Doug Bradley is New Tourism Chairman

Doug Bradley was born and raised in Southern Oregon. With more than 30 years in the hospitality industry, Bradley celebrated his ninth anniversary as the general manager of Holiday Inn Express Grants Pass in December. He has served on the city’s Tourism Advisory Committee for nearly eight years, and now he has been called to lead that committee into the future by a unanimous vote of his fellow committee members who elected him their chairman.

“We’ve had a very effective run in tourism in a number of areas, and my goals are to respect and keep those areas moving forward,” said Bradley.

As the new committee chair, Bradley wants to see the committee renew its focus on applying available resources in the most effective way, he said.

“I want to make sure we are getting the most bang for our buck,” said Bradley.

With that commitment comes a desire to review existing data, accumulate additional relevant data, and analyze what can be done to increase promotion of Grants Pass as a tourism destination.

“I want to make sure people outside our area are informed of our events and attractions,” Bradley said.

One of the aspects of that involves looking at where visitors to the area are coming from by studying zip codes associated with hotel reservations and credit card transactions at local attractions, he said.

Most visitors come from Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and areas of Northern California, “but I want to expand that and extend our reach,” he said.

Expanding that reach may require increasing the amount of money the city spends on tourism promotion. Bradley would like to look at the tourism investments made by communities such as Portland and Bend in order to do a comparison study.

“We want to be able to compete on the same level,” he said.

“We need to look at other communities and compare what they spend, and we need to make sure we are spending what we have in the right places,” said Bradley.

He suggests expanding the city’s tourism profile through billboards, travel magazines, banner ads on travel websites, and “places where people plan their travel.”

“I see Grants Pass as the Mecca of tourism for Southern Oregon. We are uniquely Oregon,” said Bradley.

He believes an essential key to accomplishing these goals involves “bringing the community close to accomplishing these goals in a manner that suits the location criteria, while also representing the economic benefit (see subsequent story in this issue).”

Growing Up In Water

“Fewer things are more important than providing water and sewer services to people,” said Grants Pass Public Works Director Jason Canady.

Canady “literally grew up in” the city’s aging water treatment plant on “M” Street. When he joined the city in 1995, he first spent six months working in wastewater operations before transferring to the water plant, where he spent the next 20 years.

“You take it as a job – a vocation – and it becomes an avocation,” said Canady.

Admitting the plant (built in 1931) is coming to the end of its life and needs to be replaced was difficult for Canady, but a two-year evaluation in which all options were carefully studied, resulted in findings for the construction of a new plant at a new site.

“Ideally we were going to fix it, but you reach a point where the money you were going to invest is not a good investment for the community,” Canady said.

In 2012, the city formed a citizen advisory committee to evaluate the structural stability and scope of work to make the facility secure and sound. Canady said the committee was formed of a number of citizen representatives and they found that it was not possible to renovate or even build a new facility at the existing location and keep water flowing to residents at the same time.

“The older sections of concrete from the 1930s are really starting to degrade,” he said.

The clear-well beneath the building lobby, which holds as much as 400,000 gallons of treated water, is suffering from crumbling concrete and rebar failure, said Canady.

“One section of the concrete wall is actually bowing out 2.5 inches. Concrete walls shouldn’t bow,” Canady said.

During the evaluation process the committee studied five alternatives, using a “triple bottom line analysis,” including the cost to the community, benefit to the community, and potential environmental benefits of each option. Ultimately, the decision to build a new plant on a new site sparked a search of viable locations to begin construction.

“We evaluated a number of sites,” said Canady.

In the end, the site at 695 SE “J” St. was determined to best suit the location criteria, while also representing the economic option (see subsequent story in this issue).

“One of our original criteria was to be within a reasonable distance of our original intake. In order to run that large diameter pipeline, the costs increase exponentially,” Canady said.

Other potential sites were not viable for meeting future size needs.
City Manager’s Message: Successful Public Comment

I have participated in, let’s say, a few council meetings. Providing public comment at a council meeting can be an uncomfortable task. Having the pressure of people sitting higher than you behind a dais, bright lights in your face, microphone pointing at you, cameras around the room and people sitting directly behind you… What is stressful about that?

Remember, the council wants to hear from you.

I would like to provide some helpful tips for those wanting to address the council or, for that matter, concisely express their thoughts.

There are three ways the public can provide comment at city council meetings:

1. Public Hearing: A public hearing is a separate public comment opportunity to speak on a specific subject. Certain types of council actions require a public hearing.

2. Council Action: These are items that don’t require a separate public comment opportunity; however, the council determined these items are important enough in nature to provide specific public comment before action is taken.

3. Public Comment: This is an opportunity for the public to address the city council on items not related to a public hearing or council action item. The intent is to provide information that is pertinent to the city’s jurisdiction.

When you feel strongly about a public issue or a local concern, the council encourages you to share your information and thoughts with them.

During the public comment period, residents have called the council’s attention to a wide variety of issues concerning the city. Residents’ views have ranged from concerns about downtown parking to establishing a veterans memorial.

For public hearings and council action agenda items there will be an opportunity to provide comment when these items are addressed at the council meeting. The agenda also provides for general public comment on other items pertaining to city business.

For general public comment, residents must fill out a public comment card before the start of the meeting. If you are unable to attend a meeting or would rather not give testimony at the meeting, you are encouraged to email your comments to the mayor and council at: mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov.

If you have questions regarding city services please contact City Administration at (541)450-6000, or send me an email at: acubic@grantspassoregon.gov.

During the public comment periods, your comments are limited to three minutes. If there are more than two citizens speaking on the same subject, you will be asked to select a spokesperson, and that spokesperson will be provided five minutes to speak.

