



# CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

March 2026



## Fourth of July Celebration

Lincoln City will be hosting three different events this Fourth of July to help celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America



The Lincoln City Parks & Recreation will be hosting: **Vets', Pets and Pies**. This event will be held at the Community Center from 10 am - 12 noon. Enter your best pie for judging, join the pie eating contest and walk your pet in

the pet parade! Best pies and pets will receive a prize, Veterans receive free entry to the Community Center all day and a special gift from LCP&R.



Join Explore Lincoln City in Taft for **Stars and Strips and Wildlife**, a celebration of Independence Day and the natural wonders of Siletz Bay. Live music, food trucks, eco-activities, fun swag and more from noon to 5 pm near the Taft Pavilion.



To cap off the night, the City will be hosting a **fireworks show over Devils Lake**. The launch site will be near Regatta Park, with the anticipation that the show will be visible from many different locations around Lincoln City.

On July 5th, there will be a Beach and Community clean-up to help pick-up the trash and debris left over from the Fourth of July.

There will be more information about these events as the holiday draws closer.

## Explore Lincoln City

**Welcome Center on the Rise:** The Lincoln City Welcome Center at D River State Recreation Site is moving forward with approval from City Council in late February for the ground lease and the construction cost. The Planning Dept. has approved all required permits for the Welcome Center and they are ready to be issued. The design build team has been hard at work on plans for this exciting project. Groundbreaking is slated for this spring with an expected ten-months build time. Stay up to date at [www.connectlincolncity.org/lincoln-city-welcome-center](http://www.connectlincolncity.org/lincoln-city-welcome-center)



**Protecting Our Night Skies:** Did you know that adapting your outdoor lighting to be dark sky friendly can lower energy costs, protect our environment, contribute to human health, encourage tourism, and make for happier neighbors? The DarkSky International five principals for responsible outdoor lighting - Useful, Targeted, Low-Level, Controlled, and Warm-Colored- minimize light pollution, reduces glare, and save energy. For more information see [www.explorelincolncity.com/things-to-do/beach-water/beach/safety/darkskies-astrotourism](http://www.explorelincolncity.com/things-to-do/beach-water/beach/safety/darkskies-astrotourism)

**Celebrate the 45th Parallel:** Join Explore Lincoln City and Chinook Winds Casino Resort on April 4 from 2-5 PM near the NW 44th Street beach access onsite at Chinook Winds Casino Resort, celebrating new signage marking the 45th Parallel's path through Lincoln City. Enjoy a ribbon cutting, giveaways, and photo ops at this unique landmark-highlighting the halfway point between the Equator and the North Pole, right where it meets the Pacific. See [www.explorelincolncity.com/45th-parallel/](http://www.explorelincolncity.com/45th-parallel/)



## Mayor Wahlke



Spring will be here soon and that means spring vacation! Spring break for Lincoln county schools is March 23-27 this year. We also host spring breakers from other areas for several other weeks in March and April. Please drive defensively and with patience. Our visitors are having fun and not always paying attention to traffic.

During our two council meetings in February, we heard presentations about Connect Lincoln City, Helping Hands, and North Lincoln Sanitary. We approved plans for the 4th of July fireworks over the lake this year, and Council goals for the upcoming year. In addition, we approved the D River ground lease and Lincoln City Welcome Center construction funding. We also passed a resolution recognizing "public concerns regarding federal immigration enforcement activities" and affirming that the City values "the inherent dignity, safety, contributions, and protected rights of all people" and "commitment to community safety, inclusion and public trust". In addition to our two regular meetings, we had a work session about utility financing.

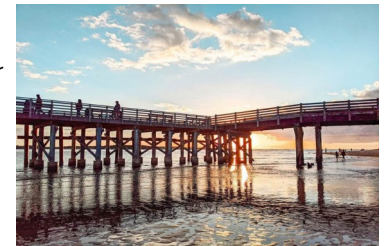
I want to thank everyone who attends our meetings and gives us public comment. In addition, if you have questions for staff, please go to [www.connectlincolncity.org](http://www.connectlincolncity.org) where you can find information about projects our City is working on, and get answers to your questions.

I maintain an office at City Hall with normal office hours of noon to 4 on Tuesdays and 2 to 5 on Thursdays, or by appointment. Call me at 541-996-1205 or send me an email: [swahlke@lincolncity.org](mailto:swahlke@lincolncity.org) You can also stop me when you see me around town.

