



## *FRIDAY LETTER*

*FEBRUARY 3, 2012*

### **POLICE**

Weeks of January 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>:

Chief Alexander, Sergeant Esplin, Sgt Kee and Sgt Mallea attended the Executive Leadership Training Seminar in Seaside the week of the 16<sup>th</sup>. The seminar was sponsored by the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriff's Association. Association meetings and executive training was provided. Attendees heard about legislative updates, social media issues, and liability. Chief Alexander was elected to the Board of Directors to represent District 14, which is comprised of several Eastern Oregon Counties.

Chief Alexander accepted a nomination to be one of the newest board members for the Boys and Girls Club of Western Treasure Valley this month. Chief Alexander has supported the Boys and Girls Club mission "To enable all young people, especially those that need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens". By investing in our youth today, the chances of them being involved in the criminal justice system tomorrow is reduced.

On Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at about 12:24pm, the Ontario Police Department responded to a nine (9) vehicle crash in downtown Ontario, Oregon. A red 2009 Dodge pick-up was being operated by 82 year-old Theodore Koch from Ontario, as he backed from a parking space on SW 3rd Avenue, between South Oregon Street and SW 1st Street. Mr. Koch was the sole occupant of his vehicle.

Mr. Koch backed into a 1999 Chevrolet pick-up, which was forced into a red 2002 PT Cruiser. Mr. Koch then went forward, facing west on SW 3rd Avenue. Witnesses state the vehicle accelerated to the point the pick-up's tires were spinning and smoking.

Mr. Koch travelled westbound on SW 3rd Avenue at a high rate of speed, disobeying the stop sign at SW 1st Street and then hitting a 2003 Ford pick-up, which was parked in the 100 block of SW 3rd Avenue. A chain reaction then occurred where three additional vehicles, A 2004 Land Rover, a 2004 Acura and a 2006 Ford Taurus were damaged by the Ford pickup. The Ford pickup also hit a tree which was within the sidewalk.

Mr. Koch then turned to his left, going south into a parking lot where he hit two more vehicles, a 1996 Oldsmobile Aurora and a 2001 Volkswagon Jetta before coming to a stop.

Mr. Koch sustained non-life threatening injuries and was transported by ambulance to St Alphonsus Hospital in Ontario. Fortunately, the eight vehicles that were struck were unoccupied. Four of the vehicles had to be towed from the scene. The scene contained substantial and extensive damage. Mr. Koch told an investigating officer that the accelerator to his pickup became stuck. Alcohol is not believed to be a factor in this incident. The investigation into the cause of the crash remains under investigation.

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at about 5:30pm, the Ontario Police Department responded to shots fired in the 200 block of NW 6rd Street in Ontario, Oregon. A black pickup was observed being associated to the shooting.

An occupied home had been the target of the shooting. The home sustained damage from the gunshots. No one inside the residence was injured. An occupant of the home had been in a dispute with the suspect who fired the shots. The suspect was identified as 29 year-old Lazaro "Larry" Garcia, with a last known address of Ontario.

The vehicle fled the area and was located on NW 16th Ave in Fruitland, Idaho at about 5:50pm without the suspect being inside. At about 6:45pm, Lazaro Garcia was located in a different vehicle. He was arrested after a traffic stop was made by the Payette County Sheriff's Office on Washoe Road.

Lazaro Garcia was arrested for Attempted Murder and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and was lodged in the Payette County Jail. He was later transferred to the Malheur County Jail.

On Thursday, February 2, 2012 at about 3:00pm, the Ontario Police Department responded to an attempted carjacking at Lifeways, located at 702 Sunset Drive in Ontario. A 21 year-old female from Ontario was in the parking lot with her baby and 2002 Dodge Neon passenger car. A male subject approached on foot where he physically and forcefully took the keys from the female during an altercation. A witness was able to secure the female's baby while another called 9-1-1. The victim was not seriously injured in the incident.

