

# Central Point City News



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### February

- 4 - Planning Commission (6pm)
- 11 - Arts Commission (5:30pm)  
*\*\*Meeting at 235 S. Haskell\*\**
- 11 - Citizens Advisory (6pm)
- 13 - City Council Meeting (6pm)
- 17 - President's Day\*
- 20 - Parks & Rec Commn. (6pm)
- 24 - Council Study Session (6pm)
- 27 - City Council Meeting (6pm)

### March

- 4 - Planning Commission (6pm)
- 13 - City Council Meeting (6pm)
- 17 - Council Study Session (6pm)
- 27 - City Council Meeting (6pm)

\* = City Hall Closed

*Meetings are subject to change.*

*Please check our website*

*[www.centralpointoregon.gov](http://www.centralpointoregon.gov)*

*for more information.*

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".



## Creekside Natural Area Conceptual Plan Review

### *Public Meeting Announcement*

February 20th at 6:00 pm

Central Point City Hall - City Council Chambers

The City of Central Point owns a 34-acre site, located at 3000 Boes Avenue, just north of the Upton Road overpass. This property, which was donated to the City by Jackson County in 2006, was originally purchased using federal Land and Water Conservation grant funds which stipulates that the property be used for outdoor recreational purposes only. Features of the property include Bear Creek, wetlands, a diverse range of wildlife, riparian and upland trees, as well as shrubs and other vegetation. In 2023, the City formed an ad hoc committee comprised of City Council and Park and Recreation Commission members to guide the development of a conceptual park plan for the site.

The completed conceptual design for the Creekside Natural Area focuses on providing outdoor recreation and education throughout the property. Program activity would focus on the north end of the property with an outdoor classroom, greenhouse, native plant research nursery, picnic area, nature play area, a gathering circle, and demonstration garden. Access to the riparian area would be formalized with new walking paths and places to view and interact with the creek. The south end of the property would be available for use in conjunction with Central Point School District, with access provided from the adjacent Crater Land Lab. Artwork would be incorporated throughout the property.

We are inviting the public to attend a Parks and Recreation Commission public meeting to provide comments for the planned use of and design for this new park. To view the plan, visit the following website:

<https://shorturl.at/2RWui>. The meeting will also be available via Zoom if you are unable to attend in person. Contact Dave Jacob, Park Planner, for the Zoom link and/or with questions or comments at:

[dave.jacob@centralpointoregon.gov](mailto:dave.jacob@centralpointoregon.gov) or by phone at: (541)423-1012.

## Recreation Program Scholarships Available



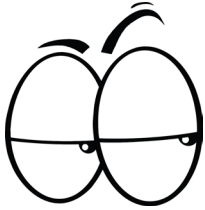
**APPLY TODAY!**

The Central Point Parks and Recreation Foundation is offering partial scholarships for recreation programs and camps to eligible seniors, youth, and people with disabilities. Applying is easy! Scan the QR Code to get started!



## What Counts as “Suspicious”?

In law enforcement, we get a lot of calls regarding suspicious activity, but what does that mean and what types of things does one look for when determining if something is “suspicious”? Here are a few examples of suspicious activities to keep an eye out for:



- Someone screaming or shouting for help
- Someone ringing multiple doorbells to see if residents are home.
- Someone looking into windows or parked cars
- Unusual noises
- Property being taken out of closed business or house where no one is home
- Vehicles moving slowly with no apparent destination or lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child
- An individual carrying electronics or equipment through a residential area
- Someone driving and appearing to “scope” out the place
- Unusual activity for your neighborhood
- A person walking with two bicycles
- Someone ringing multiple doorbells to see if residents are home

If you encounter something “suspicious” you believe rises to the level of police investigation, even if not mentioned above, call our non-emergency number (541)664-5578 during regular business hours, or (541)776-7206 after-hours.

