

NEWSLETTER

Issue 206 * December 2014

City Council to review long-range plans in January

The start of a new year means it's time for strategic planning. Our City Council will review the City's long-term goals and how to achieve them during the annual Council retreat Jan. 8-10.

The Council would like the entire Grants Pass community to participate in the strategic planning process. Broad community participation is critical to the plan's credibility and success.

The Council has been gathering input by:

- Having regular, one-on-one conversations with residents,
- Hosting open houses, and
- Conducting community surveys.

Community participation is important, as councilors want to make their strategic planning decisions with the confidence that they are responding to residents' desires.

The Council invited residents to a Strategic Planning

Please send us your thoughts by answering this on-line survey at www.grantspassoregon.gov.

- What do you want to accomplish or achieve?
- What do you want to happen that is not happening now?
- What do you like that is happening and would like it to occur more often, or to a greater degree?
- What is the most important issue facing our community?

Forum in November to ask about residents' goals and dreams for Grants Pass. If you missed the Forum, you still can participate by completing an on-line survey at www.grantspassoregon.gov.

Community-suggested priorities and actions are placed into the strategic planning process for consideration. Those suggestions might be used by the Council to set budget and action priorities for the future.

Think of the strategic plan as a road map to City priorities and actions to pressing community needs, how resources will be used, and what can be done to move Grants Pass forward.

Strategic planning is a tool that helps us focus and analyze our financial prospects and make strategic decisions about City services and capital projects – particularly as they affect community goals and objectives.

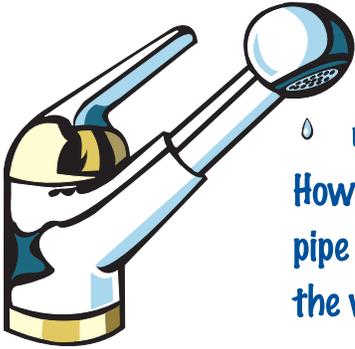


Public Safety has new chief

On Nov. 19, Bill Landis was sworn in as Director of the Department of Public Safety. With him (left to right) are: Lt. Dennis Ward, Police Operations; Deputy Chief Jim Hamilton, Police Division; Landis; Deputy Chief Lang Johnson, Fire/Rescue Division; and Lt. Todd Moran, Police Support. Story on back page.

Protect your water pipes from freezing temperatures

When temperatures get below freezing the water in a house's water pipes also can freeze. As a result, you will have no water until the water in the pipe warms up.



If you open a faucet and no water comes out, then you might have a frozen water pipe. However, you won't notice if your pipe has cracked and burst until the water in the pipe starts to thaw.

However, your water pipes might have cracked, because water expands when it freezes. Even a tiny crack can spew about 250 gallons of water a day, which can cause flooding, serious structural damage, and mold. In other words, a very expensive mess.

Here are some tips for protecting your pipes:

- Insulate water pipes. Many stores carry pipe insulation.

- Disconnect outside water hoses. Insulate the spigots or cover them with insulating caps.

- Protect back-flow prevention devices, such as reduced pressure devices and pressure reducing valves, if they are above ground. An insulated utility box works best.

- If your kitchen or bathroom sinks are located along an outside wall, open the cabinet doors under them.

- Run a very thin stream of water from faucets susceptible to freezing. Water that is running will not readily freeze, and the cost is minimal.

- If you leave your home for more than a day, set your heat at 55 degrees or above.

Locate your customer shut-off valve now, so you can act quickly if your pipes freeze and crack. If a pipe bursts, turn off your customer shut-off valve immediately and call a plumber.

Please remember that the water line from your meter box to your home, and all the plumbing inside your home, is your responsibility to maintain and repair.

If you think you have a frozen pipe

When thawing a frozen pipe, start on the area of the pipe nearest the faucet.

Open the faucet so water melting from the ice blockage can drip out.

Warm up the suspected area with a hair dryer set on **low** heat. Wave the warm air back and forth along the frozen section. Do not concentrate on one area because overheating a single

spot can burst a pipe.

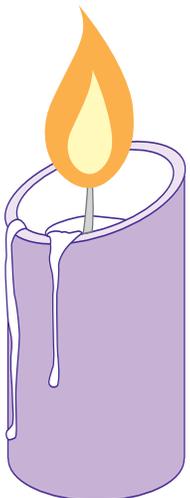
Another method is to soak towels in hot water and wrap them around the pipe.

Never use a torch with an open flame as it can start a fire in your house.

