



CITY OF SILVERTON

SPRING 2022

Mayor's Corner

As of the printing of this newsletter, so many things have been happening in our wonderful community! We held a groundbreaking on April 11 for the City's Civic Center facility that will be located immediately south of A Street on the former Eugene Field School site.



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This is an important milestone. We are leaving an exceptionally long and complicated planning and design process and will soon see this venue rising from the dirt. It will help the Police Station meet a mandate for seismic upgrades that couldn't have happened in our current building. Completion of the Police Department/City Hall building is planned for 2023. While we do plan a park of some nature further south of the Civic Center on the same site, details of that have yet to be determined.

I am excited to see this project get underway but will always remember it as the place I went to school for grades K-3. More recently it was the place where we piled a literal mountain of debris, turned that into a literal mountain of sawdust, then magically made it go away. The property will always mean a lot to many of our residents, and we hope to include as many connections to the past as possible in the overall site development.

This Council and its predecessor have been adamant that funding this facility not include any kind of taxpayer bond on the ballot, We have kept that promise. For those wondering how we ARE funding the project, however, the timing could not be better.

Beginning on April 21, the 3-5 meeting City (and Urban Renewal Agency) budget process begins and will lay the groundwork for the 12-month fiscal period that begins on July 1. As always, these meetings are open to the public, and contain all the data and answers to almost all of the city operations questions that fill social media pages throughout the year.

While we would all love to have a full audience at every City Council meeting, every Work Session, and every committee meeting, these are arguably the most important of all of them because they bring tangibility to the goals we set in January.

The Budget Committee is comprised of the

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New Silverton Civic Center Breaks Ground

After years of planning, budgeting, and prepping, the new Silverton Civic Center is ready to be built.

The Civic Center ground breaking ceremony took place on April 11, 2022 with the first shovels hitting the ground at the old Eugene Field site, 410 N. Water St. in Silverton. The public will see a lot of dirt being moving around on the site this spring; with a scheduled finish date in late summer 2023.

The planning for the new Civic Center began in 2017 when the Silverton City Council included the building of a new Police Station to include a future City Hall in their goal setting session for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Here's a look at the milestone events leading up to finally breaking ground on this monumental project:

The Eugene Field School, which had been in disrepair for many years, was closed in summer of 2016.

In summer of 2017, Silver Falls School District accepted an offer from the City to purchase the Eugene Field School.

As part of its due diligence, the City arranged for a hazardous materials survey of the property through Terracon Consultants, Inc. The assessment determined the presence of lead paint above the allowable levels in and on the structure; as well as other hazardous materials such as high levels of asbestos. Public Works Department staff began the process of



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seeking qualified abatement contractors to get pricing for the necessary work to remediate the environmental concerns. Due to the excessive quantity and locality of lead paint, all attending abatement contractors denied the City's request for lead abatement proposals.

On Oct. 23, 2017 the details of the due diligence work were presented to the City Council.

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City Manager's Corner

Summer season is just about here and we're all ready to enjoy the sunshine. Summer is also the time when our water use increases while, at the same time, the amount of water in Abiqua and Silver Creek decreases. Each year, water conservation seems to become more important.

Beginning in May we'll launch the SILVERTON SAVES water conservation campaign. Each week a new tip on how you can save water will be published. These tips may be about big projects such as water-smart landscaping or small projects like fixing a faucet. For example, a 1/4 milliliter drip from your faucet that drips four times a minute may seem insignificant

but actually wastes 0.4 gallons of water per day. That's 12 gallons per month from one little drip.

We'll bring you tips on easy things you can do to change water wasting habits such as how to save water while washing your hands and brushing your teeth.

We look forward to bringing this campaign to you and remember, **SILVERTON SAVES WATER BECAUSE YOU SAVE WATER.**



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Senior Clean Up Day is Back!

The City of Silverton Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department is organizing Silverton's annual Senior Clean Up Day on Friday, May 13, 2022 from 8 a.m. - noon.

