

MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2018

ATTENTION – LOCAL NEWS FOR PHOENIX, OREGON



CHRIS LUZ, MAYOR

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In this edition of the Mayor's Newsletter:

- "Road Diet" Update – We are going back to 2 lanes
- Tribute to Phoenix coaching and teaching legend Harry Mondale
- New Business Spotlight - Phoenix Exit 24 Social Poker Club
- Phoenix Plaza Civic Center Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening July 14th
- Phoenix Budget and Financial Update – Things look great!

"Road Diet" update. Good News.

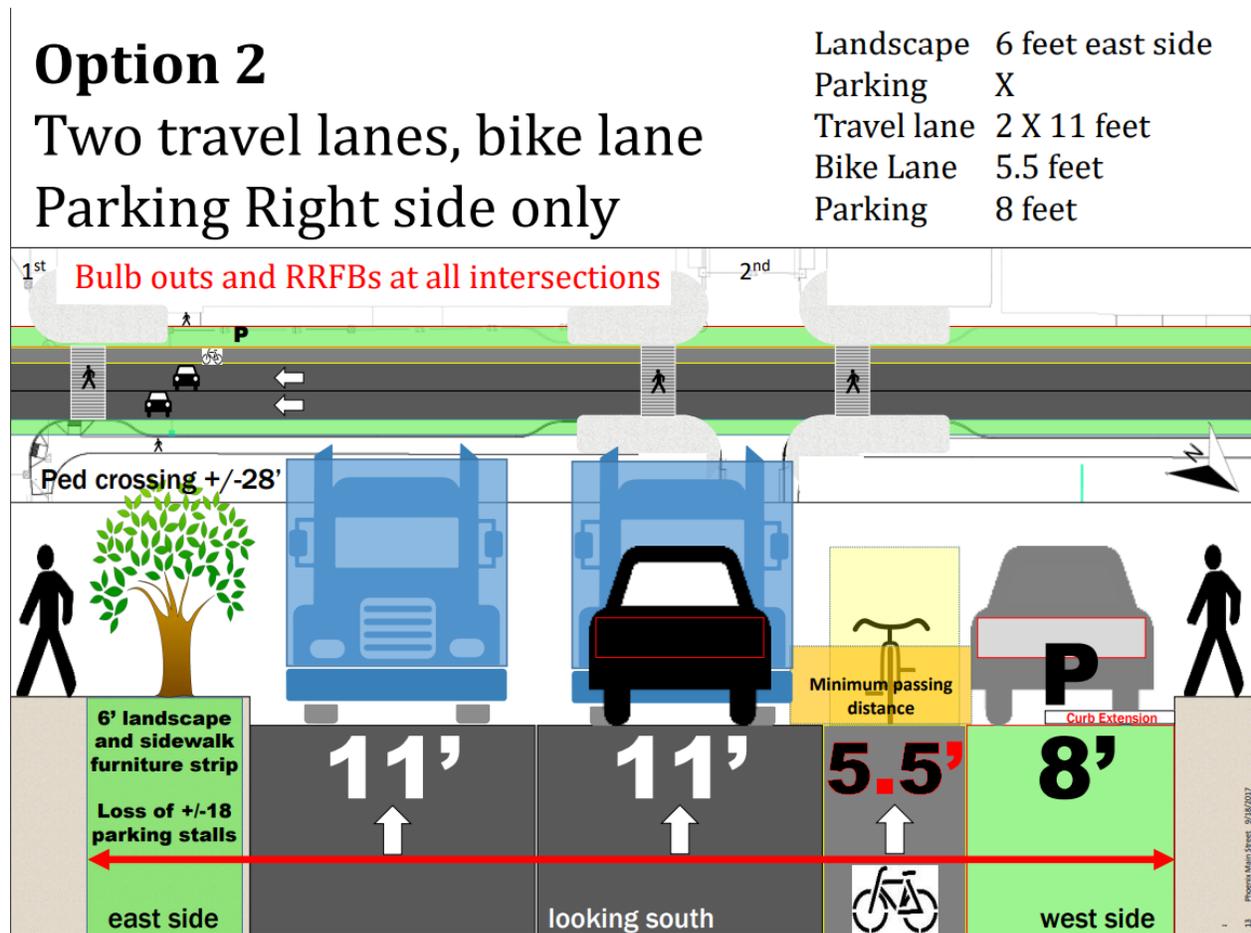
The City, in the fall of 2015, re-stripped Main Street to provide for one lane for vehicles and a bicycle lane. The project was presented to the public as a temporary test of this one-lane configuration. In 2017, driven by complaints from the public, I brought the issue to Council, advocated for ending the "road diet" and asked council to begin discussions to consider changing Main Street Back to a two-lane configuration.

