



City of Maupin Newsletter

By Mayor Lynn Ewing

January 1, 2022

***HAPPY NEW YEAR!** We are all looking forward to an amazing year in Maupin. In your mailing this month you will find a sticker for you to keep commemorating Maupin's centennial celebration. Soon you will also see matching banners that will be installed on the streetlights on Deschutes Avenue to kick-off our 100-year anniversary as a city!*

Winter is here! Remember that if you do any snow removal, be sure not to block fire hydrants. In fact, you can **assist the Maupin Volunteer Fire Department** by making sure the hydrant in your neighborhood has a path cleared for access. Please use caution when clearing snow and ice, but **please do clear any sidewalks** abutting your property. If you have a little more energy, clear pathways for your neighbors who may need assistance as well.

City Manager Kevin Lewis and I **met with ODOT** in mid-December to hear about their plans for several local projects. Those included the Donkey Trail, the Riverwalk path, the 197 bridge, and downtown ADA improvements. The **ADA improvements** (prompted by AD advocates) will be completed during the summer or fall of 2022. ODOT will work to have contractors avoid the busiest parts of the summer, if possible. Because the **Donkey Trail** and **Riverwalk** Projects are federally funded, ODOT is at their mercy for scheduling. They have moved these projects to 2024, but some planning and scoping will take place beginning in the Spring of 2022. Finally, there is the **197 bridge**. Although it has been proposed by ODOT for many years to either improve the current bridge or construct a new one, funding for this is still not available. Higher traffic bridges take priority. At the earliest, it will be 2027 before we see any major changes to the bridge.

Do you still use that old **flip-phone**? Do you have a medical alert button or one of the original Kindle devices? If you rely on that device to make a cellular connection, you need to take steps to upgrade. Depending on your carrier, connecting via cell towers on 3G will be phased out between February and December of 2022, For more information see the FCC website: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/plan-ahead-phase-out-3g-cellular-networks-and-service>

Recycling is coming back. Councilor Foreaker has been working with City Manager Kevin Lewis, Community Liaison Brett Wesson, and Waste Connections to create a viable recycling alternative. The plan is to locate it inside the fence at the lower reservoir yard and open it during limited days and hours with a staff person on duty to ensure "clean" waste. It would include cardboard, mixed recyclable plastics, glass, metal, refundable cans and bottles, and yard debris.

Planning is accelerating for **Maupin Daze 2022 and the Maupin Centennial Celebration!** Maupin was incorporated as a city in 1922 after a devastating fire in 1921. **If you would like to volunteer** to assist with the planning and/or execution of a great community event, please contact the **Maupin Chamber**. Also, if you have **mementos from Maupin's early days**, we would love to see photos, documents, or anything else related to the history of Maupin to display at City Hall and the Library.

For about 15 years, the City of Maupin has leased the **Legion Hall** from American Legion Post 73 here in Maupin. This was done to keep it available for use by the local community when the post could no longer afford to keep up with the building maintenance. With help from the **Community Church** and especially the **Town and Country Players**, many improvements have been made. However, because it was leased by the City rather than owned by the City, it has been difficult to successfully apply for any large grants for improvements. After years of discussion with the local post, the state Legion organization, and the National Legion organization, the post is taking a final vote that proposes to donate the building to the City. Once the vote becomes official, the **Legion Hall Restoration Committee** will be working to craft a restoration and improvement plan. Building contractors and engineers have already determined that the building is sound enough for making the improvements. We all want to keep the building available for wedding receptions, community and school dances, memorial services, and the many other recent uses of the building, but we also want to make sure it is being used for other suitable events as well. All of our local community is welcome to contribute ideas for future changes as well as suggest possible future events and uses.

Every year the **City of Maupin awards three \$1,000 grants** to area charities and nonprofits. With additional funds from the Feds this year, we are able to increase that to **five grants** for this year only. The application is open online. Any nonprofit located in Maupin may complete the form for a \$1,000 grant request. The requested funds must go to **benefit the people of Maupin**. The link to the request form is located on our City of Maupin Website under the City Government tab and then the Office of the Mayor page. Or use this link: cityofmaupin.org/mayor. Applications will be reviewed and recipients announced after our **February Council Meeting**.

