

Central Point City News

December 2023

Dear Residents,

The City of Central Point is considering the idea of expanding public access to security camera systems in public parks and facilities throughout our city, and we would like your input!

Background: Central Point Skate Park has recently benefited from a public-accessible security camera system, leading to improved safety and decreased incidents. The City is now considering extending this approach to other parks, like Pfaff Park, which has unfortunately been a hot spot for vandalism, graffiti, and is known as a gathering spot for truant students. However, as with any decision involving technology and public spaces, there are several considerations to weigh:

Public Safety and Crime Prevention: While public access to cameras can create a virtual neighborhood watch, there's also the risk of misinterpretation leading to false accusations.

Privacy Concerns: Public spaces, by definition, are where people can be observed. Yet, there's an expectation of some degree of privacy, especially concerning children.

Community Trust and Transparency: Having public access could increase trust in the surveillance system, but some residents might feel uncomfortable knowing they can be watched anytime.

Legal and Ethical Implications: There are many questions to answer concerning liability, consent, and regulations governing footage.

Technical and Financial Considerations: Reliable systems aren't cheap. While equipping parks like Pfaff Park would cost around \$2,500, there are additional costs related to infrastructure maintenance and oversight.

Possibility of Limited Access: In initial talks, the City Council is debating granting security camera access exclusively to the Central Point Police Department and Staff. While this approach enhances privacy, it may reduce the public's capacity to serve as a virtual "neighborhood watch". Again, balancing security and privacy in this arena is challenging, which is why we would like your comments and suggestions.

Council Goals and Strategic Plan: The City priorities responsible governance in its 2040 strategic plan, with a key goal to foster community policing programs. One strategy is to build strong relationships with the community to create partnerships aimed at reducing crime and disorder.

We Want to Hear from You! Before any decisions are made, we want to hear from you! What are your thoughts on publicly accessible security cameras in our parks? Your input will be invaluable in our City Council discussions, as we seek the best direction for our city. Please share your views by 12/08/2023 at meetings@centralpointoregon.gov. We appreciate your engagement in shaping the future of our community!

Shop Local
Support Your Neighborhood

Small businesses donate 250% more than large businesses to community causes.

Small businesses generate \$68 of local economic return for every \$100 spent with them.

Local business generates 70% more local economic activity per square foot than big box retail.

CENTRAL POINT CHAMBER

Winter Driving Safety Tips



With many having winter travel plans, it is important to keep in mind there may be hazardous road conditions to consider. Below are some helpful tips to ensure you arrive safely to your destination:

- * Keep a full gas tank. A full tank is beneficial in the case of an evacuation or power outage. A full tank also helps keep fuel lines from freezing.
- * Consider using winter tires with adequate tread. Have chains available, if required.
- * Do not drive through flooded areas. Six inches of water could cause a vehicle to lose control or stall and a foot of water could cause a car to float.
- * Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may weaken and collapse under the weight of a car.
- * If a power line falls on your car, you're at risk of electrical shock. Stay inside until a trained person removes the wire.
- * If there are factors that make it difficult to control your car, pull over, stop the car and set the parking brake.
- * Watch for conditions that could affect the stability of the roadway.

You never know when there may be an emergency, and if you're traveling long distances through hazardous winter conditions, it is always better to be safe than sorry! Consider keeping the items listed below, in your vehicle:

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|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| * Collapsible or folding snow shovel | * Blanket | * Water |
| * Tire chains and a tow strap | * Hand warmers | * High energy snacks, such as protein bars |
| * Winter boots (for longer trip) | * Sleeping bag (for longer trips) | * A flashlight and/or flares |
| * A bag of sand or non-clumping litter, to help with traction | | |

Congratulations to the City of Central Point Safety Committee!

On October 19th, 2023, the City of Central Point Safety Committee attended the Southern Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Conference at the Ashland Hills Hotel. At the awards ceremony, the City's Safety Committee was honored with two awards presented on behalf of the Southern Oregon Chapter of the American Society of Safety Professionals. They received the Safety Committee Recognition Award in Honor of Frank J. Bertak, and were also recognized as runner up for the prestigious Best of the Best Safety Committee Award.

