

City News

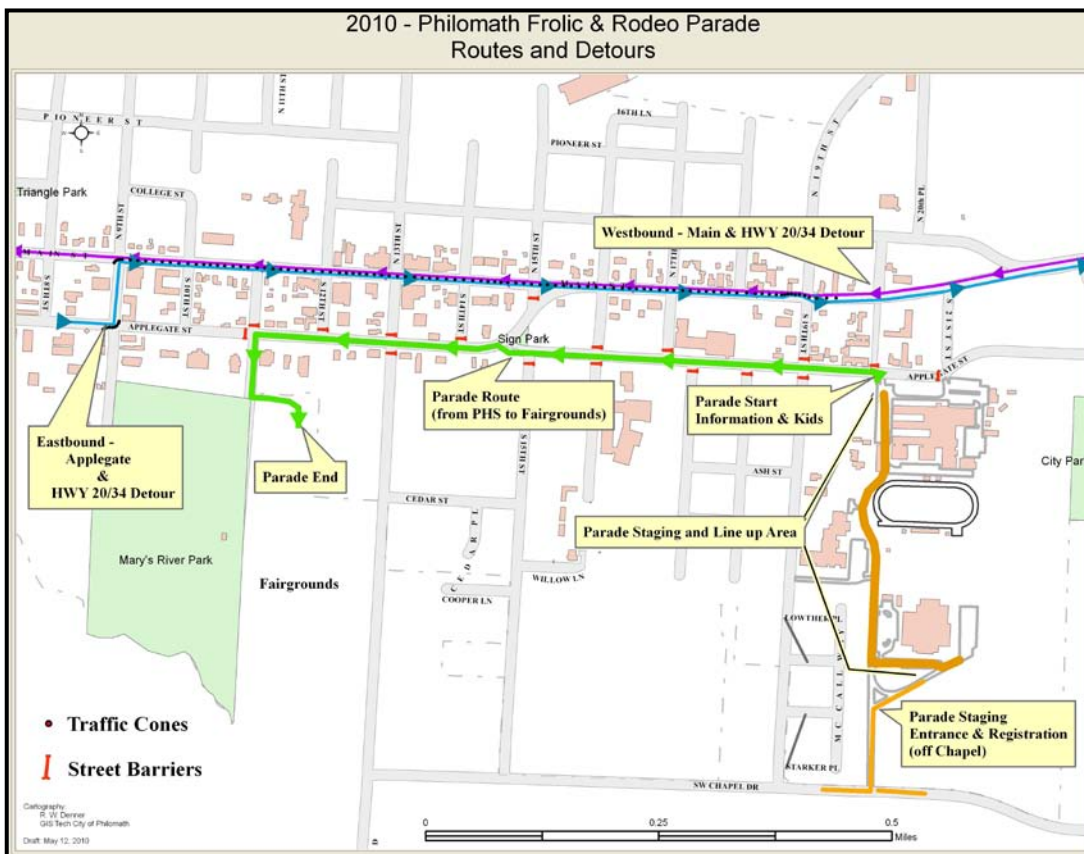


Published for the citizens of Philomath, Oregon

Summer 2010

Don't Miss the Parade...

NEW ROUTE FOR PARADE ANNOUNCED



The 2010 Philomath Frolic & Rodeo parade will be taking a new route through the city on July 10. With the landscaping improvement to the median areas on Main Street, the traditional parade route is no longer the best choice in terms of safety and spectator viewing.

The City and Frolic Parade Committee have developed a new parade route along Applegate Street starting at the west PHS parking lot at 20th Street and ending at South 11th Street, where the parade participants will disband on the Frolic Grounds.

The parade is scheduled to start at 10:15 a.m. and should conclude by noon.

Parade viewing areas will be confined to the street adjacent to the curb and parking strip between the curb and the sidewalk. Other public viewing areas would include the Elementary School property and the City Park at Applegate and 15th Street. *Please respect the yard areas of Applegate Street residents and do not use these areas for viewing unless you have been given permission.*

Please help make the 57th Frolic and Rodeo weekend a great community success. For more information on all of the weekend's activities, visit www.philomathrodeo.org.

