

NEWSLETTER

Issue 209 * June 2015

Grant targets low- to middle-income city residents

The City Council is looking at how a community development grant could help our low- to middle-income residents.

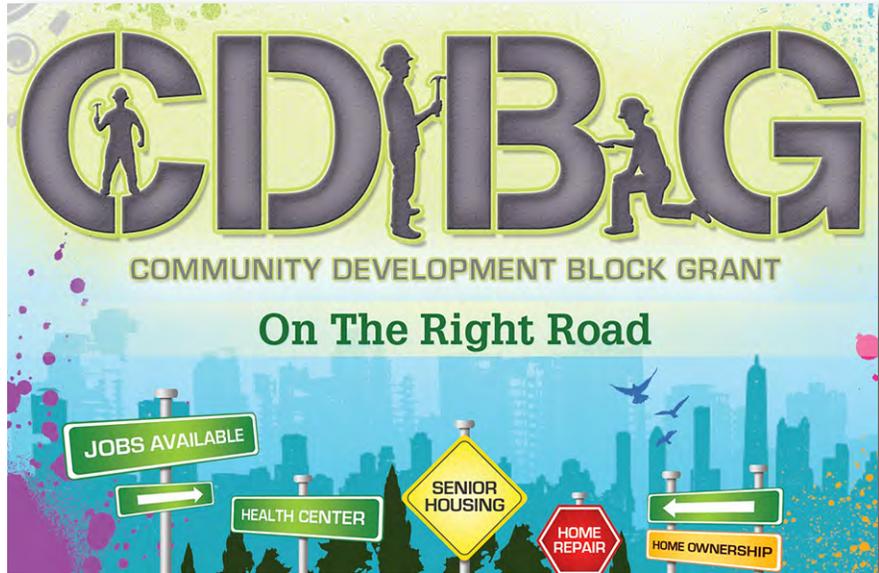
The grant is from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City estimates Grants Pass will receive about \$275,000 between October 2015 and September 2016.

The grant comes through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. CDBG's goal is to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and increased economic opportunities, especially for low- and middle-income persons.

The grant may be used for projects that:

- Benefits low- and middle-income persons,
- Prevents or eliminates blight, or
- Meets other urgent community needs that pose serious and immediate threat to health, safety or welfare.

City Council has directed its staff



to gather public input to help identify the critical affordable housing, community development, and homeless needs. Staff has met twice with interested service providers, community leaders and advocacy groups. Next, the public at large will be asked:

- What critical community needs can be met with the available funds?

- Are there any larger issues that might be addressed during a five-year strategic planning period?

Please watch for notices in the newspaper and on the City website about how you may submit your comments. Or, contact Lora Glover at 541-450-6060, or lglover@grantspassoregon.gov.

Branding plan taking shape

'Live Rogue' possible theme

The City Council is looking at updating the City's brand.

Branding is a marketing strategy that captures and promotes a city's best qualities. Branding includes a logo that is instantly recognizable. Since 2000, the City's logo has been an image of a river guide and "Where the Rogue River



Possible new logo



Current logo

Runs" tagline. A Steering Committee has come up with a new image of mountains and the Rogue River, with the tagline "Live Rogue."

A city's image can affect its economy, tourism and citizen satisfaction. The City's brand should share our pride and confidence, generate interest in our beautiful community and help people to know us.

The Council has scheduled another discussion on the branding plan in July.

Coming your way this summer...

The City begins many construction projects in the summer. These projects make Grants Pass a better place to live. Unfortunately, the work on our streets and utilities can interfere with traffic.

Here are the paving projects

expected to take place this year so you can prepare for traffic delays and other inconveniences.

