

# City of John Day Newsletter

December 2012

## Snowplowing Priorities Reminder

For the past several years the City has been faced with decreasing street revenues; mainly due to the loss of timber forest receipts from the County and stagnant State gas tax revenues. The City has tried to maintain the same level of service with fewer funds; unfortunately, the time has come to make tough decisions on how the City will continue to maintain its street system. With winter upon us, the City would like to remind our citizens of the following priorities:

### SNOWPLOWING PRIORITIES

The City Council agreed with the recommendation that the hills will be the City's top priority for snowplowing with Ford Road going up to the Blue Mountain Hospital as the number one priority. Depending on the situation, Valley View Assisted Living would be next and then the airport. A smaller truck will take care of the smaller hills such as SE Elm Street, Franke Drive, Highland etc.

The State Highways will continue to be plowed as in the past as per the City's agreement with ODOT. We want residents to know that the side streets will not be plowed until there is at least 6" of snow. Public Works Director

*Street Maintenance Priorities continues on back page*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Street Maintenance priorities, Fire Station update, Burn Permits, ATV Ordinance and TE project update.

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 fire fighter?  
Please contact Fire Chief Ron Smith for more  
information at 541-575-0028.**

***Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Holiday!***

## Fire Station Update

The Citizens Fire Advisory Committee met with PARC on December 13, 2012 to discuss the results of the Survey for the John Day Fire District. The survey revealed that most people recognize that the existing fire hall needs to be replaced. Eighty percent of the people were aware of the current condition of the fire hall. Fully 75 percent said it needed to be replaced with only 5.8 percent; just three out of 52 said it did not. Those responding supported seeking grant support and other suggestions included the strong recommendation that the plans be fully vetted by the public through a public meeting process that would allow the public to ask questions and make suggestions about the facility's design and specifications defining a hard budget.

It was decided that PARC will meet with the John Day City Council at their regular city council meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 to update the City Council on the project. The public is encouraged to attend.

We are pleased to announce that Amy Bult was the winner of the \$50 gift certificate from the Snaffle Bit. Her name was drawn from the people who returned the completed John Day Fire District Survey in November.

## Water/Sewer Rate Increase

The John Day City Council will consider a resolution to raise water and sewer rates effective January 1, 2013. It was the recommendation of the City's auditor Kent Bailey of Guyer & Associates, that in order to keep up with the cost of inflation and to provide for adequate reserve funding; the City needs to raise utility rates annually. It was the consensus of the John Day Budget Committee that the John Day City Council should raise water and sewer rates annually in January when residents are not irrigating their lawns allowing them time to adjust before the spring and summer irrigation months. The resolution will be presented to the City Council at the January 8, 2013 council meeting.

Dave Holland informed the Council that the City can no longer afford to plow all of the flat streets in town and it is something that has to go away; however, he stated, if we start having safety issues on the flat streets, we will lay sand down in specific spots, such as in front of the post office or at the intersections as needed.

#### **SNOW PLOWING PRIVATE ROADS, DRIVEWAYS AND APPROACHES**

The City of John Day will no longer be able to sand private roads and driveways. In the past the City periodically sanded Ferguson Road and some private driveways as a courtesy when the roads or driveways became a safety issue. As the City is prioritizing snowplowing and sanding on city streets due to funding constraints; the City can no longer justify sanding private roads and driveways without compensation (reimbursement) from the property owners for time and materials. The City will sand upon request and compensation from property owners; however, the special sanding would depend on the availability of the sander and property owner's need to be aware that the City streets are our priority.

In the event of snowfall, property owners and residents are reminded the City of John Day Ordinance requires you to clear snow and ice from the sidewalk abutting your premises. Please remember your elderly or handicapped neighbors who would appreciate your assistance with snow and ice removal. The ordinance reads as follows:

**SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL ON SIDEWALKS** 8-2-4-3 of the John Day City Code states no owner or person in charge of property; improved or unimproved, abutting on a public sidewalk may permit:

- Snow to remain on the sidewalk for a period longer than the first two (2) hours of daylight after the snow has fallen.
- Ice to cover or remain on a sidewalk, after the first two (2) hours of daylight after the ice has formed. Such person shall remove ice accumulating on the sidewalk or cover the ice with sand, ashes or other suitable material to assure safe travel.

**Leaves in City Streets:** Public Works Director David Holland would like to remind citizens not to put their leaves from their property into the city streets. The City will not be picking up leaves this fall or winter. Please be a good citizen and dispose of your leaves as

necessary in order to keep sidewalks and streets safe and clean.

The John Day City Council appreciates the community's patience, understanding and the importance of the implementation of these street maintenance priorities. If you have any questions or concerns, please call City Hall at 541-575-0028.

#### **Burn Barrel Permits**

Burn barrel permits expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Burn permits can be renewed at John Day City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open burn permits are restricted to 10 day increments.

Burn permits can also be found online at [www.cityofjohnday.com](http://www.cityofjohnday.com) and mailed to City Hall, 450 East Main Street, John Day, OR 97845 or faxed to 541-575-3668.

#### **ATV Ordinance**

The City of John Day is working closely with our City Attorney Jeremy Green; the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and City County Insurance Company (CIS) on the development of an ATV Ordinance to allow the use of All-Terrain Vehicles Class I and Class II on city streets.

The League of Oregon Cities has not taken a position on whether it is proper for a city to adopt an ATV ordinance. Before the John Day City Council adopts an ATV Ordinance, we want to make sure CIS will insure the City against any and all claims. LOC Legal Counsel Sean O'Day is meeting with CIS general counsel and CIS's executive director to discuss the insurability of third party claims this month. We hope to have a draft ordinance before the John Day City Council within the next few months.

#### **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 Preliminary Design Approval has been tentatively moved up to January 17, 2013 from November 29, 2012. The survey work for the project has been completed. The bid opening date is targeted for February 27, 2014 with project completion date on September 30, 2015.