

January 2021

# City of Reedsport NEWSLETTER

## A NEW YEAR OF RESILIENCY

As most of you know as of December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 I became the new City Manager for Reedsport. For those of you that don't know, I have been a member of the community since 1992 and an employee of the City of Reedsport since 2004. I have served as an officer of the City as the City Recorder/Administrative Assistant to the City Manager since 2006. During those years I have served under 6 City Managers and 3 Mayors. I have recently served two six month terms as Interim City Manager before being hired for the position.

I would like to assure you that I will do my best to serve the citizens of Reedsport during my time here. I know that I can't work miracles but I will strive to continue moving Reedsport in a positive direction. These are very trying times however, I believe that the citizens of Reedsport have the resiliency to bounce back. As I track the numbers of community transmission of the Covid-19 virus in virtually every area of the US, I am thankful that I live in a community with one of the lowest number of cases per capita. I think this is a direct result of the citizens diligently taking precautions to protect each other.

I am currently working on securing a multi-million dollar grant written by previous City Manager Jonathan Wright from FEMA that will correct deficiencies to our downtown levee system so that we can continue to be safe and to make the area attractive to future investment. I am also working on submitting several other grants to help leverage your tax dollars to address our aging infrastructure. I will continue to work with investors and other agencies to try to attract new business to Reedsport and retain the businesses we currently have.

Lastly, I would like to say that my office door is always open (well, mostly) and I welcome citizens' questions, concerns and suggestions. Thank you.

Deanna Schafer, City Manager



## When it Rains, it Pours!

The month of January has brought lots of work for the Public Works department. The rain/storm caused some flooding, downed trees, and power outages at our water and wastewater plants. The crews were out late into the mornings fixing the issues to ensure the safety of the citizen. Some citizen was inquiring about ways to detour their water from their premises. City Hall located at 451 Winchester Ave. has sandbags for sale for \$.26 and sand is available down in Rainbow Plaza across from the fish cleaning station. The City has been upgrading their stormwater pump stations at 7th and 12th street. The project is days away from being completed and the new upgrades will move more water than in years past.

Please keep in mind that the Public Works crew is working diligently to help make our City a better place, they often spend holidays, evenings, and early mornings ensuring the city is safe for our citizen. If you happen to see a Public Works employee please give them a thank you, as they do an amazing job.  
Kimberly Clardy, Public Works Director

## UMPQUA DISCOVERY CENTER

**OPEN: Wed Thru Sat**  
**11am-4pm**

Explore the  
Natural &  
Cultural History  
of the area!



**SPECIAL SALES**  
**GIFT SHOP**  
**UP TO 75%**  
**OFF!**

409 Riverfront Way, Reedsport

'On the Umpqua River'

# Holiday Cheer on Main Street

The Reedsport Main Street Program would like to thank our community for your past and present support to our program and the many community projects you have helped accomplish.

Most recently, the board along with community members spent a Saturday afternoon, decorating and sprucing up the downtown planter boxes for your holiday enjoyment. Many volunteers brought items from their own yards to donate along with their time.



You may have also noticed some new friends flying high in town. Our programs' holiday banners made their first of many appearances on the light poles down highway 38 and 101. We also updated the lights on the poles to provide an added touch during this season and all year long.

We would also like to take this time to thank Matt Peck and the public works department for hanging the banners, lights and helping our program in every way they can.

## A Bright New Face, A Bright New Day

The Finance Department is pleased to welcome Jennifer McNeff to our team. Jennifer is our new Utility Billing Clerk and comes to us with many years of customer service experience. Please contact her with any Utility questions or just to say welcome!

Jennifer has lived in many places through her childhood and has come to appreciate different cultures and loves exploring our beautiful country. She became part of the Reedsport community in 2011 and has enjoyed growing a closeness to the members of this small town, mainly through her interactions with people at our local Ace Hardware and now here at City Hall, as your Utility Billing Clerk.

