

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

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As I mentioned in my first newsletter, I want to thank you for your support and confidence in electing me as your mayor. I'm humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Phoenix Council meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the public works facility located at 1000 South B Street. You're welcome to attend. Important information about the next meeting is on the last page of this newsletter. Meeting details are at www.phoenixoregon.gov.

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.
- Let's talk before a city council meeting. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and I'm there around 6:00 p.m.
- 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.
- We can coordinate a town hall meeting together. More on town hall meetings below.

Let's work together to make Phoenix an even better place to live, work and play.

Town Hall Meetings Update - Thanks to all the residents of **Creekside Estates** for hosting the second in a series of town hall meetings. Special thanks to Carla and Joan for handing out flyers, assisting with setup and breakdown and for providing great tasting pizza from Pizzatori.

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. I'm really looking forward to a town hall meeting at the High School in the fall. Other suggested locations include **Rogue Valley South** and **The Grange**.

Phoenix High School City Council Liaisons Selected – I attended a city council meeting in Eagle Point and discovered that they have high school students acting as a bridge of information between their city council and their high school students. What a great idea! With the assistance of High School staff, including Principal Don Rugraff, I'm pleased to announce that two students have been selected as our Phoenix City Council Liaisons. Let's welcome aboard high school students Priscila Espana and Gabriel Wilson as our liaisons. I was pleased to introduce them to Phoenix at our June 19th council meeting.

First Presbyterian Church Announcement – At the June 22nd community dinner, Pastor Mike Foster announced that he is stepping aside. Thanks to Mike for his service to our community. Community dinners, clothes closet services and the food pantry will operate as usual during this transition period.



Artistic rendition of the Phoenix Plaza building and Plaza Park.

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 Park will be added with a water feature, seating and trees.

Genetta Hughes, Executive Director of the Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency, submitted the following Urban Renewal Agency update. Thanks Genetta!

Phoenix Urban Renewal Agency (PHURA) is continuing to make progress on the Phoenix Plaza Project, the new Civic Center and Plaza Park will be located at 220 N. Main Street. The project is currently out to bid for construction. If everything goes as planned, you should see work beginning on the site later this year.

The Agency has signed a commitment letter with our local Umpqua Bank in Phoenix, for a loan of \$1,000,000 towards the Plaza Project; this agreement is expected to be signed by the end of July. Lighting and electrical service for the Plaza roadway and parking area is also out for bid. We expect to choose a contractor in early July, and start installation soon after.

Have you seen the For Sale signs on Main Street and on Bear Creek Drive? The Agency has two parcels of land available for purchase and development. If you are interested in either of these desirable locations near the new Plaza, contact Jeff Rogers at 541-951-0386 for more information.

And finally, I would like to extend our appreciation to the staff, City Council and Mayor of the City of Phoenix, and to our Board of Directors for all of the time and effort they continue to provide to the Agency. We are fortunate to have their assistance as we undertake these projects that will enhance our downtown.

More info at: <http://www.phoenixura.com>

Business Updates

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

Addlife - Mandi Wight-Bartz has opened a new business in the Shoppes at Exit 24. Mandi said: "Addlife is an Interior Plantscaping company located at Suite D-1 and we are just completing our design studio and tenant improvements and we are so happy to be in this wonderful complex and so happy to be part of Phoenix."

Addlife specialize in Interior plantscaping and maintenance, custom design pieces, moss walls, wall art with a specialty in Green Living Walls as well as Patioscaping and Roof Top Decks. All with luscious green living plants! Addlife will also have occasional pop-up retail sales where they the welcome the public. "We are thrilled to be a business at Shoppes at Exit 24 and so happy more businesses are opening up here".

