

March - April 2023



# Alsea Valley Voice



Story time with Kathy Koetz at the Alsea Community Library

## Alsea Valley Voice

March - April 2023

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## Letter From The Editor

By Kathy Adair

Wow, there is so much to read about in this issue of the Alsea Valley Voice: from school funding, budgets and bonds, to public forums, Town Hall meetings and so much more. There is a lot going on in our corner of the woods and plenty of opportunities to be involved. Your voice matters and your involvement is important. Get your calendar out so you don't miss anything.

One of the things I want to bring to the attention of our Alsea town citizens is an Alsea County Service District article regarding projected work on our town water and sewer system. As I understand it, there is to be opportunity for conversation and input around this increasingly concerning problem.


There is also an ODOT news release on proposed highway improvements. This is an opportunity to hopefully get some of our highway and bridge needs met if we stand strong and get our voices out there. Please respond to their links if you have concerns in this area. This would also be a possible good avenue to discuss the cycling issues on the mountain. While we all understand why cyclists like to climb the hill, the lack of safe bicycle lanes makes it treacherous for cyclists and motorists alike. Of course, when they wear dark clothing or ride side-by-side makes the problem even more frightening.

Our library is sporting new art work by Debi Friedlander. It is truly amazing and worth stopping by. We at ACE are really excited for the line-up of artists and classes we have coming this year.

If you would like to submit an article, please let me know. The next deadline for article submission will be **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. This will be for the May/June issue. If you are an organization or business, think about what is coming up that you would like the community to know about and let's get something in the AVV.

As always, if you have questions or article submissions, please don't hesitate to message me on Facebook Messenger or email me at our new email – [AlseaValleyVoice1@gmail.com](mailto:AlseaValleyVoice1@gmail.com). Don't forget the "1" on the email. You can also still get a hold of me on my personal email.

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## Musings from the ACE President

### **I Was Blown Away.....**

Early last month (March 7, 2023), a large group of fellow Alsea community members got together to celebrate good food and good company at the Hope Grange Hall. It was an opportunity to bring our diverse community together for a town hall meeting and a chance to hear thoughts, hopes, and dreams about the future of our community. It was a chance for voices from the far corners of our valley and from just down the street, both young and old, to be heard and appreciated.

Hosted by Alsea Community Effort (ACE) and moderated by Sara Cash, the Public Information Officer for the Alsea School District (ASD), the after dinner meeting was conducted as a round robin, with all the tables forming a large circle, giving everybody a front row seat to see, hear, and be heard. I felt truly blessed to witness our community members joining together in a genuine effort to help resolve and give voice to some of the issues facing our community. I'm amazed at all the different organizations this small rural community can support: organizations such as the Hope Grange, the Gleaners, the Food Bank, the Booster Club, the Garden Club, even a Quilting and a Sewing Club! We're so lucky to live in such a vibrant town.

If you have a desire to join any of these groups, they are listed on the back cover of this issue. The monthly free dinners are sponsored by the Hope Grange.

Spring is coming. Come join with your neighbors and be blown away.....

Eddy Provost, ACE President

“Personal growth lies within the unknown; courage permits you to explore this space.”

### **Alsea Community Champions - Pledge Form**

I (we) will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ towards the Alsea Library Community Center operations, Maintenance Fund, and/or Alsea Valley Voice newsletter. Please make checks payable to Alsea Community Effort, or A.C.E., and mail donations to 19192 Alsea Hwy, Alsea, OR 97234. You can also drop donations off at the library.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

- I (we) would like my donation to remain anonymous
- Please contact me(us) to set up automatic deduction payments

## ALSEA NEEDS NEW BLOOD

**Literally!** The Alsea Community Blood Drive is held twice a year in November and April—and we desperately need new folks to step up to donate blood. Let me give you some details.


I have been the Alsea Drive Coordinator since the late 1990’s when I worked at the Alsea Clinic. That means I have been recruiting blood donors for over 20 years. I used to know almost everyone in Alsea, and we had a wonderful group of regular donors so it wasn’t a difficult job. However, many of those donors have moved on, or are as old as I am so they may no longer be able to donate because of health issues. Despite increased efforts, it is getting difficult to meet the quota of donor appointments that the Red Cross sets for us each drive.

I know from Facebook and volunteer work at Alsea School that there are MANY new (to me) people in Alsea. A new face means “New Blood”, right? I know you’re out there, but my efforts to reach all of you wonderful Alsea folk are failing and we need your help.

I believe that donating blood is one of the most generous things we can do for our fellow human beings. Likely everyone among us has had contact with a friend or family member who has needed blood in an emergency, a surgery, cancer treatment, or some other medical issue. Giving blood is the best gift ever—better than any Christmas present! Just think about that for a moment.

So folks, it is up to us to continue the tradition. The next Alsea Community Blood Drive is **Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**—as usual in the Alsea School Gym from 1-6 P.M. It is by appointment but now computerized so you can go online to make your own appointment using our zip code at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>, or just American Red Cross. OR you can call me and I will find an appointment time for you: Mary Ann Carr #541-487-7364. We try to SAVE at least 10 appointments from 1-2:30 PM for students as they often need to ride the bus home. New Blood put to best use ever!

### Blood Drive




---

Save your Blood for the

## Alsea Community Blood Drive

**Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-6 pm**

Alsea School Gym  
Make your own appointment at time online at

### American Red Cross

Enter zip code 97324, create an account and reserve your appointment time!



