

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER – FALL 2017
ATTENTION – LOCAL NEWS FOR PHOENIX, OREGON

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Ground Breaking Ceremony Kicks Off Civic Center Construction

Construction of the Civic Center (Phoenix Plaza Building) has begun. A well-attended ground breaking ceremony was held on Thursday, October 5th at the construction site on Main Street. Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency (PHURA) board Chairman, Al Muelhoefer, was the Master of Ceremonies. We were joined by members of the PHURA Board of Directors, members of the Phoenix City Council, Adroit Construction executives Tom Walker and Bob Mayers, Matt Small and Ray Chirgwin of the architecture and planning firm Kistler + Small + White along with many other guest that have been involved in making this project a reality.



Matt Small - Kistler + Small + White, Mayor Chris Luz, Adroit's Tom Walker, Chairman - Al Muelhoefer

The \$2.8 million project includes a 6,500 square foot community activity building along with an adjoining park. Construction will take about nine months to complete. Adroit Construction was selected as project contractor through a request for proposal process.

This project is a critical part of revitalizing our downtown corridor. Many of the unsightly buildings along Main Street have been removed. New businesses like the Circle K, Dutch Brothers and Rite Aid along

with street and infrastructure improvements are helping to improve our City's appearance. The Civic Center will help "kick-start" future downtown development, enhance quality of life and promote community involvement here in Phoenix. At the new Civic Center we can look forward to areas being 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, wine tastings, etc. The cobblestone parking lot to the back of the plaza will have the potential to host farmers markets and other special events.



On behalf of myself and our City Council, I'd like to thank all the volunteers and staff members that have worked so hard for so many years to bring this project to life!

Homecoming Parade - Phoenix High School hosted their fourth annual Homecoming Parade on October 4th. The City of Phoenix and the high school teamed up to showcase 23 groups from the high school, middle school and elementary schools, 20 community entrants and many others entrants. We all had lots of fun.



The parade route was expanded by two blocks this year in order to accommodate the increased number of entrants.

Thanks to all the volunteers that make this event such a success. Special shout out to Breeze Chapman and Carolyn Bartell for their tremendous efforts. City Councilor Mike Shunk was this year's council rep for the parade. Thanks Mike.

New Business Spotlight – Jam Coffeehouse Café

A new coffee shop opened at 507 N. Main Street next to Scrappy Craft

It's about JAM time! Jam Coffeehouse is open and here to serve the community with one of the finest coffees around, Case Coffee of Ashland. They're open 7am to 4pm Mon. – Fri., Sat. and Sun. 8am to 3pm

Local residents, Darin and Jaime Chase are fulfilling their dream of owning a coffeehouse café in their home town community of Phoenix. They created a place where people can come to relax and enjoy a specialty coffee drink in a welcoming environment featuring local baked donuts from Organicos Bakery, as well as fresh bagels, breakfast wraps and coming soon, lunch items. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram @jam.coffee.co to hear about upcoming JAM nights featuring local musicians.

I stopped in a few times and received a warm welcome from Darrin and Jaime's grown kids who serve up coffee and bagels with a smile. Andrew is featured in the photo below. Check out Jam Coffeehouse. Keep it local.

"A welcoming environment with awesome locally roasted Case Coffee beans from Ethiopia, Kenya, Colombia and Guatemala- coffees that are sweet, clean and complex."



Business Updates

Chamber of Commerce – The number of businesses joining the Chamber of Commerce is booming. There were about 45 business in the Chamber about a year ago. The number grew to about 70 as of January and they surpassed 100 recently. You are cordially invited to join the Chamber in support of the economic growth of our community. Chamber Membership provides many benefits including becoming part of a group of great people! Please contact Chamber President Melissa Wagy for membership details. (541) 535-6956 or info@phoenixoregonchamber.org

Chevron Gas, Circle K and Dutch Brothers – You may remember that in the last newsletter I wrote that that I had received numerous inquiries as to when the landscaping will take place around the “triangle”. Well I am happy to report that the landscaping work has been completed. You will also notice that ODOT completed landscaping upgrades in front of Ray’s Market and along the north side of North Phoenix Road.

Rite Aid Update – The Rite Aid project is nearly complete and the planned opening date is October 19th. Their new storefront and landscaping look wonderful. The 10,000 square foot store showcases the company’s highly popular wellness store format, now featured in more than 2,500 Rite Aid stores nationwide. Store Manager Suzanne Darden and Pharmacy Manager Ben Egendoerfer welcome you to their new location and look forward to serving the Phoenix community.

Their new hours for the front end of the store will be 8am to 9pm, 7 days a week. The pharmacy will be open 8am to 8pm Monday through Friday, 9am to 6pm Saturday and 10am to 6pm on Sunday. Additionally, they will offer a drive through lane at the pharmacy for their patient’s convenience.

