common be the bridge that connects us as Silvertonians. Have a safe and happy holiday season and please be safe!

*Kyle Palmer*

# SILVERTON AT A GLANCE

Silverton is home  
to 10,520 people\*



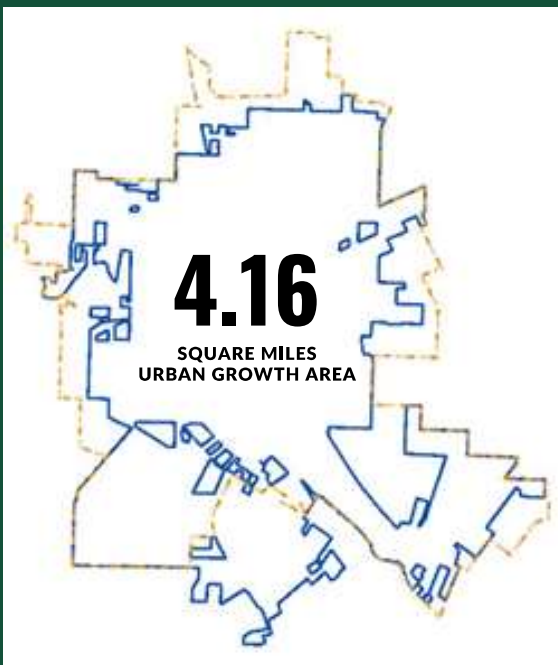
By 2040 Silverton will need to accommodate a population increase of 3,058 residents and will need to plan for 1,158 new dwelling units

3,599  
Water  
Connections

3,567  
Sewer  
Connections



Permanent Tax  
Rate:  
\$3.6678 per \$1,000



Lane Miles Maintained

34.33 7.5 4.3  
City County ODOT



56  
City Employees

## Police Department by the Numbers

	2018	2019	2020**
Calls for Service	4,431	4,523	4,357
Total Arrests	423	661	542
Total Citations	1,987	2,950	1,233

\* PSU Population Research Center, 2020 (an increase of 140 residents since 2019)

\*\* Represents numbers through October 31, 2020

**2020**

# SILVERTON CITY COUNCIL

## Mission Statement

To provide exceptional public service that ensures safety, maintains infrastructure, preserves our unique heritage, and protects natural resources while proactively pursuing emerging opportunities to enhance our quality of life.



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# City Council

# GOAL SETTING AND BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Budget Development Begins

December



City Council Goal Setting Session

February



Adoption of Goals

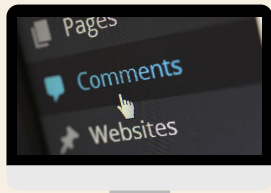
June

..... July 2020–June 2021\* .....



## Goal 1

Develop a 10-year Strategic Plan



## Goal 2

Identify new means and methods for public outreach, communication and participation



## Goal 3

Maintain and improve infrastructure and facilities for current and future citizens in an efficient, sustainable, and resilient manner



## Goal 4

Implement policies and programs to maintain safety and quality of life



## Goal 5

Provide efficient and fiscally sound municipal services

Budget Adoption

June

.....

\*The City is at the mid-way point of the current goal period.

# Goal 1



# 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Develop a 10-year Strategic Plan

## Progress Made

Funds to develop a 10-Year Strategic Plan are budgeted for 2020-2021.



## Silverton Energy Plan

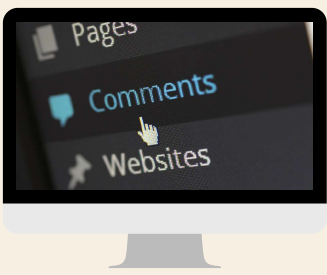


**June 1, 2019**  
Authored by Sustainable Silverton,  
a citizen volunteer group pursuant to  
City of Silverton Resolution 10-18.2018

On August 5, 2019 City Council passed Resolution No. 19-32, accepting Sustainable Silverton's Silverton Energy Plan. The Silverton Energy Plan contains six overall goals, as well as six strategies and action areas. As City Council moves forward with the adoption of a 10-Year Strategic Plan, these goals and action items will be incorporated into the planning process.

The City of Silverton welcomed University of Oregon students during the 2019-2020 year as part of the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP). January - March 2020 SCYP students developed a Climate Action Planning Report with recommendations to build upon the Silverton Energy Plan. This work will also be incorporated into the strategic planning process. For more information about Climate Action Planning and to view all of the SCYP projects visit [www.silverton.or.us/SCYP](http://www.silverton.or.us/SCYP).