Jennifer enjoys spending time with her two amazing children, having date night with her husband, Brady McNeff, cuddling with their chocolate lab on the couch and enjoying all the wonderful outdoor activities Oregon has to offer (weather permitting, of course).



She is looking forward to all the new adventures ahead and is thankful to be a part of such a great community.

## City-Wide

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City Council Work Session City Council Regular Session	Monday February 1 <sup>st</sup>	6:00 – 7:00 pm 7:00 – 9:00 pm	Council Chambers
Traffic Court Reedsport Main Street Meeting	Wednesday February 17th	9:00 am-Noon 4:30 – 5:30 pm	Council Chambers Via Zoom
Planning Commission Meeting	Tuesday February 23rd	6:00 – 8:00 pm	Council Chambers
City Council Work Session City Council Regular Session	Monday March 1st	6:00 – 7:00 pm 7:00 – 9:00 pm	Council Chambers
Traffic Court Reedsport Main Street Meeting	Wednesday March 17th	9:00 am-Noon 4:30 – 5:30 pm	Council Chambers Via Zoom
Planning Commission Meeting	Tuesday March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Council Chambers
City Council Work Session City Council Regular Session	Monday April 5th	6:00 – 7:00 pm 7:00 – 9:00 pm	Council Chambers



# Ring In Two New City Councilor's

Jeffrey W. Vanier, City Council, Position 1:

May I start out by wishing you and your family a Happy Healthy & Prosperous 2021! 2021 has all the potential of a great new year.

Thank you for electing me to be one of your new city council members. My primary duties as a Reedsport City Councilman is to help make laws, set policies, adopt budgets, and oversee a wide- ranging agenda for our community. The first and most important thing for me is to represent the City of Reedsport's residents' ideas on all matters at all times. I am here to serve you so please feel free to contact me at any time, email: [jvanier@cityofreedsport.org](mailto:jvanier@cityofreedsport.org), phone (541) 271-3603.



I am a very self-motivated, self-directed family oriented individual and flexible to new ideas and suggestions. I know I will be an asset to our city council and I look forward to doing business with you.

I am a dedicated professional and I have extensive experience with supervising City, State, County, Federal, Private and Public works projects. My background includes a thorough understanding of quarry products, soil engineering, environmental impact reports, water/ erosion control, nuclear testing, mass grading, concrete structures, and underground operations.

I know that I can be a real asset while we are doing the Levee Improvement Project here in Reedsport.

I was employed by RGW Construction Inc. from 1990 to 2000 when I retired. I retired at an early age of 51 years old. While working for RGW, I was the Northern California Manager and I supervised construction projects from Fremont, CA to the Oregon & Nevada borders. These projects ranged from

\$50,000 into the millions of dollars. The last year before I retired, we had 1200 employees which were under my supervision and working together, we did One Hundred and Eighty-two million dollars' worth of construction projects with a profit of 16 percent.

My education is as follows:

2000 - CA Contractors School (Class A Engineering License) #322905

1997 - Troxler Electronic Laboratories (Nuclear Testing Technician Certificate)

1992- Consumnes River College, Sacramento, CA to attain a degree in Business Management

1984—American River College, Placerville CA to attain a degree in Engineering

I have always been goal oriented. When I moved to Reedsport, my first goal was to become a city council member so I could help the citizens and the City of Reedsport. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

Joe F. Liedtky, City Council, Position 3:

First of all, I would like to say Happy New Year to all of our residents and thank you for electing me. Being on the City Council is a great honor. I will do my best and everything in my power to make this city better in any aspect I can. Over the past few years I have become familiar with the city operations and the council atmosphere. I do believe that there are a lot of opportunities coming our way that can make this community better. I am confident that the City Council will work together and make that happen. Our current members of the Council, Mayor, City Manager and staff are a great group who will continue to help our city grow and prosper.

