

We welcome your questions or  
comments. Ph.459-2856 or  
email us at  
[admin@ci.sutherland.or.us](mailto:admin@ci.sutherland.or.us)



## From the desk of Mayor Todd McKnight



**H**appy New Year!  
My hope is it  
will be filled with joy,  
health, happiness and  
prosperity.

Great things are hap-  
pening in Sutherland!  
For the City Council  
and myself it's an exciting time of growth,  
restoration and renewal.

All the upgrades and the anticipation of  
having Central Avenue paved is at the fore-  
front for us. The preparations prior to that  
happening however, has been extensive  
with the utility work, ADA upgrades, side-  
walk upgrades and/or replacement that  
extend from east to west of Central Ave-  
nue. Please take note that NO tax dollars  
have been used for this project or the North  
Comstock Project.

Still to happen is sidewalks being bulb-  
ed-in approximately two feet to allow for a  
much safer entry and exit from your vehi-  
cles in the downtown corridor. That will

begin mid January and with that will be  
repairing or replacing sidewalks from  
Front Street down to Umpqua St. We're  
asking people to be patient and please use  
the parking lots behind the Fusion, Suth-  
erlin Reflections Museum, and The Body  
Shop for parking due to the construction  
in the downtown area during that time.  
Once that's completed the new 18' deco-  
rative street lights will soon follow.

It's still up for discussion regarding  
planting of trees in the downtown area. If  
that is approved by Council they will be  
non fruit bearing and will have a more  
narrow growth pattern to allow better vis-  
ibility of the business fronts.

Starbucks opened January 5th. They  
renovated the old Taco Bell building next  
to the Dairy Queen. They plan to hire ap-  
proximately 27-30 employee's and to  
have a program called "Coffee with a  
Cop". They've stated they are looking  
forward to their community involvement  
here in Sutherland.

~ Again, Happy New Year ~

# Sutherland City News

CITY OF SUTHERLIN  
[www.cityofsutherland.com](http://www.cityofsutherland.com)

## Upgraded Park Equipment & Splash Pad a Big Hit!

**L**ate summer when the much anticipated  
Central Park upgrades and Splash Pad  
were finally ready to open turned out to  
be a better than expected outcome! Council  
and Staff were thrilled to bring this to Suth-  
erlin Citizens and their children.

It was frequently noted that many from all  
around Douglas County brought their children  
and/or grandchildren to enjoy the new attrac-  
tion. Coming from as far south as Canyonville  
and as far north as Drain and everywhere in  
between. Also noted by one guest saying they  
made it a weekly event for their household  
coming up from Riddle.

While the plan was conceived and imple-  
mented into action over 2 years ago putting all  
the ducks in a row can sometimes be a very  
slow tedious process. This project was no dif-  
ferent. We can assure you Staff was as impa-  
tient as the general public and of course, the  
children waiting to use the park and new  
splash pad!

The City had applied for a \$289,000 Parks  
grant but unfortunately, was turned down.  
Staff didn't let that dim their vision, nor the  
City Manager's, he advised that the plan be  
presented to the Parks Advisory Committee  
where it was well received. They approved the

plan to move forward in recommending to City  
Council for the final approval. That happened on  
August 26, 2016. Thankfully we did receive a  
grant from The Ford Family Foundation in the  
amount of \$25,000 that the City was awarded to  
offset some of the costs. Our thanks to them!

Along with that grant, the City used internal  
funds, including parks system development  
charges and a 3% transient room tax to help pay  
for the project. A 3-year loan was approved by  
Council to pay for the playground equipment.  
The City plans to repay it using transient lodging  
tax dollars. They also budgeted \$325,000 to buy  
and install the splash pad and playground equip-  
ment. The process was overseen by Community  
Development Director Brian Elliott and Commu-  
nity Development Specialist, Kristi Gilbert who  
both did an outstanding job on this project and  
put in many hours on it as well.

To save funds the Public Works Staff, lead by  
Superintendent, Aaron Swan, and Supervisor,  
Gary Fugate, worked tirelessly to put it all to-  
gether saving the City over \$35,000. There was  
quite a pile of nuts and bolts! They were even  
out there in the 108° weather we had this past  
summer. We owe each of them a huge thanks for  
all their hard work! We hope you, your children  
and/or grandchildren enjoy it for a long time.



