

# City of Central Point

# NEWS FROM CITY HALL



## City Manager's Note

### Medford Water Commission Increases Water Rates

Over the past 18 months, the Medford Water Commission has, via a third-party rate analysis consultant, been conducting a cost of service analysis for its different customer classes. If you are not familiar with the various

customer classes, the Medford Water Commission serves inside City of Medford customers, Other Cities customers (Central Point, Eagle Point, Talent, Phoenix, Jacksonville and Ashland), outside City of Medford customers (mainly the White City area) and several small water districts located throughout the Rogue Valley. Each of these customer groups are served in uniquely different ways, necessitating the need for costs to be allocated according to specific service requirements. That said, the Other Cities customers (which includes Central Point) have always felt that distribution of internal administrative/overhead costs to the Other Cities is essentially a subsidy for inside Medford

customers. Moreover, we believe this assertion is supported by the fact that inside Medford customers pay some of the lowest water rates in the State of Oregon.

The preliminary results of the cost of service analysis indicated a need to increase water rates to the Other Cities customer group by 41.6%. Obviously, this would have been a substantial impact to these customers (including Central Point citizens). Knowing that this was neither equitable, nor politically palatable, the Other Cities coordinated an independent cost of service analysis review which challenged many of the cost increases included in the initial 41.6% proposal. Ultimately, the Medford Water Commission Board incorporated many of our concerns and corrections in the final rate adoption, which included a 13% increase to the Other Cities group (new rates take effect on January 1st, 2016).

Like the other cities in the "Other Cities" group, the City of Central Point purchases water from the MWC and subsequently sells that water to Central Point's water customers. Also like most of the Other Cities, Central Point, will be having conversations in the coming months about how

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## Community Christmas Lights Parade

Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015



Parade starts at 5:15 pm • Downtown Central Point  
Join us at City Hall after the parade for fun activities!



Hay Rides  
Games & Crafts  
Visit with Santa Claus  
Kiwanis Book Giveaway  
Tree Lighting (6:00 pm)  
View the floats up close after the parade!

Phone: (541) 664-3321 x130 • [www.centralpointoregon.gov](http://www.centralpointoregon.gov)

December 2015



CentralPointOregon.gov

## Good News for In-Ground Sprinkler Owners

The City of Central Point is implementing a new backflow program beginning January 1, 2016. The City will have residential backflow devices tested on an annual basis by a certified backflow tester. This will be at a substantially reduced cost and a small monthly fee will be added to your water bill. This will ensure our drinking water is safe and the City stays in compliance with the State regulations to avoid cross-connection.

A cross-connection is a direct link between drinking (potable) water and contaminants which may threaten public health and the quality of water in the municipal distribution system such as toxic residues, bacteria and other harmful elements. Cross-connections are prohibited by State and local regulations.

Backflow happens with reversal of the normal direction of water flow which results in undesirable materials entering the public water system. Backflow can occur whenever the water pressure is reduced enough to cause a vacuum or “back siphonage”. The same principle is involved when you drink through a soda straw. Some situations which may cause this include: water main breaks or shut downs for repairs, hydrants opened for flushing or fighting fires, and undersized pipes in your homes.

Much of the focus for our residential backflow prevention program is on underground or in-ground sprinkler systems. Water in irrigation pipes can become contaminated with garden chemicals, micro-organisms and animal feces. That is why landscape irrigation systems always require the installation of a backflow prevention device.

State Health Administrative Rules (OAR 33.61.070) and City Ordinances (CPMC 13.20.060) stipulate that all of these devices, except Automatic Vacuum Breakers, are to be tested each year.

If you have an in-ground sprinkler system and your backflow device has not been tested, you may be receiving a letter from the City stating a City employee will come by to locate the device and get the make, model and serial number.

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## Water Rate Increase Continued...

to “pass along” the Medford Water Commission’s 13% rate increase to our water utility customers, while attempting to minimize financial impact to local citizens.

Additionally, the Medford Water Commission staff is predicting the need for similar rate hikes in coming years; although, their Board has challenged them to reduce costs and mitigate the need for such large future increases. We applaud these statements by the Water Commission Board, and would ask Central Point citizens to support the Other Cities efforts to keep future Medford Water Commission rate increases within general economic inflation levels, rather than the double digit increases that are being imposed at this time.

The residents of the Rogue Valley are very fortunate to have an abundant, clean, and relatively inexpensive water supply and much of the credit for building the foundational water infrastructure is owed to the visionary leaders that first established the Medford Water Commission. Furthermore, the Other Cities have openly praised the Water Commission for allowing their rate analysis process to be open to the public, as well as their willingness to receive our comments, corrections and concerns on the matter. However, the Other Cities continue to believe that a regional approach to providing water would best serve the interests of all the involved communities.

### Committee Vacancies

The City is looking for volunteers to serve on:

- Planning Commission
- Citizen Advisory Commission
- Budget Committee
- Multicultural Committee

Please contact the City Recorder for more information.