New City Utility Rates Set: The City Council has set utility rates for the new fiscal year which will begin July 1. Water and sanitary sewer rates will see modest increases to match increases to operate and maintain their respective services. For water, there will be a \$0.15 increase in the unit rate and no increase in the base rate. Sanitary sewer rates will increase by \$0.05 in the base rate with no increase in the unit rate. A unit equals 748 gallons of water. Street utility rates will see no increase this year. The \$0.75 per month reduction in storm drain fees adopted last year will also be maintained for the next 12 months.

PHILOMATH BENEFITS FROM STRONG LOCAL SCHOOLS

By Mayor Ken Schaudt

Although it has been said, it really bears repeating: "Thank you" to the voters who approved the recent Philomath School District bond measure 02-71! Yes, this is a City newsletter, but I wanted to emphasize to all citizens how important our local schools are to the City of Philomath, and what this vote means to you and to others, both near and far.

There was no question the School District needed to find answers to both upgrade and better maintain their facilities. Officials worked hard on solutions, and found an opportunity to receive low-cost Federal dollars to help ease the burden of our local taxpayers. The School Board also chose to maintain the existing tax rate, to pay off this new bond after retiring two previous bonds. Our community owes a huge debt of gratitude to the School Board, Superintendent Pete Tuana, and to Business Manager Kelly Howard.

Board Members Tom Klipfel and Jim Kildea organized a volunteer team, "Yes for Philomath Schools", to help promote the benefits of the measure to voters. Countless others assisted in this effort, including PHS student Nolan Bartlow, whose idea to set up a "Facebook" page was both informative and well received by many. The community effort to pull together for a common cause was both rewarding and gratifying to all involved.

Citizens of Philomath can be **very** proud of the results: a tremendous vote of confidence in our School District, and in the value of education for our youth. The 80.3% of voters who approved our local measure represents the highest "percentage voting yes" in the 140 successful bond elections held in the State of Oregon over the past 13 years (Jim Kildea's research, through the Oregon School Board Assoc.). The margin of approval is an honor of statewide recognition, for our City and for our School District.

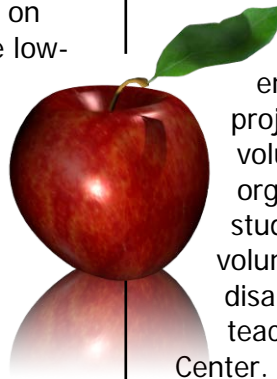
As a community, we can take pride in the accomplishments of our youth. This year, the

Philomath High School girl's track team took first place in State, with a dominating team performance. The PHS Forestry Team also took first place, winning their fourth State title in five years. The boy's baseball team made it all the way to the State semifinals. Our Philomath Shining Stars finished sixth place at State, and were invited to walk in the Grand Floral Parade at Portland's Rose Festival! Ten PHS students won two first place trophies at the third annual Oregon Game Project Challenge.

Philomath students also provide the energy and effort behind many public service projects. Brian Alaman spent countless hours volunteering time at several local charitable organizations; Tyler Joyner taught PES students about bike safety; Halee Baker volunteered at a home for developmentally disabled adults; Joy DeVos volunteered teaching gymnastics to kids at the Old Mill Center. Others volunteered with Special Olympics, raised money for school athletic facilities, or participated in canned food and toiletry drives for the Philomath food bank. The list could go on and on.

Every year, Mike Crocker's Senior Social Studies class collects money in a "penny drive" to provide Christmas gifts to 3 or 4 families. This year, Joseph Harman raised about \$2000 for the Lymphoma Society, and Becky Mayer's "Rock of Ages" concert raised over \$2000 and 400 pounds of food for the Food Bank. The "Mr. PHS" contest raised over \$10,000 for Doernbecher's Children's Hospital!

