

# City of Scappoose Newsletter ~ November 2015

## Message from Mayor Scott Burge ~ Remember to Vote

I wanted to take a moment to remind the citizens of Scappoose that you will be getting a ballot in the mail this month and I would encourage all of you to take time to vote. Below is a little information about Measure 5-248 which was referred to the voters by the City Council.

### Measure 5-248

#### The City of Scappoose has referred Measure 5-248 to the November Ballot.

#### What will Measure 5-248 do?

This measure proposes changing the annexation process presently required for citizens in the Urban Growth Boundary wanting to annex into the City limits. Presently, citizens must receive City Planning Commission and City Council approval and then seek approval from the voters. This measure would eliminate the need to refer annexation applications to the voters. Applicants would still be required to receive approval from both the Planning Commission and the City Council. The present annexation process can take up to 6 months.

PCC is considering building a campus in Scappoose including sites located in the Urban Growth Boundary. Waiting for an election to annex next spring may not be timely enough to meet PCC's timeframe. This measure could influence PCC's decision to build a campus in Scappoose.

This measure would expedite the time it would take for new properties to annex into the City, possibly by several months depending on the election cycle. This measure would simplify the annexation process and create more certainty for new businesses wanting to locate in Scappoose city limits.

This measure would save property owners the expense of paying for an election in order to annex their property into the City. Annexation of a small lot may cost up to \$5,000 under the existing annexation ordinance.

This measure would have no impact on property taxes.

#### Explanatory Statement for Ballot Measure 5-248 Amends Charter Allowing Annexation As Provided By State Law.

This measure, if approved, would change Chapter 1, Section 3 of the City of Scappoose Charter ("Charter") to allow annexations to be approved using the process provided for in state law. Currently the Charter requires that any annexation, unless mandated by state law, be submitted to a city-wide election for approval by a majority of those voting in the election. If this measure is passed, annexations would only be submitted to a city-wide election for approval by the voters if such election was required for approval under state law.

If this measure is approved, Section 3 of the Charter would be amended as set forth below (deleted language stricken).

Section 3. **Boundaries** The City includes all territory within its boundaries as they now exist or hereafter are modified pursuant to state law. ~~However, no annexation, delayed or otherwise, unless mandated by state law, shall take effect unless approved by a majority of those voting in a municipal election.~~ The custodian of the City's records shall keep an accurate, current description of the boundaries and make a copy of it available for public inspection at the City during regular City office hours.

## News from the Community Development Center

It's a busy time in at your local Planning & Building Department.

Bi-Mart, Crown Zellerbach Mini-storage, O'Reilly's and OHSU expansion are all underway. We have a few more large projects coming soon after plan reviews.

Your Historic Watt's House will be getting a much needed and overdue new upper roof thanks to matching funds from the State of Oregon Preserving Oregon Grant. Work should begin the latter part of October (weather permitting).

The State of Oregon Parks & Recreation has awarded Scappoose a grant to upgrade Heritage Park. Early stages include securing surveys and design services. Construction is planned to start early next year. Along with the new fountain designed by Michael Curry, upgrades will include a children's play area, gazebo improvements, concrete picnic tables, landscaping and new lighting to name just a few.

The newly created Parks & Recreation Committee is scheduled to meet for the first time on October 15 to explore opportunities for expanding and improving our parks systems. A creation of a new Parks Master Plan is also in the works.

An application to add community colleges to the Light Industrial Zone as a Conditional Use will be reviewed at the Planning Commission's October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Partnership Program Application has been submitted to the Port of St. Helens for funds to build a new City website and create brochures. Our hope is to create a more user-friendly website and develop information that will promote Economic Development opportunities for the community.

### Police Chief Norm Miller

It's been an honor to serve you in the role of Police Chief for over a year now. Things are going well in the Police Department.

Here are some reminders about different laws ~

### Safety Laws in Oregon

#### Seat Belt Laws for Adults

Oregon requires all adult drivers and passengers to wear a seat belt at all times while the vehicle is in motion. Vehicle owners have the responsibility to maintain proper seat belt equipment. While there are a few exceptions, this law applies to most vehicles, such as cars, pick-up trucks, and motor homes.

#### Child Car Seat Laws

- ◆ Infants must ride in a rear-facing child seat until they are 1 year old and weight at least 20 lbs.
- ◆ If your child weighs 40 lbs. or less, you are required to use an approved child safety seat.
- ◆ If your child weighs over 40 lbs., or they reach the upper weight limit of their child safety seat, you are required to use a booster seat until they reach 4 feet 9 inches tall or they turn 8 years old. (They must fit the adult seat belt properly.)

#### Cell Phones and Texting

- ◆ All drivers of all ages are banned from using hand-held cell phones.
- ◆ All drivers under 18 years old are banned from all "mobile communication devices" while driving.
- ◆ Texting is banned for all drivers, regardless of age, while behind the wheel.

#### Bicycle/Motorcycle Helmet Laws

- ◆ Regardless of age, anyone riding on a motorcycle must wear a helmet.
- ◆ Also, if you're under 16 years old, you must wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.

### Water Department

This past summer, the City asked all of our citizens to help us conserve water by limited their water usage because of our concern about having enough water supply to meet our community's peak demand during the driest part of the year. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to meet our demand without having to consider more serious restrictions. We believe we have withstood the worst of the hot, dry weather for this year. That being said, we are still deeply concerned about the declining flow of water coming from South Scappoose Creek and Gourlay Creek which provide one third of the City's water supply. City staff has decided to temporarily suspend the use of this water source because of these low levels and because we have sufficient supply of water to meet our needs coming from our existing wells.

In the meantime, the City is in the process of obtaining a permit to add another well on an existing site which will give the City adequate capacity and flexibility to meet existing and future water demand. Again, thank you so much for your efforts to conserve water. Together, we can make a difference.

### Fall is Here

Raking or blowing leaves from your yard into the street is not permitted. The street sweeper is not able to sweep up large piles of leaves at the curb, and leaves left in the street can cause clogged catch basins, slippery surfaces and rotten vegetation.

#### Tips for proper leaf disposal:

After raking or blowing leaves into piles, there are several ways to dispose of them:

- ◆ **Garbage Service** - Place the leaves in your yard debris can. Be careful not to exceed the weight limit. Check with your garbage service provider if you have questions.
- ◆ **Compost** the leaves.
- ◆ **Mulch** leaves with a lawnmower and spread the mixture over flowerbeds for winter. The nutrients in leaves are beneficial.
- ◆ **Donate for others to compost** - Contact Senior Center (503-543-2047) for more information.

### Wastewater Department

Scappoose Wastewater has entered into a contact with Keller Associates, Inc. to conduct a Wastewater Facility Master Plan. The Facility Plan is intended to address existing and future needs for the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems. The plan will look at a 20-year timeframe and address the regulatory requirements for facilities planning studies, following the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) "Guidelines for Preparing Wastewater Planning Documents and Environmental Reports for Public Utilities" dated May 2013.

A component of the plan will be a computer hydraulic model of the collection system. Data from the Cities geodatabase architecture and flow records will be integrated into the modeling software to deliver high quality geospatial analysis, infrastructure management, and planning.

### Mark your Calendar

#### Utility Billing Statement~

*We are now billing monthly, please note new due date- Bills are due the 15th of each month.*

#### Coming Soon~

*The City of Scappoose will be sending out a community survey in your next utility bill and we look forward to receiving your input on how best to guide the City. The information from the surveys will be tabulated and shared with the community at our first Annual Town Meeting scheduled for January 23, 2016.*

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Visit our website - [www.ci.scappoose.or.us](http://www.ci.scappoose.or.us)