

NEWSLETTER

Issue 207 * February 2015

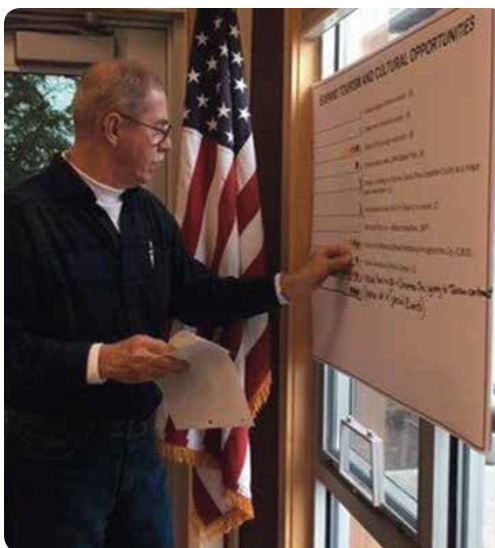
Councilors turn public input into action plan

A strategic (long-term) plan should not be set in stone. It needs to change with the times. So every year, our City Council and Mayor revisit their strategic plan for Grants Pass.

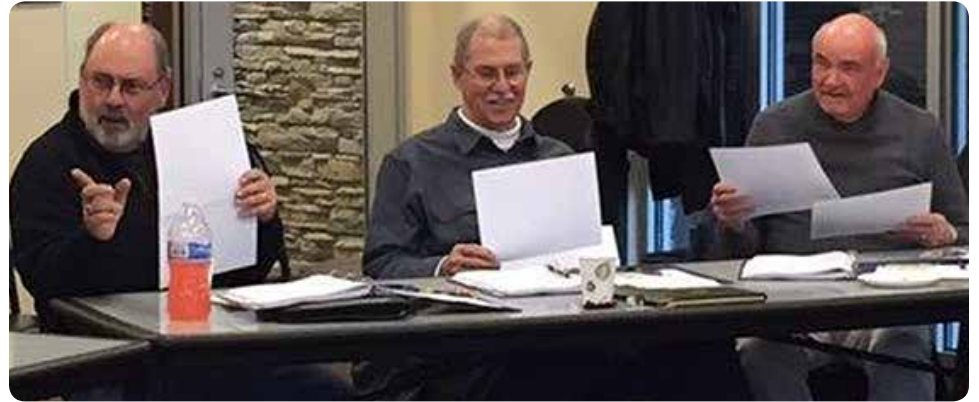
In January, they met with community members and City staff for three days of strategic planning and goal setting.

Strategic planning is very important for our community's long-term success. It helps our elected officials answer such crucial questions as:

- Where should City government focus its priorities?
- What is our City government's role in addressing the communities' most pressing challenges?
- How well is our City government meeting those challenges?



Councilor Riker votes for the "Tourism and Cultural Opportunities" he thinks should receive attention.



City Councilors and the Mayor spent three days in January making long-term plans. Above are councilors Dan DeYoung, Rick Riker and Roy Lindsay

The answers to those questions provide a foundation for:

- Providing residents with ways to participate in creating a vision and direction for Grants Pass.
- Establishing a process for review of, and improvement in, City services.

- Establishing the foundation for budgeting resources for specific outcomes.

Councilors were prepared for and participated with enthusiasm in the strategic planning sessions. Before the sessions, the Council gathered input from all of its boards, commissions and committees, plus civic organizations and residents. The Council then identified more than 77 ideas to discuss.

This year's action goals, including four carried over from last year, are:

1. Explore police station options.
2. Explore alternative funding options to property taxes that equitably allocate the cost of services.
3. Identify annexation areas for 2015.
4. Include "Back to the 50s" and the Christmas Tree lighting in the contract for tourism services.
5. Tree lights downtown year-round.
6. Explore improving the visual appeal of north Grants Pass coming off of Merlin Hill.
7. Partner with homeless/transient service providers to explore the possibility of centralized services.
8. Add one police sergeant and two police officers to establish a Special Detail.
9. Participate in the work of creating a Sobering Center.
10. Acquire portable water treatment equipment to provide drinking water if the Water Treatment Plant is damaged and unable to produce water.

