



## SISTERS COUNTRY VISION

The Sisters Country Vision consists of 20 major goals (in four focus areas) to encourage a more: **1. Connected, 2. Prosperous, 3. Livable and 4. Resilient Sisters Country.**

### CONNECTED SISTERS

#### Key project: Create a Multi-purpose Community Center

A wide range of potential user groups came together to explore the feasibility of locations, services, and funding options. Sisters School District is researching costs of conversion of the elementary school, and Sisters Parks & Recreation District (SPRD) boosted their operations capacity with a new strategic plan, executive director, and the reactivation of the Sisters Organization for Activities and Recreation (SOAR) Foundation.



### PROSPEROUS SISTERS

#### Key Project: Develop the Forest Service Property

City of Sisters and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) successfully helped facilitate the sale of the north parcel in 2019. USFS decided to build their new District Ranger Station on the south parcel, and the City is beginning work with Oregon Department of Transportation to transform the "east portal" into a community space and transportation amenity.



**KEY PARTIES MEETING**



**NEW FOREST SERVICE RANGER STATION**



**EAST PORTAL COMMUNITY SPACE**

### LIVABLE SISTERS

#### Key Project: Expand and Improve the Recreational Trail System in Sisters Country

Successful partnerships have led to new methods of outreach, new funding opportunities, and a new regional, multi-use-trail-system plan. Local trail improvements include a bridge replacement over Indian Ford Creek on the Sisters Tie Trail and a new gateway trailhead to the Peterson Ridge Trail System.



### RESILIENT SISTERS

#### Key Project: Improve Wildfire Preparedness

Deschutes County's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee presented recommendations to the Oregon State Legislature on hazard mapping updates, new state building standards, and new land-use protocols. The Fire Free Program more than doubled their impact with a second free brush disposal event, and Deschutes County was awarded a grant to engage more community members in next steps.



**NEW TEAM WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**NEW FUNDING ACTIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT**



**EXPANDED PROGRAMMING FIRE FREE**



**UPDATED CODES STATE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

**SEE MORE VISION PROGRESS:  
WWW.SISTERSVISION.ORG**

# State of the City

By Mayor Chuck Ryan

Our great City of Sisters is entering its 75th anniversary in 2021. We are well-positioned financially and infrastructure-wise due to the thorough planning by your City staff, elected Council, and our volunteer advisory boards. We recently completed our FY 2020/21 budget, and despite the challenging headwinds created by the pandemic, Sisters is in a very healthy position to withstand these unique pressures and maintain our quality of service and life that is so special for this community. The detailed budget is available on the City's website. A few highlights of our budget — it is an \$18M plan, but keep in mind that 70% of that total is for capital improvements and reserves for future infrastructure expenditures; City staffing is level at 17.5 positions, and no new debt is planned at this time. Maintaining and improving our infrastructure (water/wastewater/streets) and having the appropriate reserve funding is so important considering that our population has tripled since 2000.

There is so much to be proud of in regard to accomplishments over the last few years, and you can see many of them on these pages with the Council Goals and selected accomplishments and the Sisters Country Vision and selected progress. I am especially proud of the visioning process, which is entering its third year and making tremendous progress on the 20 key strategies that you, our Sisters

Country residents, created and endorsed. We could not have been successful without the dedicated support that includes key organizational partners across all disciplines in our community. We planned to do a community celebration summer event, but it had to be postponed due to the same with this State of the City in this format.

As I said, there are many accomplishments your City staff and I have made, but there are many I'm most proud of. First is public safety with a new five-year contract with the County Sheriff's Office, with a dedicated lieutenant (deputy sheriff) and three dedicated deputies. We've also kind of community police officers. I've sought more of for quite some time. We have made great strides in affordable housing and at least 10% of housing units. Lastly, we have, with the help of, made significant progress in growing our local economy, which is important for economic sustainability and maintaining the strength of our enrollment.

We understand that many of our businesses have suffered during the pandemic, and I want to commend them in their resiliency to maintain viability and get out to many of our business

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING** The City awarded an affordable housing grant to Habitat for Humanity to help with System Development Charges on three homes; the ClearPine development and Habitat are partnering on six new homes; and First Story, in partnership with Hayden Homes, has recently completed three houses in the McKenzie Meadows Village subdivision.



**LAZY Z** The City will be working on a master plan for the future development and preservation of the City-owned south portion of the Lazy Z Ranch. The purpose of this project is to provide long-term planning for the enhancement of the existing wastewater effluent system and future view corridor and open space on the property.



PHOTOS BY JERRY BALDOCK

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