

NEWSLETTER

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The aeration basins have an important role in restoring our wastewater. Two more basins will be needed in the future.

Plan charts long-range improvements to plant

A long-range facility plan to keep the Water Restoration Plant working, efficient and able to meet demand has been presented to the City Council for adoption.

The facility plan is the document Public Works staff uses to plan wastewater plant projects for the next 20 years. The last facility plan was adopted in 2000.

The new plan recommends a combination of repair and rehabilitation projects to upgrade aging equipment, as well as expansion of facilities needed to meet our growth needs.

The recommended Capital Improvement Plan is divided into three, flexible phases.

Phase 1 includes replacement of half of the ultra-violet disinfection equipment now in use due to age, cost to maintain, and the opportunities to greatly improve the energy efficiency. Phase 1 also includes seismic improvements to plant facilities that will not need major repair.

Phase 2 includes construction of a primary clarifier, two aeration basins, and one gravity thickener. Phase 2 also will rehabilitate the existing gravity thickener.

Phase 3 includes construction of another primary clarifier and a secondary clarifier. Phase 3 also will replace the grit removal system, and upgrade pipelines. Similar to Phase 2 improvements, this work is needed to increase

the reliability of the treatment processes and to assure the plant has the capacity to meet our community's growth.

The recommended facility plan, developed by Carollo Engineers Inc., is based on information that includes:

- "Flow and load" projections based on historical data.
- Current and future regulatory scenarios.
- A condition assessment of the plant's restoration process, infrastructure and equipment.
- A computerized model evaluating hydraulic capacity and overall plant capacity.
- A seismic assessment.
- An evaluation of planning scenarios (capacity and reliability vs. projected flows, loads and regulations).
- An evaluation of energy management alternatives.

After the City Council adopts the facility plan, Public Works staff will begin working on the Phase 1 improvements. Phase 2 improvements should follow around 2016. Phase 3 improvements would begin around 2020, depending on the growth of the community. Tentative project dates and progress reports will be posted to www.grantspassoregon.gov.

If you have questions or want more information, please call Public Works Director Terry Haugen at 541-450-6110, or the Water Restoration Plant at 541-450-6121.

Thank you for your help in solving crimes

Many of our nation's high-profile crimes have been solved with the help of concerned citizens. Every day, one phone call from a concerned citizen about a suspicious car, person or situation helps solve a crime.

Cases such as domestic violence, child abuse, illegal drug activities, and even murder have been solved because one person saw something that didn't seem right and reported it to police.

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety would like to thank the concerned

Phone calls from citizens often have been the break needed to solve a crime.

citizens who take the time to report all levels of suspicious incidents. These phone calls often have been the

break that we needed in a case, or the opportunity we had to intervene and stop a crime from occurring.

Recently, a concerned citizen called about a suspicious vehicle parked in a residential neighborhood. Patrol officers were sent to investigate and discovered the vehicle was stolen. Through investigation, a suspect was identified and contact at a residence was made.

The resulting investigation revealed the residence was being used by criminals as a hideout. Inside the residence, a large ring of keys were found. The keys



Police Officers Ridenour and Six interview subjects at Walmart, a location of increased enforcement due to nuisance-type of offenses.

belonged to a local car lot, which had been burglarized the night before. That one call by a citizen to report a suspicious vehicle led to several cases being solved.

We would like to remind you that no matter is too big or small to be reported. Please trust your instincts when you feel something is "not right" and call us at 541-450-6260. (In an emergency you should call 9-1-1.) We respond to calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Your report could help us solve a case, or even save a life.

Thank you for partnering with our police officers to make our community a safer place to live.

Committee helps City programs plan for the future

The City Council's Performance Audit, Visioning and Enhancement (PAVE) Committee has started on its first project, a Public Safety Strategic Plan.

A strategic plan lays out changes that will improve a process or program. A PAVE project consists of a performance audit to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the program or process, and then creation of a recommended strategic plan for future operations.

The eight-member PAVE Committee has four elected officials (Mayor and Councilors) and four citizen members. Two citizen members must have experience in the area being reviewed to help provide proper oversight.

The Council launched the Public Safety Strategic Plan process in March. The PAVE Committee will review and plan for all main Department of Public Safety operations.

The project will be a large collaborative effort between all arms of the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety.

PAVE will look at the Police Division, the Fire Rescue Division, the Support Division (9-1-1, dispatch, records, and other support services). The committee will look at the organizational structure, overtime in different areas, performance measures, the CALEA accreditation program, the Public Safety Fleet, Public Safety facilities, and training programs.

The performance audit has been contracted out to the ICMA Center for Public Safety Management. One team of auditors will focus on the Fire Rescue Division, and another team will focus on the Police Division. Initial data reports and planning sessions should take place between June and August.

Council considers refreshing City's tourism 'brand'

After 14 years of use, the City Council is taking a new look at the City's "branding."

A brand is a recognizable marketing image for brochures, newspaper and magazine advertising, the internet, and social media. The brand's image must appeal to most people, as trying to "be all things to all people" is not a good marketing strategy.

Each destination (city) has many features, but with limited marketing resources, it is important to focus on what is most unique and potentially of value to the most people.