Thanks in large part to local guide, **Mia Sheppard**, and her work with Rep. Daniel Bonham and Sen. Bill Hansell, the emergency session of the State Legislature included **funds for guides and outfitters** who were impacted by the closure of steelhead fishing this Fall. Mia has vowed to continue working on behalf of guides and outfitters, as well as all who enjoy fishing the Deschutes, to continue the fight to protect our river. The major concern is still higher temperatures caused by PGE operations above the dams.

The **DRAC (Deschutes River Athletic Complex)** has the curbs and the base road surface in. The hydro-seeding has been done on the infield. It is fantastic to see this great new addition to the school and community take shape and people are already walking around it for exercise. The track surface will most likely go in next spring. DRAC is still looking for donations to fully complete Phase 1 and to develop Phase 2 of the facility. <https://www.maupindraco.org/>

Brett Wesson, the City’s Community Liaison, has taken on some **long-standing code violations** in Maupin. Most citizens have responded well to removing **junk cars** parked on city streets. Clearing these vehicles out increases available parking and spruces up the neighborhoods. Progress has been made! Next on the list will be **RVs that are being used as dwellings** in residential or commercial zones where they are not permitted. There are still spaces available at W.E. Hunt Park in Tygh Valley and may be some openings at the Deschutes RV Park as the new owner works to expand their offerings.

Our **Planning Commission** is working on some **zoning issues**. They approved language to allow **Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)** on some residential properties and that will go to City Council for a final hearing. Some other rezoning such as creation of a **Light Industrial/Commercial** area and the rezoning of some of the property west of Spey Road as **General Commercial** are also on their agenda. If you want to learn more, contact City Hall or attend a PC Meeting. The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 11th at 6:00 PM and will be conducted via Zoom.

In October, Maupin was accepted into the **Oregon Main Street Network!** This includes **all commercial properties** in Maupin. This makes property owners eligible for planning assistance, training, and more to help revitalize our business district. This also makes grant funds available to those businesses who wish to participate in crafting a cohesive revitalization plan. A few business owners attended an organizational and planning process meeting in December at the Civic Center. Those in attendance were excited to learn what the program involves and to help create a vision of what our business district can become. Some were also quite relieved to learn that this has nothing to do with the improvement model seen in Sisters or Leavenworth, but rather focuses on **“keeping Maupin Maupin”** and recognizing the changing face of the city over the last 100 years. The next meeting will be January 20th at the Civic Center at 2:00 PM.

The **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**, working out of CGCC, serves all of Wasco, Sherman, and Hood River Counties. They offer a variety of free services to entrepreneurs and small business owners such as: business plan development, loan application packaging, marketing plan strategies, hiring and managing employees, navigating the business regulatory process, and managing cash flow challenges. Classes through the Community College are also available at a nominal cost to assist those business owners and startups. They can do some workshops or one-day classes in Maupin but also do meetings and other services in-person in The Dalles and online through Zoom. Call or check their website for more info: <https://bizcenter.org/centers/columbia-gorge-sbdc/>

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><u>Phone Numbers & Email Addresses</u></p> <p>Mayor Lynn Ewing Office: 541-395-2811 Cell: 541-993-5956 City Hall: 541-395-2698 maupinmayor@gmail.com Visit our City of Maupin Website @ www.cityofmaupin.org</p>	<p><u>Meeting Schedules</u></p> <p>Planning Commission @ 6 p.m.</p>	1/11/2022	<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>Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Meetings are being held on Zoom that allows participation via phone or computer. Find the link to join on the meeting agendas. Please note date changes due to the holidays.</p>	1/26/2022	
<p>Public Meetings Law Sessions ORS192.640(2)</p>	Executive ORS192.640		