Look for us on



**TWITTER & FACEBOOK!**

## New School Resource Officer for Sutherlin School District

Some of you may be aware by now that a new School Resource Officer was appointed to take the place of newly promoted Captain Kurt Sorenson. Starting the next era is a very capable Officer, Jake McGarvey. He has been an officer for 15 years and with the City since 2008. He has lived in Sutherlin for the past 10 years and has children within our school district as well. Officer McGarvey is an accomplished investigator and is specially trained to interview children. We think he'll make a great fit as the your new School Resource Officer.

Officer McGarvey will transition into the position while



still covering the road on a 10-hour shift Monday through Thursday. Once the Police Department reaches full staffing levels Officer McGarvey will work full time as the School Resource Officer working Monday through Friday shift.

Officer McGarvey has embraced the new position and has moved into the SRO office at the high school and has been spending time there getting acquainted with students and staff. Remember if you ever feel there is an emergency do not hesitate to call 911.

You can call the Police Department for non-emergency calls at 541-459-2211, Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm.

## North Comstock Project Completed

Have you had the chance to drive up North Comstock yet? What a wonderful difference the improvements have made, not only in driving and having sidewalks, but in esthetics! Besides looking great it's so much safer for our residents and students who make the trek to West Inter-

mediate School on a daily basis. What a transformation the sidewalks have made! And rest assured NO Sutherlin tax dollars were used on this project! Take a minute next time you're out to drive up there and see the improvements. You'll be very glad you did.

## Central Avenue Project

For several months now the Central Avenue Project has been underway with the utilities upgrade (shown in picture below) and the ADA upgrades. Utility upgrades have been all along west Central thus far with ADA upgrades beginning on the east end of Central and heading west to I-5. There are 80 total they will be updating or replacing as needed to be in compliance with the state. This also includes storm drains and sidewalk repairs and/or replacement. The downtown area will also



include streetscaping to include decorative streetlights, bulb in-ing-in and cutting back the sidewalk approximately two feet to make it much safer when getting in or out of your vehicle in that area.



The pictures are of utilities to the *left*, the ADA improvements and upgrades, *above*, and what the street lights will be like. They will have a rod on them for hanging baskets or flags. The streetscaping will include Front Street going east down to Umpqua Street. The decorative street lights are dark green and will look very nice.



## Miscellaneous Project Updates

- ◆ Ford's Pond Master Plan Approved by Council and can be found on the city's website under Master Plans
- ◆ Wastewater Treatment Plant is on schedule and will go out to bid in late January or early February

- ◆ Fairway Ridge Estates moving forward with Phase 1 of 26 dwellings with a grand total expected at 76
- ◆ Starbucks opened Friday, Jan 5th next to Dairy Queen Open M-F 4:30am-9:30pm - Sat-Sun 5am - 9:30pm

# Season of Change at Sutherlin Police Department



**W**henever there's a new Chief at the helm it seems to be a catalyst for change. Promoted from within, Chief Troy Mills, formerly a Lieutenant, has been restructuring the department since the changeover in July.

Chief Mills promoted School Resource Officer, Kurt Sorenson, to Captain, eliminating the Lieutenant position. He added back two Sergeant positions and promoted Officers, Vaughn Rains and Ben Woodward to fill those spots. Officer, Jake McGarvey, was then appointed as the School Resource Officer in place of longstanding SRO Sorenson.

With all those changes that left 2 officer positions needing to be filled. We've been recruiting to fill those positions but qualified applicants is tough to come by. Once selected and offered a position they start the arduous process of a very extensive background check and psychological testing. Unfortunately, many fall short of passing. When they do successfully pass they will then attend DPSST (Department of Public Safety Standards and Training) in Salem for the 4 months of training Monday-Friday. After successfully graduating from DPSST they are back at the department for field training which lasts approximately 6-8 months.

Job announcement, job description and application can be found on the City website. [www.ctyofsutherlin.com](http://www.ctyofsutherlin.com) under Employment Opportunities.

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**Pictured below:** Chief Troy Mills left, on right is Sgt. Vaughn Rains, Captain Kurt Sorenson and Sgt. Ben Woodward.



# Interim Fire Chief



Our new Interim Fire Chief Doug Dawson is replacing Mike Lane who will be out of state for a few months. Upon Lane's return he will be back at the helm of the Sutherlin Fire Department.

Dawson's entire fire service career has been with agencies that are combination departments (A mix of full time career/volunteer/student/cadet and reserve).

