



# CITY OF SILVERTON

SUMMER 2022

## Mayor's Corner

As this is one of my last entries in the City of Silverton newsletter, I'm going to try and squeeze a lot in. For those not on social media, you may not be aware that I announced back in February that I would not be running for another term this fall.



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When I took over for Mayor Lewis in February of 2017, I made some promises to my wife and to myself. I self-imposed a limit of three terms, including Mayor Lewis' if the community were so generous to give me that opportunity. I knew a handful of special young people were going to hit an age where I could no longer bear to miss all of their events, and after 18 years of near constant meetings, I knew it would be time to spend more time with my wife, and to encourage some other viewpoints to have their time.

I've never been more proud to serve our city and community, and have no plans to stop doing so, it just won't be as a member of our City Council.

All that said, there are some things I'd like to say before I no longer have this avenue to do so. Some have thanked me for my service, and some have said they can't wait to see me go. I believe, in the strongest way possible, that both expressions are equally valid and I am grateful to both groups for sharing their opinions.

How could I possibly feel that way? It's simple - both statements reflect someone's genuine opinion, and that immediately makes them valid. It may not mean they are justified, and that's not for me to determine (or anyone to, for that matter), but they are valid, and deserve my respect. That concept leads me into something I feel strongly about.

Like many of you, I worry about the world. I worry about the job market. I worry about how divided society is. I worry about the price of gas and how that one little thing can affect all other things. I worry about hate, and why it even exists.

All that aside, what I worry most about is seeing those around me lose the ability to participate in civil discourse. About anything. Maybe it all started with politics, but I doubt that. The two party system is a problem in my opinion,

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## Silver Creek Water Line Project Begins

The City of Silverton is replacing an existing water intake structure located on Silver Creek near the Community Pool. The intake structure is past its useful life and will be replaced with a new structure and duplex pumping system capable of supplying up to four million gallons per day (MGD) to the existing Water Treatment Plant. The project will also allow for adding a third pump for future needs, increasing the intake structure capacity to six MGD.

### PROJECT INFORMATION

Intake structures collect water from surface sources such as rivers, lakes, and reservoirs and convey it further to the Water Treatment Plant. These structures provide relatively clean water free from pollution, sand and floating material. The new intake structure will include fish passage screens, pumps with variable frequency drives, and electrical facilities to hook up a generator which would operate the pumping system in case of an emergency.

In addition to the intake structure replacement, the project includes replacing 1,700 feet of existing 12" raw water transmission piping with larger 18" pipe. This will increase the capacity of the pipeline to meet the higher capacity of the new intake structure. The estimated total project cost is \$5 million, with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) providing \$1.15 million in grant funds.

### PROJECT PURPOSE

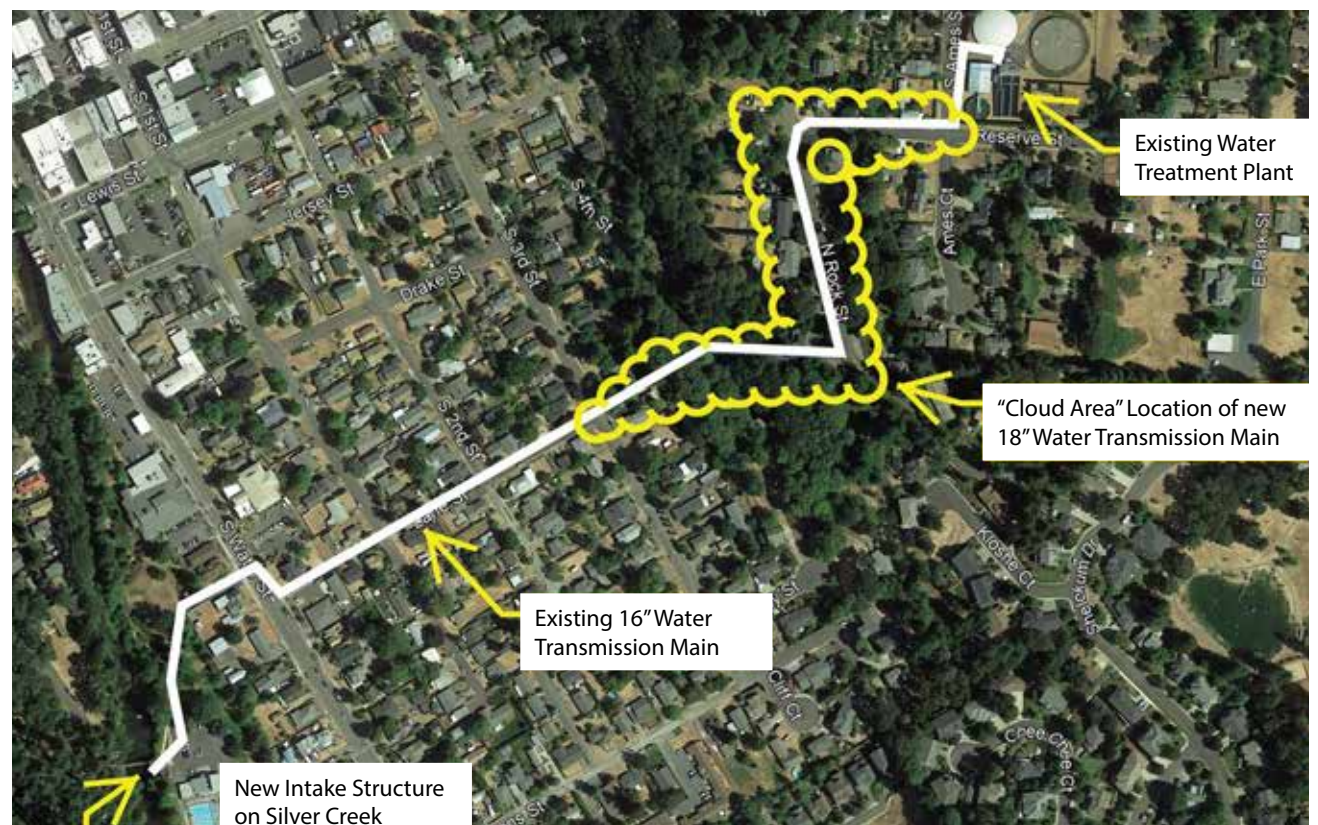
The City receives water from two sources, Abiqua and Silver creeks. The existing Silver Creek intake is past its useful life and the pumping capacity of the



