



City of Rockaway Beach Fall 2025 Newsletter

City Manager's Update

As we begin to approach the end of 2025, it is remarkable to reflect on the busy and productive year we've had here in Rockaway Beach. One of the standout moments from last quarter had to be the long-awaited Push-In ceremony for our brand-new ladder truck. This event, which was both well-organized and highly attended, marked an important achievement for our city that we can all be proud of.



The Mayor, Fire Chief, and I delivered remarks highlighting the significance of this milestone for Rockaway. We were also honored by the presence of Tillamook County Commissioner Erin Skarr and State Representative Cyrus Javadi. This new ladder truck represents more than just upgraded equipment; it's a testament to the hard work, dedication, and teamwork that keep our community safe every single day. This new apparatus is also a symbol of our commitment to public safety, to our firefighters, and to every resident and visitor who calls Rockaway Beach home. It's a reminder of how far we've come, and how we continue to grow together.

To our Fire Department: thank you for your service, your training, and your heart. You've earned this. And to everyone who helped make this happen—from city staff to council members to community supporters—thank you for believing in the mission.

—City Manager, Luke Shepard.

Rockaway Beach Patrol Deputies

I am excited to announce that we are now fully staffed with all four Rockaway Patrol Deputies onboard now with the addition of Deputy Mark Weir, an experienced former jail deputy whose application stood out. Mark's shifts will cover Sunday through Wednesday nights. Achieving full staff for the Rockaway Beach Patrol fulfills one of the city's principal goals and showcases the progress and dedication driving our five-year strategic plan.

Municipal Recorder of the Year

City Recorder Melissa Thompson received the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders' Recorder of the Year award. Melissa's family, the Mayor, and I attended the ceremony in Eugene to celebrate her well-deserved recognition. There's nothing better than seeing a hard-working staff member receive the recognition for all they do for Rockaway Beach.

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Contact Us

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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: www.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**
Wednesday, November 5th, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

Short-Term Rental 24/7 Hotline Now Active!

- **HOTLINE PHONE** (971) 351-0529
Click for [ONLINE FORM](#)

1. What is the Short-term Rental (STR) Hotline?

Residents can call or fill out an online form **24/7 to report a non-emergency issue** such as noise complaints, improper trash disposal, parking concerns, and unlicensed STRs.

2. Can I submit video/photo evidence?

Yes. When making the complaint via phone or online, you can request to receive a link to upload your photos and/or video.

3. What happens when a complaint is made?

The Required Local Agent (owner or property management company) will be contacted via phone and/or text message with details of the complaint. Per City Code, they must respond within 30 minutes.

4. What should the Required Local Agent do if notice of a complaint is received?

The Required Local Agent (owner or property management company) must respond within 30 minutes via text or phone to acknowledge, resolve, and explain the resolution (with evidence, if they choose).

5. What if the issue is not resolved?

If a complaint is made via phone, the caller can request an automated callback after 60 minutes to report if the issue has been resolved. If not, the person who made the complaint will be provided with the Sheriff's office contact information.

6. Why is the STR Hotline being implemented?

The hotline supports compliance by making it easy for residents to report STRs that may not be following the rules. By monitoring together, we help the City of Rockaway Beach ensure fairness, protect neighborhood integrity, and keep our community safe and welcoming for everyone.

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Grant Awarded HAPO Housing Planning Assistance

The Department of Land Conservation and Development has awarded its HAPO Housing Planning Assistance grant to the City of Rockaway Beach. As you may recall, City Planner Tapia previously reported on applying for two DLCDC grants, noting that this particular grant had a limited chance of approval. The HAPO grant will offer the city technical assistance through a consultant, similar to the support provided during the middle housing updates for our SB406 initiatives. This newly awarded grant will focus on updating our zoning code relating to residential development, as well as any corresponding comprehensive plan amendments that may arise. This represents only the initial step in a multi-year effort as we pursue comprehensive updates to our development codes.