As for my background, I came to Reedsport on a vacation, back in 1974 with my parents. We were really

impressed with the area; the lakes, rivers, ocean, and hunting possibilities. Local realtors were unable to find a suitable house so the next was to buy a lot; so I found a contractor and signed an agreement to build a new home. The house was finished within a few months and my parents settled in. With my parents living here full time I was able to



meet a lot of the local residents, which gave me the opportunity to learn about the atmosphere here in Reedsport.

I had an opportunity for early retirement in the 1980's and at that same time a business opportunity in Hawaii. I took that opportunity; moved and spent the next 11 years on the big island of Hawaii. That didn't prevent me from making frequent trips home to Reedsport. When my parents passed away, I moved back and made Reedsport my permanent home. After all my travel throughout the United States, México and Hawaii, I honestly believe that Reedsport is a "Utopia" and I can guarantee you that I will do everything I can to improve this city.

Check us out online at [www.cityofreedsport.org](http://www.cityofreedsport.org) and like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/cityofreedsport](https://www.facebook.com/cityofreedsport) to stay up-to-date on the latest happenings in town and around.

# A NEW YEAR, A NEW ROLE!

Reflecting on my first year as Chief of Police, with all the political issues, a pandemic, and uncertainty about society's collective direction from week to week, I can say it has been a very busy year, but together we've managed to make it to the end! Among our department's activities, there have been many significant developments, all of which will help us to better serve the community and our team members as we look to the future.



We have implemented a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) program to help track officer contacts and improve compliance with state reporting. The Communications officers can track calls for service far more accurately than in years past, and they're doing so with far less paper consumption. The program also includes a jail records management system to replace an outdated and failing program. Thank you, Sgt. Beck, for all the hard work and literally years of research and dedication you put into this project.

We have struggled with training due to Covid restrictions. However, we have been able to maintain state certification require-

ments and even pick up additional training for some personnel.

Our K9 officer, JD retired, and his replacement Faran has been more than up to the task! We have also been fortunate enough to increase our K9 personnel, adding Penny who has demonstrated her value to the team on many occasions. See our Facebook page "Reedsport Police K9's" to follow the action.

Although, our overall numbers have not increased, we have actually hired six new employees. When I took over, we needed to fill three full-time positions and one part-time. Very quickly, that number increased to four full-time positions. Officer Brent Snyder was promoted to Corporal and sworn in, on November 4, 2019. We have hired three new Police Officers to fill vacant positions, plus one additional officer to cover for Officer Steven Downey while he is deployed on Active Duty for the United States Army. We have also hired two new Communications Officers after the retirement of Valerie and Fred Bowman. We have successfully hired and trained Valerie's full-time replacement, and Fred's part-time replacement has just completed Phase One of training.

Between hiring, training, and all of 2020's other curveballs, our staff has collectively worked well over a thousand hours of overtime, often with little to no prior notice. Some have even altered vacation plans to lighten the already heavy staffing burden. I cannot express how much I appreciate everyone's willingness to step up and sacrifice for the greater good of the team and the community.

As 2020 draws to a close, I am so grateful and proud of all we have accomplished in so little time. I look forward to all our additional growth and accomplishments in 2021.

Please welcome all our new Police Officers: Michael Snyder, BradLee Davis, Terry Lohf, and Christopher Sparks as well as our new Communications Officers: Kathleen Clardy and Chelsea Thompson.

Matt Smart, Chief of Police



## FIREPLACE AND WOODSTOVE SAFETY

- Burn dry seasoned wood. It creates less creosote build-up in the chimney.
- Have your wood stove or fireplace flue cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Use only newspaper and kindling or fire starters to start a fire.
- Always use a fireplace screen. It keeps hot embers and logs from escaping and igniting the surrounding area.
- Dispose of ashes in a tightly covered metal container, outside and away from combustibles.
- Keep the doors of your wood stove closed unless loading or stoking the fire.

On average, each year in Oregon there are 590 home heating-related fires that cause over \$8,000,000 in damage and kill or injure 16 people.