Continued on the next page

City studying water, sewer plans under new UGB lines

Adoption of an updated Urban Growth Boundary in December clears the way for updates to all of the City's Master Plans, including water distribution and sewer collection.

A master plan is a 20-year blueprint laying out the infrastructure needed to keep up with growth. However, a city cannot plan accurately without an up-to-date UGB, because the UGB spells out where growth will be allowed. However, growth does not always happen the way we expect. So the state requires that cities update their utility master plans every five years.

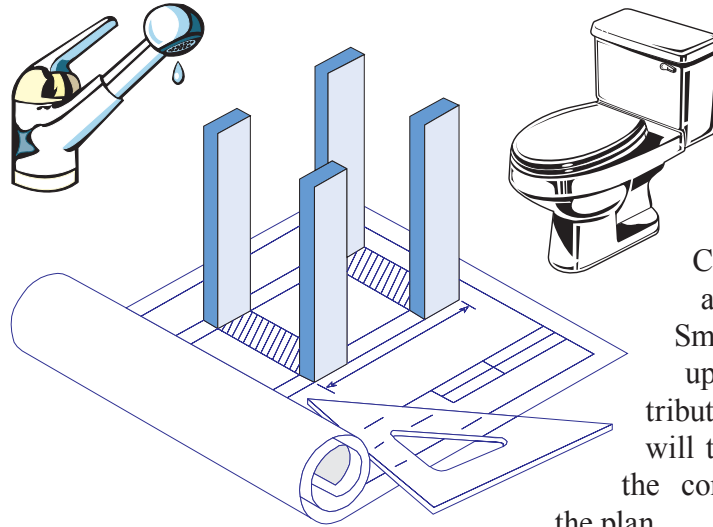
The newly expanded Grants Pass UGB does add a number of new areas that will need water and sewer service before development can take place.

Our City Council last adopted a Water Distribution System Master Plan in 2001 and a Sewer Collection System Master Plan in 2004.

The 2004 collection plan proposed the construction of five new sewer main projects within Grants Pass to accommodate growth. To date, one of the projects has been completed.

The plan also called for the re-

placement of 64,000 feet of sewer pipe which has been determined to be in failing condition. Roughly 6,000 feet of the pipe has been replaced.



The 2001 water distribution plan proposed construction of four water reservoirs, three new pump stations, an upgrade of two pump stations, and installation of 154,120 feet of new water pipe.

None of the proposed reservoirs have been built. Two pump stations have been built, one pump station was upgraded, and 44,000 feet of

water main has been installed.

Not all of the improvements in the plans have been completed because we are only 11 and 14 years into the 20-year planning cycle. Work on the

projects also is limited to the amount of money available each year to spend on the improvements.

In January, the City Council approved a contract for Murray, Smith and Associates to update the Water Distribution Master Plan. It will take about a year for the company to complete the plan.

Also in January, the Council approved a contract with Carollo Engineers for the Sewer Collection Master Plan update. Earlier work should allow this plan to be completed within six months.

If you have questions or would like more information about the master plans, please call Public Works Director Terry Haugen at 541-450-6110.

City Council strategic planning – Continued from the front

11. Develop the property near the intersection of "E" and "F" streets.

12. Update/improve the Development Code.

A Work Plan will be created from the ranked goals. The Work Plan is a tool that is used to evaluate the process of our City government during the next 18 months.

The final step in the strategic plan is the City's Operating and Capital Improvement budgets. The budget process allocates City resources needed to implement the Council's strategies and Work Plan activities.

Our councilors will offer more opportunities for community participation in the strategic planning and budgeting process. They look forward to the strength of the community making Grants Pass great.

