

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER

ATTENTION – LOCAL NEWS FOR PHOENIX, OREGON

JEFF BELLAH, MAYOR

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VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016 – I want to encourage everyone to vote this year. In my last newsletter, I encouraged people to step up locally and run for Mayor or Council. That plea was partly successful but fell short of what I had hoped for. We do have two people registered to run for Mayor, one who is on City Council and the other new to city involvement. The three people running for City Council are all unopposed. It is the first time I have seen people running unopposed in Phoenix, so I truly hope it works out. I hope that each person serves us well and is successful.



We also have a ballot measure to ask you for the right to charge a **3% sales tax on commercial recreational marijuana sales** in Phoenix. The City Council and I urge you to vote “YES” on this measure, as it will bring additional dollars to Phoenix for use in education, parks and public safety. The state charges a tax but it does not appear to provide substantial resources to the city. Keep in mind that this is not a tax on everyone, but is for those purchasing recreational marijuana from one of the commercial dispensaries in Phoenix. Other cities in the Rogue Valley have similar measures on the ballot, so it should apply fairly across cities if all pass.

Finally, I encourage everyone to vote on the ballot measure to fund the Historical Society of Jackson County. Passage will allow for modest expansion and funding of local and county museums and other historical activities. Phoenix will directly benefit from this measure if it passes. The City Council unanimously approved that this be placed on the ballot by the county at .05 cents per \$1000 dollars of assessed value on properties owned. That amounts to \$7.50 on a home with an assessed value of \$150,000.

I-5 INTERCHANGE RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY – After 2 ½ long years, the construction on the I-5 Interchange overpass, the Fern Valley Bridge and related projects on Hwy 99 through Phoenix, are coming to an end. I firmly believe the hardships experienced as part of this project will be worth it in the years and decades to come. This makes Phoenix more accessible and will allow for development on the east side of I-5. The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for the Interchange Project is scheduled for **Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 11 am at the Shoppes at Exit 24 near McDonalds**. Please plan to attend if possible.





3rd ANNUAL CITY OF PHOENIX – HOMECOMING PARADE: We had an extremely successful Homecoming Parade honoring the schools and their sport teams on September 28, 2016. I consider this annual parade one of the most satisfying events started during my time as Mayor. It just gets better and better each year. The kids are so enthusiastic and it gives Phoenix a chance to interact with and demonstrate our support for the schools in our city. This year we had over 65 parade entries that included music, the high school marching band, sports team floats, cheerleaders, classic and modern cars, businesses, community groups, and school clubs (art, equestrian, drama, etc.). I was honored to be selected as the Grand Marshall this year, and it was a highlight of my years as your Mayor.

Along with other annual events -- Dog Days of Summer and the Easter Egg Hunt -- I feel Phoenix is starting to build some traditions. This can only happen when ordinary citizens step up as volunteers to assist the city in making these events happen. I want to specifically thank Councilor Carolyn Bartell and Breeze Chapman (PHS) who did such a great job organizing the Parade and for the support from the administrations at both the City of Phoenix (Matt Brinkley, Matias Mendez, and Lt. Jeff Price) and the high school (Principal Rugraff, Anne Bryan, Jessica Flores, and Toby Walker). Once again, the Oregon Department of Transportation did a great job in helping divert traffic on the Parade route on Main Street, as did the Phoenix Public Works and Police Departments with overall traffic control and logistics.

CITY RECRUITMENT ACTIONS: As four of us on Council wrap up our terms of office, we are working hard to ensure we leave the next Council with excellent managers in all areas of the city. Accordingly, we have been working diligently the last few months to find high quality people in each department and at the City Manager position. To date, I am really pleased with the caliber of the people we have been able to recruit. Below is the status of each position and for two police vacancies.

1. **CITY MANAGER:** We are down to two finalists for the position of City Manager. They are Jamie McLeod and Ryan Kirchoff. Both of these candidates have advanced degrees and excellent public service experience. We plan to have both of them meet with city staff in the next few days and to schedule a “meet and greet” Town Hall event with citizens to allow for introductions and questions to both candidates. It is our expectation that a final selection will be made by October 17th.
2. **PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:** We have recruited Ray DiPasquale, a licensed Engineer as the new Director of our Publics Works Department. Ray is a welcome addition to the city and he will bring technical expertise as well as a wealth of management experience that we have not had before. Ray is scheduled to join the city on October 17, 2016.
3. **FINANCE DIRECTOR:** Janette Boothe has been appointed as our new Finance Director. Janette was previously our City Recorder and Assistant Finance Director. She knows the city and will be a welcome addition in her new role.
4. **POLICE OFFICERS:** Two of our police officers accepted positions with the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department. Fortunately, because of the outstanding Officer Reserve Program developed by Chief Bowker and Lt. Price, we had great applicants to replace them. Two officers have been selected and both will be positive assets to the department. They are scheduled to attend the Police Academy in November 2016. Following is a brief bio on each officer.
 - Matthew Curtis is a Rouge Valley native. He served on active duty with the US Marine Corp. He has been a Reserve Police Officer since June 2015. Matthew is married with two young daughters.

Town Hall Meeting – Everyone Welcome
Meet the City Manager Candidates
Tuesday, October 11, 2016 from 6:00 to 7:30pm
Public Works Building – 1000 S. B Street

- William DeKruiger is also a Rogue Valley native. He is a recent graduate of the Reserve Officer Law Enforcement Academy at Rogue Community College. William comes from a Law Enforcement family, with his brother serving as a Police Sergeant in Grants Pass.