Beyond Toxics opened its 2nd office in Southern Oregon at 107 W 1st Street here in Phoenix. They hosted a well-attended open house and fundraiser on Sat., Sept. 16, 2017. The Center for Creative Change and Pollinator Project Rogue Valley will also have a presence at their new location. The new location will serve as a meeting space for community events and educational opportunities. More info at - beyondtoxics.org.

Phoenix Family Dentistry – Doctor Jamie White has relocated her practice to The Shoppes at Exit 24, Suite Y. Dr. White provides a full range of dental services for children and adults. She has been providing dental services for over 10 years. The office phone number is 541-535-4142.

TECH Plumbing – Eric Esselstrom opened his business at 608 N. Main Street. TECH Plumbing provides residential and commercial plumbing services. Eric has been delivering plumbing services in Rogue Valley for 7 years. TECH Plumbing can be reached at 541-773-2127.

The Cheerful Vet – There is a new veterinarian in town, The Cheerful Pet opened their doors at The Shoppes at Exit 24, Suite L. Owners John and Annette Heaslet keep the atmosphere warm and inviting while the staff takes pride in a genuine caring and fondness for all pets. Annette is the primary veterinarian. She graduated from UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. They can be reached at 541-482-6636

Volunteer Spotlight – Micki Summerhays

Each Mayor's Newsletter will highlight the contributions of citizen volunteers that help keep Phoenix moving along. In this edition I'm going to highlight **Micki Summerhays** who serves as Chairman of our Phoenix Planning Commission. She also helped to develop Phoenix's first city web site in 1999.

Micki is our longest serving planning commissioner with over 20 years of service. The Planning Commission works closely with Planning Department staff to improve the community through sound land use and related planning policy. The Planning Commission acts as a citizen advisory body that informs and guides long range and current planning policies and decisions. In certain cases, it provides recommendations to City Council while acting on its own accord in others. The Planning Commission consists of seven members who are not elected officials or employees of Phoenix. Planning Commissioners are appointed for four year terms. The Planning Commission meets the second and fourth Monday of every month.



Micki said "I want to make a difference and make sure everyone's voice is heard. I want to make sure that people's property rights are upheld and everything is fair".

Micki is a full time professional travel agent with her own company, Carrousel Travel. She has been assisting clients with their travel plans for over 23 years. She is also a member and chairman of **The Rogue Valley Professional Association** which is comprised of an exclusive network of business owners, managers, professionals and decision makers.

Micki moved from Idaho to Phoenix in 1990. She loves spending time with her children and her five grandchildren. She said she is really looking forward to retiring soon.

Planning Commissioners wanted. There are currently three open positions on the Planning Commission. If you are interested in serving please pick up an application at city hall.

PHOENIX WINS PRESTIGIOUS SAFETY AWARD - The City of Phoenix received a well-deserved safety award at the League of Oregon Cities annual conference. The City took home the Gold award.

Citycounty Insurance Services(CIS) presented the award in recognition of Phoenix's good employee safety record during the 2016-17 year. The annual CIS/LOC award rewards cities with the fewest number of work days lost due to on-the-job injuries. It showcases employee safety, focusing on training, a proven track record in avoiding injures, and management's commitment to a safe work environment. Gold awards are presented to cities with zero, time-loss injuries. If no cities in a group had zero time-loss injuries, then the gold goes to the city with the lowest injury ratio. Way to go Phoenix employees. Good job!

Let's welcome our new City Manager – Eric Swanson



The Phoenix City Council hired Eric Swanson as Phoenix's City Manager. His first day on the job was September 18th. Eric filled the position that was vacated by interim City Manager Dave Kanner, who did a superb job for us over the last six months. Eric Swanson was chosen as a finalist from 31 applications received from across the United States. Eric is a former Medford City Manager.

Along with his 30 years of experience in city management, Eric's in-depth knowledge of the issues and challenges that are unique to the cities of the Rogue Valley separated him from the rest of the field. Eric developed strategic plans for Gladstone Oregon and Medford, led efforts to fund, design and build new civic buildings and has served as executive director of the Gladstone and Medford Urban Renewal Agencies. Eric holds a Master's of Public Administration from the University of South Dakota and is a retired colonel in the Oregon Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

Eric, his wife Jill and their six children are glad to be back home in the Rogue Valley. He said he is looking forward to applying his experience, knowledge and local experience to meet the challenges facing our city.

Eric, on behalf of myself, the Phoenix City Council, City staff, Phoenix residents and business, WELCOME ABOARD.

Town Hall Meetings Update - Upon coming into office I proposed having a series of town hall meeting that provide opportunities for you to offer your questions, concerns, and suggestions to me, the City Council and city staff. It's important that we reach out to each other. Thanks to all the residents of **Creekside Estates** and **Bear Lake Estates** for hosting prior town hall meetings.

Our next town hall meeting will be held at the Phoenix High School on Monday October 16th. The town hall starts at 5:00pm in the high school commons (cafeteria) and will be followed by our City Council meeting that starts at 6:30. The town hall meeting will feature displays of

potential two lane and one lane Main Street configurations. Come check out the displays and let us know your thoughts.

