

City Manager’s Report

Information and Updates for the Mayor and City Council

April 12, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

MEETING/EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Council Meeting	April 17	3:30 p.m. Quarterly Council-Board/Commission 5 p.m. Work Session 7 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chambers / Virtual
Council Meeting		5 p.m. Work Session 7 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chambers / Virtual

VIEW THE FULL COUNCIL SCHEDULE

Please note the April 17 start-time change. The Quarterly Council-Board/Commission meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC AGENCY AND COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

League of Oregon Cities Bulletin

Read the most recent LOC Bulletin here. Of note, the Local Government Legal Center is hosting a webinar discussion of the *Lindke v. Freed* decision in which the U.S. Supreme Court set forth the test for when local government officials are considered “state actors” for the purposes of the First Amendment when they post on social media. Learn how your municipality can implement and enforce local policies that reflect this court decision.



Save the date for HB 4123 Summit on Rural Homelessness

Polk County is hosting a gathering of HB 4123 communities in West Salem on April 15th, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Chris Ogren (CHRO) and Mickie Derting (City of Bend) will be attending, and invite you to join them. If you would like to attend, please fill out this [form](#) and let both Chris (Chris.Ogren@deschutes.org) and Mickie (mderting@bendoregon.gov) know via email. Please see the [meeting agenda](#) and [CHRO presentation slide deck](#).

EPA Releases Final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

On April 10, the EPA released the final rule establishing a national primary drinking water regulation for PFAS. Specifically, the regulations have established an enforceable maximum contaminant level (MCL) for several PFAS chemicals. Public water systems will be required to monitor for and reduce the levels of any included PFAS if they exceed the MCL. Regulatory monitoring will begin in the next three years and water systems will have until 2029 to comply with the MCL. The EPA estimates that compliance with this rule will cost water systems \$1.5 billion annually. Most industry groups believe that estimate is very low and have placed that number as high as \$38 billion annually.

[Learn more about the regulation here.](#)

As you know, the City of Bend has detected one of the included PFAS chemicals, perfluoro octanoic acid (PFOA) above the now-final MCL of 4 ng/L (parts per trillion) at our Copperstone Well. An Alternatives Analysis has been initiated with Consor to identify and evaluate the alternatives to remove PFOA from that water source. Results of the study should be available by the end of this year. The cost of treatment to remove PFAS at Copperstone is difficult to estimate but would likely range from \$1M-5M to install. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding is available to offset some of these costs but could be difficult to secure. Operating costs due to PFAS regulations will almost certainly increase in the near term and are likely to impact drinking water rates.

Youth Homeless in Deschutes County (CHRO)

With the recent release of [preliminary Point In Time Count](#) information on April 2nd, CHRO staff reached out to McKinney-Vento Liaisons who work in schools throughout Deschutes County to get a picture of what youth homelessness looks like. It is important to note that the [McKinney-Vento](#) definition of "homeless" differs from the [HUD](#) definition, and includes youth who are "doubled-up" or couch surfing, who stay in motels, or trailer parks/camp grounds. It is also important to note that this data is limited to youth ages 0-18, but HUD considers "youth" to be individuals up to the age of 24. See the [McKinney-Vento findings here](#).



The Lighthouse Navigation Center March Report

This month's report shares the positive impact of the remodeling work being done at The Lighthouse Navigation Center by the City Facilities team. Phase Two of The Lighthouse's remodel has been going very smoothly, and the upgrade is resulting in a safer, cleaner, healthier environment for all. The report also shares the loss of a community member, ongoing challenges, monthly metrics, and more. [Read the full report here.](#)

Prescribed Burns

This spring, the Deschutes National Forest plans to conduct up to 3,000 acres of prescribed burning in the forest directly west of Bend. Please see [this flyer](#) with information about where the prescribed burn is planned and how to stay safe.

Bird Bike Pilot Extension

The City of Bend has successfully completed a two-year pilot program aimed at assessing the feasibility of micro-mobility devices, specifically shared electric bikes. Launched in June 2022, the program has had a positive impact in reducing individual car trips and related carbon emissions, garnering widespread support.

The Transportation & Mobility Department is moving forward with the third year of the pilot under the terms of the original pilot program agreement, along with implementing operational refinements. TMD will be coming back to Council in late summer/early fall to discuss this pilot project in more detail and ask Council for direction on the future of the program. [Read the complete summary here.](#)

VIEW PREVIOUS CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Ashley Bontje at abontje@bendoregon.gov or 541-323-7164. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

