May is the traditional month for celebrating spring. May Day festivities throughout history have included green or flowering branches as part of the decorations.

When used as a noun, Merriam-Webster describes “may” as pertaining to “the early vigorous blooming part of human life.” Shakespeare called it “the merry month of May,” which was later echoed in the Loerner and Loewe musical, “Camelot.”

As a verb, “may” is used to indicate possibility, permission to do, or the expression of expectation. Perhaps these are some of the reasons May is also the traditional month for celebrating Mother’s Day, motherhood, and women in general.

The ancient Greek and Latin origins of the word refer to the goddess Maia, eldest of the seven Pleiades, and known to the world as a nurturer. The Old English derivative of the word means “kinswoman.”

Because of Maia’s status as the eldest of the seven sisters, other derivatives of the word became widely used to refer to a woman in an important or senior position.

There are many such women filling important and senior positions for the City of Grants Pass. All in all, more than 25 women hold major positions of responsibility in city government across every major department.

This month’s issue of GP Now pays tribute to those women whom without, city government operations could not function in the efficient and effective way they currently do.

Throughout this issue, readers will find feature stories about several of the women whose work is essential to city operations and services.

In honor of the month of May, GP Now honors the Women of City Hall.

### GP Staff Essential to Emergency Team

The emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic has required the efforts of many people from both the public and private sectors. Several agencies throughout Josephine County have worked together to staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to provide assistance in the areas of planning, operations, logistics, public information, and safety.

At least 15 City of Grants Pass employees have been a part of that effort during the past several weeks.

“We couldn’t be more grateful for the team of employees from partner agencies in Josephine County that have given their time to support our community during this event,” said Josephine County Emergency Manager Sara Rubrecht.

City employees assisted in areas of their direct specialty, as well as provided additional support where needed when called upon.

City Firewise Coordinator Rick McClintock supplied the morning briefing to the team on the number of COVID-19 cases in the United States, Oregon, and Josephine County, including the number of tests conducted, the positive and negative results, and how many patients were hospitalized.

“All the data is from Oregon Health Authority and John Hopkins. I also help Logs with PPE (personal protection equipment), and filling orders for the healthcare workers and first responders,” said McClintock.

Randy DeLonge, battalion chief for Grants Pass Fire/Rescue shares the role of planning section chief with Tyler Humphfres from Rural Metro.

“Our job is to coordinate the meetings for command and general staff. We also put together the Incident Action Plan (IAP). In doing this we are heavily involved with operations, safety and the incident commanders to ensure incident needs and objectives are met,” said DeLonge.

City 911 Contract Manager Hopkins. (See “EOC” page 10)
I want to give a shout out and a big THANK YOU to a group of professionals not too many people know about, working diligently to safeguard our community.

I recently visited the Josephine County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The EOC is at the heart of our community’s response to the COVID-19 crisis. Staffed by some very dedicated professionals and volunteers, the EOC performs the awesome task of solving the inevitable challenges associated with the ever-changing environment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Herein lies the job of planning, gathering necessary resources, coordinating with local governments, assigning construction and medical personnel, and providing the transportation and communications needed to fulfill these demands associated with COVID-19 response. None of this would happen without a lot of individual effort from EOC staff/volunteers.

This group consists of personnel from County Emergency Management, Josephine County Public Health, City of Grants Pass (Department of Public Safety, Parks and Community Development, Economic Development, and Finance Department) and many others. Josephine County can be very proud of our Emergency Management Team. These individuals have worked and volunteered numerous hours helping our community prevail during this difficult time.

I also want to thank the families that support our Emergency Management Team members. Disasters don’t only happen during regular business hours. They certainly don’t care about weekends, holidays, birthdays or high school graduations. Thank you, family members of these dedicated people, for being supportive and flexible through early mornings, late nights, and everything else that comes with a disaster response and recovery. Your encouragement and reinforcement have had a positive impact on the quality of service the EOC provides our community.

The work of the EOC, along with our amazing community spirit and teamwork, will carry us through this emergency event and we will be stronger and better.

I want to thank all of you who have provided positive reinforcement to our community members and organizations. Thank you for making this community great.

Yours in service,
Aaron Cubic

EOC: Multi-Agency Effort

American Red Cross, Rural Metro, Oregon Department of Forestry, JoCo Public Works, All Care Health, JoCo Public Health, JoCo Human Resources, JoCo Parks, GP Finance Department, 911 Dispatch Center, GP Public Safety, GP Fire/Rescue, GP Planning Department, AMR, GP Firewise Division, JoCo Finance Department, JoCo GIS, JoCo Emergency Management, JoCo IT Department, GP Economic Development, JoCo Sheriff’s Office, UCAN, JoCo Community Corrections, GP and JoCo Chamber of Commerce.

“A lone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
— Helen Keller

City Grants Help Local Businesses

When Governor Kate Brown issued executive orders mandating social distancing, the City of Grants Pass went into immediate action to assist local restaurants and businesses with weathering the COVID-19 restrictions.

Executive Order No. 20-07 was issued March 16, prohibiting on-premises consumption of food and drink at restaurants and related businesses. Within 48 hours, city officials were distributing temporary 15-minute parking signs to restaurants able to convert their food service to take-out and delivery.

Within 72 hours, the city’s website featured a comprehensive list of local restaurants making the adjustment and promoted that list to the community through email subscriber messages, press releases, social media and the city’s newsletter, GP Now.

During the following weeks, the new Restaurant Guide page experienced thousands of unique visits at an average of more than 80 new people per day. Incorporation of the hashtags, #GPcares and #GPThrives in social media posts, resulted in driving traffic to the Restaurant Guide at the rate of more than 90 percent.

“There is no telling of course how many of those pageviews resulted in actual take-out orders for one of the restaurants on the list, but if we were to attribute one take-out order per pageview divided by the locations on the list, it would represent close to 50 additional take-out orders per location,” said Information Coordinator Steven Sabel.

State Executive Order No. 20-12 went into effect March 24, effectively closing most
A Teacher Who Does Her Homework

City Councilor Valerie Lovelace wants to inspire other women in government.

Grants Pass City Councilor Valerie Lovelace said the first year serving on the council “is like being hit with a fire hose.”

“It takes so long to get up to speed in understanding it all,” said the retired teacher who describes herself as a lifelong learner.

“In my heart, I will always be a teacher. It was a marriage between my love for youth and my love for learning,” said Lovelace.

