

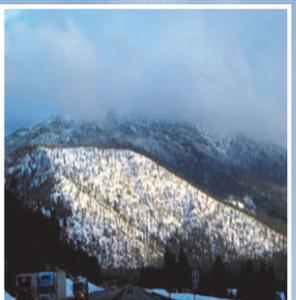
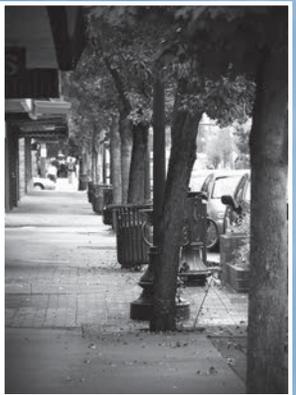
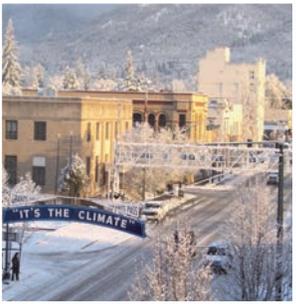


# GP NOW



December 2015

*Where the Rogue River Runs*



## Snowflakes - No Two Are Exactly Alike

A high school class creates 'chilling' crystallography for downtown

As we enter the holiday season, downtown starts to come alive with a variety of wonderful holiday decorations. Our city is fortunate to have many creative and artistic people who have made such unique decorations such as the nutcrackers, musical Christmas cards, BearFest, walkway tiles, and now, snowflakes.

In a great partnership with Pacific Power and Charter Communications, the City has been hanging snowflakes downtown for many years. There are currently 67 of them. Jake Lear's Grants Pass High School welding class has volunteered to create some custom-designed versions.



A beautiful "student-made" snowflake

Five teams of 3 or 4 students each were tasked with creating one snowflake for each team. Students were given a few examples of existing snowflakes, but then were allowed to create whatever they wanted. The only snowflake guidelines required them to be easy to re-create and add lights. Students cut, bent, and rolled all the metal pieces, then

finished by welding their creations into shape. LED lights are used to make them more energy efficient.

The project was a tremendous success. The City got an impressive finished product for less than purchasing them elsewhere and students had a fun assignment creating something they will be able to show their family, friends, and future generations for years to come. Last year's class enjoyed the process so much, and did such a great job, that this year's class is creating 6 more snowflakes. We hope this is the start of a tradition that will continue for many years to come.

## Citizen Water Quality Concerns

The City of Grants Pass has received numerous calls relating to someone going door to door speaking to residents about potentially toxic levels of arsenic in the municipal drinking water. The City wants to assure residents that this report is completely false. The City's water meets all local, state and federal guidelines for purity. We want to assure the public that there is no health risk posed by drinking municipal water.

The City's water treatment and distribution staff take water quality extremely seriously. From the filtration plant to your tap, hundreds of water samples are taken each year to ensure water is delivered safely. If you would like to get more information about your water, call us at 541-450-6118 or visit us at [www.grantspassoregon.gov/ccr](http://www.grantspassoregon.gov/ccr). Additional information can be obtained by visiting the City's water data website page at the State of Oregon Department of Human Services - Drinking Water Program at [www.yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pw sno=00342](http://www.yourwater.oregon.gov/inventory.php?pw sno=00342). For more information, contact Public Works Director Jason Canady at 541-450-6111.

# Gold Weather is Coming - Protect Your Water Pipes

Your water pipes and spigots need to be protected. Without precautions, your water pipes could freeze and burst, creating an expensive mess. Here are some handy tips to avoid frozen pipes during sub-freezing temperatures.

