

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2017

ATTENTION – LOCAL NEWS FOR PHOENIX, OREGON

CHRIS LUZ, MAYOR

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First, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your support and confidence in electing me as your mayor. I'm humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve. I love Phoenix and I'm looking forward to working with our City Council, our amazing volunteers, our dedicated employees and the citizens of our wonderful city. We are blessed to live in a wonderful community, with excellent schools, beautiful parks, and truly great citizens. You are welcome to attend our council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 6:30 P.M. Let's work together to make Phoenix an even better place to live, work and play.

Welcome to newly elected Councilors Terry Baker, Stuart Warren and Sarah Westover. Congratulations!! Phoenix appreciates their willingness to volunteer in service to our city. Also, many thanks to Councilors Bruce Sophie and Jim Snyder who were voted Council President and Vice President respectively. On March 20th Phoenix High School Teacher, Mike Shunk was appointed to the City Council. Congrats Mike.

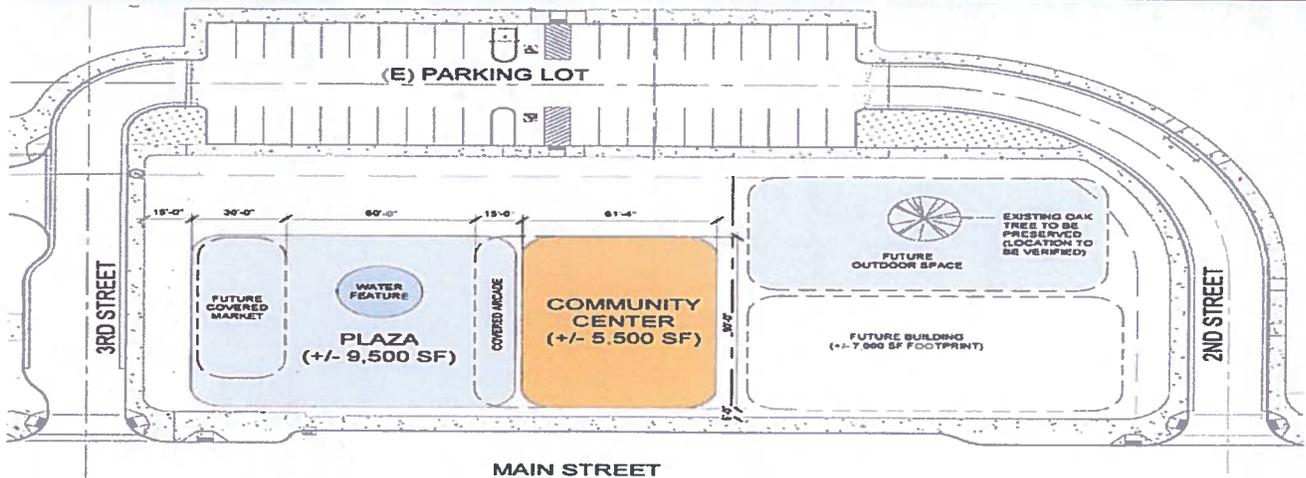
I love meeting with Phoenix residents and I encourage you to reach out to me. Here are some of the ways for us to get together:

- Call my number at City Hall and leave a message at (541) 535-1955, ext 314. I check my messages regularly.
- Let's talk before one of the city council meetings. Meetings normally start at 6:30 p.m. and I'm there around 6:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Public Works Facility at 1000 South B Street.
- Invite me to a meeting at your home or business.
- Walk with me talk with me. Join me at Colver Park for a walk along the streets of Phoenix. I'm out and about walking about five times a week. My kids and our dog may join us.
- We can coordinate a town hall meeting together. More on town hall meetings below.

Town Hall Meetings - Thanks to the residents (Ike) of **Bear Lake Estates** for hosting the first in a series of town hall meetings. Upon coming into office I proposed having a series of town hall meeting that provide opportunities to offer your questions, concerns, and suggestions to me, the council and city staff. It's important that we reach out to each other. Another town hall will be held at **Creekside Estates** in May. Other suggested locations include **Rogue Valley South, Phoenix High School** and **The Grange**.

