Backflow Testing Is Now In Progress

The City of Grants Pass is reminding city water customers that water backflow testing has begun.

Wherever the city’s public water system connects with a private customer system, the city requires a proper backflow prevention device.

Backflow in the form of back siphonage and/or backpressure can allow contaminated water and other undesirable liquids from homes and businesses to enter the public water system. Backflow prevention devices block this from occurring.

These various approved devices have internal seals, springs, and moving parts that can wear out over time. The law requires that these devices be inspected and tested every year.

Precision Backflow is the city’s approved testing contractor.

Members of their team have begun the annual testing process in the northwest portion of town and Sequoia Village. Contractors have official city identification badges and their vehicles are appropriately labeled.

The schedule of testing will include Northeast Grants Pass in May and June, the Southeast in June, and the Southwest in July and August.

For additional information, call Precision Backflow at (541)916-5253.

Customers with questions or concerns can contact Heidi Drinkworth at the City of Grants Pass Water Distribution Division at (541)450-6115.

Ivy Hunters Seek to Save Trees

A crew of volunteers worked to clear invasive English ivy from vulnerable trees at Reinhart Volunteer Park.

When a crew of volunteers recently descended on Reinhart Volunteer Park, their goal was more than just general gathering of trash and debris. Though several two-person teams donned gloves and plastic bags for collecting trash, additional teams went ivy hunting.

“Our main goal was to come in and clear the infestation of English ivy,” said Craig Tuss, project manager for the Rogue Valley Council of Governments.

RVCOG is contracted by the City of Grants Pass to assist with management of natural resources and eradication of invasive species such as the English ivy known as a noxious weed. In conjunction with the city, Josephine County, and volunteers from Dutch Bros., a team of ivy hunters was assembled to help save the cottonwoods and alders lining the parks trails and riverbanks.

“We try to clear it out off the ground before it goes up the trees. Eventually it will kill the trees,” said Tuss.

A group of nine volunteers worked alongside Tuss for a morning shift to help clear a grove of 16 trees of the infestation.

“We create a ‘life saver’ around the tree,” Tuss said, describing the rings of cleared foliage at the bases of the trees in the grove.

“We’d eventually like to remove the blackberries from around the trees as well,” he said.

The coordinated effort has been in the works for several years and came together this year with the assistance of Dutch Bros. volunteers who responded to an email from the company’s Employee Engagement Office, said Leah Smaw, who was out hunting ivy during the afternoon shift.

“We eventually want to grow this into a bigger effort with more volunteers and neighbors,” said Tuss.

The Dutch Bros. connection came through RVCOG em-
The Primary Pieces of the City’s Budget

By Aaron Cubic
City Manager

Grants Pass is a strategically motivated municipality whose direction is annually defined and affirmed by the mayor and city council through a series of goal statements that reflect the values of the community. The council establishes the goals used to formulate our Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan serves as the foundation upon which the budget is developed. Through the strategic planning process, the council prioritized the potential work plan items that will help the city make those goals and objectives a reality.

The city’s budget places an emphasis on the higher priority work plan items in the 2021-2022 Strategic Plan as prioritized by the city council. Financial resources, if required, are provided to various projects and objectives identified as high priorities by the council, and resources are assigned to operating divisions based on service level expectations communicated by our citizens and council. Staffing recommendations also closely follow these service level expectations.

Our city budget is primarily made up of three main pieces: General Fund, Enterprise Funds, and Capital Improvement Funds. There are also some special revenue funds that collect certain restricted revenues, and some internal service funds that provide support services to city operating and capital programs.

The General Fund makes up approximately 28 percent of the city’s budget. The General Fund is made up primarily of property tax revenue, state-shared revenue, franchise (right-of-way) taxes on utilities, and various licenses, permits, and fines. Approximately 67 percent of the General Fund revenue comes from property tax revenue, made up of both a permanent rate and a local option levy - all of which is dedicated exclusively to our Public Safety divisions.

The General Fund also finances many other basic services, including Parks and Recreation and Community Development. The General Fund contains the city’s only discretionary revenue sources, which currently account for annual revenues of approximately $5.4 million (19 percent of General Fund revenue) that are shared by all General Fund programs.

Close to 32 percent of the city’s budget comes from Enterprise Funds, which include our Water and Wastewater utilities. Hardly any tax dollars support the Enterprise Funds because they are designed to be self-supporting through user fees. Users of these programs pay fees that support all the costs associated with delivering these services, and it is important to note that these fees cannot be used for any other purpose.

Capital Construction Funds account for approximately 15 percent of the total budget. Special revenue funds such as Transportation, Lodging Taxes, and others account for approximately eight percent of the budget, and the remainder of the total budget comes from Debt Service Funds, Internal Service Funds, and the Trust Fund.

The City of Grants Pass is an innovative organization that is focused on value. Our mayor, city council, and city employees demonstrate a willingness to seek and create alternative solutions to problems every day. Our staff is constantly embracing changes to our systems of operation in order to provide services to our citizens in the most effective and efficient manner possible.

I would like to acknowledge that teamwork, as well as the commitment and assistance of all, including the mayor, the council, our Budget Committee members, city staff, and participating members of our community who contribute to the preparation of both the city’s Strategic Plan and the city’s budget for the coming year.