The process of creating the current destination brand was started in 1999. Grants Pass industry and community members looked at our town's most important assets to identify its unique strengths and features. That information became the foundation for a brand that would attract visitors to our community. The group's work was highlighted in a 2012 edition of a highly-regarded book on branding: "Destination Branding for Small Cities."

Grants Pass has one of the original Wild and Scenic rivers flowing through town, providing many recreational options. While there are other unique features in Grants Pass and Josephine County, the Rogue River was established as the key marketing icon and focus of our brand.

Once attracted to the Rogue River, potential visitors then will explore many other activities at, or in the proximity of, Grants Pass.

In addition to the Rogue River, Grants Pass and Josephine County have many features as a vacation destination to attract visitors. Examples include the Oregon Caves National Monument, Wildlife Images, wineries, di-

WHERE THE ROGUE RIVER RUNS



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NATURAL. ROGUE RIVER. LEGENDS.



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In April 2000, the City Council adopted a river theme for the Tourism Program's brand. The images of "The Guide" and "The Fisherman" are used in advertising promoting Grants Pass as a destination location.

verse restaurants showcasing local products, and several annual events such as Boatnik, Back to the '50s, and Art Along the Rogue. Our location makes Grants Pass a great hub for visitors to stay while enjoying statewide gems such as Crater Lake National Park, the Oregon Coast, and Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Branding a small community is a balancing act. A brand has to match a town's self-image, yet not be limited to it. A brand needs to be shaped by its strengths and needs to stretch those strengths without losing authenticity. In other words, what our brand projects must be true to who and what we are.

Help for low-income homes

The Paint Your Heart Out program is proud to celebrate its 26th year in 2014. Paint Your Heart Out is a volunteer driven, non-profit program that provides exterior home painting to low-income families that is totally free to homeowners selected for the painting.

Eligible homeowners must: be low income (up to \$27,115 for a two-person household); own and live in the home being considered for painting; and the home must be within the city limits or urban growth boundary.



Preference is given to senior citizens and/or persons with disabilities. Applications for this year's Sept. 13 "paint day" must be received by the City by July 11.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please contact Program Coordinator Donna Anderson at 541-450-6011, or danderson@grantspassoregon.gov. Applications also are available online at www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Despite regional drought, GP has enough water

At the end of May, Southern Oregon was experiencing “severe” to “extreme” drought, while most of California was in “extreme” to “exceptional” drought, according to the National Drought Mitigation Center.

Luckily, we will escape water restrictions thanks to the City’s generous water rights to the Rogue River. The City Water Treatment Plant can process 20 million gallons per day (MGD). In summer, water customers use an average of 10 MGD, while the highest water demand ever was 14 MGD on July 28, 2009.

Despite the drought occurring across West Coast states, the City’s water rights shouldn’t be restricted this year because the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was able to fill the reservoir at Lost Creek Lake. However, if drought conditions continue through next winter, there may not be enough rain and snowmelt to fill the reservoir.

That means the Rogue River’s water level might drop during the summer and Grants Pass’ water rights could be restricted, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Jason Canady said. That could mean restrictions for water customers, too.



This demonstration garden is landscaped with low-water plants. Located in front of the Water Treatment Plant on “M” Street, you may view it at anytime.

Low-water plants can lower your water bill

Low water use gardening has a fancy name: Xeriscaping, a term with the Greek word for dry – Xeros.

Terms such as water-conserving landscaping, drought-tolerant landscaping, zeroscaping and smart scaping can be used instead of xeriscaping.

Several years ago, the Public Works Department constructed a public demonstration garden showcasing drought-tolerant plants. It is located in front of the Water Treatment Plant at “M” Street and Grants Pass Parkway.

In addition to lowering your water bills, xeriscaping will:

- Take less time and work to maintain, with gardening simpler and less stressful.
- Need little or no lawn mowing.
- When water restrictions are put into effect, xeriscape plants will survive and thrive, while more ornamental plants might be unable to adapt to dry conditions.
- Lower consumption of river and ground water.
- Make more water available for additional domestic uses and our environment.
- Improve rainfall retention if the plants are planted in an appropriate design and combined with soil grading and mulching.



Your Grants Pass City Government

Mayor	Phone	E-mail	
Darin Fowler	541-660-3696	dfowler33@hotmail.com	
Councilor	Ward	Phone	E-mail
Dan DeYoung	NW	541-660-0342	mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov
<i>Council President</i>			
Lily Morgan	NE	541-476-6168	morganlily@gmail.com
Rick Riker	NE	541-479-7333	councilriker@charter.net
Ken Hannum	SE	541-659-4579	kenhannum@live.com
Jim Williams	SE	541-601-0851	mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov
Dennis Webber	NW	541-471-1693	webbergpcouncil@gmail.com
Mark Gatlin	SW	541-441-7674	markgatlin@gmail.com
Jim Goodwin	SW	541-761-5733	jamesagoodwin@hotmail.com

City Council meetings begin at 6 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Council Chambers, 101 NW “A” Street. The meetings are televised on Cable Channel 183 and posted online at www.grantspassoregon.gov. City Councilors and staff talk about local issues on radio station KAJO (1270 AM) at 9:30 a.m. on the 1st and 2nd Tuesday of every month.