# Goal 2



# PUBLIC OUTREACH, COMMUNICATION & PARTICIPATION

Identify new means and methods for public outreach, communication and participation

## Progress Made



2,199 followers in 2019  
3,507 followers in 2020

Representing a nearly 60% increase in a one-year period

114,317 Visits to the City's website in 2019  
164,628 Visits to the City's website in 2020

Representing a nearly 44% increase in a one-year period

## Public Outreach

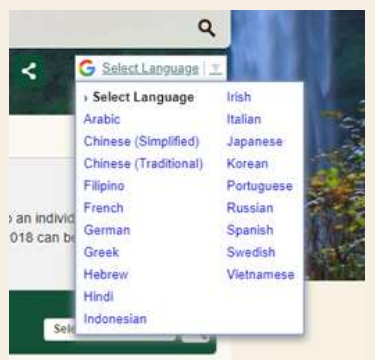
In an effort to increase public input the City solicited feedback from the community by issuing surveys in English and Spanish related to the Civic Center project and homeless/housing resources.

SCYP students provided recommendations for community outreach and engagement, see [www.silverton.or.us/SCYP](http://www.silverton.or.us/SCYP).

In addition to their City Council roles and responsibilities City Councilors also chair/serve on various City boards and committees, special task forces, regional boards, the Oregon Garden Foundation, as well as local boards/service clubs.

## Website Resources

The website can be viewed in multiple languages.



**CITY OF SILVERTON**

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

UCLY/URBEM - RUUVEMISEK  
Construction continues - Road moved to through traffic.  
Please use alternate routes and access businesses from C Street entrances.

**DECEMBER - MAY**  
Stay tuned for monthly updates.

ADDD - 2021  
Anticipated project completion.

**STAY INFORMED**

Keep updated on Public Works projects including street closures and construction updates by signing up at [silverton.or.us](http://silverton.or.us).

**Step 1**  
Click on "Stay Connected" button.

**Step 2**  
Sign in or sign up.

**Step 3**  
Choose:  
 News Flash

**Step 4**  
Choose:  
 Public Works

**CONTACT US**  
Patsy Schmitz  
Public Works Director  
[pschmitz@silverton.or.us](mailto:pschmitz@silverton.or.us)  
503 874 2210

**MCCLAINE STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT | OCTOBER**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

RSE Paving has completed utility, curb, gutter, sidewalk, and paving on Main Street. The project is now focused on installing a new curbside gutter marking along McClaine Street. During this part of the project it is anticipated that the contractor will encounter a lot of large rocks while installing, which could be loud at times.

Other work will consist of finishing up utilities and paving on James Avenue. Pedestrian access has been set up on the west side of McClaine Street. PUC will be moving poles and PUC Enclosures has started installation of poles on the east side of the street.

**BUSINESS ACCESS**

An interim trail during construction, the businesses located on McClaine Street will remain accessible from C Street. See the map to the right for the access points.

**MCCLAIN STREET BUSINESS ACCESS**

**CITY OF SILVERTON | 300 S. WATER ST. | SILVERTON, OR**

### Public Works Project Pages

Stay up-to-date with the status of capital projects, such as the McClaine Street Reconstruction Project by visiting [silverton.or.us/projects](http://silverton.or.us/projects).



### Stay Connected

Sign up to receive meeting agendas, press releases, traffic announcements and more straight to your inbox.

The City published a "How to Read Your Water Bill" educational video.



# Goal 3



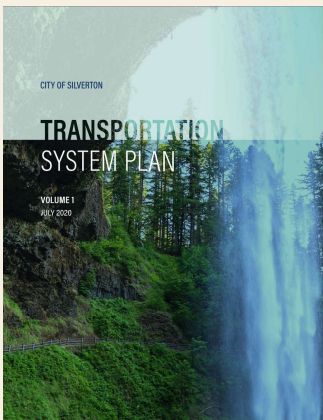
# IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Maintain and improve infrastructure and facilities for current and future citizens in an efficient, sustainable, and resilient manner

## Progress Made



In April the City entered into a contract with Mackenzie Engineering, Inc. for the design of the Silverton Police Facility, Municipal Court/Council Chambers, and City Hall. The design phase is scheduled to be completed in March 2021. Visit the City's website at [www.silverton.or.us](http://www.silverton.or.us) for a timeline of Eugene Field Commons and to view presentations from the architects.



In October City Council adopted an updated Transportation System Plan (TSP) and Circulation Study. Overall the TSP identifies 149 projects totaling an estimated \$99 million worth in investments. It is reasonable to assume Silverton will only have \$21 million to spend on transportation projects over the next 20 years.

The reconstruction of McClaine Street between Main and C Streets began in August and is expected to be completed in May 2021. This project includes a new road surface, storm drainage, larger sewer pipe, new sidewalks, planter strip and bike lanes. This project remains on budget.

