The Importance of the Dispatcher

Public Safety Dispatchers are often the first person you speak to when you have an emergency. They are responsible for gathering information quickly; triaging calls for emergency responders; keeping officers, firefighters, and paramedics informed while they are on the way; and then monitoring those responders for developing requests. They coordinate resources, make notifications, run warrant checks, and get you the help you need as quickly as possible.

An Emergency Dispatch career is not for everyone – it takes a special person to be able to control the chaos caused by more calls for help than available responders, a person with common sense and creativity to help problem solve in a situation unfolding in a place where they may have never been. It takes an individual with excellent prioritization and multi-tasking skills, not only to be able to bounce from one task to another and back again, but to truly perform multiple tasks at once. It takes resilience and stress management to recognize that when people are in a crisis, they may be demanding or unfriendly, but that this is due to the crisis and not who they are. Dispatchers remain calm and professional, providing pre-arrival instruction when needed, and at the end of the shift, know that they have helped someone.

Over the past few years, Grants Pass Public Safety has added dispatch positions due to increased call volume, and we are seeing the retirements of dispatchers who began their career when 911 was first implemented in Josephine County. The training program takes up to a year before a trainee is released to work on their own, so timing of bringing on new dispatchers must be coordinated carefully. For these reasons, there are regular postings for open positions. If you are interested in a career in Dispatch visit our website at www.grantspassoregon.gov and select “Job Opportunities” to learn more and apply for this rewarding position.

Help Us Help You

If you haven’t signed up for Josephine County Citizen Alert, now is the time! Landline telephone data is automatically provided to the emergency notification system. However, many people don’t have a landline phone anymore and only use a cell phone or mobile device. Signing up for Josephine County Citizen Alert ensures you will receive instant notification.

Josephine County uses Citizen Alert to send emergency information to the citizens of Josephine County who may be in danger, or need to be provided critical time-sensitive information.

The phone numbers used by the system are obtained from the local phone company and are exclusively landline phone numbers. No cellular phone numbers are provided to us. If you do not have a landline telephone at your home, we do not have your information and therefore, we cannot alert you about potentially dangerous situations. Josephine County doesn’t share your information with anyone.

To sign up for Josephine County Citizen Alert, visit www.co.josephine.or.us/alert.
Knowledge is Power

Staying informed about the community helps you make decisions and feel empowered with information that could be critical to your well-being.

The City of Grants Pass has an alert system that can notify you of community alerts, such as emergencies, job postings, street closures and much more. Below is the process to sign up for those notifications.

**Step 1**
Click the "Stay Notified" button on the lower left side of the homepage.

**Step 2**
**Email address sign in**
Enter your email address and click the sign in button.

**Step 3**
Choose how you would like to be notified: email, text, or both.

**Step 4**
Choose the alerts, bid postings, news, calendars, or agendas you are interested in by selecting the phone or mail icons.

You will then be asked to confirm your subscriptions (each one) by email and/or text depending on what options you chose.

**Subscription Options**
What are you getting when you sign up?

- **Alert Center** - to be notified about imminent or active emergency situations within the City of Grants Pass. The categories are: fire, flooding, police, street closures and weather. When these are active, a banner will also be active on the City’s website.

- **Bid Postings** - The City posts Requests for Proposals, information, and qualifications.

- **News Flash** - The City sends out various types of news, including press releases, job postings, street sweeping, and Public Safety media releases.

- **Calendar** - Upcoming (or canceled) City Council and committee meetings, and public forums.

- **Agenda Center** - The City posts agendas, packets, videos, and results that are available for City Council, Land Use Hearings, and other City meetings.

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**The Great Oregon ShakeOut Earthquake Drill**

Earthquakes are rare in Josephine County. However, they can happen anywhere you or your family travel. Everyone, everywhere, should know how to protect themselves in an earthquake.

Josephine County is registered to join the over 410,000 Oregonians participating in the annual "Great Oregon ShakeOut Earthquake Drill" on Thursday, October 18, at 10:18 a.m. Participating in the drill is a great way for you, your family, friends and coworkers to learn how to **Drop, Cover and Hold On**.

