The School Marshal Program

The School Marshal Program, which began in May 2016, is a result of the continued partnership between the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety and School District 7. School Marshals are part-time employees of the City, whose positions are funded by the School District. They are sworn police officers, most of whom recently retired with 25 or more years experience. Although they are part-time and non-uniformed positions, School Marshals maintain their law enforcement certification and continue to receive the same trainings as our full-time officers.

School Marshals patrol District 7 schools on a regular basis, providing security for one of our most vulnerable populations – our children. With the increase of active shooter incidents over the past several years, the School Marshal Program was created as a way to provide additional protection to our students and school staff without the high costs of adding more full-time officers. Their attire is like that of school staff, with the major exception being School Marshals are armed and prepared to defend students and staff from any threat.

Our School Marshals are dedicated to their positions and take the safety of our schools seriously. They truly enjoy what they do and love working with the kids in our community. The School Marshals were recently honored as heroes by the students at Lincoln Elementary School.
Your first car: I bought my first car, a 1970 VW Baja, from Cliff Wheeler’s Toyota car lot on 6th Street at the age of 15. I purchased it with profits from the animal I sold in the 4-H auction.

Most memorable day? I have several days of my life that have made a lasting impression, but I would have to say the most vivid are the days my three children were born.

Life’s passion? I have many things I am passionate about. Family, food, and fun are at the top of the list.

First concert: My first concert should have been the Kiss concert at the Medford Expo back in the late 80s, but I was unable to attend due to the band’s controversial nature for those times - it was a major standoff with my parents, and I lost.

Background: I was born in Josephine General Hospital. I grew up in the Murphy-Applegate area. My parents were farmers and our family was very involved with the 4-H program. I graduated from Hidden Valley High and went to Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls. I met my wife in college, got married in Jacksonville, then started my engineering career in Cottage Grove. I ended up in Phoenix, Arizona, as the economy was booming. Within the 18 years my wife and I were in Arizona, we built a family with two boys and one girl. In the summer of 2017, we relocated back to Grants Pass. Within our first summer back, I saw things had changed from when I grew up here. I also saw some opportunity to get involved to reshape the community. I felt my experience with land development could be a benefit to help solve some problems within the city.

In December, the City Council was presented with a unique opportunity to purchase Dollar Mountain. The 444-acre tract had been held in private ownership for several decades. The area has historically been used by locals for hiking, biking and dirt bike riding. The tract is located immediately adjacent to the City off the NW ‘B’ Street/Crescent area and off Hieglen Loop/Highland Area. The site contains beautiful views across the valley and provides challenging hikes for the hiking enthusiast.

While reviewing the option to purchase, the City Council realized the potential benefit for the community, not only for recreation, but also for forest stewardship and fire suppression. Based upon the Council’s priority to implement a forest stewardship plan, the City has recently contracted with Grayback Forestry to establish a perimeter buffer zone adjacent to nearby residences and along the established trails. Activity has also begun on improving the existing main trails. Southern Oregon Trail Alliance (SOTA) is an active volunteer group that has been very successful in trail development in Southern Oregon. SOTA sponsored the first trail maintenance day for Dollar Mountain in early June.

Our next steps will be to continue gathering public input, overall trail planning and to enter into agreements with BLM and Josephine County for trail development on their adjoining tracts. You may follow our progress on this project and submit comments and suggestions at the following website: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/1209/Dollar-Mountain.
Here we are amid spring and you may be thinking about adding some shade and beauty to your landscape. A healthy urban forest starts with careful planning. Choosing the right tree for the right place is one of the most important first steps in establishing a mature canopy. Thoughtful selection and planting location can help cut your energy costs in the summer by shading your house, while still allowing light through in the winter months. It is important to remember that your tree will need adequate space for the roots to grow. Tree roots can extend past the drip line of the canopy. For spaces with overhead space limitations, smaller ornamental trees are most appropriate, and will still provide your property and our community with great tree-related benefits. If there are no overhead space limitations, consider a tall shade tree, such as an oak or elm.

The City of Grants Pass recognizes the importance of our urban forest and wants to partner with you. Our Tree Canopy Program is open now, and not only will we come help you choose the right tree for the right place, we will plant it for you! The cost is $50 and limited to the first 50 applicants. Trees will be planted this fall. Applications are available online www.grantspassoregon.gov/documentcenter/view/14149 or at City Hall room 202.

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place
For safety, plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

If you are planning to plant a tree in the City’s right of way, which is typically along your street frontage, please review the list of Approved street trees on our website at www.grantspassoregon.gov/477/Approved-Street-Trees. There you will find information about small, medium and large trees, spacing data and pruning requirements, as well as trees that are prohibited due to roots that can cause damage to sewers, pavements and sidewalks.
Our pets are part of the family. They are also an important part of your disaster plan. As a rule of thumb, if it’s not safe for you, it isn’t safe for your pets. Pets left behind in a disaster can easily be injured, lost, or killed.

Don’t wait for a mandatory evacuation order. Pets sense danger quickly and often hide or become difficult to load in a crate or carrier. Livestock may become disoriented and become very difficult to catch or manage.

Before disaster strikes, know where you will go for safety. If necessary, call ahead to find shelters that may be equipped for your pet. Or, contact a friend that lives outside the disaster zone. Making these arrangements ahead of time will help put your mind at ease. Some hotels/motels will accept smaller pets or will waive the “no pet” policy in an emergency. Keep a list of animal-friendly places on hand or stored on your phone.

There are many more tips to follow in the event of an emergency. Knowing what you need ahead of time is the key to a successful and less-stressful evacuation.

Hopefully you will never need these tips, but Ready.gov has great information on how to get informed and prepare for a disaster. www.ready.gov/animals.