I am particularly grateful to the entire staff of our Finance Department for their continuing commitment to excellence in municipal finance and budgeting for the benefit of our community. Creating and maintaining a sustainable, balanced budget helps the city provide critical and quality services to our community for many years to come.

If you have questions about our city budget, you can find it posted on our website: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/210/Operating-Capital-Budget

Please contact us if you have any additional questions.

Yours in service,
Aaron Cubic
City Manager

Mayor and City Council
Mayor Sara Bristol 541-226-7292
sbristol@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 1
Councilor Brian DeLaGrange 541-840-4281
bdelagrange@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Rob Pell 541-476-7578
rpell@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 Curt Collins 541-218-2551
ccollins@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Dwight Faszer, II 541-441-2103
dfaszer@grantspassoregon.gov

Ward 4
Councilor Vanessa Ogier 541-450-6000
vogier@grantspassoregon.gov
Councilor Joel King 541-761-7538
jking@grantspassoregon.gov

Contacting The Council

The mayor and councilors are volunteers and do not keep regular office hours. They can be contacted by:

Phone, email, or by regular mail at 101 NW A Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526.

The City Council appreciates hearing from citizens. Your questions are handled as follows:

Questions sent by email that are technical in nature will receive a direct response from staff.

Questions regarding policy decisions will be referred to Council for their consideration and response. The mayor and council members can be emailed collectively at: mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov.

Council will only respond to emails with a disclosed name and address.

Please note that all emails become a part of the public record.

TYPO 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!

Stacy Adams found a typo in the March issue in the bottom right-hand corner of page 3 - a missing “L” in the word multiple.

Thanks, Stacy! Can you find any typos in this May issue?
Email us to let us know, and we’ll thank you in print right here in the next issue!
sabel@grantspassoregon.gov
Collins Joins City Council

The new councilor was appointed to fill the remaining term of a seat from Ward 3.

Curt Collins is the newest member of the Grants Pass City Council. Collins was appointed to the council from Ward 3 on March 17 to fill the remaining term of former councilor Dennis Roler who resigned at the end of December.

Collins was one of several applicants who responded to a postcard issued by the city to residents of Ward 3 to alert them to the opening.

“I received the postcard in the mail, and I decided I should apply,” said Collins.

He said he has always been interested in public service and served on the city’s Budget Committee from 2014 to 2017.

“I was looking on the city website for something to get involved in,” Collins said.

He saw an opening on the Collaborative Economic Development Committee and first applied for that position, but it was filled. He was then asked if he would be willing to serve on the Budget Committee.

“That seemed like a great way to learn the nuts and bolts of it all, and I was excited, so I went for it,” he said.

Serving on the Budget Committee caused him to become more interested in the development of the city’s budget and other details regarding city government, said Collins.

“I have always been interested in administration,” he said.

He once pursued going to work for a local congressman, which is why his family wasn’t at all surprised when he applied for the open council position.

“I don’t really have a personal agenda. I’m not trying to fulfill my personal interest. I didn’t come into this with the intent of trying to put my stamp on it.”

They’ve heard me talk about my interest over the years,” Collins said.

Collins was selected to fill the post from a field of candidates who appeared before the city council to answer questions about why they wished to serve on the council, various goals, relevant experience, and other topics.

“When I got the postcard, my first thought was that the interview process would be different from the committee interviews. I thought it might be a sit-down interview,” said Collins, who was caught off guard by the public process.

“I was surprised to learn it was a public interview,” Collins said.

He said he called upon his extensive experience in sales and marketing to respond.

“When you travel around for work to places you’ve never been before, you have to be prepared for anything,” said Collins.

Wealth of Experience

Collins has an extensive background in retail, sales and marketing, and product management that often required him to do a lot of traveling for the companies he has worked for.

One of his earliest jobs was in retail management for Macy’s department store in San Jose, California. That’s where he met his wife, and together, they decided to move to Grants Pass.

“When we got married, it was clear we were never going to afford a home in San Jose. (See “COLLINS” page 10)

City Forming Caveman Pool Review Team

Applications are now being accepted for the City of Grants Pass Caveman Pool Review Team.

The purpose of this review team will be to assist the city’s Parks Advisory Committee with investigating ways to move forward with plans to potentially renovate or relocate Caveman Pool.

The review team will consider aspects of the project such as location and/or relocation, amenities and features, staffing and operations, potential public-private partnerships, and other factors.

Applications are available at the City Administration Office, 101 N.W. A Street, or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/cavemanpoolreview.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, May 6. Applications will be reviewed, and team members selected by the Parks Advisory Committee Thursday, May 13.

Opening for Member of Committee on Public Art

Applications are now being accepted for one position on the City of Grants Pass Committee on Public Art (CoPA).

This is a three-year appointment.

The Committee on Public Art works to engage the community and enrich public spaces through the placement of original artwork, creating a unique sense of place, enjoyment, and pride for all.

This committee also provides the Grants Pass City Council with information pertaining to public art, creates opportunities for the placement of art in public locations and promotes collaboration between city departments, artists, architects, developers, and property owners.