A founder of Kinder Sprouts and teacher for 30 years, Lovelace taught students about government and economics by instituting a tax and rent system in her classroom.

“I’ve always been somewhat of a rebel,” she said. “I got in trouble a few times.”

Lovelace left teaching when she says public education changed and reduced teacher autonomy in the classroom.

She was appointed to the city council January 2016 to finish the final year of a term of the council January 2016 to finish her current term expires this year.

Her foray into politics came through her involvement with the final year of a term of the council January 2016 to finish her current term expires this year.

Her involvement with her childhood as the third of six children she helped to look after, and her experience as a mother of four.

“One of my most important roles in my life has been being a mother to four strong, independent, wonderful children,” she said.

“There’s been lots of bumps along the road, and I faced a lot of challenges, but every time you get beat up, you have to pick yourself up again and reinvent yourself. Becoming a councilor was, in a way, a way of reinventing myself and continuing to serve as an inspiration to my children,” Lovelace said.

The full extent of the experience may have been more than she bargained for.

“I don’t think I really knew what I was getting myself into,” said Lovelace.

Though her family was very supportive at first, “I think they’ve seen the other side of the coin now,” she said.

Lovelace says her family worries that she takes the public complaints and criticism “to heart.”

“You have to have thick skin,” Lovelace said.

(Women offer a different perspective which is important in government.)

“I like to make a difference. Basically all my life I had that public service mentality. It’s just always been a part of who I was,” said Lovelace.

She credits the foundation for that willingness to serve to her childhood as the third of six children she helped to look after, and her experience as a mother of four.

“One of my most important roles in my life has been being a mother to four strong, independent, wonderful children,” she said.

GP is America’s 2nd Best-Performing Small City

The City of Grants Pass ranked second in performance among all small city metros in the U.S. according to an annual report issued by the Milken Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank with a history of more than three decades of economic research and analysis.

The institute’s annual Best-Performing Cities report has tracked the economic performance of U.S. metros for two decades using job, wage and salary, and high-tech gross domestic product (GDP) indicators.

The report is generated using an outcomes-based set of metrics to evaluate the relative growth of each metropolitan area, including job creation, wage gains, and technological developments.

Grants Pass gained 21 rankings from 2019 to 2020, ranking second only to the Bend-Redmond metro district of Oregon in a list of more than 200 small cities across America.

The extensive study measured each city in nine different categories encompassing growth in jobs, wages, salaries, and technology output over five years.

For jobs and technology output, figures from 2013-2018 were factored, and for wages and salaries, statistics from 2012-2017 were used to adjust for extreme variations in business cycles.

The report also incorporates the latest available year’s performance in these areas, as well as a measure of 12-month job growth (August 2018 – August 2019) to capture recent momentum.

Six of the top 10 Best-Performing Small Cities were deemed to be retiree communities where those demographics not only “benefit medical centers, but they also provide their communities with stable high-wage employment,” paired with tourism industries focused on “outdoor recreation,” said the report written by economist Michael C.Y. Lin, PhD; research analyst Joe Lee, and economist Perry Wong.

According to the report, the overall healthcare sector in Grants Pass grew 5.8 percent over the last year, adding a total of 290 jobs with the area’s one-year job growth ranking sixth overall out of the 201 U.S. small cities in the study.

The report went on to say that the furniture and wood production industries remain one of the stable sources of employment for as many as 1,090 people in the area.

Other small cities in Oregon making the list included Medford at number 12, Albany at number 19, and Corvallis at number 42. Oregon cities on the Best-Performing Large Cities list included the Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro metro region at number 24, Salem at number 27, and Eugene at number 108.

The full report is available online at: https://milkeninstitute.org/reports/best-performing-cities-2020.

DID YOU KNOW?

Grants Pass is the 15th most populated city in the state of Oregon.

The official July 2018 population estimate was 37,285 people.

The area within city limits is approximately 12 square miles.
Burn Windows Closed

The City of Grants Pass recognizes that residents utilize the open burn window to dispose of woody vegetation that has accumulated throughout the winter months.

However, it’s important to weigh possible effects on the wider community. Smoke from fires during the current pandemic may result in the following activities until further notice. We have elected to follow their guidance.

The City of Grants Pass encourages the public to compost, chip or take your yard debris to a recycling center. You can also contact your sanitation service for a green waste container.

Republic Services: (541)479-3371.

Southern Oregon Sanitation: (541)479-5335.

Smoke inhalation can cause upper respiratory symptoms, which could be incorrectly attributed to COVID-19, leading to unnecessary testing or self-isolation.

Exposure to smoke and other forms of air pollution can increase the risk of contracting an infectious respiratory disease such as COVID-19, increase the severity of existing respiratory infections, and worsen underlying chronic respiratory conditions.

There is a severe shortage of personal protective equipment to reduce smoke exposure at this time. First responders are on a heightened level of response to COVID-19 and reducing calls for smoke investigation and escaped open burns keeps resources available.

COVID-19 affects the respiratory system. Fever, cough and difficulty breathing are the most common symptoms. While some people with COVID-19 are hospitalized, most patients recover at home, where smoke from a nearby outdoor burn could worsen their condition.

To avoid additional health impacts, the Oregon State Fire Marshal has asked all people in Oregon to voluntarily refrain from conducting outdoor burning activities until further notice. We have elected to follow their guidance.

The City of Grants Pass encourages the public to compost, chip or take your yard debris to a recycling center. You can also contact your sanitation service for a green waste container.

Republic Services: (541)479-3371.

Southern Oregon Sanitation: (541)479-5335.

GP Fire/Rescue Saves Lives

Grants Pass Fire/Rescue has been providing professional emergency medical services for the citizens of Grants Pass since 1988 when the first emergency medical technician (EMT) was hired.

More than 60 percent of the emergencies to which Fire/Rescue responds are medical or rescue in nature. They respond to these emergencies with highly skilled EMTs equipped with the latest technology in emergency medical equipment and training.

All three Public Safety Centers serve citizens 24 hours per day, with every first-out engine staffed with a minimum of two firefighter/EMTs equipped with Basic Life Support (BLS) equipment and medications.

This allows firefighters to provide BLS care for patients before the arrival of the ambulance. EMTs also respond to motor vehicle crashes, water rescue emergencies, technical rescues, and other emergencies.

