

CITY OF JOHN DAY

NEWSLETTER

From the desk of Peggy Carey, City Manager

December 31, 2004

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New changes for the City Council

At the December 14, 2004 John Day Council meeting the John Day City Council accepted the resignation of Mayor Roger Simonsen. Mayor Simonsen stated hearing loss as the reason for his resignation as follows:

“Due to my hearing loss, my ability to hear even with hearing aids has become increasingly difficult and I feel that it compromises my effectiveness as Mayor to attend meetings and conduct council sessions. I resign my position as Mayor of John Day effective January 1, 2005. It has been a pleasure to serve this community”.

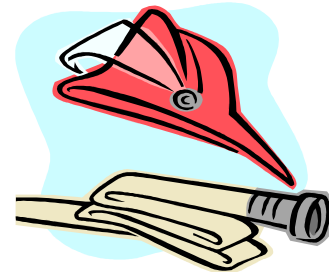
According to the John Day City Charter, a vacancy in the council shall be filled by appointment by a majority of the Council. The council will address the vacancy after the first of the year when newly elected councilor Bob Quinton is sworn in.

Roger has been Mayor since 2001; was appointed to the city council in 1994 and was a member of the John Day Budget Committee since 1984.

Some of the projects that were completed under Mayor Simonsen’s leadership were the Water System Master Plan, the Westend Water System Improvements Project, the Industrial Park Project, Lamford Bridge Project, and the N. Canyon Blvd. Project.

It was the consensus of the city council to cancel the December 28, 2004 council meeting due to the holiday season. The next regular council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2005.

The John Day City Council would like to express their appreciation to everyone who decorated their businesses and homes this holiday season, the town looked very festive and beautiful.



Fire Fighter Volunteers Needed

What if you had a fire and nobody came? The John Day Fire Department is desperately looking for volunteer firefighters. Sometimes the fire department has only 2 – 3 people show up to respond to a fire.

The training is paid by the City of John Day. You can become a nationally certified fire fighter and at the same time become involved in a department that does a great service for your community. For more information, please contact John Day Fire Chief Ted Johnson at 575-0028.



House Numbers

It has been becoming increasingly difficult for city crews to find homes that do not display their house numbers on them. Should an emergency arise and you need immediate help from police, fire, or the public works department, they may not be able to locate your home if your house numbers are not displayed prominently. On your front porch or close to the front door are good locations to display house numbers. House numbers can be purchased at the local hardware stores.

Carolyn Michhimer receives award

On December 3, Carolyn Michhimer received the 2004 Governor's Gold Award in the category of Individual in the Private Sector. The award is an annual, high profile, corporate and community, invitation only dinner event, providing a venue for Oregon's Governor to pay tribute to individuals, companies, organizations, and/or communities that have contributed to the "greatness" of Oregon. Carolyn received the award in recognition of her 25 years of outstanding service as the Curator of the Kam Wah Chung & Co.

Museum in John Day, Oregon. Congratulations, Carolyn we are all so proud of you!

New 911 telephones

The new enhanced 911 system was installed this month at the John Day 911 Dispatch Center. Centurytel officially brought the new system on-line on December 14, 2004. The State of Oregon has determined that five years is the optimum life of a system and John Day's old system has reached the end of its maintenance life.

The new system is Phase II compliant which means when the cell phone companies become compliant with the Phase II perimeters, we will be ready. This service is not currently available.

The new system allows us to have caller ID on seven digit lines and voice mail will be available for our police officers.

The greatest benefit is in the statistics portion of the system. It allows for very advanced report writing; thus optimizing our staffing needs. It will allow us to more efficiently handle our calls. The new phone system was paid by the State of Oregon through the 911 telephone tax.

Project updates

N. Canyon Blvd. –The John Day City Council authorized Mayor Simonsen to sign the final acceptance report on North Canyon

Blvd. Total cost of the project was \$237,136.01.

Lamford Bridge – Construction of the Lamford Drive Bridge is completed with the exception of the concrete surface finish work on the baluster rails. The City has extended the completion date of the bridge to June 15, 2005. With the onset of cold wet winter weather, it is not practical to complete the surface finish work on the rail until warmer drier weather next summer.

Industrial Park – We are in the final stages of completing the infrastructure leading to the industrial park. The new water reservoir has been filled, lower and upper booster stations are nearing completion. All water and sewer lines have been tested and passed. Grant County Road Department has completed the access road coming in from the south and will be paving the roads next summer.

The Grant County Industrial Park received state certification Nov. 12 for general manufacturing, warehouse and distribution and rural industrial business. Industrial Site Certification documents and assembles information needed by a business considering acquisition and use of a site.

A certified site meets specific, market-driven criteria based on the standards of real estate professionals and of the industries that would develop and operate at these locations. Our site is shovel-ready and ready for business. Our industrial site is listed as certified at www.oregonprospector.com.

