



City of Rockaway Beach Fall 2024 Newsletter

City Manager's Update

As we close out another busy summer season and head into fall, please take a few moments to keep up with the exciting progress happening in Rockaway Beach. As always, thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve the Rockaway Beach community. – City Manager, Luke Shepard.

We are nearing the finish line on the city's five-year Visioning and Strategic Plan. Thank you to everyone who participated in the public engagement phase. The turnout was impressive! In addition to the open house and community group meetings, we received over 630 survey responses! Our consultants are putting the final touches on the draft plan and will present it to the City Council at the November 13th meeting. Once approved by the City Council, we'll have a roadmap to guide us in meeting the community's vision for the City of Rockaway Beach. Or, put another way, we'll know where to invest in the city's resources to achieve the goals set by the community. Again, thank you all for your participation. This is truly a huge leap forward for Rockaway Beach!

I am very happy to announce construction has commenced on the Wayside Beach Access project! This project entails new concrete stairs and ramp beach access, the addition of new sidewalks, additional ADA parking for the restrooms, and other amenities. The project team now believes the site conditions will allow the slope of the ramp to be reduced enough to comply with ADA standards. So not only will this project improve beach accessibility, but the access will also meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The contractor is on track to finish construction in early November. This is another great accessibility project for the city's most popular attraction.

We have now concluded the Anchor Street Park project with the planting of the beautiful plants donated by local landscape architect, Rachel Johansen. Thank you so much Rachel! Residents and local organizations will soon be able to reserve the Anchor Street Park for public events. Thank you for all your support for this project. It's a truly wonderful addition to our city.

The Budget Committee allocated \$75,000 in this year's budget to the city's Community Grant program. The Planning Commission is wrapping up its work to "revamp" the program to target projects that contribute to making Rockaway Beach a healthy, inclusive, charitable, and equitable community. The program will also be expanded to allow local nonprofits to fund some of their larger capital improvement projects. This new program is yet another wonderful investment of funds back into our community. This new program should be ready to roll out in January.



Contact Us:

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City Hall Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8 a.m.—5 p.m.

Join the City Email List
Visit <https://corb.us>

Sign up to receive local alerts:
Text RockawayOR to #888777

Meetings:

- **City Council Workshops**
2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:30 p.m.
- **City Council Regular Meetings**
2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
- **Planning Commission Meetings**
3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.
- **Emergency Preparedness Meetings**
1st Wednesday of each month at City Hall at 6:00 p.m. & Every Tuesday at the Fire Dept at 6:00 p.m.

Continued on page 2

City Recorder's Corner

Your Voice Matters: Join Us & Participate in Public Meetings

Public participation is an important part of the City's policy development. Community members are encouraged to attend the City's public meetings.

When are meetings held?

Regularly scheduled meetings are listed on page 1 of this newsletter. Visit the City website homepage at corb.us to view the meeting calendar and sign up for the City email list to receive public meeting notices. Join us in person, or online.

What's being discussed?

Meeting agendas provide the topics to be discussed. Find the agendas on the City website, and posted at City Hall, the library and the Post Office. If you sign up for the City email list, you'll receive a link to the meeting agenda packet that includes all documents for the meeting.

How can the public participate?

Most public meetings provide opportunities for public comment. You can sign-up to speak to share your views on topics listed on the meeting agenda.

How can I sign-up to speak?

- Sign-up on the Sign Up Sheet on the table outside of the meeting room.
- Is the topic you are speaking on listed on the agenda? If so, sign up under the applicable area (Public Hearing or Agenda Items). If the topic you are speaking on isn't listed on the agenda, sign up under Non-Agenda Items, and be sure to tell us the topic.
- Write your name clearly and include your position on the topic (if applicable).
- Are you attending the meeting on Zoom? Use the "raise hand" feature when the chair makes the announcement to do so.

Speaking Procedure & Tips

- When the Mayor calls your name, proceed to the podium. Begin speaking by stating your name and address.
- Direct all remarks and questions to the City Council through the Mayor or Chair. It is not appropriate to address the audience or the staff directly.
- Keep in mind this is not a forum for public debate. As a rule, the City Council does not carry on a dialogue with the speaker, however, the Mayor may request that the City Manager review and respond to the comments when appropriate.

