



# CITY OF SILVERTON

AUTUMN 2019

## Mayor's Corner

In late August the Silver Falls Library and City of Silverton co-sponsored an event titled "Can We Get Along." While it had been in the planning stages for months, the timing was perfect as I had released a statement on social media the week before calling for an end to an undercurrent of racism that I'd become aware of in Silverton. In short, I too wanted to know if we could get along. (More specifically, I was asking the question, but in no way allowing for any answer except "yes".)



Mayor Kyle Palmer  
503-932-8550  
kpalmer@silverton.or.us

In the weeks leading up to the event, I'd been approached by a family who felt it necessary to remove their daughters from our community due to hate and threats. Based on their stories, I'd asked around, and every single person of color I spoke to had at least one example to share of the racism they'd felt in our community. At the event itself, three members of our community came forward – without prodding – to share their stories in a very vulnerable way. The 50 attendees were audibly shocked, moved and deeply concerned.

Since that time there has been movement in our schools to address this issue, and we will be making it a large focus of our upcoming Town Hall at Silverton High School on Nov. 18.

My statement on Facebook resulted in a tremendous amount of dialogue, the bulk of which was very positive, and very representative of the Silverton that I know. But it's obvious that I didn't know all of Silverton. For those who may be instinctively retreating to what I know for some is a comfortable lens through which to see many issues, I want to repeat something I said on Facebook:

This is not a political issue. This is not a left or right issue. This is a forward or backward issue, and if you aren't moving forward with us, you would appear to be moving backward. It really is as simple as that. Anyone in this community who feels that they have the license to judge or treat anyone differently because of the color of their skin or their cultural history is simply wrong.

Saddest to me perhaps is the fact that so much of what I've learned involves our youth. Kids that aren't able to have an equal experience at school, at our community pool, in our parks, and on the streets of Silverton. Not infrequently, it's their peers themselves who are expressing views modeled by those people who help shape them.

Don't get me wrong – Silverton is overflowing with amazing people who give unselfishly and who see and treat all members of the human race the same. It's those many people that give me hope that we can stamp out the pockets of racial insensitivity

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## Community celebrates Lincoln Park improvements

Silverton Rotary Club and the City of Silverton celebrated the unveiling of the final set of new play equipment for Lincoln Park at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 30. After a rainy weekend the sun provided a welcome backdrop for the celebration. New swings had already been installed by the Rotary Club over the summer after City staff prepped the site. The final addition of a TopsyTurny structure was made possible with a \$3,000 grant and final installation was completed the morning of the celebration.

The City encourages community members to visit Lincoln Park and enjoy these features. Thanks again to the Rotary Club for its stewardship in enhancing these public spaces for healthy and safe enjoyment by all.



## Enjoy new vistas on East Bank Trail

Visitors to the East Bank Trail are enjoying a much clearer view of Silver Creek following a service project conducted Sept. 13 and 14.

First, a small crew of skilled operators cleared out overgrowth using track hoes donated for the day by local businesses. Saturday's event included nearly 180 volunteers, some traveling from as far as Aurora and Salem, clearing blackberries, shrubs, and ivy along a quarter mile of the trail.

This revitalization project came into being when Dan Kohler of the Keizer stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Church) contacted the City about bringing in a large group of volunteers for a community improvement project. As the Public Affairs Coordinator he has coordinated a variety of service projects, including major service days in collaboration with neighboring cities that involve several stakes of the LDS Church.

In the fall of 2017, the Keizer stake coordinated the removal of 600 cubic feet of bark dust from Keizer's Big Toy project to make room for a pour-in surface, and in the fall of 2018 facilitated spreading bark dust in Woodburn's Centennial Park.

Kohler and the Silverton Public Works Department identified several possible projects; with Kohler's excitement for bringing resources together to accomplish what might otherwise be "impossible" in one or two days, the City worked with the LDS Church to facilitate the East Bank project.

In addition to the many volunteers, Kohler gives



credit to a committed crew of local businesses that donated their equipment to these service days.

For the Silverton workday, these include operators from Doug Shepherds Dirt Works of Aurora and Bountiful Farms of Woodburn, track hoes from Herc Equipment Rentals of Keizer, Peterson Cat of Salem and Sunbelt Rentals of Hubbard and a loader from Fleming Nursery Sales in Woodburn. Roth's Fresh Market contributed towards refreshments for the volunteers. Kohler emphasizes it's the combination of dedication and generosity, along with machine power, that makes feats like the trail clean up possible.

