



CITY OF SILVERTON

AUTUMN 2020

Mayor's Corner

It's still 2020.... Hard to be excited about that given the many gifts this year has given us, but tough times usually expose the best of us, and unmask those heroes in our own community.



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

For a community still adapting to the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and the subsequent state orders, the last thing we needed was what came on Sept. 8. Members of our expanded community lost property to the wildfires, while areas on the edges of town were ordered to evacuate, and areas central to the city were taken right up to the brink of evacuation. Many left just to be safe.

That's when it happened. In addition to our dedicated fire professionals who were on the job from the start, non-professionals took their tanker trucks, earth moving equipment, and other farm implements and joined in. Others grabbed shovels. Our hospital evacuated but the ER team stood watch to help those in need. Strangers hauled livestock, and friends welcomed them into their safe property. Residents helped other residents pack.

Like so many times before, the best in us was on display. Strong Silverton was on display.

Quietly, there's been a movement to remind each other that there's more to our community than division over politics, guns, or masks. The Strong Silverton group sponsored Neighborhood Night Out and asked our community to meet each other from a safe distance. Many did.

Carole DeMar brought the Flags of Hope project to our community, and the sight of those flags hanging around Town Square Park is incredible.

Several area rock painters donated their rocks for a project going on through this month that is sending our youth outside to hunt for Strong Silverton rocks and prizes that coincide with these special rocks. Prizes can be redeemed at the Silverton Chamber office – one per person up to 8th grade level.

Finally, and most importantly, on Saturday Oct. 17 at 10 a.m., the Strong Silverton group is bringing you a recognition parade for all

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Community responds to fires & COVID-19

The City would like to join our community in thanking all of those who played a part in protecting the City and our neighbors throughout the recent wildfires:

• **THANK YOU to everyone who in professional and personal capacities helped to keep our community safe and healthy during the fire impacts.** We know that many of you continue to do so every day as we respond to the pandemic and recover from the fires.

• **THANK YOU to our colleagues at the Silverton Fire District** for hosting the City's Emergency Operations Center. It was an excellent opportunity to unify our command of the situation.

• **THANK YOU to City staff**, who adapted to the fire situation, working overtime to activate backup generators to maintain our water supply and filling in for many colleagues who needed to respond to emergency impacts on their own families and properties.

City Hall remains open to the public on a limited basis

• Doors open 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; appointments available and required at other times during other business hours (8 a.m.-10 a.m., 2 p.m. – 5 p.m). Staff are willing to assist you over the phone and email and will work with you to minimize in-person interaction.

• Stay tuned to website and Facebook for any adjustments to City Hall hours.

Resources for wildfire survivors and community members help Visit **Wildfire.oregon.gov**

- FEMA links for help with uninsured losses or damages related to fires
- Current conditions
- Ways to donate and volunteer to assist survivors and communities

Mental Health Resources

Supports in tough times

• Oregon-based nonprofit Lines for Life and OHA have launched the Safe + Strong Helpline at 800-923-4357 (800-923-HELP). The line offers free, 24-7 emotional support and resource referral to anyone who needs it – not only those experiencing a mental health crisis. The Safe + Strong Helpline is a response to the need for emotional support around disasters like COVID-19 and wildfires and was funded by the CARES Act. Callers are routed to a counselor who can provide emotional support, mental health triage, drug and alcohol counseling, crisis counseling or just connection.

Health Reminders

For the latest health information, including guidance on symptoms and testing, please consult the following trusted sources leading the Covid-19 response.

Local: Marion County Health Authority

www.co.marion.or.us/HLT

State: Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

www.oregon.gov/oha

National: Center for Disease Control (CDC)

www.cdc.gov

International: World Health Organization (WHO)

www.who.int

Emergency Preparedness

Reminders – Are You Ready?