If a pipe does burst, turn off the water at your customer valve as soon as possible. Call a plumber to make



the repairs. If you have questions, please call Water Distribution at 541-450-6115, or Customer Service at 541-450-6035.



Don't let your holidays go up in smoke!

Christmas trees, candles, fireplaces, wood stoves and portable space heaters spark a large increase in house fires every winter.

- These safety tips can help you keep your home and family safe:
- When needles start falling off your Christmas tree, it's time to get it out of your house.
- Keep your tree at least two feet away from candles, space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves.
- Keep your fireplace and stove flues clean.

- Check Christmas lights for frayed wires and loose light sockets. Use only UL-tagged lights.

- Unplug decorative lights and put out candles when you leave your home and before going to bed. Never leave candles unattended.

- Keep space heaters away from things that burn. Unplug when not in use.

For more about fire safety, please call the Public Safety Fire Prevention office at 541-450-6200.

Voters approve annexations

In November, voters approved the annexation of 18 small areas into Grants Pass. The areas total about 355 acres with 715 tax lots.

Annexation is when land in the Urban Growth Boundary are added to the city. Some properties in the annexed areas were already paying for and receiving City Public Safety services (police and fire), and some properties were served by the County Sheriff and paid for fire protection from Rural/Metro Fire Department.

As of Dec. 1, 2014, all residents in the annexed areas now receive public safety services (police and fire). New residents can expect a response time of approximately five minutes or less for emergency calls for police and fire.

Several open houses will be held in December to welcome new residents to the City, share information about City services, and begin a conversation about public safety issues and neighborhood watch coordination. For dates and locations of the open houses, please call 541-450-6060.

New residents are encouraged to contact their insurance agents. Some insurance companies offer lower premiums if the property is within the city limits.

For answers to frequently asked questions, please go to www.grantspassoregon.gov. From the "I am looking for..." dropdown box, select "Annexation 2014." Or, call the Parks & Community Development Department at 541-450-6060.

New UGB plan nears final hurdle

In November, the City Council and Josephine County Board of Commissioners took final steps to adopt a new Urban Growth Boundary. They 1) designated a new boundary, 2) identified Urban Reserve Areas, and 3) adopted changes to the comprehensive plan and land-use regulations.

1 The Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is an area set aside for the growth of a city for 20 years. Property in the UGB is zoned for either urban or rural use.

The previous UGB already had property zoned for urban use and development. Property in new UGB areas will retain rural zoning and continue to be managed by the County while plans for new roads, water and sewer lines are updated.

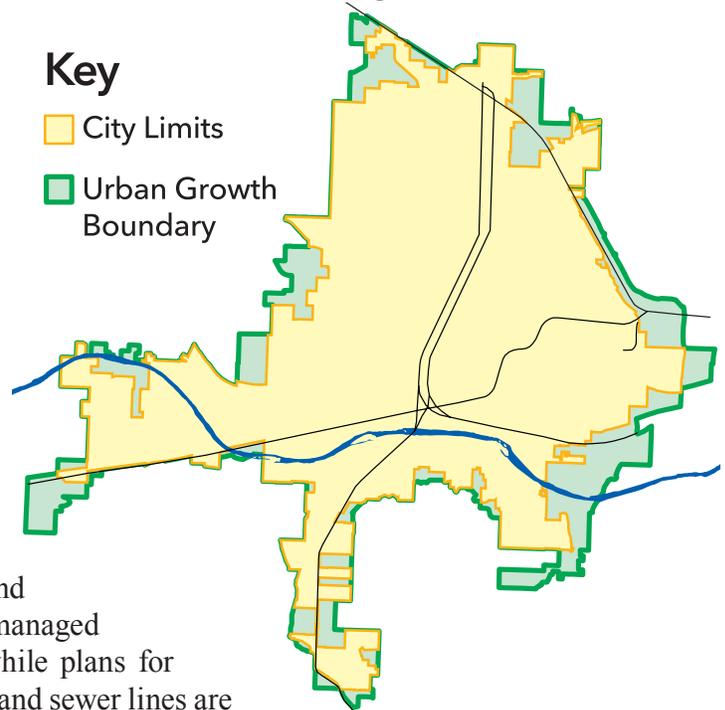
The previous UGB plan will supply about three-fourths of the growth forecast for the next 20 years. A plan for the transition of the new areas to urban zoning will be created in 2015.