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## Alsea Town Hall Meeting

By Sara Cash

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, 54 people gathered at Alsea Hope Grange for a Town Hall Meeting. The topic was open-ended, with the intention of creating a space where people could speak freely about their topics of interest around our community. People shared about their passions, concerns, and hopes for the future of Alsea and outlying areas. There was a focus on identifying existing resources and strengths, gaps in services, and community actions or projects that could create a more resilient community with a bright future.

The event had a feeling of collaboration and community. A pasta dinner was served free of charge. Attendees ranged in age from Benton County's Baby New Year for 2023 to silver haired elders. Most folks who came live in the outlying areas of Alsea hamlet. Survey responses at the meeting were overwhelmingly positive, so there is the potential for more meetings in the future.

Mr. Crowe's High School Leadership Class attended and helped clean up afterwards. Inspired by the process, some of them were brave enough to speak, asking for more support from the community and school staff during the difficult times at the school.

One of the possible community partnerships that emerged during discussions is a collaboration between the Alsea Valley Gleaners, the Alsea High School Leadership Class, and the Alsea Forestry Program. Community donors can deliver logs to the school, the forestry kids can practice saw work, and the Alsea Valley Gleaners and Alsea High School Leadership Class can deliver firewood to gleaner adoptee households who need wood for heat. This is the type of innovative collaboration that can strengthen our community as we work together to build a bright future.

This event was sponsored by Alsea Community Effort. Many thanks to all who volunteered, attended, and helped make this event a success.

BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER



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Monday 9:00-6:30  
Tuesday 9:00-6:30  
Thursday 7:00-4:00

## A Citizens Public Forum

By Phil Plaza

Yes indeed, there will yet be another meeting in April; the reflection of a very active and encouraging engagement of community volunteers and residents. So mark your calendar!

On April 17, 2023 at 6 pm at the Alsea Hope Grange there will be an opportunity to speak with Benton County Commissioner Xan Augerot and Lincoln County Commissioner Kaety Jacobson.

But let's step back for a moment. Are you familiar with the headline published in the Gazette-Times this last week?

### **“County overturns land use decision, grants Philomath farm housing.”**

“A funny thing happened on the way to the forum.” People spoke up, common sense prevailed and some county regulations were tossed out, to be reviewed and updated. Without public input, things would have just gone on as usual. But Benton County Commissioners listened and then overturned a previous and somewhat arbitrary decision.

And now it is your chance. As residents of Alsea and Lobster Valley, there are issues that need addressing. As a member on Benton County Natural Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee, I heard from some of you about two outstanding needs: 1. What to do about that landslide in Lobster Valley that should be cleared before the next fire season. 2. And even though Yates Road is located in Lincoln County, there needs to be a way to get water from the large water tank in order to fight potential wildfires this summer. I am certain there are other concerns that might be discussed during this coming informal and friendly “Commissioner’s Corner” held at the Grange.

At the last Commissioner’s Corner, Alsea’s voices were heard. Residents did not have to drive into Corvallis and attend a formal meeting with an agenda. Rather we sat around and engaged in polite conversation, having the opportunity to express our concerns out here in the “rural” area of Benton County. And we had attentive ears, as the Commissioners left with fresh insight regarding our needs and concerns.

Your voice does matter. When you speak with representatives who have come to listen, often common sense and change will prevail. Engaged community members and the volunteers who serve our community are making this a better place to raise our families and provide protection and resilience. So come on in, visit with your Commissioners on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April and mark your calendar now.

On another topic, the results of the Hazards Survey have been submitted to the Committee. The risk assessments are now being analyzed. I have spoken with many of our support facilities and made a list of the risks which have also been submitted. Some of these risks are carry overs from previous studies. In the future, there will be opportunities to mitigate these risks through grants and funding. There are some very effective grant writers both out here in the Valley and with Benton County.

At some point the draft of the new plan will be available for community input and review. Much has been done to build resilience in our community. More changes are also in the future. Personally speaking I see a lot of fresh engagement and co-operation in helping to build an even more resilient community. A big shout out to all these volunteers.



## Library Lines

by Kathy Koetz

I can hardly wait for spring to really get here. I changed the winter and snow book display out, hoping that with them off display, the snow would also disappear. I think that it is finally going to happen! Drop in and peruse the book displays of spring flowers and summer gardens. Maybe you will get an idea for something different to plant at your home! We also have books on taking care of your fruit trees and berries.

Alsea Community Library has a new exhibit by artist Debi Lyn Friedlander. So many pretty things to see!

We continue to enjoy having Storytimes with classes from Alsea School. The kids come over, have stories read to them, get to play and color for a while and then check out books to take back to school until the next Storytime. Fun is had by all.

The Library has great Book Club Kits for Kids. We have First Readers for kids reading Early Reader book, Kids Book Club for the next level and Tweens Book Club for grades 4-6. These kits come out every other month and contain a book, discussion questions, activity sheets and a craft. Drop by to get one! Or order one to be brought to you by our Delivery drivers. Watch the Alsea Community Library Facebook page to see when the next one becomes available!

The first Tuesday of each month we are playing with Legos! We have big tables full of Legos as well as snacks for this after school program. Come by, join in and let your imagination soar!

In April we are hosting the Mobile Maker Space again. This time we will be making Solar Bugs, cute little creatures that can move with solar power!

