

# City of John Day Newsletter

August 2013

## Thank you Firefighters

Every day firefighters put their lives on the line to save people. Many of these firefighters are volunteers, so let's pay them back by showing our appreciation, thanking them for the valuable service they provide, and letting them know that we are very aware of the significant positive impact they have on our community.

Firefighters, whether paid or not, make an incredible difference in our lives-so let's make a difference in theirs and say thank you...

During the past few weeks, as we watched firefighters battle various fires within Grant County. We were extremely impressed by their skill, hard work and courage. We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated men and women looking out for our safety.

Thank you to all the firefighters who came to our aid.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Visit our website at [www.cityofjohnday.com](http://www.cityofjohnday.com); send us your comments at [grayp@grantcounty-or.gov](mailto:grayp@grantcounty-or.gov).

**Would you like to become a volunteer firefighter? Please contact Fire Chief Ron Smith for more information at 541-575-0028.**

## Did you take pictures of the fires?

The John Day Fire Department is seeking pictures of the recent fires that threatened John Day. If you have pictures you would like to share, please email them to Fire Chief Ron Smith at [JDVFD@centurytel.net](mailto:JDVFD@centurytel.net).

## Protect yourself against wildfire

Reducing fuels around your home and buildings and decreasing structural ignitability will greatly increase your home's survivability when a wildfire arrives.

**Steps to reduce ignitable fuels leading up to your home include:**

- Maintain an adequately watered defensible space around your house, at least 100 feet of space on level ground and 200 feet on sloped terrain.
- Remove all dead plants, trees, branches, and debris.
- Establish native, fire-resistant plants within 30 feet of the home.
- Remove branches extending over the roof or within 6 feet of the home.

**Steps to reduce structural ignitability include:**

- Screen all vent openings with 1/8 inch or smaller non-corrosive metal mesh.
- Clean out gutters and box in eaves.
- Enclose area under raised decks to prevent embers from blowing underneath.
- Use fire resistant roofing such as tile, composition shingles or metal.

## Transportation Enhancement Project – Downtown Sidewalk Beautification Project

ODOT continues to work on the TE Project design and right-of-way description and maps for our US26/Main St. & Canyon Blvd. Sidewalk/Beautification Project.

The project will include reconstructing sidewalks to current standards along both sides of S. Canyon Blvd. between Main Street and Second Street, and along both sides of Main Street from Canyon Blvd. east to Elm Street. Sidewalks located within the project area that currently meet city standards will not be replaced

Work will include installing ADA ramps at intersections, relocating overhead utility lines to underground facilities and replacing the existing highway-style light fixtures and pole with ornamental lighting units. Provisions for hanging basket planters on the light poles will be incorporated into the project scope depending on budget.

The City of John Day staff and ODOT have met with local utility companies within the project area. The utility companies reviewed the planned trench/crossing locations, discussed utility /conduit cost saving ideas. The project is scheduled to go out for bid May, 2014.

Project Plans are located at City Hall, 450 East Main Street, John Day, OR. For more information please call City Hall at 541-575-0028.

## Back to School

As summer draws to a close, back-to-school season is in full effect. Safety should be a priority for every family as children return to classrooms this fall. It is important for parents to stay up-to-date on the proper safety precautions and share this information with their children to keep them safe throughout the school year.

For more information go to [http://www.nsc.org/safety\\_home/SafetyObservances/Documents/Back%20to%20School/Back%20to%20School%20Safety%20Checklist\\_2012.pdf](http://www.nsc.org/safety_home/SafetyObservances/Documents/Back%20to%20School/Back%20to%20School%20Safety%20Checklist_2012.pdf).

## Saddle Up: Cycle Oregon coming to John Day



Cycle Oregon's 2013 Week Ride, an annual, seven-day excursion through a different part of Oregon, will begin and end in Grant County this year from September 7 through 14.

Several local groups and businesses will be providing the Cycle Oregon participants with assistance.

Cycle Oregon Staff will begin arriving in John Day on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>; vendors, shower trucks etc. will begin arriving on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>; bicyclists will begin arriving Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. The staging area for Cycle Oregon will be at the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Complex.

The John Day Police Department encourages drivers to be vigilant and watch out for the cyclists especially on NW Bridge Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Street and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Extension. The daily routes are as follows:

- Day 1, Sunday September 8: John Day Loop (76 miles). Start from John Day to Logan Valley, into Canyon City and back to John Day.
- Day 2, Monday, September 9: John Day to Burns (71 miles).
- Day 3, Tuesday, September 10: Burns to Diamond.
- Day 4, Wednesday, September 11: Frenchglen Option (80 miles).
- Day 5, Thursday, September 12: Diamond to Crane (40 or 85 miles depending on shorter or longer road option).
- Day 6, Friday, September 13: Crane to Seneca (74 miles).
- Day 7, Saturday, September 14: Seneca to John Day (56 miles).

**Thank you to Grant County Executive Director Sharon Mogg for taking on the duties of Project Manager for this event and to the many businesses and volunteers who will assist the Cycle Oregon participants.**