Petro Truck Stop, Shell Gas Station and the Iron Skillet – Thanks to the Petro Truck Stop for being extremely supportive of Phoenix and for being a great partner. They regularly provide treats from their Iron Skillet bakery to support events like our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Please keep it local and visit the Iron Skillet (kids 10 and under eat for FREE all summer) and the Shell Gas Station (**some of the lowest gas prices in the valley!**)

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 a part of a great group of people! Please contact Chamber President Melissa Wagy for membership details. (541) 535-6956 or info@phoenixoregonchamber.org

Chevron Gas, Circle K and Dutch Brothers – I have received numerous inquiries as to when the landscaping will take place around the "triangle". Well I am happy to report that the planning department has recently approved landscaping plans for the area. Landscaping work should begin soon.

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

Darrin and Jaime Chase will be opening Jam Coffee Shop in mid to late August. As the coffee shop name implies, they will be featuring Friday night music "Jam" sessions on the newly constructed back patio at least one Friday each month. Darrin said "we have a very musical family and we plan to tie into the local music scene."

Jam Coffee House will feature a breakfast and lunch menu with inside and outside seating. They will feature Good Bean coffee. As I toured the location with Darrin he pointed out that they are doing an almost total remodel of the inside and of the back of the building.

Darrin and Jaime have lived locally for 22 years and have six children ranging from age 10 to age 34. They also have three grandchildren.

More info is at www.JamCoffeeHouse.com, Email - WakingUpTheNeighborhood@gmail.com

Volunteer Spotlight – Chuck Reiling

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 **Chuck Reiling** who serves on our Phoenix Urban Renewal Board of Directors. Chuck is a full time professional realtor with John L. Scott and his real estate expertise is a welcome asset to the urban renewal agency.



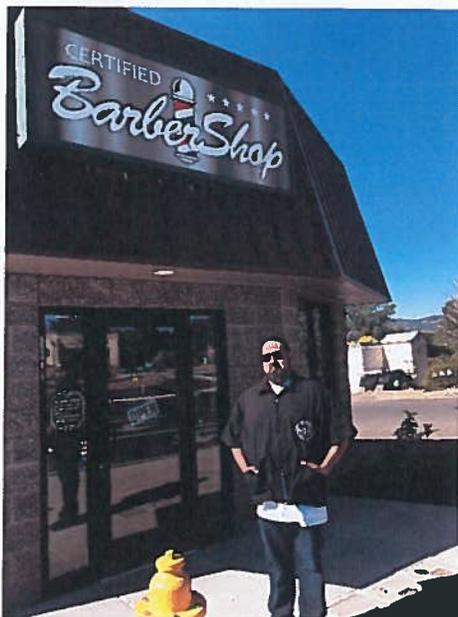
Chuck was born and raised in the Los Angeles area, went to Colorado School of Mines for his undergraduate degree in Mining Geology, and then got an MBA while he was working for IBM in Chicago. He has been a Vice President for several companies, including PHAMIS Inc, a healthcare information systems company which he helped build and take public in the mid-1990's. Chuck also served as co-founder and member of the Executive Committee for the American Cancer Society charity auction for Camp Goodtimes, a summer camp program for kids with cancer and a college scholarship program for younger cancer survivors. Chuck now runs the wine group for the Ashland Newcomers Club. He is also President-Elect of the Board of Directors for Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice. SOFOH recently purchased the Holmes mansion in Medford, and is currently in the construction phase of an additional wing to create the first residential hospice house in Southern Oregon.

Chuck and Diane Reiling moved to Southern Oregon after living in the Seattle area for 20 years. They love it here. They have two grown children, Steven and Erica.

Contributions to Southern Oregon Friends of Hospice are welcome. Please contact Chuck at 541-301-5449.

New Business Spotlight – Certified Barber Shop

Certified Barber Shop – Fernando Reyes has opened his own barber shop at 4149 Pacific



Highway, Unit 323. Look for the barber shop to your right as you come off exit 24 and head toward Ray's market.

Fernando wanted a location with great exposure and one that is convenient for residents of Medford, Talent, Ashland and Phoenix. Locating just off exit 24 was just perfect.

Fernando spent the last 1.5 years at Fellas Barber Shop in Medford before opening his own shop. Business is brisk with lots of walk-ins and many of his former clients visiting his new business.