Lego for all ages 3:30-4:30 – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month

Mobile Maker Space – Solar Bugs – April 27<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5





## Alsea Community Effort announces new Art Exhibit opening April 1<sup>st</sup>! AND...Art Workshop coming in June!

This Exhibit and Workshop are part of an ongoing project sponsored by ACE with generous funding from the Benton County Cultural Coalition.

Debi Friedlander will be showing her artwork in an exhibit entitled **“Art in the Rainshadow: Color, Light & Layers”** during the months of April, May and June, right here in Alsea at the Library and Community Room, during regular Library hours.

Debi is currently the president of the Corvallis Art Guild and active member of Philomath Open Studios. Using mixed media, Debi creates art featuring Colored Pencil Photofusion Paintings, Capella Mixed Media paintings, and alcohol ink magnetic scarf jewelry.

In Debi’s words: *“I use digital tools and old school painting techniques to create my unique works of art. I look for ways to expose the inner beauty, delicacy, and vibrance of my subjects. I look for colors in shadows and edges, where I find hidden beauty.”*

Also, Debi will be offering a workshop for participants to create their own piece of “Capella Art.” Debi says this is a technique she uses with musical accompaniment, often in coffee shops and other live music venues. The pieces become layered paintings beginning with ink drawings and watercolor washes. Textural elements and colored pencil are the top layers, working very well for imaginative fantasies and pet portraits.

Debi will have numerous examples of her “Capella Art” included in her Exhibit. Please see Debi’s Art Workshop flyer, located in this edition of the Alsea Valley Voice, for more information about registration!

Debi adds, *“I love the collaborative process of commissioned work. If you’re looking for something special, let’s talk!”*

[debifriedlander.com](http://debifriedlander.com)



Debi with examples of her “Capella Art”

# Alsea County Service District

**ADMINISTRATION:** Benton County Public Works

**DIRECTOR:** Gary Stockhoff **FACILITIES MANAGER:** Paul Wallsinger **OFFICE**

**LOCATION:** Public Works, 360 SW Avery, Corvallis **TELEPHONE:** 541-766-6821

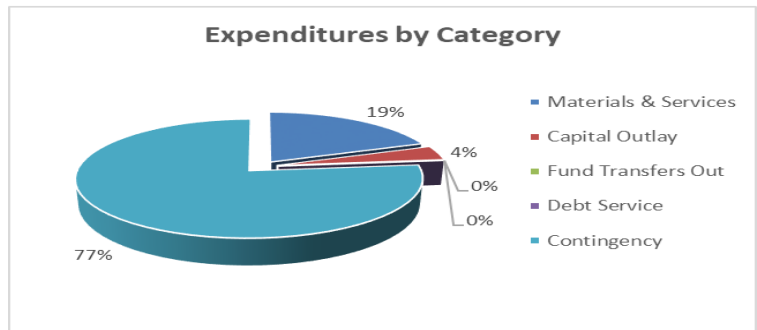
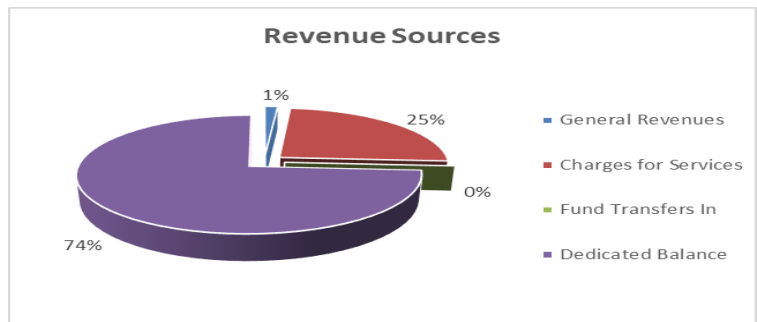
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**DISTRICT OVERVIEW:**

To provide water and sewer service to the community of Alsea which is located approximately 30 miles southwest of Corvallis.

The service district is an independent municipal corporation. The Benton County Board of Commissioners sits as the Governing Body. Benton County Public Works Department manages daily operations, customer billing, and staff support. County Financial Services provides treasury, and financial management services and coordinates the Budget process. The County is reimbursed for these services by district funds.

The district was organized in 1983 to take over the operation of the community water system. Water system improvements and the community sewer system were completed in 1986. Additional water system improvements were completed in 1997. An advisory committee reviews District operations and makes recommendations on issues and rates to the Governing Body.



### Budget Summary – All Cost Centers

Category Title	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Adopted	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Approved Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget
General Revenues	2,247	2,398	1,500	3,500	3,500	-
Charges for Service	64,724	61,410	65,600	62,500	62,500	-
Fund Transfers In	2,355	2,355	2,355	-	-	-
Current Program Income	69,326	66,163	69,455	66,000	66,000	-
Dedicated Beginning Balance	79,079	107,256	158,020	187,953	187,953	-
Beginning Balances	79,079	107,256	158,020	187,953	187,953	-
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>148,405</b>	<b>173,418</b>	<b>227,475</b>	<b>253,953</b>	<b>253,953</b>	<b>-</b>
Materials & Services	36,439	39,004	46,820	49,339	49,339	-
Capital Outlay	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
Other: Fund Transfers Out	2,355	2,355	2,355	-	-	-
Other: Debt Service	2,355	2,355	2,355	-	-	-
Expenditures	41,149	43,714	61,530	59,339	59,339	-
Other: Contingency	-	-	165,945	194,614	194,614	-
Reserves	-	-	165,945	194,614	194,614	-
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>41,149</b>	<b>43,714</b>	<b>227,475</b>	<b>253,953</b>	<b>253,953</b>	<b>-</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) of Fund Resources to Expenditures	107,256	129,704	-	-	-	-

**Continued from Page 10 - Alsea County Service District**

**District Statement**

This is an annual budget. The fiscal year will begin on July 1, 2022, and ends on June 30, 2023.