Philomath School District students are taught the importance and value of giving back to their community. The City of Philomath and its citizens have benefited greatly from student contributions over the years. Again, thank you to the voters, who have given back to the District administration, faculty, and staff a renewed sense of pride in our schools. It is a decision that will bring unimaginable wealth to our community, for years to come.



Austerity Works

By Jeff Light, Chair Citizen Budget Review Committee

The City of Philomath has weathered the recession well and enters the 2010-2011 fiscal year in a strong financial position. **This is terrific news given the economic uncertainties we faced a year ago, and I credit the austerity and financial diligence of the City Staff and Council for getting the City to this enviable point.** It was clear to the members of the Budget Committee how all city staff and the Council contributed to this outcome. For example, expenditures on minor but expensive street surface repairs were delayed, and construction of a carport to shelter police vehicles was postponed. Altogether about \$1.8 million less was spent than budgeted. No services were reduced, and progress was made toward most of the Council's goals: (1) the medians in the couplet were landscaped; (2) a plan of action was developed to amend the Urban Renewal District; (3) an update to the City Parks master plan was begun; and (4) the conversion to a radio read system of water meters was initiated. The new sewage pump station and other important and costly water and sewer upgrades were completed on-schedule and within budget. Two new "pocket" parks were completed. We are fortunate to have a City Council and staff that are as dedicated to cost savings as they are to delivering quality services. In short, "austerity works." We don't have to look far to see the unpalatable choices other communities are facing to respond to dire budget shortfalls.



The City's annual operating budget for 2010-2011 is \$5 million. This is 3% higher than last year. This covers general City operations and services such as providing police and courts, maintaining our parks and streets, and providing water and sewer services. Funds come primarily from property taxes, franchise fees, court fines, and water, sewer, and storm drain fees. The city has no outstanding general obligation bonds, and will again only assess the permanent tax rate of \$5.3005 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in the 2010-2011 budget year.

Many thanks to City Staff for providing detailed and well-organized support materials and to the members of the Budget Committee for their contributions. The Budget Committee recommended approval of the proposed 2010-2011 budget

STREET SURFACING SCHEDULED THIS SUMMER

To improve the street system and to meet the goal of the City Council to upgrade all gravel streets, the City has scheduled the following selected streets to be chip sealed this summer. The work is scheduled to happen during the weeks of July 12- July 23. The total cost for these streets to be chip sealed is approximately \$42,000. The streets that are to be chip sealed will be prepared by City staff and the chip seal material will be applied by Benton County Public Works.

Chip seal is an inexpensive way for gravel streets to have a hardened surface applied. The surface, if applied and maintained correctly, has a life expectancy of five to seven years depending on traffic volume. The City has many chip sealed streets that are currently being used every day that have lasted longer than seven years and are still in good condition.

During the time that the chip seal material will be applied, there may be some minor traffic interruptions. Even though the material hardens almost immediately after being applied it is recommended that traffic be limited due to the fact that cars may damage the surface until it has had time to fully cure. Flyers will be delivered to homes that will be affected to inform them of the exact date and time that their street will have limited access. The following is a list of streets that are scheduled to be chip sealed this summer:

N 8th St	Main to Rail Road, Rail Road to Pioneer. Pioneer to North end of street
N 18th St	College to North end of street
College	7th St to 8th St, 9th St to 10th St
S 9th St	Applegate to water treatment plant
N 10th St	Main to College, Pioneer to North end of street
N 14th St	College to Rail Road
N 17th St	Pioneer to 16th Ln
16th Ln	16th St to 17th St

AROUND THE CITY



Sewer Fees Pay For Repairs

One of the many things that Public Works does during its routine maintenance programs is sewer manhole inspections. Every two to three years one of our utility workers pays a visit to each of the nearly four hundred sewer manholes throughout the City. Inspections are made during the winter and early spring months and within a day or two of a steady rain event. This ensures that the ground is sufficiently saturated so that any leakage into the manhole can be easily detected. Besides looking for leaks, we are also looking for any deterioration of the manhole such as crumbling concrete, excess debris or exposed rebar. Gravel in a manhole could indicate a broken sewer line upstream of the manhole. Such a condition would require immediate investigation. During the inspection, the utility worker will note manhole conditions, flows, and flow types. If any leakage is present, the location of the leak in the manhole and the estimated flow of the inflow/infiltration (I&I) will be noted on the manhole inspection sheet. The manholes that have leaks are then prioritized by the amount of inflow/infiltration (I&I) going into them from highest flow to lowest.