Karen Frerk On The Record

Karen Frerk began her career in municipal government as a “complete accident.” She was working in home health care when new regulations in the industry caused the closure of her place of employment, and she needed a new job, she said.

She started full time as an administrative assistant at City Hall in August 1998. That lasted about a month because she realized she really wanted to work part time to spend more time with her young daughter. She accepted a position in a different private industry where the experience was much different than she expected, so she went back to City Hall.

“It was the only time in my life I walked in, placed the key on the desk and said, ‘I quit,’” said Frerk.

Soon she was working part-time as an administrative assistant for the Grants Pass City Attorney’s Office. The next 11 years she worked for six different attorneys through a contentious time that saw the recall of several city council members and a lot of rotation.

“It was an interesting time,” Frerk said.

She then spent the next three years as the administrative coordinator, before City Manager Aaron Cubic was hired and created the position of city recorder to align with similar positions found in most municipalities.

Over the next eight years, the position evolved to encompass the duties of a classic municipal clerk, including keeping city records, preparing and posting city meeting agendas, recording meeting minutes, and facilitating elections.

“There were so many aspects I didn’t know,” said Frerk.

More than 120 hours of training and an intense five-day course with 54 others from around the country resulted in her municipal clerk certification in 2013.

“The training was absolutely amazing because it totally took me outside my comfort zone,” she said.

Course work included parliamentary procedure, municipal record-keeping, Robert’s Rules of Order, records maintenance, and the history and importance of municipal clerks.

“We have to keep our records forever. You never know if 30 to 40 years from now someone will need to look back at what we did and what we have kept,” said Frerk.

Facilitating elections is the most challenging part of the job, Frerk said.

“You can’t publish an incorrect ballot measure or miss a deadline. You have to make sure the wording is absolutely correct and clear to the voters,” she said.

Working with city council members can also be a challenge at times, she said. Unlike most positions at City Hall, the city recorder needs to work with every member of the city council, beginning with their arrival on their very first day. Getting new council members “up to speed” with city procedures, policies and operations can be a challenge because each new council member comes with a different level of parliamentary experience and technological ability, said Frerk.

Ferk has guided the city through five election cycles. She has worked with 21 different council members and three mayors, including facilitation of several special appointments due to seats left vacant for various reasons throughout the years.

Regular changes and adjustments of all sorts are a daily occurrence for Frerk’s office. Those challenges every day also make the job very rewarding, she said.

“Every day I walk in here and it never turns out like I think it’s going to,” said Frerk.

Each day is a string of tasks to support other departments, records requests, agenda changes, project research, and council requests.

(See “FRERK” page 10)
Loving the Science of Water

Emily Moreland first joined the staff at the city’s Water Treatment Plant as a temporary seasonal summer employee. She worked at the plant while going to school at Rogue Community College, where she was taking classes with the idea of someday pursuing a career in forestry or ecology.

“I’ve always loved science,” said Moreland.

In October 2018, she joined water distribution staff as its only full-time female employee.

“Even though this isn’t something I set out to do, I fell in love with it,” she said.

A major part of that love comes with knowing she is “doing something good for our city,” said Moreland.

“Even if most people don’t even think about where their water comes from, it feels good to know we’re providing something important to the city,” she said.

Moreland admits that working in water distribution isn’t easy. It is an ever-evolving career field.

“It can be overwhelming how much it can change in the industry and how much there is out there to learn,” Moreland said.

Training at the plant is an “all hands on deck” scenario, “with everyone working together to train everyone,” she said.

“I just try to absorb as much as I can from everyone,” said Moreland.

Turbidity events caused by heavy rains are the most challenging and most rewarding aspect of the job, she said.

“When heavy rains fill the creeks, and the river is raging, and we’re still able to create good, clean water, it feels really good,” said Moreland.

“You can see the treatment happening right in front of you. It’s super cool,” she said.

Moreland said the science behind water treatment and the operating process can also be “tricky” at times (see graphic).

“If you lose it, it starts getting into the sediment basins, and then it goes into your filters, and that’s not fun,” she said.

“We operate so much better than regulations require, so even on a bad day it’s still clean water, but it’s sort of our personal standards, and we don’t like it when that happens,” Moreland said.

“We like to run as good as we can. It’s our water, too. We’re all drinking it,” said Moreland.

According to Moreland, working at an aging facility is also a double-edged sword.

“It’s kind of like working in a living museum. It’s been pieced together a few times, so it’s great to see how it has been upgraded a few times over the years,” said Moreland.

However, sometimes “it feels like everything is falling apart,” she said.

“You fix something over here, and then something breaks over there. It’s an endless cycle of repairs,” Moreland said.

It can be most challenging when the plant needs parts or (See “MORELAND” page 8)

‘There When You Need It’ National Drinking Water Week

Grants Pass is joining utilities, private companies, and government agencies across the nation to celebrate National Drinking Water Week, May 3-9. The theme of this year’s celebration, “There when you need it,” highlights the importance of reliable drinking water service and the value of water to everyday lives.

“Drinking Water Week gives us a chance to think about how many times a day we use water from a faucet,” said Public Works Director Jason Canady.

The city water treatment plant delivers high-quality water to residents for activities such as drinking, bathing, cooking, gardening, and washing clothes, just to name a few. According to the federal Centers for Disease Control, the U.S. has one of the safest drinking water supplies in the world.

People have lived in the Rogue River watershed for at least 8,500 years. The Grants Pass water legacy includes drawing from the river to supply city drinking water since 1888.

“The City Council has made funding for replacement a top council priority several years. Fortunately, the city is making great progress toward building a new plant by moving to acquire a suitable site for construction,” said Canady.

While many in Grants Pass realize the importance of the Rogue River to tourism revenue, most people are not aware of the value of investing in water infrastructure. According to a 2017 report directed by the U.S. Water Alliance, the economic benefits of water infrastructure investment result in a national aggregate economic impact of $220 billion and the creation of 1.3 million jobs.

The aggregate impact is comprised of the direct impact on the water infrastructure sector, and the indirect and induced impacts generated by successive rounds of spending on goods and services in other sectors. Additional benefits flow to local communities. Reliable water sources make a community more attractive to investors and employers.

National Drinking Water Week recognizes the importance of protecting water sources, conservation, maintenance, and investment. It also highlights the value, importance, and fragility of the state’s water resources. Grants Pass officials work closely with state officials to ensure city systems meet the highest standards. Investments in the water system are vital to the city’s economy and to public health.