The budget was built on the assumption of no increase in rates or charges. The District has no personnel. All services and support are provided by County operating departments as discussed above.

The remaining balance of the federal government loan that paid for water system upgrades was paid off and refinanced with a loan from the County General Fund in FY 2016-17. This loan has been paid in full as of June 2022.

The County contracted with Murraysmith to conduct a fiscal and physical analysis of all the County Service Districts. The physical assessment of each District was completed in late 2020, and the final report became available in May 2021.

The County has subsequently contracted with Murraysmith to prepare construction plans to address the infrastructure work identified in the physical assessment. **The work is being funded with American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The construction of the proposed improvements for Alsea is anticipated to begin in early 2023.**

**Water Operations**

Category Title	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Adopted	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Approved Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget
General Revenues	2,247	2,358	1,500	3,500	3,500	
Charges for Services	27,807	26,670	31,000	30,000	30,000	
Dedicated Beginning Balance	22,560	35,301	60,000	79,787	79,787	
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>52,613</b>	<b>64,329</b>	<b>92,500</b>	<b>113,287</b>	<b>113,287</b>	<b>-</b>
Materials and Services	17,313	18,009	21,313	21,839	21,839	
Other: Contingency	-	-	71,187	91,448	91,448	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>17,313</b>	<b>18,009</b>	<b>92,500</b>	<b>113,287</b>	<b>113,287</b>	<b>-</b>

**Mission & Purpose:**

To provide operation and maintenance of a water system in the community of Alsea, serving approximately 68 residential and 14 commercial customers. Operate a successful and efficient system within the requirements of the Oregon Water Resource Division

**Sewer Operations**

Category Title	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Adopted	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Approved Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget
General Revenues	-	40	-	-	-	
Charges for Services	28,213	26,527	28,000	26,000	26,000	
Dedicated Beginning Balance	3,485	12,364	34,000	46,259	46,259	
<b>Total Resources</b>	<b>31,698</b>	<b>38,930</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>72,259</b>	<b>72,259</b>	<b>-</b>
Materials and Services	19,334	16,760	20,019	22,000	22,000	
Other: Contingency	-	-	41,981	50,259	50,259	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>19,334</b>	<b>16,760</b>	<b>62,000</b>	<b>72,259</b>	<b>72,259</b>	<b>-</b>

Continued on Page 12

## Continued from Page 11 - Alsea County Service District

### Mission & Purpose:

To operate and maintain a sewer collection and treatment system for the community of Alsea servicing approximately 66 residential and 14 commercial customers. Operate the system in a cost-effective and efficient manner in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality permit requirements.

#### Water Construction Reserve

Category Title	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Adopted	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Approved Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget
Charges for Services	4,168	4,101	4,600	4,500	4,500	
Dedicated Beginning Balance	25,301	27,026	26,000	27,740	27,740	
Total Resources	29,469	31,127	30,600	32,240	32,240	-
Materials and Services	89	2,170	2,790	2,800	2,800	
Capital Outlay	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	
Other: Fund Transfers Out	2,355	2,355	2,355	-	-	
Other: Contingency	-	-	25,455	24,440	24,440	
Total Expenditures	2,444	4,525	30,600	32,240	32,240	-
Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Mission & Purpose:

To provide for the accumulation of revenue dedicated to future system replacement, improvements, and emergency repairs. Fund one-time major maintenance and repairs that are too expensive to fund out of the standard operating budget.

#### Sewer Construction Reserve

Category Title	2019-20 Actual	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Adopted	2022-23 Proposed Budget	2022-23 Approved Budget	2022-23 Adopted Budget
Charges for Services	4,536	4,112	2,000	2,000	2,000	
Dedicated Beginning Balance	27,713	32,546	38,000	34,167	34,167	
Total Resources	32,249	36,658	40,000	36,167	36,167	-
Materials and Services	(296)	2,065	2,698	2,700	2,700	
Capital Outlay	-	-	10,000	5,000	5,000	
Other: Contingency	-	-	27,302	28,467	28,467	
Total Expenditures	(296)	2,065	40,000	36,167	36,167	-
Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Temporary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Mission & Purpose:

To provide for the accumulation of revenue dedicated to future system replacement, improvements, and emergency repairs. Fund one-time major maintenance and repairs that are too expensive to fund out of the standard operating budget.

## Storing Water for Emergency Use

By Pam Wilson  
Benton County CERT

I'm intrigued by videos of people digging holes, covering them with a tarp, adding a rock for weight and collecting water as it drips down the underside of the tarp into a cup. I have never done this and will try this summer just to see how much water I don't collect! Let's look at what goes into storing water for emergency use. Many have emergency water storage ready but a thought posed here might supply you with information you had not considered or want to explore further.

