

Sutherlin CITY BULLETIN

March 2025
Volume 17, Issue 3

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Sutherlin Residents,

As we embrace the arrival of spring, I am excited to share all the wonderful happenings in our community.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Officer Jon Rausch, who has been named Sutherlin Police Officer of the Year. Jon's dedication and service to our community are truly commendable, and we are incredibly proud of his achievements. Thank you, Jon, for your hard work and commitment to keeping Sutherlin safe.

As we look ahead, the calendar is filled with a plethora of fun and engaging events that promise to bring our community together. From the energetic Woofstock to the lively Music off Central, the thrilling Sutherlin Stampede, the exciting Sutherlin Throwdown, and the ever-popular Blackberry Festival, there's something for everyone to enjoy. These events not only offer entertainment but also serve as a wonderful opportunity for us to connect and strengthen our community bonds.

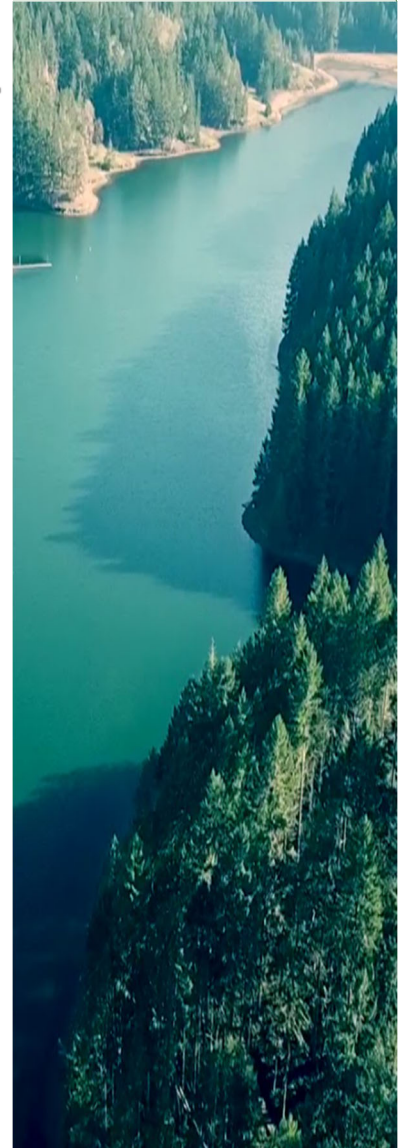
However, none of these events can happen without the incredible support of our volunteers. These gatherings take countless hours of planning and coordination, and it's our dedicated volunteers who make it all possible. If you have some time to spare and a passion for making a difference, I encourage you to consider volunteering. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, can make a significant impact on ensuring these events continue to thrive and bring joy to everyone.

Don't miss my Coffee with the Mayor on the first Saturday of each month. It's a great time for you to share your ideas, comments, and concerns, or simply enjoy a cup of coffee with fellow residents. I look forward to these gatherings as they provide a valuable opportunity for open dialogue and community engagement.

Let's come together to celebrate our community and all that makes Sutherlin a remarkable place to live. Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm. I look forward to seeing you at these events and sharing in the fun and camaraderie that make our town so special.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sumner



Volunteer Opportunities

Budget Committee: One vacancy

1 Position: term ending 12/31/2025

*applicants cannot also serve on Planning Commission

Library Advisory Board: Four vacancies

2 Positions: 4-year terms ending 12/31/2026

2 Positions: 4-year terms ending 12/31/2027

Parks Advisory Board: Two vacancies

2 Positions: 2-year terms ending 12/31/2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spotlight On	2
Officer of the Year	2
Sutherlin Stampede.....	3
Future Events	3
Stampede (cont.)	4
Spotlight On (cont.).....	4
Upcoming Events	4

SPOTLIGHT ON: ADAM SARNOSKI CITY COUNCILOR

This month, the spotlight is on Adam Sarnoski, who has resumed his role as a Sutherlin City Council member. To reintroduce himself, Mr. Sarnoski has provided some personal information to share with the community. I am married and I have three children. My son is currently attending OIT. My oldest daughter graduates from high school this year and my youngest daughter is starting high school next year. My personal interests are ice/roller hockey. We no longer have a facility to play, so I have moved on to jet skis. I am currently trying to bring professional jet ski racing back to Oregon, specifically here in Sutherlin. I have retired as a chiropractor and am working on developing a new business. In the meantime, I have entertained myself by making signs, banners, stickers, decorations and Christmas lights for the city and its businesses.