“This year’s theme, ‘There When You Need It,’ offers a tailor-made opportunity to celebrate our water resources, and it also honors the investments in water infrastructure made by city leadership, from the start of the last century to today,” Canady said.
Lt. Misty English of the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety was working at the Josephine County District Attorney’s Office when the thought of becoming a police officer first entered her mind.

“I was reading police reports, and I thought, ‘This is cool. This looks like a lot of fun,’” said English.

The Army veteran with a degree in criminology from Southern Oregon University, wanted to be a prosecutor until she realized she didn’t want to go to law school, so when several deputy district attorneys encouraged her to apply for an opening in the police department, the thought of becoming a cop, became a reality.

A letter of recommendation from then District Attorney Stephen Campbell didn’t hurt, and in January 2007, English entered the academy. Soon after, she started on patrol in Grants Pass, where she served as an officer for five years before being promoted to corporal. A year later, they made her a sergeant.

“I continued on patrol for another year, and then they made me an administrative sergeant in 2014,” English said.

“When you work patrol, you handle a variety of calls every day,” said English. “That was the most fun I had in my career.”

She once had to arrest an intoxicated transient, at one time well-known to the downtown area, for wearing nothing but a kilt. The resulting scuffle could only be described in censored terms, she said.

“I haven’t been in a lot of use-of-force incidents. Usually I can talk through most of them,” said English.

Recurring offenders, especially those who don’t want help, are a regular challenge for patrol officers, English said.

“Sometimes mental health plays a role in that. Addiction is another story, but either way, they have to want the help,” she said.

That was true when English was serving on a negotiation team for a call about an intoxicated male barricaded in his home with a rifle.

“It was a very challenging negotiation. He was very intoxicated, and he didn’t want to talk to me,” said English.

After multiple phone calls and text messages back and forth, the situation was at a stand-still. English was forced to assess the situation. There was no one else in the home. No crime had been committed, and there was no threat to others.

“I had to make the difficult decision to walk away,” English said.

The next day, when he was sober, the man came to the station to ask for her. He thanked her for her efforts, and for making the decision to take officers out of the situation.

“If we had gone a different route, somebody would have been shot,” said English. Instead, the outcome was far more positive.

“We got him connected with some resources to help him with his alcohol problem,” English said. “It’s not often we get to see someone ask for help.”

Today, she works with the Victims Impact Panel, in conjunction with the courts, as one of four instructors who teach classes to help mostly those who have been convicted of driving under the influence.

In 2017, English was promoted to lieutenant over the Patrol Division. In November of last year, she was rotated to supervise the Investigative Support Division.

“This has been a nice change, transitioning,” she said.

At one time she wanted to be a detective, but she promoted out of contingency.

“This has been a great opportunity to be connected to investigations,” said English.

Some of her career choices have been based on having children and a family, said the mother of two, ages 6 and 3.

“I didn’t get the difference between men and women in law enforcement until I had kids,” English said. “That’s a huge aspect of my career choices.”

Balancing family life with work is a regular challenge, she admits.

“I get lots of calls at home,” said English.

Women compose approximately 12-13 percent of the nation’s law enforcement officers. Around 10 percent of the officers in Grants Pass are female.

“It’s a different environment for women in general,” English said.

For one thing, uniforms and equipment are designed for men.

“There’s still only one company designing uniform options for women. I spent most of my career wearing pants and boots designed to fit men,” said English.

Other aspects that are different include a woman’s mindset going into each call, she said. Women are generally smaller in size than men, and perhaps that makes them more apt to use communication skills to avoid a physical conflict, said English.

“I’ve never once been punched in the face,” English said.

She admits there is little likelihood for that changing now. As lieutenant over Investigations, English supervises nearly 20 people ranging from members of the Major Crimes Unit, to the city’s new cadets, who work for the administrative sergeant.

“Once you get into admin, a lot of the challenge is being stuck in your office so long. It’s a lot of paperwork – a lot of admin work,” she said.

Recently she assisted detectives with serving a search warrant and “got to feel like a cop again,” said English.

It’s not the same as patrol, she said, but her goal of getting into law enforcement was to help others, and she is still doing that.

“Once I promoted, it really became about helping the people out who work for me. If I’m able to help one of my people reach their goals, then I feel like that’s why I’m doing what I do now,” English said.

“I promoted very early in my career. I have a lot left, as long as I’m able to help out wherever I am,” said English.

She also shares another major motivation she receives from home.

“The best thing to me now is my daughter looking at me and being so proud of me. For the last three years, my daughter has told me she wants to be a police officer and someday work for me,” said English.

“If she keeps that goal, I won’t retire until we can make that happen,” English said.

“She pushes me to be a better officer,” she said.
One Super Superintendent

Wendy Giordano oversees the city’s parks and property management.

Wendy Giordano is one busy lady. As the city’s superintendent of Parks and Property Management, Giordano supervises 12 employees who oversee and care for 200 acres of maintained park land, 21 parks, 12 green spaces including four miles of trails, one swimming pool, two spray/splash parks, and all other city buildings and facilities. She also manages the contracts for all the landscape maintenance of rights of way along city streets, and the city’s recreation services provider.

Add new park development assistance and downtown services operations to her list, and the full scope of Giordano’s duties is nearly complete.

“I have to be able to quickly juggle projects and switch from one thing to another,” said Giordano, who regularly has to deal with everything from failing HVAC systems at City Hall, to fencing off playgrounds that have been deemed unsafe due to their age.

“The diversity of the projects are a challenge,” she said.

Giordano started with the city in September 2010 as the business operations supervisor for the Community Development Department. Prior to that she worked for a private landscape design and maintenance company. When her current position became available, she applied, and was selected for the job after a rigorous hiring process.

They selected me because of all of my background in landscape, my ability to understand municipal budgets, and a proven ability to get things done,” said Giordano.

Experience working with many of the city’s departments and divisions as the business operations supervisor also gave her the ability to “just jump in and make things happen,” she said.

Her first major project in her current post was the design and installation of the spray park features at Riverside Park.

“There’s a lot that goes into it,” Giordano said.

The challenges were there right from the start when the digging began, and they soon discovered the park’s old bath house buried beneath the ground. Soil tests had to be completed and any possible contamination had to be mitigated before the spray park could move forward.

“Seeing that all come to fruition, and then turning on the water was just incredible,” said Giordano.