Certified Barber Shop is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 5:30 and on Saturday from 9:00 to 1:00. Fernando can be reached at 541-499-3731

When Fernando is not providing great haircuts he loves spending time with his two daughters age 5 and 2.

Let's welcome our new Planning Director - Evan Mackenzie

Evan comes to the City of Phoenix after almost 14 years of practicing planning; most of it in Eastern Oregon. Evan was with the City of Pendleton for seven and a half years, and then spent a year with the City of Reno, Nevada before coming to Phoenix. He is very happy to be back in Oregon and loves living in the Rogue Valley.

Evan was the only Planner in Pendleton, where in addition to the day-to-day duties he worked on updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan, Transportation System Plan, and a full rewrite of the City's Development Code. Prior to his time in Pendleton, Evan worked for the cities of Ontario, Baker City and Hillsboro. His first planning job was with Baker County, serving a population of 15,000 people and covering an area of 3,000 square miles. An east coast native who grew up in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., Evan had no idea he would spend a good part of his life in the small towns of Oregon.

Evan has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Oregon and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University. Before going back to school to become a Planner, Evan worked in newspaper advertising and the bicycle industry. Evan rides road and mountain bikes and occasionally races off road and cyclocross; his previous visits to the Rogue Valley were for the Super D and Enduro races at Mount Ashland. Evan rides 10.5 miles to work most days, and likes to take the long way home as often as possible. In addition to cycling, Evan dabbles in cross country skiing and paddling his sea kayak. While in Pendleton, Evan started a project that taught troubled youth how to repair donated bicycles. After ten hours of service, they earned a bike to take home.

Evan and his wife Michelle were married last October in Pendleton. They were friends before they dated, and like to joke that in this world of online dating, nobody would have ever put them together...including themselves. Michelle has just gone from being a breast cancer patient to a breast cancer survivor, and is looking forward to getting back to a normal routine, including resuming her work as a Mary Kay consultant. Michelle has four grown boys, one of whom will be moving to the Rogue Valley with his girlfriend later this Summer.

A big part of Evan's decision to come to Phoenix was the appreciation people had for the previous Planning Director and Assistant Planner. With both of them now working for the City of Medford, Evan has his hands full trying to keep up with both jobs and with finding a new Assistant Planner. He asks for your patience, and thanks everyone that has called or come by the office for being so easy to work with. We have made plenty of changes in the last two months, and more are on the way, all in the hope of providing better service to the citizens and businesses of Phoenix.

Library News

WE DID IT! Thanks to dozens of donations from the members of our community, the Friends of the Phoenix Library raised over \$500 for a mural in the library meeting room! Local artist Cathi Egelston started painting the mural in May. As branch manager I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our patrons and neighbors. Thank you so much!

Jody Fleming - Branch Manager, Phoenix Branch Library 541-535-7090

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER CELEBRATION – Sat. July 22nd, 10:30 to 1:00 at Colver Park

Thanks to former Mayor Jeff Bellah and Park Commissioner Laura Bellah for submitting the following article.



This is a unique, small town event to recognize and have fun with our dogs, who bring so much love, joy and affection to our lives! The event is all free, including a hot dog lunch prepared by our Fire District #5 Firefighters, and served by Community Kitchen volunteers, headed up by Carolyn Marshall! Fun activities for pets include: pet parade at 11 a.m., prizes for costumes, free pet toys and goodies courtesy of Petco, Sit/Stay musical competition by Go Rogue Dog Training, agility course by R & R Pet Resort, musical cupcake/doggie biscuit walk, wading pools for cooling off, dog paw print flowers by the Phoenix Garden Club, pet paw print stepping stone kits by the Phoenix Community Garden, story time for dogs and owners, Phoenix Library Info, Friends of the Animal Shelter (FOTAS) participation, Petco representative, face painting, and K-9 Sheriff's department demonstration!

Why Dog Days? The Phoenix Parks Commission wanted a unique event to showcase our beautiful parks. Colver Park was chosen for the shade and walking path! Colver Park is located on Colver Road--take West 1st Street past the library, across the RR tracks, turn left at stop sign, travel about 1/2 mile and the park is on the left.

