

City of John Day Newsletter

September 2013

Fire Station Bond Measure will not be on the November 2013 Ballot

The fire station general obligation bond sponsored by the City of John Day and John Day Rural Fire Protection District will not appear on the November 2013 ballot. This bond proposal was intended to provide necessary funding for the construction of a new fire station. Upon legal review, it was determined that the City and District will each need to approve and adopt separate ballot titles for their respective shares of the project costs. This will result in one levy assessed on property within the City's boundaries and a separate levy assessed on property within the District's boundaries.

Due to election law requirements, the City and District are unable to make the November 5, 2013 election. The City and District plan to have the election in May, 2014. This change should not affect the amount of the levy request.

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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 firefighter volunteer?
Please contact Fire Chief Ron Smith at 541-575-0028.



450 East Main Street
John Day, Oregon 97845

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Mary Ann Domeniconi, Executive Director, Heart of Grant County

When someone is hurting from domestic violence, help is available. This year during the month of October, Heart of Grant County joins with the District Attorney Victim Assistance Program to commemorate the lives of victims of domestic violence and to raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence here in Grant County. Our goal is to educate the public about the effects of domestic violence on families and to find ways in which we can all work together to promote safety and eliminate family violence in Grant County.

During October domestic violence program advocates, survivors, public officials, and others throughout the state and country, participate in a wide variety of activities that publicize this important issue. Activities often support common themes but usually focus on events that have affected that particular community. Many observances will include the following:

- Raising awareness about the prevalence of domestic violence, and its effect on our children and families
- Raising support for ongoing intervention efforts,
- Raising awareness about the great financial and social cost domestic violence has in our community,
- Raising awareness about the need for prevention and intervention,
- Raising awareness about the availability of services for victims of abuse,
- Recognizing and celebrating those who have survived, and
- Remembering those that didn't survive

Those that champion this cause hope that ending domestic violence in Grant County will celebrate the strength and courage of those who have been affected by domestic violence while raising public awareness of what is often a silent epidemic.

If you or someone you love is being abused, please call Heart of Grant County's 24-Hour Hotline at (541) 620-1342 or during regular office hours call 541-575-4335.

Implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

A **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)** is a regulatory term in the U.S. Clean Water Act, describing a value of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards.

The purpose of water quality targets is to protect or restore beneficial uses and protect human health. The John Day River does not currently meet some water quality standards. Issues of concern include high temperatures and bacteria levels, low dissolved oxygen concentrations, impaired aquatic life and excessive amounts of fine-grained streambed sediment. When water quality standards are not met, the federal Clean Water Act requires a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to be established, which determines how much pollution can be added to the river without exceeding water quality standards.

The John Day River is currently listed as a water quality limited river due to elevated summer temperatures, elevated bacteria levels, biological conditions, and dissolved oxygen. Along with other cities, counties, and agencies, the City of John Day has been designated by DEQ as a DMA (designated management agency) in that the city has legal authority over a sector or source contributing pollutants to the John Day River within the city limits, and in that it operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) with a permit to discharge treated effluent into some percolation ponds adjacent to the river, thereby potentially influencing the river water quality. As such, the City of John Day is required to develop a TMDL implementation plan for review and approval by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

TMDLs and associated implementation plans and activities are designed to restore water quality to comply with water quality standards. In this way designated beneficial uses will be protected. When implemented, the TMDL will result in a cleaner, healthier John Day River for current and future generations.

July 2012 the City of John Day submitted their TMDL Implementation Plan to the DEQ for approval. The DEQ approved our plan on August 16, 2012. Included in our plan are management strategies for dealing with temperature and bacteria loading to the John Day River and Canyon Creek.

The City of John Day has already implemented practices, enacted ordinances, and adopted a development code that are helpful in reducing the temperature and bacteria loading to the John Day River and Canyon Creek.

For the next several newsletters, we will have information to bring awareness to our citizens on how you can help us meet our goal to comply with water quality standards.

Pet Poo Impacts

Realizing that the little deposits your pets leave each day are adding up to a big water quality mess can be a hard thing to

grasp. Read on to truly understand how big this problem is and how it affects you.

How much waste is out there?

- There are over 53 million dogs in the United States, which would produce 6.3 billion pounds of waste per year. It would take a scoop the size of a football field and 800 feet tall (nearly as tall as the Chrysler Building in New York City!) to dispose of that waste.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that 2 days worth of dog waste from about 100 dogs would contribute enough pollution to close a beach, and all watershed areas within 20 miles of it.
- The average household owns 4 dogs and/or cats. The Food and Drug Administration estimates that a dog excretes 0.75 pounds of waste per day. That could equate to over a half-ton of pet waste per year per household!

Is pet waste dangerous?

- Yes! Pet wastes can transmit bacteria and viruses including tapeworm, roundworm, *E. coli*, Parvo, and more. Humans who come into contact with dog waste could contract campylobacteriosis, salmonellosis, and toxocarisis, which may cause abdominal cramps, fever, coughing or wheezing, hives, and possibly permanent vision damage. Animal waste can also attract mice and parasites that can get into your house or harm your pets and other animals. Pick up animal waste to keep your family healthy.

How long do piles take to decompose?

- Dog waste piles can take a year or more to fully break down, depending on climate, the animal's diet, and other factors.
- Wildlife, like deer and coyotes, don't need picked up after because they are spread out over the land and not concentrated in certain areas like our pets. The average household owns four dogs and/or cats. How many households are in your neighborhood? That equates to a lot of animals (and a lot of droppings) in a little space.

What do I do with waste after I collect it?

- One simple thing to do is bag it and throw it in the trash. You can use a plastic baggie (old bread bags work nicely) turned inside out over your hand to pick up the waste, then turn the bag right-side out, tie it up, and throw it in the trash.
- You could also flush pet waste down the toilet, but if your home is on a septic system, think twice. Talk with the manufacturer and make sure your septic can handle the extra load.
- Lastly, you could choose to bury your pet's droppings. Bury the waste in several different locations around your yard (never near vegetable gardens) in holes 12 inches deep. Be sure to cover the waste with at least 8 inches of soil.