Standard recommendation for emergency water storage is one gallon per day per person and pets. For our household of six, that comes to 84 gallons for a 2 week period. This is personal use water (drinking, cooking and minimum hygiene) - not for the garden, bathing, flushing toilets or feeding chickens, cows and pigs. With two dogs, we need another 28 gallons - that comes to a whooping 112 gallons! If you use wipes for cleaning, it reduces slightly the need to use water for hygiene.

**How do we store it?** Not in gallon milk jugs! They are difficult to seal tightly and the plastic becomes brittle and fragile over time. Two-liter bottles may stack easily, but that's a lot to store (and a lot of soda to drink first). 5 and 7 gallon containers (BiMart, Home Depot, Coastal & Wilco) - less containers to store and sit easily on the floor or outside. 30 and 55 gallon water drums store a lot of water. I have 10 - 33 gallon containers in my greenhouse - they supply ambient heating in the cool months leading up to gardening. Each August when we experience water shortage, I use this water in the garden, then refill them when the rains start. Some people have rainwater harvest tanks which is a great way to use rain from March! Larger containers take pumps of some kind. I use a hand pump, but the plastic tubes disintegrate. The rubber hose off my CPAP machine replaced the plastic hose, lasts longer and works just fine! Can't just tip these over and empty the water into a bucket!

No matter what you do, **prepare your storage containers properly**. Clean and disinfect with a weak solution of plain, non-scented liquid chlorine bleach (8-10 drops in 2 cups of water), empty the solution, rinse and fill your storage containers right to the top. Label "drinking water" and date. Think about where you are going to store the water before you select containers. Fill as close to your storage site as possible. A gallon of water weighs 8.34#, so a 7 gallon water container weighs a tad over 58#. For that, I will need a hand truck; even lifting it into a wheelbarrow is problematic! So much for thinking I'll just walk to the creek, shinny down the steep bank, fill a container and carry it a ¼ mile home 😞

**Where else can you find water around your home?** If you still have a water bed, there's a great source. If you knew something was coming and had a warning, you could fill your bathtub. Toilet tanks (if you don't put bowl cleaners in them) are another source of emergency water. Do you use a water filter in your house for drinking water? Keep it filled and filtered. A colleague in Benton County CERT swears your water heater is a great source of emergency water; they have 40-80 gallons of drinkable water in them. I bet there's a YouTube video on it!

If you have purchased water for emergency use, check to see how long it is good for and keep it in its original containers. You should be able to use it directly from the bottle. Commercially sealed water is good for up to two years, some are labeled for longer storage. Anything we store in containers from our taps-from our wells- will need purification before use.

Next week, I'd like to share with you the purification and disinfection of stored water prior to use and try to wade through the myriad of suggestions out there, so we can choose the one(s) that work for us. This will include a discussion of water filters! And, if there is time (or interest) maybe we should cover ( in a 3<sup>rd</sup> article) how to set up an emergency septic system since those in place are nonfunctional if we are not running water through our homes.

## A Call for Action: School Funding

By Sara Cash

Alsea School and its students need your help! Please contact our local representatives in Salem to advocate for more school funding for Oregon's schools.

Alsea School receives the bulk of its funding from the Oregon Department of Education. The proposed statewide education budget under consideration does not even have enough money to maintain the current level of services. This means Alsea School would receive even less funding per student next year.

Please contact Alsea representatives in Salem. They have reached out to the Alsea community to ask what they can do to support our community. Please tell them that an increase rather than a decrease in school funding is essential, especially for small rural schools like Alsea.

The more of us who actively speak up, the more we will be heard. For more information on this issue or how to get more involved, please visit the Oregon 1A School Funding Advocacy Facebook page. Or contact Sara Cash at [blossomingdeep@outlook.com](mailto:blossomingdeep@outlook.com). Please note that I am undertaking this project and submitting this article as personal action, not as a representative of the Alsea School District.

Oregon State Dick Anderson District 5

Phone: 503-986-1705

Email: [Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Sen.DickAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov)

Website: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/anderson>

[Matt Friesen, Chief of Staff](#)

Oregon State Representative David Gomberg District 10

Phone: 503-986-1410

Email: [Rep.DavidGomberg@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.DavidGomberg@oregonlegislature.gov)

Website: <http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/Gomberg>

Luke Harkins, Chief of Staff

To find out how to attend, listen to, or submit statements to hearing at your state legislature, visit <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/>

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## Protect People. Change Lives.

Contributed by Commissioner Xan Augerot

The Board of Commissioners sponsored a 2018 assessment that looked at all aspects of the justice system from first encounter with law enforcement to court, jail and release back to the community. We learned that our system had adapted to cope with the smallest jail per capita of any Oregon County. Officers cite many people in the field and never book them and deputies are forced to release others from jail early. The space squeeze also eliminated any mental health, substance use or other educational programming from the jail. We chose a solution that increases preventative treatment and increases accountability for crimes committed.

Phase 1 includes a Mental Health Crisis Center (Corvallis) and a new Courthouse with District Attorney's Office, funded by county, state, and federal dollars.

Phase 2 is on the ballot on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We chose to locate all community safety facilities on a single site with the new Courthouse (north of downtown Corvallis) to minimize operational costs. The \$110 million bond measure will:

- Co-locate the Sheriff's Office with the jail to provide operational efficiency and staffing back-up for both Patrol and Corrections.
- Provide up to 120 beds in a jail with spaces to handle the needs of adults in custody, with mental health, wellness, and educational support.
- Expand Children & Families Mental Health services to provide crisis and routine care to children and youth – investing up front in healthy families.
- Co-fund a homelessness navigation center in Corvallis, creating a one-stop resource center providing vital services and shelter to unhoused community members.
- Provide an Emergency Operations Center with essential communications tech and meeting space to serve all county residents in the event of wildfire, floods, quakes & other emergencies, as well as for regular training needs.