Don't Like Public Speaking?

To submit written comments at the meeting, hand them to the City Recorder for distribution. Written Comments may be submitted electronically by sending an email no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting to CityHall@Corb.us

Questions? Contact City Recorder Melissa Thompson at City Hall, or by email at cityrecorder@corb.us.

City Manager's Update - *continued from pg. 1*

The Jetty Creek project aims to secure and protect the city's main drinking water source, the Jetty Creek Watershed. Although it is a relatively new and sizable project, the City Council has ensured that this is now a priority project for staff. Over \$125,000 in outside funding has already been awarded to the city for preliminary studies and planning (thank you SPPDAC members!). Also, multiple avenues are being explored for the large sum needed for the anticipated purchase and restoration of the watershed area. Thank you all who attended the EPA Change Grant open house. The EPA Community Change Grant is a \$10-20 million opportunity with the potential to provide funding for the acquisition of the full Jetty Creek Watershed. Sustainable Northwest has partnered with us to develop the grant application. Please check out the survey on our homepage to support this effort.

The long-anticipated "FEMA BiOP" now has a new, accelerated deadline. Effective December 1, 2024, regulations for development in the Special Flood Hazard Area (commonly known as the "floodplain") will be changing. These changes are mandated by FEMA for jurisdictions that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. We've invited Tillamook County Community Development Director, Sarah Absher to present on the topic at a Town Hall scheduled for October 28th. Please see our website for more details. For those of you who were not able to attend, a recording of the event will be posted on our Community Development webpage. City staff will work to keep everyone in the loop on this quickly evolving development. Please make sure to sign up for our email alerts and periodically check our website for the latest information.

We are very happy to announce that the Infrastructure Finance Authority Board unanimously moved to finance our Nedonna Beach Watermain Replacement project. Not only was the city offered a low interest rate, but the financing package also includes nearly \$1.5 million of forgivable principle. I'd like to thank our incredible staff that put this package together. The estimated

annual repayment and interest rate are dramatically lower than those anticipated in the city's adopted budget. This is another great example of our high caliber employees securing significant and competitive outside funding for our city. The Council will have the opportunity to authorize financing packages in November.

At our July City Council meeting, the Council approved an ordinance regarding the feeding and keeping of wild animals, making it consistent with state law, and added a provision regarding penalties. This is an excellent example of community members expressing concern about the feeding of deer in Rockaway Beach, and City Staff and Council working together to address their concerns.

A Memo of Understanding with the non-profit, David's Chair, was signed at the August City Council meeting. David's Chair will work with St. Mary's Catholic Church to coordinate. Residents and visitors can reserve use of an electric all-terrain track chair that can be used on the beach. Our Rockaway Beach Volunteers will organize check-in and check-out systems. A start date has not been set, but look forward to more information soon. What a great service this will be for those who otherwise would not be able to experience our beautiful beach!

City Council approved Resolution 2024-38 at the August City Council meeting for a 5-year lease of the Tennis Court Property behind the Neah-Kah-Nie District Office to provide a court for the public to play tennis or pickleball. We are excited to continue our partnership with the Neah-Kah-Nie School District.

The crew from the Oregon Marine Board (OMB) has completed their in-water survey for Lake Lytle Park. Additionally, OMB is utilizing the city's previous engagement work and the results of the technical survey to design the amenities of the park such as docks, boat and kayak launches, etc. Permitting work on the new restrooms is underway, and an initial archaeological survey will be performed soon. We could see the new restrooms installed in time for summer 2025. Finger Crossed



Mayor's Message

COMING SOON Coffee with Manager and Mayor returns November 21 at 9:00 am in the 2nd floor conference room of City Hall.

I am excited to share with you the tools that our awesome Fire Department are creating with Nan Devlin, Tillamook Coast Visitors Association, to assist our visitors and residents during an emergency:

- Rockaway Beach Fire Rescue Public Safety Information and Good Neighbor Tips Brochure
- Emergency Resources Cling (affix to refrigerator) – key contact information
- Status Clings during an emergency for front window; lets emergency responders know your status
- Safe
- Help

The Fire Department and City staff are working on how best to distribute these new tools.

Thank you Chief Hesse, Captain Grace and Nan Devlin for providing tools to help our visitors and residents stay safe.

