



CITY OF SILVERTON

SUMMER 2021

Mayor's Corner

It's hard to believe, but as I write this, our state and our community are, for the most part, exiting the COVID-19 restrictions that we've all been under since March of last year.

It remains to be seen if this move is permanent. There are still many people hospitalized. We will undoubtedly still lose some people with the illness and many people will continue to suffer from long term effects.

It's something none of us will soon forget, but it is something we are all ready to begin recovering from.

While we do so, however, please remember that some areas of life are still managed by federal guidelines (such as healthcare locations and mass transit), and most importantly, that some individuals will continue to feel most safe by choosing to wear a mask, remain a distance away from others, and only slowly integrate back into society. That's OK, and I hope we can all allow them the room to do so without commentary.

All that said however, there is much to be excited about as we move into the summer. The triumphant return of the longest running Pet Parade west of the Mississippi gave us a reminder of what we'd been missing – outdoors, community, togetherness, joy. The Silverton Strawberry Festival, canceled in 2020 for the first time since it started in 1951, made a last-minute switch from a drive-up event to the real thing, and the community came out, nearly 1400 strong, to take another step toward a summer full of things we remember.

Organizers of Homer Davenport Days have been working hard to follow up the Strawberry Festival, adding a brewfest to the normal lineup of food, vendors, a parade, and the beloved Davenport Races. Shortly after Homer, the newly rebranded Silverton Art Festival (they dropped the word "Fine" to remind people that art comes in many forms) rejoins our summer lineup.

Additionally, all information points to schools being back to normal-ish in September, but we have plenty of family and together time before it does!

On the subject of outdoor fun, many questions have been raised about the debris in Silver Creek and why it's taking so long to remove. It's understandably frustrating, but for good reasons, there are extremely specific steps that have to be taken while using equipment in or near waterways, and direction had to be laid out by the state before our staff could begin. That was scheduled to have started after July 1 and will hopefully be done soon.

Unless you don't drive, read much, or participate on social media, you know that McClaine Street is now open. Despite suggestions to the contrary, the project wasn't behind schedule (until the last two weeks), and has been completed as planned. Some of the landscape plantings have not seemed as healthy as we'd hoped during some very hot days, but are



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Continued on page 4

Insights from City Manager's first 90 days

By Ron Chandler, City Manager

It's been two months since I began working in Silverton and it's been great. I've met many residents and business owners in town who have all been very welcoming. I've enjoyed getting to know our City Council and City staff. They are dedicated public servants who keep things moving forward.

During these past two months we said goodbye to some key staff members. Angela Speier, Elizabeth Gray, Chelsea Starner and Steve Reeder moved on to new opportunities. We wish them well. They will be missed.

We saw McClaine Street reopen. Thanks to all of you and especially those who live and work on McClaine Street for your patience while this important resurfacing took place. I hope as you walk through town, you'll notice the beautiful landscaping, new street lights and resurfacing on this street.

Just last weekend, new traffic lights were installed at the intersection of McClaine, C and Westfield Streets. Left turn signals were added in all four directions to help improve traffic flow. Additional traffic pattern changes will occur within the next