- ❄️ **CUSTOMER VALVE** - Knowing how to shut off the water can come in handy to limit damage if a pipe inside your home does freeze and burst. If you don't have a customer shut-off valve and would like to have one installed, the City's Water Distribution Division will gladly assist by shutting off your water during normal working hours to enable you or your plumber to install the valve.
- ❄️ **INSULATION** - Pipe insulation can be purchased from most hardware stores. Simply measure the insulation, cut to length, and install on the pipes, especially those located in un-insulated areas of your home or business.
- ❄️ **BACKFLOW PREVENTION** - Backflow prevention assemblies, which are installed above ground, such as reduced pressure assemblies and pressure reducing valves, should be properly protected. These are best protected with insulated boxes. Contact your landscaper or property maintenance to properly protect and/or drain your irrigation system to alleviate the chance that you will have a break and will not find out until the system is reactivated the following season.
- ❄️ **PLUMBING FIXTURES** - If any plumbing fixtures are located adjacent to an exterior wall and inside a cabinet, such as a kitchen or bathroom sink, open the cabinet doors to help keep the pipes from freezing.
- ❄️ **CAULKING** - Use caulk or insulation to seal cold-air leaks throughout your home or business.
- ❄️ **STREAM OF WATER** - Run a very thin stream of water from faucets and/or fixtures susceptible to freezing because water that is running will not readily freeze. Keep in mind that the customer will be required to pay for water used to prevent the pipes from freezing in this manner, however this cost is minimal.



## City Council Strategic Planning Process

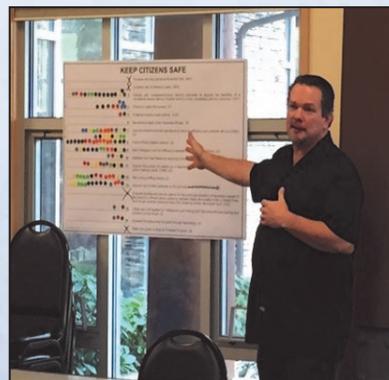
The start of a new year means it's time for strategic planning. Our City Council will review the City's long-term goals and how to achieve them during the annual Strategic Planning Session January 14-16.

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.

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 Forum in November to ask about residents' goals and dreams for Grants Pass. If you missed the Forum, you can still participate by completing an online survey at [www.grantspassoregon.gov](http://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. 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.

Please send us your thoughts by answering questions in the online survey:



Mayor Darin Fowler explains the goal of "Keeping Citizens Safe."

- 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?

# The 12 Days of Safety



**2 Merry & Bright**  
Carefully inspect holiday light strings each year and throw away any with frayed cords, cracked lamp holders or loose connections. When replacing bulbs, unplug the light string and be sure to match voltage and wattage to the original bulb.

**3 Planes, Trains and Automobiles**  
Long vacations are common during the holidays and criminals keep their eyes open for empty homes. Ask a friend or neighbor to pick up the mail, leave a few indoor lights on and do not leave a spare key in an easy to find place. Never discuss your vacation plans with strangers or post on social media sites.



**6 Up on the Treetop**  
When putting up holiday decorations always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places. Don't stand on chairs, desks or other furniture.  
If you have to use a step ladder near a doorway, lock the door and post signs so no one will open it and knock you off the ladder.



**5 Santa Paws**  
Don't forget your pet. Keep your four-legged friends in if at all possible. Animals are sensitive to severe cold and are at risk for frostbite and hypothermia. Their noses, paw pads and ears can quickly freeze and suffer permanent damage. If it's too cold for you, it's too cold for your pet.

**8 TWINKLE TWINKLE**  
Do not connect more than three miniature light strings together. Cords should not be run under carpets or tacked-up with nails or staples.

**9 HoHoHide**  
Do not leave packages visible in your vehicle. Place them in the trunk or cover with a blanket or other object.

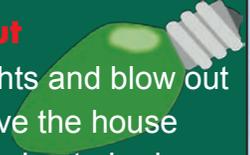
**10 A Bundle of Toys**  
More and more people are purchasing gifts online and having them shipped to their home. With this trend, more people are having packages stolen right off their front porch. If you're expecting packages, request signature confirmation or have a trusted neighbor hold onto it for you.



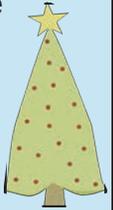
**11 O' Christmas Tree**  
Natural trees always involve some risk of fire. To minimize risk, get a fresh tree and keep it watered at all times. Do not put the tree within three feet of a fireplace, space heater, radiator or heat vent.



**1 Lights Out**  
Always turn off holiday lights and blow out candles when you leave the house unattended or when going to bed.