The male suspect entered the Dodge Neon and attempted to leave with the vehicle. Not being able to start the vehicle, the suspect fled the scene. The suspect was located by an Ontario Police Officer a short distance away and was taken into custody. The suspect was identified as 25 year-old John Jacob Riggs of Ontario. He was arrested for Robbery III and a felony warrant issued out of Payette County, Idaho for Obstructing Police. Mr Riggs was lodged in the Malheur County Jail.

### **Code Enforcement:**

The weather has finally decided to act like winter, and with that includes lots of rain and snow. Ordinance enforcement would like to remind you that if, and when, it snows hard and sticks around for more than two hours, you need to have the sidewalks on your property cleaned off within 48 hours of snowfall. You can read this entire ordinance in the City of Ontario Municipal Code on the City website. The ordinance number is 8-3-8.

Thank you to all that are participating in the graffiti removal program. So far this has become quite a success. Councilor Norm Crume will be quite busy this weekend with ten properties to clean up. Thank you again Councilor for helping us with this program. If you own property that has been tagged with graffiti at least once in the past, and you would like to become part of this program, please contact Ordinance Ofc. L Hansen at 541-889-5312 ext. 2306



Numbers:  
Dog Running at Large-8  
Cruelty To Animal- 4  
Parking Complaint- 4  
Follow up-90

## **FIRE**

January 20 through January 27, 2012

We responded to **31** medical calls during the week-  
30 City / 1 Rural

We responded to **2** fire calls during the week-  
1 City / 1 Rural

**1-21-12 RURAL –Good intent call- 430 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St.:** Called out by homeowner; potholders in bottom of oven caught fire. They were able to extinguish the fire prior to our arrival. Kitchen was full of smoke, no fire. After removing potholders from the kitchen and disposing of them, we cleared the scene.

**1-26-12 CITY- Unauthorized Burn- N Verde Dr. & NW 15<sup>th</sup> St.:** Called out to a controlled burn that was taking place earlier that day; neighbors noticed a rekindle in the pile of debris. Arrived on scene and noticed a small log with an ember. Advised the neighbor that there was no hazard to the situation and cleared the scene.

**Training:**

**1-24-11 Tuesday drill- Search & Rescue with Thermal Imaging- Instructors- Kevin Smith, Brule Lehman and Dave Lockner:** Instructors had 3 stations set up at the apartments with heat sources and ran Search & Rescue drills. The rooms were full of smoke (courtesy of the Training staff's new smoke machine), which required the use of thermal imaging. There were also a few "Mayday" drills performed.



**Great job with the Station Tour- Lonnie Justus, Jared Gammage & Frank Grimaldo!  
1-25-12 Ontario MCCDC preschool class**

January 27 through February 3, 2012

We responded to **29** medical calls during the week-  
28 City / 1 Rural

We responded to **5** fire calls during the week-  
4 City / 1 Rural

**1-27-12 RURAL- Building fire- 1396 NW 9<sup>th</sup> St.:** Call came in as house on fire, smoke coming from the attic vents. It was thought at first that there may be a baby still inside, however the fire crew search of the interior found that the house was empty. The fire started from an electrical outlet located on south wall of the living room, where a 120 volt 1500 watt electric heater had been plugged in. The family had just started to move in and had very little furnishings so content loss was minimal. Special thanks and recognition go to **John Bishop** and **Casey Mordhorst** from the City shop. They noticed the fire from the shop and helped the family evacuate the house. Great job guys!!



**1-28-12 CITY- Alarm sounded due to malfunction- 1377 Nadine Dr.:** R-1 called for fire alarm. Upon arrival R-1 was met by an employee of the facility stating that lunch was burned and had been detected. System reset after slight smoke cleared.

**1-30-12 CITY- Alarm sounded due to malfunction- 1390 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.:** Called to fire alarm at ODOT building. Alarm was reset with no problem found.

