

# The City of Mt. Angel Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 2

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

February 2016

## State of the City

by Mayor Andrew Otte

As the calendar changes to 2016, it is time again to pause and look back and forward at the "State of the City". 2015 was another very busy and successful year in the volume of work, changes, improvements, and accomplishments. Here are only a few of them.

The past year again brought changes in staffing. Stephanie Laing, our new Children's Librarian, brings great experience and energy to the Library. Children's programming is expansive and last year included great events for Halloween, New Year's and even Santa stopped by for a few pictures! The Library is now has its own piece of social media with a Facebook page that offers great reading ideas, information, and an array of both fun and interesting photos.

The Library's operating hours were changed to provide a consistent opening time. Sound panels were added to the Community Room in the Library to make that room more acoustically friendly for all the events that take place. At City Hall, the office space was reconfigured to add part-time office specialist, Darlene Bishop, to better support administrative operations.

We lost Officers McDonough and Adams in the Police Department who left to continue their law enforcement careers in other agencies. We've just added Officer Bill Snell who is in training mode and are working quickly to fill the other vacancy. The Police Department spent lots of time on community based activities and improving the tools they use to keep the community safe.

We said goodbye to Utility Worker Alan Dahlberg and replaced him with Maintenance Worker Colby Kemp in late 2015. Public Works kept the town looking good and the infrastructure running for another year. The team removed playground equipment from Humpert Park and are working to getting the new equipment installed there in 2016. They replaced water lines and lined old sewer pipe, all underground improvements that are hard to see but very necessary. Upgrades were made the crosswalks in town with a new thermoplastic material.

Community development was a key focus in 2015. The Council put forth a measure on the November 2015 ballot asking the voters to weigh in about annexing 20 acres on the West end of town. The measure passed by a slim margin and the Council will approve the annexation ordinance in February. In addition, new developments on the East and North ends of town with the approval of the Grandview and Maryhill Phase 3 subdivisions, and new in-fill development in town will help grow the city's tax base.

The Council also approved an update of the City's system development charges which will raise new revenue from development for new infrastructure. Grant money was secured to have the entire Development Code undergo a deep issue assessment. Moving into 2016, the work will focus on updating and improving the Code.

A downtown façade improvement program was established. As a result, over \$15,000 in façade improvements were made in the downtown core. If you are somewhat unsure of the changes, take a moment to look at the new façade at Bochsler's Hardware. This program will continue into 2016 as the City was awarded another \$18,000 in grant money from Marion County to put toward these valuable improvements. The City continued the UO Green Cities program to work with the ongoing partnership with students from Gdansk University in Poland.

The Council also spent lots of time discussing, guessing, and guiding policy decisions to best deal with the approval by Oregon voters of medical and recreational marijuana. We are now prepping to have the voters of Mt. Angel make the final decision as to how Mt. Angel as a community wants to address the new laws. Watch for a ballot measure on this issue in November 2016.

### Looking Toward 2016

As we move into 2016, city finances, for both operations and infrastructure, will continue to be important, critical, and primary areas of focus.

(cont.)

A task force has been created and chartered with taking a hard look at the city's infrastructure needs, operations, and how to continue pay for these needs. This committee started the hard work in 2015, but it will carry on into 2016. The end result will be detailed analysis for the City Council and community to review and set forth a course of informed and planned action. Likewise, a committee has been formed to analyze our options with regard to an aging City Hall.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, or are curious to understand how the City receives, saves, and spends money then I encourage you to submit an application. You can find the application on the City's website under the Forms and Permits link: [Volunteer Boards & Committees Application](#).

I am thrilled about the levels of accomplishment in 2015 and I am excited about what we can do in 2016. The City has a phenomenal and dedicated staff in every department; a great group of elected people representing you, and most importantly we have you, the citizen. On behalf of the Mt. Angel City Council, we wish you a prosperous 2016.

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## Mount Angel Library Special Programs!

### Valentines Day Party

Come and celebrate Valentines Day with friends at the library! Join us on Friday, February 12th from 3:30-5:00pm for a fun and festive afternoon of Valentines Day activities, including making your own hand-made Valentines Day cards (with a German flair), creating special Love Rocks to keep or give away, and enjoying some sweets and treats! Our Valentines Day party is for ALL AGES!

### Bird Feeder Making

Come Tuesday, February 16th at 3:30pm and make a bird feeder to hang at your house! This will be in place of the normally scheduled Family Storytime for this week only. All ages with parent participation.

### Science Time

Friday, February 26th at 3:30pm come build helicopters\* and airplanes at the library. Registration suggested in person or by calling 503-845-6401. All ages with parent participation.

\*while supplies last

### Book Sale

Friday February 26th & Saturday February 27th from 9am-3pm each day in the Library Community Room.

Save the date!  
**Friends of  
Mount Angel  
Public Library  
Book Sale!**  
February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>  
You can help!

Start your spring cleaning early and help us make this a great sale!  
We are currently in need of donations of **good-condition new or used books, audiobooks, CDs, and DVDS**. Thank you so much!

Friends of Mount Angel Public Library book sale proceeds directly benefit our community by supporting library programs, projects and materials.

### Important Dates

**City Hall Closure** - Monday February 15, 2016 in observance of Presidents' Day

**Budget Committee Workshop** - February 16, 2016 at 6:30pm in the Library Community Room

**City Council Meeting** - Monday, March 7, 2016 at 7pm in the Library Community Room

**Municipal Court**, March 16, 2016, at 6pm in the Library Community Room

### Contact the City

Administration	503-845-9291
Water & Sewer Billing	503-845-9291
Police Department	503-845-9294
Public Works	503-845-6260
Court	503-845-9291
Permits/Planning	503-845-9291
City Website	<a href="http://www.ci.mt-angel.or.us">www.ci.mt-angel.or.us</a>
Library	503-845-6401
Library Website	<a href="http://www.mountangel.ccrils.org">www.mountangel.ccrils.org</a>