



CITY OF SILVERTON

SPRING 2021

Mayor's Corner

It's hard to believe, but here I am again, contemplating the best way to express my deepest thanks to our community and citizens for responding to yet another crisis. First the pandemic, then the wildfire threat, and now a once-in-a-lifetime ice storm that ravaged the trees throughout our greater community and left many residents without power, or without heat, or without water, or in some cases all three.



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

Once again, the character of our community was on display. Strangers with chainsaws helping others clear driveways and streets; organizations like SACA and Sheltering Silverton modifying their normal services to help... well, pretty much anyone in need; and private citizens like Jason and Karyssa Dow who started out cooking some food for people one night that turned into two nights, then eventually found them partnering with Oak Street Church to feed people for a whole week. Generators were sourced and provided where needed. Power stations were set up to allow others to charge cell phones. Welfare checks on vulnerable residents were handled by the Police and a network of private individuals.

The only thing I can say with certainty is that we'll never be quite certain how many heroes contributed to the recovery of our community. PGE showed unprecedented resolve to address those without power by bringing crews from surrounding states and Canada, and you treated them like royalty as they worked around the clock. My wife cried and told the lineman she loved him when their truck pulled up in front of the house on our tenth day without power.

I've never been more proud of our community.

In the wake of this crisis however, was the jarring reality that most of us are not prepared for the kind of event that we've been warned about for years and is still looming out there. Strong Silverton, a network of representatives from nearly every service providing entity in town, is actively working on a multi faceted approach to preparedness. The group will soon launch a program for neighborhood preparedness organization, new opportunities for CERT Team training, and the development of two separate sites for centralized humanitarian aid in the face of a crisis – both of which would work closely with and be located near the Police Department/ Emergency Operations Center and the Silverton Fire District respectively. These sites would each be located on opposite sides of Silver Creek in order to maintain that response should our bridges not be accessible.

We realize that as more days pass since the weather crisis that we all experienced, fewer and fewer citizens will feel the urgency to prepare for the next one. I hope that each of you will still make

Continued on page 4

Civic Center project moves forward



An updated rendering of the Civic Center facility exterior showing two entrances, visitor parking, and the City Hall entry plaza.

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 regular virtual meetings between Mackenzie and the project team.

Based on current project trajectory and assuming no major setbacks, staff anticipate a project completion date between December 2022 and April 2023.

Since your fall City newsletter, Mackenzie and City staff have presented material at several Council meetings. This progress has included:

- In October 2020, City Council and the Civic Center Equity and Inclusion Task Force held a Joint Work Session to discuss building redesign options and updated cost estimates.

- In November 2020, City Council took formal action to proceed with a reduction in building size, proceed with a redesign to allow for separate entrances to the City Hall and Police areas of the facility, and explore other redesign elements of the facility.

- In December 2020, Mackenzie presented an updated cost estimate, site plan and floor plan. City Council approved moving forward with the updated plans pending the Design Team approval.

- In January and February 2021, staff presented updates regarding: finalizing costs for the floor plan updates and upcoming decisions to be made regarding project delivery methods. In March 2021, Mackenzie presented their final design set and cost estimates. Council approved a motion to direct staff to solicit funding for up to \$12,000,000 for the construction of the project and to bring back to Council for approval and authorization.

- While not pursuing an official LEED energy certification due to added administrative costs, the City is undertaking energy efficiency measures in the design of the facility including a high efficiency HVAC system, natural ventilation, high efficiency lighting that includes daylight sensors coupled with sunshades and light shelves. A 70 kilowatt photovoltaic array is also

included. This equates to an energy use that is about 43% less than the code baseline standard.

- 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. This will lead into the project receiving building permits and putting the project out to bid to hire a contractor to do the construction, which is anticipated to start in Spring 2022.

Silverton's New City Manager: Ron Chandler

Ron Chandler begins service as City Manager on May 3, 2021. A more comprehensive article is planned for our July 15 quarterly newsletter (also see the Mayor's Corner column for more about Ron



and the City Manager recruitment and selection process). In the meantime, the City is pleased to share a piece of Ron's introduction that he provided before the Virtual Meet and Greet for City Manager finalists earlier this spring:

"I have two over-riding managerial philosophies. First, the City Manager position is inherently a relations building position and the two most important qualities are effective listening and facilitating. Second, the Athenian Oath, whose last line states: 'We will transmit this City not only, not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.'"

