



Yay for May and the return of warmer weather (at least we hope)!! With the new season comes new beginnings. The flowers are blooming, the Farmers Market is off to a fantastic start, and many of you are starting to plan your summer vacations. I am also starting something new. Beginning this month, I would like to invite you to “Coffee with the Mayor”. It will be held (generally) the first Saturday of each month from 10:00 to approximately 11:30 AM at the Books Gallery, 220 West Central Avenue, in downtown Sutherlin. The first one is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th. My hope is this informal gathering might give you the opportunity to share new ideas, concerns, and thoughtful opinions for the benefit of our community. Please come have a cup of coffee or tea and join me. ~ Mayor Michelle Sumner

Be Prepared by Division Chief McGarr Volume 4

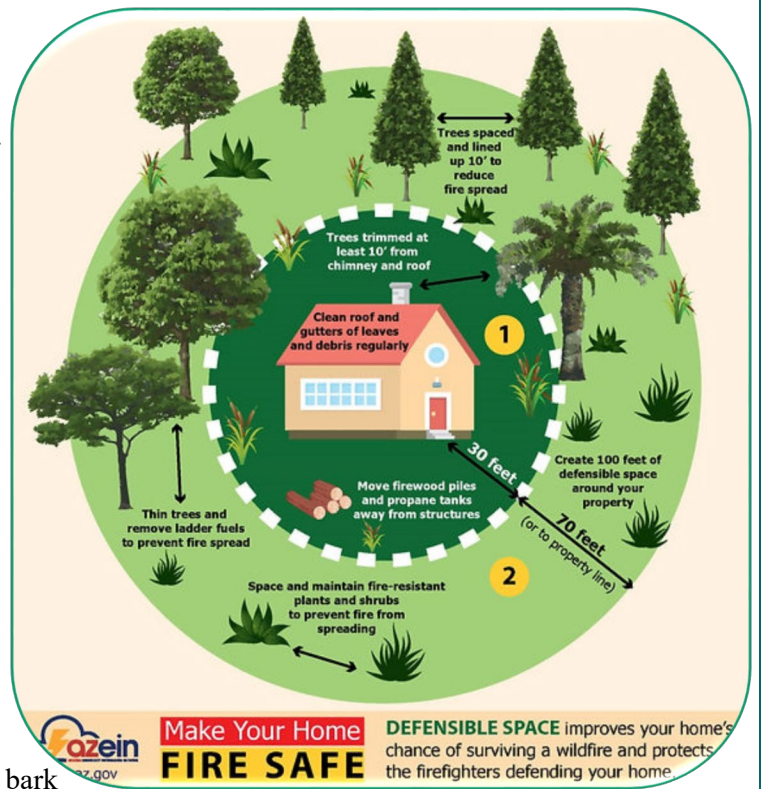
In Oregon, May is designated as Wildfire Prevention Month. Although many homes within Sutherlin city limits do not have a direct wildfire threat from neighboring property, embers from fires can land a great distance away from actual fires allowing for the spread of wildfire to other properties. Everyone should take into considerations this potential for wildfire spread before fire season arrives. Spring is the best time to prepare for wildfire defensible space. Here is some very basic information regarding wildfire statistics and wildfire prevention:

Oregon Statistics

- Escaped Debris Burn is the #1 cause of human-caused wildfires in Oregon.
- Equipment use was the #2 cause of human-caused wildfires in Oregon.
- In 2022, 54% of reported fires were human-caused in Oregon.
- In 2022, there were five Emergency Conflagrations in the State of Oregon. Sutherlin Fire Department responded to three of them.

Defensible Space

- Keep it clean – Remove leaves, conifer needles, wood, bark mulch, and other debris from within 100 feet of the structure or to the property line.
- Check the roof – Keep roof and gutters clean of leaves, conifer needles, and other debris.
- Eye the eaves – Keep flammable vegetation from growing directly under the eaves. A minimum of five feet from the structure is recommended.
- Move the pile – Keep firewood piles and lumber at least 30 feet away from any structures.
- Create the space –
 - Trees and vegetation more than 18 feet, remove limbs up to six feet.
 - Trees and vegetation less than 18 feet, remove limbs up to 1/3 height. ~ *Continued on reverse side*



Be Prepared Cont. . . .

- Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from power lines (Use professional tree trimmers for anything around power lines).
- Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from buildings and chimneys.
- Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from other trees.

More information can be found on www.wildfire.oregon.gov.



Community Survey - We Want to Know What YOU Think



The City of Sutherlin would like input from the community concerning the issue of recreational vehicles as temporary housing options within the city. A link to a brief survey is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/8GHLW2Q, for the purposes of enabling residents to provide useful feedback concerning this issue. It will be available until May 12, 2023. There will also be an Open House held on May 24, 2023, to allow for more public discussion. It will held from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., in Civic Auditorium, located at 175 E. Everett Street. The information compiled from the survey and the Open House will be used by the Planning Commission to determine if additional workshops are necessary or to present their recommendations to the City Council.

Click on the QR Code for direct access to the survey.

Meeting the Needs of the Community

In an interview with Myressa Starnes, Resource Family Retention and Recruitment Champion for the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), she addresses the need, at the request of Mayor Michelle Sumner, for Resource Parents in the Sutherlin community.

ODHS is transforming the Child Welfare Program to support the individual needs of families to best serve Oregon's children and youth. The support we provide is built on the belief that children do best growing up in a family and on values related to honoring and supporting cultural wisdom, building community resilience and ensuring the self-determination of our communities of color.

Using this approach in serving families, ODHS uses the term "Resource Parents" instead of "Foster Parents" as it reflects the vital resource and support that these caregivers provide to the whole foster family system. When children are not able to stay with their families, safe and nurturing resource homes are needed. Resource families offer a temporary and welcoming home to children in foster care and provide support to both the child and family. When a child or youth comes into the care of ODHS, reunification is always the first and preferred plan. Resource Parents provide for the safety, health and wellbeing of the children and youth they are caring for until we can safely reunite them with their families. Our vision is for Oregon to have an abundance of safe, diverse and affirming resource families, who reflect the characteristics of children and young adults in foster care and are supported and equipped to meet their unique needs within their communities. Our priority is to make it possible for children to remain in the communities in which they and their families reside and maintain all the relationships they had prior to coming into the care of ODHS. Currently we are focusing on our recruitment efforts for pre-teens and teenagers.

In partnership with Megan Boerste at Every Child, we have begun holding events called 'Explore Fostering Coffee Houses', at which the community members meet with Megan and Myressa, in person, each month to ask questions about becoming Certified Resource Parents. Individuals interested in finding out more about the process can visit www.Foster.Oregon.gov or www.everychildoregon.or/douglas.

*Interested in receiving our
monthly bulletin electronically?*

Contact Melanie Masterfield,
Community Engagement Manager
m.masterfield@ci.sutherlin.or.us

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| May 8 th | City Council Meeting – Civic Auditorium 7 p.m. |
| May 15 th | Urban Renewal & City Budget Meetings –
Civic Auditorium 6:30 p.m. |
| May 16 th | Planning Commission Meeting – Civic Auditorium 7 p.m. |
| May 20-22 nd | Sutherlin Geocaching & Coin Event |
| May 29 th | Memorial Day – City Offices Closed |