

City News

Published for the citizens of Philomath, Oregon
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PREPARING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

By Mayor Chris Nusbaum

History will remember 2007 as our City's finest hour. Our numbers were strong at all community events and we completed many ongoing volunteer projects. Citizen involvement in 2007 has created positive citywide impacts for years to come.

It was a year that Philomath prepared for the next generation.

In 2007 we nourished the ranks of optimism and "can do" spirit. Media coverage of our town followed suit, opting to report even more citizen programs highlighting our many strengths and accomplishments. While serving as a Naval Officer, I learned a Navy saying that more than applies to our community. BRAVO ZULU which means "well done".

It was not only a year of great accomplishments, but also a year of extreme patience and civility toward all the men and women who completed the Philomath Couplet.

Many on the build team commented on the friendliness of both Philomath citizens and surrounding residents during construction. I will not deny that it was a confusing summer for commuters trying to navigate our city. (So much so that the Blodgett Country Store sold humorous "I survived the Philomath Couplet" T-shirts.) Good will humor was very much appreciated at City Hall. I think everyone breathed a heavy sigh of relief at the Fall Couplet Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. It is finally done. We have prepared our highway for the future.

While all of you were extremely busy building a stronger Philomath, City Hall continued our day to day operations in 2007. It has been a fun year for City Council as nearly all citizen presentations focused on the creation or enhancement of Philomath programs and activities.

In 2007, Philomath City Government:

- Appointed several first time volunteers to City advisory committees to encourage and strengthen citizen participation in municipal government.
- Was recognized by the League of Oregon Cities at their 2007 Conference for creating our Police Drug Dog Program to battle meth as well as our City Employee Safety Program.
- Entered into a contract with a local internet provider (Alyrica) to bring wireless internet service to Philomath.
- Approved a comprehensive multi-year plan to reconstruct the City's original 1950's era sanitary sewer collection system. This action creates capacity for future growth and improves public health by eliminating the potential for sewerage leaks onto City Streets and into the Mary's River.
- Received a favorable audit for 2007 which noted that all areas reviewed were in full compliance with applicable laws, standards and practices.

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2007 WORKING FOR THE FUTURE CONT...

- The Council has made the revitalization of our downtown a priority. By providing financial and logistical support to the newly

formed Philomath Downtown Association, the groundwork has been laid for positive improvements in the appearance and vitality of our Main Street Businesses. The efforts of the PDA has resulted in Philomath's selection by the Oregon Downtown Development Association and the Cascades West Council of Governments to participate in a one-year Business Enterprise Initiative revitalization program.

- Final landscaping was completed at City Hall and the Police Department by Eager Beaver Nursery. Eager Beaver donated the Police Department landscaping as their gift to the community.
- Security fencing and a brand new auxiliary power system were completed at the Police Department.
- Final training and activation of the Philomath Police Dog was completed in 2007. The police dog will be utilized to safeguard our schools and community against illegal drugs.
- We completed a partnership with the Philomath School District, Police Department and City for the State of Oregon Safe Routes to School grant.
- We sponsored a spectacular 125th Birthday celebration culminating in a fireworks display enjoyed community-wide.
- Completed the sale of the Parsonage House in partnership with the PHS Booster Club with the

proceeds going to the resurfacing of the PHS Track.

- Approved development of a disc golf course in Mary's River Park.
- Approved construction of a new youth baseball field in City Park in partnership with the Philomath Youth Activities Commission. PYAC
- Our Police, Public Works and Administration departments continue to be fully funded with state of the art equipment and outstanding manpower.

Finally, we have continued the policy of fiscal discipline keeping the Philomath City Government portion of your property taxes low. During my terms as Mayor and with the help of previous Councils, we have consistently lowered our City property tax rate from \$6.70 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation to the current rate of \$5.30 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation. We continue to set aside future reserve funding for our infrastructure. To date we have set aside \$1.846 million in reserves for future infrastructure construction. There are no plans in the immediate future for any levy or property tax increase request from Philomath City Government.

The City of Philomath continues to live within our means while citizen volunteers continue to enhance our community. The biggest compliment to our City recently came from the Oregon Downtown Association classifying us a self help community. We have repeatedly proved that Government does not have to write a check for every project to be completed. As demonstrated, citizen volunteerism has been the unsurpassed capital investment in Philomath's future and next generation.

We are Philomath, Oregon!