For more information, please contact Public Works Director Terry Haugen at 541-450-6000 or thaugen@grantspassoregon.gov.

| Streets | Activity | Status |
|--|---|-------------|
| Drury Lane | Landscaping will be added. | Fall |
| Redwood Avenue | Installation of curb, gutter and sidewalk. | Now |
| Alleys between "L" & Burgess streets, and Pine & 4th streets | Sanitary sewer replacement to reduce water that goes to the sewer treatment plant during a significant rainfall. | Now |
| Lincoln Road | Water main extensions and installation of curb, gutter and sidewalk between Bridge Street and Reinhart Volunteer Park. | August |
| Eastern Avenue | Road widening and paving, curb, gutter, sidewalks, and storm drain improvements. | Late August |
| Terry Lane | Road widening and repaving, curb, gutter, sidewalks, and storm drain improvements. | Fall |
| Portola Drive | Work on water system before a full, 3,000-foot asphalt overlay. | Fall |
| Parks | Activity | Status |
| Morrison and Reinhart parks | Paving of existing chip paths to reduce maintenance costs and make travel easier. | July |
| Fruitdale Creek Trail | Trail installation between Fruitdale Drive & Hamilton Lane to complete the Fruitdale Trail loop. Pedestrian crossing improvements at Hamilton Lane. | Late July |
| Portola Park | Joint project with District 7 to install a short pedestrian path from Portola Park (George Eckstein Park) to Riverside Elementary School. | Fall |

Frequently Asked Questions

City water bill really a utility bill

The people at the City are asked a lot of questions every day. We thought that sharing some of the answers could be helpful to other residents as well. One frequently asked question is:

Why is my water bill so high?

The first, important part of this answer is that the City bills are for many utility services, not just water. The average city utility bill includes:

- water services,
- wastewater services,
- transportation services,
- a franchise charge, and
- a jail utility fee.

There are other charges that some residents might have, such as back-flow and pumping fees.

Another thing that can cause a bill to be higher is a water leak. A small leak can let a lot of water through in a month's time.

Take a look at the amount of water you used. If it is unusually high for that time of year, please call the Customer Services & Utility Billing office at 541-450-6035. They can tell you how to find out if you have a water leak.

If you have any questions about City services, the City's website, www.grantspassoregon.gov, can be very helpful. You also may contact David Reeves at dreeves@grantspassoregon.gov, or call any of the City departments directly.

Play it safe when playing in water

Swift river currents can overwhelm swimmers

Swimming season is here. Here are some water safety tips from the U.S. Lifesaving Association:

Learn to swim. Teach children to swim at an early age. Children who are not taught when they are very young tend to avoid swim instruction as they age. Swim lessons are offered year-round by the Grants Pass Family YMCA (541-474-0001).

Swim with a buddy. Many drownings involve single swimmers. If you have a swimming buddy, he/she might be able help or signal for assistance from others.

Obey posted signs and flags.



A children's life jacket loaner station has been installed at Baker Park.

The signs along a river or lake are there to keep you safe. Read the signs when you arrive and follow their instructions.

Don't fight a rip current. Most rip currents are narrow. Swim parallel to shore until you feel the current relax, and then swim to shore.

Enter water feet first. Serious

injuries, including paralysis, can happen by diving into unknown water and hitting the bottom headfirst.

Wear a life jacket. Some 80 percent of boating deaths are from drowning. Children are especially vulnerable and are required by Oregon law to wear a life jacket when under 12 years of age.

Summer wildfire conditions could be worst in 25 years

Oregon's record-low snowpack and dry spring have fire officials concerned about drought and the potential for the driest summer wildfire conditions in 25 years. This year more than ever we all need to prepare our property for the risk of wildfire.

The biggest threat is from a fire's embers. They can travel through the air a mile or more ahead of a wildfire and rest in dry debris on your roof or yard.

CLEAN your home's roof and gutters. The roof is the most vulnerable part of the home. Remove leaves and needles regularly, and cut back overhanging tree limbs. Remove dry plants 30 feet from the outermost part of the house, including detached garages and sheds.

CLEAR leaves, branches, and gas or paint cans that tend to collect near a home or under stairs, decks and porches. Store firewood at least 30 feet from the home, or



in a shed that is closed on all sides.