ColPac's Application to the Rural Opportunities Initiative (ROI) Grant Program

I submitted a letter of support for ColPac's application to the Rural Opportunities Initiative (ROI) Grant Program. The Rural Opportunities Initiative (ROI) Grant Program could help Rockaway Beach in several ways. If awarded, ROI Grant Program aims to address the needs of small businesses, revitalize downtown, improve infrastructure, and foster a supportive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Grant Application Submitted to the Forest Legacy Program

The city submitted a \$3,750,000 grant application to the Forest Legacy Program. This marks our second attempt applying to this program, and if successful, the funds will be allocated toward acquiring the lower portion of the Jetty Creek watershed. While this funding is not essential for the project's advancement, it would significantly reduce the financial impact of the land acquisition.

A Scholarship for Councilor McGinnis

Councilor McGinnis received a scholarship from the Oregon Coast Visitors Association to attend the TravelAbility &

Accessibility Summit conference in Sunriver, October 13th–15th. McGinnis is looking forward to sharing strategies to make Rockaway Beach more accessible, especially for senior travelers.

Association of Oregon Counties

I attended the "It's About the Water" Association of Oregon Counties VIP Tour hosted by the Working Lands & Waters Cooperative. This tour highlighted water's movement through working lands, with stops at a dairy operation, a managed forest, and a fish hatchery. Stimson Lumber invited myself and other water system managers to speak about the importance of protecting and managing our watersheds. These events go a long way towards reinforcing our working relationship with the owner of the upper Jetty Creek Watershed. These actions will set the stage for a potential acquisition in late 2026.

Rockaway Beach in the News

The city's efforts towards ADA accessibility has been recognized in recent articles published by [Willamette Living](#) and [Portland Monthly](#).

Mayor McNeilly participated in a public relations campaign earlier this week.



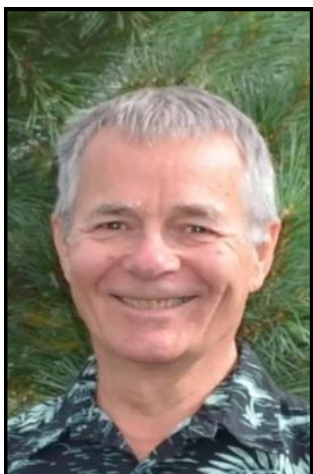
Below are links to two of the three interviews he gave. Well done, Mayor!

[Fall Destinations Week: Rockaway Beach](#) and [Fall Destinations Week: Rockaway Beach, Oregon!](#)

David's Track Chair

A new all-terrain track chair was generously provided by David's Chair Outdoor Mobility Systems and was funded by a grant from Travel Oregon. I'm proud that our community supports such a wonderful service. To reserve the use of a chair, visit their [website](#).

Mayor's Message



Rockaway Beach is experiencing a surge in new businesses, which is a testament to our growing appeal and vibrant community. With the opening of Green Coast Market, Blue Water Fine Arts Gallery and the updated Seaquest Gifts and Artisan Gallery, the town is a bustling hub of activity.

The addition of the Bayocean Food Court featuring Sassy Rocks, Big Shaun's Smashburger and Thai Food and on the north end of town, Taqueria Mendez and Tropics Island Grill food trucks and Yannis Beachfront BBQ and Deli (formerly RB Little Store) add to our diverse culinary offerings.

The upcoming Pelican Taproom and Spirits of the West Distillery further highlights the town's business expansion. As a popular destination, Pelican Brewing is expected to attract new visitors to town. Being a tourist destination brings with it its own set of challenges, but one thing is clear, you and I get access to a greater array of restaurants and businesses as a result.

Please support our businesses by shopping and eating local! Truly a win-win opportunity!

Mayor Charles McNeilly

Fire Department



The Fire Department Assists OSFM

Chief Hesse and Captain Grace are working with the State Fire Marshalls Office performing fire code inspections. Completed so far have been the schools and school district offices, two food trucks, and two local businesses. All food trucks since January 2025 are required to meet the new fire code requirements. This means that we inspect at the local level for compliance and collaboration with OSFM to correct any violations.