HELP KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LOOKING GREAT

Residents are reminded that storage of non-operating motor vehicles on the street or outside of an enclosed building on private property is prohibited by City Ordinance 582. This prohibition extends to the outside storage of motor vehicle parts such as engines, transmissions, frames, etc.

Outside storage of vehicles that do run but are used infrequently or are being restored is permissible as long as they have current tags affixed to their license plates.

If you have a vehicle that you wish to get rid of and have title in your possession, there is a local wrecking business that will pay you for your vehicle. For information on this service, contact the Philomath Police Department at 929-6911.



Philomath City, School and Benton County officials pose with Philomath Elementary students in support of the Safe Routes to School program.

City Participates In Effort To Promote Child Safety

The safety and well being of children are responsibilities which no community can afford to neglect. Anticipating increased concern over potential safety issues related to the couplet, the City of Philomath has partnered with the Philomath School District to start a new Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). The SRTS program was funded this year from a two-part federal grant which is being administered by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). An initial grant in the amount of \$21,702 (awarded in October) has allowed the City and School District to begin gathering community

input and formulating plans for programs aimed at promoting the health and safety of the children as they travel to and from school. A second infrastructure grant in the amount of \$106,597 was recently awarded to the Benton County Public Works Department. This second grant will allow the City, Philomath Schools and the County to work together to build covered bike areas at the Elementary and Middle Schools and to install high-tech traffic slowing devices in front of Clemens Primary School.

A Public forum held at the beginning of the school year brought to light concerns about pedestrian and bicycle safety for children traveling to and from school. Parent surveys conducted at three Philomath schools this fall indicate that parents are concerned about such issues as children crossing busy streets on their way to school, traffic congestion in front of the schools, and unsafe pedestrian and bicycle practices. The City and School District are committed to addressing these concerns through various programs including identification of preferred safe routes to school, in-school bicycle safety classes, after-school health and fitness clubs, helmet use education and enforcement, to name a few.

The pronounced spirit of collaboration between the City of Philomath and the Philomath School District in support of the SRTS program is a true testament to the value placed on the health and safety of these young members of our community.

LOOKING OUT FOR STREETLIGHTS

By Colin Vencill, City of Philomath intern

Over the years, the people of this community have helped create a city where all of its inhabitants can feel safe and secure. However, a problem has arisen recently about the occasional malfunctions of the streetlights that are located in town. These streetlights are owned and operated by Pacific Power and Light (PPL). The city has no effective way to keep track of these lights since most city employees are not on duty during their hours of operation.

These streetlights exist to ensure the safety of Philomath citizens and their property. The city pays a flat fee to PPL for all the streetlights in town. The city pays this fee whether the lights are working or not. It only makes sense that the citizens of Philomath should get the best return on this investment.

The Streetlight Lookout Program is a way for Philomath citizens to help their city by volunteering to keep track of these lights. This isn't a program that would require any one person to patrol the streets of Philomath in search of malfunctioning streetlights. The city will ask citizens to keep track of their neighborhood streetlights. If any light is out, volunteers will call the City Public Works Department. Volunteers can also email the city, or put in a repair request with PPL via their website. Citizens are also encouraged to call in even if they're not officially part of the programs.

If you see the light across the street from your house is out, please notify the City.

Please contact Colin Vencill at 1-541-929-3579 if you are interested in finding out how you can help or email pworks@ci.philomath.or.us.



MARCH BRINGS A SPRING CLEANUP

An expanded recycling/cleanup opportunity for City residents is available from Monday, March 3, through Saturday, March 8. Industrial dumpsters will be available in the Public Works yard located on Willow Lane off of South 15th Street to receive those junk items currently stored in your yard or garage.

Accepted Materials:

Wood, scrap metal (including old appliances. A \$15 fee is charged for any appliance containing Freon.), yard debris, computer/electronic equipment, cardboard, and any other materials not specifically listed below as not acceptable.

If you have any of the old plastic recycling bins from Corvallis Disposal and want to see them get recycled, there will be a special container available for their collection.

If you have usable furniture or a mattress/box springs that is free of rips, stains or odors, you may bring them to be distributed to those in need.

Not Accepted:

Car batteries, tires, motor oil, and hazardous waste materials such as used paint, insecticides, or cleaning agents and household garbage.

The Public Works yard will be open from 8 am to 5 pm and proof of City residency (i.e. water payment stub) is required. Any questions on this service, call Public Works at 929-3579.