

Silverton's having a ball

The popular Mayor's Ball returns for its 14th year

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While the Silverton Mayor's Ball has become a local classic, the annual evening is more than a night on the pavilion (The Oregon Garden Pavilion, that is).

The evening raises money for local nonprofit organizations such as the Silverton Hospital Foundation, Silverton Together and Silverton Area Community Aid, and since its transition from family-friendly to adults only, donations have more than tripled.

"For the first few years, we raised between \$3,000 and \$4,000," Silverton Mayor Ken Hector said. "The first year we altered the format to 21 and over, we raised \$15,000. The next year it was \$30,000. And, the year after that was \$40,000."

"The trend is nice," he said.

Now that the event is adults-only, the Ball has also grown to include both a silent and oral auction. Hector said that the silent auction includes various things donated from local merchants, while the oral auction features higher-end goods.

"The oral auction includes things like trips," Hector said. "One of the very popular packages is a getaway at Orville Roth's place at Detroit Lake. This year we decided to sell the package at a fixed rate in hopes that we could attract more couples to participate."

And the auction isn't the only thing to return this Saturday at the Mayor's Ball.

Due to outstanding feedback about last year's band, the High Street Band will perform for a second consecutive year, featuring swing music and other danceable tunes.

Silverton's Wooden Nickel will provide free hors d'oeuvres.

"In past years, we've had about 350 people show up," Hector said. "I'm hoping for a similar crowd."

Hector also stressed that the event is crucial in supporting community outreach services and other nonprofits in the area.

"It's a great evening," he said. "This is one you definitely don't want to miss."