These are guidelines to help councilors hear as many different viewpoints as possible in the limited time available.

Public Comment Success Suggestions:

Know your Target Audience - Remember, the council is your audience. Don’t direct your comments to the public seated behind you.

It’s amazing how many speakers walk up to the podium and speak as if they’re talking to the public seated behind them instead of the council in front of them. There are also those who grandstand for the television audience.

Point - What is the idea you wish to present? Begin with an “I statement” outlining your idea, such as, “I am here to (propose/support/oppose).”

Start with the end in mind. State what you want addressed in the beginning, then tell the story. For example, “I would like council to consider the installation of a rapid flashing beacon at the intersection of Hawthorne and Hillcrest.”

Reason - Why are you making this point? How will it benefit the community? This is an important step, so council does not make assumptions about your motives.

For example, “A rapid flashing beacon at this location is important because there are many children and families crossing the street at this intersection without an identifiable crosswalk.”

Example - Give a brief and relevant example to clarify and make your point concrete.

For example, “I have seen how effective the rapid flashing beacon is at providing a safe crossing for students at the intersection of ‘A’ Street and Dean Drive.”

Summary - What condition will be changed or improved if your suggestion is adopted?

Mayor and City Council
Mayor Roy Lindsay 541-450-6004
rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 1
Council President Tyler Flaming 541-450-6000
tflaming@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Clint Scherf 541-450-6000
cscherf@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 2
Councilor Valerie Lovelace 541-479-0952
vlovelace@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Rick Riker 541-479-7333
rriker@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 3
Councilor Dennis Roler 541-479-4272
droler@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Dwight Faszer, II 541-450-6000
dfsazer@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 4
Councilor Barry Eames 541-218-1403
beames@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Joel King 541-761-7538
jking@grantspassoregon.gov

For example, “A rapid flashing beacon at Hawthorne and Hillcrest provides a safer crossing for students and families coming to and from Gilbert Creek Park and the schools.”

Action - If appropriate, depending on the situation, state what needs to be done and who will do it.

For example, “I have talked with the Public Works director and he mentioned there are funds available for this project.”

Closing - Thank the council for their consideration of this important topic. Civility and courtesy should always be aspects of successful public comment.

The city is at its best when we have active participation and receive constructive comments from our constituents.

I hope this article was helpful, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for helping make our community great.

With yours in public service,

- Aaron Cubic

TPYO TALLY!
A wise old editor once said: “Typos are here for those who won’t be happy until they find one.”

Thousands of words composed of thousands of letters means we are bound to get a few out of place. Let us know when you find them!

Email us with how many you find. You could see your name in this box next month as the top Typo Tally Counter!

Nobody claimed the title for the month of January. Can you find any typos in this February issue? Let us know, and we’ll thank you right here next month!
When Craig Runyon joined the Ausland Group, he became a part of a family business founded in Grants Pass with a three-generation heritage and a “design-build” philosophy “founded and built around being streamlined and efficient,” he said.

Runyon, who serves as the company’s director of customer success is responsible for making “sure clients are happy, and we are meeting their needs,” he said.

Ausland Group’s design-build approach houses architects, engineers, and builders all under the same roof, so they are able to “go in and do the project from start to finish,” said Runyon.

The success of the company has been marked with multiple milestones in recent years. In 2013, they expanded operations to an office in Ashland and, in 2014, another new office in Eugene. In December, they celebrated the grand opening of a new facility at their original location on Highland Avenue in Grants Pass.

“We wanted to use this building as a showcase of what we are able to do,” said Runyon.

Everything about the building is customized to the needs and specifications of the company, while also exhibiting the creative design elements the company is best known for, right down to the exquisite wood table top in “The Incredible” conference room.

Interesting names for spaces can be found throughout the building, including locations such as the Einstein Library, the Isaac Newton Study, and Marie Curie Bar, also known as the break kitchen. The human resources department is called the People Success office, and a collaborative workspace is called the Jedi Room.

The names derived from employee suggestions and a sense of ownership in the process of designing and building the new facility that the employees share, Runyon said.

“People really took pride in their work and something they really got to experience from the ground up,” he said.

The new facility was three years in the making from conception to design to construction. The company outgrew its previous facility, and the team decided they wanted to design and build a functioning showroom piece.

“Part of the story of this place includes pointing to the issues we had to solve and how we did it,” said Runyon.

Scott Pigman served as the principal architect on the project. Architectural designer Kate Miller handled the interior design of the facility.

“We did it a little different than usual. We designed the outside without knowing what (See “AUSLAND” page 10)

City Seeking Artists for Alley Beautification

The City of Grants Pass is seeking artists who wish to participate in the city’s Alley Beautification Project.

The Alley Beautification Project furthers the city’s goal of creating a vibrant commercial district by enhancing downtown activities and safe spaces. In this project, the selected artist will have the support of the city’s Committee on Public Art (CoPA) to survey key stakeholders and design site-specific art installation(s) for the selected alleyway.

The artist will be asked to create work(s) that create a sense of play and invoke interaction from the public, while also respecting placement within the city’s Historic District. The Alley Beautification Project is commissioned by the City of Grants Pass with a budget of $20,000.

Deadline for this Call for Artists is March 6. While local creators may be given preference, there is no geographic eligibility requirement to apply. The artist will have the support of CoPA to design and create one or more works of public art for the Osprey Alley. The project will be overseen by CoPA with final authority given to the city council.

The Osprey Alley is the first in a series of alleyways to be developed.

