

Central Point City News

March 2023

Utility Fees

From the desk of City Manager Chris Clayton

The City of Central Point City Council recently conducted a comprehensive study session to review the need to increase, or in some instances, pause increases to the City's utility fees. As you may already know, many cities throughout the region and state have recently increased utility fees significantly due to hyperinflation, which is driving costs higher for all types of materials and services.

Although many cities automatically increase their utility fees annually based on the consumer price index, that has not traditionally been Central Point's policy. More specifically, the City of Central Point Council has historically waited to increase fees until it was absolutely necessary to maintain service levels that increase the quality of life throughout Central Point.

After a lengthy January City Council study session, Staff was directed to prepare legislation to increase certain existing utility fees based on the following.

Current and Proposed Public Safety Fee Information

1. It was established in 2015 by City Council Ordinance 2009. Provides support to Public Safety Functions through the City's General Fund.
2. The current amount collected is \$1.00 per Utility Account Holder (Residential and Commercial).
3. The current fee has never been adjusted, although we have added a minimum of three CPPD police patrol positions since 2015.
4. The proposed increase will adjust the Central Point Public Safety Fee to \$2.00 monthly for both residential and commercial accounts.
5. A \$1.00 increase will support the Police Department Materials and Services Budget and help offset recent hyperinflation.



Current Parks Maintenance Utility Fee Information

1. It was established in 2015 by City Council Ordinance 2008. Provides support to park maintenance through the City's General Fund.

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Utility Fees ... *continued*

2. The current amount collected is \$1.85 per single-family dwelling Utility Account Holder (General, Bear Creek Greenway, and Central Point Cemetery).
3. The current Parks Maintenance fee has never been inflation-adjusted, although we added \$0.85 per month for expanded service related to the Bear Creek Greenway and Central Point Cemetery in 2021.
4. The need for adjustment is based on current inflation and expanding park operations.
5. The proposed increase will adjust the park maintenance fee for single-family residential to \$2.50 per month.

Final Utility Fee Recommendations

1. The City has taken a more proactive approach to maintain water and transportation rates over recent years. As an example, we updated transportation utility rates in late 2021 and are currently updating water rates for 2023.
2. Storm Water utility fees are largely predicated on the completion of capital projects, and at this time, we do not feel an increase in the current monthly fee for stormwater and stormwater quality is warranted because our capital plan is nearing its conclusion.
3. Lastly, Decorative Light and Backflow Utility Fees are stable and provide ongoing maintenance to specific facilities throughout the community. There is no need to consider increasing the fees associated with decorative lights and backflow maintenance.

A primary strategy in Central Point's strategic plan offers the following:

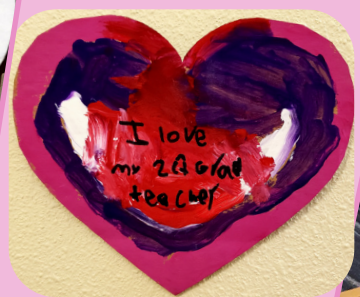
Responsible Governance - GOAL 1 - Maintain a strong financial position that balances the need for adequate service levels and capital requirements against the affordability that is desired by our citizens.

The City of Central Point Council believes in investment to build a better community for the future. The investment comes from many sources, including the utility fees discussed in this article. However, the Central Point City Council also understands the need for affordability, so they created a discount program, which offers a 50% reduction on City of Central Point controlled utilities for income levels below one hundred and fifty percent of federal poverty guidelines. Central Point utility discount program information/applications can be acquired by contacting the City's Finance Department. Or, for basic program information, Central Point Municipal Code (CPMC) chapter 13.16 can be reviewed at the following link: <https://www.codepublishing.com/OR/CentralPoint/#!/html/CentralPoint13/CentralPoint1316.html>





Local elementary students stopped by City Hall and the Police Department to spread some Valentine's cheer. Their artwork has been a big hit for staff and visitors!



EGG HUNT AT 11AM SHARP! BRING YOUR OWN BASKET!