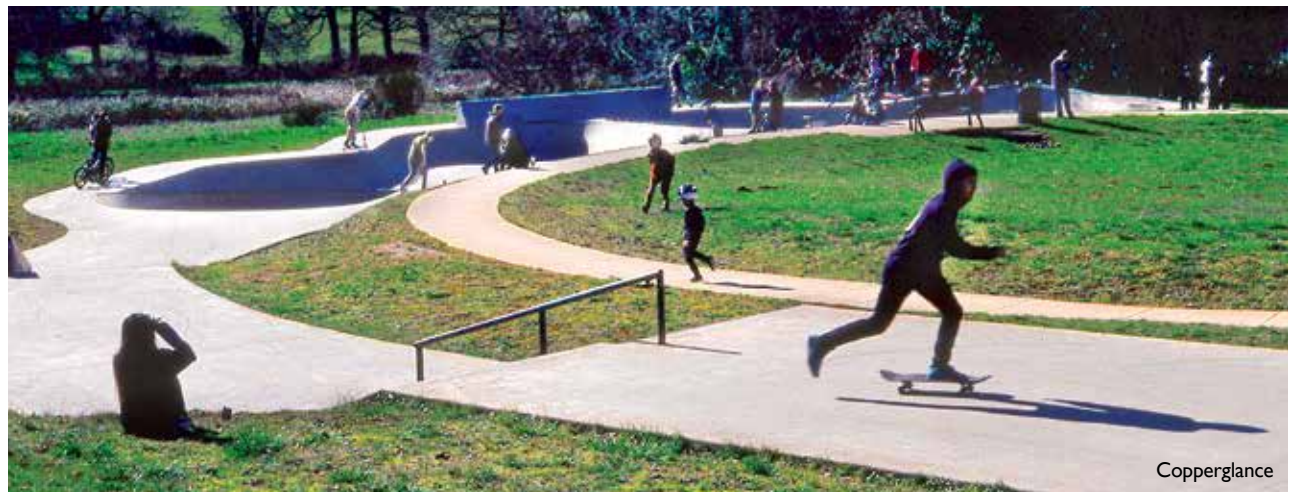
few weeks that should also improve the traffic flow. Keep your eyes open for the notification of these changes.

A new 18 unit subdivision was approved on Schemmel Lane. The applicants, Habitat for Humanity, will build affordable, single-family attached and detached houses.

The fiscal year 2021-2022 budget was adopted at the last City Council meeting. It's been said the budget is the City's most important document. Silverton's \$63,132,851 budget will direct the City's spending for the next 12 months. The budget also contains the City Council's mission statement, vision statement and goals. The City Council's mission is 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."

Finally, Governor Brown rescinded "orders that impose mask mandates, capacity limits, expanded capacity limits that depend on vaccine verification, and physical distancing in businesses and other sectors." Thanks to everyone's hard work and sacrifice to make this happen.

Skate Park improvements proposed



Copperglance

At the March 1, 2021 Council Meeting there was a presentation from a citizen's group that wanted to complete improvements at the skate park. The group has raised around \$60,000 and has partnered with a contractor that specializes in skate parks to design and construct the improvements in honor of the late Jason Franz.

The proposal is to allow the contractor to design and construct the improvements and then donate

them to the City as a Phase II of the Skate Park.

At the March 1, 2021 meeting there was also a discussion of adding some lighting to the Skate Park area and PGE has drawn up a sketch to add four lights to the area. The City would be responsible to install the conduit and pole bases. PGE would then come in and run the wire and install the lights. The City Council will be considering the potential to add lighting at the July 12 City Council meeting.

City staff prepares budget for 2021-22 fiscal cycle

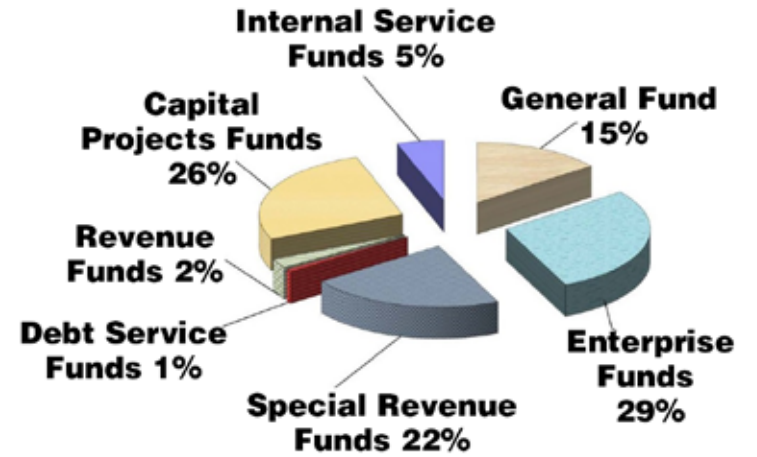
The budget process began in January 2021 with staff developing revenue estimates and cost projections to maintain current services at the existing level and to fund other projects based on Council Goals, Capital Improvement Plans and citizen requests. Revenue projections are based on information from other governmental agencies, prior year actual data and by estimating any changes within the community.