The Osprey Alley is located between 6th and 5th streets and parallel to H and I streets. As this site is within the city’s Historic District, no permanent changes can be made to surrounding buildings, and color palette may be limited. There is some existing landscaping in the alley, as well as one existing lamppost and temporary hanging lights. Vehicles bringing supplies to adjacent businesses intermittently need access to a portion of the alley.

“Specifically, we are looking for work(s) that cause the public to pause, enter and look deeply at the space; engage and/or play in the space; and record their presence in the space with a unique image or ‘selfie,’” said Susan Seereiter, business advocate for the city.

Local artists, artist teams, as well as students are encouraged to apply. Application requirements include an email or mailed letter with the following contents:

1) Statement of Interest: In 800 words or less, introduce yourself and describe your specific interest in the project, your potential approach to the project or creating public art, and any past relevant experience.

2) Resume’ or short biography.

3) Visual Support Materials: 3-10 images depicting previous work. Visual support materials can include digital images, slides, videos, CDs, or prints.

4) Annotated List: The annotated list allows you to describe the visual support materials.

All applications must be received by 3 p.m., March 6. Applications will be reviewed by CoPA.

Please submit all required application materials by emailing sseereiter@grantspassoregon.gov, with the subject line Alley Beautification Application, or mail to: City of Grants Pass, C/O Susan Seereiter, Business Advocate, 101 NW A Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526.

For questions, contact Seereiter at (541) 450-6014 or sseereiter@grantspassoregon.gov.
Merchant Meeting Focuses on Unity

On Jan. 16, a quarterly meeting of merchants who own or operate businesses in the Grants Pass Central Business District focused on ways for merchants to unify their efforts to promote and support each other in local commerce.

“It’s really a great time to be in business in downtown Grants Pass,” said Jon Bowen of Experience Grants Pass, the city’s tourism contractor.

Bowen conducted the meeting, which included an extensive agenda of items addressing topics relevant to local business.

Rikki Perrin of Josephine County Emergency Management delivered what she called a “gut punch” to attendees regarding emergency preparedness. Perrin discussed the ramifications of a potential Cascadia earthquake event, and the importance of being prepared for a major emergency. She shared a wide range of available resources and encouraged everyone to be “two weeks ready.”

“It’s called ‘pre-prepared,’ because you have to do it before you need it,” said Perrin.

James Love with Terrain Landscape Architecture presented a brief overview of the assessment his firm is conducting for the city regarding the downtown area. Love said his team found downtown to be more automobile oriented than pedestrian friendly. He said the attractiveness of the 6th Street corridor is not matched by the side streets, which are “lacking in character.”

Love’s firm will also be recommending improvements to public parking, wayfinding signs, the placement of public art, and a public plaza to promote better pedestrian use of the business district, he said.

Building and business owner Ward Warren, who also serves on the city’s Downtown Parking Taskforce, expressed many of Love’s recommendations echoed those of the taskforce, and that he would like to see more collaboration between Love’s firm and the city’s committees.

Bowen provided an overview of ideas and suggestions aimed at helping local businesses stand out in their market and better compete with the growing trend of consumers shopping online.

“It is getting tough, but it’s a great time to step back, look at what we do, and make some changes,” said Bowen.

He highlighted several areas where businesses could focus on improving their customer experience, encouraging business owners to be innovative in their promotions, emphasizing their distinction, and creating a “genuine connection” with their customers through personalized attention and improved customer service.

“If you want to stand out apart from the digital gods out there, you have the tools, and it’s you,” said Bowen.

Bowen also encouraged businesses to increase their operating hours and “freshen up” their store interiors and exteriors with better lighting and customer store flow through display racks and merchandise. He suggested store owners ask their neighboring business to provide a friendly evaluation of each other’s store displays and layouts.

“If we collectively work on our individual stores, we provide a collective experience,” Bowen said.

Shannon Holder of Ann and Shan’s on 6th Street agreed with Bowen. Holder has been instrumental in creating promotional events for downtown businesses to collectively participate in. She leads the Grants Pass Downtown Merchants Facebook Group and encourages downtown businesses to work together to create a collective experience.

“We are all an outside pedestrian mall, and we all need to work together,” said Holder.

Holder and Bowen have both suggested the creation of an “official association” for downtown businesses to join. The association would serve as a way for businesses to unify their efforts to address issues facing downtown businesses, make recommendations to the city regarding improvements, support downtown events, and promote the district overall as a destination shopping location.

“Most successful downtowns have a business group. The idea is to unify the businesses,” said Bowen.

Warren provided some insight into the history of a former association and expressed his desire to see a new business association develop to have a collective voice independent of other interests so that it could better promote downtown.

Christie Swafford of the Grants Pass and Josephine County Chamber of Commerce informed local businesses that the Chamber would be conducting the city’s 2020 Business Retention and Expansion survey. The survey is conducted every three years. Chamber volunteers will soon be out visiting businesses to obtain their input, she said.

Director of Parks and Community Development Lora Glover introduced a short survey regarding the city’s Adult Use Ordinance. The Grants Pass City Council is considering making changes to restrictions on adult use businesses in the downtown area, and they directed staff to obtain input from the local businesses that could be affected by the ordinance.

“It’s a very short survey,” said Glover.

The meeting concluded with a brief discussion about instituting a “Shop Downtown Grants Pass” campaign that would include downtown businesses providing a lapel sticker to their customers with every purchase. The sticker would read something simple such as “I shopped in Downtown Grants Pass today!” Business owners in support of the idea hope that it will be a way for residents to display their pride in the Central Business District, possibly leading to selfies, social media posts, and increased word-of-mouth promotion of downtown.

