

CITY OF CENTRAL POINT

News from City Hall

Mayor Williams

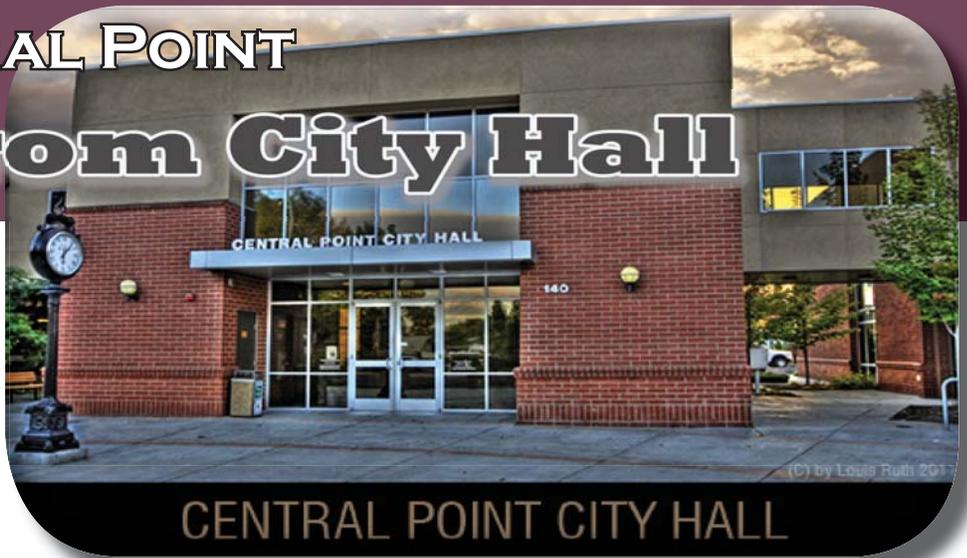


Annual Report

Now that we are approaching the end of 2014, I look back at this past year in

Central Point in review of all that has happened. In my opinion, the city continues to move in a positive direction. Below are a few of the noteworthy issues.

I was pleased to see a substantial increase in the number of building permits issued in 2014. There were 69 permits for new homes issued from January 1, 2014 to December 1, 2014 (11 months). This is an increase of 25 (57%) over the prior 12 month period of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. In addition to the residential increase, we now have a new Walgreens drug store and a new Dairy Queen. And we are seeing interest in other commercial



projects, as well.

The rail crossing between Highway 99 and the Twin Creeks development has finally been approved by both the City and Oregon Department of Transportation, with construction slated to start early in 2016. This project has been a long time coming, but will provide easier access into and out of Twin Creeks, significantly reduce congestion at the Pine and Haskell intersection—especially on school days, and allow for additional development west of the existing city limits.

I was personally disappointed in the passing of Measure 91 in November, which legalized marijuana for recreational use. Although recreational use for those under the age of 21 will still be illegal under the terms of Measure 91, I remain concerned that the new law will encourage use amongst Central Point's children and young adults. Additionally, a concern held by many public safety officials throughout the state is the anticipated increase in policing costs for Oregon cities due to impacts of recreational

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Mighty Mites Basketball

Mighty Mites Basketball provides children ages 5 to 8 with an introduction to basketball. Emphasis is placed on learning basic skills, teamwork, good sportsmanship and, most of all, having fun. Skills are taught through drills and games played every Saturday. Each team plays for one hour on Saturday afternoon between 1:30 and 5:00 pm. All children will receive a team jersey. Parents may purchase a photo package during the season. We will have six teams with a maximum of ten members on each team. Program runs from January 24 to February 28 and will be located at Central Point Elementary School.



COACHES NEEDED! If you know the rules of basketball, are over the age of 16, and enjoy working with children, we encourage you to volunteer as a Mighty Mites coach. For parents interested in coaching, we will provide a discount on program cost for your children. For more information or to register call (541) 423-1012.

City Manager's Note

Warming Shelter



For the past several years, the Calvary Temple Worship Center on Pine Street in Central Point has operated a warming shelter during the winter months. In response to numerous complaints from local business owners and residents, as well as increased police call volume and concerns about public safety directly related to the warming shelter operation, the city council has determined that the warming shelter is not a permitted use of the church facility, which is currently allowed to operate as a legal nonconforming use within the designated employment commercial zone. Over the past couple of years the warming shelter operation has expanded. Initially proposed as a warming station to provide respite only when overnight temperatures fell below freezing, the service has expanded to full overnight shelter accommodations during the winter months. The expanded service is no longer merely a church function, but rather a community service, which is not a permitted use in the city's employment commercial zone.

The church was advised in late October that the warming shelter operation cannot continue. The city certainly appreciates the Calvary Temple's efforts to assist those in need, and has encouraged the church to refer individuals to any of the many established missions and shelters in the Rogue Valley. The Central Point police department has notified Calvary Temple that, as in the past, they will provide transportation to a regional shelter for individuals in need of assistance. Most such shelters have trained, experienced staff, have available space, and are equipped to assist those in need.

