

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 205 \* October 2014

## New crosswalks signal better pedestrian safety

The City has installed new crossing signals at several locations where there are a high number of vehicles and pedestrians.

The crossings include enhanced signage with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons. The beacons flash when a pedestrian pushes a button on the signal pole. Motorists must stop while the pedestrian crosses the street.

The beacons have been installed at: "G" and 3rd streets; "G" and Pine streets; and New Hope Road at Florer Drive. The locations were selected based on traffic engineering studies.

The installation at "G" and 3rd streets was in response to an historically dangerous situation associated with the nearby railroad crossing and a curve in the road.

The crossing at "G" and Pine streets is located where five streets intersect. There traffic speeds tend to increase as vehicles begin to head west out of the downtown core. At this location, small concrete islands were also installed to reduce the distance the pedestrians need to cross the street.

The crossing on New Hope Road was the final element in the creation of a Florer Drive entrance onto New Hope Road. The crossing was installed primarily to help students crossing New Hope Road to get to Allen Dale School just north of the intersection.



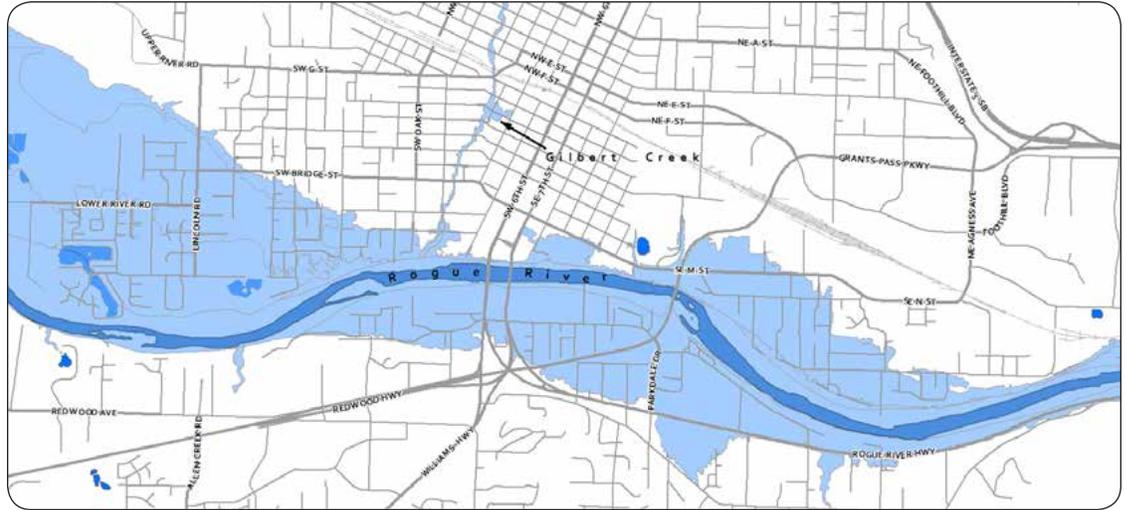
If the crossings are successful, the City will consider installing the flashing beacons at other locations where a large number of pedestrians need to cross high-traffic streets.



The enhanced crosswalk at "G" and 3rd Streets now makes the historically dangerous location safer.

# Are you ready for a flood?

Residents in this shaded area, please take note



Grants Pass residents enjoy the Rogue River's natural beauty and recreational opportunities. However, the river is prone to flooding, which can lead to loss of life and property.

If you live along the Rogue River, please learn how to protect yourself and your property. Here are a few steps you can take *before* a flood to prepare yourself, your family, and property from disaster:

- **Know where you live.** The Parks and Community Development Department can tell you if your property is located in a mapped flood hazard area. Call 541-450-6060 with your address and/or map and tax lot number. Staff then can tell you if you are in the floodway, 100-year floodplain, or the 500-year floodplain.
- **Build according to city and federal floodplain standards.** Development and any man-made change, such as grading or filling, on property located within the floodway of the river or the 100-year floodplain are subject to City floodplain regulations and building

codes, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements. If you are planning to build, expand, or modify property in a flood hazard area, please contact the Parks and Community Development to obtain the proper permits.

- **Purchase flood insurance.** Losses from flooding are not covered under renter and homeowner's insurance policies. Federally-backed flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and can be purchased from an insurance agent. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance is effective, so you should purchase flood insurance before the rainy season starts.
- **Make a plan and a disaster kit.** Decide how you would evacuate your home when a flood threatens. Decide where you will go and the safest route to get there. Put together a 72-hour disaster supply kit for you and each of your family members. Go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) to purchase kits or to find a list of basic supplies.



## New utility payment box installed

About 1,000 times a month, residents stop by City Hall to drop off a City utility (water, sewer, streets) bill payment. In September, a new drive-up box was installed to make payment even easier.

The box is located in the parking lot directly between City Hall and the Josephine County Courthouse. It is positioned on the left of the exit. As with any payment drop box, *please* do not deposit cash.

If you are making a payment on a delinquent account and rushing to meet a deadline, please drop off your payment at the Customer Service office to make sure your payment is applied right away.

## For Your Safety

The Grants Pass Department of Public Safety would like everyone to have a fun and safe Halloween and holiday season. Here are some simple safety precautions that will help.