"Senior Clean Up Day was conceived some 40 years ago by a pair of brothers, one worked for the City of Silverton for 30 years and the other worked for Silver Falls School District for 30 years," explains Silverton Public Works Director Travis Sperle. "We've kept the tradition going."

Silverton High School seniors will work on various projects at Silverton parks to spruce them up for Spring and Summer visitors.

The students will receive community service credit for assisting the City with parks preparation and clean up.

Groundbreaking

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Following public testimony and further discussion, the City Council directed staff to proceed with purchase of the property. On Dec. 18, 2017 the City Manager executed the closing paperwork for the purchase of the property at 410 N. Water St.

The Council determined that they would receive public comment on the demolition and deconstruction of the former school facility and surrounding buildings at two public meetings held in March and April 2018.

On May 18, 2018 The City was awarded a \$35,000 Transportation and Growth Management Program Quick Response grant to support redevelopment of the former Eugene Field School property. The City contributed \$10,000 of the \$35,000 toward the project that included stakeholder meetings and public input to determine future uses at the site, including a Civic Center consisting of a new Police Station and City Hall.

On Dec. 14, 2018 City staff received notification that Silverton was awarded a Brownfields Redevelopment Fund technical assistance grant in the amount of \$60,000 to complete the removal and disposal of materials containing asbestos and lead-based paint from the Eugene Field site. The grant also helped with the decommissioning, removal, and disposal of underground storage tanks on the site.

On Jan. 31, 2019, the City and MIG hosted a Eugene Field Community Workshop to elicit community input on such topics as community values, existing physical conditions, redevelopment issues and the future vision for



Design by Mackenzie Engineering, Inc.

the Eugene Field site and design.

On May 6, 2019 the Silverton City Council reviewed four draft Eugene Field Commons concepts prepared by MIG and scheduled them to be discussed further at the May 20, 2019 Work Session.

On July 1, 2019 R&R Tree Service was hired to evaluate the trees on the Eugene Field site.

On Jan. 30, 2020 the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural services for design of the Silverton Police Facility, Municipal Court/Council Chambers and City Hall Facilities.

On April 22, 2020 Mackenzie Engineering, Inc. was awarded contract for the design.

On June 5, 2020 Mackenzie Engineering, Inc. presented three site and massing options to City Council and discussed their plan for

public outreach. Updates to the design and cost estimates were presented to the City Council from June 2020 through April 2021.

On June 8, 2021 the Planning Commission approved the final design review with a variance for the new Civic Center building.

On Dec. 6, 2021 the Silverton City Council directs the City Manager to solicit bids for the construction of the Civic Center. The RFP was advertised on Dec. 14, 2021 and Jan. 4, 2022, and the RFP closed on Feb. 23, 2022. Seven RFPs were received by the City.

On March 7, 2022 the City Council authorized the City Manager to award the construction of the Civic Center to Corp, Inc. – a licensed contractor in Oregon that meets all public works contracting requirements.

Silverton Public Works Engineering Division Receives Two Awards

The City of Silverton's Public Works Engineering Division led by City Engineer Bart Stepp has been awarded two prestigious awards for Silverton's McClaine Street Improvements Project. The Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association awarded the City of Silverton the Transportation Project of the Year in the category of under \$5 million. The second award for McClaine Street Improvements Project was for Engineering Excellence bestowed on the City by the American Council of Engineering Companies.



On McClaine Street with the Project of the Year award are City Engineer Bart Stepp, left, Public Works Director Travis Sperle, and Silverton Mayor Kyle Palmer.

City of Silverton Public Meetings Go 'Hybrid'

The City of Silverton will be moving forward with conducting all public meetings in a hybrid format. The public is invited to attend public meetings either in person or via the virtual platform Zoom. To attend virtually, locate the Zoom link on the agenda for the meeting that is posted on the City's website on the City's main calendar.

Please note that a different Zoom link is used for each meeting, the City

does not use a recurring link. Holding meetings in a hybrid format allows for easier attendance from those that wish to participate but may not have the ability or time to make it to the location of the in-person meeting.