Once staff completed their calculations for revenue projections and requests to cover the costs of services, the information is provided to the City Manager. The City Manager reviews the requests before the Preliminary Budget is prepared and made available to the Budget Committee and citizens. After approval of the budget by the Budget Committee, the information is presented to the City Council who adopt the budget, levies the taxes and approves the appropriation authority.

The City of Silverton adopted the budget for fiscal year 2021-2022, which is for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, at the June 21, 2021 Council Meeting. The total budget is \$63,132,851

and the graph at right shows the budget by fund types. The budget does include funding of an additional position in the Public Works Maintenance Department that will work in the parks and on street related issues. Silverton is proud of its healthy financial position and the ability to continue to address the infrastructure needs of the community. Last fiscal year saw the completion of the McClaine Street Improvement Project which was done without the need to seek financing for the project. This year includes work on the Silver Creek Raw Water Line Project which is partially funded with an EDA Grant as one of the major projects. The Civic Building Project is another major project continuing within the City's Budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.

The budget document is located on the City of Silverton website: www.silverton.or.us. The City has also received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the prior year's budget and will be submitting the recently adopted budget for review.



FUND TYPE

General Fund.....	\$9,184,987
Enterprise Funds.....	\$18,130,232
Special Revenue Funds.....	\$13,815,267
Debt Service Funds.....	\$463,992
Reserve Funds.....	\$1,550,860
Capital Projects Funds.....	\$16,653,158
Internal Service Fund.....	\$3,334,355
Total.....	\$63,132,851

Silverton constable added to fallen officers memorial

Roger Greenfield, who grew up in Silverton, is a retired Salem Police Officer and grandson of Constable Hansford Greenfield. On Oct. 28, 2019, Roger contacted Silverton Police regarding his grandfather's line of duty death he found while researching his family tree.

A historical investigation ensued, working with Roger Greenfield's family records, the City of Silverton records, the Silverton Historical Society and local historical news media accounts which covered the incident. From the investigation, it was determined that Constable Hansford "Harry" Greenfield was born on Jan. 24, 1883 in Nebraska and in 1937, he and his family moved to Silverton. Constable Greenfield worked for the Silverton Police Department. His duties included working in the Silverton Justice Court among other police duties.

On Tuesday evening, Feb. 24, 1942, Constable Greenfield, along with Police Chief Grossnickle and Officer A.M. Amo responded to a reported burglary at a downtown tavern where "Mac's Place" is located today. The officers checked the tavern, but did not locate the burglary suspect. Afterwards, the officers were talking out front, when Constable Greenfield decided to walk back to the Police

Department as he was not feeling well. Along the way, Constable Greenfield stopped at a restroom of a gas station. Constable Greenfield was later located deceased from an apparent heart attack.

Constable Greenfield's line of duty death had been previously unknown by past and present department members. With the information now learned, a nomination to have Constable Greenfield's name added to the Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial located at the Department of Public Safety, Standards and Training in Salem was submitted. The nomination was approved and on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 – during the Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony – Silverton Police Constable Greenfield was formally recognized and his name is engraved on the Memorial along with other Oregon Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty. At the Memorial, Governor Brown addressed those in attendance which included Roger Greenfield and his wife.

Constable Greenfield and his wife were both buried in the Silverton Cemetery on McClaine St.



Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial in Salem.

Water conservation

The City of Silverton would like to encourage water customers to use water wisely. Abiqua Creek and Silver Creek, Silverton's water sources, supply water not only to the community but also to many farms downstream. Although the City's water supplies are stable, water conservation can help to reduce water demands citywide, and ensure resources are being used as efficiently as possible. You can make simple changes around your home that will help save gallons of water each week. Check in and around your home to ensure there are no water leaks in irrigation systems, indoor plumbing, toilets or faucets. Visit the City's website for more information on ways you can conserve water: <https://silverton.or.us/345/Water-Conservation>

Tips for fire and water safety this summer

By Ed Grambusch, Assistant Chief –
Silverton Fire District

As wildland fire season begins, there are many things that home owners can do to keep their home and property safe from fire:

