The City of Grants Pass is pleased to announce that the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has presented the City with the GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget document for the current fiscal year.

The award represents a significant achievement by the City. It reflects the commitment of the Council and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation and this award is considered the gold standard for government budgeting.

The City of Grants Pass has a long history of following best practices in budget reporting and the requirements of GFOAs budget award program. This award represents the 33rd straight year of the City of Grants Pass earning the budget award. According to GFOA, only one other municipality in Oregon has a longer history of earning this award.

Social media marketing has become one of the most important platforms for outreach to those who may not otherwise be engaged. Facebook is the single largest social network on the web. Social networking is not only the most versatile way to communicate but it’s free.

Embracing social media can be difficult for many. However, local governments have been finding its usage more and more advantageous. The City of Grants Pass uses Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor, LinkedIn and YouTube to keep in contact with the community to alert users to situations that arise in the community as well as events and happenings. These platforms are where the people are and where we can engage with them.

City leaders want to use social media to connect, engage and inform the community in an effort to raise awareness about city news, programs and services. Globally we are becoming an information based society. Reading the latest news from anywhere, including the City of Grants Pass, online is just another way we wish to stay in touch with you and to provide the information you need for your family and lifestyle. New legislation, road closures, press releases, accident information and incident commands can be at your fingertips instead of waiting for another method of communication.

Follow us on any of these informational platforms: Facebook: grantspassoregon, Twitter: @CityGrantsPass, Instagram: @grantspassoregon, YouTube: City of Grants Pass, Nextdoor: City of Grants Pass and LinkedIn: City of Grants Pass.
In the upcoming General Election, the City’s registered voters will have the opportunity to elect or reelect persons to fill four City Councilor positions whose terms of office will expire December 31, 2018 and one vacant position with a term that expires December 31, 2020.

The Councilors are elected at large from four geographic wards pursuant to the City Charter. Each serves their community in an unpaid capacity. The City of Grants Pass operates under a Council/Manager form of government. The City Council acts as the governing board, establishes law, develops policy, and adopts financial and economic strategies for the community. The City Manager serves as the chief executive, carrying out Council’s ordinances and policies, making recommendations to Council, and managing daily operations of the municipal corporation.

Serving on the Council is both challenging and rewarding. Effective service demands a substantial time commitment as shown in the following schedule highlights.

• Council meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers, usually lasting 2 to 3 hours.
• Council workshops are every Monday at 11:45 a.m. lasting approximately 1-1/2 hours.
• Councilors and lay members of the Budget Committee meet 4 to 6 evenings during May and 2 to 3 other times during the year.
• Each Councilor also serves as a liaison to one or more City committees.
• Participation in the annual League of Oregon Cities conference, a three-day event in September held in Eugene, Portland, Salem or Bend.

Voters will elect or reelect candidates to the positions held by the following persons (The map provides the physical boundaries of the wards):

Current Councilors:
WARD 1 - Roy Lindsay
WARD 2 - Rick Riker
WARD 3 - Vacant
WARD 3 - Dennis Roler
WARD 4 - Jason Anderson

If you are interested in running for City Council, contact the City Recorder at 541-450-6010.
Last day to file for election is August 28, 2018.
Accessory Dwelling Units Offer Options for Homeowners

An accessory dwelling unit (ADU) is a really simple and old idea; having a second small dwelling right on the same grounds (or attached) as your regular single-family house, such as an apartment over the garage, a basement apartment or a detached unit. Regardless of its physical form, legally an ADU is part of the same property as the main home. It cannot be bought or sold separately. Accessory dwellings provide a greater variety of residential choices, offer additional options for homeowners, and help meet long-term housing needs while reducing growth into rural areas.

One accessory dwelling is permitted on a lot with the main home. An accessory dwelling can be attached to the main home or in a separate structure, whether through conversion of existing space or new construction. Accessory dwellings are often located in a two-story structure above an attached or detached garage or next to a garage in a shared detached one-story structure and are limited to 1,000 sq. ft. in size.

If you are considering an accessory dwelling:

- Check any private covenants for your property for private restrictions or requirements.
- Review City standards before planning an ADU to be sure your construction or conversion plans meet residential building codes.
- Include applicable permit fees and system development charges in your budget.
- Apply for a building permit.

If you would like additional information, please contact the Parks & Community Development Department at 541-450-6060.

Examples of some common ADUs

Nuisance Dogs

Two of the most common complaints about our furry friends are when they are running loose, and habitually barking. The nuisance dog ordinance under Grants Pass Municipal Code section 5.08.010 addresses these issues.

While having a highly trained/obedient dog is encouraged, all dogs are susceptible to distractions such as wild animals, people, and moving vehicles that could put dogs and people at risk of being involved in a vehicular collision. These distractions are some of the reasons why the City’s Municipal Code requires a leash measuring 8 feet or shorter while the dog is on public property or property not owned by the dog owner. The Municipal Code does not recognize voice commands as an alternative for a leash. The following is a brief summary of two sections of the nuisance dog ordinance. While the majority of dogs running loose are friendly, some citizens have preconceived notions about certain breeds, or may have had a traumatic experience with a dangerous dog. We encourage all citizens to be respectful of their neighbors and realize not all people enjoy the company or presence of dogs.

If a Public Safety official sees a dog loose on public property, or property of another, and the owner is not present, that dog can be taken to Josephine County Animal Control.  

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The City Council will be hosting its sessions of "Coffee Talk" in a new location and time beginning on June 1. Join them at BlueStone Bakery at 412 NW 6th Street every Friday from 8-9:30 a.m.

City Council Meetings
1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6 pm
in the City Council Chambers
101 NW A Street

City Council Workshops
Typically held in the City Council Chambers at 11:45 am. On Mondays following the first regular Council meeting of the month workshops are held in the Courtyard Conference Room. Holidays will alter the schedule.

Any televised meetings are on Charter Cable Channel 183 and stream on our website at www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Listen live to City Councilors and staff discussing local issues on KAJO (1270 AM) the 1st and 2nd Tuesdays each month at 9:30 am.

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety encourages responsible dog ownership for any citizen, realizing the potential impact on neighbors. For a variety of reasons, an inherent trait of most dogs is to bark. Some options to remedy such an issue are to seek professional training, consult a veterinarian or employee at a pet store for options and products which can reduce or limit the barking. Some citizens work varying hours including night shifts, which require them to sleep during the day. A constant howling or barking dog can interfere with the repose of nearby residents. When citizens call the police about barking dogs during late evening or early morning hours, the police are sometimes unable to contact the owners to cease the barking. Those complaints are forwarded to Community Service Officers, who follow up with the dog owner as soon as possible.

Issues related to nuisance dogs may be alleviated by speaking directly with the dog owner. If consulting with your neighbor is not appropriate, or is not working, the Department of Public Safety can assist in addressing the problem. The owner or current custodian of the dog may be issued a notice of violation which is a warning for a dog barking or running loose. Additional occurrences of the same nature may be handled through the issuance of citations for each subsequent violation. Alleviating the nuisance through compliance is the goal. A warning is not required prior to issuing citations.

If you have any questions regarding Municipal Code section 5.08.010, contact the Department of Public Safety.

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