2 Urban Reserves are areas assigned for an additional 10 years of growth (from 2033-2043).

Urban Reserves provide: more certainty and advance notice about the future direction of growth; an opportunity to plan for infrastructure; and better coordination between the City and County as areas transition.

3 Land-use regulations have been changed to provide options that allow greater use of properties.

- Accessory Dwelling Units. This regulation allows homeowners to build a smaller building on their property for extended family, or for a supplemental income. The dwellings must remain an accessory to the main home and fit the neighborhood.



- Lot Sizes. Minimum lot sizes are slightly reduced in most zones. If you have considered dividing your property in the past, but didn't have enough acreage, you might meet the new standards.

- Lot Flexibility. New standards provide greater flexibility for lot arrangements in subdivisions to help better protect natural features and address unique site conditions.

These are just a few of the new provisions. If you would like additional information about these or other new provisions, please call the Parks & Community Development Department at 541-450-6060.

Police, fire services are all about helping people

Contrary to movies and TV shows, police work and fire-fighting is not all action all the time.

“Police and firefighters at their core want to help people,” said Bill Landis, director of the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety.

“I think anybody in this business, or wants to get into this business, understands that police and fire is about helping people,” he added. “You really have to have that at your core, especially when things aren’t always fun, to do that job.”

The action image created by Hollywood is based on a period where police departments thought that brawn and force were needed to enforce laws. “But really, force is the last thing you want,” Landis added.

Today, the Oregon Police Academy trains future officers through role-playing scenarios and education to make it clear that police work is not just chasing criminals.

“A lot of what we do isn’t always about enforcing criminal laws. It’s counseling people, trying to steer them in the right direction for resources,” Landis said.

For many years, the department has practiced “community policing,” which is partnering with other agencies and community organizations.

Bill Landis

Title: Director, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety

Background: Bill’s family moved to Grants Pass in 1976; he graduated from North Valley High School in 1979; and served in the U.S. Navy from 1981 until 1987. Bill joined the Grants Pass Police Reserves in 1989 and became a full-time officer in 1991. He was promoted to: corporal in 1991; sergeant in 1996; detective sergeant in 1997; lieutenant in 2004; deputy chief in 2007. He became the interim public safety director on Jan. 1, 2014, and became public safety director in November.

Education: Associate degree in criminal justice; bachelor’s degree in fire service administration; and master’s degree in crime management and justice administration.

Hobbies: Grandchildren, motorcycles and bicycles.



Partners include mental health, neighborhood watch, security companies, food bank, homeless shelters, and volunteer groups such as Concerned Fathers Against Crime.

“We partner with them to accomplish the same thing,” Landis said. “I have 50 sworn police officers. We probably have a daily population in the 50,000-person range (35,000 residents plus tourists and other visitors). We certainly have to rely on those partnerships to be effective.”

The department also uses “intelligence policing,” a focusing of police presence in problem areas. For example, in the spring Landis began focusing officers in the downtown area to reduce vagrancy, crime and

vandalism. Those problems have fallen significantly.

One challenge Landis has little control over is the county-wide criminal justice system. “When you do not have a jail you do not have a deterrent factor,” Landis said.

Before the City Council began renting jail beds last year, police averaged 1,500 arrests and 500 citations during a six-month period. Now officers are averaging 1,300 arrests and 100 citations.

For Landis, the pros of living here and being a police officer make such problems manageable. “Grants Pass is probably the most unique place I’ve ever been,” Landis said. “I couldn’t imagine working somewhere else.”



Your Grants Pass City Government

Mayor	Phone
Councilor	Ward Phone
Darin Fowler	541-660-3696
Dan DeYoung <i>Council President</i>	NW 541-660-0342
Lily Morgan	NE 541-476-6168
Rick Riker	NE 541-479-7333
Ken Hannum	SE 541-659-4579
Jim Williams	SE 541-601-0851
Dennis Webber	NW 541-471-1693
Mark Gatlin	SW 541-441-7674
Jim Goodwin	SW 541-761-5733

2015 City Council

As of 1/1/15	Ward	Phone
Lily Morgan	NE	541-476-6168
Rick Riker	NE	541-479-7333
Roy Lindsay	NW	541-291-0346
Dan DeYoung	NW	541-660-0342
Ken Hannum	SE	541-659-4579
Dennis Roler	SE	541-479-4272
Mark Gatlin	SW	541-441-7674
Jim Goodwin	SW	541-761-5733

The Council president is elected in January.

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.