FREE
Event



City of Central Point
EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Saturday April 8th

Twin Creeks Park | 10am-12pm

EGG HUNT 11AM | EASTER BUNNY PHOTOS | GAMES & PRIZES

Daffodil Project a Great Success!

The inaugural year of the Plant a Thousand Daffodils project, a partnership between the Central Point Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Parks Department, was a resounding success! Rain and rock-hard soil didn't deter more than 130 volunteers from planting 1,770 daffodil bulbs in three public parks and two public areas. Several hundred more bulbs were purchased by businesses and individuals and planted on private property.



Central Point and other valley businesses displayed their generosity and community spirit by donating funds and supplies to the program. The Grange Co-Op contributed \$500 in seed money, both Lowe's and Home Depot contributed bulbs and tools, and many other businesses and individuals contributed funds or purchased bulbs for their own landscaping. In all, approximately \$2,000 was raised for the project with more than half of that benefiting the Central Point Parks and Recreation Foundation.



This spring we look forward to seeing daffodils blooming throughout our city. To celebrate, we will hold two contests: a poetry contest for elementary students and an art contest for middle and high school students. Prizes for the poetry contest have been generously sponsored by the Central Point Friends of the Library, and prizes for the art contest will be sponsored by another local organization. Winning entries for both contests will be displayed in Central Point City Hall and printed in this newsletter.

The Parks and Recreation department will create a map to guide all interested parties to the blooms this spring. Signs recognizing donors who contributed \$100 or more will be scattered throughout the planting beds and a "treasure hunt" activity will reward participants with prizes provided by the department.

Jayne Garland and Eden Foster, volunteer co-chairs of the project and foundation board members, want to express their appreciation and gratitude to the many volunteers and contributors who have made this program such a tremendous success. They look forward to seeing the blooming daffodils adding cheer to our wonderful city and to planting even more daffodil bulbs next fall. We're appreciative of those listed below who donated to the project:

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>Matt Epstein</i> | <i>Patsy Peters</i> | <i>Barbara Carleton</i> | <i>Elizabeth & Loren Close</i> |
| <i>Janice Bettenburg</i> | <i>Amy Foster</i> | <i>Shooting Star Nursery</i> | <i>Martina Wearstler</i> |
| <i>David Gremmels</i> | <i>Lucia Smith</i> | <i>Dr. Patrick & Katy Devol</i> | <i>Gajog Taekwondo</i> |
| <i>Eden Foster</i> | <i>Lowe's</i> | <i>Central Point Garden Club</i> | <i>Home Depot</i> |
| <i>Peoples Bank</i> | <i>Grange Coop</i> | <i>Herb & Susan Farber</i> | <i>Fidelity Quick Print</i> |
| <i>Pat Archambault (Michelle Wickham)</i> | | <i>Niner Empire Southern Oregon (Patricia Alvarez)</i> | |

For more information about this project or the Foundation, contact Dave Jacob, Park Planner, at (541) 423 - 1012 or at dave.jacob@centralpointoregon.gov

Publishing of Public Notices

With the closure of the Mail Tribune, for now, the City will be publishing notices in the Grants Pass Daily Courier. Notices will continue to be posted on the City websites as well as on the City Facebook page.



A message from your
CENTRAL POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Bike Safety

Riding a bike is a great way to get exercise in and spend some time outdoors for both kids and adults. It is also an inexpensive and efficient form of transportation for short trips. While bike riding can be a fun activity, it can also lead to potentially dangerous situations if one is not riding safely or using the proper protective equipment.

We ask all bicyclists in the City of Central Point to always be alert when out riding. You may be riding safely, but a motorist still may not see you. As a bicyclist in Oregon during limited visibility conditions (such as at night, early morning, or when weather conditions hinder visibility) you are required to have a white light on the front of your bicycle for visibility of at least 500 feet and a red reflector (or comparable material) mounted on the rear of your bicycle visible for up to 600 feet to motorists with headlights on. See the Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 815.280 - Violation of Bicycle Equipment Requirements, for further information.