With this investment, we will be able to hold offenders accountable for their offenses locally, rather than transporting them to Dallas or The Dalles. We will have more room, so law enforcement no longer has to cite people in the field and cross fingers that they will appear in court for their hearings. And we will help people with mental health and housing needs up front, so they are less likely to become involved in our legal system. For more info, visit [bentoncountyjustice.org](http://bentoncountyjustice.org) or [voteYESon2-140.com](http://voteYESon2-140.com).



## A Little Garden News

By Mystie Munsey, AGC Treasurer

The Alsea Garden Club is gearing up for our Spring Plant Sale Saturday, May 13th from 10AM to 2PM! We will have veggie starts & flowers, baked goods and free coffee. Come out and join us in Clark Park the day before Mother's Day and pick up something fun & GREEN!

In other AGC news, with our ongoing Memorial Garden sprucing, passersby will notice beautiful new pops of color this spring when the flowers of 2 NEW DOGWOOD trees planted last weekend start to blossom!

## ASD Budget Planning Process

By Sara Cash

### Opportunities to Participate in the Alsea School District Budget Planning Process for 2023-24

The public is encouraged to participate in the budget planning process for the 2023-23 school year. You can view the Budget Planning Calendar here

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Agenda/2548?meeting=567474>

All meetings are open to the public. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, a copy of the budget will be available on the school website. You can also request a bound copy to pick up at the District Office. However, there is no discussion or comment on the proposed budget until the initial budget meeting, which will take place April 25 at 6 pm in the school library. A budget training will take place that same evening at 5 pm in the library. Both of these meetings are great opportunities for the public to bring questions and comments.

There will be a second budget committee meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm in the library, with two additional meetings if more discussion is needed on May 9<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>. On June 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a public hearing at 6 pm before the Regular Board Meeting at 7 pm; both of these meetings are another great place for public comment and questions.

The Alsea School Board will need to adopt the approved budget at the June board meeting in order for the final budget to be submitted to the Oregon Department of Education by the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>.



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## Alsea Bond Project Update

By Sara Cash

In case you've missed the chatter lately, the Alsea School District has contracted with the local project management firm, Integrity Management Solutions (IMS), to manage the Alsea Bond Project (ABP). IMS has been diving into plans, talking with District leaders, working with the design and construction team, county and state, and generally asking questions regarding the status of the project. Their recent reports to the Bond Oversight Committee and the Alsea School Board (ASB) show the tremendous amount of progress their involvement has facilitated.

You can find reports, budget updates, work schedules, and related documents on the school website under BoardBooks at <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2548>. The agendas to the February 9<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> regular board meetings are loaded with links to informative documentation on the ABP provided by IMS.

The work packages for the Electrical Upgrades and the Panel Room have been approved by the ASB and will be submitted to the County for permitting. The HVAC Upgrade Gross Maximum Price (GMP) amendment has been received and has been approved by the ASB. However the equipment will not be operational until next summer, when the electrical upgrade is completed. VOC Building design is complete and permitted but is over budget. In addition, the VOC and other staff do not feel that the current design plan meets their needs. Meetings are currently being held with staff to create the optimal design for the proposed VOC.

Chris Giggy of IMS reiterated at the March board meeting that the public needs to remember that the work being done at the school over the next few months will be "invisible", such as HVAC and electrical work. We expect work for the Electrical Upgrade and Panel Room projects to begin the week of March 13, 2023. However, the final equipment for the Electrical Upgrade has a lead-time of about 1 year, so work won't be completed until summer 2024. All work is scheduled to be completed by the end of summer 2024 and within the time limits of the grants received by the district to fund the ABP. The 23/24 school calendar is currently being developed, with classes scheduled to begin the last week of August to provide the maximum amount of time for construction work to be completed.

As part of this redirected effort on the ABP, the Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) is seeking to rebuild its ranks. If you are interested in knowing more about the BOC's roles and responsibilities, or want to apply to be a part of it, you are invited to email the Interim Superintendent, at [sean.gallagher@alsea.k12.or.us](mailto:sean.gallagher@alsea.k12.or.us). All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Alsea School Board. If you have questions about this article, please contact the Public Information Officer for Alsea School District at [sara.cash@alsea.k12.or.us](mailto:sara.cash@alsea.k12.or.us)



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### BOC Seeking Members

By Sara Cash

The Public is Invited to Join the Alsea Bond Project Bond Oversight Committee.

The Alsea Bond Project Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) is seeking to rebuild its ranks. The BOC is an independent, community-based advisory committee comprised of community members who have an interest in working with the team to ensure that the results of the bond program align with promises made to the community. Going forward, the BOC will

- Meet as needed to review progress with the program management team, typically once a month. Project management services is currently contracted with Integrated Management Solutions, owned by Alsea residents Chris and Nancy Giggy.
- Ensure bond revenues are used only for the purposes consistent with the voter-approved bond measure and consistent with state law.
- Serve as the key communicator of information related to the bond with the community.