In response to questions presented to him, he gives insight into his motivation, experience and goals.

1. As you begin this new term as a council member and given that it is a recurring role for, do you feel that what you will bring to the council has changed over the years?

Adam: My first experience on the council was a result of a water rate increase. Going into it I had very little government experience. My main takeaway from that experience was that there are a lot of moving pieces to city government, and none of them move quickly. It took nearly four years of discussion to bring the water rates back down to a manageable level. The water rates were primarily my only concern however as a councilman I was appointed Parks Committee chair, and discovered that I actually enjoy the parks end of government. As a result, I have found myself becoming ever more involved in government. Over the last fourteen or so years I think I have been on, or sat in on meetings for nearly every major city committee or board available. So this time in, I will be bringing far more experience, a much better understanding and clearer view of how the whole city works as well as what it still needs.

Spotlight Page 4



Officer of the Year Officer Jonathan Rausch

On Friday, February 21, 2025, Officer Jonathan Rausch was honored as the 2024 "Officer of the Year" at the Optimist Club of Roseburg's 49th Annual Respect for Law Enforcement Banquet. This prestigious event recognizes law enforcement officers throughout the county for their extraordinary performance and dedication to public service.

Every day, thousands of officers across the country risk their lives and perform exceptional duties. Officer Rausch stood out in 2024 not for a single isolated incident but for a series of remarkable contributions that exemplify the values of our

department. He embodies professionalism, compassion, teamwork, and a strong drive for achievement.

In 2024, Officer Rausch responded to 1,064 calls for service as the primary officer, conducted 143 investigations, made 82 criminal arrests, and conducted 114 traffic stops, maintaining an impressive 92% case clearance rate.

Serving as a Field Training Officer since 2023, Officer Rausch brings over a decade of law enforcement experience. His dedication to mentoring and training new officers is invaluable to our department's growth and success.

I have personally had the privilege of working alongside Officer Rausch for the past six years in Sutherlin and Oakland, as well as within the larger law enforcement community of Douglas County. His calm and professional demeanor, even under life-threatening circumstances, and his passion for training and supporting his fellow officers and the community make him a deserving recipient of this honor.

Congratulations to Officer Rausch on this well-earned recognition as the 2024 Officer of the Year!





THE SUTHERLIN STAMPEDE

BUILDING ON A LEGACY

The Sutherlin Stampede is a venerated event and an integral part of the collective memory for the community. Its legacy not only resonates throughout the area but also transcends the generations determined to preserve the heritage of rodeo and livestock events. Terry Brock, board chairperson, expresses the commitment of the local community members that comprise the new board, as not only having long-standing ties to the community but also sharing the desire to bring the Stampede back to its glory days. "We are starting with a rebuild, from the organization to the rodeo grounds itself. Many of our board members have enjoyed the great history of the Stampede and Sutherlin as a whole. We are made up from a group of passionate, hardworking volunteers with a vision of seeing the Stampede bigger and better than ever. We are again in partnership with the Challenge of Champions tour to bring you the Sutherlin Stampede 2025."



Photo by Rick Murphy

"Join us on July 12, 2025 when we will host a Challenge of Champions Tour bull ride. In addition, we are planning a return of the Sutherlin Stampede Parade to lead off the event the morning of the 12th. The evening festivities will feature a free 'Mutton Bustin' clinic for youngsters to have a hands-on experience, prior to the bull ride. There will also



Photo by Rick Murphy

be a Queen's Court Competition with a crowning of the new queen. All of this will be achieved by the hard work of our board, committee members, including the support of the community that comprise the outstanding businesses and individuals that choose to sponsor the Sutherlin Stampede. We are Sutherlin and we are here to see Sutherlin thrive. We have great aspirations to make the Stampede a legendary event. We are always looking for people that share our passion for our town and making

Sutherlin the host of many great events. If you share this desire and would like to jump on board, please reach out to us via the Sutherlin Stampede Rodeo Association Facebook page."

