

## Public Weekend Update

### Happy New Year!

There are so many great things going on in the City right now.

**Budget Advisory Committee** – The City council asked the budget committee to meet in a non-formal capacity to review several decisions with regard to the current year and upcoming budget. Many of the committee members said they were grateful that they were asked to help deliberate with the council.

**Brownfields** – Ontario's Community Development Director successfully applied for nearly \$600,000 in brownfields grant eligible for Ontario, Nyssa, Vale, and Malheur County. The Brownfields Advisory Committee met this week to kick-off the application process.

**Refinancing** – We will be able to refinance some water and wastewater bonds to save about \$40,000 a year in those funds.

### Housing Incentive Program

We have finalized the application and process for the housing incentive program. We are utilizing the building loan fund to pay builders or prospective homeowners a \$10,000 cash incentive for building in Ontario. The loan will be replenished by the City moving the new property taxes to the building loan fund until it is made whole. Check out our [web page](#) if you are interested.

### Fire and Rescue

Our Fire and Rescue staff practiced cold water rescue techniques and used their equipment to accomplish these objectives. Coincidentally, we had to use these skills just a couple of days later. They also reviewed all of their radio operations and had a couple of different nights of search and rescue drills, incorporated the use of the thermal image camera.

We have had a couple of incidents due to our weather, one is the cold water/ ice incident mentioned above and the other involved a space heater and the dangers involved with using them. We also had two Haz-Mat incidents that both involved vehicle accidents of large trucks and fuel spills.

**Parks and Recreation** - The Parks and Recreation Committee met this week. There will be an abbreviated update of our Parks Master Plan in the next few months.

Basketball league games start in the morning (Saturday, January 13, 2018). We will have games every Saturday for the next six weeks. We have 117 kids playing basketball this year- that is up from 99 kids last year.

## **Public Works**

### Field Service

A sign was erected in Lions Park sharing funding information for the Splash Pad

### Water

The first round of lead and copper sampling began this week, this sampling is mandated by the state and is done routinely twice per year. Samples are taken from 60 homes in town to provide information related to lead and copper in our drinking water system.

An internal lab audit was performed for both water and wastewater labs by an independent company. This helps assure proper procedures and methods are being followed.

### Wastewater

A leak in our effluent line was repaired on Tuesday of this week. The system is fully functional.

We are currently discharging our effluent to the Snake River, normal discharge amounts are roughly 1.5 to 1.8 million gallons per day. This will continue through April of next year as per the permit requirement.

### Parks and Cemetery

This is the time for tree pruning in parks. Please be careful of crews working on trees.

We experienced some vandalism at Beck Park at the lift station there, graffiti was left on the building and doors, it was cleaned the next day. Being a watchful neighbor can discourage this type of behavior.

## **Airport**

The new taxiway lights, lighted taxiway signs and airport lighting over the jet parking area continue to draw the attention of pilots taking off and landing at the Ontario airport.