



# City of Maupin Newsletter

By Mayor Lynn Ewing

May 1, 2021

Avangrid Renewables has started construction on the **Bakeoven Solar Project**. They have about a dozen people laying out locations for roads and transmission lines. Some gravel deliveries have come through town from the Pine Grove area. As soon as the layout is complete, there will be a power line crew, a road crew, and a crew to connect to the substation, bringing the numbers up to about 50 workers. By some time in September of this year, about 250 people will be constructing the solar farm itself. Openings may be available for locals, though many of the positions require a union membership. They do have a plan in place that will send most heavy trucks to the site via Highway 97 in Sherman County and then down Bakeoven Road. This avoids the bridge and the very sharp corner at the end of the bridge.

The City is working with local business and property owners to provide **temporary housing space** for the work crews so that their per diem funds might be spent locally rather than out of town. With possible beginning of construction at the Clinic and at the school on the near horizon, it could be a very busy couple of years in Maupin. If you have a **space available, please let us know** at City Hall and we will pass that along to the construction foreman.

**MAUPIN DAZE** will **happen this year!** A decision was made to hold Maupin Daze on **Saturday, May 15**, with some limitations. It will include vendors in Kaiser Park, community yard sales, and a few other fun things for the community. If you want to be on the **Yard Sale Map**, contact Suze Riley [maupinareachamber@gmail.com](mailto:maupinareachamber@gmail.com) Also contact the Chamber of Commerce for any other information or details.

Through the efforts of Suze Riley, our Chamber Director, we have a **large oil painting** and some smaller watercolors of the power plant at White River that are on display at City Hall. The work is by **Henk Pander, a well-known Dutch artist** who lives in Portland. He is loaning the work for display free of charge. A GoFundMe account through the Chamber raised the funds for transportation, installation, and insurance. The **GoFundMe** effort will continue to raise money for **art** to be placed in the **Civic Center**. Emphasis will be on local pieces and local artists. This will hopefully include a large bronze by Greg O'Neil, some glasswork from Nichol's Art Gallery in The Dalles, and many additional pieces.

If you are a fan of collector cars, the Bill Jerome Car Club will again be in Maupin on the **Saturday before Mothers' Day**. Mark **May 8** on your calendar and swing by the City Park to see those beautiful vehicles.

The annual motorcycle event, **Maupin Madness**, will go on this year on Saturday, June 12, with some modifications for COVID safety. It will be limited to 200 participants which more than complies with state mandates for outdoor events. The Bike Show has been left off to prevent large crowds gathering. It will begin at Kaiser Park and end at **The Imperial**.

We have openings on the **Budget Committee** (meets one to three times each spring). If you are interested in becoming more involved in our City, this is a great place to start. To qualify, you must have been a resident of Maupin for a year or longer. Please pick up an application at City Hall.

A small herd of **wild Bighorn sheep**, mostly ewes and lambs, has been visiting in Maupin. ODFW asked that we share this information: It's springtime and bighorn sheep are on the move! Some were sighted in Maupin just last week. The Deschutes River canyon is home to some of Oregon's largest and healthiest bighorn sheep populations. A significant threat to these wild sheep is disease which can be spread from contact with domestic sheep and goats. In eastern Oregon, some bighorn sheep herds have been reduced from hundreds to only a few individuals in just a few years due to pneumonia. Please help keep bighorn sheep in the Deschutes River canyon healthy by taking steps to eliminate potential contact with domestic sheep. If you own domestic sheep or know of a place where there is potential for contact with bighorn sheep, please contact ODFW in The Dalles at 541-296-4628. Often times there are easy measures that can be taken to prevent contact and keep bighorn sheep populations healthy.

New **24-Hour Ballot Drop Box** Available in Maupin! The Wasco County Clerk's Office, in conjunction with the City of Maupin, has installed a new ballot drop box located in front of city hall at 507 Grant Avenue. This drop box will allow voters to securely cast their ballot for Wasco County or local elections rather than putting their ballot in the mail. While the drop box is available 24/7, please keep in mind that the **box will be closed promptly at 8 pm on Election Day!** The box will be open and ready for use in the upcoming May 18, 2021 Special District election. If you have any questions, please contact the Wasco County Clerk's Office at 541-506-2530. Happy voting!