### Halloween safety

During the three-day period surrounding Halloween (Oct. 30 through Nov. 1), there is a 24 percent increase in fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

#### Candles

- Place candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Trim wicks to one-quarter inch before lighting.
- Use a sturdy metal, glass or ceramic candle holder.
- Place candles at least 16 inches away from things that burn.
- Secure candles in Jack-O-Lanterns.
- Blow out all candles before leaving the room.
- Make sure decorative materials are flame-resistant.

#### Costumes

- Make sure costume fabrics are flame-resistant.
- Make sure masks do not obstruct vision.
- Carry a flashlight after dark.

For more information, please call the Fire Prevention Unit, at 541-450-6200, Monday through Friday.

### Thanksgiving-Christmas safety

Thanksgiving and Christmas bring joyous gatherings and gift-giving – and more thefts.

- Use only U.S. Postal Service secure mail boxes to mail items containing personal information, checks or money.
- If a package is being delivered to your home, track it online. On the day it is to be delivered, ask a friend or trusted neighbor to bring it in from your front porch. Criminals have taken packages before anyone knows they were delivered.
- Keep your purse or wallet close to your side while shopping, not in a grocery cart. By the time most people report a theft, their credit and debit cards have already been used.
- Do not leave any personal items or valuables in your car. It only takes a moment for a thief break a window.

For more information, please call the Crime Prevention Unit at 541-450-6245, Monday through Friday.

## Business Advocate hired

The City Council has added another resource to help Grants Pass businesses. A Business Advocate will promote and advocate for the business sector.

The Business Advocate will help highlight that in Grants Pass, “It’s the Climate” in many ways including it’s the climate for business.

The Business Advocate is responsible for assisting the planning, coordination, development and implementation of business and economic development programs and projects within city limits.

The Business Advocate will:

- Help the Council and Administration map out an economic development strategic plan.
- Serve as a liaison between businesses and economic development programs.
- Help businesses make contacts they might need for other opportunities.
- Help the Council stay up-to-date on the business health of the downtown district.
- Work with partners at the state (Business Oregon), regional (SORED), and local levels (Josephine County, Rogue Community College, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce, and others).
- Coordinate with Experience Grants Pass, the contractor that now provides Travel, Tourism and Downtown services for the City.

The new Business Advocate starts work on Oct. 1. For more information, please call Assistant City Manager David Reeves at 541-450-6000.

## Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 25: Half Marathon, 10K, 5K & Kidz Costume Run.** Information at 541-479-1001, or [www.roguemultisport.com/featureevents/grantspasshalfmarathon.html](http://www.roguemultisport.com/featureevents/grantspasshalfmarathon.html).
- **Oct. 25: Graveyard Tour.** Presented by Josephine County Historical Society, 541-479-7827. Tickets available before and on day of event.
- **Oct. 31: Safe Halloween.** Free, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., downtown. Presented by the Towne Center Association, 541-476-5773.
- **Dec. 4-8: Rogue Winterfest.** Gala & Grand Auction, Golden Social, Culinary Christmas Classic & Silent Auction. Fundraiser. [www.roguewinterfest.org](http://www.roguewinterfest.org)
- **Dec. 6: Christmas Light Parade.** Starts at 6:30 p.m., traveling up 6th Street from “L” to “G” street. Lighting of the Christmas tree at 5th and “G” streets will follow.

# Committee promotes safety for bike riders, pedestrians

Bicycle lanes and sidewalks are more than safety features for residents – they promote our city, said Darcy Englen, chairman of the Bikeways and Walkways Committee. “A city with safe biking and walking is more attractive to young families and people who value quality of life,” he explained.

The committee’s job is to promote non-motorized transportation, gather community input, educate everyone about the rules of the road, and advise the city.

Biking and walking are healthier than driving, for people as well as the environment. However, “people won’t choose an option if it’s not safe,” Englen said. “If we make our city safer for bike riders and pedestrians, then more people will choose those options.”

You probably have noticed many of the recent projects the committee has played a role in:

- Installation (in partnership with District 7) of sidewalks and trails to Allen Dale, Lincoln and Highland elementary schools and North Middle School. A path from Riverside Elementary to Eckstein Park is planned.
- Major sidewalk improvements on Midland Avenue, between Washington and Highland, for North Middle



**Sharrows and painted bike lanes make the 6th and Park street intersection safer.**

School students – and mothers with strollers.

- Addition of “sharrows” (shared lane markings) where bike lanes and traffic lanes merge near 6th Street. This extra signage and paint alerts motorists that they must now share the lane with bike riders. Sharrows also were added to the preferred routes to Reinhart Volunteer Park.

- A test of green paint on bike lanes on Park Street. The green color makes motorists and bike riders more aware of where they should be traveling.

- The installation of flashing beacons (please see story on Page 1) at several high pedestrian and high vehicle traffic areas.

The committee would like to see more green paint and flashing beacons. “We want sidewalks and bike trails for the average person, and for families,” Englen said.

The Bikeways and Walkways Committee will continue to work with the City and other agencies to make Grants Pass a safe and friendly place for biking and walking.



## Your Grants Pass City Government

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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](http://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.