Applications are available at the City Administration Office, 101 N.W. A Street, or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-application.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, May 14. Applications will be reviewed by the committee Tuesday, May 18.

Appointments will be made by the Council at the city council meeting Wednesday, June 2.

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.

That represents approximately 3,107 people per square mile.
The Josephine County Foundation has added a new program to benefit youth in the Rogue Valley.

The Working World Series will bring professionals and experts from different fields in organizations and businesses to speak to students about what it takes to get into their line of work.

Presenters will discuss challenges they have faced, mistakes they have made, things they might have done differently along the way, and other topics of advice to encourage vocational pursuits.

The first two speakers in this monthly series are both Grants Pass High School graduates who are successful local business owners in Grants Pass.

Seth Benham of Novum Visuals spoke April 14, and Nick King of King Jewelers will speak May 3.

These live virtual events provide students with an opportunity to interact with the presenters and ask questions.

Middle and high school students in Josephine and Jackson counties are welcome to attend using their school supplied email addresses.

Those interested in attending these events or obtaining additional information should contact Misti King at (541)244-8276 or by emailing: mistik@jcfserves.org.

Guy Cannova joined the team at City Hall March 8.

Guy Cannova began his career in facilities management as a young apprentice with the federal government at a naval shipyard. From there, he moved on to the Coast Guard training facility in Petaluma, California.

“My career has been mostly in facilities from that point forward,” said Cannova.

Cannova became the City of Grants Pass Property Management Coordinator March 8, and though his extensive experience makes him supremely qualified for the position, like any new job, “It’s always a big learning curve,” he said.

Cannova came to Grants Pass most recently from Spokane, Washington, where he served as the facility director at a local school district. Originally from California, having family located in Salem, brought him to Oregon recreationally, and he “fell in love,” said Cannova.

In 1993, he accepted an opportunity with the federal government’s General Services Administration to work in Portland.

“It didn’t take me long to figure out I didn’t like all of the rain,” he said.

By 1996, he transferred to Medford, where he went to work on renovations to the newly renamed James A. Redden federal courthouse.

He spent the next six years further developing his love for Southern Oregon, but when a management position opened up for the construction of the Wayne L. Morse federal courthouse, Cannova moved to Eugene.

It wasn’t long before another promotion with the GSA landed him back in Portland.

“I found myself back to where I fled from,” he said.

Cannova said he eventually accepted the position in Spokane “for less rain but found more ice and snow.”

“I always wanted to come back (to Southern Oregon). This is where we wanted to be,” he said.

When Grants Pass posted the open position, Cannova knew he wanted the job.

“There’s a huge opportunity to develop the facilities maintenance and management program within the city,” Cannova said.

Cannova said he is looking forward to developing the mission statement and overall goals of the Property Management Division and building upon the new stability the division has experienced since being transferred to the Public Works Department late last year.

“I see opportunity with leveraging City resources by partnering with other divisions, by reducing overlapping job functions, and by providing centralized facilities management expertise,” he said.

These first few weeks on the job have been spent getting to know the Property Management Team and other colleagues at City Hall.

“Everybody’s really passionate. They’re concerned. They care,” said Cannova.

He has also appreciated the warm welcome offered to him by employees in various departments.

“It’s really like family around here. Everyone is so supportive,” he said.

Cannova is eager to direct focus on improving the city’s facilities assets.

“We have an obligation to the taxpayers to preserve and enhance the physical assets of the government,” Cannova said.

One of his chief goals is to implement a computerized maintenance management system to help keep track of regular maintenance schedules, service calls from various departments, equipment and materials inventory, resources, systems lists, buildings, and building features.

His team recently completed...
Memorial Gingko Tree Finds a Home

A memorial gingko tree gifted to the city as part of the Hiroshima Peace Tree project has found a place on the campus of the city’s Water Restoration Plant near the Greenwood Overlook and River Access Path where passersby can enjoy the beauty of the tree and what it represents as it grows.

The tree memorializes the loss of life associated with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945. Miraculously, the original mother tree survived the bombing and subsequent radiation fallout. Since that day, saplings generated from seeds of the original tree have been planted around the world.

Grants Pass joins 39 other Oregon communities that have received and planted one of the seedlings, making Oregon the home of the largest collection of Hiroshima Peace Trees of any other state or nation outside of Japan.

All of this stemmed from the efforts of Hideko Tamura-Snid-er, who was just 10 years old when she lost her mother to the bombing of Hiroshima. In 2007, Tamura-Snier founded the One Sunny Day Initiative to “plant seeds of universal peace, hope, and reconciliation.”

In 2017, she convinced Oregon Community Trees and Oregon Department of Forestry to assist with fostering saplings from seeds acquired from the Hiroshima tree.

The young trees were cared for by Corvallis Parks and Recreation, and then distributed to communities who agreed to plant the trees in public spaces where they can be enjoyed.

Throughout 2019, 2020, and now into 2021, 46 Hiroshima Peace Trees have been planted in Oregon.

The Grants Pass tree was planted by Tamura-Snier, the city’s Urban Forester Tony Mecum, and members of the city’s Urban Tree Advisory Committee. Mecum delivered a poignant speech at the planting, acknowledging the various entities and agencies responsible for the success of the Hiroshima Peace Tree program and Grants Pass receiving a tree.