2015-2016 Goals

Council reviews and updates its goals during the strategic planning process. This year's goals are to:

- Keep citizens safe.
- Provide cooperative, shared leadership involving council, staff and community.
- Encourage economic prosperity.
- Expand tourism and cultural opportunities.
- Promote healthy neighborhoods.
- Facilitate sustainable, manageable growth.
- Maintain, operate and expand our infrastructure to meet community needs.
- Preserve and enjoy our natural resources.

Council considers changing Grants Pass' brand

Our City Council is looking at creating a new “brand” for Grants Pass.

A brand expresses the value of an organization, product or service. For example, picture a swoosh and the words “Just do it.” Immediately you know the image and words belong to Nike and the athletic gear it makes.

Grants Pass' brand defines the values and qualities of our city, creating an image of who we are. Image is very important, because a city's image directly affects economic development, property values and resident satisfaction.

Council assigned the branding project to the contractor that operates our Tourism Office. Jon Bowen of Ex-



The City's current “brand” markets Grants Pass as the “classic river experience.” The City Council adopted this image and the slogan “Where the Rogue River Runs,” in 2000.

perience Grants Pass has set up a steering committee of residents and business owners to oversee the project. (A steering committee prepares and arranges topics to be discussed for a legislative body.)

Bowen is surveying our community through February. The committee then will compile and analyze the survey results, identifying and ranking themes. Finally, proposals will be made to the City Council

with a recommendation for a new brand.

Anyone may give input. Please call the Tourism Office at 541-476-7574, visit the Downtown Welcome Center at 6th and “G” streets, or fill out the survey at www.experiencegp.com.

Man's best friend a vital part of police operations

Highly trained dogs have been helping the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety enforce the law for the past 15 years.

The police dogs, or K-9s, are valuable for their sense of smell. They can track a suspect, find a gun tossed into the bushes, and locate a lost child.

The K-9 teams usually work at night because most building searches, alarms, burglaries and such occur at night. The K-9s average three to four “deployments” a shift and are responsible for hundreds of “captures.”

The K-9s and their handlers spend five weeks together in intense training. They continue to train weekly after becoming part of the force. The teams are certified through the Oregon Police Canine Association, and visit schools and



Corporal Jeff Gaunt & Brock



Officer Jesse Wallace & Rocco

local civic groups, and take part in education programs.

“The constant training on and off duty is hard,” said Sgt. Justin DeKruger, himself a handler for five years. “But it's rewarding knowing your dog's proficiency keeps the handler and other officers alive.”

When it was time for his K-9, Rommel, to retire, DeKruger bought the dog and took him home. Another handler did the same, but two K-9s have died for medical reasons while on the job.

Donations have funded the cost of buying, feeding, and training a dog since the beginning of the program in 2000.

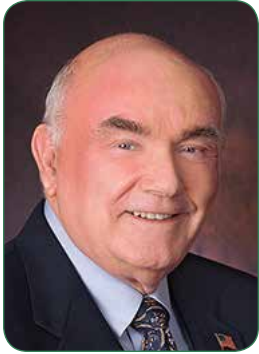
If you would like to know more, please contact Sgt. DeKruger at 541-450-6319, or jdekruger@grants-passoregon.gov.

Grants Pass K-9 history

Name	Breed	Served	Handler
Daum	German Shepherd	2000-04	Gaunt
Barry	Belgian Malinois	2001-08	Moran
Denny	German Shepherd	2004-11	Gaunt
Rommel	Belgian Malinois	2008-13	DeKruger
Brock	Belgian Malinois	2012	Gaunt
Rocco	Belgian Malinois	2014	Wallace

New councilors sworn into office

Roy Lindsay and Dennis Roler took office on Jan. 2, 2015. They were elected last November. Their terms will expire at the end of 2018.



Roy Lindsay

and was its chairman last year. He lives in Ward 1.

