

City of Scappoose Newsletter ~ July 2015

From the Desk of City Manager Michael Sykes It is nice to be back in my home town and I am excited about the opportunity to be your City Manager. After spending most of my career building other communities it is great to have a chance at making a difference here in Scappoose. Keeping the public informed about what's happening in the City is a priority for the City, and a monthly newsletter will be one of the ways we accomplish that.

The City is experiencing a lot of new growth, both in commercial and residential development. Bi Mart and O'Reilly's are both likely to break ground soon. A number of new subdivisions are also going through the planning process. These are definitely busy times in Scappoose.

On another note, the City has issued a voluntary water conservation appeal to local residents. This notice was initiated partly because one of the City wells has been offline for rehabilitation. The other reason is because the local creeks, that are one of our primary water sources, are lower than normal because of the extraordinarily dry spring the region has experienced. With the hottest months of the summer ahead, we think it is prudent to inform the public of our concern about water shortages and your support will play an invaluable role in the City's ability to meet community demand for water.

Local residents will also see an increase in their wastewater bills beginning in July. This \$12.50 a month increase is the first increase since 2006. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is over 40 years old and parts wear out and become obsolete. Our facility is in desperate need of upgrading and raising rates will allow us to begin to accumulate the revenues necessary to pay for these capital improvements. It is important to note that both Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants have the capacity to meet the needs of the community, even with significant population growth. Our challenge is making sure we have the financial capacity to maintain and replace the expensive infrastructure components associated with these treatment plants. Even with the increase in sewer rates, the City of Scappoose still has some of the lowest rates in the County.

The City will also be creating an Economic Development and a Parks Committee in the next couple of months. Developing and enhancing parks and creating local jobs are City Council priorities and we plan to develop community strategies to promote both parks and economic development. If you are interested in serving on either of these Committees, please send in an application to the Mayor and Council. You can contact Susan at 503-543-7146, or sreeves@cityofscappoose.org for an application.

Finally, the City is also pleased to announce that we have received grants from Oregon State Parks that will allow us to make significant improvements to Heritage Park and to put a new roof on the Watts House. Specifically, the State Parks Local Government Grant will help us complete the Rotary Children's fountain and add playground equipment, along with several other improvements that will enhance this community park. The community is very fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers who have made the improvements to this park possible. Gary Liao, Michael Curry, the local Rotary Club and numerous other local citizens and organizations have generously contributed to make this project possible. It will be fun to celebrate the completion of this project when it is finished next summer.

Well, six months into being your City Manager, I'm having fun and looking forward to the months ahead. I'm fortunate to work with a very capable staff and a Mayor and City Council that are dedicated to making Scappoose an even better place to live. With the community's support, we can make a difference.

Police Department

~What information do I need when I call to complain of a property that needs mowing?

Please have as much information available as possible. We would prefer to have the exact address of the property, but we can take an inspection with general information (i.e. the northeast corner lot of West Lane and Columbia Ave.) if an address is not available. We will also ask questions like – does the entire yard need mowing or just the front or back yard, are there a lot of weeds or is it mostly just tall grass. Any information about the property will be helpful (vicious dogs, etc.). Please remember that if you call in a complaint and the violation is then corrected, but then the violation returns – another complaint call will need to be generated.

~ What qualifies for a complaint?

Any yard or lot in the city limits of Scappoose that has grass that has grown 10 inches or taller and/or "state classified noxious weeds" which includes: Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, white mustard, cocklebur, silver saltbush and foxtail.

~ I got a notice or was contacted by code enforcement from the City for mowing, now what?

As the property owner, it is your responsibility to maintain the property according to City ordinance. Grass must be kept under 10" tall and free of noxious weeds. If you received a letter from us, a notice on your front door, a ticket, etc., the property is in violation. Please be sure to mow your property by the date on your notification. Failure to mow will result in the City mowing, or sending a contractor to mow your property without further notice. Mowing costs will be sent to you as the property owner, along with a possible city issued citation. You will only receive one letter and/or notice from the City.

News from the Community Development Center Our City is growing!