Crews have already been at work at the Silver Creek intake structure.

intake and piping system is not sufficient to meet Silverton's future demands. To provide a fully redundant source system, the Silver Creek intake needs to be re-constructed with higher capacity pumps.

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Deteriorating infrastructure like that pictured above is getting much-needed attention, as shown in the example below.



## 2022 Silverton Streets Overlay Project Wraps Up

In Spring-Summer 2022, four blocks of streets are to be improved including Jersey from Water to First, First from Lewis to Jersey, Lewis from First to Second, and Second from Lewis to Main.

Work includes improving some ADA ramps, grinding the existing road surfaces, installing a couple of storm infiltration systems, and installing 3” of new asphalt on the four blocks. Construction started in April and will end in August. There will be days during construction when the street sections being improved will be closed to traffic.

The contractor is responsible for opening the roads at the end of each day and roads will be opened on weekends. The contractor is also responsible for notifying residents and business owners ahead of time the specific days the roads will be closed.

The General Contractor is K&E Paving. The sidewalks for all the streets will be open so people will be able to access residences and businesses at all times during construction.

## Silverton Welcomes Two Employees to the Public Works Team

The City of Silverton welcomed two new employees to the Public Works Department, Maintenance Division in June 2022.

**Rich Gallagher** has joined the Silverton Public Works Maintenance Division as the City’s Facilities Maintenance Worker. Rich is a previous Maintenance Supervisor for Corban University in Salem. Rich has extensive experience in HVAC and boiler maintenance technology and will help with Silverton Pool maintenance, as well as all buildings and grounds maintenance.



Rich Gallagher



Zach Scott

**Zach Scott** has joined the Silverton Public Works Maintenance Division as Utility Worker I. Zach comes to the City of Silverton after working in product service for a large home improvement store, and as a beverage merchandiser and delivery driver for the leading soft drink company in the nation.

Rich and Zach, thank you for choosing the City of Silverton to build your public service career.

## Water Line

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In addition, portions of the raw water pipeline need to be increased in size, to provide a higher flow capacity to the Water Treatment Plant.

### ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

Construction will begin the summer of 2022 with completion anticipated October of 2023. The City has a permitted in-water work window in Silver Creek of July 15 – September 30 and two in-water windows are needed.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

The pipe upgrade portion of the project will require access to several properties and right-of-way (ROW) areas adjacent to private property. The City will work closely with contractors to ensure residents experience as little interruption as possible. Contractors will make every effort to keep access to properties unobstructed though

### SILVER CREEK INTAKE & WATER LINE PROJECT FAST FACTS

**What:** Replacement of water intake structure and upsizing supply line

**When:** Construction will begin the summer of 2022.

**Where:** Intake structure on Silver Creek, main line replacement from 3rd St. to Ames St./Reserve St. intersection

**Why:** Existing intake structure is past useful life and Silverton needs increased water capacity for future growth  
**Estimated Project Cost:** \$5.0 million dollars; a \$1.15 million dollar grant has been awarded by the EDA

there may be occasions where this is not possible for short periods of time. The City appreciates the patience of residents living close to project work zones and we encourage you to reach out with any questions or concerns before or during the project.