For information and tips, visit www.shakeout.org/oregon.dropcoverholdon for details you won’t want to miss.
**Economic Development and Innovation Hubs**

What is Economic Development? Economic Development is the pulse of the community. Questions often asked about a local economy are: Is it vibrant? Are there family wage jobs available? Is the City business friendly? The downtown merchants are a key asset to our thriving Historical Business District. The City currently has two matching grant programs to assist these businesses. One $5,000 grant is for updating their building facade and the other $1,000 grant is for lighting up their storefronts. These matching grants are available on a first come first served basis.

The City provides funding for new and existing businesses with microenterprise loans up to $25,000. The City partners with the Illinois Valley Economic Development Center and the Small Business Development Center to administer and approve these loans. There are also system development charge incentives that new businesses may be eligible for. Business retention and expansion is crucial to maintaining a vibrant community. Offering these incentives are ways that the City encourages growth and sustainability.

The City is working to establish an Innovation Hub. You may ask, what is an Innovation Hub? It is a Maker Space for community members, high school students, displaced workers, veterans, and entrepreneurs to come together in a co-working space that provides equipment, such as 3D printers, metal, wood and pottery tools and equipment. The key is having qualified instructors and supervisors on hand to assist, train and teach new skills. This concept is not new and there are many cities that already have an Innovation Hub location. The City is partnering with Rogue Community College to create an Innovation Hub in downtown Grants Pass.

More information on these economic development incentives can be found on the City’s website at www.grantspassoregon.gov or by contacting Susan Seereiter, Business Advocate at (541) 450-6014.

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**Make Fall Leaf Pick Up A Breeze**

With the fall leaf season quickly approaching, the Grants Pass Public Works Department encourages homeowners to follow Best Management Practices (BMP) for stormwater management. Keeping debris such as leaves, mud, dirt, gravel and rock from ending up on our City streets, roadways or any public way is crucial to our stormwater system. Remember that all of our stormwater pipes drain directly to the Rogue River, so any debris and pollutants can negatively affect our local water quality. Leaves and other debris can also contribute to blockages resulting in plugged pipes and localized flooding. Not only are BMPs an important step for protecting your personal property from flooding, it is prohibited and enforced under Municipal Code 5.36.030.

The City of Grants Pass has implemented a street sweeping program as a BMP to reduce the amount of debris from the City streets that enter the stormwater system, however, the street sweeper is not capable of picking up piles of leaves placed on the street by homeowners. Placing leaves from your property on the street is an enforceable offense. The City works with both Southern Oregon Sanitation and Republic Services to offer a Fall Leaf Collection Program that will be available November 1 through December 14. You have a few options if you are a subscriber with either of these companies and have extra leaves. During this time frame your yard debris cart will be picked up weekly instead of every two weeks. Also, you can call your service provider and schedule extra bags to be picked up at your curbside in biodegradable bags (found at most home improvement centers). If you do not subscribe to yard debris service or have too many leaves, you may haul them to a transfer station location. For more details on leaf pick up please contact either Republic Services 541-479-3371 or Southern Oregon Sanitation 541-479-5335.
Committee Openings

The City’s committee’s and commissions are advisory groups that provide an opportunity for citizens to serve our city by advising Council and staff and making recommendations. These are our current openings:

Historical Buildings and Sites Commission: There are two positions open. One position will be filled by an owner of a business located within the Central Business District. The other position will be appointed from the Josephine County Historical Society. Applications must be received by October 12, 2018.

Urban Tree Advisory Committee: There are four positions open due to term expirations. Applications must be received by October 8, 2018.

How to apply: Applications are available at City Hall at 101 NW A Street, room 205, or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-applications.

Mayor Darin Fowler 541-450-6000 
djfowler@grantspassoregon.gov
Ward 1
Councilor Tyler Flaming 541-450-6000 
tflaming@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Roy Lindsay 541-291-0346 
rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov
Ward 2
Council President Valerie Lovelace 541-479-0952 
vlovelace@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Rick Riker 541-479-7333 
rjriker@grantspassoregon.gov
Ward 3
Councilor Dennis Roler 541-479-4272 
droler@grantspassoregon.gov
Ward 4
Councilor Barry Eames 541-218-1403 
beames@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Jason Anderson 541-659-5957 
janderson@grantspassoregon.gov

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 am. Holidays will alter this schedule.

Any televised meetings are on Charter Cable
Channel 183 and stream on our website at

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

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.