The City may have another opportunity to collaborate with the LDS congregations on large-scale projects. In describing the project to the City Council, Kohler explained that he hopes to operate the program in a three-year rotation.





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## Gear Up for Sewer Averaging

City of Silverton residents can save on monthly sewer costs by conserving water during winter months, which is the billing cycle known as Winter Averaging.

Your sewer average is based on water consumption used during the months of November, December, January, February, March and April. The meter reading that is taken in October will be the beginning read of your sewer averaging period. You will see this new average on your May utility bill and it will continue for the next 12 months.

To make sure your bill accurately reflects your usage, carefully review the water usage provided on the utility bills during the Winter Averaging period. Current customers during this period will see current year and prior year information on their bills. If you think the usage is high, you may want to check for a leak which may affect

your new sewer rate. Leaks can result in double or triple the overall average consumption used to calculate the new sewer rate.

How to check for a leak in your house:

- Make sure no water will be used for 30 to 45 minutes;
- Take a meter reading;
- Wait 30 to 45 minutes with no water usage; and
- Take a second meter reading.

If the meter reading changed, it could indicate there is a leak, and repairs may be in order. Notify the Finance Department as soon as possible regarding a potential leak as it may qualify for an adjustment to your utility bill. Toilet leaks, however, do not qualify for a billing adjustment.

Questions regarding your water and sewer bill should be directed to the Finance Department at 503-873-5321 or [finance@silverton.or.us](mailto:finance@silverton.or.us).

## New Water and Sewer Rates in Effect

New water and sewer rates went into effect for all City utility customers following the City Council's adoption on Sept. 9, 2019. This adoption followed a presentation by GovRates, the City's contracted utility rates consultant, at the August City Council Work Session. The City conducts periodic rate studies in order to assure that the City's rates are sufficient to cover operating, capital, debt, and debt service requirements. This study included:

- Water and sewer capital projects to take place over the next five years.

- Inflation for materials and services costs.
- Projected increase to personnel costs.

Based on the results of the study and Council feedback, rates have been set for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. A residential customer using 520 cubic feet of water saw an increase in their bill of: \$4.76. Please visit the City's website at [silverton.or.us/utilities](http://silverton.or.us/utilities) for the complete list of utility rates and contact the City of Silverton's Finance Department at 503-873-5321 if you have questions on how to calculate your utility bill.

## Prepare for trick or treaters at Downtown Goblin Walk

Silverton Police would like to remind everyone about the need for increased awareness and safety for this year's Downtown Silverton Goblin Walk Thursday, Oct. 31. The Goblin Walk is the opportunity for kids to trick or treat at downtown businesses from 4 to 6 p.m. on Halloween. Last year's Goblin Walk brought over 1,000 children and youth along with their parents walking from business to business in the downtown core. We had several close calls of people almost getting hit by vehicles. Our hope for this year is that once again we will have an accident-free event.

Motorists who travel through the downtown core on Halloween afternoon and evening need to have extra patience for the delays in getting through town because of the event. They also need to be hyper-vigilant of children that may dart out in front of them, and/or pedestrians that continue to cross streets without regard for how long the vehicle has been trying to get through a particular intersection.



Businesses participating in the Goblin Walk will display this Jack-O-Lantern.

We are asking pedestrians to please take turns in crossing streets with vehicular traffic to expedite efficient movement for all.

The Chamber of Commerce is looking for community volunteers who can assist at major intersections by encouraging pedestrians to take shifts crossing. You are welcome to dress up while helping out. If interested in volunteering, contact Stacy at the Chamber Office at 503-873-5615 or [Stacy@silvertonchamber.org](mailto:Stacy@silvertonchamber.org). By working together, we should be able to make this another fun and safe event for our children.

## If I Were Mayor Contest... Student Contest 2019-2020

The City of Silverton and the Oregon Mayors Association invite students to enter the "If I Were Mayor..." contest. This annual contest allows students enrolled in grades 4 - 12 or being home-schooled at the same grade level to share creative ideas about what they would do as mayor. Not only will there be fun prizes for the winner, but the local winners will also be entered into the state contest for a chance to win a prize worth \$500!

### Posters

The poster contest is open to students enrolled in grades 4 and 5. Students are encouraged to be creative and may use any art medium (paints, felt pens, colored pencils, crayons, etc.).