**2-1-12 CITY- Alarm sounded due to malfunction- 1390 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.:** Called to fire alarm in zone 2. Upon arrival visual and audible alarms were sounding. R-1 made exterior drive around, then made access to building with Knox box. Search was performed, no smoke was found and alarm was silenced. Alarm was reset, alarm showed normal.

**2-2-12 CITY – Dispatched and canceled en route- 1775 E Idaho Ave.:** Dispatched for request from the manager of a "hot" spot on the roof with the smell of smoke. Canceled upon arrival; manager stated that a belt had burned up on one of the units on the roof. Their maintenance person had it under control.

## **Training:**

**1-31-12 Tuesday drill- Ice Rescue- Instructor- Mark Saito:** Staff practiced with the Rescue Alive at Beck Kiwanis Pond.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Feb. 3, 2012

### **Water Treatment**

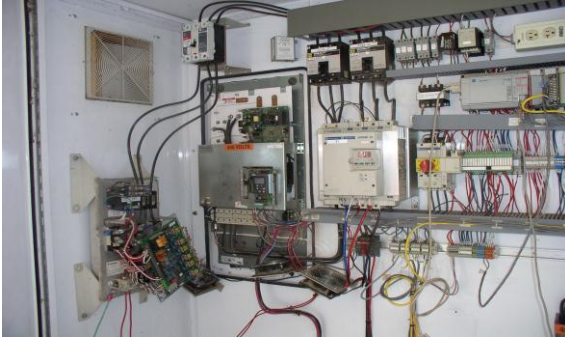
- We are in the process of conducting repairs to the air feed lines located in the clarifier of the WestTec.
- Well #4 rehabilitation is completed (other than the flow meter). This well has demonstrated a capability of providing more water than originally anticipated.
- Well #6 electrical wiring repairs are completed.
- The main feed pump #4 is repaired and back on line.

### **Wastewater Treatment**

- Skyline Reclamation Facility - Solids Project: We have successfully removed the solids from the reservoir in a manner that will allow staff to access the pipe needing an extension installed.



- Repairs to the Malheur Reclamation Facility Irrigation Pump System have been assessed in effort to make this system safe and operable.



- Rock has been ordered and delivered for our Annual Treatment Lagoon - Dike Maintenance Program.

## Operations

- Utility Crews, along with staff from the Wastewater Treatment Plant, have been working on removing soils from the Skyline Reuse Facility Reservoir in an effort to install new fittings on the outfall pipe that serves the irrigation pump for the farm. This is being done to extend the height of the intake to above the level of the sludge that washed into the reservoir several years ago during a flash flood. It is very cold and dirty work, but the guys are doing a great job.





Directing slurry from reservoir to outfall pipe for disposal into drying beds



Digging path through soils in the reservoir to transport pipefittings to the outfall pipe

- Street crews have been working on putting together a barricade and sign trailer using a trailer donated to Public Works from the Fire Dept. This will be very handy to use on big traffic control jobs such as chip sealing, paving jobs and various community functions.



New Barricade/sign trailer in progress

- Street crews have also been working on various PW equipment, getting it service and repaired for the summer season
- We would also like to welcome Aaron Huska as our newest addition to the Street Dept. Aaron started working on January 17, 2012.

