

CITY OF ROCKAWAY BEACH

2024 WINTER NEWSLETTER



Reminders

City Council workshop meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 4:30-5:40PM. Regular City Council meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month starting @6:00PM

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

Emergency Preparedness meetings are held at City Hall on the 1st Wednesday of each month @6:00PM & every Tuesday at the Fire Dept @6:00PM

Fire Department Drills are held every Thursday @6:00PM at the Fire Department.

City Manager-As 2024 begins, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! We've another productive year ahead of us as we leap into 2024 at full speed. The first quarter of 2024 will see the likely completion of several large public improvement projects including a new park, parking lot and restroom on South Anchor St., and new larger restroom facilities at the Wayside. These two projects are scheduled to wrap up no later than April. Your Public Works Department is finalizing plans to upsize watermains on S. Pacific St., and will finish the project in late spring with new asphalt overlay between S. Third Ave. and S. Fourth Ave. Our engineers are nearly finished drafting a city-wide five-year streets improvement plan and a flood feasibility study for downtown. Both plans will allow us to prioritize and budget for upcoming projects. You can view these draft documents and leave comments by visiting the Public Works Department page on our website. A new beach access at the Wayside has been designed and is working its way through the stringent permitting process. Once the project is fully permitted, the city will seek bids to construct the new stairs and ramp to the beach. There is still time to see this work completed by this summer. The city rolled out its new Business Façade grant program late in 2023, and your City Council is scheduled to review the applications and award funding at their upcoming meeting in February. This new program aims to fund \$200,000 in repairs or improvements to local business. Each business could receive up to \$20,000. There is no matching funds requirement. The City Council is set to appoint members to its new Sourcewater Protection Plan Development Committee in February. This committee will serve to review and provide citizen input towards creation of Sourcewater Protection Plan for the Jetty Creek watershed. If this is of interest to you, please see our homepage for more information and how to apply. The application deadline is approaching quickly. There is much more to come in 2024, and it's my pleasure to continue serving our community!- Luke Shepard, City Manager.



Planning & Zoning-Last year the City of Rockaway Beach was awarded a Housing Assistance Grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development to assist the City with meeting the requirements of Senate Bill 406, which requires all the municipalities in Tillamook County to make room for middle housing through zoning updates. The City will be working with Cascadia Partners Inc. to make the required updates to our Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan. This exciting work will allow us to deeply evaluate our current code, meet with stakeholders to better understand the barriers that they encounter when developing middle housing, engage the community in conversations surrounding the type of middle housing that fits best within our community, and allow Rockaway Beach to do its part in addressing the housing shortage.

Destination Management-During the fall and winter of 2023, Tillamook Coast Visitors Association in partnership with the City of Rockaway Beach, hosted four community workshops to draft a city-wide Destination Management Plan. The destination management planning process captured the community's ideas about what improvements could be made that increase livability, safety and community engagement in Rockaway Beach, now and in the future, by balancing the needs of tourists and those of our community. A citizen survey, focused on desired tourism facilities, will go live on the City's website at the end of January.

Emergency Radio Group-The radio group continues to test its communications every Sunday. Classes and training on yellow radios are available for new members as well. This group is essential to operations in the event of a large-scale disaster.



Emergency Preparedness Group-The preparedness group continues to work hard sourcing supplies and operation plans ready if a disaster ever occurs in Rockaway. The recent cold weather and power outage gave the team the opportunity to open a warming shelter. The shelter was a success, and community members were able to use the facilities to keep warm, charge phones, and keep informed. Several lessons were learned to improve the experience when the shelter is opened in the future.