### Essays

The essay contest is open to students enrolled in grades 6-8. The essays must be 500 to 1,000 words in length and typed.



### Digital Media Presentations (Video, PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.)

The digital media presentation contest is open to students enrolled in grades 9-12. Presentations must be one to three minutes in length and may be submitted on disk or emailed.

For more information about the contest and to obtain the official entry forms please visit the City's website or contact Angela Speier, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk at [aspeier@silverton.or.us](mailto:aspeier@silverton.or.us) or 503-874-2216.

## City/University partnership to make Silverton a learning lab

The City of Silverton will welcome University of Oregon students this academic year as part of the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP). SCYP, part of the Sustainable Cities Institute at UO, which matches professors and classes with an Oregon city, county, special district, tribe, transit agency, or partnership of governments for an entire academic year. Students working in Silverton, guided by their professors, will combine research and fieldwork to address City needs and achieve course learning goals.

Throughout this partnership, the City also commits to participating in and supporting kickoff and end-of-year activities, as well as convening public participation events as fits the various projects. SCYP has worked with the larger cities of Gresham, Eugene, Salem, Springfield, Medford, Redmond, and Albany, transit agencies, and most recently worked with the City of La Pine as a smaller city pilot program. With the La Pine project concluded, the SCYP Program Manager, Megan Banks, approached the City this summer about a potential smaller city partnership beginning this fall quarter. SCYP staff and City staff worked together to identify budgeted projects and goals for 2019-2020 that:

- Would benefit from this multi-disciplinary, integrated perspective and could reach tangible outcomes in the course of one academic quarter.
- Would be well suited for the expertise offered by UO professors.

### SUSTAINABLE CITY YEAR IN SILVERTON – GET INVOLVED!

**Pettit Property Public Visioning Open House** Wednesday, Nov. 6  
TBD in the evening

**Pettit Property Public Visioning End of Quarter Presentations** Wednesday, Dec. 4 – TBD

**Sustainable City Year Kickoff for Winter and Spring Quarters** TBD in January 2020

**Possible Community Engagement Opportunities for Winter Term Projects** TBD in January – March 2020

• Would provide valuable learning opportunities for students.  
As the calendar below shows, the Pettit Property Public Visioning Project is already in the works for fall term and dates have been set for community activities facilitated by the landscape architecture class. More details will be provided soon. Additionally, projects being explored for the winter (January-March 2020) and spring (April-June 2020) terms include:

- Strategic planning continuation and refinement
- Community survey/feedback project
- City Gateway enhancements
- Stormwater low-impact development demonstration projects

The Agreement signed by the City and UO also allows for additional projects to be added if additional funds can be secured through grants or other partnerships.

For community members, the project with SCYP means:

- You'll have the opportunity to engage with students and professors on specific projects and share your opinions – gauging public opinion and/or offering education opportunities is at the core of many of these projects
- You'll have the opportunity to engage with SCYP students, professors, and supporters at the community celebrations to be scheduled. These gatherings are an opportunity to showcase Silverton.

## Resources available for neighborhood-based groups

Silverton residents who would like to organize within their neighborhoods will find new resources on the City's website this fall. Additionally, following a recommendation by the Planning Commission and adoption of a resolution by the City Council, the City will recognize interested neighborhood groups on the website.

The resolution does not create a city-recognized structure for association with bylaws or a formal leadership structure for associations. Rather, the resolution allows for staff to maintain a list of area representatives in order to disseminate information and allow community members to find a contact for their area.

Exploring the concept of neighborhood associations and neighborhood-based groups has come up in prior years and been on the City Council's list of goals since the last community survey conducted in 2016. This year, staff met with the Planning Commission and interested members of the Citizen Involvement Committee – which authored 2013's Citizen Involvement Committee Report.

After discussions at the May Planning Commission Work Session on May 28 and Regular Meeting on July 9, the

Planning Commission made the recommendation to City Council. The Planning Commission and the Citizen Involvement Committee were in consensus that local groups lead the way in organizing themselves. The City will provide clarity around City resources and opportunities to engage with the City around community issues.

The City encourages community members to work together in groups to achieve common goals and address problems. Some neighborhoods may already have a legally organized Home Owners Association (HOA); other self-identified neighborhood groups can be a resource for residents and businesses in their area and promote greater engagement.