Comparing the spray park to a Grants Pass version of a “mini Disneyland,” Giordano said watching the kids enjoy the various design elements was very rewarding.

Facilitating restoration of the lion drinking fountain at Riverside Park was another proud moment for Giordano.

“It just brought back these fond memories for people,” she said. “People come to the park just to see the lion.”

The challenges of the position are just as real as the rewards, said Giordano.

One of the most difficult challenges Giordano and her team faces is dealing with vandalism and graffiti at city facilities, especially the “challenge of coming in on Mondays to find what has happened over the weekend.”

From Sharpies to spray paint, broken doors to broken toilets, the problems are “almost a daily occurrence,” Giordano said.

Arbor Day ‘Resurrected’

National Arbor Day came and went in Grants Pass. Planned celebrations of the annual event had to be canceled due to state-mandated social distancing restrictions.

“This year, in particular, was one to celebrate,” said City Urban Forester Tony Mecum.

Not only did Grants Pass receive its 32nd annual recognition as a Tree City USA, and its 9th Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation, but the city was also crowned the Oregon Tree City of the Year for the first time ever, Mecum said.

Celebratory activities were to include a tree planting to honor the community’s achievements, a proclamation by the mayor, attendance of the ceremony by elementary school students, and Ponderosa pine tree seedling distribution.

The Oregon Department of Forestry was planning to present the city with the Tree City of the Year Award and Oregon Community Trees already awarded the city a generous grant to fund most of the celebration.

“At the time of the governor’s social distancing requirements, the Arbor Day Foundation had already shipped the Ponderosa pine saplings. A smart tip by Elysia Torres of the Finance Department suggested that the saplings could still make it to students and their families by partnering with District 7 schools to incorporate sapling gifts for students receiving their lunches during school closure. The idea blossomed quickly into a partnership that is just beginning,” Mecum said.

The city and District 7 teamed up April 7 to distribute the seedlings and they were gone within minutes, said Mecum.

Students and families were encouraged to send photos to Mecum for a chance to win special Arbor Day prizes meant for the celebration.

“This partnership resurrected the Arbor Day Celebration, and in a way, made it even better,” (See “ARBOR” page 11)
**EPA Warns About Improper Flushing**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging all Americans to only flush toilet paper, not disinfecting wipes or other non-flushable items that should be disposed of in the trash.

Flushing only toilet paper helps ensure that toilets, plumbing, sewer systems and septic systems will continue working properly to safely manage our nation’s wastewater.

While EPA encourages disinfecting your environment to prevent the spread of COVID-19, never flush disinfecting wipes or other non-flushable items.

Preventable toilet and sewer backups can pose a threat to human health and present an extra challenge to our water utilities and their workforce. Fixing these backups is costly and takes time and resources away from ensuring that wastewater management systems are otherwise working properly.

Having fully operational wastewater services is critical to containing COVID-19 and protecting Americans from other public health risks.

**Moreland...**(from page 5)

“Sometimes they have stopped making stuff that we need, so we have to come up with a work-around to make it function,” said Moreland.

On the upside, Moreland says she likes the experience she is gaining from working at the nearly 80-year-old facility.

“It’s kind of cool to get the hands-on experience of dealing with the failures of the old plant. I feel like I’m getting more experience that way than someone who’s working in a new plant that operates without any problems,” Moreland said.

She equates the experience to learning how to drive in a car with a manual transmission, instead of an automatic.

“It’s definitely stressful, but once you get through it, it feels good,” she said.

“We’re just trying to keep this plant going as long as we can. We try to be nice to her,” said Moreland.

Moreland said there are also occasional oddities at the plant. One time, plant workers found part of a sandwich in the sediment basin. They assumed that maybe a bird had dropped it in, she said. Another time a goldfish cracker was found “swimming” around the basin.

“These things can’t make it past the filters. They just get back-washed out,” she said.

Being the only female at the plant, she also gets her own “private” restroom most of the time, she said.

“I’m just the only current female full-time employee, but we have other seasonal workers who are female too,” said Moreland.

“There’s no such thing as a male or female job. Other young women who are interested should look into it. Investigate it, and see what you think,” she said.

“I didn’t even know where the water plant was before I worked there,” said Moreland.

“I didn’t expect to get into this. I think others should be open to opportunities. They may find themselves in a job that they love,” Moreland said.

**Homeschool Resources Help Parents With STEM Education**

With schools currently closed, more than a few Grants Pass families may be seeking some fun and educational resources to assist with managing schooling from home.

The City of Grants Pass Water Department has teamed up with the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation to provide access to a variety of free, water-related educational resources for parents and their students.

The educational materials celebrate National Drinking Water Week, which will be held May 3-9 this year. According to Public Works Director Jason Canady, this year’s theme, “There When You Need It,” offers a tailor-made opportunity to celebrate the Rogue River, the community’s unique water resource.

“This year’s theme also honors the investments made by our city founders in our water infrastructure, as well as the future investments needed to secure clean water for us all for decades to come,” said Canady.

Lesson plans and worksheets cover essential study subjects such as science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), as well as social studies, language arts, and even art and music for grades K-12.

In addition to providing links to resources such as hands-on activities, activity sheets, and lesson plans, the city is sponsoring a Water Week Poster Contest for students K-12, offering cash prizes to the winning entries.

For more than 40 years, National Drinking Water Week has been celebrated by utilities, private companies, and government agencies across the nation. Each year, the week highlights the value of water to Americans in their everyday lives, as well as the need to protect, maintain, and invest in water resources.

“Grants Pass Water Department is happy to support STEM education and hopes that the educational materials and resources offered might encourage city youth to consider a water resources career,” said Canady, who spent nearly 20 years in the city’s Water Department.

Water Week Poster Contest details and rules are available at the city’s website: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/354/Water. Water Education resources and downloadable pdfs are on the city website at: www.grantspassoregon.gov/1361/Educational-Resources.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Grants Pass has more than 187 miles of water distribution piping to transport fresh drinking water throughout the city.

The city’s eight reservoirs hold 20.5 million gallons of water.
Painting it Forward

David Wilhite has ‘pivoted’ his business model to adjust to these difficult times.

David Wilhite spent less than $50 on supplies and materials to make his business, Pottery Canvas & Stone, social-distancing compliant, but the process wasn’t easy. Wilhite reviewed the specifics of the executive order issued by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, and he went into action.