In March the City applied for a Local Government Grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for phase 1 park improvements for the Pettit property. Due to the uncertainty of parks grant funding through the State of Oregon the City is awaiting award notice. In October the City applied for a feasibility grant to study the viability of an Aquifer Storage Recovery (ASR) system with the City of Mt. Angel. A funding announcement will be made March 2021.



The Urban Renewal Agency (URA) awarded \$189,750 in façade and building improvement grants in 2020 to Roth's Fresh Markets, 301 E. Main Street and Pacific Stair.



# Goal 4



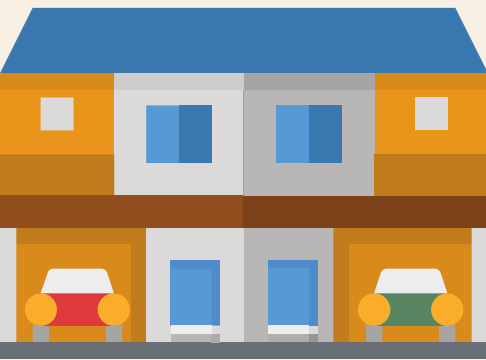
# MAINTAIN SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Implement policies and programs to maintain safety and quality of life

## Progress Made

On November 2, 2020 City Council held a public hearing and adopted the 2020 Housing Needs Analysis. The adoption of the Housing Needs Analysis requires the City to identify how it will meet its deficit of **304 multifamily dwelling units** or about 17 gross acres over the 20 year planning horizon. The analysis shows of those 304 units 182 need to be affordable to households earning less than \$35,000 annually.

## House Bill 2001



Over the next several months the Silverton Planning Commission will be evaluating development code changes needed in order for the City to comply with requirements of House Bill 2001. This legislation requires cities with a population of 10,000-25,000 to allow the development of a duplex on each lot or parcel zoned for single-family dwellings.

### City of Silverton

2020–2040 Housing Needs Analysis

January 2020  
FINAL REPORT



**ECONorthwest**  
ECONOMICS • FINANCE • PLANNING

The City received a Gold Safety Award for no recordable time-loss injuries during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

In addition to the Climate Action Planning work the SCYP students also provided recommendations for incorporating passive solar heating into the design of the new Police Facility/Civic Center, see [www.silverton.or.us/SCYP](http://www.silverton.or.us/SCYP).



OCTOBER 2020

### GREEN TEAM NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter from the City of Silverton



McClaine Street  
Reconstruction Project  
Stormwater Improvements

Green Team  
Highlights

In an effort to help reach Silverton's sustainability goals the City formed an internal Green Team. The Green Team has been successful in getting seven City facilities certified through Marion County's EarthWISE program and started a quarterly newsletter in order to highlight the City's sustainability efforts. To read past newsletters and learn more about this objective visit [silverton.or.us/environmental](http://silverton.or.us/environmental).

# Goal 5



# EFFICIENT & FISCALLY SOUND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Provide efficient and fiscally sound municipal services

## Progress Made



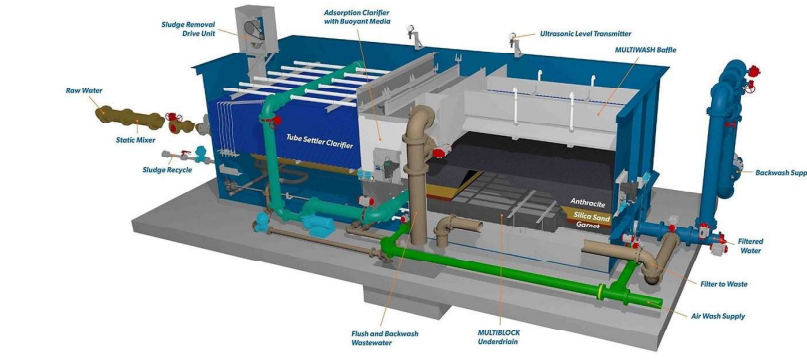
GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION  
*Distinguished Budget Presentation Award*  
 PRESENTED TO  
 City of Silverton  
 Oregon  
 For the Fiscal Year Beginning  
 July 1, 2019  
*Christopher P. Merrill*  
 Executive Director

The City of Silverton was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. This award is the highest form of recognition in government budgeting. In order to receive this award a budget document must meet specific transparency requirements and other criteria. The City intends to apply for the award each year.

The City will be upgrading and replacing the water intake pump station structure located along Silver Creek as well as approximately 2,000 linear feet of supply line from the intake structure to the Water Treatment Plant. This \$2.3 million project received a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for \$1.15 million. Construction for this project is scheduled to begin in 2021.

The City Water Treatment Plant is aging. Pilot testing has been completed for a modular system. The Trident® HS package water treatment plant provides multi-barrier protection for surface water, groundwater, industrial process water, and tertiary wastewater. The multi-barrier design consists of packaged high-rate settling, absorption clarification, mixed media filtration and optional UV disinfection.