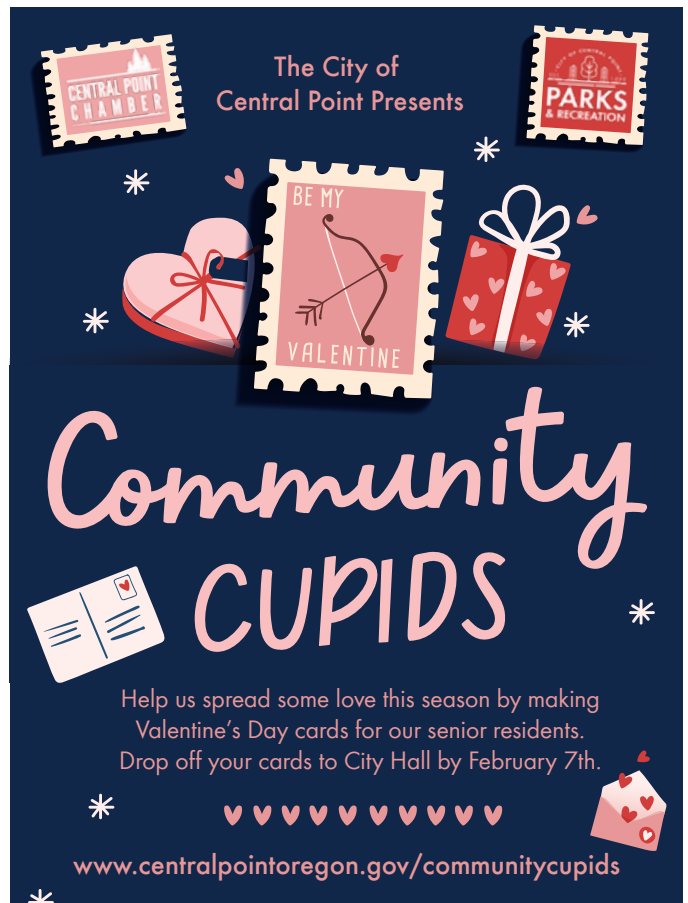
## CENTRAL POINT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City of Central Point is looking for volunteers to fill vacancies on four committees:

Citizens Advisory Committee  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Budget Committee  
Planning Commission

For more information or for an application contact:

Rachel Neuenschwander CMC,  
City Recorder  
Central Point City Hall  
140 S. 3rd Street  
Central Point, OR 97502  
(541) 423 - 1015



The City of  
Central Point Presents

CENTRAL POINT CHAMBER  
PARKS & RECREATION

BE MY  
VALENTINE

# Community CUPIDS

Help us spread some love this season by making Valentine's Day cards for our senior residents. Drop off your cards to City Hall by February 7th.

[www.centralpointoregon.gov/communitycupids](http://www.centralpointoregon.gov/communitycupids)

# Proposed Diesel Fuel Tax

## **Voters Will Decide on Local Transportation Funding - Pending State Action**

The City of Central Point continues to explore ways to secure dedicated funding for road maintenance and improvements. Initially, the City planned to place a \$0.02 per gallon diesel fuel tax on the May 2025 ballot to generate funding for these critical needs. However, recent developments at the state level may influence this proposal. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has suggested a potential statewide gas tax increase of up to \$0.35 per gallon as part of its plan to address a significant funding shortfall.

## **How the State's Gas Tax Proposal Could Impact Central Point**

The proposed 35-cent gas tax could provide additional funding for ODOT, counties, and cities, including Central Point, potentially eliminating the need for a local fuel tax. If enacted, this state tax would help address pressing transportation needs throughout Oregon, including Central Point's road maintenance projects. ODOT has indicated that it faces a funding gap of up to \$1.7 billion annually, which is causing delays in critical infrastructure projects and increasing maintenance backlogs.

Given this potential funding source, the City will wait for the outcome of the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session, which concludes mid-2025, to determine the next steps. If the Legislature does not act to implement the gas tax or provide alternative funding, the City Council will move forward with the local diesel tax proposal for the November 2025 general election.