To commemorate the importance of the tree in Grants Pass,

“Hunters...” (from page 1)

employee Amie Siedlecki, whose husband, Eric, works in the IT Department at Dutch Bros.

There were 14 total respondents to the call to action to help clean up the park and hunt down the ivy, said Siedlecki.

“We’ve been chopping it, sawing it, and ripping it off,” said volunteer Megan Pool.

Pool and Smaw said it requires approximately 20-30 minutes to clear each tree, depending on the amount of vines that have grown up around the trunk.

Crews selected trees for saving with the assistance of Kyle Strauss of Strauss Ecological Services. Strauss is a contractor for RVCOG, but also volunteers his time and expertise for projects such as the volunteer ivy hunting day.

Strauss selected trees along the paths that were threatened with ivy climb, and trees along the river that were already infested with older ivy stocks.

“The trees along the paths and trails are important for their beauty. The trees along the river are needed to maintain the health of the riparian ecosystem,” said Strauss.

“If we don’t clear the ivy, the trees will die,” he said.

By the end of the day, the ivy hunters cleared 26 large cottonwood trees and some smaller alders. Teams also collected seven bags of trash and debris from around the park.

The effort was noticed by those who were walking the trails or visiting the park. Tuss said he planted few seeds with park users to encourage them to become future volunteers.

“We’ve had a lot of positive comments from users of the park,” he said.

For additional information, or to volunteer for a future ivy hunting and clean up day, contact Tuss at (541)423-1366, or visit www.rvcog.org.
City Suspends Burn Window

The City of Grants Pass Fire/Rescue Division of the Department of Public Safety suspended the Spring 2021 Open Burn Window planned for Saturday, April 17, through Sunday, April 25, due to unfavorable weather conditions.

“It has not taken much sun and wind once the rains stopped to see an increase in fire danger. Holdover drought conditions from last year combined with the below average rainfall have caused the fuels to rapidly dry out and become more susceptible to carrying fire,” said Fire Marshal Joe Hyatt.

Burning within city limits is only allowed by permit and only when weather conditions are appropriate. Also, burning is only allowed if the Department of Environmental Quality ventilation index for the airshed is 400 or greater.

It is the responsibility of each person to check the airshed before burning. The most up to date airshed information is available by calling the Burn Line after 7 a.m. at (541)476-9663, option 3.

“We remain hopeful there will be a change in our weather pattern allowing the burn window at a later time,” said Hyatt.

When conditions provide, the city will offer burn permits through the new online platform: Grants Pass Fire Community Connect at https://sizeup.firstduesizeup.com/cc/grants/auth/signin.

Residents can sign up and receive their permit online.

Permits may also be obtained in person at 800 E Park St. once a new burn window is established. Office hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. For additional information, call the Fire Prevention Bureau at: (541)450-6200.

Become a Public Safety Cadet

The City of Grants Pass is looking to fill part-time Public Safety Cadet positions. The Public Safety Cadet is a non-sworn position. Those hired will provide non-emergency support to the police division by enforcing Municipal Code within the Central Business District (CBD) and public parks.

Duties include patrol of the CBD and city park areas on foot or bicycle, enforcement of city ordinances and response to requests for information and/or assistance from the public.

Additional duties may also be required.

Minimum requirements: A high school diploma or GED.

Current high school students who meet the age requirement of the position, will meet the education requirement with proof of ability to obtain a diploma or GED at or before the end of the school year.

Related coursework and/or experience in criminal justice or a related field is preferred; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job.

Additional requirements: Age requirement is 18, Oregon Class C Driver’s License, Law Enforcement Data Systems Certificate will be required within 60 days of appointment.

Application deadline: 5 p.m. May 7.

Smoking in Cars With Minors is Against the Law

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety reminds residents that in Oregon, it is unlawful to smoke, vape, or aerosolize in a motor vehicle if the vehicle contains occupants under 18 years of age (Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS): 811.193, 431A.175).

This includes inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying a lit cigarette, cigar or pipe, and/or using an inhalant delivery device.

Having the vehicle’s windows down is not an excuse or exemption from the law, and motorists are still in violation of this statute regardless of the air circulation within their vehicle.

National Police Week, May 11-16

Recognition events have been rescheduled until Oct. 13-17 due to COVID restrictions.

Host organizations of National Police Week, which include the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum, the Fraternal Order of Police and Auxiliary (FOP), and Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S), have made the difficult but necessary decision, due to the ongoing pandemic, to postpone in-person events of National Police Week to October 13-17, in Washington, D.C.

The rescheduling of the originally planned events to be held May 11-16, is due to the inability to secure necessary permits in time for in-person gatherings due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

The National Police Weekend will offer the same honor, remembrance, and peer support as the extended National Police Week, while allowing law enforcement, survivors, and citizens to gather and pay homage to those who gave their lives in the line of duty.

The planned schedule of events includes:

- Thursday, October 14 - National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) Candlelight Vigil
- Friday, October 15 - Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S) National Police Survivors’ Conference
- Saturday, October 16 - FOP 40th Annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service

The three host organizations remain committed to their missions and to honoring the fallen law enforcement heroes from 2019 and 2020, while making sure their survivors are supported. In addition to the in-person events in October, each organization will host virtual events on originally scheduled dates in May 2021. More information on these events are forthcoming.