Trident® HS Package Water Treatment Plant



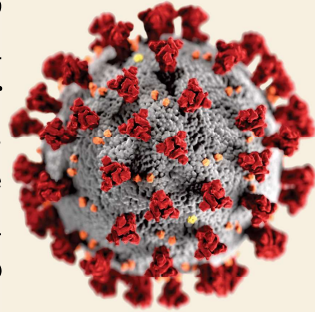
WEST Consultants completed a Silver Creek Dam Breach Study and updated inundation maps for the City. In addition, staff made seismic warning improvements to the Dam, which will allow staff to receive notification 20-30 minutes prior to an earthquake or shaking event.



# 2020 IN BRIEF

## COVID-19

On March 8, 2020 Governor Kate Brown declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 virus, finding that COVID-19 created a threat to public health and safety. The City of Silverton followed suit and on March 23, 2020 Mayor Palmer declared a local state of emergency. In an effort to slow the spread of the virus City Hall was closed to the public and all City meetings went virtual. As we moved through the spring all businesses deemed non-essential were closed and restaurants were only allowed to offer take-out food. The City looks forward to when we can safely hold in-person meetings and reopen City Hall in 2021.



## Response Efforts

- The City suspended late fees and shut-offs for utility customers beginning March 27, 2020.
- On May 4, 2020 City Council approved \$15,000 to be given to the Silverton Rotary Small Business Relief Fund. The City was able to match these funds with a \$15,000 grant received from the Oregon Small Business Emergency Relief Fund.
- In July the City made free face coverings available to all Silverton businesses.
- In August City Council gave staff authority to allow sidewalk cafes and issue OLCC sidewalk permits.
- On November 2, 2020 City Council awarded \$75,000 to local non-profits and created a Small Business Relief Program to disburse up to 18 grants in the amount of \$2,000 to Silverton businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- In December City Council and staff organized a virtual State of the City event.

## Oregon Wildfires

Labor Day 2020 will be remembered as the beginning of the most destructive wildfire season on record in Oregon. On September 8, 2020 Silverton was placed on a Level 2 Evacuation Notice and residents were urged to be ready to leave on a moments notice. The City of Silverton and the Silverton Fire District activated a joint Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and incident command began. City staff worked out of the EOC and provided residents with daily updates through the City's website and social media pages. Fortunately, Silverton was never placed on a Level 3 Go Now Notice, but residents statewide will be feeling the impacts of the 2020 wildfire season for years to come.

*According to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) there were 2,027 fires across all jurisdictions in Oregon and over 1.2 million acres burned.*



# 2020 IN BRIEF

## Welcome Councilor-Elects

In January City Council will say goodbye to City Manager Christy Wurster who served as City Manager since 2017, as well as Councilor Laurie Carter and Councilor Matt Plummer who both chose not to seek reelection. Councilor Carter served on City Council for almost 10 years after being appointed in April 2011. Councilor Plummer was sworn into office in January 2017 and served for four years. On November 3, 2020, Silverton voters elected two new City Councilors who will be sworn into office on January 4, 2021. Please welcome Councilor-Elects Jess Miller and Elvi Cuellar Sutton.

### Jess Miller

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the citizens I haven't had a chance to meet yet. I am a local healthcare professional, father of three young children, and an avid cyclist. After moving often through my assignments in the military, we wanted a vibrant town to call our final home. We found Silverton. Since arriving, we have immersed ourselves in local organizations, festivals, and community activities. The next chapter of public service for me will be representing you on City Council. I have a passion for infrastructure design, and how it directly impacts public health and public safety. Thank you for trusting me with a position on City Council; I hope to hear from you, and I hope to serve you well over the years ahead!



### Elvi Cuellar Sutton



I'm a native Silvertonian and have served our community in many ways during my 30 years. At age 11, I was volunteering with Silverton Together and helped start the Apple Tree Program that collects school supplies for kids. I attended Girls State in high school and was chosen as a Student Advisor to the State Superintendent of Schools. During my senior year, I was named Silverton's Future First Citizen. The support of my family has allowed me to pursue my lifelong dream of being on the people's side of politics. I'm confident I can bring something new to the City Council process, as a young Latina in our community. Over the years I have developed the skill to both listen and advocate for my opinion while also understanding that the art of compromise was vital. I want to use that experience to help better my community for our children, who ultimately inherit this amazing town. In 2018, along with other driven peers, I co-founded the Silverton Rotaract Club, and have been engaging the voices of members ages 18-31. I embrace the Rotary philosophy of Service Above Self and it's helped guide me as a career woman, wife and mother, and member of this community. My hope as a City Councilor is to shine a light in areas that have been overlooked and to bring fresh ideas to the table.