A BOC is typically comprised of local business members, individuals who are part of the taxed population, parents of current students, and a liaison from the School Board. Meetings are expected to be held once a month in the school library with an internet call-in option.

If you are interested in knowing more about the BOC’s roles and responsibilities, or want to apply to be a part of it, you are invited to email the Interim Superintendent, at [sean.gallagher@alsea.k12.or.us](mailto:sean.gallagher@alsea.k12.or.us). All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Alsea School Board.



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## Early spring is the perfect time to prepare your home and yard for wildfire season

Kayla Bordelon, Ph.D. (she/her)

Regional Fire Specialist, Willamette Valley & North Cascades

Assistant Professor (Practice), Forestry & Natural Resources Extension Fire Program, Oregon State University

Adapted from: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9184.pdf>

As the first signs of spring pop up in the Willamette Valley, it's a great time to start thinking ahead to wildfire season and take care of the annual maintenance tasks that will help to keep your home and property protected. Although it might sound strange, your house and outbuildings are sources of fuel for a fire, just like trees and other flammable vegetation. To **help your home survive a wildfire**, you can create and maintain "defensible space" between your home and its surroundings. Defensible space can break up fire's path from wildland vegetation to your home and give firefighters an opportunity to safely defend your home and other structures from a wildfire.

There are **3 zones of defensible space**, as shown in the image on this page. In this article, I'll identify the 3 zones and share some annual maintenance tips that can be done in the early spring to improve your defensible space.

**Zone 1** is the immediate 0-5 feet around your house or outbuildings, which should be free of all combustible material. This area needs to have a very low potential for ignition from flying embers. Use gravel, rock mulches, or hard surfaces such as brick and pavers. If you heat your home with wood in the winter, spring is the time to move your remaining woodpile away from the house (and consider keeping your woodpile at least 30' from all structures). Replace wood mulches around the base of your home with non-combustible alternatives.

The intermediate zone (**Zone 2**) is the 5-30 feet from your structures, which should be "lean, clean, and green." Lean means that vegetation, like shrubs and bushes, is present at a low density. Clean means there is no accumulation of dead vegetation or flammable debris within this area. Green means that plants are kept healthy, green, and sufficiently watered from now through fire season.

**Zone 3** extends from 30 feet to at least 100 feet, and up to 200 feet on steeper slopes with thicker vegetation. This zone often includes maintained yards and naturally occurring vegetation such as conifer and hardwood trees, brush, weeds, and grass. In this zone, dead fine vegetation like dead shrubs and accumulations of woody debris and leaves should be removed annually. Also, to reduce the chance of fire spreading from tree top to tree top, create space (10 feet or more) between individual trees, or clusters of trees, through thinning and pruning. To help keep ground fires from climbing into the canopy, remove "ladder fuels" such as shrubs under trees and low hanging tree branches. Remove branches up to 10 feet above the ground in mature trees and up to 1/3 of the canopy in smaller trees.

Note that fall and winter are the best times to prune conifer trees; hardwoods are best pruned in spring.

Finally, a properly maintained driveway is for providing a safe access and escape route for your home. If firefighters can't see a safe path down your driveway, they may not enter. Check your driveway each winter for encroaching brush or overhanging tree limbs. Strive for at least 13.5 feet of vertical clearance and trim brush back 10 feet or more from the edge of the driveway. Make sure your address signs can be seen so emergency responders can find you.

While it may feel far away, wildfire season will be upon us soon. Let's all do our part to keep wildfires from having negative consequences in our communities by taking care of the annual maintenance tasks that we can do right now in order to prepare ourselves. If you are interested in additional information and resources related to fire preparedness, check out the OSU Extension Fire Program's webinar series on the topic, found here:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program/online-webinar-guide>.



## Gardener's Corner


By Kathy Adair

We definitely had a very odd spring, summer and fall, this last year. Our growing season was decidedly shorter, which made it more difficult for our gardens to keep up. Depending on your individual micro-climate, the shortened season had significant impact on your overall harvest success. For us personally, our harvest was also hindered by the insanely busy schedule we had this last summer with our eldest daughter purchasing her first home. Since we were helping her, we were making numerous trips to Portland and Albany each week and just couldn't keep up with the weeding. So, we had an absolutely amazing crop of weeds that were lush and happy.

Over the summer and fall, I heard from many of our customers telling me how their gardens were doing. There were certainly some things that didn't do well, but there was a lot that did amazing. Tomatoes and peppers were, for the most part, abundant. I chuckled at the number of tomato and pepper posts on Facebook pleading with folks to please take their excess. Many of our other plants did well, too. Things like our corn and cucumbers might have been more successful had the weeds not totally taken over. As with any gardener, we live in hope that next season will be much better and we will do a better job of maintaining the beds.

I have been earnestly reading and following the weather reports, especially the long-range forecasts. So far, the winter predictions of cold and wetter has been correct, which is par for a La Niña winter. The bulk of the forecasters are saying we could be looking for things to change back to what NOAA refers to as an equalizing of the weather that is between a La Niña and an El Niño weather pattern, which means drier conditions that are more "normal. This equates to a hopefully much better growing season and harvest. Fingers and toes crossed. All of this to say, we are at the mercy of the weather and we can only do what we can to get a good harvest. Our region has definitely needed and benefitted from the wetter weather, especially our forests, but I'm ready for a better growing season and harvest.

Look to us opening in mid-April with cold crops!



