

City

News



Published for the citizens of Philomath,
Oregon
Spring 2007



CITY COUNCIL PLANS FOR FUTURE IN 2007-08

One of the major responsibilities of the City Council is to develop “big picture” projects for the City that will shape the future development and livability of Philomath. These vision projects may have an immediate visible impact on the City or they could take several years to unfold and never even be noticeable to the average resident.

The Council met recently for a Saturday work session to share their ideas and to work towards agreement on a list of goals that they all could support. Some ideas did not make the final list as a Council Goal but will be worked on by Councilors and staff because there was agreement that they were worthwhile ideas.

Your Mayor and City Councilors are pleased to share the following list of goals that they will be working on during the next 2 years:

- Adopting a multi-year wastewater improvement program
- Planning, investigating and determining the next step for a new park at the corner of Applegate and 31st St. (old reservoir site).
- Developing a storm water runoff ordinance to comply with state and federal regulations
- Funding an additional police officer position within the next two (2) years
- Completing the Philomath Police Department accreditation process
- Investigating the feasibility of establishing citywide wireless internet service
- Pursuing opportunities for redevelopment of vacant industrial/commercial sites

As always, the Council appreciates constructive feedback from residents which can be used to develop future goals. If you have any comments for your Council, you may contact them by letter addressed to PO Box 400, Philomath, OR 97370, or directly by e-mail at:

Mayor Chris Nusbaum: nusbaumc@ci.philomath.or.us

Councilor Angie Baca: bacaa@ci.philomath.or.us

Councilor Matt Bierek: bierekm@ci.philomath.or.us

Councilor Charlie Crawford: crawfordc@ci.philomath.or.us

Councilor Jerry Jackson Sr.: jacksonj@ci.philomath.or.us

Councilor Charla Koepp: koeppc@ci.philomath.or.us

Councilor Ken Schaudt: schaudtk@ci.philomath.or.us





Our Council Supports You First!

By Mayor Chris Nusbaum

Dear Philomath Residents:

Infrastructure construction everywhere! Philomath is in the midst of rebuilding our town that may at times seem overwhelming to onlookers. We have become a safe, healthy city with robust revitalization surrounding our neighborhoods.

Our current success has been the result of much public process and testimony over the years by many regarding the direction of Philomath. Our volunteer council is always interested in what any party has to say regarding our town.

As we continue to be successful, more and more interests have presented themselves either in person or to the local media as Philomath Residents. Although I usually take no action if an interest is satisfied with our City Government (or offers positive feedback), I am committed to personally researching any criticism or claims of wrongdoing by our Council or City Staff. This is done to ensure that legitimate concerns are addressed at City Hall.

During my most recent research regarding local criticisms of our town, I am slightly surprised to find that a few people claiming to be residents of Philomath don't even live here.

Once merely an inconvenience, these voices have become more critical and demanding on how we govern ourselves, spend our municipal tax dollars and who we put into leadership positions. I can't help but suspect that some of these efforts are trying to make Philomath appear as a "city in discord" by local residents.

I wanted to make sure that all Philomath Residents understand that although all testimony and feedback is welcome at City Hall, ***our Council will always give greater weight to Philomath Residents.*** You will always come first when competing views from outside interests present themselves.

I am asking all Philomath Residents to be somewhat skeptical of any openly public feedback regarding Philomath that does nothing but belittle. Again, during my term in office I have found that much of this negative input is coming from non-residents trying to influence how we live.

Philomath enjoys peace and harmony within Municipal Government. We are on the right track, and our council wants to keep it this way! I enjoy the fact that our financial strength and commitment to rebuilding our roads and infrastructure has made us the envy of Oregon Cities. I am asking for all your continued support of Philomath to keep it that way for years to come.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AT WORK IN PHILOMATH

The Ford Institute for Community Building, an initiative of the Ford Family Foundation, held the second series of leadership classes in Philomath this fall. These classes provided local volunteers with training on how to develop effective organizations and collaborations within their community. Each class also selects a project to implement in their area.

The 2007 graduating class reviewed many good ideas for their class project but one stood out above the rest. The members of the class recognized that the Philomath holiday tree has stood for many years as an icon welcoming people to our town but, as a result of the couplet construction, the tree needed to be removed. The Ford class believes that the tree can still be an integral part of welcoming visitors and residents to Philomath.

With this in mind, they chose their project. They have secured sections of the tree and will be working together throughout the next year to create a new "Welcome to Philomath" sign for the east side of town. Currently the group is researching the best location for the sign, and hope to have it in place before the end of the year.



GRANT SOUGHT FOR SENIOR CENTER PROJECT

The College of Philomath Senior Center is moving closer to becoming a reality. The volunteer Board of the College of Philomath Community Corporation (CPCC) is working with the City of Philomath and Community Services Consortium in seeking an \$800,000 block grant. The three groups plan to submit the block grant proposal this autumn and should hear whether the funding is available for the project by mid-November. The City will provide fiscal oversight for the block grant, CPCC will be responsible for other grant funds, and Community Services Consortium will oversee the grant-seeking process and construction work.



In other project news, the scaffolding surrounding the bell tower should be gone by this summer. In 2005, Philomath participants in the Ford Institute's Leadership Program raised over \$70,000 in cash and in-kind donations to restore a major portion of the historic building's bell tower, which had been removed in the 1960's because of water damage. The group's work has allowed CPCC to leverage other grants to complete the final pieces of the bell tower, along with the building's historic entry and portico.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SEEKS YOUR INPUT

By Debbie Thorpe, President of the Philomath Area Chamber of Commerce



The Philomath Area Chamber of Commerce is in the process of collecting e-mail addresses from those interested in current events,

meetings and other happenings around town.

If you would like to be added to this list, please e-mail the Chamber office at director@philomathchamber.org.

We are also looking for volunteer writers for the new Philomath newsletter that will be a mini-version of the old Benton Bulletin. We would like to keep the articles more on the fun, friendly and informative side. Sometimes there would be some sad articles such as the loss of the Christmas tree, but that would be the worst type of news that we wish to print. Please e-mail the Chamber of Commerce or call us at 929-2454 or contact Debbie at the Liquor Store at 929-3313.

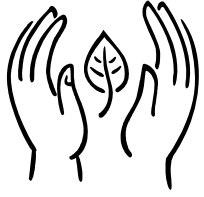
We look forward to hearing from the community and wish everyone the best during the construction period.

EXCITING UPCOMING PHILOMATH EVENTS

Groundbreaking for Museum 12,000 sq. ft. addition	March 31, 10 am
The Samaritan Awards	May 19
Philomath Car Show	July 7
Philomath 125 th Anniversary Celebration	October 20

Coffee Klatches with ODOT are Friday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at the Philomath Library. Business owners wishing to know more about the couplet or to comment on the couplet are welcome to attend these informal meetings.





APRIL BRINGS A SPRING CLEANUP

An expanded recycling/cleanup opportunity for City residents is available from Monday, April 9 through Saturday, April 14. 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.

INSIDE: LEADERSHIP AT WORK

GRANT SOUGHT FOR SENIOR CENTER