RAKE leaves and debris from your yard and mow grass. Prune trees up from the ground. Keep plants well-watered to prevent a fire from climbing into the crowns and carrying flames from trees to the house. Fuel breaks, such as driveways, gravel walks and green lawns can stop the advance of a fire. Properly placed deciduous trees can actually protect your

home by blocking a wildfire's intense heat. Fuel breaks, such as driveways, gravel walkways, and green lawns can stop the advance of a fire by starving it of flammable vegetation.

Grants Pass Firewise has a free wildfire evaluation program for homeowners. To make an appointment, please call Community Firewise Coordinator Bob Schumacher at 541-450-6205.

For more tips on protecting your home, please go to www.GrantsPassFirewise.org.

Lindsay brings versatility to City Council

Roy Lindsay's life appears to have prepared him well for service on the Grants Pass City Council.

Lindsay learned to be prepared as a pilot for the U.S. Air Force flying cargo planes to Africa, Australia, Greenland, India and Thailand. In fact, his was among the first planes into the Congo Airlift and the Berlin Wall crisis, both in 1961.

Lindsay learned to adjust to change, moving at least once a year during his five years as a pilot in the Air Force.

Lindsay has worn many hats: assistant bomb dump commander, pilot, budget manager, office manager, marketing trainer, "supervisor of documentation" at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and computer capacity consultant.

Lindsay's most enjoyable job was as a rescue pilot for the Air Force. "I was there to save people," he said. "It was one of my most emotional and joyous experiences of my life."

Lindsay also finds being on the Council joyful. "We work together extremely well," he said. "We have some disagreements, and that's perfectly OK, that's to be expected. But there has not been one moment of



City Councilor Roy Lindsay

Roy was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Connecticut. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry, with minors in math and physics, in 1958.

Roy was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force from 1959-65. He settled in San Francisco in 1968, where he met and married Camille, a nurse, in 1969.

In 1977, Roy began a career in computer science. He worked for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Pacific Bell before becoming a self-employed computer systems consultant. In 1996, Roy switched to stock trading until retiring and moving to Grants Pass in 2000.

Roy and Camille are active volunteers. Roy has served on the City Budget Committee, several County committees, and on the boards of the Boys & Girls Club and Rogue Valley Symphony. He enjoys listening to classical music and attending concerts, playing cards, and taking country drives.

being disagreeable by anyone.

"As a result of this willingness to work together, we're addressing some very significant issues and coming up with solutions," he said.

That is key, as the City is facing a number of "huge" challenges: replacement of the water filtration plant; expansion of the waste treatment plant; upgrading water distribution and waste collection lines; and keeping up with street maintenance and replacement.

City police also face a major challenge: they rely heavily on the County's jail, district attorney and juvenile services. When those services are cut or greatly reduced, it has a significant impact on the police's ability to keep people safe.

"Keeping people safe is my passion," the former rescue pilot said.

The City's challenges might seem overwhelming, but not to Lindsay.

"The people of Grants Pass are friendly and have a can-do attitude," Lindsay said. "They see something that needs to be done and they do it."

"Another great thing about Grants Pass is the volunteerism – it's huge," he added. "The quality of life here wouldn't be what it is if it weren't for the volunteers."

Lindsay also has confidence in City employees. "The staff is exceptional," he said, but Council doesn't approve everything staff presents. "You've got absolute needs, needs, wants and desires. Most of the time it's the absolute needs that get addressed."



Your Grants Pass City Government

| Mayor | Phone | Email |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|
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| Councilor | Ward/ Phone | Email |
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| Roy Lindsay | 1 541-291-0346 | rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov |
| Lily Morgan | 2 541-476-6168 | morganlily@gmail.com |
| Rick Riker | 2 541-479-7333 | councilriker@charter.net |
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| Mark Gatlin | 4 541-441-7674 | markgatlin@gmail.com |
| Jim Goodwin | 4 541-761-5733 | jamesagoodwin@hotmail.com |

City Council meetings begin at 6 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Council Chambers, 101 NW "A" Street. The meetings are televised on Cable Channel 183 and posted online at www.grantspassoregon.gov. City Councilors and staff talk about local issues on radio station KAJO (1270 AM) at 9:30 a.m. on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of every month.