



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

March 21, 2022

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor

On the happy occasion of Wilsonville Library's 40th anniversary, this felt like the perfect venue from which to deliver my 2022 State of the City virtual address.

Good libraries function is the heartbeat of great communities and that's certainly true in Wilsonville.

Our Library welcomes everyone, and it's always adapting and evolving to meet the community's changing needs. In these respects, a good library is a microcosm of a great community.

There are few people more appropriate than my fellow Councilor, Charlotte Lehan, to discuss the Library's significance to Wilsonville.

Charlotte Lehan, Councilor

The Library has been an important part of the community even before it was in this building and has really been almost overwhelmed by its success.

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor

Charlotte is one of Wilsonville's foremost historians and this is her final year on our City Council. I want to take this opportunity to recognize Charlotte's 26 distinguished years in service to Wilsonville, including a 12-year stint as the City's Mayor from 1997 through 2008.

Charlotte's sound judgment, leadership and steadfast protection of our natural resources have made her one of the single greatest contributors to Wilsonville's reputation as a wonderful place in which to live or work.

Charlotte Lehan, Councilor

I've been fortunate to have worked many years with excellent staff at the City of Wilsonville that has always worked like a team. And likewise, the City Councilors and Mayors I've worked with have really been very collaborative. Three of the most important accomplishments in my time with the City of Wilsonville that I am proudest of, are:

- The Wilsonville Track, which is Graham Oaks;
- Siting the prison appropriately so that we could have Villebois; and
- The third is the Wilsonville Water Treatment Plant, without which we couldn't have done much of anything because we didn't have water.

Not being in elected office will give me more time to participate in the other things, which a lot of times are really very fun. So, I look forward to the next chapter.

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor

Councilor Lehan is one of many passionate, engaged residents who have helped guide Wilsonville's course. Passionate public involvement is one big reason why Wilsonville has long been a desirable community.

I'm glad and proud that so many community members are engaged and involved in how our City functions.

In the past year, we've worked to establish three new boards:

- The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee is working on strategies to make Wilsonville a more inclusive home;
- The Kitakata Sister City Committee is further strengthening our valuable cultural exchange, and
- Soon our Arts, Culture, and Heritage Commission will begin to guide our work to provide a more vibrant arts and culture scene in Wilsonville.

Wilsonville puts people first. We prioritized public safety during a relentless siege of crises that has included nearby wildfires an ice storm that left many residents without power for a week or more and, of course, the ongoing pandemic.

Bryan Cosgrove, City Manager

I think putting people first in the local government context, what it means to me is that everything we do whether it's our annual budget, the programs and services we deliver or the quality of the built environment, we begin with the end in mind which is the end is the people that live here and/or operate a business here.

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor

Thanks to Bryan Cosgrove and the City staff for their empathetic leadership. We've been through a lot together.

This year, we will introduce “Wilsonville Ready” an emergency management awareness plan that improves our collective resilience so we're better prepared for future disasters. We want everyone two (2) weeks ready.

To aid our recovery from the pandemic the City will begin allocating more than \$5 million it received in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.

This provides an opportunity to do a lot for our community, including:

- Providing additional support for social services programs through Wilsonville Community Sharing; and
- We’re going to be funding a full-time behavioral health specialist to join the Wilsonville Police Department.

A thriving business climate critically supports Wilsonville financial health. New industrial and commercial development bolsters the tax base, supports new infrastructure and brings family wage jobs closer to home.

Last year's establishment of the Wilsonville Investment Now or WIN program was designed to incentivize new industrial development. The program yielded immediate dividends luring Twist Bioscience to Wilsonville with a \$70 million redevelopment at the Xerox Campus that will bring hundreds of jobs.

Matt Lorenzen, Economic Development Manager

My job is really to create an environment in Wilsonville in which, businesses want to be and continue to be and where developers want to invest their capital and grow the local tax base.

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor

Build out has begun in the Coffee Creek Industrial Area supporting the City sustainable long-term industrial growth. Successful economic development supports our work to maintain and build the City's infrastructure. Several of these projects support our number one goal: increasing mobility for every mode of transport.

- The 5th to Kinsman project is on schedule in Old Town.
- Road improvements are complete on Garden Acres Road.
- Design is now complete for a pedestrian bridge to be built over the I-5 divide.

At the same time, we're also supporting sustainable growth by building additional water intake capacity, investing in electric buses and constructing a new Public Works facility. We're being careful to align this infrastructure development with sustainable financing sources to remain fiscally responsible.

Bryan Cosgrove, City Manager

I think for the last 25 years we've the City had three Mayor's Tim Knapp, Charlotte Lehan and Julie Fitzgerald, I think the one thing that probably more than anything that unifies them in terms of how they've operated is that they both, or they all three deeply care about the community.

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor

We're proud of Wilsonville's record of delivering at a high value for our taxpayers. That reputation is hard earned. Your City Councilors proudly serve on several regional boards and committees. We're successfully leveraging partnerships with other public agencies and elected officials to support new amenities and legislation on your behalf.

- In partnership with the City of Sherwood, we're building a fiber optic cable network to support new technologies.
- With Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, we established a new fire station in Charbonneau to better serve residents south of the river.
- We're fighting diligently to represent your interests with regard to the Aurora Airport.
- And, most critically, we continue to work with ODOT and our state legislators to advance the very essential construction of a higher capacity, earthquake resilient Boone Bridge.

Improving mobility for all modes of transportation is one way we're working on behalf of all residents.

Another part of our work is to expand home ownership to a broader cross section of individuals and families.

Expanding homeownership as a Council goal that ensures that people with a wide variety of interests in size, type and price of home can live in Wilsonville.

- With the Equitable Housing Strategic Plan and the Middle Housing Project, we're pursuing more inclusive strategies that create opportunity for first-time homebuyers and others who want to make Wilsonville their home.
- We're further removing barriers by being one of the few cities that offers free transit service to residents.
- And we're pursuing housing near transit in a form called Transit-Oriented Development that will further increase options for residents.
- And our Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee is working to develop a strategy to help us view programs and policies through the lens of equity.

Our plan to develop Frog Pond neighborhoods on the City's east side will be informed by our Middle Housing Plan. Frog Pond is a new opportunity to build on our history of thoughtful, cohesive planning.

Historically, Wilsonville's approach has yielded attractive, desirable neighborhoods, neighborhoods that are informed by community input that are supported by first-class schools and high-quality parks and recreational amenities that contribute to a high quality of life and provide value for your tax dollars.

There are so many things that make Wilsonville a great place to live, work and play.

Residents – What are your favorite things about Wilsonville?

“We love all the parks, the walking trails. We take our dogs to the dog park every day; take the kids to the playground.”

“We’ve been a part of their story time since she was like six months old. It's wonderful.”

“I like the sports; they have a lot of rec teams that my kids participate in.”

“Just the safety of the town. Where we can walk around and not feel like we're going to be in danger of anything.”

“That it seems like a lot of people stick around so there's a really big sense of community.”

“And we really appreciate the City work to make all of this happen.”

Julie Fitzgerald, Mayor

For those reasons and many more, our community is special. It's my honor to work on behalf of all of you to grow and maintain our wonderful City. We look forward to completing the goals we've set and to continue to listen and to engage directly with as many of you as possible to ensure that our work is always supporting the community's greatest needs. Thank you