HISTORY

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. Currently, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, D.C., to participate in a number of planned events which honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The Memorial Service began in 1982 as a gathering in Senate Park of approximately 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. Decades later, the event, more commonly known as National Police Week, has grown to a series of events which attracts thousands of survivors and law enforcement officers to our nation’s capital each year.

The National Peace Officers Memorial Service, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, is one in a series of events which includes the Candlelight Vigil, which is sponsored by the NLEOMF and seminars sponsored by C.O.P.S.

National Police Week draws 25,000 - 40,000 attendees each year.
Office Assistant, CD

The Office Assistant for Community Development is a public front counter customer service position.

This position will entail greeting customers, word processing, filing and copying, data entry, information gathering and cashiering, among other duties as assigned.

Knowledge of computers, office equipment, administrative functions and records maintenance are essential skills for this position.

Minimum Job Requirements:
A high school diploma or equivalent and two years of general office experience including customer service experience are required; or equivalent combination sufficient to perform the essential duties of the job.

Certification of 40 words per minute with 95 percent accuracy for keyboarding skills.

Application deadline: 5 p.m. May 3.

911 Dispatch Supervisor

If you are looking for a challenging and rewarding supervisory position, then check out this opening with our Department of Public Safety. This position will perform the full range of supervisor duties, including, but not limited to:

- Directing work, training and coaching, discipline and performance evaluation and dispatching.
- Development and implementation of policies and procedures.
- Oversight and coordination of multi-agency computer system.
- Handling complex customer service issues.
- Assist with budget preparation.
- Preparation of statistical and narrative reports.

Minimum Qualifications: An associate’s degree in a related field and two years of directly related experience, including two years of supervisory or leadership experience are required; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job.

Licensing Requirements:
Oregon Driver’s License – Class C, Law Enforcement Data System Certificate within 60 days of appointment, Basic Telecommunicator Certificate, Emergency Medical Dispatch Certificate within 12 months of appointment, DPSST Supervisor Certificate preferred. Our Public Safety Department is a 24-7 operation and all candidates will be required to work nights, weekends, rotating shifts and holidays.

Application deadline: 5 p.m. May 3.

Seasonal WTP Trainee

Do you have an interest in chemistry or science? Then, check out this opportunity for a Seasonal Water Treatment Plant Trainee.

This temporary/seasonal position will receive training on water plant operations. The ideal candidate will have basic knowledge of math and science and should be competent in the use of computers.

Candidates will perform a variety of skilled and semi-skilled operations including laboratory analysis, basic equipment and grounds maintenance, cleaning of basins and filters and monitoring of plant processes through the use of personal computers. An understanding of pumps, motors and machines is desirable.

Minimum Requirements:
This position requires a valid driver’s license and you must be at least 18 years of age.

Open until filled. Apply online today at www.grantspass.oregon.gov.

Seeking a New Career?

The City of Grants Pass is a High Performance Organization that has well-defined Mission, Vision and Values providing the framework for our organizational culture. We believe that the best solutions come from empowered teams with the knowledge and shared vision of the community’s goals.

We promote a legacy of excellence through a culture of trust, collaboration, and encouragement of personal growth and the celebration of our achievements. We seek to attract adaptable, creative and motivated individuals who share our community pride and dedication to exceptional public service.

Apply Online Today!
https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/grantspassor

Lateral Police Officer

We are seeking lateral police officer candidates to join our Department of Public Safety.

Minimum Qualifications:
Graduation from high school or GED and one year of work experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to perform the essential duties of the job.

Must be 21 years of age at time of hire. Must meet physical standards as set by the Department of Public Safety on Standards and Training (DPSST).

Current certified Police Officer in Oregon or another state with reciprocity is also required.

Application materials must be turned in by the closing date in order to be considered for this position. Any application missing required materials will not be considered.

The ranking and selection of applicants to proceed in the process for our Public Safety Department includes: experience, education, responses to supplemental questionnaire, and meeting minimum qualifications of the position.

Reasonable accommodations may be made upon request prior to the application deadline to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in the job application process.

The city’s Veterans’s Preference Form is available on the city’s website and you may attach veteran’s preference documentation to your application.

Application deadline: 5 p.m. May 3.

Openings

Current certify Police Officer in Oregon or another state with reciprocity is also required.
Drinking Water Week, May 2-8

By Lisa Beutler
Special to GP Now

National Drinking Water Week highlights the Grants Pass water legacy: There when you need it.

This year once again, Grants Pass will join other cities, utilities, private companies, and public agencies across the nation to observe National Drinking Water Week, May 2-8.

The annual celebration, originally declared to be the first week of May by President Ronald Reagan, highlights the importance of reliable drinking water service and the value of water to each of us in our everyday lives. Drinking water refers to the water that comes out of our tap.

The goal of “having water there when you need it,” has special meaning this year.

After years of careful planning, Grants Pass is moving forward on the multi-year construction of a replacement water treatment plant and the phase out of its 90-year-old facility - now well past its projected lifecycle.

This action continues the legacy of the city founders, and other city leaders that, through continued investments and improvements, have delivered reliable drinking water services from the Rogue River since 1888.