## Connect Lincoln City

[www.connectlincolncity.org](http://www.connectlincolncity.org)

Welcome to Lincoln city's online engagement and connection platform! We know better decisions are made when our community provides input, and we want to make that easy. Contribute your ideas and take the opportunity to influence decision-making on local issues and projects that matter to you.



You will want to go to [www.connectlincolncity.org](http://www.connectlincolncity.org) and register to join our online community. We're excited to hear from you.

## Subscribe to the E-Newsletter

**SUBSCRIBE TO THE CITY COUNCIL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER**

Email: [kmattias@lincolncity.org](mailto:kmattias@lincolncity.org) and tell us you want to be added to the email list to receive monthly updates and announcements from the City.

## Community Meeting

**ENGAGE Lincoln City -- Join Us!**  
**Community Workshop**  
 Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 6 to 8 pm  
 Lincoln City Cultural Center

City staff and members of the Ad hoc committee are ready to present the First Draft of the **Community Engagement Plan**. Come and share your thoughts about the proposed Values, Goals, and Objectives aimed at improving our communication, becoming better listeners, and providing more opportunities to work together. Spanish language interpreters will be available.

We hope to see you there - every voice matters!



## Upcoming Public Meetings

**Monday, March 9 at 6:00 pm**  
[City Council - Regular Meeting](#)

**Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00pm**  
[ENGAGE Lincoln City Ad Hoc Committee](#)

**Wednesday, March 11 at 4:00 pm**  
 Public Arts Committee - **Cancelled**

**Tuesday, March 17 at 6:00 pm**  
[Planning Commission - Regular Meeting](#)

**Wednesday, March 18 at 2:30 pm**  
[Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Regular Meeting](#)

**Monday, March 23 at 6:00 pm**  
[City Council - Regular Meeting](#)

**Wednesday, April 1 at 3:30 pm**  
[Driftwood Public Library Board - Regular Meeting](#)

**Monday, April 6 at 5:00 pm**  
[Budget Committee - Training](#)

**Tuesday, April 7 at 6:00 pm**  
[Planning Commission - Regular Meeting](#)

**Monday, April 13 at 6:00 pm**  
[City Council - Regular Meeting](#)

## Parks & Recreation



**Spring Propagation Fair, Sat. March 28, 10 am at the Community Center.**



Bring starts, clippings and seeds to share with the community. Trade gardening secrets with neighbors and learn from experts. Tillamook estuaries Partnership and LCP&R will provide plants and more!

### Recreation:

- Spring/Summer registration kicked off with Spring Soccer and Swim Lessons filling up quickly. Assisted registration from Feb. 24 - 27 allowed many English as a second language and patrons with disabilities to register early with assistance.
- Valentines Day essay contest was a hit! Many youth received prizes and accolades for sharing who their favorite Valentine was, from a pet to a sibling to a football team.

### Parks:

- Cleared graffiti throughout town
- Repaired entrance at Neisika Park
- Repaired safety concern at SW 51st gazebo
- Replaced damaged swing at Schooner Creek Discovery Park
- Started preparing Kirtsis Park for the upcoming baseball/softball season by pressure washing all of the park - snack shack, bleachers, dugouts, and restrooms
- Repaired Regatta Park irrigation issue



## Police

### Traffic Safety Reminders for March - IT'S LIKE A ZIPPER

Merging is one of the most common-and most frustrating- interactions drivers face on Oregon roads. While the state's law is straightforward, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) continues to educate drivers about the most efficient and safest technique: **the zipper merge**.

#### What is the Zipper Merge?

The zipper merge - strongly encouraged by ODOT-is a method where drivers **use both lanes fully** up to the merge point, then take turns entering the through lane one-by-one, much like the interlocking teeth of a zipper. ODOT notes that when drivers stay in their lane until the merge point and alternate politely, traffic moves more smoothly and crash risk goes down.

This approach prevents the long, inefficient single- file lines that often form when drivers merge early and leave large gaps in the open lane.

While some drivers view merging late as "cheating", ODOT stresses that zipper merging is **not rude-it's efficient**, as long as drivers take turns calmly and safely.

#### Putting It All Together

Oregon law sets the requirement: **merging drivers must yield**. The zipper merge provides the **best way to do it**, especially in slow or congested traffic. By using lane space fully and taking turns at the merge point, Oregon drivers can help reduce backups, prevent crashes, and keep traffic flowing smoothly.

