



City of Rockaway Beach Summer 2025 Newsletter

City Manager's Update

As we head into another busy summer, I want to share all 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.



2025/2026 City of Rockaway Beach Budget is Approved

City Council has approved the 2025/2026 Budget at their May 14th council meeting. An incredible amount of work goes into finalizing a budget for a city that has as many projects and events as Rockaway Beach. The \$35 million budget was built to align the city's resources with the goals set in our five-year Strategic Plan. Many thanks to the city's finance director, Marni Johnston, and the entire budget committee members for their dedication to the process. The new budget will roll out July 1, 2025.

Jetty Creek Watershed Acquisition Awarded \$1,422,270.00

The OWEB Board voted unanimously to award the City of Rockaway Beach \$1,422,270.00 for the Jetty Creek acquisition project. This is the city's 3rd grant received for this project. The final draft of the new Source Water Protection Plan was approved by the City Council in May, and is now on its way to the Oregon Health Authority for review. Next up is the development of a Forest Stewardship Plan, and a land valuation appraisal for the lower half of the watershed. These actions will set the stage for a potential acquisition in late 2026.

4th of July Events

This year's theme for the 4th of July Events is *Waves of Freedom*. Preparations are underway and applications are now being accepted online for Parade Applications. Visit our website to submit an application.



David's Chair Grand Opening

David's Chair held its Grand Opening on May 17th hosted by St. Mary By The Sea Catholic Church. We'd like to thank our partners who have contributed to making it all happen. For those of you who don't know, Rockaway Beach is one of the Oregon coastal locations that offers free-of-charge use of track chairs for those with mobility challenges. It's an amazing opportunity for our community members and tourists who visit our city and want to discover the sand and beach with ease using the mobility chair. To reserve the use of a chair, visit their [website](https://davidchair.org/request-fixedlocation-chair/). (davidchair.org/request-fixedlocation-chair/)

Contact Us:

Rockaway Beach City Hall
276 S. Hwy 101
PO Box 5
Rockaway Beach, OR 97136
cityhall@corb.us
(503) 374-1752

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

Short-Term Rental Renewals

Renewal Period Is Now Open

- All STR owners must have access to a valid email account to complete the renewal process.
- Renewals must be completed in one session. You will not be able to save your progress and return later.
- Renewal applications and payments will be completed online.
- Certificates will be emailed to STR owners for printing.
- Completed online application and payment must be received no later than July 31, 2025 or the STR license will expire.

Renew at: <https://rockawaybeachcityorself.govplatform.com/>

You will need the following documents for upload in PDF or image format to complete the renewal process:

1. Image of house or address identifier that is visible from the street (image taken from the street).
2. Image of required identification sign posted on property and visible from the street (image taken from the street).
3. Close up image of identification sign including an email address and a contact telephone number for the owner or local agent.
4. Parking plan map and notice posted in a conspicuous place within the rental unit identifying the number and location of off-street parking for renters.
5. Proof of active liability insurance coverage from your insurance company.

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

Small Community Grants—

Congratulations to the following who submitted Small Community Grant applications. The city awarded nearly \$13,000 to enhance their programs within Rockaway Beach.

- Tillamook County Development Disabilities—3rd Annual Intellectual/Development Disabilities Picnic (\$1,000)
- Rockaway Beach Business Association—Fundraiser Projects (\$4,999)
- Friends of Rockaway Beach Library—Entrance Railing & Square Device (\$1,864)
- Neah-Kah-Nie Coast Arts Music & Cultural Foundation—3rd Annual Writers Rendezvous (\$4,999)

Large Community Grants—

The City Council awarded nearly \$60,000 to three community groups through the Large Community Grant program. A special thank you goes out to the Planning Commission for their work to update our community grant program.

- Meals for Seniors—Food for Seniors (\$20,000)
- Fulcrum Community Resources & Rockaway Beach Business Association—Summer Movies in the Park (\$19,000)
- Neah-Kah-Nie Coast Arts Music & Cultural Foundation—Music Technology Club Launch (\$18,206.42)

Off-Season Tourism Marketing Grants

Marketing grants were awarded in May. These grants were open to Rockaway Beach businesses and are intended to encourage visitation in the shoulder and off-seasons. Congratulations to these three local businesses.

- Neah-Kah-Nie Coast Arts Music & Cultural Foundation—Marketing for the Rockaway Writers Rendezvous (\$3,000)
- Green Coast Market—Website & Print Collateral (3,000)
- Jiu Jitsu 101 Oregon Coast—Market Wellness Program to Visitors and Create Web Content (\$3,000)

Source Water Protection Plan was

adopted by the Planning Commission at their May 15th meeting. The plan is now under review by a team from the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Environmental Quality. Visit our website to download a copy of the plan.

Oregon Coast Today published a great article titled "[Rockaway Beach Makes Great Strides in Accessibility](#)." Among the many projects completed recently, the article highlights the new Wayside beach access, improvements to First St., the new Anchor St. Park, the Cedar Boardwalk, and Rockaway's David's Chair. Thanks to Mayor McNeilly for his work on the interview. The article is worth a read!

Easter in Rockaway

Tillamook PUD, Rockaway Beach Business Association and Rockaway Beach Fire & Rescue hosted this year's annual Easter Fun on April 19th. There was a delicious pancake breakfast offered at the Fire Department as the firefighters welcomed the public and gave tours. The highlight as always was the Easter Egg Hunt where hundreds of children searched for eggs at Phyllis Baker Park. Thank you to all those who contributed to this wonderful annual event and supported the work to make it happen. These are some of the events that bring our community together.



