

City of John Day Newsletter



September, 2015



The City and the John Day Rural Fire Protection District held a groundbreaking ceremony September 15 for the new John Day Fire Station. “After several years of planning and after generous support from their community, the long-awaited John Day Fire Station is scheduled to proceed” said John Day Mayor Ron Lundbom.

In May of 2014 the citizens of John Day and the citizens of the John Day Rural Fire Protection District passed a 15 year bond to help support the proceeds needed to construct a new Fire Station that will be located in the City of John Day and serve the surrounding area with much needed emergency service.

In addition to the citizen bond totaling \$1,205,000.00, additional proceeds from The Ford Family Foundation totaling \$200,000.00, Meyer Memorial Trust Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation in the amount of \$200,000.00, Glen and Jean McKenzie Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation in the amount of \$20,000.00, Shelk Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00 and Trust Management Services, LLC in the amount of \$9,170.00, and cash donations totaling \$13,031 received from local area businesses, Chester’s Thriftway, Malheur Lumber Company (\$5,000 each), the JDVFD Association (\$1,651), fundraisers and cash donations accounted for the additional proceeds needed for the project.

After more than twenty years of planning and collaboration the newly constructed fire station will house the Volunteer Fire personnel and equipment within the city of John Day as well the John Day Rural Fire Protection District. Lundbom went on to say, “we appreciate very much the support of the citizens with this project and it very much increases our ability to effectively deliver quality responsive emergency services to our citizens. By combining the fire station and the community/training room for nonprofit groups at no charge to the public, we have maximized our available resources.” Pinnacle Architecture of Bend designed the building. The building will be constructed by Nagelhout Construction Company also from Bend and is anticipated that the project should be complete in February 2016. The new fire station will be located at 316 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day.

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. 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.

Winterize Your Home..

Like raking leaves and planting bulbs, installing storm windows and cleaning gutters are telltale fall rituals. But what else can you do to prepare your home for sweater weather? Which steps can you take now to make this winter safe, comfortable, and healthy? To prepare your property for snow, cold, and inclement weather, buckle down and tackle these home safety chores:

Deal with dead tree limbs. The No. 1 thing most homeowners fail to do before winter sets in is eliminate dead tree branches, says Nick Gromicko, founder of the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors. Falling limbs -- or trees -- can harm roofs, siding, gutters, porch railings, decks, and cars, not to mention unsuspecting passersby.

"Clear out any overhanging limbs that could fall on homes and cars," he says. "In late summer or early fall go around and take off any branches that are hanging over the corner of your house."

- Be proactive about plumbing. Make sure that your plumbing isn't vulnerable to the cycles of freezing and thawing that can cause pipes to burst -- a disaster that can result in water damage or the growth of mold. To weatherproof your plumbing, shut off the supply of water to outdoor spigots, swamp coolers, and sprinkler systems, then drain them. (Depending on your irrigation system, you may also need a contractor to blow out any excess moisture with compressed air.) Also cover the outdoor components of your air conditioner or swamp cooler to protect them from the elements.

Check out your chimney. If you plan to use your fireplace this winter, make sure your chimney is clean and no critters have made themselves at home there. The last thing you need when cozying up to your hearth is a disaster waiting to happen in the chimney. Call a chimney sweep to inspect your chimney and clean out soot and other hazardous debris.

Snow on sidewalks

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.