### IMPACTS TO POOL DURING CONSTRUCTION

The pool will be open during construction but the main parking lot area will be closed to the public so the Contractor has sufficient space for equipment and material. The City will be creating a temporary parking area to the south of the pool to provide some replacement parking. The map below identifies parking areas that will be open to pool patrons during construction.

Project Manager is Bart Stepp, PE, City Engineer, [bstepp@silverton.or.us](mailto:bstepp@silverton.or.us) or 503-874-2209.

# City Manager's Corner – There's much planned for Silverton's FY 2022-2023

The new fiscal year began on July 1<sup>st</sup> and it will be a busy year.

Silverton's \$98,914,384 annual budget includes approximately \$55,000,000 for capital expenses. In addition to the new Civic Center, the Silver Creek water line, the new water treatment plant, and street overlay project, some of the noteworthy capital expenses include: upgrading 1,400 feet of Second Street from Lincoln Street south to where the existing sidewalk ends including new asphalt and sidewalks; adding new lights at the Skate Park; working with Rotary Club of Silverton to install a new "All Ability" playground feature in Old Mill



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Park; building a new trail in Petit Park; and replacing the drinking fountains in the parks with drinking fountains that include bottle fillers.

In honor of Charles Baldwin, who was a long-time resident of Silverton and a tireless advocate for sustainability, the City will install a memorial bike rack in Old Mill Park.

The City is expanding its sidewalk matching program to improve, upgrade and install new sidewalks in town.

The Police Department is beginning a "Citizen Police Academy" this fall. The Academy is designed to acquaint Silverton residents with the activities of our Police Department and will include programs about traffic safety, criminal investigation, police training, fire arm training, school protection and much more.

The City will purchase and install three digital radar speed signs. These will be located in some of the heavily traffic, high speeding areas.

The City is working with Sheltering Silverton to create pallet shelter facility. This will include four pallet shelters and a building that will include restrooms, showers, laundry a kitchen and office space. Thanks to Marion County who awarded the City \$250,000 for this facility. It will be located next to the City shops.

Silverton is hiring a new associate planner to assist in the ever-increasing amount of work in the Community Development Department.

In addition to all this, we're looking into downtown parking. We'll hold some public meetings in the next few weeks to talk about shortages of downtown parking .

To stay up-to-date on these and the other City activities, check our website: [Silverton.or.us](http://Silverton.or.us), [Facebook.com/CityofSilvertonOregon](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSilvertonOregon), and @CityofSilvertonOregon on Instagram.

## Civic Center construction on schedule

The new City of Silverton Civic Center is moving along right on schedule. The aerial view to the right shows footings for the new Civic Center building foundation in place.

The new Civic Center is at 410 N Water St., the site of the former Eugene Field School which was shuttered by the Silver Falls School Board on Jan 12, 2015. It was demolished due to high levels of contaminants in the building in March of 2019.

The new Civic Center will house City Hall, Silverton Police, City Council Chambers and offices.

For more history on the Eugene Field School closure process, purchase of the property by the City, and bid process and approval for the new Civic Center building, please go to the City of Silverton's webpage on the subject: <https://www.silverton.or.us/423/Eugene-Field-Property> .



An aerial view of the Civic Center site, above. The white dots are the building's footings. Right, the rendering of what the Silverton Civic Center will ultimately look like.



Design by Mackenzie Engineering, Inc.

## Water wise for summer

The Regional Water Consortium's website offers a variety of videos that are great general resources:

- Storing water for an emergency
- Shutting off your water
- Determining your landscape's watering needs
- Sprinkler system maintenance tips

Visit [conserveh20.org](http://conserveh20.org) to learn more!

## Silverton City Council



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## Silverton City Hall

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## Mayor *From page 1*

but it's been around a long time. It's far more likely that social media and the immediacy of information and statements that can be made by anyone with an internet-ready device has caused most of the damage.

I recognize the irony of that statement, as I would credit social media for playing a huge role in my being elected and re-elected, as well as completely changing how an elected official can reach citizens and communicate with them. It's been a friend to me, but I also know when to admit that the friend has also done some damage I can't support.

There's no question that many of us (heck, maybe even most of us) have said something before about another person that they'd never dream of saying directly to that person, and hopefully feel an immediate sense of regret. Somehow social media has been tossed in a blender with two years of resentment over a pandemic that is no one's fault (but in some way has damaged everyone), and a pinch or two of accelerating distrust that has been bred by....well....failing to prioritize the building of trust. It seems to be the perfect recipe for challenging society in ways we've never really seen and for amplifying division at the exact moment we need a big dose of unity instead.

