

# City of John Day Newsletter

December 2015

## Water/Sewer Rate Increase

*Effective January 1, 2016*

At their December 8, 2015 city council meeting, the John Day City Council adopted resolutions to raise water and sewer rates. Effective January 1, 2016 the residential base rate for the first 4,000 gallons of water will be \$35.00. This is a \$2.00 increase per month to the base water rate. The residential base rate for sewer will be \$44.00. This is a \$2.00 increase per month for residential customers to the base sewer rate. Commercial water/sewer rates will also increase \$2.00 per utility.

The council took action to raise utility rates after receiving the audit report for the year ending June 2015 by the city auditor Kent Bailey of Guyer & Associates, CPA. Mr. Bailey stated the City should keep making an effort to gradually increase water/sewer rates in small increments in order to fund our depreciation and be in a position to be able to replace what's in the ground. The Council also needs to look at funding a new wastewater treatment plant in the future because of the age of the City's current wastewater treatment plant.

Construction of the City's original wastewater treatment

*Water/Sewer Rate Increase continues on back page*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Water/Sewer Rate Increase, Fire Station Update, ePayments coming soon; Preventing Frozen Pipes; Burn Permits; Snow/Ice Removal; Flood After Fire Risks

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

Footings have been poured and the metal building is expected to arrive before the end of this month. Erection of the main frames should begin at the beginning of the new year pending acceptable weather conditions. We thank everyone for your patience during the construction period.

## Coming soon ePayment for PayPal

We are working with our utility software company Asyst to permit our customers to make credit card/debit card payments to pay their utility bills online through the City's website. The City will be able to accept PayPal and most credit cards.

We anticipate having this service available early next year. Please stay tuned and we will let you know when our portal is up and running on our website.

## Preventing Frozen Pipes

Before the cold hits insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. These exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember the more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.

If your pipes freeze, don't take chances. If you turn on your faucets and nothing comes out, leave the faucets turned on and call a licensed plumber. If you detect that your water pipes have frozen and burst, turn off the water at the main shut-off valve in the house; leave the water faucets turned on. Never shut off the water at your street meter on your own, always call City personnel, otherwise you could be financially responsible if you break your meter.

If you feel you have a frozen pipe and/or water meter and you need assistance, call John Day City Hall our maintenance personal can provide you with the following:

1. Shut off your water service during normal business hours (8 am to 5 pm), Monday-Friday call 541-575-0028.
2. After our normal business hours, please contact the 24 hour-John Day Police Dispatch at 541-575-0030.

facility was completed in 1949. However, due to continued expansion of the system, the original trickling filter facility became overloaded, resulting in the need for an upgraded treatment facility. In 1978, the facility was upgraded and incorporated several of the original plant structures from the 1949 treatment plant. Due to these units being 60 years old, they are showing severe degradation and will not serve the long-term needs of the City.

The City is looking at different treatment options and anticipates having another long-term loan paid off before accruing more debt; however, in the interim, the City needs to raise rates accordingly in order to qualify for the loans/grants needed to fund or makes improvements to the wastewater treatment facility.

The Council also increased the bulk water rate from \$4.70 to \$10 per 1,000 gallons and the commercial dumping rate from \$0.10 to \$0.30 per gallon.

The water and sewer fee resolutions can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofjohnday.com](http://www.cityofjohnday.com); click on the utilities link on the left hand side of the home page.

The Independent Auditors' Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2015 can be found online on the City of John Day's website at [www.cityofjohnday.com](http://www.cityofjohnday.com); click on the Budget and Financial Information link on the left hand side of the home page.

## **Burn Permits**

Burn 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. 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.

## **Snow and Ice Removal on City Sidewalks**

In the event of snowfall, property owners and residents are reminded that a City of John Day Ordinance requires you to clear snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of your premises. Please remember your elderly or handicapped neighbors who would appreciate your assistance with snow removal.

The City will make every effort to keep major arterial and collector streets open and to clear snow from as many downtown streets as possible. The cooperation of all property owners and residents in this matter is greatly appreciated.

## **Flood after Fire Risks**

Floods are the number 1 natural disaster in the United States. Flooding causes damage and destruction across all regions, wiping out homes and businesses. However, many residents and business owners are unaware that they qualify for flood insurance. You can take steps to reduce the financial impact of flooding before a disaster strikes.

One important step is understanding your risk. Wildfires, such as the recent Canyon Creek Complex dramatically change landscape and ground conditions, which can lead to increased risk of flooding due to heavy rains, flash flooding and mudflows.

Residents and business owners are urged to purchase flood insurance now to guarantee financial protection from flooding. There typically is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance takes effect. But the Bigger-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 allows for an exception to the waiting period in certain cases where property is affected by flooding on burned Federal land that is a result of, or is exacerbated by, post-wildfire conditions. For more information, please contact your insurance agent.

## **Preparing for a Flood**

Residents and business owners need to prepare for flood conditions. Before the threat of flooding becomes imminent, residents and business owners should:

- Purchase a flood insurance policy if they do not already have one.
- Review their current insurance policy, become familiar with what is covered, and ensure the limits are adequate for their building and personal belongings
- Make an emergency kit, plan evacuation routes, and keep important papers in a safe, waterproof place.
- Itemize and take pictures of possessions.

For more information regarding a policy, please call your insurance agent. You also can visit [FloodSmart.gov](http://FloodSmart.gov). or call 1-800-427-2419 to find a local agent.

**To learn more about your risk for flooding and how to prepare for floods, visit [FloodSmart.gov/wildfire](http://FloodSmart.gov/wildfire).**