

Mayor's Message

Fall is just around the corner and well, if you are anything like me, it cannot come soon enough! With that said, school is back in session so remember to watch out for the youngsters and yield to them in crosswalks, both marked and implied.

Ford's Pond just keeps getting better! Two newly established hiking and biking trails are complete along the west end, one 0.7 miles and the other 0.9 miles in length. Grant funding for the inclusive playground, completion of the paved trail, and other enhancements have been awarded and are awaiting 'Notice to Proceed' from the involved agencies. Next summer is planned for the construction improvements. The Oak Savannah project continues to thrive. This is aided by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a joint effort with the Sutherlin High School FFA Chapter and Friends of Ford's Pond. Most of the two hundred oak trees planted in 2000 have survived and thrived. The native plant population has begun to return thanks to the aggressive removal of non-native species by volunteers. Fantastic job everyone!!



Pictured: Mayor Sumner and Hunter

The Urban Renewal District (URD) continues to support improvements to the downtown business community. Some amazing business facelifts (some with and some without URD funding) include Roots Salon, the Wood Shop, Family and Friends Mercantile, Mobile Diesel Repair Shop, the Body Shop, Backside Brewery, and Sol De Sutherlin. Projects that are in the works are the Liquor Store, CG's Computer Repair, the Rotary Club Hall, Sutherlin Drug, the Old Bank Building (at the corner of Central Avenue and State Street), and WebTrax, LLC (across from Central Park).

Last, but definitely not least, the Sutherlin Volunteer Firefighters Association is holding a fundraising Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner at the Fire Department on Saturday, September 10th, from 4 to 7 PM. Costs \$15 for adults, \$7 for children (0-9 years old) and \$65 for families (up to 5 people). There is also a gun raffle! Let's get out and support our volunteers! I hope to see you there.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 5th City Offices Closed – Labor Day
- 12th City Council Meeting – Civic Auditorium 7pm
- 20th Planning Commission Meeting – Civic Auditorium 7pm



Pictured: Case Wells and Officer McGarvey

Back to School

A message from your School Resource Officer, Jake McGarvey:

I know many of our parents are excited to have children back in school and I can tell you this, I'm onboard as well! It has been a great summer and lots of new things were seen developing and being built in Sutherlin, but I am ready to get back to school. Now that staff are back in our buildings, we are ready for the next round of students and eagerly await their return.

In the Sutherlin School District, we continue to have all of our campuses fully open, offering a stable learning environment, individual and team sports, different clubs, and many other extracurricular activities. The staff at each school are very dynamic and they focus on keeping your children engaged. If you want more information, just look online at www.sutherlin.k12.or.us. We have four traditional schools here in Sutherlin, and one online school for those that want a smaller campus and/or online learning experience.

~ Continued on reverse side

‘Spotlight On’ Ashlyn Lewis – Police Office Supervisor

Ashlyn Lewis has lived in Sutherlin with her husband since 2012 and feels that this is where she would like to raise her family. She had previously lived here as a child and returned, stating that it is the place that always felt the most like home. She has now taken on the role of Police Office Supervisor for the Sutherlin Police Department. Ashlyn brings with her both a background in law enforcement, coupled with an admiration for the professionalism and the family dynamic that defines the Sutherlin Police Department. Upon graduating from the Police Reserve Academy at Umpqua Community College in 2014, she began working with the Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center. Her work experience also includes the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office Records Division and as the Douglas County Jail Corrections Clerk. “Ashlyn was well qualified for this supervisory position. She was hired and immediately hit the ground running and has not stopped since. Her passion for excellence and teamwork are evident and she is becoming a great leader. Ashlyn has been a pleasure to work with and I am proud to have her as part of our team.” Police Chief, Troy Mills.



Pictured: Christian and Ashlyn Lewis with son Weston

“I knew that I would have big shoes to fill since Gayla has been a huge part of this department for nearly two decades. My mindset going into this position was to just observe and figure out how I was going to manage the various tasks. Luckily for me, records functions stay the same in the programs that are used across Oregon and are just slightly different from agency to agency. It’s been quite the transition from Police Records Clerk to Police Office Supervisor, but I think I have found my rhythm and routine here at the Sutherlin Police Department. Everyone here is very kind, welcoming and ready to help even with the smallest tasks or questions. It makes the transition easier when you have such a supportive group of coworkers who are excited to have you on the team.”