The resolution has four components, which are summarized below. Please also visit the Neighborhood Resources page on the City's website, which will be published this month on the City's website. Questions may be directed to Elizabeth Gray, Assistant to City Manager/HR Coordinator at [egrays@silverton.or.us](mailto:egrays@silverton.or.us) or Jason Gottgetreu, Community Development Director, at [jgottgetreu@silverton.or.us](mailto:jgottgetreu@silverton.or.us).

### PART 1

**Recording interested neighborhood-based groups' contact information on the City website.**

Staff suggest approximately 100 households though are flexible with sizing. Sample forms will be available on website.

Staff will not dictate boundary lines; it is possible for groups to overlap.

### PART 2

**Providing neighborhood resource information on the City's website.**

Website will include: Community outreach toolkits used with permission from other entities.

Optional templates for neighborhood group sign-up.

Links to resources for neighborhood activities.

### PART 3

**Sharing neighborhood resource information via other City media.**

Including, but not limited to, newsletter in *OurTown* and Facebook.

### PART 4

**Revisit neighborhood engagement practices as needed.**

## Silverton City Council



Mayor  
**Kyle Palmer**  
503-932-8550  
[kpalm@silverton.or.us](mailto:kpalm@silverton.or.us)



Councilor  
**Laurie Carter**  
503-580-5355  
[lcarter@silverton.or.us](mailto:lcarter@silverton.or.us)



Councilor  
**Jason Freilinger**  
503-874-4430  
[jfreilinger@silverton.or.us](mailto:jfreilinger@silverton.or.us)



Councilor  
**Crystal Neideigh**  
[cneideigh@silverton.or.us](mailto:cneideigh@silverton.or.us)



Councilor  
**Matt Plummer**  
[mplummer@silverton.or.us](mailto:mplummer@silverton.or.us)



Councilor  
**Jim Sears**  
503-873-9357  
[jsears@silverton.or.us](mailto:jsears@silverton.or.us)



Councilor  
**Dana Smith**  
503-873-4921  
[dsmith@silverton.or.us](mailto:dsmith@silverton.or.us)

## Silverton City Hall

306 S. Water St. • 503-873-5321  
**Finance Director Kathleen Zaragoza**  
503-874-2203 • [kzaragoza@silverton.or.us](mailto:kzaragoza@silverton.or.us)  
**Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu** 503-874-2212  
[jgottgetreu@silverton.or.us](mailto:jgottgetreu@silverton.or.us)

**Public Works Director Petra Schuetz**  
503-874-2210 • [pschuetz@silverton.or.us](mailto:pschuetz@silverton.or.us)  
**Police Chief Jeff Fossholm**  
503-874-2228 • [jfossholm@silverton.or.us](mailto:jfossholm@silverton.or.us)



City Manager  
**Christy Wurster**  
503-874-2205  
[cwurster@silverton.or.us](mailto:cwurster@silverton.or.us)



# City Calendar

## October

**Oct. 15 – Affordable Housing**

**Taskforce** 8:30 am

**Oct. 15 – Homeless/Housing**

**Task Force** 6:30 pm

**Oct. 16 – Parks & Recreation**

**Task Force** 6:30 pm at

Silverton Senior Center

**Oct. 28 – City Council Work**

**Session** 6 pm

## November

**Nov. 4 – City Council Meeting**

7 pm\*

**Nov. 6 – Pettit Property**

**Visioning Open House**

Time TBD at Silverton

Senior Center

**Nov. 11 – Veterans Day**

City Offices Closed

**Nov. 12 – Planning**

**Commission** 7 pm\*

**Nov. 18 – Joint City/School**

**District Town Hall**

Time TBD at Silverton High

Auditorium

**Nov. 19 – Environmental**

**Management Committee**

3 pm

**Nov. 28 & 29 – Thanksgiving**

**Holiday** City Offices Closed

*Silverton City Council Chambers*

*421 S. Water St.*

## December

**Dec. 2 – City Council Meeting**

7 pm\*

**Dec. 4 – Pettit Property**

**Visioning Final**

**Presentations** Time TBD at

Silverton Senior Center

**Dec. 10 – Planning**

**Commission** 7 pm\*

**Dec. 16 – City Council Work**

**Session** 6 pm

**Dec. 25 – Christmas Day**

**Holiday** City Offices Closed

**Jan. 1 – New Year's Day**

**Holiday** City Offices Closed

\* Denotes meetings on SCAN TV

## Changes to Building & Façade Improvement Grants

Proposals will now be reviewed semi-

annually by the Silverton Urban Renewal Advisory

Committee and Silverton Urban Renewal Agency.