“Knowing that they made an allowance for people who could adjust to the guidelines, I had to pivot. It’s a part of business. You have to be able to pivot and readjust your business model,” said Wilhite.

First, he removed half of the tables and chairs from his storefront. Then he measured out areas and distances, taped out markings and flow patterns across the floor, and posted the necessary signage to keep customers six feet apart from each other.

Next, he added ultraviolet lights to his doorway, between the sales counter and the customers, and at his HVAC intake vent. Finally, a regimen of disinfecting door handles and other surfaces between customer visits became part of his routine.

“People don’t understand that this business is my life. This is my all day, every day. This is what I do,” Wilhite said.

His “Party Animals” section of the store included those found in an immense fantasy section including gnomes, fairies, mermaids, and dragons.

Whereas a good portion of his business involved parties and game nights that had to be canceled, Wilhite started offering projects-to-go as a means of generating revenue. His first take-home customers were part of a birthday party that could no longer happen in his store due to social-distancing mandates.

“My main goal has been to make my expenses for as long as possible. Do as good as you can, for as long as you can, and you’ll survive,” said Wilhite.

Projects-To-Go has been a successful program, especially his “Party Animals” section of $10 items, he said. Customers select an item and color palate. Wilhite provides paints in the palate and sends them home with the customer and their pottery figure. The customers paint the pottery at home, then bring them back for Wilhite to glaze and fire in his kiln for a finished product.

“People don’t understand that this business is my life. This is my all day, every day. This is what I do,” Wilhite said.

His business involved parties and game nights that had to be canceled, Wilhite started offering projects-to-go as a means of generating revenue. His first take-home customers were part of a birthday party that could no longer happen in his store due to social-distancing mandates.

“Most hundred percent of the customers are thanking me for being open. They need something to do. Their kids need something to do,” Wilhite said.

He said the first week he broke even. By the second week, sales had returned to their normal level, “and even higher than normal because kids are home,” he said.

“I feel fortunate to have the ability to have a product that people need and want when so many of my fellow business owners have been forced to close,” said Wilhite.

Some of his business has been phone-ahead, curb-side pick-up, but most people have opted to come into the store, he said. Everyone has been compliant with social distancing.

“They have all been very polite and very mature about it,” Wilhite said.

Wilhite’s first foray into pottery came about when he was in high school. After becoming a professional potter, he wanted to help introduce pottery and painting pottery to others, especially kids, he said.

(See “PAINT” page 11)

Grant... (from page 2)

businesses the state deemed “non-essential.” In fewer than 14 days, the Grants Pass City Council approved the Emergency Grants Assistance and Recovery Program offering local businesses up to $2,500 each to help with lease/mortgage payments, utilities costs, and payroll expenses.

In less than 24 hours, city staff had the grant structure and application process established, posted, and up-and-running to accept applications.

“Our small businesses are the lifeblood of Grants Pass and hopefully this small grant will help to sustain them until they can open back up for business,” said Business Advocate Susan Seereiter.

Applications immediately began coming in the afternoon of Tuesday, April 7. Within days, checks were being processed for the first round of approved applicants. Within two weeks, city staff approved and processed 238 applications and issued payments in the total amount of nearly $450,000.

More than 120 additional applications are still being processed as the city’s Finance Department has doubled its efforts to issue payments twice per week.

“I just love what the city has done, we were amazed at the speed and ease to apply and receive the grant! It was such a help in this very difficult time,” said grant recipient Darla Feil of River’s Edge Restaurant.

Feil said state and federal government relief programs have been slow to respond.

“We have applied for all the other available funds and nothing yet, so this is awesome,” said Feil.

“When I first heard about it being available it made me tear up. It felt the most personal that it came from my city, my community. It acknowledged our loss. It meant a great deal to me,” said Tina Gotchall, owner of the Powderhorn Café.

“The city really showed up for us during COVID-19 with providing grant relief and other resources for us to utilize. We really are in this together and will come out changed for the better,” Delani Cervantes, owner of Rainbow Baby + Mama Boutique.

“I am so very appreciative of the support I have received from the City of Grants Pass and the grant program. I feel they stepped up immediately to help the small businesses in our community when COVID-19 began negatively impacting us,” said Angela Padilla, owner of Cultured Palate.

“The City of GP outdid many other agencies in the state when it came to expediting dispersal of funds. So proud of our town,” said Padilla.

“I am truly grateful that I was able to count on my local community. The restaurants have been hit hard and receiving this grant made a world of difference for us. Not only was the process very easy but incredibly fast, which is what we needed to help keep us going. I am so honored to be a part of this community,” said Lisa Thorsen, owner of Lulu’s For The Love Of Food.

“The grant program sponsored by the city of Grants Pass has been a much-needed lifeline for my business. It has allowed some relief from the ongoing bills that have continued to stack up even though my business has had the doors shuttered due to the governor’s mandate,” said Business Advocate Susan Seereiter.
Grant...(from page 9)
said Matt Swanson of Crossfit GP.

“Being a small business during this time has been extremely challenging and forced us to really look inward and try to re-create our procedures and how we will operate on a day-to-day basis once we are allowed to re-open. We wouldn’t even be afforded the opportunity to reinvent ourselves without this assistance,” said Swanson.

“Thank you so much to the City of GP for making this program work. It was a straightforward application process, prompt with all correspondence, and quick to fund once the approval came across. I am extremely grateful and look forward to many more years of business here in GP,” Swanson said.

Pity may represent little more than the impersonal concern which prompts the mailing of a check, but true sympathy is the personal concern which demands the giving of one’s soul. - Martin Luther King Jr.

Tree...(from page 1)
Tree City USA, are considered for this special Oregon Urban & Community Forestry Award.

“Over the past 32 years, the City of Grants Pass has grown their urban forestry program. The City of Grants Pass has shown that it is dedicated to being a steward of their urban forest and to the development of a diverse, healthy tree canopy throughout its city limits,” said Wolf.

This year, the city achieved its ninth Tree City USA Growth Award. With the achievement of one more Growth Award, the city will reach Sterling Tree City USA status.

Frerk...(from page 4)
“Our office is making sure the council has the tools they need to do their best and be the best they can be,” Frerk said.

Working directly for the city manager has its challenges as well. Cubic is known for his innovative ideas regarding city operations and personnel management.

