



# Philomath

OREGON

Official Newsletter of the City of Philomath

June 2019

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



## Music and Wind Kick Off Series

The High School Jazz Band kicked off this year's summer concert series on Thursday, May 23. About 75 fans, family members and neighbors braved the high winds, bundling up under blankets and extra layers. Those who attended enjoyed a great free concert and delicious hamburgers cooked up by the Lions Club. The library's book mobile was also in the park and provided activities such as cornhole, bubbles and crafts for kids of all ages to enjoy. Dale Collins, Chairman of the Philomath Park Advisory Board which puts on the concert series each year, welcomed spectators with his warm smile and wit. At the conclusion of the concert, he thanked everyone for coming and added, "I won't be inviting the wind back for next month's concert," which got several chuckles from the crowd.

**Music in the Park**  
Philomath Concert Series

**Philomath City Park 6:00-8:00 pm**

May 23 High and Middle School Jazz Bands  
June 20 Jeanne Greggs Band  
July 18 Double Play  
Aug. 15 Ludicrous Speed

Lions Club Hot Dogs and Hamburgers  
Book Mobile and children's activities  
Art on display and for sale

**Pioneer PEAK**  
CONNECT INTERNET

**PHILOMATH**  
Park Advisory Board



The Philomath Connection will offer no fare youth ridership from June 12th through August 24th. See the city website for more details.



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

The Park Advisory Board is hosting a photo contest open to all skill levels and ages. See the city's website for full details and start capturing those "phabulous" shots today! Sponsored by:



## CITY MEETINGS & EVENTS

June 10	City Council & Urban Renewal Agency	7:00 PM
June 13	Park Advisory Board	5:00 PM
June 17	Planning Commission	6:00 PM
June 20	Music in the Park at City Park Gazebo	6:00 PM
June 24	City Council & Urban Renewal Agency	7:00 PM
July 4	City offices closed for holiday	
July 8	City Council	7:00 PM
July 9	Police Committee at Police Dept. Bldg.	4:00 PM
July 9	Finance & Administration Committee	6:00 PM
TBD	Public Works Committee	TBD
July 11	Park Advisory Board	5:00 PM
July 15	Planning Commission	6:00 PM
July 18	Music in the Park at City Park Gazebo	6:00 PM
July 22	City Council (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.

## Town Hall Answers Water Concerns

The follow excerpts were taken from an article written by Brad Fuqua, Editor of the Philomath Express, May 29, 2019. To subscribe to the Philomath Express, visit [www.gazettetimes.com/community/philomathexpress](http://www.gazettetimes.com/community/philomathexpress).

A seven-person panel with expertise in various facets of water in the Willamette Valley, Marys River region and the Philomath-Corvallis area shared information with an estimated audience of 60 people Tuesday night at the Philomath Scout Lodge.

Mayor Eric Niemann arranged for the town hall after hearing concerns from citizens about the future of Philomath's water supply in conjunction with pending population growth. In addition, water bills have been going up while the city needs a new water treatment plant.

It seemed as though every angle on the water situation in Philomath was brought up in one way or another details of the water master plan, capacities on the Ninth and 11th street wells, the Rock Creek intertie agreement with Corvallis, a Willamette Basin study project, potential impacts of climate change, water rights on the Marys River and the benefits of aquifer storage and recovery.

But the one major question that's in the back of a lot of people's minds: Does Philomath have enough water with the anticipated population increase in the coming years?

Chas Jones, who sits on the Philomath City Council and public works committee, and holds a doctorate in interdisciplinary hydrology, believes that's the top issue based on conversations he's had and through his interactions on the council and public works committee.

"I believe the No. 1 concern is the balance between our ability to extract water from the river or the wells or any of our existing water rights versus the population growth," Jones said afterward. "I mean, is there enough water year-round to use with an increase in population?"

"If growth continues at its current rate for the next 10 years, yes you're going to do a lot more improvements faster than is alluded to in this document, no doubt about it," [Chris] Brugato said, referencing the city's water master plan. "But growth is sort of episodic and prior to about 2015, there was very little growth in this town and the economy starts to not be as hot as it is right now and growth slows down."

Brugato said it's just not known what the future holds with master plans created on their best estimates.

So what about those alarming low flows on the Marys River that people see each summer? Brugato said during his presentation that there are alternatives to put into play when low flows occur. Philomath could store water during the winter months to use during the summer, use stored water from the Willamette System or increase the city's reliance on Corvallis.

Of those, Brugato identified the water master plan's preferred alternative as utilizing aquifer storage and



recovery (ASR), which he said is also by far the most cost-effective.

Such a system plays into what he identified as the recommended long-term water supply strategy:

- Construct a new water treatment plant with an increased capacity.
- Use the city's Ninth Street well for drinking water and convert it to an ASR well.
- Convert the 11th Street well to ASR and treat water as needed.
- Develop specific senior water rights for drinking water.
- Use ASR to augment the water supply in the summer.

Niemann thought the attendance for the event was good for the town hall, which lasted about 1 hour, 45 minutes.

"I think for the Tuesday after Memorial Day, it was probably a pretty good turnout," Niemann said. "We had a lot of water experts in the room and I thought they served the purpose well."

Jones was impressed with the panelists which in addition to himself and Brugato included William Jaeger, a professor in the Department of Applied Economics at Oregon State University; Mike McCord, Northwest Region manager of the Oregon Water Resources Department; David Rupp, assistant professor in the College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State; Adam Sussman, principal water resources consultant for GSI Water Solutions; and Thom Whittier, retired research ecologist.

"I was really excited that the community comes out for something like this and I was equally excited that we had a group of panelists that are willing to come out and share their expertise and knowledge for an issue that is important for a small, rural community," Jones said.

### **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)