Back to School Cont...

As the School Resource Officer, I visit and spend time at all of our campuses, to interact with the students and get to know them.

Something everyone should know in our current climate right now is how to report an emergency, or have an avenue for help if needed. Two very important systems that we all have access to are: the Safe Oregon Reporting System and the 988 Hotline. The Safe Oregon Reporting System is easy to use and offers multiple ways to report a potential problem or possible threat. The system offers anonymous reporting capabilities, or a named individual can be contacted for further information if they so choose. Reports can be made online, by telephone, by smartphone app, or email. All tips that are reported are sent immediately to the threat area and I receive a copy as well. Threats are taken seriously and I have the ability to gain assistance from outside agencies if needed. You can visit the website for more information at www.safeoregon.com and then talk with your children so they know.

The second avenue for help is for more of a personal reason. The 988 Hotline was put in place recently and is a telephone hotline designed to help those that are in immediate crisis regarding issues such as self-harm. Once dialing 988, you are put in contact with an actual person and your conversations are kept confidential. Those that need further help will be routed to the best resources that are available in their area. Online information is available at www.988lifeline.org.

Parents, since I work for the Police Department as well as the schools, I am easy to get in touch with. Every administrator in our district has my number and they can reach me immediately if a student wants to talk or a parent has an issue to discuss. I have a department email j.mcgarvey@ci.sutherlin.or.us if parents need another avenue to communicate. Like I tell our students, if you see me on campus, or at a game, or see me at a High School concert, come say hi, I am grateful for the opportunity to work in the schools as your officer.

History of the “Ice Cream Social” ~ Remembering Gayla Holley

In 2004, Gayla Holley was hired as the Sutherlin Police Department’s Records Clerk. Through her hard work, ethics, values, and care for this community, she ascended to the position of Public Safety Office Records Supervisor in 2015.

During her time here, Gayla was always coming up with new ideas of how the police department could give back to a community that was so supportive of its police. She wanted to create a function where officers could interact with the children in a fun and laid-back atmosphere.

Gayla and I bounced ideas off each other before she came up with the “Ice Cream Social”. Her idea was simple. Get the children of this community together with its police officers and have ice cream. Her thought was if kids would talk to an officer, they would then see them as just people and not something to be scared of. She wanted to break down any barriers so they would feel comfortable enough to call if they needed us and to let them know if they just needed someone to talk too they could call us.

The idea started simple; an officer and a kid having ice cream together. Well, if anyone else knows Gayla you would understand how that simple idea morphed into something more dynamic and of course, made the officers really commit.



Gayla decided a dunk tank was a good idea. Her plan was now to let our innocent children throw balls at a target to dunk Sutherlin’s finest. I of course was all in, so the dunk tank was rented.

Gayla also thought it was not enough to just dunk a cop, so we (out of our own pockets) bought school supplies to give out to the children when they arrived. The word got out and before we knew it, our great community and its business owners stepped up and began donating school supplies to us at an alarming rate.

In August of 2018, the first Ice Cream Social kicked off just like Gayla planned. The kids and cops were laughing, talking, and just having a great time together, building relationships that would undoubtedly last. The kids all got all their school supplies for the year and got to dunk an officer in the process. Even now, I hear people in the community and

officers talk about that first year.

Gayla’s dedication to this community was unmatched. She knew what was missing so she planned out this event and brought our officers and our communities’ children together. The event made a positive and caring impact on the kids as well as the officers just like the impact Gayla had with all of us and everyone she ever met.

Gayla and I worked together for 18 years and very closely for the last 5. She has made a huge impact on me personally, on my family, and on the members of this department as a whole. My thoughts and prayers go out to Gayla’s daughter and the Holley family. I know the loss of Gayla is a huge weight on all of our souls. She will be missed, but I can guarantee her memory and legacy at the Sutherlin Police Department will continue.

This year, the Ice Cream Social was a huge success due to the efforts of Ashlyn. She was passed the torch by Gayla and took on the responsibility of planning, coordinating with business owners, collecting donations, and procuring the needed supplies to make this year the most successful one yet.



With the overwhelming support of this community, we were able to give a total of \$4,000 to the counselors of the Sutherlin School District. It is our hope that this will provide a bridge over some financial gaps to assist those students who need a little help.

~ Police Chief, Troy Mills

~ Event photos on reverse side



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