He began his career in fire service with city of Los Altos in California. He rose through the ranks as a Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Battalion Chief and then Chief of the department. In 1990 he accepted the position of Fire Chief for the City of Visalia in the Central Valley of California.

He decided to retire (first retirement) in 1997 to pursue other interests. In 1998 he accepted the position of Interim Fire Chief (and later, permanent) for the County of Kings. In 2003 he accepted the Fire Chief position with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District in Brentwood, Ca. This district was the result of a merger of three smaller districts. Dawson was the first full time Fire Chief for the larger district. In 2006 he retired (second and final, he

thought) Since that time he has been an Interim Fire Chief with the Enumclaw Fire Department in Washington State, South Lane Fire & Rescue in Cottage Grove, Oregon, Jefferson County Fire District #1 in Madras, Oregon and then back as Interim Fire Chief in Enumclaw, Washington. In between the first Enumclaw position and the second, he worked as a consultant for the City of Lacey, Washington, where he researched, developed and submitted specifications for 4 new fire apparatus and a medical aid unit.

Education includes Fire Science Technology and Management at Mission College, Government Management at San Jose State University and Continuing Education for Public Officials through University of California Santa Cruz, California. California State Certifications Fire Instructor, Fire Investigator, Fire Officer and Incident Command System.

Doug has been married to his wife, Rose, for almost 37 years. They are residing here in Sutherlin during his time as Interim.



# Annual Fire Hydrant Testing & Maintenance to Begin



Our yearly fire hydrant testing and maintenance will begin in the next week or two and continue for several weeks. You can most likely expect some cloudiness and perhaps some particles or sediment that may show up

through your water lines which is normal. You may need to run your water a few minutes until it clears. Rest assured the water quality is fine though. If you have any questions please call (541) 459-5768.

# City of Sutherlin Strategic Plan

The City of Sutherlin's strategic planning process began in 2013, was completed in 2014, but did not begin serving as our driving force for making enormous recent strides in visible projects until Mayor McKnight and City Council agreed to come together with city staff and develop year-to-year priorities which then were immediately embedded into the city's strategic plan. In fact, everything we accomplish whether large-scale or small, is articulated in our strategic plan.

As a strategic-plan-guided city there is almost no uncertainty as to where we are going as a community and further, there now exists very specific clarity of action for city staff to follow. Henry David Thoreau explains the results of strategic planning this way: *"It's not enough to be busy, so are the ants. The question is; what are we busy about?"* Another quote implied, regardless of which road you choose you will eventually wind up somewhere but; *"while all roads lead somewhere, sometimes somewhere is just another kind of nowhere."*

Our strategic plan is built around an identifiable, overriding factor that gives the entire organization something specific to work towards at **all** times. The strategic plan serves as our guidepost for all policy decisions while helping to keep staff focused. The "best practice" strategic plan city will always have a clear understanding of its goals and expectations, as directly connected to their stated vision and goals. The strategic planning process therefore, produces an action plan that meshes with those goals, a plan that makes realizing our stated vision come into reality.

We encourage you to go to our City website ([www.cityofsutherlin.com](http://www.cityofsutherlin.com)), click on the "Government" tab at top of page, on the drop down click on Vision Statement & Goals where you will see our stated vision and council's eight goals at the bottom. Below that you will see the council priorities and another important tab titled "Operational Philosophy." This vital section of the strategic plan describes our values and beliefs. It is the *"how we will go about doing things."* You can then select any departmental tab and see objectives, actions, tasks and due dates for each. If you are really interested, simply google-search strategic planning and you will see how we have followed the core seven steps in a strategic plan. For us we added three other steps relating to integrating the actions of city staff and annual evaluations connected to the strategic plan. This is much like a "contract with the community" in that you can see where we want to go and what we intend to do to get there with due dates. The due date is always connected to a council meeting date.

If there is a council project or departmental initiative you have interest in, please see the dates of accountability and the staff contact. If you open the council packet on the accountability date, there will either be a written summary/update or an actual presentation on that item so you can follow the project to completion.

We will soon be live-streaming all council meetings and you will be able to keep track of our work by watching the council meeting or by reading the accompanying council meeting packet which will also be on our web site under Council Agenda's/Packets.