The Frank J. Bertak Award identifies safety committees who have met all of the mandated requirements and made a significant contribution toward the overall success of the organization.

The Best of the Best Safety Committee Award and runner up, is selected from the Frank Bertak award winners, who outshine the rest in preventing harm to workers, promoting the cause of safety and health, and making safety fun and engaging for all employees. Previously, the City's Safety Committee was awarded Best of the Best Safety Committee in 2022.

The City's Safety Committee contributions for the year include implementing a DeChoker device program in City break-rooms and hosting the annual Safety Fair, which recognizes and celebrates safety successes for all employees.



Frank J. Bertak Recognition Award



Best of the Best Safety Committee - Honorable Mention



CITY OF
CENTRAL POINT

Community Christmas

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

Parade starts at 5pm
Tree Lighting to follow

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Join us for our annual Lights Parade & Tree Lightning Ceremony! Visit with Santa while you enjoy free hot cocoa & cookies as well as free holiday crafts at City Hall.

City Hall & Pine Street

140 South 3rd Street, Central Point OR

Be a part of our Lights Parade! Email us at parks@centralpointoregon.gov

Community CUPIDS Holiday Edition!



Spread some holiday cheer to our Senior Citizens!

www.centralpointoregon.gov/communitycupids

Dates to Remember

December

- 2 - Community Christmas (5 pm)
- 5 - Planning Commission
- 14 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 18 - Council Study Session (6 pm)
- 22 - 25 Christmas Holiday*

January

- 1 - New Years Day *
- 2 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 11 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr Day*
- 22 - Council Study Session (6 pm)
- 25 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)

* = City Hall Closed

Meetings are subject to change. Please check our website www.centralpointoregon.gov for more information.

Contact your **Council**
info@centralpointoregon.gov



Mayor

Hank Williams
541-944-0066



Ward I

Neil Olsen
541-664-7935



Ward II

Kelley Johnson
541-499-8977



Ward III

Melody Thueson
503-856-6822



Ward IV

Tanea Browning
541-890-8377



At-Large

Mike Parsons
541-554-3892



At-Large

Rob Hernandez
541-840-1841

If you are not sure who your representative is call 541-423-1026

City Directory

City Manager
541-423-1026

Building Permits
541-423-1973

Code Enforcement
541-664-5578

Community Development
541-423-1973

Library (Central Point Branch)
541-664-3228

Police - (Non-Emergency)
541-664-5578

Parks & Recreation
541-664-3321 ext 130

Public Works
541-423-1021

Public Works - (After Hours)
541-326-3682

Utility Billing
541-664-3321 ext 204

CALL 911
for Fire, Medical and
Police Emergencies

City Hall is open 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Monday - Friday.

Feel free to drop in with questions,
to pay a bill, or just to say "hello".

Keep Leaves Away from Storm Drains

Now is the time of year to be conscience of yard and garden clean up. When doing so, make sure to keep leaves and grass out of the storm drains. Fallen leaves and grass clippings can plug storm drains, causing flooding to our roadways. If yard waste is disposed of in a storm drain, it will make its way to a natural body of water, where it will threaten aquatic life and degrade water quality. As leaves and grass decay, they release nutrients that contribute to excess algae growth, which uses up dissolved oxygen that fish need to survive. However, you shouldn't feel obligated to rake up every last leaf in your yard. Let some leaves stay on the ground, as they have a lot of benefit to your garden and wildlife. From a gardening perspective, fallen leaves offer a double benefit. Leaves form natural mulch that helps suppress weeds. At the same time, the leaves fertilize the soil as they break down. Why spend money on mulch and fertilizer, when you can make your own?

Please do not blow lawn clippings into the street. Instead, direct them to your property so that they can be added to your compost bin, or bag them for pickup by Rogue Disposal on Leaf Pickup Day. The City has an agreement with Rogue Disposal to pick up leaves for our residents in November and December. The final pickup day this year will be Friday, December 15th. Please call Rogue Disposal for more information on leaf pickup at (541) 779-4161.