Sign up for Emergency Alerts

September's wildfires were an important reminder of how crucial emergency alerts can be! City staff strive to provide you with relevant and timely updates via our website and Facebook. That said, the quickest emergency information will always come from METCOM 911. If you aren't signed up, sign up TODAY at **Metcom911.com** to get timely safety alerts on your preferred device(s)! Ask your neighbors

if they've signed up, too! Also, get your go-bag ready for home, work, and vehicle with tips at **ready.gov!**



Visit Metcom911.com to sign up!

Police Facility and City Hall site design work continues

The contract for architectural services with Mackenzie Engineering, Inc. for the design of the Silverton Police Facility/EOC, Municipal Court/Council Chambers and City Hall Facilities (also referred to as the Silverton Civic Center project) was signed on April 22, 2020. Work continues in full swing with weekly virtual meetings between Mackenzie and the project team.

Representatives from Mackenzie along with City staff presented project updates at the August and September City Council regular meetings. These meetings have included:

- Approving contract amendments to include services for energy modeling and daylight modeling. These services are designed to increase the energy efficiency



On Friday, August 14, staff celebrated #CityHallSelfieDay in a physically distanced manner at the Eugene Field site. Thanks to Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu for "building" the Civic Center behind us!

of the building and will be eligible for incentives from the Energy Trust of Oregon.

- Considering options for the building floor plans, including input

from the Civic Center Equity and Inclusion Task Force meetings, held on Aug. 27 and Sept. 24. As part of its discussion of creating an inclusive and

welcoming public space, the Task Force recommended exploring a separate entrance to the police department.

- Considering value engineering options for the facility. Value engineering represents opportunities for cost savings.

Mackenzie did not present at the Oct. 5 City Council Meeting as staff and consultants continue to evaluate various options. Staff and Mackenzie will present at the Oct. 19 City Council Joint Work Session with the Civic Center Equity & Inclusion Task Force and there will be public comment. Any formal action would then be taken at the Nov. 2 Regular City Council Meeting.

Silverton Police training during COVID-19 pandemic

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit our community, all facets of work and training have been impacted for Police Officers. To address quality, on-going training for officers while addressing the safety concerns and protocols for a safe work environment, the department has temporarily reduced some of the hands on survival skills training. The department continues to focus on quality, best practice work and interaction techniques by continuing with Lexipol Daily Training Bulletins, which cover a variety of topics from communication techniques to recent court decisions to ethics and field scenarios from actual incident critiques.

The department has further enhanced its training by beginning supplemental on-line training from a nationally recognized leader in police training. This has allowed specific topics to be selected where the officer will be able to go through a 1-3 hour training topic session while on-duty, 24/7. Some of the topics covered included are crisis intervention, de-escalation, ethics and decision making, implicit bias and excessive force and prevention. Officers will normally have two to three supplemental training sessions to complete each month.

Officers continue to train in certain survival skills where it can be safely done. One area is in outdoors firearms training, where instructors conduct training courses which involve a multitude of skills used by the officer to reflect what they could encounter when handling calls. Use of patrol cars, while making simulated radio calls, making contact with others and using different de-escalation techniques to moving into higher stress conditions

where other force options may or may not be needed. This allows the officer to train in constantly evaluating situations, trying to de-escalate, communicate and gain voluntary compliance to resolve the situation with the minimum amount of force as possible. Another area of training deals with First Aid, CPR and AED training. These life safety skills are trained on throughout the year so officers can assist others and even themselves should they become injured and medical assistance is not on-scene.

The training conducted for Silverton Police Officers far exceeds what is required to maintain annual training and certification requirements mandated by the Dept. of Public Safety, Standards & Training (DPPST). Additional information on Silverton Police training can be found on the City website for Council Meetings, under the Agenda Center for July 20, 2020 City Council Special Meeting minutes when a presentation was made to the City Council.

The commitment to providing quality, best practices training using department and outside instructors such as those from the DPPST Regional Training cadre will allow the officers to be better prepared to serve the community regardless of what they are confronted with as they serve on a 24/7 basis, 365 days a year. Once we get through the COVID-19 pandemic, the department will resume the Ride-Along program, where community members can ride with an officer, get to know them and accompany them as they handle calls for service within our community.