Mayor Charles McNeilly



Fire Department

The Fire Department, with the help of our Seasonal Firefighters and dedicated volunteers, made it through a busy summer. Many hours were spent on the beach providing water and campfire safety messages as well as responding to 911 calls for service. Crews have started collecting data for our pre-fire planning campaign, clearly marked addresses and hydrant locations. Training continues to be the department's priority. Fire trainings have focused on Structure Fire Operations. EMT training has focused on cardiac arrest and how to improve out of hospital outcomes. A new heart monitor has been ordered and we anticipate delivery in early November. And speaking of delivery, the Department is anticipating the delivery of our new ladder truck in early 2025.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Teams of Preparedness, CERT and Radio have been working hard to improve skills and abilities in the event of a natural or manmade disaster. The Great Shakeout was a success, and we are currently going through the data collected to analyze where our strengths and weaknesses lay. The public is invited to participate in our monthly preparedness meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm at City Hall. November 6th, the class will be taught by the Red Cross and the title of the class will be "Be Red Cross Ready", December 4th, the class will be taught by a Geologist from D.O.G.A.M. and they will answer questions about the geology of Rockaway Beach and what to expect in the event of an Earthquake. Winter is coming, see our Emergency Management page on the City of Rockaway Beach webpage for helpful tips and advice. The Fire Department and Emergency Management teams are still looking for community Volunteers. There is a job for everyone; stop by the Fire Station or ask one of our members how you can help.

Save the Date

Save the date in your calendar for December 14th; there is a rumor that Santa will be at the Fire Station from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. Come and get your picture taken with Santa. Cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate will be provided. We will also have door prizes and Fire Truck rides!





Power being added to the Wayside to light Rockaway Beach Sign



Wayside Ramp and Stair Beach Access

Upcoming Events

- **October 26th—Trunk or Treat Family Event—Anchor Street Park, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**
- **November 21st—Coffee with Manager & Mayor, City Hall, 9:00 a.m.**
- **November 28th—City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving**
- **November 29th - Tree Lighting at the Wayside, 6:30 p.m.**
- **December 14th Santa Arrives at the Fire Department, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**
- **December 25th—City Hall Closed for Christmas**
- **January 1st—City Hall Closed for New Years**

Special Meetings

- **October 28th @ 5:30— FEMA BiOp Information Meeting — City Hall**
- **November 20th @ 9:30 am Sourcewater Protection Plan Advisory Committee (SPPDAC) Meeting**
- **November 20 @ 6:00 pm City Council Special Meeting: Public Hearing for Land Use Appeal #24-1: Nedonna Wave Planned Unit Development**

Public Works

Christmas Tree Lighting & Santa's Candy Cane Express

Join us for our annual tree lighting event the day after Thanksgiving! Santa's Candy Cane Express will depart Garibaldi at 5:30 p.m., with Santa arriving at Rockaway Beach Wayside at 6:00 p.m. The tree lighting countdown will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the train's departure around 7:00 p.m. Bring the whole family for a holiday cheer! Christmas Tree Pickup – Second Week of January. We're here to help with cleanup. The annual Christmas tree pickup will take place during the second week of January. If you'd like your tree to be picked up, please contact City Hall to let us know your address and that your tree is ready for pickup.

Wayside Beach Access Improvements

We are excited to announce the ongoing improvements at Wayside Beach Access, in partnership with Oregon State Parks. This project is designed to enhance beach access for everyone. Key features include ADA-compliant paths, additional ADA parking, new ADA bathrooms, ADA foot wash and shower stations, a drinking fountain with a bottle filler, emergency vehicle parking, landscaping, and a memorial plaque. We're on track to complete the project early to mid-November.

Anchor Street Park and its Landscaping

If you haven't visited the new Anchor Street Park yet, now is the perfect time! Located right downtown, next to local shops and just a block from the beach, it's a beautiful and convenient spot to relax. With the landscaping now complete, the park is more inviting than ever. Parents can unwind while the kids enjoy the playground, and you can even bring your dogs for a nice walk along the paths. It's the perfect place to enjoy the fresh coastal air while keeping an eye on the little ones. This park is a true gem for the whole community, a peaceful retreat with easy access to everything!

Dan Emerson, Public Works Superintendent

