

'OFFICER OF THE YEAR'

Ashley Higgins

On Friday, February 23, 2024, Officer Ashley Higgins received an award for being the 2023 "Officer of the Year" at the Optimist Club of Roseburg's 48th Annual Respect for Law Enforcement Banquet. This is an event where the Officers in the County are recognized for extraordinary performance and dedication.

Every day, thousands of officers across our country risk their lives and safety, as well as go above and beyond the call of duty. Officer Higgins was one officer that has stood out this last year not for a single isolated event, but a collective series of events that make her our honoree and Officer of the Year. Officer Higgins truly acts, behaves and practices those behaviors that are aligned with the future of our agency. She is humanistic and encouraging, achievement driven, and a great team member.



Officer Higgins has been an officer with the Sutherlin Police Department since 2016. She has an Associate of Science Degree from Umpqua Community College, holds an Intermediate Certificate in Law Enforcement and is currently one of the departments Field Training Officers and Taser Instructors. Since 2016, Officer Higgins has completed over 1340 hours of field related training,



Officer Higgins is always willing to help others and knows what it is to be a team player. She is funny, caring, approachable, and an encouraging individual who strives to excel daily. She is dependable, organized, always positive, and doesn't complain. She has excellent report writing skills, a proactive attitude, and is an incredible team player. Higgins is also a very technically savvy person, and her

expertise is often called upon by her peers. She is always willing to jump in and help even when not asked.

~ Continued on page 3

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR SUMNER

It's March and we're rapidly approaching Spring! The days are getting longer, daffodils, hyacinth, crocus, and wild plums are in full bloom, and the migrating birds are returning. Can't wait for warmer weather!

Congratulations to Officer Ashley Higgins on being awarded Officer of the Year. It's an honor to recognize our finest who put their lives on the line every day to keep all of us safe. Thank you for your service.

March is the month we return to Daylight Savings Time. Remember to move your clocks forward one (1) hour at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 10 (if you're awake).

Planning is underway for a Summer of exciting events including Music Off Central, Sutherlin Throwdown, Woofstock, and the Blackberry Festival, to name a few.

Coffee with the Mayor has changed locations to Backside Brewery Outpost, 105 West Central Avenue. The next one is March 1, 10:00 to 11:30 AM. The January and February meetings were well attended and enjoyable with lively discussion of multiple topics including Workforce Housing, the Dakota Street traffic light, and Hastings Village cleanup and management. I look forward to seeing new faces and hearing more input to help make Sutherlin the best place to live!

Be safe and
have fun!

Mayor Sumner &
Hunter



Sutherlin Area Chamber of Commerce Join the Chamber Ambassadors Group

Jessica Cannon, Executive Director for the Sutherlin Area Chamber of Commerce, has created the Chamber Ambassadors Group to provide more opportunities for community involvement. The role of a Chamber Ambassador is to promote the vital work of community engagement and connection. They help to develop and execute programming that is designed to encourage visitors and residents to support our local businesses. Some of the ways to become involved as an ambassador are Chamber greeters, educational destination talks, volunteering at events and business outreach. The goal is to help local businesses grow and thrive.

If you are interested in learning more about the Sutherlin Chamber Ambassador Group or becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce, please join us for our first meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, beginning at 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., to be held in the downtown location at 111 South Umpqua Street, Sutherlin. For additional information or to register in advance to attend this meeting, please visit the website, www.members.visitsutherlin.com.



Sutherlin Downtown Development, Inc. Hanging Baskets

Every year, beautiful hanging flower baskets are hung from the downtown light poles. This project is a great way to help beautify our community!

The cost is \$125 each for a locally grown basket, plus your personal business name displayed on a colorful banner!

Sutherlin Downtown Development, Inc. (SDDI) is a nonprofit organization (Tax ID 45-5601714).


If you would like to purchase one of these beautiful baskets (50 available), send your check with your name/business for the banner, and a contact phone number to:

SDDI ~ P.O. Box 461 ~ Sutherlin, OR. 97479
By March 30th

Any questions, contact
J Lindeen Brown,
Beautification Chairperson
at 541.459.7730




Thank you for
supporting Sutherlin
beautification!



American Red Cross

Honor your hero. Be a hero. **Donate blood.**

BATTLE OF THE BADGES BLOOD DRIVE




THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

8 AM - 1 PM

SUTHERLIN COMMUNITY CENTER | 150 S. WILLAMETTE STREET

PHOTO ID REQUIRED



Battle of the Badges is a friendly competition among first responders to see who can recruit the most blood donors from their communities. Visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and use the sponsor code SutherlinPD to schedule and appointment, "cause" you're just our type!

Questions,
contact Ashlyn Lewis at
a.lewis@ci.sutherlin.or.us

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

OFFICER Cont...