Currently, there is only one **home listed for sale** in Maupin and rentals are as scarce as weekend campsites in the summertime. If you or someone you know has a home that is not in use, now may be the best time to sell or make it available to rent. It takes time to build new ones, so existing homes are in huge demand right now. In the right price range, they sell quickly.

We are now fully set up to take **credit card and ACH payments** online for any City bills such as water and sewer. There will be a small charge to cover banking fees, but we know this will be a great convenience for some of our out-of-town property owners. You can also still set up automatic withdrawals directly from your bank or drop off your bill in the payment slot at City Hall for no extra cost.

In **COVID News**, if you need any **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** the City has an extensive supply provided by the federal and state governments. You can pick up masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, wipes and other items at the Civic Center for free. Items are located on a table in the Lobby. Wasco County has now been designated back to the "Extreme Risk" category, so we have stricter rules until at least mid-May. Case numbers in South County continue to be much lower than in The Dalles and Dufur. Keep up the good work and enjoy the outdoors!

It has been pointed out that the average age of our **Maupin Volunteer Fire Department** is a little over 60 and some members over 70. While there are many roles to fill in the event of a fire, we still need a core group who are in great physical condition to pack the gear and actually battle the blaze. If you have an interest in serving the community and being part of this vital organization, please contact City Hall for more information.

The City has installed a new **weather station** in Kaiser Park. This station will be connected to the National Weather Service (NOAA - <https://forecast.weather.gov/>) to provide more accurate information on temperature, wind, precipitation, and air quality than the one they currently use on Juniper Flat. Thanks to MJ and Tod for help in getting the station and getting it set up.

At our March Council Meeting, the Council voted to lift the ban and allow **Vacation Rental Homes**, but ONLY in the **Recreational-Commercial** zone within the City Limits of Maupin. These properties are mostly in East Maupin, at the north end of the bridge, and near the Deschutes Motel. Applications for establishing a vacation home rental business should be available at City Hall around May 1<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks to the Planning Commission, local citizens, and the Council, who have all worked on this for several years to craft a workable plan to protect local values while still allowing this popular alternative in our tourist-oriented economy.

**The League of Oregon Cities** is an organization that provides technical assistance, training, and advocacy for the cities throughout Oregon. Cities are provided these and other services regardless of size. Maupin has benefited greatly from services which we could otherwise never afford. Members include Shaniko (pop. 9) and Portland (Pop Way-too-many) and every city in between. Because there seemed to be few small cities and few from east of the mountains represented on the Board of Directors, I was asked if I was interested in serving. As of May 1st, I will hold a position on the Board as an appointee of the Governor. While this seems an awkward way for a person of my political beliefs to get on the board, I am happy to have been selected and appointed. I will serve as long as it is beneficial to Maupin and South Wasco County.

**If you would like a digital copy of the city newsletter, please email any of us at City Hall. It will make it easier to use all of those links!**

<p><b><u>Phone Numbers &amp; Email Addresses</u></b></p> <p>Mayor Lynn Ewing Office: 541-395-2811 Cell: 541-993-5956 City Hall: 541-395-2698 <a href="mailto:maupinmayor@gmail.com">maupinmayor@gmail.com</a> Visit our City of Maupin Website @ <a href="http://www.cityofmaupin.org">www.cityofmaupin.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Meeting Schedules</u></b></p> <p><b>Housing Needs Analysis @ 3:00 PM</b> 5/5/2021</p> <p><b>Planning Commission @ 6:00 PM</b> 5/11/2021</p> <p><b>Budget Meeting @ 6:00 pm</b> 5/19/2021</p> <p><b>Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm</b> 5/26/2021</p> <p>Under shutdown conditions, meetings are being held using remote software that allows participation via phone or</p>	<p><i>We are a safe, progressive community that cares for all our citizens and visitors while protecting our natural resources and maintaining our rural heritage."</i></p>
	<p>Public Meetings Law Sessions ORS192.640(2)</p> <p>Executive ORS192.640</p>	