Thanks to all of you who attended the April 16th City Council meeting to express your thoughts regarding the Main Street "road diet". Once again, the overwhelming majority of you were in favor of eliminating the "road diet". I also want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you who, for over a year, expressed your "road diet" opinions by emailing me, leaving voicemails, writing letters, attending numerous city council meeting and attending the "road diet" town hall meeting. Special thanks to our 30+ downtown businesses who spent time with me to discuss the negative impact of the "road diet" on most of your businesses.

I'm pleased to let you know that the Phoenix City Council agreed to go back to two lanes heading south through our downtown. If the Planning Commission approves the City's

request for a variance to implement this two-lane configuration, the road diet will be eliminated when Main Street is resurfaced as part of a major Main Street project next spring.

The motion for Option 2 passed. There will be two southbound travel lanes, a bike lane, parking on the west side of Main Street and parking on most of the east side of Main Street. There will be a 6 foot landscape and furniture strip added to the east side of Main Street from 4th Street to First Street. Pedestrian safety will be enhanced with dedicated crossing "bulb outs" and rapid flashing beacons at key intersections. There will be a substantial increase in available parking on the east side of Main Street as a result of the new civic center project.

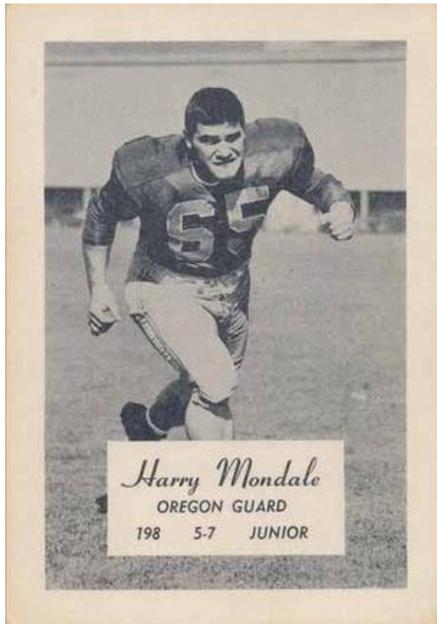


I know that government can sometimes move frustratingly slow but improvements are coming. We will reconstruct North Church Street this year and Main Street next year. The new civic center building and new park on Main Street will be completed in a few months. One big project at a time.

Once again, thanks to all my fellow Phoenix residents for being involved. You helped make a difference that will benefit our wonderful city for many decades to come.
Chris Luz, Mayor – Phoenix

A Tribute to Beloved Harry Mondale - Legendary Phoenix Wrestling Coach/Teacher/Mentor. He meant so much too so many.

On behalf of Phoenix residents, past and present, I'd like to pay tribute Harry Mondale, who recently passed at the age of 86, for his 40 plus years of invaluable contributions to the youth of our community. Harry help to shape teens into responsible young adults, especially young men on and off wrestling mats and football fields. His mentoring and tough love improved the lives of our citizens long after high school graduation. Thanks Coach.



In 1969, Coach Mondale launched our high school wrestling program that became a wrestling powerhouse. He led the Pirates to seven state championships and seven state runner-up finishes. Coach led a community effort to build a 4,000 square foot state-of-the-art practice facility that is still used today. Coach Mondale was Phoenix's football line coach for 17 years before becoming head coach from 1986-91. Our Pirates won state championships in 1979 and 1985. Long term Phoenix citizen, former Phoenix Wrestler, and current Phoenix City Councilor Terry Baker has asked me to propose a proclamation to dedicate October 5, 2018 (homecoming football game day) as Coach Harry Mondale Day. It would be my honor to do so. Terry said, "Harry Mondale inspired us to achieve more than we ever thought possible, while ensuring that we learned the life lessons

which made success possible. He was a mentor, coach, and friend. You always knew he was in your corner."

On behalf of our City, the City Council and city employees, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Coach Harry Mondale.

A personal note to all you wrestlers who had Harry Mondale as a coach: as a former junior/high



school and collegiate wrestler, I understand how mentally and physically tough the sport is and how impactful a great coach like Harry Mondale can be for you during and after your wrestling career. My best to all of you as you reflect on the lifelong contributions that Coach made on you and your families.