Heartfelt thanks to Pastor Rod Howell and Central Neighborhood Church for offering to house residents displaced by the Frontier Lodge fire in February. The National Red Cross eventually offered hotel vouchers but Rod and the church were there for Phoenix at a critical moment. Thanks!

**** Free Community Dinners** at 1st Presbyterian Community Center, 121 W.2nd St. on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 5 to 7 pm. Go taste what volunteer superstar Carolyn Marshall and her team are cooking up.



The Phoenix Plaza Building will be located on Main Street, between the new 2nd and 3rd Street extensions. This location will allow easy access from the new parking lot, and will be close to the wetlands park. A landscaped Plaza will be added, with a water feature, seating and trees.

Final plans for the Phoenix Plaza are full steam ahead with an expected ground breaking this spring. This 6,000 square foot community center and plaza will be a game changer for downtown Phoenix. The Phoenix Plaza will enhance the quality of life and promote community involvement here in Phoenix. The facility will have multipurpose activity rooms, a full size catering kitchen and the “fireplace room.”

Every Plaza area will be available for use by local residents; from smaller group gatherings of friends to have "coffee & conversation" to larger events such as concerts, film festivals, swap meets, BBQ cook-offs, kids carnivals, weddings, parties, performances, shows, dances, seminars, meetings, auctions, etc. The cobblestone parking lot to the back of the plaza will have the potential to host farmers markets and other special events. More info at: <http://www.phoenixura.com/projects/>

Kistler Small and White, Architects are designing the facility and providing construction management services. Plans to bid out the project are scheduled for May. **We will spread the word regarding a groundbreaking ceremony date. I hope to see you there.**

Many thanks to the Phoenix Urban Renewal Board of Directors and the Phoenix Plaza Design Committee volunteers for keeping the project moving along. Good job.

Phoenix is attracting many new businesses - Large and Small

Our planning department supports new businesses with a can-do, welcome to Phoenix attitude.

Rite Aid Pharmacy - Rite Aid has broken ground at the corner of Main St. /HWY 99 and Bolz Rd. in downtown Phoenix and will move from its current location (former Phoenix Pharmacy) into a much larger facility. Rite Aid Corporation is one of the nation's leading drugstore chains with approximately 4,600 stores in 31 states. Welcome to Phoenix. Visit www.riteaid/careers.com for job opportunities.

Exit 24 Self Storage - Kellenbeck Holdings will build a self-storage facility on 4.65 acres next to the Petro Shopping Center truck stop. The 233 unit storage business features a 47,000 sq. foot, two-story building and potentially four single-story structures comprising 73,000 sq. feet. 215 climate-controlled units would be offered. "The interchange is a huge incentive to the entire east side, for sure," says Kellenbeck "Without question, it is going to be followed by development. It will be good for Phoenix."

Taylor Elements Project - Taylored Elements Construction is relocating its headquarters from Medford to Phoenix and building 10 housing units on the vacant lot just south of Oak St. Construction starts soon on the 6,000 sq. foot business. They will also house a local cabinet making business that is relocating from Ashland. For over a decade, Kyle Taylor and managing Partner Dustin Brown have built high quality structures and remodels. Welcome to Phoenix.

Good Morning Bakery recently had its grand opening. Located just off exit 24 across from Circle K, owners Miguel and Irma Urrutia said they are excited about the level of support from "American and Mexican" customers. The Ashland residents wanted to be the first to open a panaderia/bakery in Phoenix. Long term plans include offering Mexican breakfast and Italian dinners. Yummy.

Pizzatori Take and Bake, El Comal Taqueria & Grill and Sushi & Bento have located in the Ray's shopping center. Pizzatori offers pizza, subs and craft beer growlers. El Comal offers unique Mexican dishes and a full bar (margaritas). Stop by Sushi & Bento to help them celebrate their grand opening.

Essan Thai Café – As their popularity rises it's getting harder to get a table at the new **Thai Café** located behind Jack in the Box. They serve some of the most delicious Thai food in Oregon. Check it out.

Los Tres Potrillos is located at 102 S. Main at the corner of First street. They offer authentic Mexican fare. The \$1 tacos are a real hit.