Ultimately, the city remains committed to respecting the concerns of all of its constituents, ensuring their public safety, and applying established codes and ordinances in a consistent manner. With this goal in mind, the city has no intention of limiting church activities that fall within the parameters of established city zoning ordinances.

Finally, the City of Central Point would like to applaud the efforts of the Calvary Temple Church to service those in need. It is the hope of City Council and Administration that this volunteerism can be redirected to a permitted community service facility.

Neighborhood Park Meetings



The Central Point Parks Department will be conducting neighborhood park meetings in the coming months. The need for the meetings are due to an increase in questions about the features in Central Point Parks this past year. Keeping those who use the parks in the know can be hard as we can't talk to everyone individually. In an effort to reach more people and answer questions we will be coming to your neighborhood park to answer questions and listen to your concerns.

We will begin scheduling the meetings for the months of February and March. If you are interested in having a representative from the Parks Department come to your park please call Jennifer Boardman at 541-423-1042. Meetings dates and park locations will be posted on our website and in upcoming newsletters.

Thank you for your support of Central Point Parks.

Mayor's Annual Report Continued.....

marijuana use. With this in mind, the Central Point City Council has proactively implemented a marijuana product tax to prevent Central Point residents from having to offset future public safety costs associated with Measure 91. Although Measure 91 passed state-wide, it did not pass in Central Point. In reviewing the voting results, it appears that the vote here in Central Point was 61.5% no, with 38.5% yes. The new law as passed, which could still be changed by the state legislature, allows cities to put to a vote of the people the option to ban recreational marijuana outlets in the city. This is an issue the City officials will be studying in the next year. It is my personal opinion that once recreational marijuana use becomes legal, the medical marijuana program will go away—since medical marijuana cards cost \$200 per year. Those people depending upon marijuana for medical reasons will likely purchase it from a recreational dealer. We'll see.

I am pleased that the city has reached an agreement with the Medford Water Commission, although I will continue to fight for the citizens of Central Point to receive fair water rates.

I am disappointed that the Medford Mail Tribune's recent editorial regarding the closure of the warming center in Central Point, which was in violation of our zoning ordinances, failed to point out that our police officers personally called on the existing warming centers and documented that adequate facilities are available in Medford and that our officers will transport homeless persons to these centers. In the Council's discussions on this issue, we were all concerned with the plight of the homeless and made sure that this vulnerable population had adequate opportunity to access reprieve from the elements. Homelessness is a complex issue that deserve the attention of the Oregon legislature. I will be encouraging local state representatives to seek funding for regional programs that assist the homeless, mentally ill and those suffering from addiction. Southern Oregon deserves the same attention to these issues that is received by the Willamette Valley and Portland Metro areas.

Finally, I am pleased with the management of Central Point. Other mayors around Oregon were surprised when I told them that the recession was actually good for our city. We saw the recession coming and proactively took measures to maximize what resources we had available. Our City Department Directors and City Manager continue to implement efficiencies so we can avoid a tax rate increase without having a reduction in services. We have completed major Capital Improvement Projects, such as the Hwy 99 resurfacing improvements, and have stayed within the approved project budget, leaving us in a financially healthy position as the economy steadily rebounds. There are many aspects to the day to day management of the city that go unseen. Sometimes the best indicator that things are going well is the absence of much to talk about.

I am looking forward to 2015 and I am glad to represent the fine citizens of the city of Central Point.

Mayor Hank Williams

Dates to Remember

January

- 1 - New Years Day ★
- 6 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 8 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 13 - Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 19 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day ★
- 20 - Parks and Rec Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 22 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 26 - Study Session (6 pm)

February

- 3 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 12 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 16 - Presidents Day ★
- 23 - Study Session (6 pm)
- 26 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)

Meetings are subject to change, please check our website for more information.

★ = City Offices Closed

City Directory

City Manager
541-423-1026

Building Permits
541-423-1973

Code Enforcement
541-423-1034

Community Development
541-423-1973

Library (Central Point Branch)
541-664-3228

Police (Non Emergency)
541-664-5578

Parks and Recreation
541-664-3321 ext. 232

Public Works
541-423-1028

Public Works After Hours
1-800-726-6476

Utility Billing
541-664-3321 ext. 204

**CALL 911
for Fire, Medical and
Police Emergencies**

City Hall hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Monday - Friday. Feel free to drop in
with questions, pay a bill, or just say
"hello".

Easter Eggstravaganza!

Saturday, April 4, 2015

Twin Creeks Park, Central Point

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Free Games & Activities, Visit with Bunny
- Food will be available for purchase

11:00 am *Sharp*

- Egg Hunt - Don't forget your basket!
- Age groups are 3 & under , 4 - 6, and 7 - 10. There will be 2 section for ages 3 and under. One to allow parents to help, and one no parents can help.

**Volunteer to help at the event,
call 541-423-1978!**

Clean Up at Central Point Cemetery

December 29, 2014

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

And

December 30, 2014

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Quality Tree will be helping to trim trees and mistletoe from the cemetery trees. Volunteers will be helping to remove debris and leaves. Bring gloves, clippers, trailers pickups and rakes.

Please call Kathy Hooper at 1-503-320-3800
if you have questions.