Mayor Chris Luz

Phoenix Exit 24 **Social Poker Club**

- **Poker**
- **Restaurant**
- **Sports Bar & Lounge**

Phoenix Exit 24 Social Poker Club

- **Casino Fundraiser Events**

541-897-0329

www.Phoenix Exit 24 Social Poker Club.com

Let's welcome Ron Teston and his business to The Shoppes at Exit 24. Ron received Council approval for establishing a social-gaming operation that would feature poker in the Shoppes at Exit 24. Oregon law allows the activity if it is authorized by local government. Teston, who was born and raised in Ashland, spent 37 years in Nevada working in casino security and surveillance. He worked in various gaming roles including pit boss.

"I'm not looking for a major business. I'm just looking for a neighborhood shop," said Teston. During travels in California, Teston said, he has seen a mix of neighborhood operations and larger gaming establishments



Social-gaming operations in Portland and California charge participants \$15 per hour, said Teston, but the fee would be lower in Phoenix. In social gaming, a host at each table is the dealer and makes revenue from tips. Dealers typically make from \$20 to \$50 per hour through tips, said Teston.

Phoenix Exit 24 Social Poker Club is now open for just social poker until they receive a food and beverage license. Full operations will begin soon.

Coming soon is a full bar and food service, an event center to plan party needs. Other activities include 2 pool tables, dart boards, shuffle board and karaoke.

Stop in, say hello to Ron and check out his business (age 21 and older). More info at www.phoenixpokerandeventcenter.com.

Ron, thanks for locating in Phoenix and welcome aboard.

Please contact the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce for membership opportunities. 541-535-6956. info@phoenixoregon.com

As always, Phoenix says thanks to your volunteer City Council Members: Jim Snyder – President, Stuart Warren – Vice President, Terry Baker, Cindy Cameron, Mike Shunk, and Sarah Westover. <http://www.phoenixoregon.gov/citycouncil>



A Message from City Recorder, Kimberlyn Collins

Stay Informed – Subscribe to City Notifications

The services of the City of Phoenix and decisions of the City Council directly affect you and your neighbors. Now you can subscribe to receive FREE e-mail notifications of any or all official public meetings held in the City of Phoenix.

With our notification system, agendas, news releases, and newsletters will be sent directly to you as the City publishes them! Just go to www.phoenixoregon.gov/newsletter/subscriptions and let us know which agenda(s) or newsletter you would like to receive.

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Community Building Opportunities

Are you interested in representing your community and making a difference? The City of Phoenix is looking for volunteers for the City Boards, Commissions, and Committees. If you would like to help build a better community, you may be an ideal candidate.

- Budget Committee
- Planning Commission
- Citizen Public Advisory Committee
- Parks and Greenway Commission
- Phoenix Pirate Country Parade

New Volunteer Program: With the new civic center about to open, the City of Phoenix will be creating an exciting new volunteer program to help staff the new civic center. There will be more opportunities to serve in your community on a whole new level! Stay tuned!

Save the Date

A ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony will be held at the new Phoenix Plaza Civic Center. Please join us for ribbon cutting ceremony on the plaza with Mayor Chris Luz, members of the Phoenix City Council, and representatives from Kistler+ White+ Small Architects. Light refreshments and tours will be available. We hope you will join us on Saturday, July 14, 2018 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 220 N. Main St., Phoenix.

Questions: Kimberlyn Collins 541-535-1955 ext. 303

This year's Easter Egg Hunt at Phoenix High was a smashing success

Approximately 300 children participated in this year's Easter Egg Hunt on what was a beautiful, sunny and warm spring day. Within minutes all eggs were collected and opened. Seemingly empty eggs had a ticket inside which children redeemed for a gift basket donated by the sponsors listed below.

This event is organized by the all-volunteer City of Phoenix Parks Commission. The Commission has openings for more volunteers to help with events and provide guidance for park and greenway use in the City of Phoenix. Please call 541-535-2226 to find out how you can help.

Special thanks to Breeze Chapman, City Council Liaison Priscila Espana and all the high school student volunteers for their efforts to keep things organized, manning of face painting tables and with helping to set up and breakdown.

The Phoenix Police Department provided child fingerprint kits. Fire District 5 helped keep the kids organized. Thanks guys.