This year we have identified nearly 40 manholes with inflow/infiltration (I&I). They range in flow from about one gallon per minute to fifteen gallons per minute. There are about fifteen that are in the upper flow range. The City has budgeted \$20,000 for manhole repairs this year and next year. We are in the process of repairing the first 20 or so manholes this fiscal year (June 2010) and hope to repair the next 20 early the next fiscal year, hopefully by the end of the summer of 2010.

We have a contractor doing the repairs who specializes in manhole repair. They have the machinery and equipment to pump a grout sealant into the leak to stop the leak. They also pump grout around the inlet and outlet pipes in the manhole as well as the joints between the barrels and risers of the manholes to help prevent other leaks from developing. Most of the manholes they are repairing are in the eight to fifteen foot range.

Calculations show that even by repairing the first twenty manholes, we could reduce inflow/infiltration (I&I) by two to three million gallons per month which reduces pumping costs, wear and tear on pumps and equipment, treatment chemicals, sewer overflows, possible fines and the need to increase pipe sizes, lagoons and pumping capacities.

Help Protect Our Streams



Water is so vital to our life and economy it only makes sense to protect it. This includes our local waterways, Newton Creek and the Marys River. You can take simple steps and do your part to help keep pollution out of them.

Most outside areas drain to our stormwater system, which consists of underground stormwater pipes and roadside ditches. Some people mistakenly think that runoff draining to these areas is treated before it empties into our waterways when, in fact, it is not treated.

Runoff can pick up pollutants like oil, pet waste, dirt, soap, and lawn chemicals then flow through the stormwater system. Anything that enters the stormwater system flows untreated into the waterbodies we value for swimming, fishing, drinking water and ecological worth. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

Here's what you can do:

- Never use storm drains or ditches for disposal
- Recycle used motor oil and repair auto leaks
- Cover bare dirt
- Use fertilizers sparingly
- Avoid using pesticides
- Pick up after your pet
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash

You can learn more by reading our stormwater brochure here:

<http://www.ci.philomath.or.us/publicworks/SWBrochure.pdf>.

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New Bus for Philomath Connection



A new Philomath Connection bus has been purchased, providing transportation service for residents traveling between Philomath and Corvallis. The new 28 seat bus replaces the original 16 passenger bus that was put into service in April 2000. Monthly ridership has increased substantially from May of 2000 when 961 riders used the service to 2,102 riders in April 2010.

Philomath youth 17 and under can ride the bus for free all summer until September 6. No pass is needed, just get on board and present your bus card that you can obtain from the bus driver. Stamped bus cards will be used for prizes and could help win an mp3 player that will be given away at the end of this summer promotion.

PROTECTING OUR STREAMS *continued from Page 4...*

City staff members are doing their part, too. They are putting into action a stormwater program that meets federal NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) permit requirements. You can read the City of Philomath stormwater plan here: <http://www.ci.philomath.or.us/publicworks/SWPlan.pdf>.

You make a difference. Acting together we can succeed at keeping stormwater pollution out of Newton Creek and the Marys River.

Discharging pollution into a storm drain or ditch, or anywhere where it will run off into a storm drain or ditch, is against the law. The only minor exceptions to this City ordinance include residential and volunteer event car washing and landscape watering. When non-compliance happens, the City starts with an educational approach. Please help us educate everyone in our community. To report an incident of stormwater pollution, call (541)929-3579 during business hours or (541)740-0163 after hours

***INSIDE:* New Frolic Parade Route; City Budget Message. Street Surfacing Schedule and more...**