## Street light out? Who you gonna call?

Have you ever noticed a street light not working in your neighborhood and wondered why hasn’t the city fixed this light yet, or seen a sprinkler going all crazy in the park and shook your head thinking we are just wasting your tax dollars on water? Unfortunately city employees can’t be everywhere, and we are not usually out at night to check that all the street lights are working, or in the parks at 5:00 a.m. when the parks are being watered. Since this is the we need the help of the citizens with some of these issues.

The Central Point Parks and Public Works Department gets several calls and emails each month reporting issues regarding lights, streets, trees and issues at our parks. Citizen participation to ensure safe streets and parks is appreciated, and our crews depend on accurate reports to resolve these problems in the most timely manner possible. The City provides several different methods to allow citizens the opportunity to report problems. You can call directly during regular business hours or use the online resources on our website, and now you can use a new mobile app called YourGOV to report non-emergency issues.

There is some important information our crews will need in order to resolve the problem. For emergencies, call 911.



### Contact Information:

Website - [www.centralpointoregon.gov](http://www.centralpointoregon.gov) (“Report a Problem” button)

App Store - YourGOV application

When reporting non-emergency problems please, be sure to include the information listed below:

### Public Works 541-664-3321 opt. 4

1. When calling in for a pot hole repair or a street sign that is down the location is very important. An address is best if available and the closest cross street is helpful.

2. There are unique identifiers posted on light poles.

- Pacific Power maintains most street lights in Central Point. Their poles have a yellow plaque at eye level. Be sure to include the numbers and street location when reporting. You can report these directly to PP&L on their website or by calling 1-888-221-7070.
- The City of Central Point maintains the decorative lights around town. These lights have numbered stickers found at the base of the light pole.

3. Be sure to report why you are calling (light out, light flashing, light cycling on/off, street sign down, pot hole, etc.)

### Parks 541-664-3321 opt. 7

1. When reporting an empty dog bag station be sure to include:

- Number/letter found on the bottom right corner of the station.
- The park and location of the box (example - on the Beall end of Flanagan Park).
- Address or closest cross street if not in a park location.

2. When reporting irrigation or other park issues please be specific:

- Location of irrigation problem is on SW corner of Don Jones Park.
- Full trash can in ladies bathroom at Twin Creeks Park .





## Flood Safety Tips to Remember

With the onset of the rainy season, it's important to keep flood preparedness in mind. Since safety is always the top priority during a flood, we have compiled the following list of important flood safety actions. To learn more about flood preparedness, safety and recovery, visit: <http://www.ready.gov/floods> or [www.centralpointoregon.gov](http://www.centralpointoregon.gov).

**Prepare an evacuation plan.** Develop a plan that includes a meeting place outside of the house, as well as an escape route to an area that is safe from floodwaters. Black-up plans are always a good idea, just in case.

**Avoid walking through flood water.** Drowning is the number one cause of flood-related deaths. Currents can be deceptive. Only six inches of moving water can knock an adult off their feet.

**Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.** Electrocutation is the 2nd cause of death during floods. Remember that electrical current travels through water. Report downed power lines by calling 911.

**Turn around, don't drown.** More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers or stream crossings when the road is covered with water. The road or bridge may be washed out.

**Shut off gas and electricity.** Be prepared with a detailed checklist to shut off utilities. You can help prevent gas leaks and shock related deaths and injuries.

**Be alert for gas leaks.** Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

**Look before you step.** After a flood, the ground and floor are covered with debris including broken bottles, nails and mud. Be cautious because these surfaces can be very slippery.

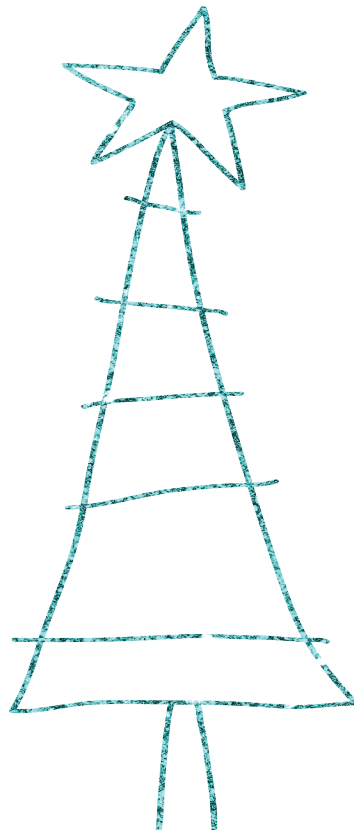
**Look out for animals, especially snakes.** Small animals that have been flooded out of their homes make seek shelter in yours. Use a pole or stick to poke and turn things over and scare away small animals.

## In-ground Sprinklers Continued...

This program applies to residential backflow devices and not commercial ones. The cost for testing will be sent out for bid among local certified testers and the one with the lowest bid will be awarded the contract for the year. The testing fee per customer will be \$12.00 per year with the cost spread over 12 months and included in your monthly water bill (\$1 per month for those that have in ground sprinkler systems and \$0.25 for those that don't). The City will absorb the difference between the actual cost of the test and what residents are billed.