“We’re thriving in the beauty of a really neat downtown district,” said Don Hendricks of Don’s Bike Center on “G” Street.

“I’m super optimistic about everything that is going on,” said Bowen.

New Business Climate Remains Strong in GP

The climate for new businesses starting up in Grants Pass remained consistent in 2019 with as many as 404 new Business and Occupation Tax Certificates issued throughout the year. The city’s Finance Department processed an average of more than 33 application each month during 2019.

Those numbers remain consistent with the previous three years. City records for 2016 – 2018 indicate an annual average of 405 business applications per year during that period.

July and August have been the most popular months for new business startups in the city, with as many as 50 or more businesses filing applications during those months. Not surprisingly, December has the fewest reported applications most years.

It is unlawful for a person to transact any business in the city without first obtaining a Business and Occupation Tax Certificate. A Business and Occupation Tax Certificate authorizes the certificate holder to transact business at the location designated on the certificate.

Evidence of doing business includes the use of signs, circulars, cards, telephone books, newspapers, or other form of advertisement to represent the transacting of business in the city.

Receipt of the certificate does not imply compliance with zoning, planning, building safety, and fire safety regulations. The certificate application will be denied where the activity to be taxed would not comply with city ordinances, or state and federal laws.

Prior to filing an application for a Business and Occupation Tax Certificate, applicants should visit the State of Oregon Business Registry to determine the availability of the business name they seek and to find specific instructions as to setting up a business in the state.

Additional information is available at www.grantspassoregon.gov.
City Adjusts Scope of Land Needed for New Water Plant

The Grants Pass City Council approved a new resolution declaring a public need for acquisition of property for a new water treatment plant at their meeting Jan. 15. The new resolution supersedes a previous resolution adopted March 20, 2019, and changes the scope of the property required for building the new plant.

“It’s more accurate to replace that one with this one,” said City Attorney Mark Bartholomew.

The previous resolution identified a 16.94-acre tract at 695 SE “J” St. as the ideal location considering land acquisition and water treatment plant construction costs. The new resolution reduces the request to a proposed area of the property which encompasses only 9.97 acres of the property.

“The goal is to be as accommodating as possible,” said Bartholomew.

The current plant is located on a parcel that is 3.3 acres. The actual “footprint” of the plant is smaller, but room is needed for ancillary processes, yard piping, parking, and other operational aspects. The majority of the current property has pipe or conduit duct bank running through it, said City Manager Aaron Cubic.

The new configuration of 9.97 acres will allow the new facility to include its own backwash handling facilities which will include a backwash and stormwater pond.

“This will likely take up over an acre alone, if not more,” said Cubic.

Additional room is required to ensure that the plant can be enlarged at a future date.

“We need to ensure adequate space for future growth. To acquire minimum lot size for current operations would add a lot of cost to future users,” he said.

“This issue cannot be over-emphasized; if we cannot construct future plant expansions without utilizing other parcels for construction activities or have enough room to excavate next to structures without encroaching on the Parkway, we will be back in the same position that we are today, unable to expand or re-construct without impacting plant operations,” Cubic said.

Security is another reason additional room is needed. The current plant is considered vulnerable due to its accessibility. The added room will allow for numerous security measures which will help to deter any future security concerns.

Another acre is required for stormwater management and plant overflow storage that the current facility does not have. An external perimeter road is something else the existing plant does not have and is needed for chemical deliveries and solids haul off, said Cubic.

“The latest land option provides minimal impact on the landscaping business at its current location and allows this service to the community to continue,” he said.

The property is owned by the Ausland family, operators of Copeland Sand and Gravel. The city has been in negotiations with the Auslands since early last year, but those negotiations have hit a stand-still.

“We have made an offer and we have not heard back,” Bartholomew said.

Oregon law requires the city to declare to a public need for the property prior to commencing with any eminent domain proceedings, but Bartholomew was clear in stating that the new resolution does not prevent continued negotiations from taking place.

Councilors Joel King and Valerie Lovelace questioned Bartholomew about the process of moving forward with eminent domain should a reasonable deal fail to materialize (See “WATER” page 11).

Canady... (from page 1)

expansion and could increase costs of the facility by as much as $20 million, he said.

“Because of its close proximity and wide openness, the ‘J’ Street property became the best alternative,” he said.

“It’s not just building the plant today, but it’s also about the expansion we need in the future. That’s really the key to the amount of property we need,” said Canady.

Today, the city provides an average of 5.5 million gallons of water per day to more than 12,000 connections serving more than 35,000 people. That translates to roughly 3,500 gallons per minute 24 hours per day, seven days per week to meet average demand.

Under the best possible scenario, the current plant will continue to function until a new facility is built and running. Other possible scenarios are less positive, Canady said.

A major earthquake could render the plant nonoperation-al, and a “worst-case scenario is that it collapses under its own weight without a major seismic event as the trigger,” he said.

If that happens, at least two-fifths of current water production would immediately cease, and the city would have to function on only 2-3 days of stored water.

“Maybe longer if people rationed properly,” said Canady.

Increasing cost projections add to the urgency to build the new plant. Currently estimated at $81 million to complete, each day potentially raises the cost by as much as $8,000, Canady said.

Based on average inflation and increased costs of materials, staff projects a four percent annual increase to the cost of construction. Canady also stays informed about other public agencies with similar projects in the works and the effect that can have on the available labor pool when it comes time to begin construction.

“The time lag has been a challenge. You’re reducing your buying power,” he said.

Once the suitable property is acquired, Canady projects it will take as long as four years to complete the project.

