Be Ready, Be Set, GO!

Every year, homes in Southwest Oregon are threatened by wildfires. The State of Oregon adopted a three-level evacuation process to help families prepare.

**Be Ready**

**Level 1 Evacuation**

A Level 1 evacuation means “BE READY” for potential evacuation. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

*All residents should be at this level of readiness at all times.*

**Be Set**

**Level 2 Evacuation**

A Level 2 evacuation means “BE SET” to evacuate. This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area or, if choosing to remain, be ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice. Residents MAY have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk. THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE. Emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate. Area media services will be asked to broadcast periodic updates.

**GO!**

**Level 3 Evacuation**

A Level 3 evacuation means that you need to LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advice, you must understand that emergency services may not be able to assist you further. DO NOT delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home. Access to evacuated areas may be denied until conditions are safe for citizens to return. DO NOT plan to return to check on your house or animals. If it’s not safe for you, it’s not safe for them!

**Citizen Alert**

**Sign Up Today!**

EMERGENCY ALERTS about emergencies near your home, workplace, or other important places.

Visit [www.co.josephine.or.us/alert](http://www.co.josephine.or.us/alert)
Two exciting new changes are coming to Riverside Park.

**Riverside Park Pavilion**

Riverside Park is known as the City’s festival park. This park hosts major events each year such as Boootnik, Back to the 50’s, and Concerts in the Park. In June of 2015, the City was awarded a substantial State Lottery grant to fund a park pavilion. Additional funding for this project is available from the Parks System Development Charges (SDCs). Actual funding for the project was not provided until 2017 (allowing time for design and Planning approval). In January of 2016, during the City’s annual Strategic Planning process, the City Council prioritized this project and incorporated it into the FY17 budget. Several meetings were held with the Parks Advisory Board, City staff, committee members and other stakeholders to discuss the location and multi-use opportunities for the new pavilion structure. Various conceptual designs were submitted. The chosen design is based on the reduced flood hazard impacts. In October 2017, the Urban Area Planning Commission held a public hearing on the matter and approved the proposal with the direction to modify the design to soften the look, creating a more compatible look with Taprock Restaurant across the river. Construction of the new Riverside Park Pavilion began in June 2018 following Boootnik. Excavation was delayed shortly thereafter due to the old bath house being uncovered underground requiring that asbestos testing be performed. Fortunately, no asbestos was found in the materials. Additional excavation and fill were required due to removal of the bath house. The pavilion shade cover and support system are due to be delivered in August with completion of construction anticipated for September 2018. For additional questions, please contact Wendy Giordano, Parks & Property Management Superintendent, at (541) 450-6060.

**Riverside Park Spray Park**

Development of a new spray park for Riverside Park near the existing playground area is in full swing. Construction for this project started in June of this year. The spray park was identified in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan as a needed water play facility in Grants Pass. Below is a conceptual rendition of what the finished spray park will look like. Colors for the walk area will be more of a “sand” tan rather than the reflected gray. The spray area will consist of light and medium blue rings.

Construction is coming along nicely. Completion of this project is slated for the end of August 2018.
and shallow can prove to be deceptively cold and easily overwhelm the strongest individuals. Each year, unexpected victims, whether purposefully in the water (boating, swimming, wading or crossing streams) or accidentally in the water (scrambling on rocks or even falling while hiking), find themselves in a water rescue situation.

Be aware of hazards:

- **Use Caution:** Be cautious anytime you or your family are near rivers and streams. Consider these precautions as spring snow melts and rivers and streams rise. Also be cautious when waters appear warm or slow moving, but actually have strong and sometimes dangerous currents below the surface.
- **Water Temperature:** Air temperatures may feel hot and the water may feel or appear warm, but temperatures can be extremely cold below the surface. Hypothermia can quickly set in and overwhelm even the strongest of swimmers.
- **Currents:** In as little as six inches, water that may look calm on the surface and slow-moving can have enough force to knock you off your feet and sweep you downstream. Even a slow current can take you where you don’t want to go and leave swimmers unable to reach the shore.
- **Water Hazards:** A slippery and uneven river bottom combined with the stream’s current can suddenly sweep you off your feet. Debris and underwater features such as trees, branches and logs, and even narrow gaps between rocks can trap you under water, causing hypothermia or even death.
- **If you fall in, use the defensive position:** on your back, feet pointing downstream and on the surface (can you see your toes?). Never go in the water after someone in trouble. Rescue from shore and get help.
- **Check river and stream conditions before heading out on your adventure and always let someone know where you are going and when you will return.** River and stream condition information may be found at visitor centers, ranger stations and from weather alerts.
- **Choose swimming areas carefully.** Often hazards are not visible in what may seem like a good place to swim or wade.
- **Wear a properly fitting personal flotation device (life jacket) for all river activities.** Don’t assume you have the swimming skills to keep you afloat.
- **Keep a close watch on children even if they are far from the water.** Water safety for children is especially important as they can quickly enter the water and get in trouble when your attention is diverted for only a moment.
- **Be cautious of sudden drop-offs.**

Many drowning victims were not trying to swim but were simply engaging in activities as innocent as wading, taking photos or playing along the stream bank. Those victims attempting to swim in swift waters overestimate their swimming ability and underestimate river currents. None of these drowning victims suspected that tragedy was about to overwhelm them. Please have fun cooling off, but remain vigilant to prevent a tragedy.
The City Council will be hosting its sessions of "Coffee Talk" at BlueStone Bakery, 412 NW 6th Street, every Friday from 8-9:30 a.m.

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

City Council Workshops are typically held in the City Council Chambers on Mondays at 11:45 a.m. Holidays will alter this 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 a.m

Visit our Facebook, YouTube and Twitter social media platforms to watch City Manager Aaron Cubic provide a recap of the City Council meetings each Thursday following a Council Meeting.

The City of Grants Pass is accepting applications for five positions on the new Transportation Planning and Citizen Advisory Committee (TPCAC) and four expired positions on the Urban Tree Advisory Committee.

The TPCAC reviews work products and makes recommendations regarding the planning work for the Grants Pass Transportation System Plan update and the Interstate 5 Exit 55 and 58 Interchange Area Management Plans. Members will serve until recommendations have been made on the final work products for the Grants Pass Transportation System Plan update and the I-5 Exit 55 and 58 Interchange Area Management Plans. This is estimated to be 18 months.

There are special qualifications for this committee. If interested, please view the information and requirements for this committee on our website. Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, August 27, 2018. Appointments will be made by the City Council at their meeting on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

Four vacancies need to be filled on the Urban Tree Advisory Committee. This committee develops, implements, and reviews programs and activities that promote, protect, and enhance the urban forest. Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, August 20, 2018. Appointments will be made by the Council at their meeting on Wednesday, September 19, 2018.

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