Who can attend? Anyone with or without a dog! There are dog/owner activities, but if you love dogs and want to cheer on the parade, please join us! You may see a shelter dog you would like to adopt! Parade at 11 a.m.!!! All dogs must be leashed, non-retractable leashes are best.

The Outcomes? Meet local dog owners, neighbors, community group leaders, and have a fun day in the beautiful and shade-filled Colver Park! Free lunch!

Did you know this park has horse shoe pits and a new swing set? Meet your Mayor Chris Luz as our emcee! Meet his lovely wife, Paula, who is doing fantastic face painting!

Phoenix is a great place for dogs and people, so join us for a fun family celebration! A special shout out to all the volunteers and the Public Works Dept. that makes this event possible, as well as the City of Phoenix!!! See you July 22nd!!!

Mark your calendar. We will see you July 22nd!!!



Update: Eagle Scout Project

Riggs Loftin, a local Eagle Scout, completed the installation of not one, but two picnic tables and concrete pads in in Blue Heron Park. Thanks to Riggs, his Scout team, his parents and the vendors that contributed to this great community focused project. Thank you to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts for all their great work. Please let me and Phoenix city staff know if you would like to coordinate projects with Phoenix.



Update - Swings Have Been Installed At Colver Road Park

Swings were one of the most requested items in all of the park surveys that we conducted as part of the work on our Master Parks Plan.

Good news - The Public Works Department installed new swings in Colver Road Park. There are swings for the younger kids and swings for older kids & adults. Just another reason to come out and visit Colver Road Park.

Phoenix Arts Council

The newly formed Phoenix Arts Council's first major project is well underway. 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 is leading the effort that involved lots of our local residents contributing to painting the mural that focuses on the fact that Phoenix is a "Bee City."

The commission has four founding members; Judy Grillo, Jason Couch, Jan DeBritto and Kandy Scott.

Please feel free to email Judy at judithkarenartist@gmail.com for commission updates and to learn how you can get involved with the Arts Commission.

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."

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.

1) On June 5th the Council entertained comments from business owners and non-business owners regarding the "road diet." Thanks to all of you who spoke at the meeting! Comments were overwhelmingly in favor of going back to a two lane traffic pattern. City Council directed Phoenix city staff to provide Council with detailed information regarding a future two lane option and options to improve the one lane pattern. Staff plans to have the information available in August or September. The information will be available through a series of meetings and on the Phoenix government web site.

2) On June 19th, I had an item placed on our agenda asking Council to debate an option of allowing Phoenix residents the ability to vote, as part of a special election, on whether you want to retain a one lane traffic pattern on Main Street or go back to a two lane pattern. It is my opinion that your city government needs to hear from each of you with regards to the "road diet." Council voted to direct our staff to prepare a resolution that would specify the language that would be in the voter pamphlet and on the voter ballot. Council voted in favor of preparing an advisory vote resolution that would allow citizens the ability to vote on the "road diet" issue at a future Oregon election.

3) At the upcoming July 17th City Council meeting, I'm planning to have the advisory vote resolution ready for a council vote. Your participation at the meeting is welcome. The question before the council will be whether or not to approve a resolution directing staff to place a "road diet" advisory vote on a future election ballot. If the Council approves the resolution then the citizens of Phoenix will have the opportunity to voice their opinion by their vote. If the Council rejects the resolution then a vote would not be held. It's important to note, although an important event, a citizen advisory vote is not binding on the Council's final decision to keep or eliminate the "road diet."

Information will be provided regarding one lane and two lane options before a vote is held. Please participate in the process. Spread the word, we need everyone to be informed and to participate.

City Council Members: Jim Snyder – President, Terry Baker – Vice President and Councilors Mike Shunk, Stuart Warren and Sarah Westover. One council seat is vacant. Applications to fill the council vacancy are available at city hall. Applications must be submitted by July 17th.