“Eventually we will have created a plant that is going to be resilient and be there for the next 100 years,” Canady said.

“You take it as a job — a vocation — and it becomes an avocation.”

“The construction techniques in 1931 were not as advanced as they are today. The new plant will be designed to last 100 years. The original plant was not designed to last that long, and it’s already at 89 years and counting,” said Canady.

Still, the man who spent 20 years inside the historic building has a soft spot in his heart for the service it has provided and the recognition it deserves for that service.

“That plant is such an iconic building in this community, and we will find a way to repurpose it for a future use,” said Canady.

Nonetheless, the plant’s days as a functioning clean water supply source are numbered.

“The city has not taken this decision lightly,” Canady said.

“High and fine literature is wine, and mine is only water; but everybody likes water.”

- Mark Twain
Strategic Planning Process Focuses Council Goals

At the start of each new year, the Grants Pass City Council engages in a three-day strategic planning session designed to review the city’s long-term goals and how to achieve them.

Strategic planning is a tool that helps the city focus and analyze its financial prospects and make strategic decisions about city services and capital projects – particularly as they affect community goals and objectives.

Community participation is an important aspect of the process, as councilors want to make their strategic planning decisions with the confidence that they are responding to residents’ desires. The council invited residents to a Strategic Planning Forum in November to ask about residents’ goals and dreams for Grants Pass. Those who missed the forum were able to participate by emailing their suggestions to City Recorder Karen Frerk.

Community-suggested priorities and actions were placed into the strategic planning process for consideration. Those suggestions became a part of the tools used by the council to set budget and action priorities for the future.

“Think of the strategic plan as a road map to city priorities and actions, how resources will be used, and what can be done to move Grants Pass forward,” said City Manager Aaron Cubic.
This year’s Strategic Planning session included:

- True Colors Team Building Exercise
- 4th Quarter Report and Review
- Long-Range Future Planning
- SWOT Analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)
- Service Levels for Operations
- Council, Committee, Community, City Department Recommendations Review
- 10 Habits of a Highly Effective Governing Body
- Prioritizing Strategies and Actions

Council’s Top Goals for 2020

- Develop housing incentives for multi-family units
- Restore/replace Caveman Pool
- Pass a Police/Fire levy November 2020
- Develop and implement a Housing Action Plan
- Install additional security cameras throughout the park system
- Facilitate establishment of a drug treatment facility, utilizing federal grant funding
- Prevention focused community policing to help reduce crime and build public trust
- Identify park infrastructure priorities
- Install sidewalks and crosswalks near the intersection of Foundry and Booth streets
Council to Survey Merchants Regarding Adult Use Businesses

Grants Pass City Councilors directed city staff to conduct a survey of businesses and interested parties regarding restrictions on adult use businesses in the city’s Central Business District (CBD). At their Jan. 6 workshop, council members discussed options regarding the code establishing restrictions which was first enacted in 1994. They agreed to seek input from the community before deciding the future of the code.

The current code established 1,000-foot buffer requirements between adult use businesses and any daycare facilities, libraries, parks, schools, and recreational facilities, as well as 1,000 feet between marijuana businesses. There is a 200-foot buffer between adult use and residential zones.

The code restrictions stand alone in comparison to other cities in the area, said Director of Parks and Community Development Lora Glover.

“We’re pretty unique in this field from the other communities we’ve talked to,” said Glover.

Glover said the city’s Urban Area Planning Commission recommends removing the restrictions from the CBD. Several council members suggested accepting that recommendation, as well as reducing the requirements in other areas of the city.

“I’m in favor of eliminating that buffer in the CBD,” said Councilor DJ Faszer.

Councilors Clint Scherf and Barry Eames both agreed.

Councilor Rick Riker suggested obtaining additional information before making a final decision.

“I want to preserve the area and character of our downtown, while still promoting business opportunities,” said Riker.

Councilor Tyler Flaming supported polling the existing businesses in the CBD to determine the preferences of those who currently create the atmosphere he described as appealing to residents from nearby communities such as Medford and Ashland as a destination for shopping and dining.

“I would hate to go forward to then go backward,” said Flaming.

Glover and her staff created a survey on the topic which she be presented at the city’s quarterly merchant meeting, Thursday, Jan. 16 (see story in this issue).

Stay in the Lane With Traffic Tuesdays

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Traffic Team launched a new program in January to assist residents with staying informed about traffic laws, rights of way, and safe driving practices. Traffic Tuesdays will make use of the department’s social media accounts to share a traffic tip or important aspect of the law each Tuesday.

The helpful tips will be useful for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and motorists.

“We hope that our posts will be read and shared by our followers to increase public education and to keep our roads safe,” said Officer Shali Smock.

Residents can follow Traffic Tuesdays on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/grantspassdps, or on Twitter: @GrantsPassDPS.

Did You Know?

There are more than 40 sworn police officers working for the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety. In 2018, officers responded to more than 64,000 calls for service.

FIRE RESCUE

Grants Pass Fire Department was founded in 1891. In 2018, the Fire Rescue Division responded to 4,576 calls for service.