Welcome to Silverton, Ron!

Getting through the historic Ice Storm of February 2021

On Feb. 12, 2021 Silverton was hit with a historic ice storm and received between 1 to 1.25 inches of freezing rain which caused extreme damage to the electric grid leaving the entire city in the dark for multiple days. In Marion County, nearly 105,000 customers experienced one or more outages with 17,456 in the 97381 zip code. The City's Public Works Department worked through the weekend to ensure the community's ability to access safe drinking water and have sanitary sewer services.

• Both the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) lost power Friday, Feb. 12. While both facilities have onsite generators there were still challenges, including getting power to the booster pump stations and the sewer liftstations. City staff had to continually monitor the liftstations and use a mobile generator to dump them when needed.

• In addition, emergency propane had to be delivered in order to keep the Edison Road booster pump station operating. By Monday, Feb. 15 the water at the high-level reservoir was well below the normal operating level requiring the Silverton Fire District to assist in pumping water from the mid-level reservoir to the high-level reservoir.

• The Maintenance Division was busy clearing debris from high priority roads and clearing limbs from the right-of-way and sidewalks.

On Monday, Feb. 15 Mayor Kyle Palmer declared a State of Emergency which allowed the City additional flexibility in terms of directing City staff and acquiring needed resources related to health and safety. In addition, the City worked with the Oregon Garden Foundation to open a debris site for residents to dispose of their woody debris. By Feb. 20, the Oregon Garden debris site was full and the City opened



a second location at Eugene Field Commons. The City also worked with our partners at Republic Services to place a dumpster at Eugene Field for residents to dispose of food waste.

The City would like to thank everyone who stepped up to help their neighbors during this event and all our community partners. A special thank you goes out to PGE workers and the 400+ crews from multiple agencies who worked 24-7 to restore the power.

Transmission Lines Repaired: 44
Feeders Repaired: 256
Transmission Line Miles Restored: approx. 401 miles
Transformers Issued: 1,146
Substations Repaired: 20
New Wire/Cable Issued: 866,041 ft.
Wires Down Restored: 12,733
Poles Issued: 984

Reopening Coolidge-McClaine Park

Silverton Rotary, the Silverton Fire District and 94 volunteers contributed over 250 hours of service at Coolidge-McClaine Park and the West Bank Trail on Saturday, March 27. Thanks to them, the City was able to reopen half of the park and the West Bank Trail on March 29, significantly earlier than planned!

City welcomes new faces to team, water division veterans retire

In addition to the City Manager transition covered in this issue, winter and spring have brought new faces to our City team!

Police Department

Braden Andersen and Josh Rios joined the Police Department as laterals, meaning that they have already completed and passed Oregon's Basic Police Academy. Since joining Silverton in early January they have been training with Silverton's Field Training Officers; now that they've completed this training you'll see them



Braden Andersen



Josh Rios



Lakota Rakoz



Ben Hodges

out in the community on duty.

Lakota Rakoz (start date Jan. 4) and Ben Hodges (start date Feb. 22) left for the Basic Police Academy in early March and will remain there for approximately four months. Both bring a wide range of customer service experiences to their new careers as police officers. The Police

Department looks forward to introducing you to them soon upon their return.

Public Works

Jensen Price joined the Public Works Department as our Engineering Technician on Jan. 11. Jensen is pivoting

to engineering and construction activities from several years as a biologist and lead biologist at Clackamas County Vector Control. She brings a great deal of transferable skills including GIS training.

Troy Kemper joined the Water Quality Division as Water Quality Supervisor on Jan. 25, where he was able to overlap with retiring supervisor Steve Starner. Troy spent over 11 years in wastewater field operations before pivoting to teaching in the Water, Environment, and Technology program at Linn Benton Community College. Troy learned of the opportunity in Silverton as the WET program was beginning to close down and is pleased to be back in field operations where he can apply his combination of skills in both operations and teaching to lead Silverton's Water Quality Division.