Jazzercise – Owner Emily Carter recently opened her studio in the Shoppes at Exit 24. They offer 5 classes a week. Her "girls force initiative" offers free classes to young woman age 16 to 21.

Hilltop Music Shop owners Wayne Cameron and Lily McCabe relocated from Ashland to The Shoppes at Exit 24. Electric Specialist Dave says they love the additional space and prefer being located between Medford and Ashland with easy access off the freeway. Stop in and check out the walls of guitars.

Pilates and Fitness is at The Shoppes at Exit 24. Nikki LaFord offers pilates, yoga & personal training.

Phoenix Chamber of Commerce membership is booming under the leadership of President Melissa Wagly and the terrific work of its board members. Call at 535-6956 for membership opportunities.

Word is out that there will be a new coffee shop opening at 507 N. Main next to Scappy Craft.

Volunteer Spotlight – Larry Dickson, CPA

Each Mayor's Newsletter will highlight the contributions of citizen volunteers that help keep Phoenix moving along. In this edition I'm going to welcome **Larry Dickson, CPA** to the Budget Committee. Larry brings 30 years of accounting experience to our budgeting process.



Larry grew up in Eugene and attended the University of Oregon with degrees in Mathematics and Accounting. As a Vietnam veteran he earned a Bronze Star. Larry served with a Christian aid and development non-governmental organization for 10 years in Yemen, Cypress and Malaysia.

Larry said, "I feel I need to give time to the betterment of the City." Larry and his wife, Pamela live in the Phoenix Hills area of Phoenix and love spending time with their 9 grandchildren.

On behalf of myself, the City Council and your fellow citizens, thanks Larry and welcome aboard.

New Business Spotlight – Summit Beverage

Summit Beverage of Oregon recently relocated to Phoenix. They've done business throughout Jackson, Josephine, Klamath and Lake Counties, since 2002, with sales and delivery to over 1400 retail accounts.



Summit maintains warehouse operations at the 80,000 square foot former pear packing plant on C Street. With 25 employees, Summit is a fully authorized and licensed distributor of alcoholic, non-alcoholic beverages and natural foods. Summit services all chain stores & small stores.

Through their success in offering local northwest branded products they have successfully grown to a local powerhouse against the likes of their corporate out of state based competitors. "This idea has help us create promising partnerships with all of our valued suppliers and thereby given way to a beautiful portfolio of wine, beer, kombucha, tea, and smoked meats."

Co-owners CJ Johnson wanted to say "All of us at Summit Beverage are excited to join the Phoenix community with our new location and consider ourselves fortunate to be part of a community that values us as a business relationship. Thank you to the City of Phoenix and welcome to Mayor Chris Luz."

Summit invites you to join them at their Fundraiser for the Phoenix High School Athletic Dept. The Golf Tournament, 4 person scramble, is May 1st, at 8 a.m. Call 897-4411 or email jeramie@summitbev.com for details. Keep it local and support Summit Beverage. www.summitbev.com

Annual Phoenix Community Easter Egg Hunt

For the 3rd consecutive year, the City of Phoenix and Jackson County Fire District 5 will present the Annual Phoenix Community Easter Egg Hunt. Over 350 children participated in the 2016 event last year, and we have outgrown our elementary school location. This year we will hold the festivities at the Phoenix High School, 745 North Rose Street. There is plenty of parking at the school so come with your children and grandchildren and enjoy the festivities.

Volunteer efforts from the City include our new Public Works Director Ray de Pasquale, Theresa Syphers, and others from Public Works as well as members of the Parks and Greenway Commission, represented by new Council liaison Stewart Warren. New partners this year are Phoenix High School administrative and facilities personnel and students. Staff member Breeze Chapman is the teacher coordinating the high school student volunteers from the school's Leadership Club and other student organizations. Breeze says it is rumored that a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny himself is expected.



Where: Phoenix High School

When: Saturday, April 15th at 11 a.m.

The festivities include demonstrations by Jackson County Fire District 5, with the fire truck on site, child fingerprint kits for parents provided by the Phoenix Police Department, Easter buckets for the hunt, face painting by Phoenix High School students, and refreshments from the Iron Skillet Restaurant and bakery -- all of which are free to all children and adults.