## Ford's Pond Master Plan

Thanks to Friends of Ford's Pond working with the City to bring to fruition the Ford's Pond Master Plan was approved and adopted at the December 11th City Council meeting. They have worked hard in getting this established and approved. Now is the task to raise funds so we can begin with Phase 1 of the project. You can view the Ford's Pond Master Plan by going to the City's website. Go to [www.cityofsutherlin.com](http://www.cityofsutherlin.com) Click on documents and forms on the left, then click on Master Plans. Again, our thanks to Friends of Ford's Pond, their Board and Jim & Beth Houseman for all their



work on this and the great pictures they take and let us borrow!!

This is already a great attraction for Sutherlin and it will only get better and better!



The Sutherlin C. Giles Hunt Memorial Library, as most of you know, is open and doing business as usual thanks to the 40 volunteers we have. The Sutherlin School District and the City of Sutherlin are partnering to make it run as smooth as possible. The City recently appointed longtime employee, Debbie Hamilton, as the Director of the Library to oversee and be the contact person. They have a temporary part-time Operations Manager for the day to day operations.

Although our Library never closed during the County Library System shut down, the former County owned books were not available for check out. Sutherlin residents are now able to check out all the books in the Library thanks to the new Douglas Community Library Association with help from the Douglas County Library Foundation.

To check out books, CDs, DVDs, etc., patrons will need to apply for a Sutherlin Library Card. Unfortunately, we cannot accept the former Douglas County library cards as they are no longer valid. Applications are available at the library. Have you gotten your library card yet? If not, you can fill out an application found on FB or the City website and bring it in to the library. The library has issued out over 400 library cards in the past 2-3 months.

The newly expanded **Sutherlin Library Advisory Board** to City Council now consists of seven members and meets at 4:30pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month in the library meeting room. The board is very active in ongoing library activities and is currently working on a FY 2018-19 budget and strategic plan for the library progression. The board welcomes public input and encourages anyone to attend meetings or contact the board via phone or email. Please click on this link for a list of board members: [http://www.ci.sutherlin.or.us/departments/c\\_giles\\_hunt\\_memorial\\_library.php](http://www.ci.sutherlin.or.us/departments/c_giles_hunt_memorial_library.php)

The **Sutherlin Library Foundation** was established in 2017 with the following mission:

- To engage in fundraising activities meant to increase financial support for Library programs, technology and services.
- To promote public interest and appreciation for reading, education, culture and fine arts in the community.

If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation to support the library you will find forms on their FB page or the City's website. You can also go to the library for the forms. Donations are what helps us keep things running. Thank you for your consideration! The Sutherlin Library Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity. You can also mail to: PO Box 1032, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

**Great Children's Programs! Fun Friday's! - Headed up by Nancy Anderson.** Our goal of the Fun Friday program is to involve students with a "Maker Space" at the library. A Maker Space is an area where children can experiment and design. The class runs from 2pm - 4pm the first and third Friday of the month. We purchased 68 books. When a student attends Fun Friday for the first time, they are offered their choice of a book for their reading level.

This fall some of the highlights included, Murphy, the police horse, an antique fire engine, quilt making, creative stations, that included Lego's, blocks, bread making, arts and crafts, construction, 3D pen, and electrical circuits. One week was devoted to nutrition and we provided healthy snacks, showed a video and gave out a Charlie & Lola Book titled, "I Will Never. Not Ever. Eat a Tomato". In December we celebrated Christmas in Denmark with Danish crafts and treats. On the second Fun Friday, they children experimented more with the electronic circuits.

In January we introduced our new button making machine. So last Friday was button making day! They can make their own 2 1/2 inch button, the first one is free and then additional ones are ten cents each. Later in the month children experiment learning to knit. The goal is to make red caps for babies for the American Heart Association to distribute to newborn babies in February.



## Sutherlin Dog Park Gets Water!

Sutherlin Dog Park's visitors are pleased to see that water was finally extended to the dog park. Their furry friends will now have an abundance of fresh water to appease their thirst! The City wants to thank the Sutherlin Dog Park Group and friends for the special thank you they left at the City Hall front door over the weekend. We appreciate your thoughtfulness! We are very happy this project was completed and we could finally make it happen. The dog park is located just above Hartley Park on W. Sixth.

Sutherlin Dog Park -  
Now has water spigots!

Starbucks Grand Opening



Police & Fire Appreciation Day



Central Park Improvements - Playground Equipment and Splash Pad