Finance

If you've visited or called the Finance Department recently, you may have spoken with Cristal Ruth Contreras. Cristal is a recent graduate from the Accounting program at Oregon State University and is excited to gain more experience in municipal accounting, having gained an understanding of public sector work through student positions while at OSU.

Welcome all to the City of Silverton team!

Retirements

The Water Quality Division has seen several transitions in 2021.

Steve Starner served as the City's Water Quality Supervisor for over 20 years. During that time he played a crucial role in the ongoing success of the water reuse



Steve Starner

collaboration between the City of Silverton and the Oregon Garden. The collaboration provided a solution to City's problem of reducing the thermal load in the receiving strain of Silver Creek. Steve also led numerous technical and safety improvements at the water quality facilities as well as planning for community growth. One recent example is replacing the UV disinfection technology at the wastewater plant.

Mike Downey served at the City's Wastewater and Water Treatment facilities for over 19 years. Mike first came to the City as an intern from Linn Benton Community College's training program. After several years at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mike transitioned to being the primary operator of the Water Treatment Plant. He commented that storms kept him the busiest, as constant recalibration of the water systems would be necessary.



Mike Downey

Brandon DeArmond contributed greatly to the City's water and wastewater efforts during his time as a trainee with the division from April 2020 through March 2021. Thank you, Brandon!

Happy retirement to Steve and Mike, and best wishes to Brandon!

Emergency Preparedness Reminders – Are You Ready? Sign up for Emergency Alerts

February's storm event and 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 – Use the red "Stay Connected" button to sign up for announcements, job postings, etc. 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**!



silverton.or.us



metcom911.com

COVID-19: Spring possibilities

City Hall is back open to the public on a limited basis!

• As of March 1, doors are open 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; appointments are available and required at other times during other business hours (8 - 9 a.m., 1 - 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.

Continued online meetings

• City leaders continue to creatively and flexibly approach providing services in the safest way possible. City meetings continue to be accessible via Zoom links on the City's website; some meetings may be attended in person, subject to capacity limits (see each individual agenda).

• The Mayor and City Council hosted a Virtual Town Hall in lieu of an in-person event on Dec. 14.

• The video is still available on the City's website for anyone who would like to view the event. Mayor Palmer presented along with a prepared video of City staff and City Councilors who provided updates on all areas of City functions. Mayor Palmer answered submitted questions and several asked live, related to:

- the Oregon Garden;
- safety at the intersection of Third and Oak Street;
- the City's response to the treatment of minorities in Silverton, specifically the BIPOC and LGBTQ communities;

- transparency in the Police Department;
- disaster mitigation plans in the City; and
- development opportunities for the Pettit property.

Modified availability of activities at the Silverton Community Center and Community Pool

• Staff have been working with the YMCA and other recreation providers to allow for recreation activity in City-operated facilities, consistent with Statewide guidance. Please check with providers directly for the most recent activity schedules and hours.

Use of City park facilities

• Due to evolving State guidance and risk levels, the City is not currently accepting

applications for private events in City parks and facilities.

- Picnic facilities remain open on a first-come, first serve basis for individuals to gather on their own.
- Those interested in hosting a special event that is open to the public should contact the Special Events Coordinator/Public Works Coordinator at csterner@silverton.or.us or 503-874-2206 to learn about the latest procedures. There is no guarantee that the City will authorize a special event permit as the City must consider State guidance and insurance requirements.



Silverton Urban Renewal Agency – Next deadline is Thursday, July 15!

The Silverton Urban Renewal Advisory Committee and Silverton Urban Renewal Agency review funding proposals semi-annually. Following July 15, the next application opportunity will come in January 2022. Application forms can be found on the City's website and should be completed and submitted to City Hall by the submission deadline.

Two programs are available to assist your business:

Building Improvement Program

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.

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.