“That’s also been a fun and challenging part of the job. He (Cubic) comes up with these great ideas, and I help make them happen. I’ve had to learn a lot of stuff that I had no idea I would need to know,” said Frerk.

Keeping up with the daily duties isn’t always easy, she said.

“I’ve made just about every mistake you can make, but I take ownership and I fix it, because we are all human, and we all make mistakes, but it’s important to go back and get it right,” Frerk said.

The human element of the job is also rewarding, she said. Working in some capacity with employees from every city department calls upon her to develop interpersonal relationships and comradery with those employees.

In 2016, the city’s Safety Committee awarded her with a special plaque of recognition for her work in developing the city’s safety plans and policies.

Once, during a city council meeting, an audio-video technician suffered a heart attack in the back of the Council Chambers. Frerk could see what was happening from where she was sitting, and she bolted to his aid.

“I literally ran out of my shoes to get to him. Everyone went into action, and he was ok,” said Frerk.

One of Frerk’s favorite parts of the job is coordinating special events and activities that are a part of city operations, such as annual strategic planning sessions, GP Jeopardy at the County Fair, and the Mayor’s Volunteer Dinner instituted by former Mayor Darin Fowler in 2016.

“These are things I plan, and to see them so successful is very rewarding,” Frerk said.

This year’s annual volunteer dinner has been moved to September due to current state mandates regarding social distancing.

“Hopefully, we will still get to hold the Mayor’s Volunteer Dinner this year. It’s a fantastic way to show appreciation to so many great people,” said Frerk.

Frk said “great people” is what City Hall is all about, including her current team of three employees whom she lists as some of her best accomplishments.

“It’s rewarding to put together a great team,” she said.

EOC...(from page 1)
er Kristen Guenther serves as the 911 group leader, under the Public Safety Branch.

“911 is one of the ways that we are notified of potential COVID-19 patients and a good indicator of public spread and severity of the illness,” said Guenther.

Her role is to plan for contingencies should 911 center staffing be affected by the virus. She also helps implement changes to caller questioning and emergency response recommendations in order to minimize the danger to responders and spread to the public through patient contact.

Fire/Rescue Deputy Chief Lang Johnson fills the function of Josephine County Fire Defense Board Chief, and group supervisor for the Fire/Hazmat Group under the Public Safety Branch in the EOC Incident Action Plan. The Fire Defense Board Chief is responsible for coordinating local response and resource requests for a Fire Service Mobilization Plan through the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

“The activity I have typically been responsible for is organizing both Josephine and Jackson County fire agency response for wildfires over the years, but the function of Fire Defense Board Chief is all hazard in nature, thus my participation in the fire service statewide response to COVID,” said Johnson.

As the Fire/EMS group supervisor, Johnson is responsible for managing all fire and EMS activities assigned to county fire agencies from the Public Safety Branch Director subject to the goals and objectives listed in the EOC Incident Action Plan. This involves organizing and effectively communicating to the county fire agencies action plans and contingency (as preplanned through the Fire Defense Board activities), and then oversight of actual field response.

“If the need arises, I am also qualified to backfill most of the command and general staff roles within the EOC,” Johnson said.

City Business Advocate Susan Seereiter facilitates economic recovery for the EOC.

This is a daunting task because we do not know when the recovery will be,” said Seereiter.

Her current duties include making sure that the business community has access to the most up-to-date resources available to them, communicating primarily through email and phone calls.

“I am attending webinars and Zoom meetings as well as receiving emails from the state and federal organizations; staying connected with other economic development organizations and sharing ideas and resources,” she said.

Seereiter is also working with economic development partners gathering data to formulate a Recovery Plan document for Southern Oregon.

“We are all working together by communicating on a weekly basis and sometimes more often,” said Seereiter.

Additional City of Grants Pass staff members assisting the EOC include Battalion Chief Tim Delisle, Customer Service Supervisor Kimberly Gasperson, Dispatch Operations Manager Marc Haack, Fire Marshal Joe Hyatt, Battalion Chief Lloyd Lawless, Assistant Planner Jason Maki, Lt. Todd Moran, Accounting Supervisor Adam Shults, Fire Inspector Tim Stacy, and Detective Sergeant Jeff Waite.

“Everyone involved brings a much-needed skill that helps us best manage this event and protect the community we live in and love,” said Rubrecht.

More News
Lovelace... (from page 3)

She said the position changes how other people perceive you and relate to you, and a side effect of that can lead to feeling "more isolated."

"Some people distance themselves. They somehow see you through a different lens," said Lovelace.

Nonetheless she says she’s had to focus on the job, do the learning, conduct the research and vote her conscience.

"Whatever decision you make, you have to back it up. You have to go to your own truth, even if that truth isn’t popular with people," Lovelace said.

One prime example of that, she said, was a recent vote in favor to sell the River Road property.

"I felt that I really had done my homework in looking at the history and understanding the difficulty that it would have been to try to make that a park. In that case, I really felt it was best for the city," said Lovelace.

Making tough decisions and standing behind them is an important aspect of the job, she said.

"When there are tough decisions, I feel very strongly in researching them to come to the best decision. I’ll tell you why I’m voting whenever I vote," Lovelace said.

Though the position has been full of challenges, Lovelace says there are also many rewards to serving on the council, including many of the people she has met and worked with along the way.

"I’ve met some great people in our community who are doing some really wonderful things, who have in many ways become my role models," said Lovelace.

She has served as council liaison to nearly every city committee during her tenure, including a stint of four at the same time. Currently she serves as council liaison to the Committee on Public Art and several regional committees.

"I have really enjoyed working with our committees," Lovelace said.

One of her proudest moments as a councilor was getting involved in Safe Routes To School, and the multi-agency aspect of the work that needed to be done, she said.

"I enjoyed making that connection between governing bodies for our kids," Lovelace said.

A self-described “people person,” Lovelace says one of her current goals is to get more people involved in government. Currently she is recruiting citizen members for the Middle Rogue Metropolitan Planning Organization. She was also the initiating force behind Coffee Talk on Friday mornings at BlueStone Café before the state-mandated closures.

"I want to see more interaction between the city and members of the public," said Lovelace.

Lovelace would also like to see more women think about running for public office.

"Women offer a different perspective which is important in government. It has been my experience that they often have strong management skills, but sometimes lack confidence in their abilities, or can’t see themselves in the role," Lovelace said.

"We need more women involved to balance out the male perspective!"