If you are planning on attending a public meeting and would like to enter public comment, submit it via email to publiccomment@silverton.or.us.

City of Silverton Releases Wastewater SARS-CoV2 Test Results

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is working with Oregon State University (OSU) to collect and test samples of wastewater for traces of the SARS-CoV2 virus that causes COVID-19.

Silverton is participating with OSU in this wastewater testing program. Wastewater monitoring for SARS-CoV2 can be used to detect transmission trends as well as emerging variants at the community level.

Silverton's testing results and interpretation are provided to help address and reduce the effects of COVID-19.

Silverton's Waste Water treatment plant operators collect

wastewater samples Tuesday-Thursday each week and mail these samples to the testing lab at Oregon State University on Thursday each week. After the OSU lab tests all of the samples from all of the participating communities, the results are tabulated by OHA and posted on the OHA website. The results are usually not received until two to three weeks after the samples are sent to the lab.

The results posted on the City of Silverton's website are the results for Silverton's wastewater only. To see the results of all Oregon communities participating in the wastewater monitoring project, go to the OHA COVID-19 website.

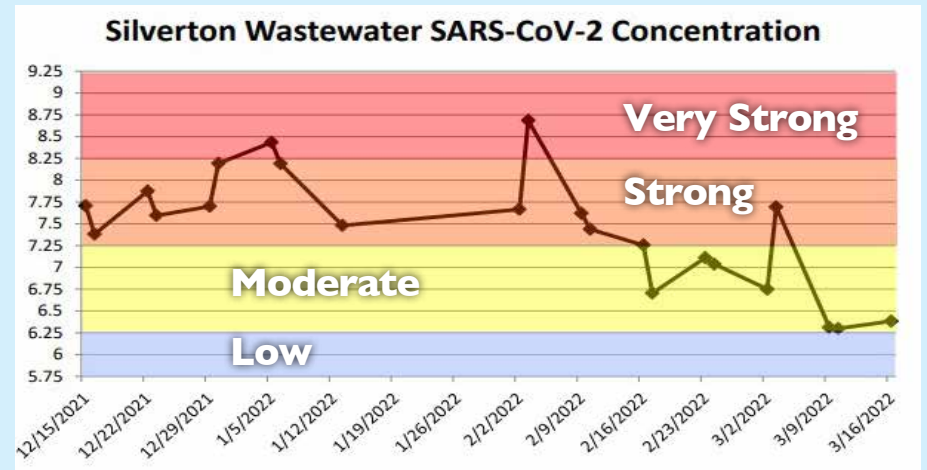
Silverton Public Works Department Will Participate in National Public Works Week

The City of Silverton will participate with the rest of the country in National Public Works Week May 15-20, 2022. The highlight of the week's activities will be a Public Works Fair in Coolidge McClaine Park that will have a large equipment "petting zoo" for Silvertonians to be able to interact with some of the large equipment used by Public Works to keep Silverton clean, green, and running lean. Details of National Public Works Week activities will be forthcoming on the City's website and Facebook/Instagram pages in early May.

Silverton Public Works Welcomes New Administrative Assistant

If you have called the City of Silverton Public Works office, or visited room 200 in City Hall, you have no doubt experienced the high level of customer service provided by the City's new Public Works Administrative Assistant, Melinda Orozco. Melinda began working for the City on Dec. 27, 2021. Previous to working for the City, Melinda was a Judicial

Services Specialist with the Oregon Judicial Department in Salem. As the Public Works Administrative Assistant, Melinda handles myriad responsibilities in keeping the Public Works Department humming, including assisting the public with park facilities, community center, and banner reservations; special events permits; and supporting the Public Works staff.



Silverton City Council



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Mayor From page 1

City Council and seven other citizens who have been appointed to help represent you, We have some incredible members who know the material, look carefully at all expenses, and are not afraid to speak up – exactly what you would hope for in any community servant leader.