Public Safety Staff/Volunteers Honored For Their Service

Grants Pass Department of Public Safety employees and volunteers were honored at a special ceremony last month for their outstanding service and contributions to the success of the department and the community. A total of 19 special awards and medals were distributed at the awards banquet:

Volunteer of the Year – Pastor Fred Saada
Fire Trainer of the Year – Frank Bungay
Police Trainer of the Year – Kasen Perkins
Community Engagement Award – Archie Lidey
Non-sworn Employee of the Year – Paul Schilens
Dispatcher of the Year - Jamie Farr
Supervisor of the Year - Randy DeLonge
Chief’s Award – Elisa Michael
Firefighter of the Year - Josh Ward
Officer of the Year - Robert Gilinsky
Medal of Merit – Officers Derek Evans and Colin Walsh
Medal of Honor - Officers Max Anuschat, Shali Marshall, Will Taylor, and Robert Gilinsky

2019 DUI Recognition - Derek Evans

Annual Calls to 911 Dispatch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Police</th>
<th>Fire</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>50,076</td>
<td>4,196</td>
<td>54,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>52,117</td>
<td>4,662</td>
<td>56,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>60,653</td>
<td>4,470</td>
<td>65,123</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>62,948</td>
<td>4,441</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>64,061</td>
<td>4,555</td>
<td>68,616</td>
</tr>
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</table>
**Some Sweet Lighting**

Sandi Crowder has been making candy for 32 years. A former purchasing agent who worked in the Silicon Valley, Crowder made her cross into confections in Morgan Hill, Calif., when her husband, Clyde, bought her a candy shop there.

“My husband bought me a job, a career, a business,” said Crowder.

Three years at her first location transitioned into working out of her garage before making the move to Grants Pass 27 years ago into a location on 6th Street. Today, Sandi’s Candies is a staple of the Grants Pass Central Business District in its location at 145 SW “G” St., where it has been for more than 15 years now.

Crowder loves her location on “G” Street, but the shop didn’t always quite “pop” the way she wanted it to, especially with the canopy that overshadows her display windows, she said.

“I tried lighting the windows at night, but it just wasn’t enough,” said Crowder.

That’s when she turned to the City of Grants Pass and obtained a Light the Storefront matching grant.

“I thought the grant was a sweet deal. I called my electrician, and we said, ‘let’s go,’” Crowder said.

Crowder hired ER Electric to remove outdated lighting, tap into existing electrical at the front of the store, and install new light bars beneath her canopy.

“They were Johnny-on-the-spot,” working around her business hours to complete the job, she said.

The enhancement made an immediate difference to the look and attractiveness of her store, said Crowder.

“The very biggest difference was during Back to the Fifties weekend. My store was lit up like none of the others. It gave me a presence and the ability to stay open late,” she said.

The new lighting also provides added security for the store, said Crowder.

“I don’t ever shut them off,” she said.

The lighting is also efficient for her, with no recognizable increase to her electric bill, she said. Now, during evening events such as First Fridays in the business district, the lighting “makes us pop,” said Crowder.

“I’m one of the few places that lights up,” she said.

The enhanced lighting brings extra attention to her sweet treats and displays in the window. Customers come in to select a variety of candy options, but Crowder says its her truffles and fudge that sell the best.

Except during February, when she goes through 10 or more cases of strawberries for her famous Valentine’s Day chocolate covered treats.

“I’m known in this town for big strawberries,” said Crowder.

She carries the giant chocolate-dipped berries from the beginning of February until the berries lose their quality, she said.

(See “LIGHTS” page 11)

**Grants Pass Economic Development: Philosophies, Policies, and Programs**

Creating a healthy and diverse economic base in the Grants Pass area relies on dedicated partners striving to make this region an ideal place to live and do business.

Grants Pass is a growing community which still maintains its small-town atmosphere as a core value.

Grants Pass combines progressive growth with small-town values.

The City of Grants Pass makes economic development a high priority. With core goals of diversifying the economy, improving the standard of living for its residents, and focusing on smaller, local businesses, the city’s economic development program uses key tools, programs, and partnerships to achieve success.

Some of those programs include business funding and incentive programs such as the Building Façade Matching Grant Fund Program, Business Retention and Relocation Assistance Program, Grants Pass Enterprise Zone, Industrial Development Revolving Loan Fund, Light the Storefronts Grant Incentive Program (see story this issue), Micro Enterprise Loan Program, Opportunity Zones, System Development Charges Incentive Program, and Vertical Housing Development Program.

These programs are designed to assist businesses with startup capital, improvement funding, reduced development costs, and other incentives aimed at fulfilling the department’s goals of fostering a vibrant economic climate in Grants Pass.

For additional information about economic development, visit: www.grantspassoregon.gov/135/Economic-Development, or contact Business Advocate Susan Seereiter, (541)450-6014.

**Question of the Month:**

*Did you make a New Year’s resolution this year?*

“Did you make a New Year’s resolution this year?”

“I didn’t. Everyone seems to, but I’ve been staying healthy all through the year.”

- Amelia Martin

“Did you make a New Year’s resolution this year?”

“No I did not, because my new year started with cancer and chemo. But cancer ain’t got nothing on me!”

- Jess Bilodea

“Did you make a New Year’s resolution this year?”

“No, not really, because I just try to live every day to my best and set goals one a month, instead of every year.”

- Amber Biscarret

“Did you make a New Year’s resolution this year?”

“No, because I just try to live every day to my best and set goals one a month, instead of every year.”

- Amanda Auer

“No, I made a change this year, and I’m developing a 2020 vision.”

- Jennifer Granberg

“No, I never do. Not usually.”

- Kari Wegat

“Did you make a New Year’s resolution this year?”

“No, because I just try to live every day to my best and set goals one a month, instead of every year.”

- Stephany Vargas

“Did you make a New Year’s resolution this year?”

“No, because I just try to live every day to my best and set goals one a month, instead of every year.”

- Paloma Bonce

“No, because I just try to live every day to my best and set goals one a month, instead of every year.”

- Monica Perticasion

“No, because I just try to live every day to my best and set goals one a month, instead of every year.”