I've been spending a lot of time with a group that I'm very honored to be part of, and the sole reason for this group - I'm not kidding, there really is no other goal - is to relearn, exercise, and develop through group demonstration, the ability to speak respectfully, listen openly, and consider information without judgement that is different than one's own. It's really been encouraging, and I hope we can build on the process because it's shown that there was never anything to fear or resent about an opinion opposite of your own.

I'll up the ante on that - I've said more than a few times how much I appreciate the era of respectful discourse that Mayor Lewis ushered into our City Council process. I am deeply grateful for each of the City Councilors who have helped keep our process just as respectful as we found it. From the outside, it may seem that we are all friends, or that we all think alike, or even that we have some back-room agreement to be in agreement, but nothing could be further from the truth.

The past eight years of my elected service, while by far being the most respectful of my 18 years, have also seen much, much more diversity of opinion and material disagreement than the previous ten years. It was, and is, possible only because we trust one another enough, and each of our 10,000 or so "employers" enough, to provide our input openly without any fear of squabbling, reprisal, or an attempt to under-

mine the democratic nature of our decision making.

The secret has always been this: as humans, we can only truly expand our minds and grow intellectually, through the gift of an opposite opinion. I use the word "gift" with intention. When I first ran for Mayor in 2010, I said that the perfect City Council would be made up of six other people who agree with nothing I think, but can discuss every one of those ideas with transparency and respect.

I knew then that a person in a decision-making position learns nothing and receives no productive value in those who already share that person's viewpoint. Governing happens in or near the center, with compromise, dignity, and a willingness to listen. There literally is no possibility of any extreme desire or agenda becoming a reality without coming together to listen and compromise with those who have valid opinions to share, even though the opinions are unfamiliar.

I am both intrigued, and often obsessed, with learning why someone feels differently about an issue than I do. I see that person, and their ideas, as an opportunity that's been given to me to add to my own body of knowledge and awareness. If our neighbors, leaders, elected officials, etc., can decide to see their counterparts as a vital part of representing society instead of someone with ideas that must be blocked at all costs, perhaps we can make some progress.

Think about how we post something on social media, how we speak, what our body language says about our willingness to listen. As a community, reversing the trend of division can only begin here, at the local level.

Wrapping up, I want to remind everyone that Homer Davenport Days will be here in early August.

I hope you can save the date for the return of the Mayor's Ball on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Oregon Garden Pavilion. A ball is not normally my thing, and I really am uncomfortable with the focus on "the mayor", so here's what that night will look like: affordable tickets; Johnny Limbo and the Lugnuts bringing their timeless music to the dance floor; the "Taste of Silverton" food experience; an auction; and the opportunity to send all of the proceeds to Silverton non-profit organizations that can always use our help.

We hope to feature representation from all of the living former Mayors of Silverton, and will be looking for a connection to the families of those no longer with us. We will be celebrating Silverton, and nothing would make me happier than to share that evening with all of you!

**Governing happens in or near the center, with compromise, dignity, and a willingness to listen.**

## City Calendar

### July

Wednesday, July 27 – **Homeless/Housing Task Force** 6 p.m.

### August

Monday, Aug. 1 –

**City Council Meeting** SHS Library/ Zoom 6:30 p.m.\*

Tuesday, Aug. 9 – **Planning**

**Commission** 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 24 – **Homeless/Housing Task Force** 6 p.m.

### September

Monday, Sept. 5– **City Hall Closed - LABOR DAY**

Monday, Sept. 12– **Council Meeting** at SHS Library / Zoom 6:30 p.m. \*

Tuesday, Sept. 13 – **Planning**

**Commission** 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept 28 – **Homeless/Housing Task Force** 6 p.m.

### October

Monday, Oct. 3– **Council Meeting** at SHS Library / Zoom 6:30 p.m. \*

Monday Oct. 10– **City Hall Closed**

Tuesday, Oct. 11 – **Planning**

**Commission** 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct 26 – **Homeless/Housing Task Force** 6 p.m.

Upcoming agenda items are subject to change and meetings are subject to rescheduling or cancellation.



Please check the City's website for the latest information and remote participation options.

Remember, you can sign up for City alerts direct to your email or phone – look for the red "Stay Connected" button on the homepage! If you do not have a home computer, please use the public computers at Silver Falls Library to access the City's website for meeting agendas and information.

**[www.silverton.or.us](http://www.silverton.or.us)**

\* Denotes meetings on SCAN TV