

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Information and updates for the Mayor and City Council

August 5, 2026

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Meeting/Event	Date	Time	Location
Public Contracts Subcommittee Meeting	August 11, 2026	3:00 pm	City Hall Board Room
City Council Work Session	August 12, 2026	4–6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
<i>August 19 & August 26: Summer Break, no meeting</i>			
Developer Roundtable	August 31, 2026	4–6 p.m.	Public Works Campus/Virtual
City Council Executive Session City Council Business Meeting	September 2, 2026	5 p.m. 6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual

[View the Full Council Schedule Here](#)

Public Agency & Community Partner Updates

League of Oregon Cities Bulletin

The latest edition of the **LOC Bulletin** is available. Highlights include:

- **League of Oregon Cities Legislative Priority Voting Open:** Cities are encouraged to help shape the LOC's legislative agenda for the next two years.
- **League of Oregon Cities 101st Annual Conference:** Join city officials from across Oregon, October 15–17 in Salem; registration is now open.
- **Apply to Serve on the LOC Board of Directors.** The LOC is now accepting applications for several board positions.



- **City Water Services Survey Extended to August 7:** Cities now have until August 7 to complete the LOC Water Services Survey.

Department Updates

Bend Fire & Rescue Supports Wildfire Response Across Oregon

Over the past two weeks, Bend Fire & Rescue deployed **17 personnel** to firefighting efforts across Oregon in response to mutual aid requests from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office.

Of the personnel deployed:

- Six firefighters responded on two Type 3 engines and engaged directly in firefighting.
- Four served as trainees working toward advanced fire certifications under the supervision of qualified mentors.
- Two provided command-level support functions.
- Four personnel were assigned to a deployment in Warm Springs, including an engine company and a task force leader.
- One staff member was assigned as the Incident Safety Officer on the Grasshopper Fire near Tygh Valley.

In addition to statewide deployments, Bend Fire & Rescue has assisted Redmond Fire & Rescue through its automatic aid agreement. Crews deployed to Redmond were instrumental in helping protect homes during two separate wildfire incidents and responded to two structure fires, sending an engine, ladder truck, ambulance, and battalion chief.

All personnel assigned to the Warm Springs deployment and earlier statewide assignments have safely returned to Bend. The member serving as Incident Safety Officer on the Grasshopper Fire is expected to return on Wednesday.

Fire Chief Todd Riley reported that Bend Fire & Rescue crews have received praise for their professionalism and effectiveness during deployments and mutual aid responses.

"We are incredibly proud of the professionalism, skill, and dedication Bend Fire & Rescue personnel continue to demonstrate both here at home and across Oregon. Their willingness to answer the call, support neighboring communities, and develop their expertise through these deployments reflects exceptionally well on the organization and the community they serve. Please extend my sincere appreciation to everyone involved for their hard work and commitment."

– Eric King, City Manager



City of Bend Selected for Bloomberg Harvard Leadership Initiative; Wildfire Preparedness Project Report Now Available

In Spring 2025, Mayor Melanie Kebler and the City of Bend were selected as one of only 40 cities worldwide to participate in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative, a leadership and organizational development program designed to help local governments address complex challenges. As part of the program, the City chose wildfire preparedness and resilience as its focus area, aligning with community concerns and the 2025-2027 Council Goals.

Through community interviews, stakeholder engagement, and staff collaboration, the project identified key barriers to wildfire preparedness and generated more than 100 ideas to strengthen community resilience. Those ideas were refined into eight prototype concepts focused on increasing preparedness, building trust, and supporting collective action.

Councilors, please read the attached **report** to learn more about the project findings, community insights, and potential future opportunities. For questions, please reach out to Stephanie Betteridge (sbetteridge@bendoregon.gov).

Median Removal Planned at Greenwood and 2nd Street to Improve Traffic Flow

To improve traffic flow and prepare for the upcoming Franklin Avenue underpass closure, the City will make modifications to the intersection of NE Greenwood Avenue and NE 2nd Street later this month. The project will remove 215 feet of the eastbound 3rd Street left-turn lane concrete median curb.

This improvement will provide additional queuing space for vehicles turning north onto NE 3rd Street and the eastbound through traffic on Greenwood. This will result in helping reduce overall delay for the eastbound movements and provide additional capacity to accommodate detour traffic during the Franklin Avenue closure this fall.

Construction is scheduled for the week of August 24 and is expected to take about one week. Completing the work before Labor Day provides a buffer to minimize holiday travel impacts and ensures the improvement is in place well ahead of the full Franklin Avenue underpass closure anticipated in mid-September.

Councilors, please see the attached **memo** for project details. For questions, reach out to Russell Grayson (rgrayson@bendoregon.gov).



August Bend Buzz

The August edition of **BendBuzz**, the City's employee newsletter, features a refreshed look and is packed with updates from across the organization.

With wildfire season top of mind, Deputy Fire Marshal Melissa Steele shares practical steps employees and residents can take to reduce wildfire risk and help keep our community safe. This month's issue also highlights new small business and climate grant programs, National Night Out, employee appreciation event highlights, the launch of the Women in Public Service Employee Resource Group, the July City Manager Message video, upcoming training opportunities, and more.

View Previous City Manager's Reports



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services

You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email accessibility@bendoregon.gov or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico accessibility@bendoregon.gov o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.