

City News



Published for the citizens of Philomath, Oregon

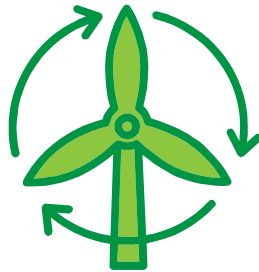
Spring 2010

Philomath Receives National Recognition

Philomath is being recognized for its leadership, achievement and dedicated support of renewable energy, as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"We are honored to be a part of this great program" said Mayor Ken Schaudt, who will receive special street signs from the EPA marking the city's recognition. "Our citizens have truly demonstrated their devotion to a more sustainable energy future."

Philomath is the newest of just 27 Green Power Communities nationwide. Nearly 10 percent of the community's residents and businesses are supporting renewable energy through Blue Sky, the award-winning Pacific Power program. The 1.6 million kilowatt-hours of renewable energy purchased annually by the Philomath community is enough to supply all the electricity to about 125 average homes for a year. Of the 27 Green Power Communities nationwide, nine of those are Pacific Power communities in Oregon.



Usually a town becomes a Green Power Community from a months-long challenge where customers are

encouraged to support renewable power. *But Philomath did not require any special efforts.*

"The support was present from the first," said Doris Johnston, Pacific Power's regional community manager. "What really tipped the scales was the City of Philomath stepping up to purchase 10 percent of its power through Blue Sky."

Overall, Philomath-area customers are purchasing renewable power equal to the output of one turbine at the average commercial scale wind farm. That offsets 949 tons of carbon emissions, which is equivalent to not driving more than 1.9 million miles.

Pacific Power customers can keep adding to the success in Philomath by greening their own homes and businesses. Buying just one, 100-kilowatt hour block of Blue Sky power costs only \$1.95 per month. Customers can buy as many blocks as they wish. Large business customers can buy renewable power in bulk at a discount through Blue Sky QS.

Enrollment in Blue Sky is optional and customers can increase their participation or withdraw at any time. Customers can sign up for Blue Sky renewable power by calling Pacific Power at 800-769-3717 or by visiting www.pacificpower.net/bluesky

MARCH BRINGS SPRING CLEANUP



An expanded recycling/cleanup opportunity for City residents is available from Monday, March 29 through Saturday, April 3. Industrial dumpsters will be available in the Public Works yard located on Willow Lane off of S. 15th St. to receive those junk items currently stored in your yard or garage.

Accepted Materials: Wood, scrap metal (including old appliances. A \$15 charge is needed for any appliance containing Freon), yard debris, computer/electronic equipment, cardboard, and any other materials not specifically listed below as not acceptable. **If you have usable furniture or a mattress/box springs that is free of rips, stains or odors, you may bring them to be distributed to those in need.**

Not Accepted: Car batteries, tires, motor oil, and hazardous waste materials such as used paint, insecticides, or cleaning agents and household garbage.

The Public Works yard will be open from 8 am to 5 pm and proof of City residency (i.e. water payment stub) is required. Any questions on this service, call Public Works at 929-3579.

NEW PUMP STATION UP AND RUNNING

On February 5, Mayor Ken Schaudt threw the switch on the City's new \$1.7 million sewer pump station during the dedication ceremony. This began the expected 30-40 year life of Philomath's first pump station upgrade since the Newton Creek Pump Station was built in 1986.

Newton Creek Pump Station, system monitoring equipment and approximately 2800 feet of large diameter sewer main were also upgraded as part of the \$1.7 million price tag. The new pump station, which is known as "Pump Station A", replaces the old "Pump Station A" which was an 8800 gallon wetwell with 2-20 horsepower pumps and 2-10 horsepower pumps. The new "Pump Station A" boasts a 34,000 gallon wetwell with 2-90 horsepower pumps and 2-34 horsepower pumps.

Construction began in mid-May with the installation of the 21" PVC trunk sewer main that extended from the new "Pump Station A" and progressed to South 15th Street to Cedar Street, west to S. 13th Street and then north to approximately the corner of 15th and Applegate. The project also included the replacement of sewer services and installation of access cleanouts at the property lines. Customers whose private services that were not constructed of PVC or cast iron had the option of having the city's contractor replace them during the project or to have a contractor of their choice do it to bring their services up to code. The cost of the private service work was borne by the homeowner. Construction was finished in mid-January with the demolition of the 1952 treatment plant structures that had been sitting idle since being removed from service in mid-1980.



Mayor Ken Schaudt and Operator Dennis Lewis switch on the new sewer pumps.

It's Finally Happening!