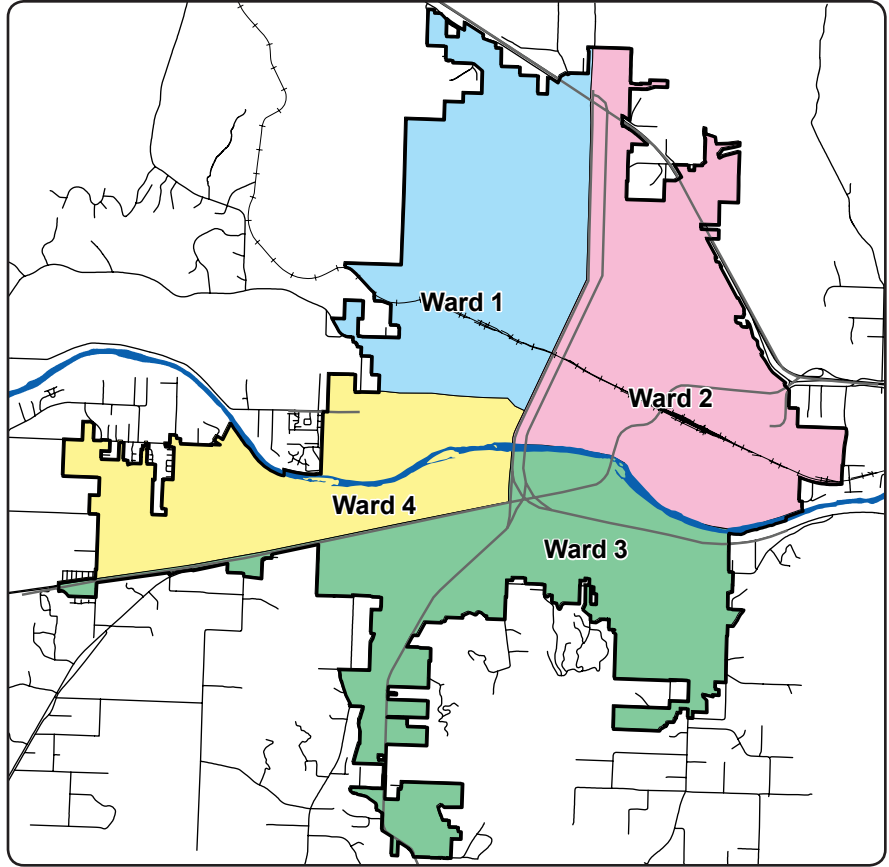
Dennis Roler is an Oregon native hailing from Albany. He moved to Grants Pass in 1986 to become city editor at the Daily Courier.



Dennis Roler

Three years later he was promoted to editor, and retired at the end of 2013. He also worked for newspapers in Roseburg and Navato, Calif. He lives in Ward 3.

Roy Lindsay is a retired computer systems business owner. He moved to Grants Pass in 2001. He has served on the City Budget Committee,



City Council Wards redrawn, renamed

Effective Jan. 1, 2015, City Council Ward boundaries were changed to better balance representation.

The railroad tracks used to be the boundary between the northern and southern wards. Because most of the growth in the past 20 years occurred south of river, the southern wards grew. The new boundaries make the Wards closer to the same size.

The tracks also are where the NW

NE, SE and SW streets start. The Wards were identified with the same names because they matched the street coordinates; now the Wards will be referred to by number.

As before, all eight councilors are elected by all city voters, and residents may contact any councilor. The Wards only reflect where each councilor lives so that all areas of the city are fairly represented.



Your Grants Pass City Government

Mayor	Phone	Email	
Darin Fowler	541-660-3696	dfowler33@hotmail.com	
Councilor	Ward	Phone	Email
Dan DeYoung <i>Council President</i>	1	541-660-0342	mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov
Roy Lindsay	1	541-291-0346	rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov
Lily Morgan	2	541-476-6168	morganlily@gmail.com
Rick Riker	2	541-479-7333	councilriker@charter.net
Ken Hannum	3	541-659-4579	kenhannum@live.com
Dennis Roler	3	541-479-4272	droler@grantspassoregon.gov
Mark Gatlin	4	541-441-7674	markgatlin@gmail.com
Jim Goodwin	4	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 on-line 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.