Newly appointed School Resource Officer Shawn Aljets carves new path

At the onset of a school year unlike any other, Senior Officer Shawn Aljets begins service as the School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Silver Falls School District (SFSD). Sr. Ofc. Aljets is a 14 year veteran of the Silverton Police Department (SPD) and has served in assignments on Patrol and as Detective. As SRO, Sr. Ofc. Aljets will work as part of a team of school staff assisting students across all of SFSD's elementary, middle, and high schools. The selection process included several interviews representing community members, SFSD, and City stakeholders. The SRO position became available through the promotion of former



SRO J.J. Lamoreaux to the position of Sergeant in SPD.

As of this writing, SFSD students are engaged in full time distance learning through at least Nov. 16. Prior to that date, the District will evaluate if it has met the state health metrics to transition to a hybrid model. During this time,

Sr. Ofc. Aljets has been meeting with all district schools, both virtually and in safe, physically distanced settings to learn about their goals and challenges. Sr. Ofc. Aljets will continue working with the teams at each school to work individually with students and families as requested. Sr. Ofc. Aljets and SPD look forward to being able to serve more students and families in person when the situation allows.

Follow the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) projects!

Last quarter's issue shared the outcomes of the City's partnership with the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program. Please visit www.silverton.or.us/SCYP to see all of the final reports and student work, and for updates on how the City is applying this research!