Last year over 25 gift basket give-aways were donated by local businesses and community members, and this year our sponsors have been generous once again. Prize drawing give-aways will follow the children's egg hunt event which is an amazing olympic style sprint by toddlers through age 11. The race will be held this year on the football stadium field, grouped as ages 2 - 3, 4 - 5, 6 - 8, 9 - 11. The hunt begins promptly at 11 am, so come early to participate in all the activities, and stay afterwards to make sure you don't miss anything. This year's event promises to be one Phoenix residents will remember as a day of fun and bunny festivities.

Many thanks to the Parks and Greenway Commission volunteers for making this event such a success -- Chairman Dave Van de Velde, Vice Chairman Lyla Heigl, Commissioners Sandra Wine, Laura Bellah and Nancy Peterson, Council Liaison Stewart Warren

Scouting News – Eagle Scout Project



At our March 6th City Council meeting the Public Works Director, Ray DiPasquale, introduced Riggs Loftin, a local Eagle Scout. To earn one of his badges, he has to complete a community focused project. He wants to improve the Bear Creek Greenway and put a table and bench in Blue Heron Park. His specific goal will include creating a concrete pad, tie downs for a table, and installing a table in Blue Heron Park. Riggs is planning to contact Knife River and other vendors to see what the costs associated with installing a bench

will be. Thank you Riggs and thank you to all the great works of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Please let me, the city council and staff know if you would like to coordinate projects with Phoenix.

Horseshoe Pitching at Colver Road Park

In April our budget committee will be asked to approve a recommendation from our Parks and Greenway commission. They are requesting \$15,000 to be budgeted to restore the horseshoe pits at Colver Road Park.

At a recent council meeting, horseshoe enthusiast, Alan Ringo, spoke in support of the horseshoe pit repairs at Colver Road Park. He gave a short history of the horseshoe pits at the park – they were built in 1985 by former Phoenix Public Works Director, Jim Weir, and have been maintained largely by volunteers. Mr. Ringo noted that using better quality cement and materials to do the repairs would help them to last longer. He thanked David Van De Velde, Chuck Smith, and the Public Works Director for their efforts.

So when was the last time you stopped by Colver Road Park? Did you know you can pitch horseshoes in the horseshoe pits at Colver Road Park? Did you know there was an organized, local club that regularly practices and competes at the Colver Road Park horseshoe pits? Well there is!

The first tournament was held at Colver Road Park back in 1985. The local horseshoe club, the "Southern Oregon Pitchers," have been active at the courts since they were installed. The group has ranged from 20 - 35 members and is always on the lookout for new members.

One of the groups members is a defending state champion who practices regularly at Colver Road Park. Group members practice every Tuesday morning and from April - October the group has scheduled practices one evening a week. The group hosts 4-5 state tournaments a year at Colver Road Park and travels throughout Oregon for other tournaments.

For more information on horseshoe throwing and membership in the Southern Oregon Pitchers group contact Alan Ringo at 541-779-6867 or email him at avringo@charter.net.

**** Councilor Stuart Warren leads the Earth Day cleanup event at Blue Heron Park on April 22nd. Public Works Director, Ray DiPasquale will be coordinating volunteers and trash collection.**



Swings Are Coming to Colver Road Park

A few years ago the city installed new playground equipment at Colver Road Park which was a huge improvement. Unfortunately the older swing set was removed and swings were never replaced. Swings were one of the most requested items in all of the park surveys that were conducted as part of the work on our Master

Parks Plan. I've received good news from our Public Works Director that swings will be installed in the next few months. The funds were set aside as part of our budgeting process last year. There will be swings for the kids and swings for adults. Just another reason to come out and visit Colver Road Park.

