



# Philomath

OREGON

September 2015

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

[www.ci.philomath.or.us](http://www.ci.philomath.or.us)

## Police Department Leadership Transfers from Elwer to Rueben

As luck would have it, it wasn't raining the day Ken Elwer interviewed for the Police Chief position in Philomath in 2002. If it had been raining, the old police station would have had pans and buckets set out to catch the rainwater through the leaking ceiling.

August 21st marked the end of Ken Elwer's 13 years as Philomath's Chief of Police. One joke at the Chief's farewell reception earlier this month was that, if it had been raining, Elwer might have turned around and not taken the job. Instead, during his tenure, a new police station was constructed using money the City had saved up, the department became one of the smallest cities in the state to receive accreditation from the Oregon Police Chief's Association, and morale amongst officers swelled thanks to proper equipment and training.

At the farewell reception, Chief Elwer's peers in the Oregon law enforcement community, co-workers at the City and community members thanked him for being a quiet but steady force in community policing. In addition to his official responsibilities, Ken was active in the Philomath Youth Association Club, Rotary Club, and Lions Club. At last month's Frolic & Rodeo, he could be found cleaning and cooking fish at the PYAC fish rodeo.

In 2014, Elwer hired Ken Rueben as Police Sergeant to replace the retiring Ray Sytsma. Over the past year, Rueben proved to be just what the City was seeking in a future Police Chief; and when Elwer announced his impending retirement, the Council authorized City Manager Chris Workman to promote



***Incoming Chief Ken Rueben congratulates Chief Ken Elwer at his retirement reception.***

Rueben as the next Chief of Police. Rueben assumed the leadership of the department in mid-August.

Chief Rueben brings a long history of law enforcement to the community with a career that began in Southern California, included being a detective in the Corvallis PD, and culminated in work at the Oregon Department of Justice. He's eager to bring new ideas to the Philomath Department and has already implemented some of those, including using the City website to post photographs of recovered stolen equipment.

Rueben's promotion resulted in a domino effect in the Philomath PD with Senior Officer David Gurski being promoted to the Police Sergeant position. Gurski has been with the department since 2004 and was well-known as the handler for the community's K-9 Ilox until 2012.

The City wishes Ken and Nancy Elwer the best as they begin to enjoy retirement and looks forward to the continuation of the good work at the Philomath Police Department under the direction of Chief Rueben and Sgt. Gurski.

# New Pool Rules Take Effect

With summer winding down, many swimming pools in yards will begin to be put away for the winter. Tragedy can still strike, though, in the form of a swimming pool left in a front yard with water in it and a toddler who unknowingly falls into it. In an effort to prevent such a tragedy, the City Council has approved stronger rules related to swimming pools and related water features.



Effective August 26, swimming pools, hot tubs, ponds and other water features greater than 1-foot deep must be surrounded and screened with a minimum 4-foot high secured fence or wall or must be equipped with a functional latching cover. The fence or wall must have a self-latching gate in accordance with Oregon Building Code. (PMC 18.72.030.G.5)

The Police Department looks forward to working with residents to help ensure that pools, ponds and tubs of all type are set up in safe locations for everyone.



**Completed gazebo with new art at City Park donated by Philomath Lions Club, crafted by local artist Bud Thomas.**

## Revitalized Gazebo Ready for Weddings

With the restoration of the gazebo and new landscaping at City Park, the Randy Kugler Community Hall is ready to serve the community as a local wedding site.

While the Hall was being completed by local volunteer forces, the Public Works Department tackled restoration of the gazebo. The moss-covered roof was replaced, decorative railings and trim installed, and stone steps added to serve as the perfect location for couples to say their vows. Pavers were laid in a circular pattern to make set-up of chairs easy and attractive.

Located between the gazebo and the hall, Public Works built a central feature and the Philomath Lions Club contributed a heron and salmon sculpture created by Philomath's own local artist, Bud Thomas. Thank you, Lions!

Since opening in March, the Hall has been busy with class reunions, meetings, and parties. With the completion of the outside amenities, the venue is now ready to host outdoor weddings too.

Reservations are being accepted and more information is available by calling 541-929-3001 and speaking with Jan.



### ***CITY MEETINGS & EVENTS***

#### ***SEPTEMBER 2015:***

**September 1** – Park Advisory Board at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

**September 7** – City offices closed in observance of Labor Day Holiday.

**September 14** – City Council at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

**September 21** – Planning Commission at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

**September 28** – City Council at 7 p.m. at City Hall (if needed).

#### ***OCTOBER 2015:***

**October 6** – Park Advisory Board at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

**October 12** – City Council at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

**October 19** – Planning Commission at 7 p.m. at City Hall (if needed).

**October 26** – City Council at 7 p.m. at City Hall (if needed).