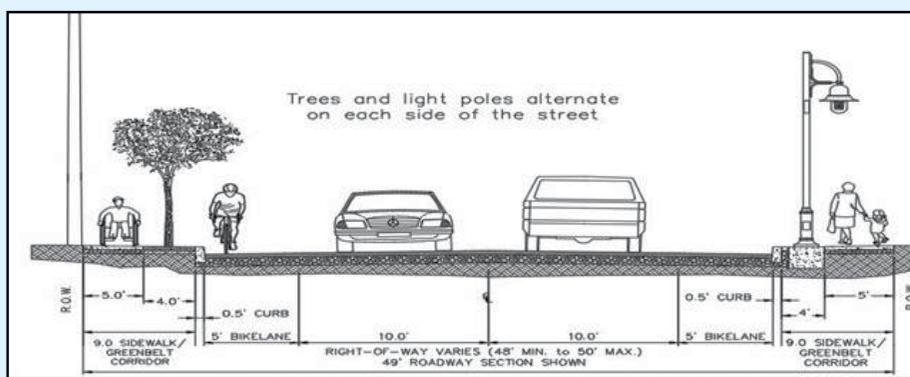
Façade Improvement Program

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.

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.

Questions on the programs should be directed to Jason Gottgetreu at 503-874-2212 or jgottgetreu@silverton.or.us.

McClaine Street Update



Work has continued and the road continues to be closed. Paving is anticipated to be completed in May, with project completion in June. Please visit silverton.or.us/projects for links to project updates!



Planning a home improvement project?

Contact the building department at 503-874-2207 before you start work:

- You might need permits
- Our staff is ready to help you figure out what's required
- It's better to know now!

Common projects requiring permits include:

- installation or replacement of water heaters, furnaces, and air conditioning units
- plumbing repairs and replacements
- moving walls
- some types of decks, patio covers, sheds & accessory buildings

Silverton City Council



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



Councilor
Elvi Cuellar Sutton
esutton@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Jason Freilinger
503-874-4430
jfreilinger@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Jess Miller
jmiller@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Crystal Neideigh
cneideigh@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Jim Sears
503-873-9357
jsears@silverton.or.us



Councilor
Dana Smith
503-873-4921
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

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
Ron Chandler
503-874-2205
rchandler@silverton.or.us

City Calendar

April

- April 19 – City Council Work Session** 6 p.m.
April 20 – Affordable Housing Taskforce 8:30 a.m.
April 22 – Urban Renewal & Budget Committee Meeting 6 p.m. *
April 28 – Homeless/Housing Taskforce 6 p.m.
April 29 – Budget Committee Meeting 6 p.m. *

May

- May 3 – City Council Meeting** 6 p.m. *
May 4 – Budget Committee Meeting (if needed) 6 p.m. *
May 11 – Planning Commission 7 p.m. *
May 17 – City Council Work Session 6 p.m.
May 18 – Affordable Housing Task Force 8:30 a.m.
May 19 – Environmental Management Committee 3 p.m.

- May 26 – Homeless/Housing Task Force** 6 p.m.
May 31 – City Hall Offices CLOSED – Memorial Day Holiday

June

- June 7 – City Council Meeting** 6 p.m. *
June 8 – Planning Commission 7 p.m. *
June 15 – Affordable Housing Task Force 8:30 a.m.
June 16 – Environmental Management Committee 3 p.m.
June 21 – Urban Renewal Agency Special Meeting 6 p.m.
June 21 – City Council Special Meeting 6:15 p.m.
June 23 – Homeless/Housing Task Force 6 p.m.

July

- July 5 – City Hall Offices CLOSED – Fourth of July Holiday**
July 12 – City Council Meeting 6 p.m. *
July 13 – Planning Commission 7 p.m. *
July 19 – City Council Work Session 6 p.m.
July 21 – Environmental Management Committee 3 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

the time to become prepared and to participate in some training – it may well make a huge difference someday in the future.

On a brighter note however, I am excited to announce that the City Council has finished the recruitment process for our next City Manager and has selected that individual, Ron Chandler, who has been the CM in Lincoln City for six years.

Ron and wife Liz have long been admirers of our community and have counted Silverton as a favorite place to visit, which comes as no surprise. They are both very excited to begin this next chapter, as are we. In addition to the City Council interview process, we used a panel of City Department Heads, a panel of regional "peer" organizations, a panel of community members, and a virtual Meet and Greet to help narrow the field. Mr. Chandler topped the list of every panel.