And finally, we would like to thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals for helping to make this event possible:

Phoenix-Talent School District
Jackson Co. Fire District 5
Phoenix Police Department
Jantzen Automotive
Jeff and Laura Bellah
Phoenix Family Dentistry
Ladybug Indoor Gardens
Puck's Donuts
Umpqua Bank
Angelo's Pizza
Exit 24 Storage
C3 Enterprise
Breeze Chapman

Iron Skillet
Al's Sharpening Service
La-Z-Boy Furniture Store
Phoenix Counseling Center
Home Depot Phoenix
Figaro's Pizza
Phoenix Auto Center
Scrappy Craft
The Barber Shop/Joe the barber
Blue Heron Community Garden
Oregon Motorcycle Adventures
Hi Tech Landscape & Design
Phoenix High School student volunteers



And last, but not least, The Easter Bunny

*****Save the date – July 28th Dog Days of Summer at Colver Park*****

Phoenix Plaza Civic Center Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening Ceremony

Join us on Saturday, July 14, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 220 N. Main St.

A ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony will be held at the new Phoenix Plaza Civic Center and Plaza Park. Please join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony on the plaza with Mayor Chris Luz, members of the Phoenix City Council, and representatives from Kistler+ White+ Small Architects. Light refreshments and tours will be available. We hope you will join us on Saturday, July 14, 2018 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 220 N. Main St., Phoenix.



Construction our new Phoenix Plaza Civic Center and park is on time and under budget.

Grand opening ceremony events include;

- Dedicating a Phoenix Time Capsule to be opened in 50 years on Saturday, July 14th 2068.
- Dedicating a "Peace Pole" that was donated from the Bear Creek Rotary Club. A Peace Pole is an internationally-recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family, standing vigil in silent prayer for peace on Earth.
- Planting a Giant Sequoia that was cloned from the 33 foot wide Fieldbrook Stump near McKinleyville, Calif. The clone is part of the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive and the Champion Tree Project. Thank you to the Rotary club for the donation.
- Phoenix Plaza Civic Center open house and tours

Please mark this date on your calendar and join me and our neighbors as we celebrated the grand opening and thank the dozens of people, organizations and businesses whose generous contributions made this project a reality.

Stay tuned for more information leading up to this exciting event at www.phoenixoregon.gov.

Questions: Kimberlyn Collins 541-535-1955 ext. 303

A message from Lorraine Eileen of Bee City Phoenix

What's the Buzz?

Bees? Butterflies? Seeds? And Sunflowers?

It's the season for planting gardens and students at Phoenix Elementary School are learning how to protect bees and other pollinators by planting organic flowers and vegetables – pesticide free. Students have cleared 3 raised beds, planted seeds, watered, and weeded. They have learned about seed parts, bees and how honey is made, become familiar with beekeeping tools, tasted local honey, watched up close videos, read books, enlarged their vocabularies, planted seeds in their own pots to grow at home, received coloring books, and participated in a pollen count.

Volunteers from Bee City Phoenix have provided these activities to the C.R.I.S.P. (Confident, Responsible, Individuals, Seeking Possibilities) after school program. Students have come up with great questions too! Like: "Are there king bees? What do bees eat? What makes that buzzing sound? They have also excitedly reported on the growth of their sunflower plants at home!

Harvest will take place in June with enough lettuce and veggies to make a nutritious salad for parents. Students will take any leftover produce to the First Phoenix Community Center Kitchen as a donation. For now We're just watching the pollinators arrive and do their jobs.

Phoenix Financial Update

Interim City Manager Dave Kanner and Finance Director Janette Boothe prepared this year's Phoenix budget and our financial picture looks very good. Dave, with over 35 years of experience in preparing budgets for municipalities such as Jackson County, Deschutes County, and Ashland is somewhat of a budget "guru" and he said is pleased at what great financial shape Phoenix is now in.

We are now able to start the funding process for a badly needed new police station. Funding will also be directed toward to the reconstruction of Main Street and for a new volleyball court in Blue Heron Park.

Over recent years your City Council has budgeted under a financially conservative, cost conscious, pay as you go philosophy. My overarching philosophy has always been to not spend more than we earn and to save for future expenditures. This philosophy has served us well.

I will continue to promote a fiscal philosophy that demands that the citizen's money (your money) should be invested even more wisely than we who represent you would spend our own money.

After all it's your money!

SAVE THE DATE - Phoenix garage sale day - May 19th. Pick up an application at City Hall to be listed in the sale addresses. Folks cruising Phoenix for the sale sites will have your address. You can email phoenixoregonchamber@gmail.com. \$5 charge to be listed. Thank You Phoenix chamber. Garden Club Plant Sale is also May 19, 9-2 pm in Rays' Parking lot.

Gas prices are way up but Phoenix has the lowest gas price I could find in the Valley, \$3.07 at the Shell at the Petro Truck Stop. Costco \$3.09, Fred Meyer \$3.16, Arco on HWY 62 \$3.11.

All the Best,

Chris Luz – Phoenix Mayor