Arbor... (from page 7)

Mecum said.

Mecum said students were enthusiastic to plant their own trees.

"I hope I can take picnics next to the tree with my brother and sister while we grow up," said McKinley of Highland Elementary School.

"Trent and his mom were excited to be part of the Arbor Day celebration through their planting and would like to take photos with the tree as the years go by in order to continue celebrating Arbor Day," said Mecum.

The partnership with District 7 schools was so successful, Mecum said the City of Grants Pass Parks Division will be purchasing more saplings for more students to participate.

As the city recognizes that some students may not have yards in which to plant their saplings, Mecum is creating a map of areas within city parks and trails that would be suitable for sapling plantings by students and their families.

Students and their families are also encouraged to send Mecum photos of themselves with their favorite tree in order to be entered into a drawing to receive remaining Arbor Day prizes. Students can also submit tree drawings, cartoons, poems, stories, or anything else creative and tree-related to enter the drawing by 5 p.m. Friday, May 29.

Submissions may be sent to: tmecum@grantspassoregon.gov.

Mecum remembers attending District 7 schools from kindergarten through 12th grade.

"I vividly remember learning about the ecology of Gilbert Creek when I was a student at Highland and then again as a student at North Middle School. The connections between that little creek behind our school and what was presented in the classroom really made biology make sense to me," Mecum said.

"I wouldn’t be surprised if those field trips planted the seed in my mind to return home and work to protect my hometown after college. We live in a treasure trove of ecological lessons for students of every age. I hope I can get more students out in our parks and natural areas as I continue my role with the city,” said Mecum.

Paint... (from page 9)

"I grew up poor. I never painted pottery as a kid. I want to help introduce kids to it," said Wilhite.

An unexpected partnership with Karen Sholes, a local dance instructor, resulted in the Kids Paint It Forward Project offering free project-to-go opportunities to kids in need.

Sholes sent Wilhite a check to help pay for a number of $10 projects for kids. Wilhite added to the fund, and soon customers were coming in to purchase a project for their kids, while also contributing to the fund for others.

"It’s an opportunity for kids who have never done pottery painting and otherwise can’t afford to," said Wilhite.

Prior to social distancing mandates, Wilhite also donated pottery painting parties to local preschools and charter schools as a fundraising opportunity.

"Small businesses around here donate so much. I probably donate more than I pay for advertising, and I’m happy to do it. It’s part of being a member of the community," he said.

Wilhite said the rewards are well worth it, especially now.

"This is my all day, every day. This is what I do."

"It’s rewarding knowing that I am bringing joy to children; helping them have fun and take their minds off of it all. It’s also rewarding helping adults and parents have something therapeutic to help their sanity," said Wilhite.

"I like to think my store is a calm haven in the storm," he said.

When operating restrictions are eventually lifted, Wilhite hopes to return to offering pottery painting parties and plans to create a new glow-in-the-dark party room featuring glow-in-the-dark pottery paint, face painting, party favors, and special space mural.

"My business is going to come out of this more fun, better, and stronger than before. This has helped me refocus and be more determined than ever," Wilhite said.

For now, he has cut 17 hours off his operating schedule, and only opens his store 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Eventually, he will return to regular hours, he said.

"Most people don’t appreciate the amount of energy, passion, and love a small business owner puts into their business. This is my blood we’re talking about," said Wilhite.

"You can’t just tell a small business owner to stop doing what they’re doing. It’s unimaginable," he said.

“A woman is like a teabag; you never know how strong it is until it's in hot water.”
- Eleanor Roosevelt

“The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson
Giordano (from page 7)

The ongoing repairs and graffiti eradication take away from their regular maintenance of the parks. Juggling the balance of deferred maintenance projects with new park projects such as Beacon Hill Park, can also be a challenge, she said.

Still, she tries to “focus on the positives and explain to the public that we do so much with our limited resources,” said Giordano.

Giordano also plays a key role in obtaining some of those resources. In the past year, she has helped the city acquire more than $100,000 in grant monies to help install a new playground at Lawrindle Park, facilitate the development of Dollar Mountain, eradicate fox knot weed, and help pay for employee training.

“I get really excited when I seek outside funding and I get it,” she said.

Currently, she is working on securing some outside funds to help revitalize Westholm Park. Other projects have included adding security cameras to various park locations and supporting the Department of Public Safety with the creation of the new police cadet program.

“The on-foot or on-bike presence has made a difference,” she said regarding the cadets.

Every little bit helps to keep the parks and city facilities safe, secure, and functioning. In comparison to other municipalities throughout the nation, Grants Pass is well below the median staffing levels required to maintain the facilities it has. Similar sized park systems across the country maintain a median staff of 31 full-time employees.

Contract janitorial and recreation services help, along with seasonal part-time workers, but the real difference is in the pride and honor her staff takes in their duties, she said.

“My teams truly have a passion for what they do. They do so much with so little,” said Giordano.

“They’re putting their hearts and souls into these facilities,” she said. “We’re making a positive difference for our citizens for years to come.”

The Dollar Value of Water

As National Drinking Water Week occurs May 3-9, it is important to consider the value of water in comparison to the average cost of other household services.

The average Grants Pass Utilities bill is $76.

Water unit charges account for approximately $26 of each monthly bill. The average monthly trash collection bill in Grants Pass is $35 per month.

The average monthly electric bill is $99 per month.

The average household spends $110 per month for cellphone charges, and cable TV/internet charges average $144 per month.

Security Cameras Added to Storefronts Grant Program

The Grants Pass City Council voted unanimously to revise provisions of the city’s Light the Storefront Matching Grant Program to include the purchase and installation of security cameras by local businesses within the city’s Central Business District.

The added provisions approved April 6, will assist local businesses with addressing concerns regarding safety during state-mandated closures of businesses determined to be nonessential by the governor’s office.

The new provisions of the grant program include matching funds of up to $1,000 to assist businesses with the purchase and installation of surveillance equipment, including wireless camera technology.

Grantees will be required to consult with the Department of Public Safety regarding the type of equipment and placement of cameras.

Approximately $15,000 remains available in the program.

Additional changes to the grant include a widening of the boundaries encompassing the location criteria for eligibility to the downtown area bounded by “C” Street to the north, “M” Street to the south, and between Third and Eighth streets.

Grant applications are available on the city’s website. For additional information, call Susan Seereiter, business advocate: (541)450-6014.