Volleyball Court at Blue Heron Park

As part of our budget plan last year, we also set aside funds in order to install a volleyball court at Blue Heron Park. Master Park Plan surveys placed a volleyball court as a high priority for our citizens. When the Parks Community Group did their open house at the high school they asked "What do you want in your parks?" On the top of the list it was mentioned that Blue Heron Park did not offer anything for the older students and adults to do; and volleyball was one of the top items mentioned. It has also been mentioned that the Phoenix Hispanic community really enjoys volleyball. Badminton can be played on the same court. At the Parks and Greenway Commission meetings it was mentioned that the volleyball sand court could be at the north end of the park, far enough away from parking so the ball would not go out to the cars. I'll keep you posted as to when we will install the volleyball court.

Phoenix Arts Council

The newly formed Phoenix Arts Council is planning a major project as their first endeavor. The plan is to paint a huge mural on the side of the exit 24 off ramp that faces the McDonalds in The Shoppes at Exit 24. Local artist Judy Grillo will be leading the effort that will involve lots of our local residents contributing to painting the mural. Judy unveiled an artistic rendition of the mural at our town hall meeting at Bear Lake Estates. The theme of the mural will highlight the fact that Phoenix is a Bee City. More info regarding Bee City America can be seen at <http://www.beecityusa.org>. Stay tuned to the news at www.phoenixoregon.gov for information on how you, your family and friends can participate in painting the mural.

One Lane or Two Lanes on Main Street

The city is in the process of determining whether to make the one lane configuration on Main Street permanent or whether to revert back to the two lane configuration that was in place for decades. Traffic surveys, accident records, traffic violations and other factors will help determine whether we stay with one lane or move back to two lanes. Your feedback is critical so the city will be seeking out your opinion with surveys and meetings. Please let me know your preference - chris@phoenixoregon.gov. Thanks.

Let's welcome Interim Phoenix City Manager Dave Kanner. Dave was unanimously approved by the Phoenix City Council on March 20th.

Dave offers us a wealth of experience as he helps us recruit a permanent city manager, facilitates strategic planning, assist in preparing the city budget and so much more. Dave was most recently the city administrator in Ashland for 4 ½ years. Before that he was the Deschutes County Administrator for 5 years after handling general management responsibilities for day-to-day operations for Jackson County.

Dave has a welcoming, open-door policy. Quoting Dave "I have an open and transparent management style and a calm, levelheaded approach to even the most difficult situations. Above all, I hold myself to extremely high standards of honesty, integrity, reliability, loyalty and fairness, with, perhaps most importantly, a healthy sense of humor. I believe in public service, the greater good, and the opportunity for innovative thinking to guide communities to a better and more confident future – even in lean and uncertain times." Welcome aboard Dave.

Recruiting a permanent City Manager - Hiring a qualified city manager (CM) that's the right fit for Phoenix is an important task. We all want a CM that will help lead Phoenix for many years. You have my personal guarantee, as your new Mayor, that I will do everything in my power to be sure that we hire someone that has the skill set and leadership qualities needed to competently manage Phoenix, build trusting relationships with our employees and constructively engage our city council.

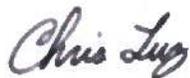
So what happened with the last City Manager (CM)? Why did the council vote to dismiss the CM after only 4 months into a probationary period?

After concerns were expressed by all of our Phoenix city department heads, a special meeting was held on March 8th in order to have the Phoenix City Council review the performance of the CM. At that meeting all of the Phoenix department heads expressed many concerns with the manager's performance. The department leaders said the trust between them and the CM was so eroded that even counseling and mediation was not an option. After a 2 ½ hour meeting the city council voted to dismiss the city manager.

As Mayor I can only vote on matters if council has a tie vote. I did not have the opportunity to vote on this matter but I want to let you know that I support the council's decision. All of our department leaders displayed a high level of bravery and courage to comment publicly about their concerns. This event was a difficult assignment for our city council and an even more difficult experience for our department leaders. I support all of our city's public servants. Their dedication, integrity, and spirit of service is second to none. From the bottom of my heart, I'd like to publicly thank all of our department leaders for the leadership you displayed and thank you for all you do for our community.

To my fellow citizens, hold your heads high. Our little city of Phoenix is doing just fine and getting better every day despite what is sometimes misrepresented or rumored about. Please contact me directly if you have any concerns. Your suggestions are welcome and very much appreciated.

Take Care,



Chris Luz