## Project Update

- Lift Station Upgrade Project –The General Contractor continues working on the Tapadera Lift Station. After some problems of getting the by-pass pumping system to work, they finally got it to work and the lift station was taken off line. They have removed most of the existing piping and electrical systems. The electrical subcontractor is in the process of installing the new electrical controls. The General Contractor’s concrete wet well lid supplier cast the access hatch into the lid backward. The City gave them the option of removing the entire wet well vault lid and recasting it or moving the hatch to the opposite side of the hatch frame. They opted to move the hatch lid to the opposite side. They are finalizing the repair of the aluminum frame by welding the pieces back into the previous locations of the hinges and replacing the bracket for the hatch safety lock back system. They hope to have a start up on this lift station within the next week or two.
- E Idaho Ave Paving and Traffic Modification (Ontario) Sec. – City staff was unsuccessful in finding the utility easement for the water mainlines and fire hydrants at the NE corner of East Lane and E Idaho Ave. This easement must not have been finalized and recorded when the water system was installed back in the 1990’s. We are working with ODOT staff on relocating the east most fire hydrant up on the embankment to the north between the proposed retaining wall and the north edge of the ODOT easement. The General Contractor, Kerr Contractors, plans on starting this work on Monday February 7, 2012 with the installation of temporary signing. City utility crews will need to have the fire hydrants relocated by the end of this month.
- NW Washington Ave – Noting new to report.
- N Park Blvd Sanitary Sewer and Water System Improvements – Nothing new to report.
- SE 2<sup>nd</sup> St Design – City staff continues with the review the 90% design drawings. This review should be completed by the end of the week and forward to the engineers for the corrections needed.

- NW 36<sup>th</sup> St Bridge (Malheur Co.) – City staff attended a pre-bid meeting for this project yesterday (1/31/12). There were quite a few contractors at this meeting. The county should receive competitive bids for this project. Staff reiterated the need for the successful contractor to work closely with us to insure that the existing City owned utilities are retained and protected during this project. The two sanitary sewer force mainlines that receive the sewer from SRCI and run parallel to this bridge are very critical for the operation and need to remain in service at all times.
- TVCC Science Building – The general contractor is starting the excavation work for this new building.
- LS Networks (Fiber Optic) – This project is nearing completion. Staff will perform a final punch list walk through to verify the restoration improvements are completed to City standards.
- Skyline Reservoir – Staff has been working on dewatering the reservoir to be able to access the outfall pipe location inside of the reservoir. Thanks to diligent work to dewater the reservoir, staff will be starting the pumping of the slurry material out onto prepared drying beds onsite today. Once the area around the outfall pipe is cleared of the mud, staff will be able to determine the needed pipe support system to support the pipe and fittings being added to the system to get the outfall up and out of the mud. Hopefully this project will be completed by the end of this week.
- Water Treatment Plant – Nothing new to report.
- Underpass Engineering Study – Nothing new to report.
- Street Signage Inventory – City staff is about 80% complete with collection of the signage data.
- Septage Receiving Facility – Staff continues working on revising the Autocad drawings and specifications for this project. Once the revisions are completed to the plans and specifications, staff will be advertising this project for bid.
- Asset Management – Nothing new to report.
- Project Dove Alley – Last week there was a sanitary sewer backup and spill on the line just west of N Oregon St between NW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave and NW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. City staff is working on collecting survey data to determine if this undersized sanitary sewer line can be replaced. The existing sewer line is a 6” line for most of the line then reduces down to 4” at the north end. There are multiple connections to this line and there are plans on connecting additional services to it when buildings are built for Project Dove.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### Planning

- For the week of January 23 through January 29 we issued one mechanical permit totaling \$49 in fees. The total permits for the month of January thus far were five permits totaling \$459 in fees.

- We issued three structural permits this week totaling \$422 in fees. The total permits for the month of January thus far were twelve permits totaling \$63,425 in fees.

## Engineering

- We had one design meeting for a new business looking into locating in Ontario.

## Facilities

- A water leak developed inside the wall between the men's restroom and the Police Administration office. The leak is a result of the deteriorating condition of the hot water galvanized piping that remains inside the walls at City Hall. All accessible hot water piping in the building was replaced recently.



Jan. 12, 2012

- Early in January, four gas tanks were removed from the old Morrison Property across from City Hall on SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. This was paid for by the Department of Environmental Quality. There were two large tanks, in addition to two smaller tanks.



## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

January 27, 2012

### **Building**

- For the week of January 16 through January 22 we issued one mechanical permit totaling \$77 in fees. The total permits for the month of January thus far were four permits totaling \$410 in fees.
- We issued four structural permits this week totaling \$59,877 in fees. The total permits for the month of January thus far were seven permits totaling \$62,073 in fees.