Public Works Department-Is happy to share the latest happenings and exciting developments in our beautiful city. The much-anticipated Anchor Street Park project is officially underway! We're thrilled to report that progress is smooth, and we can't wait to see this community space come to life. Stay tuned for updates on its transformation! Water Department's Reliability Boost: Two new motors for the 3rd Ave. water booster ensures a steady and dependable water supply for our community. New Speed Zone for Enhanced Safety: Your safety is our priority! A new 30 mph speed zone from approx. N. 4th to N. 7th enhances road safety: thanks to ODOT. Paving

Grant Success: We're thrilled to announce that Rockaway Beach has secured a \$250,000 paving grant for N. Pacific Street from N. 3rd to N. 9th. This investment will enhance the quality of our roads, providing a smoother and safer experience for all residents and vacationers. Rockaway Beach Tree Lighting Success: The Candy Cane Express brought holiday joy to our Tree Lighting ceremony, with Santa delighting over 500 attendees. Thank you for making it special! Welcome Mitch Leipzig- Making Operations Better: Welcome our new plant operator, Mitch Leipzig, whose skills are already enhancing our operations.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)-Training is well under way. 33 community members are currently working on completing the online portion of the training and will be starting the hands-on portion of the class on January 30th. The month of February will be spent completing the hands-on portion of the class. If you missed attending this class don't worry, we will be conducting additional classes in the future.

Fire Department-The Fire Department is happy to announce that we have a new Assistant Chief Don Kiser, along with a new Lieutenant/Training Officer Kale Hesse. Don & Kale have taken over for the recently retired Assistant Chief/Training Officer Shawn Vincent. The Fire Department is working hard through the winter months on training and preparation for the upcoming summer months. Hazardous Materials, Communications, Water Rescue, Structure Fires, Wildland Firefighting and Vehicle Extrication are leading the way. Individual training such as Pumper Operator, Instructor, and Firefighter 2 training will be conducted. EMT class began in January with 23 Students. This class is being instructed by our very own Captain/Paramedic Geoff Grace, the class is being conducted at the Fire Station in cooperation with TBCC. This partnership is strong and has trained around 50 EMT's in Tillamook County. Preparations are being made to host an EMT Advanced and Intermediate class to further increase the skill levels in Emergency Medicine. The new ladder truck is in production currently, no timeline is available; however, delivery is anticipated before the end of the year. Volunteers are still needed, if you are interested in joining any of the groups in Emergency Management or becoming a member of the Fire Department, please contact Chief Hesse thesse@corb.us.



Mayor's Message-City Council is considering Ordinance 2024-01 which enables the City Council to establish the total number of licensed Short-Term Rentals (STR) available by Council Resolution (an STR Cap); establishes a Waiting List process; and offers a window of time in which individuals with a valid building permit can obtain an STR license upon issuance of a certificate of occupancy. The Ordinance has no impact on current short-term rentals which will continue to contribute lodging tax to the city. STR owners will still need to abide by the Short-Term Rental Standards and Violations and Penalties sections found in Ordinances Chapter 113 Short Term Rentals (Ordinance 22-442, passed 8-10-2022). We currently have 455 active licenses as of January 10, 2024. This represents 21.6% of housing stock in Rockaway Beach ... over one in five dwelling units is an STR. An additional 8 requests for STR licenses are in the pipeline. We have seen a 10% increase in STR licenses since July 2023. 6.2% of STR owners are from Rockaway Beach; 64.1% are Oregon residents outside of Rockaway Beach; and 29.7% live outside Oregon. STR occupancy data suggests that the annual occupancy rate for Rockaway Beach STRs average between 50% and 60%. Bay City has placed a CAP on STRs of 5% of housing stock. Garibaldi has zoning restrictions on STR placement. Manzanita limits STRs to 17.5% of the dwelling units. In Nehalem an STR may not be located within a 150' radius of another STR. Wheeler does not permit STRs. Unincorporated Nedonna Beach has a Cap of 18%. I ask that you let your City Councilors know your preference - to CAP or not to CAP. - Charles McNeilly, Mayor.



Sheriff's Department-We at the Sheriff's Office love working in Rockaway Beach and with the citizens. We are proud to say we have dedicated Deputies patrolling the streets 7 days a week. Deputies would like to remind citizens and visitors to drive carefully. When the weather warms, the traffic increases. Please drive carefully in school zones and watch for pedestrians. If you have an emergency, call 911. If you need to report an incident that is not a matter of life and death, call 503 815-1911. If you want to serve your community, Tillamook County Sheriff's Office is looking for exceptional men and women to become sheriff's deputies.