



CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

Information and updates for the Mayor and City Council

April 3, 2026

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Meeting/Event	Date	Time	Location
City Council Work Session	April 8, 2026	4-6 p.m.	Prowell Springs Room, Public Works Campus/Virtual
City Council Business Meeting	April 15, 2026	6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
City Council Work Session	April 22, 2026	4-6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers/Virtual
<i>April 29 – 5th Wednesday – No meeting</i>			
BURA Executive Session, 5pm City Council Business Meeting	May 6, 2026	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 **LOC Bulletin** is now available. Highlights from this edition include:

- **2026 Session Summary Report Released:** A comprehensive overview of key policy outcomes, budget developments, and next steps for cities following this year’s legislative session.
- **City Participation Requested:** The LOC is calling on cities to complete the 2026 Employee Salary Survey.



- **Funding Opportunity:** Applications are now open for the Oregon Federal Lands Access Program.
- **Registration Open:** Sign up now for the 2026 Oregon Brownfields Conference.
- **Last Chance to Register:** April 10 League of Oregon Cities Conference.

Envision Bend Update

Envision Bend released its latest **Vision Pulse** newsletter, welcoming new leadership and sharing progress on key community initiatives.

The organization announced new Executive Committee officers:

- **Ryan Gage** (Chair), Mt. Bachelor
- **Shannon McDowell** (Vice Chair), Starbucks
- **Sarah Holcombe** (Treasurer), Deschutes Land Trust
- **Alex Hardison** (Secretary), Central Oregon LandWatch

Envision Bend also welcomed **Quinn Hanson** of G.A. Rogers & Associates to its Board of Directors.

The update highlights progress on the **2024–2028 Vision Action Plan**, such as the launch of the Partners for Affordable Housing Coalition, which brings together more than 30 organizations to help shape local housing policy.

The newsletter also previews upcoming “Visionary Events” focused on housing, transit, and community engagement, including City of Bend upcoming community engagement events.

Councilors are encouraged to meet with Envision Bend to discuss priorities and next steps. Please contact Amber Thacher, Administrative Manager, at info@envisionbend.org for more information.

Taylor-Brooks E-Newsletter Highlights: Juniper Ridge

Taylor-Brooks recently released an **e-newsletter** highlighting current commercial development activity, with a strong emphasis on business momentum at Juniper Ridge.

The update includes a new 8-minute **video** showcasing Juniper Ridge as a 500-acre, master-planned industrial and commercial area in Northeast Bend. The video is directed toward prospective businesses and highlights available sales and leasing opportunities, existing employers on site, and the City of Bend’s **Public Works Campus**.

Together, these elements are framed as a “business-ready ecosystem,” illustrating how public infrastructure investment and private development are working in tandem to support employment growth and long-term economic development in the Juniper Ridge area.



COIC Winter 2026 Housing Update

Regional partner Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council has released the **Winter 2026 COIC Housing Update**.

This edition highlights:

- **Statewide Shelter Program, Phase 2:** COIC has been awarded the role of Regional Coordinator, effective July 2026, under a five-year agreement, for the Statewide Shelter Program across Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson Counties.
- **2026 Legislative Short Session:** Key housing bills are awaiting the Governor's signature, including HB 4035 (UGB Expansion Fix), HB 4082 (Housing for Older Oregonians & Manufactured Housing), and HB 4037 (Housing Omnibus Bill). Shelter system funding remains protected.
- **Affordable Housing Feature:** Spotlights on the work of Housing Works, Thistle & Nest, Habitat for Humanity, First Story, City of Bend, and others advancing affordable housing development across the region.
- **Data & Transparency:** Updates on our regional homelessness data dashboard (launching Summer 2026), the January 2026 Point-in-Time Count, and the importance of complete HMIS data entry in maintaining funding competitiveness.
- **A Welcome to Sean Keithly:** COIC welcomes its new **Community & Economic Development Director**, who brings more than 20 years of experience in economic development and urban planning.

COIC serves as the regional backbone organization, coordinating housing and homelessness strategies across Central Oregon. While COIC does not provide direct services or build housing, it supplies the administrative infrastructure that enables regional partners to work together as a unified system.

For more information, contact Mickie Derting, Housing Programs Director, at mderting@coic.org.

Department Updates

Pacific Crest Middle School Students Participate in Bend's Arbor Day

City Councilors are invited to attend an Arbor Day tree-planting event on **April 24** along Northwest Crossing Drive, adjacent to Pacific Crest Middle School. The planting will take place



from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** and will involve 60–70 Pacific Crest seventh and eighth grade students, along with approximately 30 adult volunteers from the surrounding neighborhood.

The effort is being organized by City of Bend Urban Forester Ian Gray, in partnership with Pacific Crest Middle School and neighborhood residents who advocated for restoring trees in this area. The event will begin with a tree-planting demonstration and tool safety briefing led by Ian Gray. The project will result in the planting of 31 new trees in celebration of Bend's Arbor Day.

CityFest – Celebrate Community at First Friday

Councilors are invited to join the City of Bend and Mayor Melanie Kebler for CityFest, a celebration of community, creativity, and Bend's future during the Downtown Bend Business Association's **First Friday Art Walk on May 1**.

