

John Day Fire Station Bond Measure Passes – Thank you Voters!

Mayor Ron Lundbom and the John Day City Council would like to thank all of the citizens who voted in favor of the John Day Fire Station. We appreciate that the community saw the need and supported the project.

The project budget is approximately \$1.8 million; the project will be funded with the proceeds of the general obligation bonds issued by the City in the amount of \$655,000 and also by general obligation bonds issued by the John Day Rural Fire Protection District in the amount of \$550,000 totaling \$1,205,000. The City and the Rural District are reaching out to private foundations and local fundraising efforts to fund the balance of the project.

The John Day City Council and the John Day Rural Fire Protection District will be discussing next steps at a joint meeting of the City and the Rural District on May 27, 2014.

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Visit our website at www.cityofjohnday.com; send us your comments at 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.

Transportation Enhancement Project Downtown Sidewalk Beautification Project

Oregon Department of Transportation opened the sealed bids for the City of John Day's US26/Main Street & S. Canyon Blvd. Sidewalk Beautification Project on May 8, 2014. The following bids were received:

IRON TRIANGLE	\$ 848,029.73
JAL CONSTRUCTION	\$1,006,184.05
KNIFE CONSTRUCTION	\$1,113,658.65
TOMCO ELECTRIC INC.	\$1,114,160.30
DICE CONSTRUCTION	\$1,169,638.28

Iron Triangle was the low bidder with \$848,029.73. The project is a partnership between the City of John Day and the Oregon Department of Transportation to improve sidewalks and beautify downtown John Day. Sidewalks located within the project area that currently meet city standards will not be replaced.

The project will begin at the intersection on Main Street south to SW 2nd Street (St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church) and on sections of Main Street from the intersection east to SE Elm Street.

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.

We anticipate construction to begin this summer and be completed before winter.

Preparing for Wildfire Season:

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.**

Cleaning up your backyard prior to summer can help prevent a wildfire from encroaching. But if burning the resulting debris is the only option, please take care that your burn pile doesn't become a wildfire.

Call before you burn, check with John Day City Hall at 541-575-0028 or the John Day Dispatch Center at 541-575-0030 to make sure it is a burn day.

- Never burn on dry or windy days.
- Clear a 10-foot radius around your burn pile – and make sure there are no tree branches or power lines above.

From ODF News Via FlashAlert.Net

When you take that ATV, dirt bike or full-sized vehicle out in the forest this summer, make sure it doesn't blaze a trail - literally. Only a few seconds of contact between dry grass and a hot catalytic converter or tailpipe can start a fire.

OFF-ROAD DRIVING TIPS

Follow these basic tips when you ride or drive off-road to prevent an enjoyable outing from turning into a costly, damaging wildfire:

- Inspect the exhaust system on an ATV/highway vehicle to ensure it is undamaged, functioning properly and free of grass and twigs. (Regularly inspect the undercarriage to ensure that fuel and brake lines are intact and no oil leaks are apparent.)
- Operate ATVs on established roads and trails, and park on gravel surfaces or developed roadside pull-outs. Avoid driving or riding where dry vegetation can contact the exhaust system. Never park over tall, dry grass or piles of brush that can touch the underside of a vehicle.
- Follow recreational forest laws during fire season.
- Respect private forestlands and their designated closure areas.
- Always carry an approved fire extinguisher on vehicles that are used off-road.

Other tips related to vehicle maintenance can help ensure your visit to the forest doesn't end in flames:

- Check tire pressure - driving on an exposed wheel rim can cause sparks.
- Check your brake pads for wear - metal-on-metal likewise makes sparks.
- Make sure chains and other metal parts aren't dragging from your vehicle.

"RV'ers also have a role in wildfire safety," advises Interim Oregon State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. "Make sure to check that your cooking appliances, generator, and propane system are all working correctly, keeping fire safety awareness with you wherever you go."