MEDIAN PLANTINGS UNDERWAY

After years of holding only bark dust, the medians along Main Street are about to be filled with an assortment of eye pleasing trees, shrubs, and flowers. This project is a collaborative effort involving the City of Philomath, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Philomath Downtown Association (PDA). Shortly after the couplet construction was completed, City staff applied for a grant to landscape the medians.

The project was highly ranked but not initially funded. When federal stimulus funds were received by ODOT, the project was approved and planning began. The PDA then worked with ODOT on the median design. Some of the median sections will be irrigated and others will not, so the plant species had to be chosen accordingly.

"We worked hard to recommend an assortment of plants that would provide year-round appeal and low maintenance" – Carole Richardson, Chair, PDA Design Team.

If all goes well, the project should be completed by the time the tulips are finished blooming this spring. The contractors chosen by ODOT are responsible for ensuring the plants survive for one year. After the contractor's guarantee period expires, the PDA will look for groups/individuals to join an "Adopt a Median" program (an official program administered by ODOT) to help maintain the medians.

"Who'd imagine we'd be so excited about dirt!" – Janis Larson, Furniture Restoration Center, commenting on the preparation work in the medians.

United States[®] Census 2010

2010 CENSUS COMING TO TOWN

In March 2010, households across the country will receive their Census form by mail or hand delivery. The initial form package, which will consist of the 2010 Census form, a cover letter, and a postage-paid return envelope, will be delivered in March 2010 in areas where the United States Postal Service delivers the census forms for the Census Bureau. Census workers will deliver forms March 1 through April 30, 2010 in most other areas.

Responding immediately to the 2010 Census form is the most efficient way to complete the census. Census workers will visit households that do not return the forms to take a count in person.

At the heart of the 2010 Census outreach effort is the 10-question 2010 Census form. The 2010 Census form is one of the shortest census forms in history and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Households will be asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages, races and relationships of others living in the household.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

As a Census Bureau partner, the City of Philomath encourages you to participate in the 2010 Census and let the country know what our community needs for the next 10 years. If for some reason you do not receive a form or do not think you have otherwise been counted, you should visit a Be Counted site. To locate a Be Counted Site in your area, contact the Partnership and Data Services Program staff at your Regional Census Center.

Contact information can be found at 2010census.gov/partners/pdf/censusRegionMap.pdf

A Request from the Mayor

PARKS SURVEY ON THE WAY



Citizens of Philomath:

Your City Council is in the process of updating the Park Master Plan, which was first adopted in 1998. In order to accomplish this goal, the Council would appreciate your time and effort in completing the enclosed survey. The questions range from your current use of City parks, your projected future use of City parks, the types of activities you would enjoy spending leisure time at, and your opinion on priorities for future projects and funding.

Your responses to this survey are very important to us, and we hope you can take a few minutes to answer the questions and return the survey to City Hall. Although we are looking to gather general concepts and ideas, please feel free to be specific with any answers you might want to expand.

After receiving and compiling your responses, a Park Master Plan Advisory Committee composed of city residents will make recommendations to the City Council. These recommendations will be used to guide future park development activities, outlining the desirability of open space and recreational areas at a level our community feels is appropriate. The updated plan will identify what types of parks we need, where we will look to locate future parks, and what facilities should be provided at specific locations. The plan will also assist the City in applying for future funding assistance to create and develop our parks.

The City Council would like to thank you for your assistance in planning for our future park system. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

Please return your completed survey with your utility payment by April 12 to City Hall or mail it to PO Box 400, Philomath.

Thank you.

Ken Schaudt, Mayor

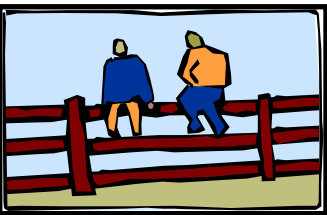
STAY INFORMED ABOUT CITY EVENTS



The City is pleased to be able to offer residents a free community messaging system that will allow timely communication of information of which you would want to be aware. **Nixle is a certified and secure community information service that allows the Philomath Police Department, Public Works and City Hall to instantly contact residents by text message, email or on the web.**

The only messages that you will receive will be those that are generated by city staff dealing with local matters. There are four types of messages: Alerts which deal with an emergency situation, Advisories which are less urgent need to know information, Community Information such as day to day neighborhood to community news, and Traffic which would be localized traffic information.

Registration for this service is simple and your personal identity information is secure. You will not receive any spam or advertising with your community notification messages. To establish your Nixle account, go to the city's website at www.ci.philomath.or.us and follow the registration instructions on the Home Page.



FENCE BUILDING: THINGS TO KNOW

Property owners who are contemplating construction of a fence along any of their property lines are urged to contact City Hall first to find out what zoning rules allow in our residential areas.