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## Public encouraged to comment on ODOT's proposed list of improvements to Oregon's transportation system

March 13, 2023

For more information, contact Kevin Glenn ([Kevin.Glenn@odot.oregon.gov](mailto:Kevin.Glenn@odot.oregon.gov)), 503-910-5965.

SALEM --On Thursday, the Oregon Transportation Commission released the draft 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), ODOT's capital improvement plan, for formal public review. The draft list prioritizes accessibility; helping people safely walk, bike and take public transit; and system preservation.

Every three years, the commission puts together the STIP that lays out where we will invest federal and state money in the transportation system - everything from bike paths and sidewalks to roads and bridges to public transportation.

The STIP will fund projects in 2024-2027. The commission started developing the STIP in 2020 by deciding how to allocate state and federal funding among different areas with input from our partners and the public.

With that guidance, along with input from a wide variety of participants including cities, counties, many other partners and the public, we developed the STIP. We've spent the last two years selecting the most critical projects and now have a draft list of proposed investments to present for public comment.

### This draft STIP includes:

- A major investment in repairing and replacing deteriorating bridges.
- A significant increase for public and active transportation to help people get around.
- Increased funding for projects that improve safety on state highways and local roads.
- More money for local governments to invest in their priorities.
- A major investment in ADA curb ramps to help people with disabilities get around safely.

We want to hear from you. In particular, we want your feedback on two primary issues:

- Which of the proposed projects do you support, and which projects do you have concerns about?
- Would any of the proposed projects have possible impacts that we should work to address?

### How to provide public comment

This is your chance to see which project's ODOT has chosen to invest money in on the transportation system, including everything from public transportation projects to new bike paths, sidewalks, repaved roads and bridge maintenance.

You can provide comment on the projects in the STIP in a variety of ways.

1. Visit our [online open house at Oregon Draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program](#). It will be open from March 9 to April 28.
2. Attend one of our in-person public comment sessions. See the [STIP website](#) for details.
3. Attend one of our virtual public comment sessions, either April 6, from 6-7 p.m. or on April 13, from 2-3 p.m. [Check out the STIP website for details](#).
4. Send us an email at [ODOT.STIP@odot.oregon.gov](mailto:ODOT.STIP@odot.oregon.gov).

Public comment will close on April 28. We will use comments as we consider adjusting the projects in the STIP and as we begin designing projects. All comments will be included in the public comment record that goes to the commission before they approve the final STIP in July.

To [learn more about the STIP, visit our website](#). To stay up to date on all things STIP, [sign up for email updates](#).



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Good Seeds Were Sown

By Terry Lunsford

Looking back now I see some of the signs  
 The people, the places, wish I could roll back time.  
 You hold his life in your heart from conception  
 And hope and pray he grows to be the exception

You do the best you can to teach what counts  
 And try to protect when trouble mounts  
 You want to keep him safe and sound  
 But the world out there is on unsteady ground

And in the end it may not be enough  
 Knowing you have to let go and be tough  
 To watch and keep hoping time and again  
 That what you instilled will come out in the end

When all seems lost as things start to crumble  
 And the pieces of your heart can fit in a thimble.  
 With the fear of knowing his future has been cast  
 You hope that he might be freed from his past

After the long dark drive you see the wall and tower  
 Tears and fears leave you weak with no power  
 At first it hits you like a train with no brakes  
 Especially when you hear that steel clank

With uncertainty and strong emotion  
 You finally see his smile and endless devotion  
 My arms wrap around him as I hear  
 "Mom, I love you so much", through my tears

So much pours out over the short two hours  
 But within these walls this time is ours  
 He speaks of remorse for his choices  
 And looks at this second chance and rejoices

For if not for this life changing event  
 Happiness for him his world would prevent  
 With this time of reflection his spirit lifts  
 He now realizes his family is his greatest gift

As we cling hard to each other and kiss goodbye  
 I smile at him and try so very hard not to cry  
 I look back one more time with my eyes fighting tears  
 To see that good seeds were sown in those early years

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Debi Friedlander

debi@friedlander2.com  
541-745-8908

# REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

EVENT/NAME	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	PHONE NUMBER
Alsea Community Effort Board Meeting	Online - Zoom	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs Monthly	6:30pm	541-487-5061
Alsea Fire Dept. Board Meeting	Alsea Fire Hall	Last Tues Monthly	7:00pm	541-487-8701
Alsea Fire Dept. General Meeting		Wednesdays	7:00pm	
Alsea 4-H Small Animal Club		1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs Monthly	6:00pm	541-207-6552
Alsea Wolverine's Booster Club				503-740-9639
Alsea Food Bank	Jeni's Place	Thursdays	10:00am-6:00pm	541-487-3663
Alsea Garden Club	TBA	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat Monthly	1:00pm	541-487-5191
Men's Bible Study	ACF Church	1 <sup>st</sup> Sat Monthly	8:00am	541-487-4442
Alsea HOPE Grange	Grange Hall	1 <sup>st</sup> Thurs Monthly	6:00pm	541-486-4215
Line Dance Class		Mondays	6:00pm	541-452-1919
Alsea School Board Meeting	School Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs Monthly	7:00pm	541-487-4305
Alsea Valley Gleaners Distribution	18889 Haines Rd	Fridays	2:00pm-7:00pm	503-951-2499
Stitch and Rip Quilting Club	Various (please call)	Mondays	10:00am-3:00pm	541-487-8011

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