



CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

1st Quarter 2026



Public Works

Where Does our Water come from?

Lincoln City's drinking water comes from Schooner Creek.

The Schooner Creek watershed is mainly forestland with a few rural homes. A watershed is an area of land where all rainfall drains to a stream, lake, or other body of water. Areas of higher elevation, such as ridgelines along mountains, separate watersheds.



Most of the Schooner Creek watershed above the City's water intake is publicly owned, with 67 percent owned by the US Forest Service. Lincoln City owns a parcel of land just downstream where the North Fork and South Fork flow together to become Schooner Creek. The remaining land is owned by private timber companies or rural residents.

Schooner Creek watershed provides all the water used in Lincoln City for homes, businesses, parks, restaurants, recreation, and more. That's why it's important for everyone to work together to protect the watershed that provides our water.

Mayor Wahlke

Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing what 2026 brings to Lincoln City! At this time, I am looking forward to the Town Hall scheduled for January 13th. I hope to hear from many of you about what you want for the 4th of July celebration in Lincoln City this year.



It is important at this time of year that winter shelters are available, and a location is available in Lincoln City. If you need assistance, please call 541-270-1005 to learn how to access the shelter. It is my hope that we have no weather-related deaths this winter. I want to thank Lincoln County staff for all their work.

During our final council meeting of 2025, on December 8th, we adopted the fee schedule effective January 1st, and made appointments to many boards and committees. I want to thank all of our volunteers who stepped up to help make things happen in our city.

I maintain an office at City Hall with normal office hours of noon to 4 pm on Tuesdays and 2 pm to 5 pm on Thursdays, or by appointment. Call me at 541-996-1205 or send me an email at swahlke@lincolncity.org. You can also stop me when you see me around town. I am always willing to listen to your concerns and hopefully together we can find solutions. I am also happy to hear what you like about what is happening in Lincoln City.

Explore Lincoln City

The 45th Parallel Runs Through It: A partnership between Explore Lincoln City and Chinook Winds Casino Resort brings two new interpretive signs to Lincoln City. The 45th parallel is the latitude line that marks the line halfway between the equator and the North Pole. The line runs east-west through Lincoln City just north of the casino. Check out two new signs, one at the beach access at the Casino and another on Highway 101 near the Neotsu footbridge, marking the 45th parallel and providing interpretation about this special geographical landmark. Extra thanks to Public Works for support on this project! For more information see www.explorelincolncity.com/45th-parallel/.



Finders Keepers 2026: After many special celebrations for the 25th anniversary of Finders Keepers in 2025, the 2026 Finders Keepers season returns to the heart of what makes the experience unforgettable: the simple joy of stumbling upon something beautiful at the beach. The poster represents the new campaign, titled *From Fire to Finder*, which visually explores the two halves of every float's story: its fiery beginning and its fateful discovery. At the center is a striking match cut, the same float seen in two worlds: once glowing and molten in the artist's hands, and again, cool and complete, resting on the beach, waiting. www.explorelincolncity.com/blog/magic-of-finding-a-glass-float/.



2025 Tourism Visitation Recap: End-of-year data indicates a slight increase to occupancy rates 2025 over 2024. Overnight lodging occupancy averaged 61.7% in 2025 compared to 60.8% in 2024. Meanwhile, visitor spending was down 10.5% in 2025 over 2024, while still resulting in \$97.4M in direct spending into the Lincoln City market. Average spending per person per trip was \$213, down 7%.

Town Hall Meeting

Town Hall Meeting - Fourth of July Celebration
Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm
Lincoln City Community Center, 2150 NE Oar Pl.

City Council members are asking for input from the public about what the City should do for Fourth of July Celebrations. The City invites residents and business owners to the Town Hall meeting to provide feedback on how they would like to see the Fourth of July Celebrated.

Some questions the Council is looking input on are:

- What type of nighttime show should the City provide (if any)?
- Should it be a multiple day celebration (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)?
- Should the celebration focus on a certain part of town (Taft), or spread out across the city?

There will also be an opportunity for the public to ask questions of City Council members and City staff.

City Offices Holiday Schedule

Closed on Monday, January 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day - City Hall, Explore Lincoln City, Police Administrative Offices and Driftwood Library. Community Center is open from 9 am to 5 pm.

