



Philomath

OREGON

June 2015

980 Applegate St./PO Box 400, Philomath, OR 97370

www.ci.philomath.or.us

Utility Rates Adjusted Effective July 1

Philomath prides itself on having an infrastructure system that provides high quality services in an efficient and cost effective manner. In fact, this is the basis for the mission statement that has guided City Council decisions for many years. Thanks to a philosophy of planning for the future and ensuring revenues keep pace with expenses, Philomath has managed to upgrade sewer facilities to service city needs for decades to come, pave or chip seal most city streets and build a police facility. This long-range attitude has also helped water and sewer ratepayers avoid major billing increases. By maintaining incremental increases over the years and using advances in technology, the city's budget has been able to avoid the crises that many other Oregon city governments have faced in the past five years.

Two of the City Council's goals for the next two years tackle large and expensive long-range issues for the community: Expansion of the water treatment facilities and replacement of the remaining 1952 concrete sewer lines. Both of these projects are included in the current master plans.

Expansion of Water Treatment Facilities: As the city's water treatment facility has grown closer to maximum output over the past several years, steps have been taken to get the most out of it. These include:

- Successful negotiation with the city of Corvallis in 2007 to purchase treated water from the Rock Creek reservoir. This contract expires in 2017 with an option to renew for another 10 years. Negotiations are currently underway.
- The city is using the maximum withdrawal allowed from the Marys River by our existing senior water rights. The City will need to acquire additional senior water rights upstream to warrant expansion of the existing water treatment plant or relocate the water treatment plant downstream where the city already has additional senior water rights.

Even without any substantial new growth in Philomath, the current water treatment plant is reaching capacity. Water rates in Philomath have



been unchanged for the past three years. With that in mind, the City Council sees the importance of saving funds now to make the next water system decisions less painful to ratepayers.

1952 Sewer Lines Replacement: The city's original sewer pipe system was installed with a life expectancy of 50 years. In addition to being over ten years past the end of that life expectancy and is no longer structurally sound. Philomath has made good progress on this project with over 36% of those pipes having been replaced during modernization projects throughout town, such as the East Applegate Street Project in the summer of 2013. The downside is that there is still 22,700 feet of pipe to be upgraded. Over the next two years, the Council will investigate potential methods of financing the remaining portion to stay ahead of DEQ regulations.

After careful consideration of both of these significant issues, the City Council increased water and sewer utility rates effective July 1, 2015. A customer using 8 units of water per month, typical for a family of four, will see an average increase of \$4.60 per month in their water bill and \$3.20 per month in their sewer bill. There will be no increase in storm drain fees this year and street utility fees will remain at the current rate for the ninth straight year.

The City Council remains concerned about elderly and fixed income customers. In an effort to reduce the effect of the rate increases, the base rate charges will only go up \$0.20 per month. By keeping base rates low and placing most of the increase into the per unit fees, customers can monitor their usage and better control the overall impact of the rate adjustment.

CITY MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR



JUNE 2015:

- June 2** – Park Advisory Board at 5 p.m. at Randy Kugler Community Hall, City Park, 299 S 23rd St.
- June 4** – Public Works Committee at 3 p.m. at Public Works meeting room, 1515 Willow Ln.
- June 8** – City Council and Urban Renewal Agency at 7 p.m. at City Hall.
- June 15** – Planning Commission at 7 p.m. at City Hall.
- June 22** – City Council and Urban Renewal Agency at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

JULY 2015:

- July 7** – Park Advisory Board at 5 p.m. at City Hall.
- July 13** – City Council at 7 p.m. at City Hall.
- July 20** – Planning Commission at 7 p.m. at City Hall (if needed).
- July 27** – City Council at 7 p.m. at City Hall (if needed).

Meetings are subject to change and additional meetings may be scheduled. Check the City website for up-to-date schedules.



SUMMER EVENTS

Philomath Library » Age 12 and Under

JUNE

- MON 1** **SUMMER AT THE LIBRARY BEGINS**
Sign up begins for summer reading. Get a free book and other goodies!
- THURS 18** **KICK OFF PARTY WITH MO PHILLIPS, 1PM**
Start the summer with an interactive musical show that kids and parents can all enjoy. Mo describes his music as a blend of Americana, soul and blues with catchy hooks and plenty of rockin' out.
- WEDS 24** **BENTON CO. MUSEUM STORYTIME, 10AM**
Families are invited to join us for storytime and tours at the Benton County Museum, located at 1101 Main Street in Philomath.
- THURS 25** **EVERYONE IS A HERO, 1-3PM**
Drop-in program. Get creative, and show your inner hero by creating "this is the hero I am now," making your own "hero sardwich" art and getting your "future hero" picture taken!

PLUS... FREE LUNCH!

The Corvallis School District invites all kids 18 & under for FREE Meals. Lunch includes milk, main entrée, fruit, and veggies.
» June 16-Aug. 30, Mon-Fri, 12-1pm



JULY

- WEDS 1** **LET'S FLY STORYTIME, 10AM**
Early Literacy Program (0-5yrs): Special storytime with hands-on activities integrating science with literacy for families with preschool-age kids.
- THURS 2** **SUMMER SUPERHEROES, 1-3PM**
Drop-in program. Become a superhero! Find your superhero name, superpower, and create your own super cape. Show off!
- THURS 9** **WILDLIFE SAFARI, 3PM**
Have some wild fun at the library! Get up close and hands-on with biofacts (like skin and bones), live animals, and other activities.
- FRI 10** **SIDEWALK CHALK COMPETITION**
Help us celebrate the Philomath Frolic & Rodeo with a sidewalk chalk competition for kids and teens. Registration starts at 9:30am. Drawing starts at 10am. All supplies provided. Winners will be selected and announced during Sat. evening's rodeo.
- THURS 16** **HEROES FOR THE PLANET, 1-3PM**
Drop-in program. Craft recyclables, meet local community heroes who work every day to take care of our planet, and learn how to expand your planet protection superpowers!
- THURS 23** **CRAFT YOUR OWN HERO STORY, 1-3PM**
Drop-in program. Design your own characters, setting, and story using art and craft supplies and your imagination!
- THURS 30** **SUMMER READING FINALE PARTY, 1PM**
It's a party for heroes, and you're invited! Join your local community heroes to celebrate all the reading, learning, and creating you've done over the summer.



...AND A FREE POOL PARTY AT OSBORN AQUATIC CENTER!

Saturday, August 1, 5-7pm: Make a splash at the Summer Reading pool party at Osborn Aquatic Center!



Read » Create » Celebrate!

Philomath Community Library | 1050 Applegate, Philomath, OR | 541-929-3016

www.cbcpubliblibrary.net