Here are some additional tips to ride safely:



- Ride in the same direction as traffic as far on the right-hand side as possible.
- Use hand signals and follow the rules of the road. Be predictable by making sure you ride in a straight line and don't swerve between cars.
- Wear bright colors and use lights, especially when riding at night and in the morning. Reflectors on your clothes and bike will help you be seen.
- Maintain control of your bicycle. Never ride while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Note: Driving under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI) laws apply even when you're riding a bicycle.
- Wear a properly-fitted helmet. Use of helmets is the best way to prevent head injuries and death in the event of a crash, especially for children. In fact, ORS 814.485

details how Oregon law requires any bicyclists under 16 years of age must wear a helmet at all times while riding on a highway or premise open to the public. To ensure the highest level of safety, children should wear a helmet with the correct size for their head and should meet the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) standards.

- Make sure your child knows how to put on their helmet correctly. (A helmet should sit on top of the head in a level position, and should not rock forward, backward or side to side. The helmet straps must always be buckled, but not too tightly.)
- Ride with your children. Stick together until you are comfortable that your kids are ready to ride on their own.



Flood Damage Prevention

Spring 2023

Community Flood Damage Prevention Services

Floods can happen at any time, which is why it is important to be prepared and take steps before a flood event to protect your property from costly damage. There are a variety of flood damage prevention and mitigation options for homeowners - both for newly built homes as well as existing homes located in flood prone areas.

The City offers free flood information and assistance services to promote risk awareness and reduction. Talk to us today about protecting your home or business.

Is My Property In a Flood Zone?



Find out if your property is located within the regulated floodplain, whether flooding has occurred in the past, and if there are environmental or erosion concerns on the site. Understanding a property's flood risk is essential to making informed decisions about real estate, flood insurance and development.

What Services Are Available?



The City offers flood protection assistance to residents to identify problems and potential solutions for building-related concerns, stream bank erosion, and other flood-related concerns. City staff may conduct a site visit and meet with you to identify problems and recommend actions to remedy the concerns.

Is There Any Info About My Property?



The City maintains copies of FEMA Flood Maps, Elevation Certificates and Letters of Map Change for properties in the City. These important documents are used to for flood insurance purposes by lenders and insurance agents and provide useful information about a structure's flood risk. Copies are made available upon request.

Who Do I Contact?

The City's Certified Floodplain Managers (CFMs) are available to answer your floodplain and mitigation questions. You can visit us at City Hall, call the Floodplain Managers, or visit the City's Floodplain Management web pages. See Contact Information below:

City of Central Point - Floodplain Information
Floodplain Development and Property Protection Assistance.
541.664.3321, Ext. 245
Website: <http://www.centralpointoregon.gov/floodplain>



Dates to Remember

March

- 7 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 9 - Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 14 - Citizen's Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 20 - Study Session (6 pm)
- 23 - Council Meeting (7 pm)

April

- 4 - Planning Commission (6 pm)
- 8 - Central Point Eggstravaganza (10 am)
- 11 - Citizen's Advisory Committee (6 pm)
- 13 - Council Meeting (7 pm)
- 17 - Study Session (6 pm)
- 27 - Council Meeting (7 pm)

* = City Hall Closed

Meetings are subject to change. Please check our website www.centralpointoregon.gov for more information.

City Directory

City Manager
541-423-1026

Building Permits
541-423-1973

Code Enforcement
541-664-5578

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
541-423-1021

Public Works After Hours
541-326-3682

Utility Billing
541-664-3321 ext. 204

CALL 911 for Fire, Medical and Police Emergencies

City Hall is open 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Monday – Friday.
Feel free to drop in with questions,
pay a bill, or just to say “hello”.

Contact Your *Council*

email: info@centralpointoregon.gov



Mayor

Hank Williams
541-944-0066



Ward I

Neil Olsen
541-664-7935



Ward II

Kelley Johnson
541-499-8977



Ward III

Melody Thueson
503-856-6822



Ward IV

Tanea Browning
541-890-8377



At-Large

Mike Parsons
541-554-3892



At-Large

Rob Hernandez
541-840-1841

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