This event would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses and community members. We are offering sponsorship opportunities to spotlight your brand in front of thousands of attendees. There are limited main sponsorship packages available and our booster sponsor options with unlimited availability to show your support.

Stampede, Page 4

FUTURE EVENTS



BATTLE OF THE BADGES
Respond to the call. Give blood.

Sutherlin Police vs Sutherlin Fire

March 13th, 2025
8am - 1pm

Sutherlin Community Center
150 Willamette St, Sutherlin, OR 97479

Come help us save lives and vote for your favorite first responders!

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

Sutherlin Downtown Development, Inc.

Beautification Project Hanging Baskets

The Sutherlin Downtown Development, Inc. has again ordered 50 hanging, flower baskets. There are two each for the downtown light poles. This project is a great way to help beautify our community. The cost is still \$125.00 each for a locally grown basket and your personal or business name displayed on a colorful banner.

The deadline for ordering a basket and sending your check is by **March 12, 2025**. Please include your name/business for the banner, and your contact number. Checks should be mailed to **SDDI, P.O. Box 461, Sutherlin, Oregon 97479**.

If you have questions or for more information, please contact J. Lindeen Brown, **Beautification** Chairperson, at **541.459.7730**. Thank you for supporting Sutherlin Beautification.

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



STAMPEDE, Page 3 (continued)

If you would like to secure your sponsorship, please respond as soon as possible with your choice of packages. This is a unique opportunity to showcase your business while supporting a cherished community event. We are dedicated to delivering an outstanding experience for our supporters, spectators, guests, and competitors. We hope you will be a part of making the Sutherlin Stampede 2025 our best yet.

Thank you,

Board of Directors, Sutherlin Stampede Association, Inc.

For more information or ways you can get involved please contact Terry Brock at 541.733.5164 or Sponsorship Coordinator, Tom Maddux at 541.419.7669



Spotlight, Page 2 (continued)

2. Do you think that your diverse experience and involvement with the community in different capacities will influence your priorities with the council?

Adam: My priorities for the council this time around have shifted more towards land use and facilities. It is no secret that the Sutherlin Festival Grounds is an underutilized resource that the city has available. With the completion of Ford's Pond, I see the methodology used in that project as a way forward for the local organizations, in partnership with the city and school district to create something truly amazing that the entire city can enjoy long into the future. Sutherlin still has some infrastructure problems, but over the years I have personally observed drastic improvements to water and wastewater facilities, as well as a vast improvement in overall livability in the city. This time I am joining the council, not because of a problem, but because an opportunity exists to do something amazing.

3. What do you see as the council's responsibility in keeping current projects in alignment with the long-term goals for Sutherlin?

Adam: At this point, it is my feeling that the city of Sutherlin should be focusing on two major issues. First, economic development has always been difficult in the city. Sutherlin has been a bedroom community for Roseburg for as long as I have lived here. This will not change until we can entice larger employers here, or at the very least, bring in resources or storefronts that encourage larger companies to want to move here. The proposed workforce housing project is an innovative method that may help towards that end. It also offers an opportunity for housing young professionals or skilled managers/employees that will likely stay in the area. I am interested in participating in and on innovative projects like this, however my main focus is on improving the festival grounds. Ideally, I would like to see a partnership between Blackberry Festival, the Sutherlin Stampede, Sutherlin School District, FFA, 4-H, and any other organizations that would like to participate, creating a group to work towards a festival grounds that will meet the needs of our city events long into the future.

City of Sutherlin
311 E Central Ave
Sutherlin, OR 97479
541-459-2856

Beau Hart
City Recorder/ Executive Assistant
541-459-2856 ext. 208
b.hart@ci.sutherlin.or.us

Articles By:

Nancy Rodriguez
Media & Communications
Coordinator
n.rodriguez@ci.sutherlin.or.us



Upcoming Events

1 March	Coffee with the Mayor Backside Brewing Co. Outpost — 10 am	
	City Council Meeting Civic Auditorium — 7 p.m.	10 March
18 March	Planning Commission Civic Auditorium — 7 p.m.	
	Open House Oak Street Commons Community Center — 7 p.m.	24 March
1 April	Coffee with the Mayor Backside Brewing Co. Outpost — 10 am	
	City Council Meeting Civic Auditorium — 7 p.m.	14 April