Streets Resurfacing Projects

As part of the City Streets Capital Improvement Plan, Rockaway Beach completed three street-maintenance projects in May. You may have noticed crews working on Sections of N. Miller St., S. Anchor St., and N. Third Ave., recently. These projects extend the life of our roads by adding a protective wear surface layer which seals the asphalt to prevent early deterioration. You may notice sand in the completed project areas which is normal and should be expected. Thank you for your patience during the work period. Public Works is now finalizing plans for major road and utility work on N. Pacific St. Stay tuned for more information to come.



Mayor's Message

Volunteering offers significant personal and community benefits, impacting mental and physical well-being, career prospects, and social connections. It provides a sense of purpose, boosts self-esteem, and can improve job prospects. Additionally, volunteering strengthens communities by addressing needs and fostering social cohesion. Volunteerism is strong in Rockaway Beach, and we have the Rockaway Beach Volunteers matching community members with opportunities to make a difference in Rockaway Beach. If you are not on their list of active volunteers,

email the Rockaway Beach Volunteer Coordinators at rbvolunteers1@gmail.com to become part of our volunteer corp. This is truly a win-win opportunity!

Save the date to join your neighbors and fellow community members while connecting over free coffee, tea and snacks. More info to come. Begins Tuesday, September 9th and will be held every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 9:00-11:00 PM at City Hall. All are welcome!

Mayor Charles McNeilly

Fire Department

EMT Class and EMT Advanced class-

The EMT class is nearing completion. Eighteen students are attending from throughout Tillamook and Lincoln Counties. Following the completion of the EMT class, the Fire Department will be hosting an EMT-Advanced class. This class will teach and certify students to start IV's and administer some medications, as well as improve patient assessment skills.

Drone Program-

The Drone program continues to improve. The team has spent many hours improving skills and abilities. Mapping the beach to keep track of riptides, and use of our thermal imaging camera have been the highlights of recent training.

Emergency Management-

The June 4th Emergency Preparedness class will be on Wildfire Safety. Chief Hesse will be presenting. The class will cover Defensible Space, Safety Tips, and how to be prepared in case of wildfire.

Ladder Truck Update-



The ladder truck build continues. The ladder is in the final stages of construction; the pump has been installed and is just waiting for the final touches. We are anticipating a late June delivery. The Fire Department will then outfit and train with the ladder, and anticipate placing the truck in service in August.



Volunteers needed: If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for Emergency Management, Drones, Medical Responses or the Fire Department please contact Chief Hesse.

From the Sheriff's Office

Accurate business owner/contact information is essential to enable our Deputies to have a point of contact in the event of an emergency. Often times we are called to businesses after-hours for alarms or suspicious activity. Being able to talk with an owner or responsible party can help our Deputies resolve these calls quickly and thoroughly. If you have recently opened a business, changed owners or need to update your business contact information, please call non-emergency dispatch at (503) 815-1911.

Public Works

Slurry Seal Project – May 20–21

As part of the City Streets Capital Improvement Plan, Rockaway Beach underwent a slurry seal treatment on selected streets. This project helps extend the life of our roads by adding a protective wear surface and sealing the asphalt to prevent early deterioration. The roadway will be sandy following the application. Thanks to the community for your patience during the treatment.



Pacific Street Improvements – Grant Funded

We are excited to announce that Rockaway Beach has received a **\$250,000 Small City Allotment (SCA) grant** for the improvement of **N. Pacific Street from N. 4th to N. 9th**. The project will include comprehensive upgrades to sewer, water main, stormwater systems, and roadway paving. Stay tuned for updates as the project advances.

NKN Street Light Project – Completed

Thanks to a successful partnership between the city, Neah-Kah-Nie High School, and the Tillamook PUD, new streetlights have been installed on **Highway 101 in front of the high school**. This enhancement improves both student and driver safety. A big thank you to the community members and organizations that helped bring this project to completion!

Leak Detection Project – Progress Update

The City has applied for a **\$20,000 Leak Detection Study** under the Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Project program. The **Oregon Health Authority (OHA)** has reviewed our application, and we're proud to report the project has been added to the **Project Priority List** and recommended for funding. This study is a key step in identifying and reducing water system loss.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

As part of the city's Master Plan, both the primary sludge pump and the trickling filter recirculation pump are being replaced. The project has been approved and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. These upgrades will improve system efficiency and reliability.

The 2024 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available for viewing at City Hall and on the city's website ([2024-Annual-Drinking-Water-Quality-Report.pdf](#))

Dan W. Emerson, Superintendent

Upcoming Events

- **June 4—Rockaway Beach Emergency Preparedness**, City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- **June 11—City Council Workshop**, City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
- **June 11—City Council**, City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- **June 18—Coffee with Manager & Mayor**, City Hall, 9:00 a.m. (moved from June 19)
- **June 19—City Hall Closed—Juneteenth**
- **June 26—Planning Commission**, City Hall, 6:00 p.m. (moved from date June 19th)
- **July 4th—Fireworks at the Wayside**
- **July 16—City Council Workshop**, City Hall, 4:30 p.m. (moved from July 9th)
- **July 16—City Council Meeting**, City Hall, 6:00 p.m. (moved from July 9th)



Fireworks Prohibited: As we approach another July 4th celebration, please remember that it is unlawful for anyone without a permit from the Oregon State Fire Marshal to shoot or discharge fireworks within the City of Rockaway Beach. Increased enforcement should be expected this year. Violations can carry stiff penalties.