

## New officer joins the Police Department: Welcoming Officer Blake Bowers



Officer Blake Bowers (center) officially joined the Philomath Police Department after taking the oath of office from Judge Blake (right) with Chief Rueben also in attendance.

Officer Blake Bowers became an official member of the Police Department on December 16<sup>th</sup>, upon taking the oath from Municipal Judge Larry J. Blake Jr. Several family and friends were in attendance at the brief ceremony.

Officer Bowers will begin his extensive training by reporting to the Oregon DPSST Academy after the first of the year. Upon completion of the 16-week program, he will then work alongside an experienced Philomath PD training officer for four to six months before hitting the streets on his own.

## Sign up for City Meeting Notices:

Sign up for the City's weekly meeting email notice. You'll receive an email with the next week's public meeting schedule, including agenda items. Email: [ruth.post@philomathoregon.gov](mailto:ruth.post@philomathoregon.gov)

## *Fireside chat introduces new City Council initiative to engage with citizens*



Mayor Eric Niemann and City Councilor Ruth Causey recently spent an evening chatting with new residents at The Boulevard Apartments, introducing them to city services, community events and programs, and opportunities for individuals to get involved.

The City Council has a goal to provide small, informal listening sessions with members of the community in 2020. Coffee with a City Councilor and other similar events will be added to the city calendar as they are scheduled. Look for more information coming soon!

## CITY MEETINGS & EVENTS

Jan 9	Park Advisory Board meeting	5:00 PM
Jan 13	City Council work session	5:30 PM
Jan 13	City Council meeting	7:00 PM
Jan 14	Police Committee meeting	4:00 PM
Jan 20	City offices closed all day	
Jan 21	Planning Commission	6:00 PM
Jan 27	City Council meeting (if needed)	7:00 PM

*All meetings are held at City Hall, 980 Applegate St., unless otherwise noted. Schedule subject to change.*

*Please refer to the City website calendar for up-to-date schedule.*

## Planning and design work continues for new water treatment plant facility; Water rates set to increase in January

The City Council continues to move forward with preparations to finance and construct a water treatment facility, including an updated treatment plant, a new concrete reservoir, and a stable water intake. Water rate increases are necessary to help pay for the project. Rather than issue one large rate increase, last year the Council chose to implement small increases every six months. The first \$5 increase took place July 2019, the next \$5 increase will be effective January 2020, and another increase is expected in July 2020.

Water rates are made up of two parts, a base fee and a per-unit fee. The increases are targeted at the base fee, which on January 1, 2020 will be \$24 for a typical household. The per-unit fee will remain unchanged at \$5.10. A unit of water is 748 gallons. System Development Charges (SDCs) and monthly utility payments from new residents will also help pay for the new water treatment facility.

At the December 18 Public Works Committee meeting, the City's engineers described the benefits of the new membrane filtration technology that the new plant will use. This improved method of treating water will ensure our water supply meets the State's current and increasingly tighter water quality standards. During major rain and storm events, the turbidity in the Marys River exceeds what the current plant, built in 1985, can successfully treat. The new plant will ensure high-quality water for the community for decades to come.

The concrete reservoir benefits the community in multiple ways. The City needs additional water storage in case of large fires or other catastrophic events. The additional storage will provide a much-needed safety measure. Constructing the reservoir next to the new treatment plant has the added benefit of serving as a contact chamber for the chlorine that's added to our water, eliminating the need to expand the underground contact chamber pipe network behind the plant.

The final element of the treatment plant project involves improving the City's water in-take structure to a more stable location on the Marys River. Over time, rivers meander and change their course, and the Marys River has been no exception. The current in-take is located on a sharp bend in the river, and there is growing concern that the river is moving away from the intake. Moving the in-take to a new location, still in close proximity to the treatment plant, will save money while also reducing the exposure to a meandering river channel.

Construction of the new water treatment facility is the largest public works projects the community has faced in decades. The long-term benefits to the community will help protect the drinking water supply, improve fire protection and maintain the health of Marys River. As the design of the facility progresses, you can expect to learn more about the project in the city newsletter and on the city website.

# Philomath TOWN HALL MEETING

Wednesday Jan. 29, 2020  
7:00 - 8:30 pm  
Benton County  
Historical Museum

Live Stream: [www.facebook.com/cityofphilomath](http://www.facebook.com/cityofphilomath)



Rep. Dan Rayfield  
District 16 - Corvallis, Philomath

Come meet your elected representative! Representative Rayfield will preview the upcoming 2020 legislative session and discuss his legislative priorities, followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Submit questions to [chris.workman@philomathoregon.gov](mailto:chris.workman@philomathoregon.gov) prior to the event to help ensure your concern is addressed. Seating will be on a first come, first-served basis.