Currently, the cost to have your backflow device tested runs between \$25.00 - 35.00 per test. Our cost will be much lower because of test volume and competitive bids. The benefits to you will be a lower annual cost, the convenience of pre-scheduled testing, and auto pay over a 12 month period. We will not send out reminder letters or additional fees for non-compliance of backflow testing. We will take care of scheduling, testing and the tester payments. We will also pay for any needed backflow device repairs at no cost to you for the first two years of this program.

It is our desire to develop a comprehensive program for the elimination and prevention of cross connections and this program will provide a more convenient and economical way to achieve that goal. If you have questions regarding your backflow device or this program please call at 541-664-7602 ext. 243 or 248.



## December Classes with Parks & Recreation

All classes require pre-enrollment.

Call: (541) 423-1012 to Register

For more upcoming classes, visit our webpage!

**Intro to Acrylic Painting**, Mondays & Wednesdays, November 30 - December 16. This class will introduce color theory and various methods and techniques specific to acrylic painting. Students will create a Pacific Northwest landscape painting.

**Location:** Rec B **Ages:** 9 and up **Cost:** \$57 **Time:** 6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Surviving the Holidays**, Wednesday, December 2. It can be tempting to go above and beyond your budget during the Holidays! Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Southern Oregon (CCCS) is offering an hour and a half class, with a survival packet that includes tips on how to make a budget, lists, and to be an efficient shopper during what can be an overwhelming time of year.

**Location:** Computer Classroom **Ages:** 18 and up **Cost:** \$10

**Time:** 3:00 - 4:30 pm



**Scottish Highland Dance**, Fridays - December 4 - 18.

In this beginners' class in Scottish Highland dance, dancers will learn basic positions and movements. Highland dancing is a style of competitive solo dancing, which combines steps and arm movements requiring technique, strength, and stamina.

**Location:** City Hall Room 1 **Ages:** 5 to 15 **Cost:** \$10 **Time:** 6:00 - 7:00 pm

## City Crews to Trim Trees over Sidewalks

During the next few weeks city crews will be going through the City checking street right-of-ways looking for trees, bushes or shrubs that are obstructing clear vision of street signs, the walking public and/or blocking oncoming traffic.



They will trim the trees, bushes or shrubs that are out of compliance. Over-hanging branches must be a minimum of 8-feet above the sidewalk and 14-feet above the street at the curb. We will make every effort to leave the tree, bush or shrub looking nice and trim only what is needed to bring into compliance.

If you have any questions regarding this or you would prefer to trim the tree/bush yourself please feel free to do so. For questions please call Cyndi in the Public Works at 541-664-7602 ext. 276.



## Dates to Remember

### December

- 1 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 5 - Community Christmas Lights Parade (5:15 pm)
- 10 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 11 - Leaf Pick-Up Day
- 24 & 25 - Christmas Holiday ★
- 31 - New Years Eve

### January

- 1 - New Years Day ★
- 5 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 14 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 12 - Citizens Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day ★
- 28 - City Council Meeting (7 pm)

Meetings are subject to change, please check our website for more information.

★ = City Offices Closed

## City Directory

City Manager  
541-423-1026

Building Permits  
541-423-1973

Code Enforcement  
541-423-1034

Community Development  
541-423-1973

Library (Central Point Branch)  
541-664-3228

Police (Non Emergency)  
541-664-5578

Parks and Recreation  
541-664-3321 ext. 130

Public Works  
541-423-1028

Public Works After Hours  
1-800-726-6476

Utility Billing  
541-664-3321 ext. 204

**CALL 911**  
**for Fire, Medical and**  
**Police Emergencies**

City Hall hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Monday – Friday. Feel free to drop in  
with questions, pay a bill, or just say  
“hello”.

### Final Autumn Leaf Pick-up is December 11<sup>th</sup>

The last leaf pick-up date for 2015 is Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Remember to place sealed bags of autumn leaves weighing no more than 40 lbs in the public right-of-way the night before or no later than 6:30 a.m. on the pick-up day.

If you miss both days of the leaf pick-up service provided by Rogue Disposal, you can take leaves and other green waste directly out to the transfer station. Drop off is free of charge provided that you must empty your own bags, trash cans and other containers.

Contact Rogue Disposal at 541-779-4161 if you have any questions.

## Contact Your **Council**

email: [info@centralpointoregon.gov](mailto:info@centralpointoregon.gov)



Mayor  
Hank Williams  
541-994-0066



Council President  
Bruce Dingler  
541-324-1842



Ward II  
Michael Quilty  
541-621-4853



Ward III  
Brandon Thueson  
503-930-7057



Ward IV  
Allen Broderick  
541-951-7253



At-Large  
Tanea Browning  
541-890-8377



At-Large  
Rick Samuelson  
541-664-1878

If you are not sure who your representative is call 541-423-1026