- Krista Applegate
Council Structures Public Comment

During this year’s Strategic Planning the mayor and city council discussed public comment and how it is currently managed during council business meetings.

Council members welcome public engagement in a variety of ways: over the phone, in writing, mayor and council email, and in person through conversations at meetings and public events, among others.

Topics of discussion included respecting the time of people needing to do business with the city and the ability for the public to address council on matters pertaining to city business.

Most meetings include public hearings and/or council action items where people need to do business with the city on items such as lot line adjustments, sign code appeals, façade improvement grants and others.

Often, the applicant for these items hires an architect, contractor or planning consultant to help represent their interests. Recognizing that the city is the sole place for this type of business, and it comes at an hourly cost for some, council prioritized city business to occur first on the agenda at their meetings.

Council values citizen input and is implementing a few changes to their current public comment guidelines to make for a better public experience and more efficient and effective meetings.

The following is the approved public comment process.

• Those who wish to speak at public comment must complete a public comment card and turn it in to the city recorder by 5:50 p.m., prior to the start of a business session meeting held the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Arrangements for a sign language interpreter, hearing assistance and other assistance can be made by calling the city manager’s office at (541)450-6000.

The GIS of Things

Members of the community are invited to take a brief survey to assist the City of Grants Pass with improving its Geographic Information System (GIS). The survey can be found at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LZRBP5C.

GIS software and geographic databases (geodatabases) represent features on the earth, such as buildings, site addresses, utility systems, city boundaries, and roads.

GIS is a tool used by individuals and organizations, schools, governments, and businesses seeking innovative ways to solve problems.

Residents can learn more about GIS by visiting the City’s website: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/908/What-is-GIS.

Storm Water Solutions

The City of Grants Pass is rethinking its stormwater system and city staff is seeking public input. The city is proposing a Stormwater Management Manual that will facilitate best practices for stormwater mitigation techniques, which help to filter out contaminants and promote natural infiltration.

Community members are asked to visit the following link to complete a brief survey to provide valuable feedback and input: http://openhouse.jla.us.com/grants-pass-swmm.

Ausland... (from page 3)

the inside would look like, then we designed the needs of the inside,” said Runyon.

“Kate (Miller) did a dive deep into what our needs are,” he said.

Miller treated the project like the company treats its outside clients. She conducted interviews of the staff and key personnel about their needs and functions in order to assess and include the design elements required to meet those needs. She then incorporated the use of natural light where possible and adhered to a desire to have “a natural flow to the building with an open office space design,” said Runyon.

“It’s something unique to Southern Oregon, if not all of Oregon.”

The goal was to initiate collaboration and coordination between team members within the space on a regular basis. It is common for team members to collaborate on project needs in the break kitchen while getting a cup of coffee, Runyon said.

Acoustical panels were added to help lessen the effect of hard surfaces and a “white noise” element was added to the open space to promote the proper atmosphere.

“There were certainly issues we had to tackle, but that was part of the mission,” said Runyon. “You’re putting yourself in the client’s shoes and seeing what they have to go through,” he said.

The most difficult challenge was working to complete the new facility, while also serving clients throughout the state, Runyon said. For two years, the staff in Grants Pass worked out of job trailers at the back of the property.

“That made coming to this new facility that much sweeter,” said Runyon.

Some of Ausland Group’s more notable local projects include the AllCare Health headquarters, and renovations to the Holiday Inn Express and The Haul. Regional projects include the theatre and broadcasting studios at Southern Oregon University, the remodel of Agate Hall at University of Oregon, and the Brit Festival’s Performance Garden.

Currently their team is working on a new 16,000-square-foot building and 30,000-square-foot building renovation for a major credit union in Coquille.

“It’s very rewarding to bring on an innovative team that follows a newer design-build model,” Runyon said.

In choosing team members, Ausland Group looks for innovative employees who can “function in an integrated environment,” he said.

“Our core values are important, and when we look for a new team member, we assess whether or not they fit that,” said Runyon.

“We’re really trying to do something new and make a new model for success. It’s something unique to Southern Oregon, if not all of Oregon,” Runyon said.
Planning Commission Opening

Applications are still being accepted for a position on the Urban Area Planning Commission due to a resignation. The term expires Nov. 18, 2021. All City appointments to the UAPC shall be required to have their principal residence within the city limits or the Urban Growth Boundary.

The purpose of this commission is to review and render a decision on all Type III Land Use Applications, including zone changes, subdivisions, Planned Unit Developments, and major variances, as well as all Type IV Land Use requests, including Comprehensive Plan Amendments and Development Code Text Amendments.

Apply at the City Administration Office, 101 NW “A” St., or online at www.grants-passoregon.gov/committee-application. Applications must be received by 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 10. The commission will review applications Feb. 12, and the city council will make appointments at the city council meeting Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Water...(from page 5)

between the Auslands and the city.

Bartholomew said the city was required to wait at least 40 days after an offer was made based on a recent appraisal of the property, before moving forward with additional procedures. The city obtained a new appraisal of the identified portion of the property in December, he said.

Speaking at public comment on the item, Steve Ausland expressed his family had two different plans for the property. One plan included continuing the business operations that currently exist at the site, the other plan proposed selling the land to a large retail outlet, he said.

The city’s desire to use a portion of the property would “eliminate its use for a big box outlet,” said Ausland.

“You might as well ignore this (resolution) because you already have to take the whole property,” Ausland said.

City councilors disagreed. “I see this as an appropriate step. The city has determined that we do not need the entire property,” said Councilor DJ Faszer.

“I see this as a good compromise,” said Councilor Dennis Roler.