**4 Tree Toppers**  
Place ornaments higher on the tree than children or pets can reach. If swallowed, the pieces can cause blockages or other serious injuries. The hooks also pose a choking hazard.



**7 Hustle & Bustle**  
Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, park closer to the stores or near a light post so when you return you are visible in a well-lit area.



**12 What's That Noise?**  
Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

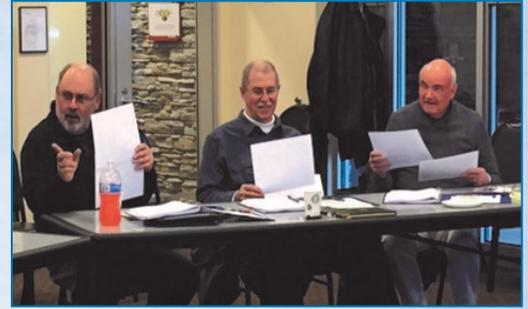


# Council Mission, Vision and Values

In August, the City Council held a workshop to review, rework, and/or reaffirm its “Mission, Vision, Values.” Timing of this workshop was purposeful as this work needed to be accomplished in advance of the Council’s Strategic Planning Session in January. Why is it important to have a “Mission, Vision, Values”? Identifying our mission, vision and values will help us to:

- Speed up our decision making;
- Know where to focus resources;
- Be more efficient; and
- Ensure every action builds towards the future we have designed.

Research has shown that people who have an understanding or reason for what they are doing, do much better in times of stress. With a clear mission, people know what is important to them and can focus their activity. They can be strategic and choose priorities rather than be reactive. Clarity of purpose should be the goal of any mission statement. Our “mission” gives focus to the question, “Why do we exist?”



Councilors DeYoung, Riker and Lindsay discuss their mission, vision and values.

Having clarity of our purpose and why we exist is not enough; we must also have a common vision for what we dream to become. A vision asks “What do we want to become?” Clarifying the vision, values, and goals will align our efforts and practices. A vision is an inspiring view of the future; it is a positive and inspirational outlook on what we imagine we could become.

It is important to know that a Vision Statement communicates promise; it creates an image of something that cannot be seen today, but is possible for the future. A vision focuses on ends, not means. A vision communicates what, not how.

Values represent “How must we behave to get there.” What do we collectively value? Core beliefs or desires guide or motivate our attitudes and our actions. They are our attitudes and behaviors that we must demonstrate in order to create the city of our vision. Values are our observable actions.

During the August 22 workshop, Council developed the following “Mission, Vision, Values”:

**Grants Pass Mission:** To represent all citizens by providing leadership and decisions necessary to meet community needs and desires.

**Grants Pass Vision:** Grants Pass is a healthy, vibrant place to live, work and play; a city connecting people to people with thriving economic, cultural and recreational opportunities.

**Grants Pass Values:** We base our decisions on the following values: Accountability, Communication, Credibility, Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, and Truthfulness.

Mayor Darin Fowler 541-660-3696 dfowler33@hotmail.com

## **Ward 1**

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mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov

Councilor Roy Lindsay 541-291-0346 rlindsay@grantspassoregon.gov

## **Ward 2**

Vacant

Councilor Rick Riker 541-479-7333 councilriker@charter.net

## **Ward 3**

Councilor Ken Hannum 541-659-4579 kenhannum@live.com  
Councilor Dennis Roler 541-479-4272 droler@grantspassoregon.gov

## **Ward 4**

Vacant

Councilor Jim Goodwin 541-761-5733 jamesgoodwin@hotmail.com

## **City Council Meetings**

1st & 3rd Wednesday at 6 pm

## **City Council Workshops**

Each Monday at 11:45 am

**City Council Chambers, 101 NW A Street**

Meetings are televised on Charter Cable Channel 183 and posted online at [www.grantspassoregon.gov](http://www.grantspassoregon.gov).

Listen live to Councilors and Staff discussing local issues on KAJO (1270 am) the 1st and 2nd Tuesday each month at 9:30 am  
Facebook: ‘City of Grants Pass Local Government’