The goal is for the replacement plant to be fully operational by late spring of 2026.

In addition to securing the city’s water future, the team working on the replacement plant is particularly excited about the benefits of water investments on the local economy. According to Public Works Director Jason Canady, use of local suppliers and labor is a key priority.

“We plan to continue advertising business opportunities in the local paper. We also have been told that a number of local businesses and employers have already been contacted by some of the larger engineering and construction firms regarding potential subcontracting and partnership opportunities,” said Canady.

Water investments are demonstrated to have positive economic ripple effects. At the national level, recent studies indicate that full funding of needed water infrastructure would create nearly 800,000 new jobs by 2039.

Of these new jobs, 61 percent would be in construction and professional services stimulated by the boost in infrastructure spending.

Increased reliability and water quality would also increase productivity and efficiency in other sectors like manufacturing, leading to job gains.

Wages would also rise: US workers would earn more than $2.8 trillion in additional disposable household income over 20 years, leading to an increase of more than $2,000 per household.

Reliable water infrastructure also contributes to improved public health.

National Drinking Water Week also recognizes the importance of protecting water sources, conservation, maintenance, and investment.

It highlights the value, importance, and fragility of the state’s water resources. This is of particular importance to Grants Pass.

The Rogue River watershed has been important to local populations for at least 8,500 years, and now provides world famous whitewater recreation, parks, hiking trails, and campgrounds.

“During Drinking Water Week, we make extra time to celebrate, recognize, and ensure protecting our great water source, the Rogue River,” said Canady.

“Grants Pass officials work closely with state officials to ensure city systems waterways meet the highest standards. Investments in the water system are vital to the city’s economy and to the public health of our residents,” he said.

During the last year, the city also reached out to a number of residents to learn more about their views on reliable access to drinking water.

In addition to thoughts about how many times a day everyone uses water from a faucet, we heard about how important reliability was for local water-focused businesses such as coffee shops and breweries, and the hospitality and healthcare industries.

Several respondents pointed to the importance of reliable water service in attracting new businesses and employers.

Students told us stories about how important clean water was to their future, and several Grants Pass residents who have lived or worked abroad shared stories about the impacts of not having access to safe, clean water.

Those stories helped to amplify the need for improved drinking water awareness and appreciation in the community.

As part of the festivities the city is sponsoring its second annual Drinking Water Week.

(See “WATER” page 11)

ZEBRA MUSSLES ARE A VERY AGGRESSIVE INVASIVE SPECIES THAT CAN BE EXTREMELY HARMFUL TO WATERWAYS.

‘Don’t Move A Mussel’

In response to efforts of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to prevent the spread of invasive zebra and quagga mussels into state waterways and lakes, the City of Grants Pass has initiated a “Don’t Move A Mussel!” public awareness campaign to educate the public about the detrimental conditions these invasive species can cause to waterways and municipal water and wastewater systems.

“Currently, there are not any approved chemical or nonmechanical methods for preventing or removing these mussels from our intake system,” said Grants Pass Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Adam Smith.

Recently, ODFW was alerted to the discovery of invasive zebra mussels attached to and inside Betta Buddy Marimo Ball moss plants sold at pet store chains for home aquariums. Pet store chains including PetCo and PetSmart have removed the Betta Buddy Marimo Balls from their shelves.

ODFW district staff are contacting other local businesses carrying pets and pet products to determine if they sold or are selling these products.

“We want to thank all pet and aquarium supply stores who have stepped up and quickly taken this product off their shelves,” said Rick Boatner, ODFW Invasive Species Program supervisor and current chairman of the Oregon Invasive Species Council, a statewide effort among many natural resource agencies to keep invasive species out of Oregon.

Aquarium owners who may have purchased and used these contaminated moss balls are encouraged to use the three-step method of destroy, dispose, and drain to clean their aquariums immediately.

ODFW has released a how-to video on safely cleaning aquariums and disposing of the moss balls: https://youtu.be/DeLXmPDW23s.

The California-based distributor of the moss balls has been identified, but the distributor is just one of many that receive the same product from the same source, so the Oregon Invasive Species Council advises that all moss balls imported from

(See “MUSSEL” page 11)
Peace... (from page 5)

a plaque will be placed along fence lining the Greenwood Overlook and River Access Path between the Greenwood Dog Park and the Water Restoration Plant.

An official ceremony will be held to honor the tree sometime in the fall as planned by the city’s Urban Tree Advisory Committee.

Text of Peace Tree Address
Delivered by City Urban Forester Tony Mecum

Thank you all for coming to this special day. Today we get to plant a tree that symbolizes a remarkable history and the most aspirational aspect of humanity. When I read the story of Hideko Tamura-Snider, I was and still am profoundly moved by her ability to turn something so atrocious into what I only wish to aspire: a force of peace, compassion, reconciliation, and resilience.

One of my duties as the City’s urban forester is to promote education. I often start by reminding people that trees are much more than aesthetics. Many people value their beauty, and certainly that is a benefit of trees. I’ve found that when trees survive development, it’s often due to their beauty. What’s more than that, though, is the ability for trees to heal our local environment, make it stronger, and set promise for better days to come. Through stormwater mitigation, reduction in ambient temperatures, pollution purification, various human health enhancing qualities, and an incredible suite of economic benefits ranging from increased tourism to more profits for storefronts that have trees nearby, trees are the infrastructure that keeps a City livable.