Tillamook County Wildfire Protection Plan

Chief Hesse attended a meeting with the consultants for the Tillamook County Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2026 and will allow eligibility for wildfire grant funding for the City of Rockaway Beach. Chief Hesse gave the group a tour of Rockaway Beach and discussed local hazards and concerns.

Firefighter Boos Passed National Registry Exam

As emergency medical calls continue to be the most frequent type of 911 call for service, RBFD continued its pursuit to improve emergency medical training. They welcomed Ken Barry and Zandra Umholz as new EMT's, and Ryan Boos completed his EMT-Advanced in 2025. This adds to our capabilities on medical calls for service. The Department now has 1 Paramedic, 1 EMT-Intermediate, 2 EMT-Advanced, 6 EMT's and 2 EMR's.

Emergency Preparedness

An emergency preparedness meeting was held on October 1st at City Hall, featuring Oregon Emergency Management and the movie "Rumblings." Chief Hesse and Captain Grace are working with DOGAMI to put into place new Evacuation Route Signage. The next meeting will be held at City Hall on November 5, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Burn Ban Lifted

The burn ban is no longer in effect for burn barrels and small open debris pile burning. Burn permits (no cost) are required for both [open burning](#) and [fire pits](#) and applications can be obtained online or in person at City Hall.

Volunteers Needed

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



From the Sheriff's Office

As winter nears, now is the time to prepare our vehicles for harsh weather. An emergency kit with a flashlight, batteries, blankets, flares or reflectors and some food and water that is not perishable are good ideas to get started. Tire tread and proper brake system checks can ensure good traction in poor weather. As a reminder, studded tires are permitted on Oregon public highways between the dates of November 1st and March 31st. ODOT has the authority to extend the studded tire season, though that is rare. Plan extra time for travels when the weather is potentially going to be poor. Stay safe!!

Public Works

North Pacific Street Project Underway

The N. Pacific Street Improvements Project (covering water, sewer, storm drainage, and road upgrades) has officially started. The project was awarded to Advanced Excavation, and crews are already at work. Residents will be given advance notice of any utility shutdowns. Major work should wrap up by January–February 2026. Paving will follow once asphalt plants reopen for the spring paving season. This is a big step forward in upgrading essential underground utilities and improving one of our city's main streets.



Wastewater Plant Pump Replacements

Public works has started a project at the wastewater treatment plant to replace the primary sludge pump and the trickling filter recirculation pump. Public Works staff will do the demolition work, and the contractor will handle installation. These upgrades will make the plant more reliable and efficient.

Community Event—Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Mark your calendars! The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held the day after Thanksgiving. Join us for lights, music, and community cheer as we kick off the holiday season together.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:30 p.m. The Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad departs Garibaldi with Santa on board, handing out candy canes.

6:00 p.m. Train arrives at the Wayside. **Pictures with Santa** begin!

5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Evening Activities:

Letters to Santa writing station

Photos with Santa, sweet treats, and lots of holiday spirit.

Canned Food Drive (please bring non-perishables)

Cookies & Hot Cocoa

Community Singing with Ukuleles

Hang Your Homemade Ornaments on the community tree

6:30 p.m. Tree-Lighting Countdown (Public Works flips the switch for the first time!)

7:00 p.m. Train departs back to Garibaldi

Details and updates will be posted on the City's website. See you at the Wayside for a bright start to the season!

Dan W. Emerson, Superintendent
City of Rockaway Beach Public Works

Upcoming Events

- **November 5, 2025** — Emergency Preparedness City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- **November 12, 2025** — City Council Workshop, City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
- **November 12, 2025** — City Council Meeting, City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- **November 20, 2025** — Coffee with Mayor & City Manager City Hall, 9:00 a.m.
- **November 20, 2025** — Planning Commission, City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- **November 28, 2025** — Annual Tree Lighting, Wayside, 5:30-7:00 p.m.



- **December 10, 2025** — City Council Workshop, City Hall, 4:30 p.m.
- **December 10, 2025** — City Council Meeting, City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- **December 18, 2025** — Planning Commission, City Hall, 6:00 p.m.