While building permits are not required, there are height restrictions and also vision clearance requirements for corner lots. City staff members are available to explain what regulations are relevant to your particular project by stopping in with a drawing or calling 541-929-6148.

INSIDE: Census on the way; Park Survey response requested; Median beautification



CITY OF PHILOMATH

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541-929-3044 FAX
philomath.admin@ci.philomath.or.us
www.ci.philomath.or.us

March 9, 2010

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Schaudt', written in a cursive style.

Ken Schaudt, Mayor

Q1. Do you and your family currently spend more time, about the same amount of time, or less time in outdoor recreation activities than you did 5 years ago?
 (Please check one box.)

More time – please write why you spend more time _____

About the same

Less time – please write why you spend less time _____

Q1A. Do you and your family expect to spend more time, about the same amount of time, or less time in outdoor recreation activities in the next 5 years? (Please check one box.)

More time – please write why you spend more time _____

About the same

Less time – please write why you spend less time _____

Q2. For each of the following activities please write, under Current Hours, about how many hours you and your family spent on each activity in an “average week” over the past year. How many hours per week do you think it will increase or decrease (for example: +/- 20) over the next five years under Expected Hours.

	<u>Current Hrs.</u>	<u>Expected Hrs.</u>
Walking for pleasure (on streets, paths, or trails in or near your community)	_____	_____
Jogging or running for exercise (on streets, sidewalks, paths, or trails)	_____	_____
Picnicking	_____	_____
Bicycling on paved roads or paths	_____	_____
Outdoor court games (volleyball, basketball, tennis, etc.)	_____	_____
Outdoor field games (softball, baseball, soccer)	_____	_____
Relaxing in the local park or a playground	_____	_____

Q3. Is there any outdoor recreation activity that you would like to start doing – or do more often?

- No – (if no skip to Q5)
- Yes, would like to start a new activity
- Yes, would like to do an activity more often

Q4. What activity would you like to start or do more often, and what would help you achieve this (for example, improved facilities, more facilities or facilities closer to home).

Activity: _____

What would help? _____

Q5. If the City undertook developing opportunities for the following activities, would that affect how often you engage in outdoor recreation? For each action, circle the number indicating whether it would: (1) have no effect; (2) lead to a small increase in your outdoor recreation activity; or (3) lead to a large increase (3).

(A small increase is generally 50% or less than your current time. For example if you play tennis twice a week, increasing to three days would be a small increase. If you went to 4 or more days then that would be a large increase.)

	<u>None</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Large</u>
Develop walking/hiking trails closer to my home	1	2	3
Place more benches along trails	1	2	3
Develop parks closer to my home	1	2	3
Expand park facilities (picnic tables, restrooms, etc.)	1	2	3
Expand parking at parks	1	2	3
Ensure clean and well-maintained parks and facilities	1	2	3
Walking for pleasure (on streets, sidewalks, paths or trails in your community)	1	2	3
Jogging or running for exercise	1	2	3
Picnicking and family gatherings	1	2	3
Relaxing, hanging out, escaping heat, noise, etc.	1	2	3
General play at a neighborhood park / playground	1	2	3
Bicycling on paved roads / paths	1	2	3
Skateboarding	1	2	3
Viewing natural features such as scenery, wildlife, birds, flowers, fish, etc.	1	2	3
Outdoor sports and games (baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, tennis)	1	2	3
Equestrian Trails	1	2	3

Q6. Do you believe there are an adequate number of park and recreation facilities within the City? Yes No. If no which facilities should be increased or expanded:

Q7. How satisfied overall are you with the quality and variety of the City parks and recreation facilities?

Very Somewhat Neutral/Unsure
 Somewhat Dissatisfied Very Dissatisfied

Q8. Do you feel that the recreational facilities for age groups and abilities are being adequately provided for? If not which group is under served?

Q9. Do you think funding for the City parks and recreation facilities should be: increased, decreased, or stay about the same?

Q10. What would be your priority for future funding and projects? Please indicate (1) for high priority, (2) for lower priority and (3) for lowest priority for each of the following:

	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Lowest</u>
Acquiring parkland for passive recreation activities (trails, nature study, picnicking, etc.)	1	2	3
Acquiring parkland for active recreation activities (playgrounds, sports fields, tennis, etc.)	1	2	3
Preserving open space areas to protect wildlife and natural areas	1	2	3
Increased maintenance and upkeep of existing facilities	1	2	3
Walkways, trails and bicycle paths throughout the city	1	2	3
Expand park amenities (picnic tables, restrooms, etc.)	1	2	3
Expand parking	1	2	3

Please use the space below for any additional comments or suggestions you want to share in planning for the future park system for the City.

Thank you for completing the survey.