



City of Rockaway Beach

2023 Fall Newsletter



Rockaway Beach

Events:

Fire Department Open House – October 7th, 11AM -3PM
 What’s on Your Mind with the Mayor – October 21st 10AM
 Destination Management Workshop #2 – October 23 6:00-8:00PM
 Coffee with Manager & Mayor – October 26th at 9:00am
 Destination Management Workshop #3 – November 13th 6:00-9:00PM
 Trunk or Treat – October 28th
 Coffee with Manager & Mayor – November 16th at 9:00am
 Lighting of the Christmas Tree November 24th, Time TBD.
 Santa @ the Station December 9th, Time TBD

City Hall Closures:

Veterans Day November 10th
 Thanksgiving November 23rd
 Christmas December 25th
 New Year’s January 1st

City Manager’s

Message:

What an amazing summer season we had here in Rockaway Beach! In the 15 years I’ve served this community, I can’t recall a busier or more vibrant summer season as this one. Rockaway Beach really did shine, and I’m honored to be a part of it. From our business owners and community volunteers to our Fire Department and Public Works staff, thank you for all you do for our community. Thanks to everyone for making Rockaway Beach what it is today.

One of the City’s budget priorities this year was to reinvest back into the community through community and business grants, and investments in public improvement projects.

Our new Business Façade Improvement grant program will begin accepting applications on October 2nd, 2023. This grant program will fund up to \$200,000 of exterior improvements to commercial buildings in Rockaway Beach. Each business is eligible for up to \$20,000 in funding, and there is no match requirement. Please see our homepage for details.

Rockaway Beach is in the process of awarding this year’s community grant recipients. To date, the City Council has awarded over \$20,000 to nonprofit organizations such the Rockaway Beach Friends of Library, Senior Meals, and the Rockaway Beach Volunteers. More awards to follow.

In addition to grant programs, a variety of public improvement projects are in the works at the Wayside and Anchor Street. The Wayside will be updated with new restrooms and permitting is underway for new, improved beach access. The new access is slated to include both a ramp and stairway to the beach. This Anchor St. project includes a brand-new parking lot, restroom facilities, covered seating area, event space and two play structures for kids of all ages and abilities. Additionally, plans are currently being developed to replace the existing facilities at the Lake Lytle Boat Launch property, which

the City will begin managing at the start of the year.

As we settle into Fall and enjoy this brief respite, I’d like to thank all those who’ve supported the City’s efforts to bring out the best in Rockaway Beach.

Respectfully,
 City Manager, Luke Shepard

Utility

Department:

The utility department is happy to announce a new look for our utility bills plus a new online payment portal. Starting November 1st you will notice a change in the way your utility bill looks. You will also have the ability to sign up for paperless statements with multiple payment options and 24/7 account access. Customers who are currently signed up with Payment Service Network (PSN) will need to make a new account under the new online payment portal before making utility payments. Watch for the updated ONLINE PAYMENT LINK on the city’s website www.corb.us

Fire Department:

Rockaway Beach Fire Rescue will be hosting an open house on Saturday October 7th from 11:00AM to 3:00PM. There will be live demonstrations and tours. The preparedness group will be handing out information on winter storms and how to prepare. Food and beverages will be provided along with door prizes. The Fire Department continues to train and improve our abilities. An Emergency Medical

Responder (EMR) class is currently in progress. Our next EMT and EMT – Advanced classes are being prepared, along with an Apparatus Operator class, and a Firefighter 2 class. Upcoming training will include vehicle extrication and vehicle firefighting.

Tillamook County Emergency Management is conducting an exercise for the Great Shakeout. This drill will test local response actions in the event of an earthquake. The drill will be held on October 19th at 10:19AM. The Fire Department will be posting more details as the event gets closer. This information will also be posted on the City's website, as well as the Fire Department and Preparedness Facebook pages.

Public Works:

Public Works has successfully installed a small water booster station at the top of Scenic View Drive. This booster station is a significant addition to our infrastructure, as it enhances water pressure to 50 psi ensuring consistent and reliable water supply to residents in the area. Note: it is important to highlight that the booster station will be put online once we receive the emergency generator, ensuring uninterrupted service during power outages.

We are excited to announce the upcoming Anchor Street Park and Bathrooms Project. This project is scheduled to commence in approximately 6-7 weeks. This significant project aims to enhance the experience of both residents and visitors to Rockaway Beach. Key features are two new bathrooms, a new parking lot close to downtown, and a new playground area.

Public Works will be repainting the old tennis court stripes and superimposing a new pickleball

court. The location of the new pickleball court will be at the Neah-Kah-Nie School District Office, 504 N 3rd street.

Dan Emerson, Public Works Superintendent, would like to extend his heartfelt appreciation to the hardworking members of the public works team. They consistently go above and beyond whether it is fixing a water service or addressing the increased demands over the weekends. Their commitment to keeping Rockaway Beach a welcoming and vibrant place is truly commendable, especially when faced with challenges like accommodating fifty train visitors, all looking to use the public restrooms at once.

Message from the Mayor:

Let me begin with a shout out to City Staff who write, edit, compile, print and mail Rockaway Beach's Newsletter. I hope you find it as useful and valuable as I do.

As I sit here writing my message with the sun streaming in through the window and facing the coming atmospheric river let me thank all who made the Summer of 2023 in Rockaway Beach a fabulous experience for residents and visitors alike...Public Works, Fire Department, City Hall Staff, the Business Association, the Chamber of Commerce, our businesses, and the Rockaway Beach Volunteers. Thanks to all of you, we had a summer filled with warm memories to carry us through the rainy season.

Rockaway Beach's primary source of water is the Jetty Creek Water Shed. I am happy to tell you that the City of Rockaway Beach is taking steps to make sure that the Water Shed will be a long-term, sustainable source of clean fresh drinking water for Rockaway Beach. During the September City Council meeting, Council voted unanimously to join a

working group with Sustainable Northwest and North Coast Land Conservancy in discussions with Nuveen Natural Capital. Nuveen owns about 1/3 of the watershed. Since then, Stimpson Lumber, which owns about 2/3 of the watershed, accepted an invitation to join the discussion. Please keep in mind that this is a monumental undertaking. Efforts from start to finish in Arch Cape (OR) took 7 years and in Ilwaco (WA) it took 6 years. Rockaway Beach is also on the short list for a grant to hire a consultant to assist with writing a source water protection plan.

I will work to keep our community up to date on all the City's efforts to assure a long-term source of water.

City Manager Shepard and I host Coffee with the Mayor at 9am on the fourth Thursday of the month at City Hall.

I am adding a meeting on Saturday October 21st with me (Mayor), adjusting the November date to avoid Thanksgiving and taking a break in December to focus on the holidays.

What's on your Mind with Mayor – October 21st at 10:00am
Coffee with Manager & Mayor – October 26th at 9:00am
Coffee with Manager & Mayor – November 16th at 9:00am

Reminders:

Christmas Tree pickup will begin on January 8th through January 12th. Please make sure to call City Hall to get your name on the list to have your tree picked up.

City Council Workshop meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 4:30-6:00PM. Regular City Council meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting at 6:00PM

Regular Planning Commission meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 5:00PM.