Higgins is a skilled investigator who excels at person crime investigations. She works one of the busiest shifts and as a result, handled over 811 calls for service in 2023. She took 128 investigative cases, made 39 arrests, 41 traffic stops, and had 11 field interviews. She also investigated over 15 abuse crimes which are one of the hardest and most time intensive cases to work on. She was able to clear 13 of the 15 cases thus far.

Officer Higgins is becoming a very well-rounded officer who continues to learn and excel. I am personally proud to have worked with Officer Higgins for over 7 years as a fellow law enforcement officer in the cities of Sutherlin and Oakland specifically, but also as part of a larger team in Douglas County.



Ashley, for your calm and professional demeanor when faced with life and death circumstances and decisions, your willingness to take difficult and challenging assignments, and your passion for training, teaching, and encouraging others at the Sutherlin Police Department, you are our choice as Officer of the Year at this year's 48th Roseburg Optimist Respect for Law Enforcement Banquet. Congratulations Ashley!

~ Chief Troy Mills

'Spotlight On' Ashley Higgins, Officer of the Year

Oh Friday, February 23rd, the Roseburg Optimist Club held its 48th Annual 'Respect for Law Enforcement' Banquet, at which Officer Ashley Higgins was awarded 'Officer of the Year' for the Sutherlin Police Department. Captain Kurt Sorenson, in his introduction of Officer Higgins, remarked on her ambition, dedication and teamwork. "We are honored to have Officer Higgins as part of our community. Congratulations."

Officer Higgins joined the Sutherlin Police Department in 2016, fulfilling a goal of pursuing a career in law enforcement. Her commitment goes beyond the duty to protect and serve. It also includes the ability to have a positive impact on the life of an individual, which reinforces the reasons for beginning on this chosen journey and reaching her destination. Officer Higgins considers this the greatest reward of all and the kind of thing that keeps her motivated after handling the tough calls.

"This job is a gift. One that teaches you that life can change in an instant. I think it is important to live your life doing what you love, and I do. It is an incredible feeling to be recognized with this award by my peers and administrative staff. It was a great year, and we have an amazing group of officers that have always had a part to play in any successes I have had here." Officer Ashley Higgins.



BE INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY Committee and Board Member Opportunities

Budget Committee

One vacancy – term ending 12/31/2025

Library Board

Four vacancies – 2 terms ending 12/31/2026; 2 terms ending 12/31/2027

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 11th

City Council Meeting – Civic Auditorium 7 p.m.

March 19th

Planning Commission Meeting – Civic Auditorium 7 p.m.

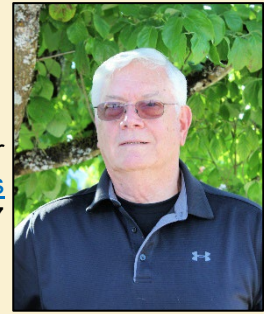
**Daylight Savings Time
March 10th!**

**Move your clocks
ahead 1 hour.**

City Council



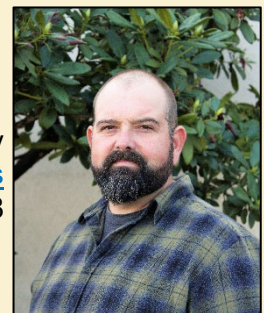
Mayor Michelle Sumner
m.sumner@ci.sutherlin.or.us
 (707) 738-0500



Councilor Larry Whitaker
l.whitaker@ci.sutherlin.or.us
 (541) 643-2967



Councilor Debbie Hamilton
d.hamilton@ci.sutherlin.or.us
 (541) 580-5489



Councilor Shawn Smalley
s.smalley@ci.sutherlin.or.us
 (541) 680-1818



Councilor Joe Groussman
j.groussman@ci.sutherlin.or.us
 (541) 459-3595



Councilor Lisa Woods
l.woods@ci.sutherlin.or.us
 (541) 430-9009

Councilor Gary Dagel
g.dagel@ci.sutherlin.or.us
 (541) 378-4434



City Directory

City Manager	541-459-2856 x 223	Fire Dept/Non-Emergency	541-459-1394
Finance Director	541-459-2856 x 203	Police Dept/Non-Emergency	541-459-2211
City Recorder/HR Director	541-459-2856 x 207	Public Works Operations	541-459-3542
Deputy City Recorder	541-459-2856 x 208	Public Works Utilities	541-459-5768
Community Development	541-459-2856 x 206, x 219	Sutherlin Municipal Court	541-459-4636
City Planner	541-459-2856 x 234	Water/Sewer Utility Billing	541-459-2856

VISIT US AT

WWW.CITYOFSUTHERLIN.COM