At this October 16th City Council meeting we will have the swearing in of new police officers and police reserves. We will also have Summit Beverage present the Phoenix High School Athletic Department with the fund raising proceeds from a fundraiser Summit Beverage did last spring at Centennial Golf Club. Summit is committed to supporting PHS Athletics and they plan to run the golf tournament fund raiser again next spring.

Phoenix Oregon is a certified Bee City USA community – Our city is one of the first cities in the Rogue Valley to obtain such a certification. The Phoenix Bee City committee is looking for volunteers who would like to improve conditions for pollinators and people in Phoenix. Their meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of each month at 1 PM. No special skill is needed to join, just a concern for the environment and the creatures in it! However, if you have a background in gardening, the arts, grant writing, biology, teaching, entomology or public policy, do let them know!

For further information please contact City Liaison, Theresa Syphers at City of Phoenix (541) 535-2226 or Chairperson, Sharon Schmidt at OregonHoneyfestival@outlook.com
More info at <http://www.phoenixoregon.gov/bee> and www.beecityusa.org

Dog Days of Summer at Colver Park – Former Phoenix First Lady and current Parks Commissioner Laura Bellah says “Thanks to all the volunteers for working so hard in the heat to make Dog Days #4 so successful. We had a count of around 75-80 dogs...lots of smaller dogs this year! I believe we served around 230 hot dogs. The K-9 sheriff's demonstration was again,



of great interest, and the Sit/Stay game from Go Rogue got many involved with their dogs. Laurie ran the Pupcake walk event, and both dogs and humans looked like they were having fun! A new contributor was Summit Beverage which loaned us a large ice chest, and gave cases of artisan water, soda, and iced tea! It indeed takes a village and the community came together to make happy memories with their dogs!
A little slice of dog heaven.”

Current Phoenix First Lady and Face Painter Paula Luz along with Kaylee

Volleyball Court Update – Plans are in the works to locate the new volleyball court in Colver Park. Stay tuned for updates.

Please welcome our newest City Councilor – Cindy Cameron

Cindy Cameron was appointed to the Phoenix City Council on August 7th. Cindy's previous volunteer efforts included collaborating on the creation of the community garden at Blue Heron Park. Cindy co-owned a Phoenix business for 17 years. Thanks for volunteering and welcome aboard Cindy.

One Lane or Two Lanes on Main Street

Phoenix 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 us know your preference - chris@phoenixoregon.gov. Thanks.

UPDATE - One Lane or Two Lanes on Main Street

I'm providing an update on questions and concerns regarding Phoenix's Main Street "road diet" and City Council's actions regarding keeping the new one lane traffic pattern or going back to the former two lane pattern. In 2015 the citizens were told, "We have and will do nothing that will prevent the City from bringing the couplet up to two lanes in the future if need be."

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I have received over 100 emails, letters and phone calls regarding this issue. Thank you for expressing your opinions. Also, thanks to the 30+ businesses from Bolz Road to Oak Street that spent time with me. The City Council and I want your continued feedback.

1) June 5th Thanks to all of you who spoke at the City Council meeting! Comments were overwhelmingly in favor of going back to a two lane traffic pattern. City Council directed city staff to provide detailed information regarding two lane and one lane options.

2) On June 19th. Council voted in favor of preparing an advisory vote resolution that would have allowed citizens the ability to vote on the "road diet" issue at a future Oregon election. In other words, have a non-binding vote to gage whether you wanted to stay with one lane or go back to two lanes.

3) On July 17th and on August 7th the City Council voted 3-2 to not have an advisory vote as part of a future election. Instead, the majority of the City Council indicated that they wanted to hear from Phoenix residents and business through surveys and a series of public meetings.

UPCOMING EVENT – On October 16th at 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm there will be a town hall meeting held at the Phoenix High School commons (cafeteria). As part of the meeting we will display a number of artistic renditions of potential Main Street one lane and two lane traffic pattern

concepts. The Phoenix City Council, city staff and I would like to have you attend the meeting and give us your feedback about the various traffic pattern concepts.

Your hard working, volunteer City Councilors can be reached at the following email addresses: President Jim Snyder - jim.snyder@phoenixoregon.gov, Vice President Terry Baker - Terry.Baker@phoenixoregon.gov, Cindy Cameron - Cindy.Cameron@phoenixoregon.gov, Stuart Warren - Stuart.Warren@phoenixoregon.gov, Sarah Westover - Sarah.Westover@phoenixoregon.gov

Gas prices in the valley continue to decline. Some great prices are: Fred Meyers \$2.57, Shell at the Petro Truck Stop right here in Phoenix was \$2.59, Astro (1006 Riverside, Medford) \$2.65 and Costco \$2.49.

Take Care,

Chris Luz – Phoenix Mayor