Tips for Keeping Fire Out of Your Home

- REMOVE leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.
- SCREEN areas below decks and porches with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent material from accumulating underneath.
- COVER exterior attic and soffit vents with 1/8" wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering your home.
- ENCLOSE eaves to help prevent ember entry.
- INSPECT shingles or roof tiles.
- REPLACE missing shingles or tiles.
- COVER ends of tiles with bird stops or cement to help prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

Tips for Landscaping Around Your Home

- REMOVE dead vegetation and other flammable materials, especially within the first 5 feet of the home.
- KEEP your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to help reduce fire intensity.
- PRUNE tree limbs so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet above the ground to help reduce the chance of fire getting into the crowns of the trees.
- MOVE construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.

- DISPOSE of branches, weeds, leaves, pine needles, and grass clippings that you have cut to reduce fuel for fire.

Water Safety

Hot weather is upon us in the Willamette Valley and people are already swimming in our creeks, rivers and lakes. Several drownings in Oregon this year alone should raise some very large red flags. Swimming is a fun and healthy activity, but it can be dangerous.

The Silverton Fire District life jacket loaner stations at the Silverton City Park and at the Silverton Reservoir will be supplied with several adult and youth sized personal floatation devices. The process for using the life jacket's is simple: take them off the hangers and use them and then put them back when you are done with them. There is no charge for this service.

Every year the Silverton Fire District responds to water fatalities, near fatalities and water rescues. Most, if not all, of these tragedies can be avoided by following some very easy tips provided by the American Red Cross:

- Swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards.
- Always swim with a buddy; do not allow anyone to swim alone.
- Never leave a young child unattended near water and do not trust a child's life to another child; teach children to always ask permission to go near water.
- Have young children or inexperienced swimmers wear U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets around water, but do not rely on life jackets alone.
- Maintain constant supervision.
- Make sure everyone in your family learns to swim well.



Above: A life jacket station at Silverton Reservoir.

- If you have a pool, secure it with appropriate barriers. Many children who drown in home pools were out of sight for less than five minutes and in the care of one or both parents at the time.
- Avoid distractions when supervising children around water.
- If a child is missing, check the water first. Seconds count in preventing death or disability.
- Have appropriate equipment, such as reaching or throwing equipment, a cell phone, life jackets and a first aid kit.
- Enroll in Red Cross home pool safety, water safety, first aid and CPR/AED courses to learn how to prevent and respond to emergencies.
- Drink plenty of water regularly, even if you're not thirsty. Avoid drinks with alcohol or caffeine.

Knowing how to swim well is the first line of defense in the water and making sure that your family knows how to swim well can keep water tragedies from becoming a reality. However, it is important to understand that even the strongest swimmers can easily become tired in the water very quickly especially after drinking alcohol and eating heavy meals. Know what your own limitations are and listen to what your body is telling you; if you realize that you are becoming fatigued, get out of the water and take a rest.

The Silverton Fire District would like everyone to stay safe in and around the water. By doing your part, you can help prevent these yearly tragedies that effect so many lives.

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City Calendar

August

August 2 – City Council

Meeting 6:00 p.m.*

August 10 – Planning

Commission Meeting

7:00 p.m.*

August 16 – Urban

Renewal Agency

Meeting 6:00 p.m.*

August 18 –

Environmental

Management

Committee Meeting

3:00 p.m.

September

Sept 6 – City Hall Offices

Closed – Labor Day

Sept 13 – City Council

Meeting 6:00 p.m.*

Sept 14 – Planning

Commission Meeting

7:00 p.m.*

Sept 15 –

Environmental

Management

Committee Meeting

3:00 p.m.

Sept 20 – City Council

Work Session 6:00 p.m.

October

Oct 4 – City Council

Meeting 6:00 p.m.*

Oct 11 – City Hall Offices

Closed – Records

Management Day

Oct 12 – Planning

Commission Meeting

7:00 p.m.*

Oct 18 – City Council

Work Session 6:00 p.m.