SUPPORT ACCESS AND THE PHOENIX FOOD PANTRY: I will be attending the Mayor’s United fund raising event again on October 8, 2016. This is not only a fun event and auction, but it raises some much needed money to support the programs administered by ACCESS. The Green Bag and Food Pantry efforts, located at the Presbyterian Church here in town, have been an integral part of the community for several years. They have now joined with ACCESS to provide even more service to the community. During the period of March – August of this year, the pantry provided 2418 food donations to families in Phoenix. Additionally, ACCESS notes that 183 of our residents receive food at other food pantries outside of Phoenix; 165 individuals were able to borrow medical equipment; and approximately 300 people received assistance with energy and weatherization costs. I would like to commend both ACCESS and the Phoenix Food Pantry for the invaluable service they provide to those most needing assistance in our community. If you are looking for an organization that makes a difference locally, I would encourage you to consider ACCESS and the Phoenix Food Pantry for charitable donations.

JACKSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5 – OPEN HOUSE
 Wednesday, October 12, 2016 – 5pm to 7pm
 5811 S. Pacific Hwy – Phoenix, Oregon

Free Food and Drinks



Includes kids’ games and activities, firehouse tours, prizes and “Sparky The Fire Dog”

PHOENIX URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY (PHURA) NEWS:

Unfortunately, a planned property sale at the south end of town to retailer Dollar General has fallen through. The property near Oak and Main St. is now being considered by other developers, as are multiple properties in the city center and at Fourth Street and Bear Lake Drive. The City and PHURA have been working closely to ensure the agency retains sufficient funds to complete the Plaza Community Center, which is in the final design stages. PHURA has purchased several pieces of property considered necessary to completing their future plans in the city center and on South Main Street.

This has left the agency somewhat restricted in pursuing projects other than the Community Center until other property sales occur. To assist, the City has partnered with the agency in the short term with the following actions:

- Provided the services of the Interim City Manager to serve as the PHURA Director.
- Obtained a \$3.5 million loan for PHURA at a low interest rate.
- Provided \$250,000 in System Development Funds to help complete city center street projects.
- Provided a short term loan of \$150,000 to PHURA, which is to be repaid by December 1, 2016.
- Provided significant assistance for landscaping, maintenance, legal, and planning work, while waiving invoice payments for a year.

Once another developer purchases the property released by Dollar General, PHURA will again have the resources available to complete multiple projects simultaneously. In the meantime, the primary goal of the City is to ensure the 5800 square foot Plaza Community Center planned just north of 2nd and Main is completed in 2017.

PARKS MASTER PLAN: The City of Phoenix has contracted with the Community Service Center (CSC) at the University of Oregon, to develop a plan for our parks. This plan will provide a vision for the next 20 years for the development, maintenance and expansion of our parks system. Parks and Recreation opportunities are considered to be vital to the quality of life for our residents. CSC has worked closely with our Phoenix Parks and Open Space Commission to develop this plan while seeking an unprecedented level of input and opinions from the community. Through two surveys, five public workshops, an interactive website, meetings with middle and high school students, and multiple site visits, the CSC has developed a comprehensive draft plan that is now in the final review stage. Goals developed for the parks will include the following:

- Provide adequate park system funding.
- Increase capacity for park operations and maintenance.

- Develop and expand recreational programming options.
- Foster opportunities for community support and involvement.
- Acquire additional park lands to meet future needs.
- Increase inclusion and opportunities to use the park system.

This plan will provide a guide and focus for the city to continue to develop our Parks and Recreation opportunities for years to come.

2ND ANNUAL SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY: Phoenix Counseling Center would like to invite you to their 2nd annual Phoenix Suicide Prevention Day -- Celebrating Lives and Raising Awareness while Honoring Teen Lives Lost to Suicide. The event will provide free food, live music, information about services from Phoenix Counseling Center, and other local organizations.

**Please join them in building community awareness about adolescent suicide
and prevention efforts and services in the community for adolescents.**

For questions please contact their Executive Director, Jackie Lien by email at Jackie@phoenixcounseling.org

VOLUNTEERISM: Once again, I would like to encourage everyone to try and make time in your busy lives to get involved in your community. Everyone is busy, but it is vital to our community that people give of their time and talents in order to continually make Phoenix a place where people want to live and thrive. Whether it be a onetime event like helping with something like the Easter Egg Hunt or Parade, volunteering at the food bank, serving on a committee like Parks, or running for public office, you can make a difference. If you don't have time for formal commitments, then do what you can. Maybe visit neighbors once a week to discuss their wants and needs, then relay your collective thoughts to the city through the Mayor and Council. If everyone spent just a few minutes a week helping others in our community, we would be exponentially better able to meet the needs of all. I would really appreciate your giving some thought as to how you might help. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas or questions you may have about how you can get involved. Thank you.

FINAL THOUGHTS: As I near the end of my experience as Mayor, I am reflecting more on what we have accomplished and what still needs to be addressed in the future. The next and my final issue of this newsletter will be sent out around December 1, 2016. In that issue, I will talk about our accomplishments as well as the unfinished challenges for the city in the near future. In other words, a "State of the City" Report.

You can contact me by email at jeff.bellah@phoenixoregon.gov . I can also be reached by phone at **(541) 944-3643**, or by drop-in hours at City Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-3pm. I am happy to meet you at other times by appointment. I especially try to respond very quickly to email.

CITY COUNCIL

Bruce Sophie – President
Stan Bartell – Councilor

Carolyn Bartell –Vice President
Terry Helfrich – Councilor

Chris Luz – Councilor
Jim Snyder – Councilor



Jeff Bellah
Mayor, City of Phoenix