“I agree that this is a great compromise,” said Councilor Clint Scherf.

Bartholomew’s presentation included projections of cost increases the city will incur while the process to acquire the land continues. His projection is an increase of $267,000 per month, and Councilor Roler said city consultants have determined that moving the location could add as much as $20 million to the price of the facility.

Councilor Valerie Lovelace spoke of the impending need to replace the current aging water plant, which she identified as the oldest existing water plant still in operation in the state of Oregon.

“It will not last forever, and it has taken us eight years to get to this point,” said Lovelace.

Council President Tyler Flaming was optimistic that a deal could be reached with the Auslands for the purchase of the required property.

“I hope that through these negotiations we can reach an agreement everyone can feel good about,” said Flaming.

Light the Storefronts Grant Program

Encouraging downtown merchants to improve the aesthetics of their storefronts.

Eligible Projects:
Soft lighting that spills out into the sidewalk and street improving the ambiance of downtown.

Color temperature appropriate range of 2000 K up to 3500 K (K=Kelvin).

White LED lighting that shines on window merchandise. Lighting inside and around the storefront windows.

Location Criteria:
Within the Grants Pass downtown area as bounded by: C Street to the north, M Street to the south, and between 4th and 8th streets.

Conditions and Considerations:
The maximum matching grant for any one applicant will be no greater than $1,000.

Grant funds are intended for reimbursement of active tenant/merchant costs.

All grant funds will be used for previously completed projects.

All applications will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The City will not grant funds until the work is complete.

The incentive grant is available until the program funds are exhausted.

The City will review grant applications for compliance with historic guidelines and period appropriateness.

The minimum match amount required from the applicant shall be no less than 50% of the total cost of the project.

Grant Approval Process:
The applicant must submit a completed application and required detailed information.

The Economic Development Department’s Business Advocate will provide notice of award for successful applications.

The lighting must be installed within one month from the approval date.

Money for the grant will be disbursed after the applicant has completed the project and has submitted financial information to the City.

Questions on eligibility can be directed to Business Advocate Susan Seereiter; (541)450-6014.

“Lights...”(from page 9)

said.

“Once they’re gone, they’re gone,” said Crowder.

Some of her other chocolate-covered creations haven’t been as famous. Explorations into chocolate-covered bacon and chocolate-dipped potato chips just didn’t sell well for her. The perishable nature of those items also made it difficult to keep them fresh.

“It’s not worth carrying them,” she said, and thus they are “never to be seen here again.”

Some of her other seasonal items are a tremendous hit with customers every year, said Crowder.

“I make a special fudge once a year for Back to the Fifties weekend,” Crowder said.

The special three-layer Razz-My-Berries takes her all day to make. It is composed of layers of raspberry, lemon, and blueberry cheesecake fudge. Freedom Fudge is the special creation every Fourth of July, and Rogue River Bottom Fudge, which started as a creation for “Rocktober,” “was such a hit, I keep it stocked all the time,” she said.

“I like to play with the fudge stuff the best,” said Crowder.

One of her greatest challenges as a confectioner occurred when local philanthropist, Brady Adams, commissioned her to create 30 large, individually-decorated chocolate bears to give as gifts to the artists who created the now famous Grants Pass BearFest Bears.

“I did things with a Black and Decker that never should have been done,” said Crowder. “If it has my name on it, I want it to be as close to perfect as possible,” she said.

One Easter season, Adams came in and wiped out her entire stock of chocolate bunnies, she said.

Crowder is also a philanthropist. Each year, she supports local events and fundraisers, including Stockings for Soldiers, which she has supported for five years.

“I will do it every year until I don’t have a business anymore,” Crowder said.

“I love our community, and I’m involved as much as I can possibly be,” she said.

Crowder calls herself a “people pleaser” who tries to please everybody, including herself.

“In my fermenting years, I realize that I can’t please everybody,” she said.

Nonetheless, she continues to try.

“I live in this community. I love this community. They’re going to carry me out of this community feet first,” said Crowder.

“Water...”(from page 5)

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Downtown Businesses Offer to ‘Save’ Valentine’s Day for Men

Gentlemen shoppers who notoriously allow Valentine’s Day to sneak up on them, now have an opportunity to “save the day” through shopping local while tasting beer, enjoying snacks, and receiving personalized shopping assistance at two downtown Grants Pass businesses.

Men’s Night Out, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, promises to offer men an “enjoyable concierge shopping experience” while they select gifts for their Valentines,” said Jan Bertaggia, owner of the Emporium at 202 SW 6th St.

The Emporium is one of several downtown businesses sponsoring the special evening of beer tasting, refreshments, and other incentives aimed at providing procrastinators with an easy option to fulfill their Valentine’s Day shopping needs.

“Don’t worry if you procrastinated on your Valentine’s Day gift buying - we are here to save the day,” said Bertaggia.

The Emporium will be joined by Ann and Shan’s, 224 SW 6th St., in offering beer selections from the Weekend Beer Co., snacks that go good with beer, and special services such as a free gift with minimum purchases, gift wrapping, and personal assistance in selecting the proper gift.

“Our stores are stocked with beautiful jewelry, accessories, apparel and luxury bath & body products to create your perfect Valentine’s gift,” Bertaggia said.

For additional information, contact The Emporium at (541)479-0220, or Ann and Shan’s at (541)226-2339.

Bradley... (from page 1)

“Training an enthusiastic front desk staff to share the features of the area with guests is essential. That human interaction is key,” he said.

“One of my greatest rewards is seeing customers come out on a daily basis who have enjoyed the area and their stay,” Bradley said.

Bradley...