The three planned meetings are April 21, 26 and 28, with two more to follow if needed. The meetings start at 6 p.m. and will be accessible in-person and via the Zoom platform. Please join us if you can!

For those of you who use Water Street regularly, you have probably noticed that construction of the new High Street Grill is underway, which will build on the vibrancy that Silverton Bake Shop and The Den have brought to that side of the street. One of the surest signs of the health of a community is commercial investment. It is reassuring to see all of the activity in ours.

On a more somber note, our thoughts are with former longtime City Councilor Laurie Carter and her family as they grieve the loss of her husband, Dr. Alan Carter, one of Silverton's dentists for many years.

And the same sentiments to Elmer Valkenaar's family, as well as the generations of students lucky enough to draw St. Elmo as their substitute teacher in the Silver Falls School District. He was recognized with the Community's Judy Schmidt Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 but we all hoped he had a lot more time in that life.

Finally, I want the public to know that we are working hard to hold meetings that have more (or even most) of our Councilors in-person, while keeping Zoom available for those who may have their own reasons for holding off on that in-person transition. Oregon House Bill 2560, which was passed in 2021, ensures that all members of the general public, to the extent reasonably possible, must be provided access for attendance by telephone, video, or other electronic or virtual means (excepting Executive Sessions). When in-person oral testimony is allowed we must also provide the opportunity to do so during the meeting by telephone, video, or other electronic or virtual means.

These are changes that will long be remembered as some of the only

good that came from this pandemic. They will make it possible for our citizens to attend and participate in a City Council or committee meeting from anywhere in the world provided they have internet or telephone service at the time. We've been looking for ways to increase engagement for as long as I can remember, and here's one that makes it possible to never miss an opportunity to help us best represent you. Now you just have to join us.

Sadly, despite the efficiency in doing so, attendance and participation in our meetings has never been lower since I was first elected in 2004. While one might foolishly think that reflects overwhelming public trust in our decision making, I don't believe that, or want to. I'm personally inviting each of you to join our faithful one consistent Zoom attendee (that's you, Nicole). We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:30 p.m. (unless a holiday has moved us by a week), and I'll even up the ante...

I've been told in the past that providing input at a City meeting can be intimidating because we're all seated at a dais, somewhat higher off the floor than the others in the room, and you're asked to sit "before us" as if it's the medieval age. (I've even felt that myself when speaking in front of the Council that I'd been a member of.) Fear not, there is no regulation that says you must turn your video feed on (though we'd love to see you), so you can literally participate in verbal terms only and if you're nervous we'll never know.

Come in person, join on Zoom, submit your input to City Hall by email, deliver by hand, or send in by carrier pigeon – we don't care, we just want to hear from you before and during the important decisions that impact you. And while I can't speak for the rest of the Council, I am absolutely happy to provide my cell number if you would like to talk that way as well though it may take me a day or so to get back to you. All Mayoral and City Council service is volunteer, so my pesky day job has to share some of my attention. Call me anytime though: 503-932-8550.

Spring is here and Summer is near – it's going to be a great year for Silverton!

City Calendar

April

Monday, April 18 – **City Council Work Session** on Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19 – **Affordable Housing Task Force** 8:30 a.m.

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

May

Monday, May 2 – **City Council Meeting** SHS Library/ Zoom 6:30 p.m.*

Monday, May 16 – **City Council Work Session** 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 17 – **Affordable Housing Task Force** 8:30 a.m. 6 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25 – **Homeless/ Housing Task Force** 6 p.m.

Check the City's website for the agenda and Zoom links.

** Denotes meetings on SCAN TV*

June

Monday, June 6– **City Council Meeting** at SHS Library / Zoom 6:30 p.m.*

Tuesday, June 21 – **Affordable Housing Task Force** 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 22 – **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.



Silverton Pool Closes for Annual Maintenance



On Saturday, April 16, 2022 the Silverton pool, operated by the Silver Falls YMCA, will close for annual maintenance; and to remove the pool enclosure (vinyl tent) for the warmer months ahead. The pool will re-open on Monday, May 2, 2022.