Oct 20 – Environmental

Management

Committee Meeting

3:00 p.m.

Upcoming agenda items are subject to change and meetings are subject to rescheduling or cancellation due to the COVID-19 Emergency. 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!



Silverton City Council Chambers 421 S. Water St. * Denotes meetings on SCAN TV

Mayor From page 1

under a one year warranty if any should need to be replaced.

On a less happy note, we have bid goodbye to some key members of the City staff, and despite my own personal sadness about some of these changes, I'm energized to see what the Ron Chandler era brings us as he finishes his first 90 days on the job as City Manager. I want to thank Angela Speier, Elizabeth Gray, and Chelsea Starner for the incredible support they've provided to me and wish them the best as they start the next chapters of their personal and professional lives!

Meanwhile, our new City Manager will be helping to lead us forward with many projects that are at various stages of the planning process, including the Civic Center construction, a new raw water line from Silver Creek to the Water Treatment Plant, long-awaited movement on changes to pedestrian safety along Jefferson and James Streets, and Western Avenue (a key walking route to two schools, and Council goals for improvements to N. Second Street and Jefferson Streets.

Procedurally, Mr. Chandler will help us take steps back to in-person meetings after 18 months of mostly seeing each other (and the public) on a computer screen. For those of you following our regular Council meetings, you know that I've been running those meetings at the Silverton High School Library since May. The move was made to eliminate some public broadcasting quality challenges for our SCAN-TV signal and the space is set up for the Council and the public to participate fully once we return to in-person meetings (the public is welcome now).

The Council was scheduled to discuss the process for returning to in-person meetings during the July 12 regular meeting. It is anticipated that we will continue to offer the Zoom platform as an alternative way to participate for those who prefer to do so.

We've got a lot of work ahead of us. New models for city processes, the hope for economic recovery, kids back to school safely, and the ability to do this all while continuing to see COVID numbers trending downward.

I'm asking you to be patient as everyone finds what works best for them. Labor shortages are impacting many industries, but perhaps none more than our local restaurants that are struggling to maintain adequate staffing. On three occasions recently, different restaurants have been forced to shut down for the day due to this.

Above all, I'm asking you all to be kind. We've been through a lot with the pandemic, wildfires, an ice storm, and a three day heat wave not seen here before. Looming over all of those things has been division over almost every topic and a social media-driven habit of thinking decency, kindness, and respect are no longer necessary all of the time. They are.

On that note, a recent issue of *Our Town* included a re-print of a statement I made on my Facebook page regarding an incident at the Reservoir. In this particular case, the issue was race-related hate language directed at two of our citizens. I encourage you to read it. It is vital that Silverton becomes a community that is welcoming and safe for all people and I won't rest until we've done so. More to come.

Please remember that I am available to each of you by email at kpalmersilverton.or.us, by phone/text at 503-932-8550, and on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, and NextDoor. Your voices matter to all of us and we want to hear from you.

Design process for Civic Center proceeds



Concept artwork of the new Silverton Civic Center.

The City continues the design process on the new Civic Center project. The City Council authorized Mackenzie to undertake the next step in the design process at the April 5, 2021 Council Meeting that includes preparing the Construction Document, Building Permits, Bidding, and Construction Administration.

The Construction Documents will detail everything in the building and how it will be constructed, from what kinds of door knobs will be installed to what types of screws are to

be used. The City design team continues to meet with the Architect to work through the Construction Documents. This will then lead into the project receiving building permits and putting the project out to bid, which is anticipated to occur in Fall 2021. This will lead to the City hiring a contractor to do the construction, which is anticipated to start in Spring 2022. Construction is estimated to take about 15 months.

In a third round of Economic Impact Payments from the federal government, known as

the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Oregon received nearly \$2.6 billion dollars. Legislative leadership set aside \$240 million and invited legislators to submit proposals for their districts. Representatives in the amount of \$2 million and senators in the amount of \$4 million, limited to four projects per district. If approved, the funding requests will be appropriated in a budget bill for passage in both chambers.

The funding priorities for House District 18 included \$500,000 for Silverton's Police facility/City Hall construction project.