Unlike other infrastructure, however, trees are symbols of history, memorials to people and events, and promises of a better tomorrow. I cannot think of a better example of this than our Hiroshima Peace Tree.

I want to thank Hideko Tamura-Snider, One Sunny Day Initiatives, Oregon Community Trees, the City of Corvallis, and the Oregon Department of Forestry for their exceptional coordination and invitation to join this fantastic project. And thank you to Gary Brelinski for allowing this historic tree to be placed on the campus he and his crew have continued to make more beautiful.

Typically, the city would conduct an Arbor Day celebration sometime in April. That and a more formal dedication of the tree will occur sometime in September as decided by the city’s Tree Committee.

This fall, we will be inviting the entire community to a more formal celebration of this tree, its legacy, and the amazing people gathered here today. Once the date is finalized, I will send a personal invitation to everyone here.

Call For Duck Lot Artists

The City of Grants Pass Committee on Public Art is seeking proposals from artists to add public art to the city’s Duck Parking Lot.

The Duck Lot located at the corner of Seventh and G streets will become the next city-owned wildlife themed lot to receive a new art installation slated for fiscal year 2021-22.

Proposed art installations should reflect the duck theme of the lot. Art should be proposed for placement on an appropriate base that meets city codes and engineering requirements.

There are multiple locations at the lot that are suitable for an art installation.

Proposals should include renderings and complete descriptions of the installation specifications. Artist submissions should include a resume and or curriculum vitae, short biography, statement of interest, and details about the proposed project site at the lot.

Up to four examples of recent work should also be included as prints or digital images.

Proposals for work up to $15,000 will be considered.

Proposals must include a budget detailing materials cost, project costs, installation fees, any necessary permit fees, and artist fees.

Proposals can be submitted in person, by standard mail, or by email. Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 1.

For additional information, or to submit a proposal, contact Business Advocate Susan Seereiter at (541)450-6014, or email: sseereiter@grantspassoregon.gov.

Tree Canopy Success

This flowering dogwood tree was planted with the assistance of city staff last fall as part of the city’s Tree Canopy Program. Happy to be in its new home, the young tree is already experiencing its first bloom. This year’s Tree Canopy Program will begin receiving applications in the summer to prepare for planting in the fall. For more info, call Urban Forester Tony Mecum: (541)450-6162.

Sign Up For Digital News

Members of the public who wish to be notified about breaking city news, can join the city’s email subscriber list, where preferences regarding the receipt of notices can be personalized by each recipient.

Choose to receive information regarding COVID updates, street closures, public safety information, street sweeping, burn windows, city agendas, job postings, press releases, committee openings, public forums, community surveys, requests for proposals, and so much more!

All past and current city newsletters dating back to 2017 are available at the city’s website, where new issues will also be posted each month: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/604/City-Newsletters.

Members of the public who wish to be notified when new issues of GP Now are available at the website, can also join the city’s email subscriber list: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/list.aspx
Collins...

We said: ‘let’s go somewhere else,’” said Collins.

Collins’ grandparents moved to Grants Pass in 1961 as part of a project for an organization working a bulb farm. At one time, they lived above the shops on the corner of Sixth and G streets.

Eventually, they purchased a home on Fairview Avenue, where Collins would visit them as a child. He remembers purchasing his first skateboard at a shop on Sixth Street.

“As a kid, there wasn’t really a lot to do here back then,” he said.

In 1986, with fond memories in mind and wife in hand, he moved to Grants Pass.

His first job in town was for Sheckles Stereo. An interest in radio he developed while he was in high school led Collins to a job at a local radio station, where he worked in advertising and commercial voice overs.

“It was fun for a while,” Collins said.

In 1988, he went to work for Met One in Merlin, where he spent the next 13 years working his way up from the stock room to product manager.

“That was a great experience,” he said.

When the company was eventually sold, he knew he would have to find something else, and he got picked up by the new parent company, Hach, where he was promoted to regional manager covering four states.

“That was a lot of driving,” said Collins.

Now, with two young daughters at home to help raise, Collins made the decision to take a major pay cut in order to work closer to home and accepted a position with Pacific Crest Transformers, where he eventually became the vice president of marketing over the next 11 years.

By 2017, he was ready to take an early retirement, but not yet ready to retire, he said. So, he took a temporary position with the US Postal Service.

“That was my hobby job,” Collins said.

In 2018, he left the Post Office and fully retired.

Serving on the Council

Collins said his stint with the Post Office was more about his curiosity and having the experience than it was anything else.

“Throughout my life, I’ve searched for experience, rather than the job,” said Collins.

Now, he looks forward to sharing his experience with his colleagues on the council and the community, he said.

“I don’t really have a personal agenda. I’m not trying to fulfill my personal interest. I didn’t come into this with the intent of trying to put my stamp on it,”

“I want to create this place as an attractive place that is conducive to people wanting to bring their business here.”

Collins said.

His goals for serving on the council come through his long career of traveling to many places in the country where he spent time analyzing the towns he encountered.