Mayor Kebler will share a brief State of the City update, highlighting City Council goals and priorities and how they support Bend's economic growth, downtown vitality, and long-term success. Community members are encouraged to connect with City staff, ask questions, and learn more about the projects shaping Bend today.

Explore all CityFest activities, including a hands-on community art project and a gift card raffle, by visiting the **CityFest** information page.

Sponsorship Program Spring Application Review Underway

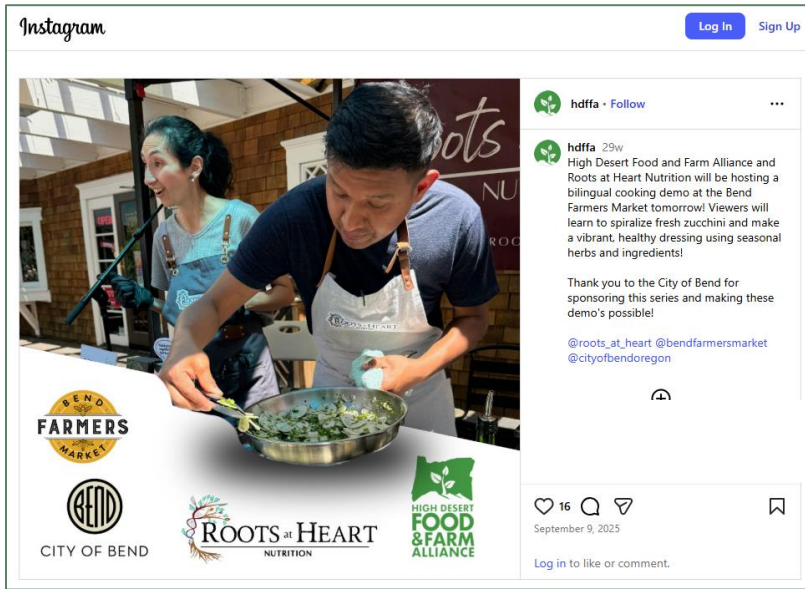
The City of Bend is currently reviewing 60 applications submitted for the Spring cycle of the **Community Sponsorship & Grant Program**, following the March 31 deadline. The next application cycle will be open August 1–September 30, 2026.

The City has also received post-event reports and messages of appreciation from recent sponsored activities, including:

- **Camp Fire's Absolutely Incredible Kid Day® 2026**, held March 15 at the Pavilion. This community event featured free ice skating, STEAM and kindness activities, a photo booth, cake, and raffle prizes. It saw its strongest turnout yet, serving an estimated 175 youth. Organizers shared a **post-event report** and expressed gratitude for the City's support.
- **High Desert Food & Farm Alliance's Bilingual Nutrition Education Program**, which delivered four bilingual cooking demonstrations at the Bend Farmers Market, eight seasonal bilingual recipes, expanded bilingual social media content, and bilingual radio promotion. The program helped community members learn simple ways to prepare fresh, local foods while boosting sales for participating farmers.



Hdffa shared, "Thank you again for the City's generous support of our Bilingual Nutrition Education Program in 2025. Your sponsorship allowed us to stretch every dollar and deliver meaningful, community-centered impact."



April Bend Buzz! Employee Newsletter Highlights

Highlights from the April edition of the employee newsletter, **Bend Buzz!**:

- **Employee Training & Development:** City employees continue to engage in professional development opportunities, including Crucial Conversations for Mastering



Dialogue, Supervisor Core Competency courses, and a range of offerings from the Public Sector Training catalog.

- **Employee Recognition:** The City will host the second annual Sparky Awards on Wednesday, April 29, honoring employee contributions and recognizing excellence!
- **Employee Engagement & Culture:** Staff are being invited to share original artwork for display at the Public Works Campus, highlighting employee creativity.
- **Sustainability & Community Support:** Employees are being encouraged to volunteer with the Bend Tree Project, supporting efforts to count, assess, and map the city's trees.
- **One City Initiative Update:** Recent One City Action Labs brought employees together from across the organization to review and refine the draft mission, vision, and values, as well as to identify shared outcomes to guide future work.
- **March City Council Recap:** Employees are invited to view the **March Council Recap** featuring Councilor Ariel Méndez, which covers upcoming Franklin Avenue work, updates to the tree code related to junipers, defensible space code changes, highlights from the SE Bend neighborhood roundtable, septic-to-sewer program updates, and other key topics.

March 2026 Social Media and Media Report

For the month of March, the top community topics and themes observed in media and social media by the Communications & Engagement Department included:

- **Transportation Construction Projects:** Various open houses, and updates to the construction projects taking place around town.
- **Bend Tree Project:** Media coverage and social media reaction to the new Bend Tree Project to inventory trees in the right-of-way.
- **Growth:** Stories highlighting the City's response to growth through housing policy, public safety rules, and neighborhood quality-of-life measures.

For more information, including media coverage of the City and social media engagement, see the **March 2026 Social Media and Media Monitoring Report**.

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.