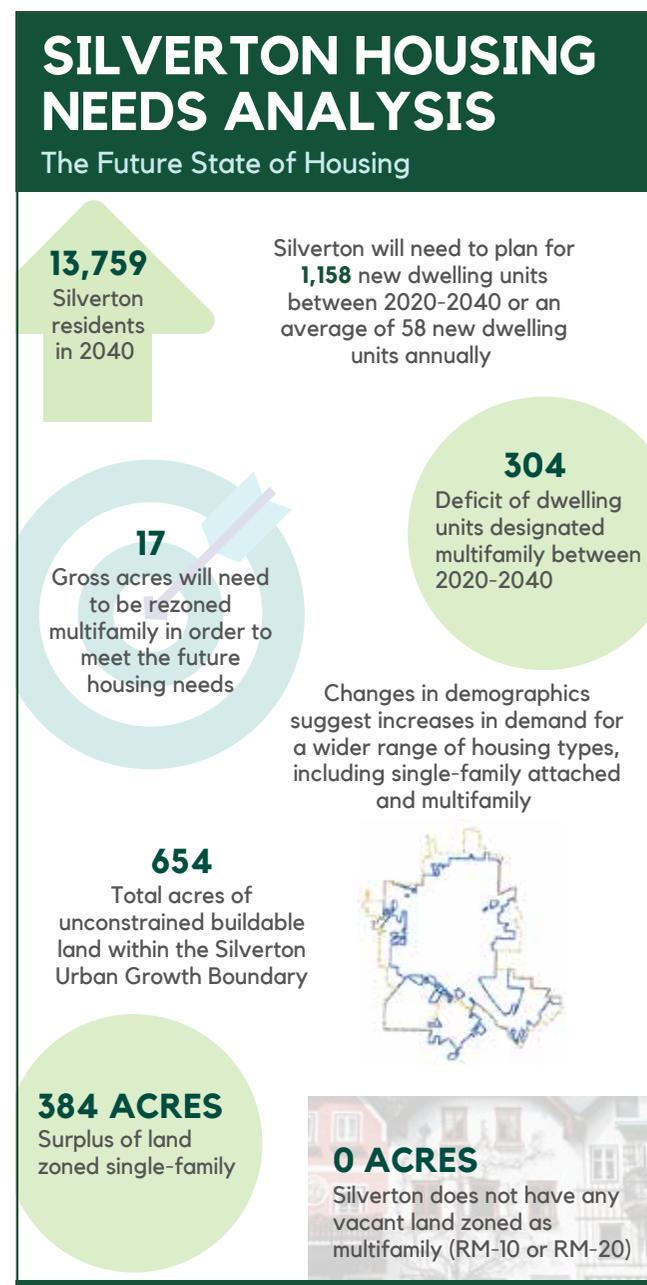
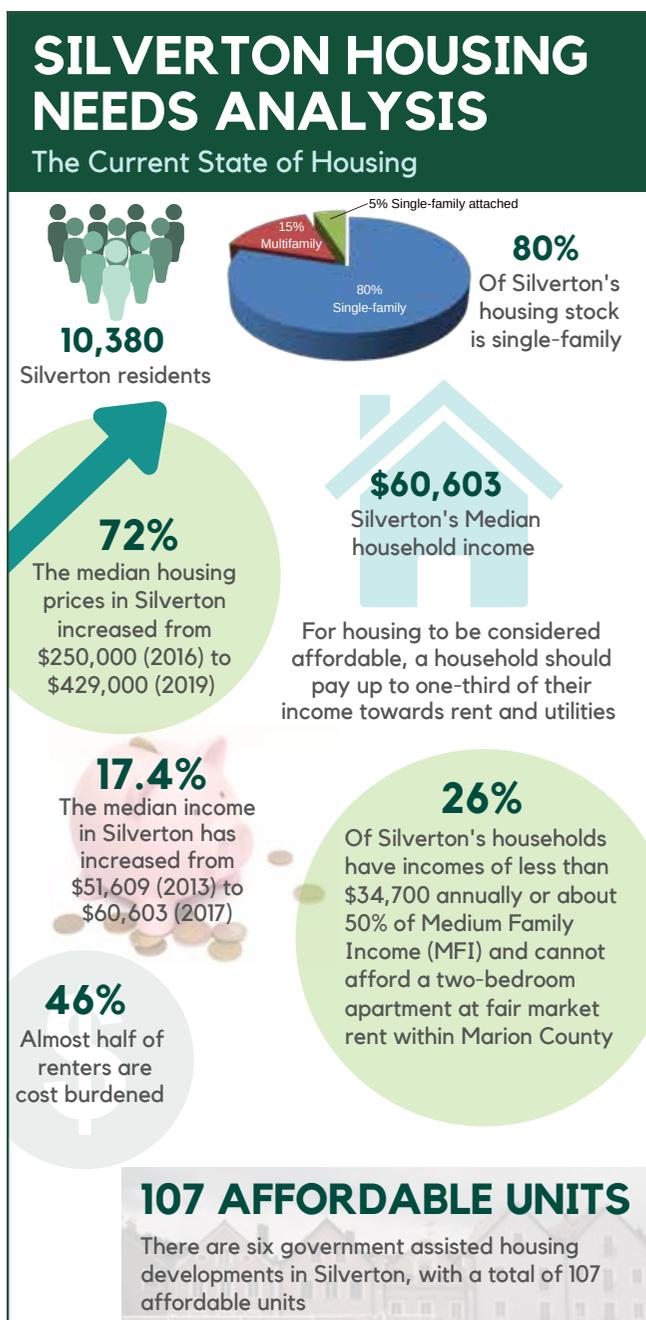


Silverton's Housing Needs Analysis Process Continues with Council

The City Council will soon have the opportunity to adopt the Housing Needs Analysis (HNA), crafted over the course of the past year with guidance from consultants ECONorthwest and community input. After some delays due to the wildfires, the Planning Commission is scheduled to have reviewed the document by this newsletter's publication date. A Public Hearing will then be held at the Nov. 2 City Council Meeting. The HNA fulfills several goals, many of which are state requirements; the document:

1. projects the amount of land needed to accommodate future housing needs of all types in Silverton;
2. evaluates the land supply in Silverton;
3. fulfills state planning requirements for a 20 year supply of residential lands;
4. identifies policy and programmatic options for the City to meet identified housing needs.

Members of the Affordable Housing Task Force provided significant input into the policy and programmatic options, also informed by community comment and the outcomes of a December 2019 in-person open house facilitated by the consultants. The HNA is a 20 year document that is reviewed every eight years; for a snapshot of its contents, see the graphics to the right.