The application deadline for review for the year's

first round is Jan. 15. The application deadline for

review for the year's second round is July 15.

The application window is now open for the

January review. Application forms can be found on

the City's website and should be completed and

submitted to City Hall by the submission deadline.



*Before and after of the previous Façade and Building Improvement Project at 207 Jersey St.*

### Building Improvement Program

#### PURPOSE

Encourage investment and upgrades to commercial or industrial property by **encouraging significant rehabilitation** that:

... Improves the value of existing commercial property and

... Supports the highest and best use of commercial or industrial property or new buildings within the Silverton Urban Renewal District.

#### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Structural improvements, seismic upgrades, internal improvements that are considered part of the building that allow the building to operate at a higher and better use, facilities improvements (HVAC, Sprinkler Systems, Elevator, Utility Upgrade, etc.), new buildings, and addition of residential units above ground floor commercial.

#### FUNDING STRUCTURE

The grant funds a portion of the project with the remaining funds being provided as a private match. **The minimum match ratio for projects is 4:1** and the maximum request is \$100,000. For instance, a project with an overall cost of \$50,000 would be eligible for a \$10,000 grant with the remaining \$40,000 being the responsibility of the person requesting the grant.

### Façade Improvement Program

**Improve the appearance and curb appeal** of buildings and streetscape within the Silverton Urban Renewal District.:

... Intended to **improve facades that are directly adjacent to a street.**

Exterior rehabilitation and restoration; painting; brick, masonry, and stucco repair, awnings, exterior lighting, and streetscape elements on private property.

The program offers grants up to \$20,000 for buildings within the Urban Renewal District and grants up to \$40,000 for buildings that are within the Downtown Commercial District. **The program is a minimum one to one (1:1) matching grant** intended to fund façade improvements in the Silverton Urban Renewal District. The grants are available to business and commercial property owners in the Silverton Urban Renewal District for rehabilitating storefronts to eliminate blight, enhance livability, and revitalize commercial areas.

## Mayor

*From page 1*

and hate in our community. It's no longer OK to make a racially tone deaf joke (was it ever?). It's no longer OK to issue a pass to older generations "because they were just raised that way" (was it ever?). It's no longer good enough to sit quietly while someone does or says something that makes you wince – whether their actions were intentional or not, let's take the time to speak up and help educate them about showing the decency that ALL Silvertonians deserve to know in their daily lives.

Silverton must be a place that is safe for everyone to live free of hate and free of bullying. It really is time to focus on kindness. No one can legislate the thoughts of others, but we do have the responsibility to lead by example and I hope you will all join us. A good way to start would be your attendance at the upcoming Town Hall. We would really love to have a large audience for these events as the Council is committed to using all tools available for us to connect to you.

Pivoting to some amazing things in our community...

A group led by regional members of the LDS Church swooped into Silverton and spent two days removing brush along the East Bank Trail (located behind the Community Pool). Their army of people, which included many Silverton volunteers, opened up a significant stretch of the east creek bank to allow views that we haven't seen in decades. Take a moment and walk the trail – it really is an incredible improvement and we were so lucky to have this group select this project. Our deep thanks to all of them!

Silverton Rotary Club installed their second piece of grant-funded play equipment (the city has installed multiple other pieces) in Lincoln Park. This park had been the only recreational spot in a long under-served area of town and if you haven't seen it recently, you won't recognize it. Thanks to the club members, the Rotary Foundation grants, and our own Public Works Team for making this stuff happen!

The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs, in cooperation with The Oregon Garden Foundation, installed Oregon's 84th Blue Star Marker (located near the upper parking entry to the Garden) at The Oregon Garden. The Blue Star Marker project began over 70 years ago and is a recognition of those who have served, or currently serve in our armed forces.

Finally, there's been some chatter about some of the community events that impact traffic. To that end, we have the annual Goblin Walk downtown on Halloween. These events may cause occasional frustration for motorists trying to cross town, but they are also the fabric that our community is built upon. I appreciate your patience in advance and hope that every one of you has an opportunity to see or participate in these events up close and in person. Homer, the Pet Parade, Strawberry Festival, the Art Festival, the Homecoming Parade, the Goblin Walk, and our Christmas Tree Lighting are all great ways for us to get out of our homes and see each other. I hope you all take advantage of them.

Please feel free to contact me at any time on Facebook, NextDoor, by email at kpalmer@silverton.or.us, or by phone at 503-932-8550!