- An O'Reilly's Auto Parts store to be located next to McDonald's on SW Joe's Drive, is on its way. The Planning Commission approved their Site Development Review on May 14, 2015.
- The Stafford Land Company submitted an application for an 88 unit Planned Development Subdivision to be located on the Lynch property behind Fred Meyer. City Council has approved this Subdivision.
- We recently received a Subdivision application for Dutch Canyon Estates Phase III, which proposes 35 lots and will be the final phase of Dutch Canyon Estates. The application was considered at the July 9, 2015 Planning Commission hearing. This will be continued until the July 23, 2015 Planning Commission Hearing.
- An annexation application was received for a 20 acre Industrial parcel off of Scappoose-Vernonia Hwy. This proposal was also considered at the July 9, 2015 Planning Commission hearing and they have made a recommendation of approval to City Council.
- Bi-Mart submitted construction documents for civil and building permit review on July 14th. Review of the documents is expected to take up to two weeks.
- Don't forget to check with the Building Department for your summer construction projects. Stop by or call our Building Official and Associate City Planner to help answer your site specific questions.

Just a reminder when placing signs around Scappoose

The following signs are prohibited:

- Flashing and moving signs.
- Portable signs.
- Sandwich ("A") boards exceeding four square feet in area per sign face.
- Any signs attached to utility poles, streetlight poles, or traffic-control standard poles, street trees or otherwise located in the public right-of-way or city-maintained areas adjacent to the public right-of-way without written approval of the City Manager.
- Signs in a dilapidated or hazardous condition.
- Signs on doors, windows or fire escapes that restrict free ingress or egress.
- Signs which purport to be, are an imitation of, or resemble an official traffic sign or signal, could cause confusion with any official sign, or which obstruct the visibility of any traffic sign or signal.
- Signs placed on or painted on a motor vehicle or trailer and parked with the primary purpose or providing signs not otherwise allowed by this title.
- Balloon signs.
- Any sign not specifically permitted by our City code is prohibited unless specifically approved by the Planning Commission.

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Water Conservation: We Need Your Help

By Darryl Sykes, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor

According to the National Weather Service, Oregon's water supply in basins west of the Cascade Mountains is forecast to be only 30 to 60 percent of average this summer. Oregon has had record-low snowpack, above-average temperatures, and below-average precipitation this year resulting in increased drought concerns. Because of this and current constraints within Scappoose's water production facilities, the Scappoose City Council has issued a formal plea to residents to implement voluntary water conservation.

What You Can Do to Help:

- Repair leaky faucets, indoors and out.
- Turn off the water to brush your teeth, shave, and soap up in the shower. Fill the sink to shave.
- When washing a car, wet it quickly, and then use a bucket of water to wash the car. Turn on the hose to final rinse.
- Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, decks and porches, rather than hosing off these areas.
- When cooking, peel and clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under running water.
- Fill your sink or basin when washing and rinsing dishes.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Repair leaky toilets. Add 12 drops of food coloring into the tank, and if color appears in the bowl one hour later, your toilet is leaking.
- Install a toilet dam, faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.
- Run full loads of laundry.
- Only water the lawn when necessary. Avoid watering on windy and hot days. Water the lawn and garden in the morning or late in the evening to maximize the amount of water which reaches the plant roots (otherwise most of the water will evaporate). Use soaker hoses to water gardens and flower beds. If sprinklers are used, take care to be sure they don't water walkways and buildings. Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and control weeds.

With your help conserving water, we believe that we will be able to make it through the summer without having to implement further curtailment measures. Thank you for your understanding and continued support in the City's water conservation efforts.

Mark your Calendar

Scappoose Farmers Market

Open Saturdays from 9:00 to 2:00 until end of September
Visit www.scappoosefarmersmarket.com for more information

Christmas in July ~ Learn how to make a beautiful Christmas wreath
Visit www.scappoose-historicalsociety.org

South County Chamber of Commerce

Wings & Wheels event August 8, 2015

For more information visit www.sccchamber.org/WWscope

***Pick up a reduced flow shower head kit at City Hall ~
compliments of Columbia River PUD***