STATE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN OREGON

102,500 UNITS NEEDED

Oregon has 28,500 affordable rental units available to renters with extremely low incomes. About 131,000 households are in need, representing a 102,500 gap.

The complete Housing Needs Analysis can be viewed at www.silverton.or.us under City Documents.

- ### NEXT STEPS:
- Comply with HB 2001, passed during the 2019 Legislative Session. HB 2001 requires cities with a population of 10,000 to 25,000 to allow duplexes on all lots zoned single-family residential.
 - Silverton City Council will need to identify land that could be rezoned multifamily.
 - The Affordable Housing Task Force will continue to develop The Housing Strategy that outlines specific policies, objectives, and actions needed to meet Silverton's housing needs over the next 20 years.

Silverton Police Department welcomes back Leblanc



Silverton PD was pleased to welcome back Officer Justin Leblanc in July 2020. Officer Leblanc served in Silverton from 2014 to 2019.



STREET SWEEPING SEASON IS HERE!

Please visit silverton.or.us/streets for schedules and routes (subject to change due to operational needs). Call **503-873-8679** with further questions.

Silverton City Council

 Mayor Kyle Palmer 503-932-8550 kpalmer@silverton.or.us	 Councilor Laurie Carter 503-580-5355 lcarter@silverton.or.us	 Councilor Jason Freilinger 503-874-4430 jfreilinger@silverton.or.us	 Councilor Crystal Neideigh cneideigh@silverton.or.us	 Councilor Matt Plummer mplummer@silverton.or.us	 Councilor Jim Sears 503-873-9357 jsears@silverton.or.us	 Councilor Dana Smith 503-873-4921 dsmith@silverton.or.us
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Silverton City Hall

306 S. Water St. • 503-873-5321

Finance Director Kathleen Zaragoza
503-874-2203 • kzaragoza@silverton.or.us

Community Development Director Jason Gottgetreu 503-874-2212
jgottgetreu@silverton.or.us

Public Works Director Petra Schuetz
503-874-2210 • pschuetz@silverton.or.us

Police Chief Jim Anglemier
503-874-2230 • janglemier@silverton.or.us


City Manager
Christy Wurster
503-874-2205
cwurster@silverton.or.us

City Calendar

October

Oct. 19 – City Council Joint Work Session with Civic Center Equity & Inclusion Task Force 6 p.m.

Oct. 20 – Environmental Management Committee 3 p.m.

Oct. 28 – Homeless/Housing Task Force 6 p.m.

November

Nov. 2 – City Council Meeting 6 p.m. *

Nov. 10 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m. *

Nov. 11 – City Hall Offices CLOSED for Veterans Day Holiday

Nov. 16 – City Council Work Session 6 p.m.

Nov. 17 – Environmental Management Committee 3 p.m.

Nov. 19 – Civic Center Equity & Inclusion Task Force 6 p.m.

Nov. 26-27 – City Hall Offices CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday

December

Dec. 7 – City Council Meeting 6 p.m. *

Dec. 8 – Planning Commission Meeting 7 p.m.

Dec. 15 – Environmental Mgmt. Committee 3 p.m.

Dec. 21 – City Council Work Session 6 p.m.

Dec. 25 – City Hall Offices CLOSED for Christmas Day Holiday

January

Jan. 1 – City Hall Offices CLOSED for New Year's Day

Jan. 6 – City Council Meeting 6 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

McClaine Street Update

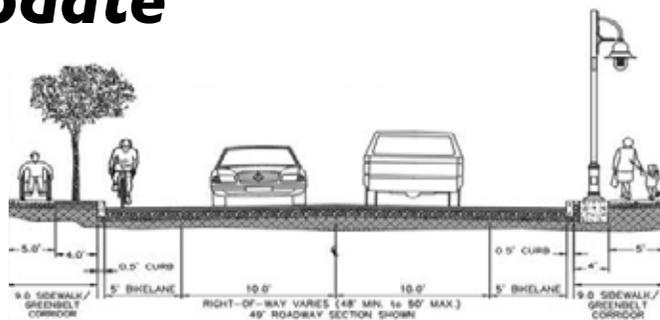
In the first part of September K&E Excavating completed stormwater system improvements on Main Street. The contractor then began working on sanitary and storm sewer improvements on Main Street.