Closed on Monday, February 16 for Presidents Day - City Hall, Explore Lincoln City, Police Administrative Offices, Driftwood Library. Community Center is open from 9 am to 5 pm.

Police

Driving Smart in Lincoln City: Know the Rules, Keep Traffic Moving



Whether you're a local or a visitor cruising the coast, driving in Lincoln City comes with responsibilities that help keep our roads safe and efficient. Two key habits make a big difference: using your turn signals and avoiding actions that impede traffic.

Turn signals aren't optional. Oregon law requires drivers to signal at least 100 feet before turning or changing lanes. This simple act gives others time to react and prevent confusion at intersections, especially during busy tourist seasons.

Don't block traffic to be "nice". It may feel courteous to stop and let someone turn across traffic, but if you're not legally required to stop, doing so can actually create hazards. Oregon's impeding traffic law (ORS 811.130) makes it a violation to block normal flow of traffic without a valid safety reason. Stopping in a travel lane to wave someone through, especially when they don't have the right-of-way, can lead to rear-end collisions or confusion for other drivers.

Bottom line: Drive predictably, follow the rules, and let traffic flow. It's the best way to keep everyone safe and moving-whether you're headed to the beach, the mountains, or back home.

Parks & Recreation



Lincoln City Parks & Recreation Awards received in 2025:

- 2025 Good Governance Award - League of Oregon Cities
- 2025 Lasting Impact Award - Oregon Parks & Recreation Association
- 2025 Beautification Award - Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce

Parks - A crew of 8 staff maintains: 35 Parks & Open Spaces, 28 Public Beach Access, 50 Public Sites daily, and 9 Trails.

Recreation - Hosted over 30 public events, with over 12,000 people of all ages participating. Provide over 15,700 hours of programming, such as RECKids, Swim Lessons, and Youth Sports.

Community Center - Open 80 hours a week, 2,244 new memberships/passes sold, 223 Young Adult Club (YAC) Members, 2,500 weekly visitors.

Schooner Creek Discovery Park - Currently in Phase 2 of construction, \$3.6 million in funding received from outside sources, \$77,000 raised by the community.

Utility Billing Contact Information

Have you changed your phone number recently? Do you have a new mailing address? Is your e-mail address different from when you opened your water account with the City? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then it is time to update your account information. Please call the Finance Department at 541-996-1221 or you can go online to www.lincolncity.org/departments/finance/utility-billing/utility-account-changes-form

Upcoming Public Meetings

Monday, January 12 at 5:00 pm

[City Council - Executive Session](#)

Monday, January 12 at 6:00 pm

[City Council - Regular Meeting](#)

Wednesday, January 14 at 4:00 pm

[Public Arts Committee - Regular Meeting](#)

Thursday, January 15 at 6:00 pm

[Engage Lincoln City Ad Hoc Committee](#)

Wednesday, January 21 at 2:30 pm

[Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Regular Meeting](#)

Monday, January 26 at 5:00 pm

[Joint City Council and Urban Renewal Agency](#)

Monday, January 26 at 6:00 pm

[City Council - Regular Meeting](#)

Tuesday, February 3 at 6:00 pm

[Planning Commission - Regular Meeting](#)

Wednesday, February 4 at 3:30 pm

[Driftwood Public Library Board - Regular Meeting](#)

Monday, February 9 at 6:00 pm

[City Council - Regular Meeting](#)

Wednesday, February 11 at 4:00 pm

[Public Arts Committee - Regular Meeting](#)

Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00 pm

[Planning Commission - Regular Meeting](#)

Wednesday, February 18 at 2:30 pm

[Parks and Recreation Advisory Board - Regular Meeting](#)

Monday, February 23 at 6:00 pm

[City Council - Regular Meeting](#)

Tuesday, March 3 at 6:00 pm

[Planning Commission - Regular Meeting](#)

Wednesday, March 4 at 3:30 pm

[Driftwood Public Library - Regular Meeting](#)

Monday, March 9 at 6:00 pm

[City Council - Regular Meeting](#)

Wednesday, March 11 at 4:00 pm

[Public Arts Committee - Regular Meeting](#)

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](#)

Connect Lincoln City

Engage Lincoln City is now **Connect Lincoln City**.
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 and register to join our online community. We're excited to hear from you!

Subscribe to Monthly E-Newsletter

Subscribe to the City Council Monthly E-Newsletter.

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