

The City of Mt. Angel Newsletter



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Written by the City of Mt. Angel for Mt. Angel residents

February 2014

The State of the City from Mayor Andrew Otte

The "State of the City" is a time tested method by which elected officials share information with the community about how the city is doing. The year 2013 brought some changes to the City of Mt. Angel and several accomplishments.

As I noted last year, we had a change in leadership at City Hall. We said goodbye to City Administrator Susan Muir and welcomed Eileen Stein who signed on as City Administrator in July after more than a decade serving Sisters in the same capacity. Eileen has jumped in with both feet and has been working hard on many projects and activities. In addition to Eileen, Tara Von Flue joined the staff at City Hall, John Korecki and Craig Guthrie joined the Public Works crew, and Levi Fergus is now a full time Police Officer after serving as a Reserve Officer.

City staff, the City Council, Park Tree Board, and members of the community continue working on the design for improvements at Ebner Park. The nearly \$200,000 in grant money is still allocated to the City and we are nearly ready to translate the money into updates to the park. Although the plan had been to have this work done last year, there were delays due to additional studies needing to be done and additional design work. The next phase of design is nearly done and the goal is to get the work started in the spring and completed by the end of the summer.

The Library saw an increase in circulation this year and the summer reading program for kids was a phenomenal success. I know I enjoyed all of the special programs and presentations I was able to attend. Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of the Library, a new and improved sprinkler system is going to be installed in the flower beds which will only improve the already beautiful landscaping.

The continued partnership with Oktoberfest provided for another project to be completed at the Saalfeld Family Park. The lattice work on the south end of the property was constructed and paid for by Oktoberfest. This new unique feature provides a defined park boundary.

In keeping with the partnership theme, the City of Silverton partnered with Mt. Angel to expand its Enterprise Zone boundary to include a portion of the industrial area in Mt. Angel. This is a huge benefit for the City as it provides one more tool or selling point to use when entering conversations with businesses who may be looking to open up shop in Mt. Angel. The two cities have regular meetings to discuss how we can expand and deepen our partnership and share resources.

Another successful partnership involved removing the fire siren from City Hall. Due to some issues with the City Hall physical building, the siren had to be removed. Thanks to the Fire District and PGE, it was removed and given to the Fire District without any cost to either the City or the Fire District. City Hall also had some unplanned maintenance work done after we discovered mold spores due to long standing water damage. City Hall is an old building and has become functionally obsolete. We are starting to pour good money into a bad building. The Council has decided the time has come to start looking to the future of that building and what options are available to relocate and build a new City Hall.

The Budget Committee looked at infrastructure and city assets as a primary focus this past year. The result is the Police Department has a brand new patrol car. In the past the City has been successful in purchasing used patrol cars, but the secondary market is drying up and making the change to brand new vehicles will in the long run be more cost effective for the City.

State of the City (continued)

Heading into 2013 the big theme was the “fiscal cliff”. We are still here so maybe we didn’t find the scary cliff after all. There is some good news at the national level. The Farm Bill was recently passed which will provide good things for the state. The Federal Government passed a budget bill, which hasn’t happened in the last four years. In addition, a water resources bill was passed to enable cities to apply for dollars to make necessary improvements to water related infrastructure. This bill does not provide free money, but allows for the borrowing of money at very low interest rates.

What is the theme for 2014? Rebuilding the foundation. The City Council laid out goals for 2014 that when completed will provide improved operating efficiency for the City, and provide some necessary financial tools for planning. The City has many infrastructure maintenance and upgrade needs. Over the past couple of years we have updated the water and sewer master plans. Just these two combined plans have indicated the City faces more than \$16 million is needed infrastructure work. This does not include any storm water or street and sidewalk needs.

The primary source of revenue for the City is property taxes, but like most other cities in Oregon, the property tax revenue does not even cover the cost to provide the basic services for the community. As we move through the rest of the current budget year and start the budgeting process for the next year, the City Council will be looking at the cost of providing services and figuring out how to continue to provide those services but also how to pay for them over time.

I am looking forward to 2014 and the work planned to be completed.

Andrew Otte
Mayor



Needs Volunteers!

Marion-Polk Food Share needs volunteers to help with this year’s Spring Break lunch program, SuperFunHappyBreakTime, March 24 - March 28th at St. Mary’s Elementary School. “We need people to talk up the program in their area, serve lunches and do enrichment activities with the children at program sites where a nutritious meal is provided free of charge during Spring Break,” said program volunteer coordinator Toni Sisneros.

This year, the emphasis is on fun and activities. Lunch will be served to any child age 1 to 18 each day from noon to 1 p.m. Volunteer shifts will be 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Anyone interested in volunteering or seeking more information may contact Toni Sisneros at 503-569-6500 or sisnerost@gmail.com.

Utility Billing Update:

Under the new policy approved by the City Council in January, all delinquent water/sewer accounts must be paid through the current month as of April 15, 2014 to avoid receiving a water shut-off notice. Because all customers have the opportunity to get caught up during these few months there will be no payment arrangements after that date. If you have any questions, please contact us at City Hall as soon as possible to ensure that your water service continues.

CONTACT THE CITY

Administration	503-845-9291
Water & Sewer Billing	503-845-9291
Police Department	503-845-9294
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Library	503-845-6401
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*Please send your comments and suggestions-
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