He said he would always ask himself questions such as: “Why is this town here? What are their major employers? Why do people open businesses here?”

“For Grants Pass, it used to be the mills. That doesn’t exist anymore. Now it’s the river. Obviously, tourism is a major part of that,” said Collins.

What he would like to see, is more development to offset that, he said. He wants to find the “balance between keeping the small town feel and atmosphere, while also bringing in new employers and housing.”

“I’d also like to see more entertainment options,” said Collins.

He wants to fill what he calls “gaps in the city’s portfolio of offerings,” he said.

“I have impressions of things I’ve seen positive in other places and I’d like to help recreate some of those things here,” Collins said.

Fostering economic development is his primary focus.

“I want to create this place as an attractive place that is conducive to people wanting to bring their business here,” said Collins.

He believes a proper marketing plan is essential to accomplishing those goals but adds that the city’s brand needs strengthening to further secure development.

“Marketing can only sell something once. The product has to sell itself after that,” he said.

He sees himself and his business to business presentation experience across the country as potential assets to the city.

“If someone is needed to go entice a business to move here, I’m the person who can go make that presentation,” said Collins.

At this point in his life, Collins said his motives are no longer based in ambition.

It’s more about offering his skill sets to the betterment of the community, he said.

“I’m a people person who has long been a professional advocate for things I feel strongly about, and with that I think that I bring a unique skill set to be an advocate for the city we all love,” Collins said.
**Poster Contest** (from page 8)

Poster Contest for local students, grades K-12. Students are asked to create an original poster design using the theme: “There when you need it.”

Student poster design entries will be accepted in four categories: grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Thirteen winning posters will be selected, and each winner will receive a $100 prize. The entry deadline for submissions is 5 p.m., Friday, April 30.

Contest winners will also be recognized at a city council meeting, and be featured in the city’s community outreach efforts, including social media recognition campaigns, and Drinking Water Week promotional activities.

Full contest rules and submission information are available at: https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/1408/Drinking-Water-Week-2021

**Mussel** (from page 8)

Ukraine from any distributor should be considered potentially contaminated.

Additional information about how to properly dispose of potentially contaminated aquarium contents is available here: https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/zebra-mussel-disposal.html

The early life stage of the mussels is called the veliger stage. It is during this microscopic final larval stage that the mussels can spread without notice.

“Our pre-chlorine dose and contact time at the water treatment plant is more than enough to kill zebra mussel veliger,” said Smith.

The greatest risk to the city water system is contamination of the Rogue River, where Grants Pass intakes its drinking water.

“Everything before our pre-chlorine injection point is at risk, including our intake screen, screen wash system, desilting system, intake pumps, and the intake sump system,” said Smith.

“Currently, if the mussels got established in the Rogue River, our only option would be to remove them mechanically by scraping on a regular basis,” he said.

Those processes can be expensive and cause undue wear and tear on the city’s water distribution system.

The mussels would also threaten the river’s entire ecosystem as they multiply and take over the food source used by newly hatched fish, while also contributing to larger algae blooms in the water.

Currently, Oregon and Pacific Northwest waterways are free of zebra and quagga mussels thanks to a monitoring program that requires watercraft to be inspected when entering Oregon, and the swift action of the Oregon Invasive Species Council to alert pet stores and consumers to the contaminated moss balls.

For additional information about the Waterway Access and Aquatic Invasive Species Program, visit: https://myodfw.com/articles/waterway-access-and-aquatic-invasive-species-permits.

The City of Grants Pass highlighy encourages residents to get informed about these special programs and cautions everyone: “Don’t Move A Mussel.”

**Cannova** (from page 4)

Cannova, a great majority of damage to natural gas lines occurs when residents install landscaping, irrigation, and fences.

Before beginning any outdoor digging project, residents are encouraged to call 811 at least two business days before they dig. Calling 811 will get a professional locator to a site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines.

There is a two-foot tolerance zone on each side of the line, and it is required to hand dig to determine the precise location of the utility in this tolerance zone. This service is free.

Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before digging will help protect from injury, prevent damages to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs.

Every digging job requires a call — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area.

For more information, call 811 or go to www.digsafelyoregon.com

**Call 811 BEFORE You Dig!**

The City of Grants Pass Public Works Department is gearing up for the National Safe Digging Month of April by reminding the public to call 811 before beginning any outdoor digging project.

April traditionally brings a ground swell of outdoor work which often includes digging, which is why the month of April is dedicated to safe digging awareness by public utilities, states, and local governments.

According to information from natural gas supplier Avista, a great majority of damage to natural gas lines occurs when residents install landscaping, irrigation, and fences.

Before beginning any outdoor digging project, residents are encouraged to call 811 at least two business days before they dig. Calling 811 will get a professional locator to a site to mark the approximate location of underground utility lines.

There is a two-foot tolerance zone on each side of the line, and it is required to hand dig to determine the precise location of the utility in this tolerance zone. This service is free.

Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before digging will help protect from injury, prevent damages to utilities and service disruptions, and avoid potential fines and repair costs.

Every digging job requires a call — even small projects like planting trees and shrubs. The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area.

For more information, call 811 or go to www.digsafelyoregon.com