Work by K&E was on-hold from September 5 – 9 due to the wildfires. The overall project timeline has not been impacted by this temporary delay. Private utilities including NW Natural, Ziplly Fiber, and PGE also stopped work as crews were re-assigned to complete emergency repairs related to the wildfires.

In late September K&E installed new sidewalk and curb on Main Street from McClaine Street to Coolidge Street. In October, K&E has been paving the James Avenue and Main Street portions of the project. As this work is completed, those streets will again be accessible by the public. The focus will then shift back to McClaine Street utilities for the rest of October.

Background:

Silverton residents can expect to welcome summer 2021 with a new and improved McClaine



Street! The stretch of McClaine between W. Main Street (southern extent) and C Street (northern extent) has exceeded its useful life and requires reconstruction.

This reconstruction of the right-of-way (ROW) will include a new road surface, storm drainage, larger sewer pipe, new sidewalks and street lights, planter strips, and bike lanes as shown in the graphic. Please contact Petra Schuetz, Project Manager, at 503-874-2210 or pschuetz@silverton.or.us, or Bart Stepp, City Engineer, at 503-874-2209 or bstepp@silverton.or.us. Sign up for project updates using the website's "Stay Connected" feature.

Mayor

From page 1

those professionals and non-professionals who helped protect our area communities during the recent wildfires. Entries will leave the staging area at Brown and Schlador Streets and proceed south on Water Street, just as the Homer parade normally would.

The parade entries are limited to any person or group that played a role in managing and defending against the recent wildfires. The procession will turn at Oak, and again at First Street before leaving town past Roth's.

Unlike normal parades, we're obligated to find a way to do this safely, which means we'll not block off parking spaces and will instead ask spectators to park in them and watch from their vehicles. We'll park vehicles facing both sides of the Eugene Field property. We know folks will leave their vehicles and we know some will congregate on the sidewalks.

We hope all spectators will honor the reasons we're there and not violate distancing from others. We hope spectators will honor the spirit of this recognition and show your support with signs. We hope to keep the focus of this event on the heroes in our community and not other issues. There will be absolutely no candy involved as the safety of our children around these big vehicles is too important.

2020 has done it's best to try divide this community, but there are people working everywhere to make sure that doesn't happen. Thank you to all who share that mission.

Finally, most people have heard by now that the Oregon Garden Resort has elected to not hold Christmas in the Garden this year, citing concerns over COVID-19. They will have a limited lighting display, but it will only be accessible to guests of the hotel and under special conditions.

The loss of 30,000 plus visitors to that event will have a significant impact on our local economy. Our local businesses have been hit with pandemic related closures, then restrictions, and some have yet to re-open. Some businesses have been the target of those seeking to enforce the Governor's mandates and others have been targeted because they are complying with those mandates.

It's time to put all that aside and find a way to shop local. With the holidays approaching, please consider the gift of a local purchase. Shopping Silverton keeps your money here, helps keep our businesses open, and helps keep employees employed. We have unique shops, incredible eateries, amazing dessert makers, great stores and many coffee shops. Together, we have the power to help turn around this year that they've all struggled to weather.

Please. Buy. Local.

RESIDENTIAL SEWER AVERAGING

For residential customers, your sewer average is based on water consumption from the November – April billing. You will see the new average on your May 2021 bill.

Contact the Finance Department at 503-873-5321 or finance@silverton.or.us for any questions or more information on your existing utility billing.

If I Were Mayor, I Would... Student Contest

Elementary School (grade 4-5) - Poster Contest
 Middle School (grade 6-8) - Essay Contest
 High School (grade 9-12) - Digital Media Presentation
 Local winners from each category will receive prizes and recognition from the Mayor at a City Council meeting. They will then move on to the statewide competition for a chance to win \$500



DUE APRIL 23, 2021

Visit: www.silverton.or.us/mayorcontest