While I'm excited to welcome Ron, who will start on May 3, I'm also so thankful to our former (2012-2016) City Manager Bob Willoughby for coming out of retirement to helm the City as Manager Pro Tem during this period of transition. Having an interim City Manager with experience in our community and a familiarity with local issues, and having one who is not distracted by pursuing the job permanently has been extremely valuable to us. I promised Bob a low key, uneventful few months and instead he's had anything but. Kudos to Bob and Deputy City Manager/Finance Director Kathleen Zaragoza for their calm leadership during this time.

I'm especially thankful to the City's Maintenance Division and its crews. They took on the task of cleaning up the city, overseeing two debris dump sites that became larger than we could have ever predicted, and finally saw those piles turned to chips and usable firewood that was free to the public at the Eugene Field site. Throughout the storm and the recovery, our administrative staff has also provided prompt and continuous messaging via our website and social media platforms, which makes my job a lot easier.

Finally, though our Maintenance crews accomplished most of the enormous cleanup job at Coolidge-McClaine Park, that work was finished by 94 volunteers coordinated by Silverton Rotary who gave over 250 volunteer hours on March 27. That group included a team from the Silverton Fire District who came armed with gators and chainsaws and almost singlehandedly cleared and opened the Westbank Trail to Salamander Island. It was another shining example of how our citizens care and how important it was to get our kids back in that park. As I write this, the playground section of the park and the Westbank Trail were opened less than 48 hours after that cleanup effort but the rest of the park remained closed pending some final canopy work. Please look for the most current update before exploring the other sections of the park.

I'm encouraged by the news that there is a working plan to hold the Silverton Pet Parade this year, and the Silverton Strawberry Festival will happen on Father's Day, either as drive-up/takeout event, or as a normal event, depending on the situation in June. Homer Davenport Days is in the planning stages again as well. Kids are back in school, though not quite yet the school we all remember. You've been patient, and diligent, and we are all looking forward to a summer that looks more like the ones we grew up with!

Neighbor, officers' efforts save a life with CPR

Since the City's last regular *Our Town* newsletter, Police Chief Jim Anglemier has recognized community and officer lifesaving efforts at two Council meetings, as more and more information became available regarding an act of everyday heroism.

As first reported at the Dec. 7, 2020 City Council meeting, three Silverton police officers responded to a call where a father had collapsed outside with his four-year-old son. Officer Carlin arrived first to find another community member administering CPR and was shortly joined by Detective Martinez and Officer Schaap, who used the automatic external defibrillator (AED) three times to establish a heartbeat; medics then transported the man to Legacy Silverton Hospital, and from there he was transported to a Portland hospital for further treatment. He survived the incident and was back home in Silverton with his family for the winter holidays.

Once the community member's identity became known, the Chief and City Council then recognized Terri Stevens at the Jan. 4, 2021 Council Meeting. Terri lives near the survivor's home and heard someone pounding on her door that morning;



Terri Stevens (right), Officer Carlin, Detective Martinez, and Officer Schaap with the community member supported by their CPR on Dec. 5, 2020.

she had recently been to CPR training related to her job and began performing CPR. Following her third cycle, the officers arrived and were able to give her a break. Terri shared with the Chief and Council at the meeting that she "would do it again" and hopes that more people will take the opportunity to learn CPR, emphasizing that current methods do not require anyone to perform mouth to mouth resuscitation. Chief Anglemier echoes this encouragement

for everyone to take time and learn current CPR chest compression methods; while COVID-19 has reduced in-person training opportunities for the moment, there are many online training options available and some blended learning opportunities through the American Red Cross and other providers. You, too, could save a life!



Budget Season 2021:
Your input matters!
Meetings begin 4/22

- Join Budget Committee meetings and provide input:
- The Budget Committee has 14 members (7 City Council and 7 Silverton residents).
 - Check the City's website for agendas and Zoom links for the meetings at 6pm on April 22, April 29, and May 4 (if needed)
 - Learn more at: www.silverton.or.us/393/Budget