In preparation for this, city staff will recommend passing the diesel fuel tax ordinance in advance of referring the issue to the ballot. The adoption of such an ordinance is a formality. The ordinance will not take effect unless and until it is placed on the ballot and passed by the voters of Central Point.

## **Why a Dedicated Funding Source is Essential**

Road maintenance has consistently ranked as a top priority for Central Point residents. According to the 2024 Community Survey:

- Nearly 49% of respondents identified maintaining major city streets as a primary concern.
- Road maintenance was the second-highest spending priority, after public safety.

Without new funding sources, the City may struggle to maintain current service levels, as existing revenue sources are insufficient to meet growing needs.

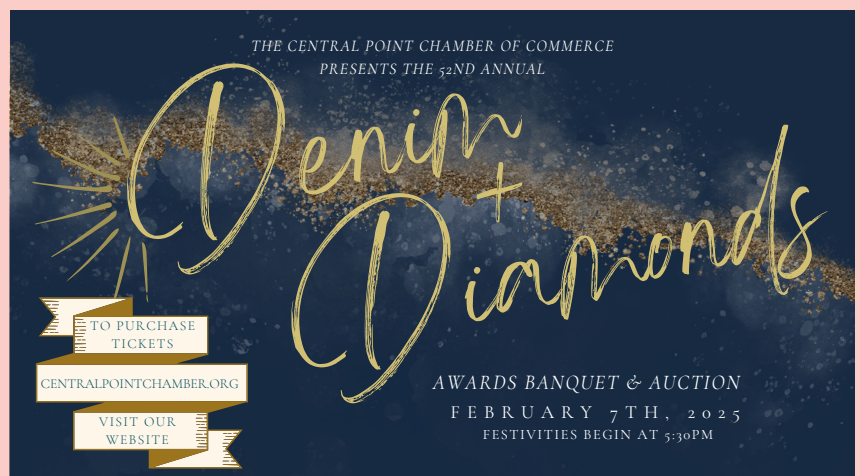
## **How the Diesel Tax Targets Non-Residents**

Should the City need to proceed with a local diesel tax, it is estimated that 80% of revenue would come from non-residents, specifically commercial and freight vehicles passing through Central Point. This ensures residents, who already contribute to the road maintenance through utility fees, bear minimal additional financial burden.

## **What Comes Next?**

- **If the State Gas Tax Passes:** Central Point could receive a significant share of the additional revenue, negating the need for a local fuel tax.
- **If the State Gas Tax Does Not Pass:** The City will propose the diesel fuel tax ordinance and refer it to voters in November 2025.

We will continue to monitor developments in the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session and keep residents informed.







**MYVETERAN/MYHERO**  
— TRIBUTE TREES —

Tree Donation Program  
**to honor our local heros.**

For a tax deductible donation of \$450, this program offers residents the opportunity to celebrate a veteran/hero in their life through the purchase and planting of a tree at Don Jones Memorial Park. Each tree donation will include a 3" by 3.5" metal plaque attached to a post near the tree. The plaque will provide the name of the veteran and a QR code that will link to a city webpage providing biographical information and a photo of the veteran. For Spring planting, the application deadline will be March 15. For Fall planting the deadline will be September 15.

For More Information Contact  
**Dave Jacob at (541) 423-1012**



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## 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**

Contact your **Council**: [info@centralpointoregon.gov](mailto:info@centralpointoregon.gov)

Mayor	Ward I	Ward II	Ward III	Ward IV	At-Large	At-Large
						
Tanea Browning	Neil Olsen	Kelley Johnson	Grey Zimmerman	Brian Whitaker	Mike Parsons	Rob Hernandez
541-890-8377	541-664-7935	541-499-8977	801-450-6629	541-778-7299	541-554-3892	541-840-1841

[www.centralpointoregon.gov](http://www.centralpointoregon.gov)