



GP Now

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August 2021

Grants Pass, OR FREE

**Get Involved!
Committee Openings**
ADMINISTRATION Page 2

**Nominate Volunteer
of the Year**
CITY HALL Page 3

**Art Along
The Rogue**
FEATURES Page 4

**Historic Marathon
Marker Dedicated**
FEATURES Page 5

**Looking For
A New Career?**
CAREERS Page 6



Major Reconstruction Continues on Redwood Hwy

The \$5 million project is being completed by state contractor Knife River Materials.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) announced construction began June 14 on a \$5 million project to upgrade Redwood Highway between Oregon 99 and the Applegate River. Drivers should anticipate occasional detours, minor delays and reduced work zone speed limits during the project work.

State contractor Knife River Materials will begin improving the first of 34 curb ramps in the area of the ‘South Y’ intersection. Curb ramps will be upgraded to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Temporary pedestrian access routes will be signed at each intersection.

In early July, nighttime paving began in three sections of Redwood Highway, skipping two areas of the highway paved in previous improvements. During the paving, drivers should expect a 45-mph construction zone speed limit 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Sunday through Thursday through the duration of the project.

Night paving of the southern portion of the project from

near Hubbard Lane to the Applegate River will be under the guidance of pilot cars. This will ensure a safe work zone speed for drivers and workers.

Drivers should anticipate day and night single-lane traffic through the work zone, depending on the direction being paved. During the night work, flaggers will direct residents at driveways and those accessing the highway from side roads.

For more information, contact Gary Leaming at (541)621-3074.

Inaugural Photo Contest

The City of Grants Pass Public Works Department is seeking photo entries for the 2021 ‘Importance of Your Water’ Photo Contest. All levels of photographers, from amateur hobbyists to local professionals, are encouraged to enter.

Photos must be submitted in digital format suitable for reproduction. All photos are subject to creative cropping and manipulation needed for the formatting of the city’s annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) or any additional printed or digital materials used.

First place contest winner will receive a \$150 prize, photo placement and credit on the city’s post card notification and CCR, as well as announcement

on the City of Grants Pass website with proper photo credit. Second place winners will receive a \$75 prize and photo placement in the city’s CCR and announcement on the City of Grants Pass website with proper credit.

Deadline:

5 p.m. Dec. 17, 2021

Contest winners will also be featured in the city’s GP Now newsletter, social media posts, and promotional activities, as well as receive recognition at a Grants Pass City Council meeting.

Deadline for entry is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17.

Early entries are accepted so that photographers have time to

plan for the best weather and lighting conditions to capture their images.

Photos will be judged for the best-suited photo representing the ‘Importance of Your Water’ theme for use in the CCR and other printed materials. Submitted photos will become the property of the City of Grants Pass and may be used for additional materials without any restrictions.

Photographers may request forms to be mailed to them by calling (541)450-6110.

Details of photo contest rules and entry forms are available online at: <https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/1434/Importance-of-Your-Water-Photo-Contest>

GP City Social Media

The City of Grants Pass has four active social media accounts, with the number of followers and subscribers to each account growing every day.

The most popular platform is the city’s Facebook account with more than 5,000 followers.

The city’s Instagram account is adding more than 115 followers per month. Residents who wish to remain informed of city activities can visit the city’s social media pages.

<https://www.facebook.com/grantspassoregon>

Twitter: @CityGrantsPass

IG: @grantspassoregon

Nextdoor: <https://nextdoor.com/agency/city-of-grants-pass>

www.GrantsPassOregon.gov

Get Involved! Join a City Committee

One of the best ways citizens can directly get involved with their city government and make a contribution to their community is by serving on a city committee or commission.

The City of Grants Pass has multiple committees and commissions designated to assist the community in areas of housing development, economic development, public art, biking and hiking trails, urban trees, and more.

There are currently multiple openings across several different committees. Residents should consider volunteering to help make a difference in the future of Grants Pass.

Housing Advisory Committee

Applications are being accepted for two positions on the City of Grants Pass Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) due to expiring terms. These are three-year appointments.

The HAC explores opportunities to facilitate the provision of housing for all income levels, and it makes recommenda-

tions to the city council. It also promotes public awareness of housing resources and promotes public participation in identifying and addressing housing issues and needs.

The city council may authorize HAC to conduct those public hearings specified in the city's Community Development Block Grant citizen participation plan, which are not reserved to the city council for decision-making.

There are special qualifications for these positions. One must be filled by a representative from a financial institution or lender and one must be filled by a representative who is a renter in the low-to-moderate income category (LMI).

Applications are available at the City Administration Office, 101 N.W. A St., or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-application.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 13. Applications will be reviewed by the committee Friday, Aug. 20. Appointments will be made by the city council at their meeting Wednesday, Sept. 1.

Collaborative Economic Development Committee

Applications are being ac-

cepted for two positions on the Collaborative Economic Development Committee (CEDC) due to one expiring term and one resignation. These are three-year appointments.

The CEDC is an advisory committee to the City of Grants Pass and Josephine County and will be responsible for the implementation of the joint Economic Development Strategic Plan adopted by the Grants Pass City Council and Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

The Economic Development Strategic Plan can be found on the city website: <https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/DocumentCenter/View/9932/Economic-Development-Strategic-Plan>.

Target areas include: services, infrastructure, and workforce development. All members of the CEDC must be at least 18 years of age and reside within the boundaries of Josephine County.

The special qualifications/experience for these two positions include one representative from the manufacturing/industrial industry, and one member-at-large.

Applications are available at the City Administration Of-

fice, 101 N.W. A St., or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-application.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 20. Applications will be reviewed by the committee Thursday, Aug. 26. Appointments will be made by the city council at their meeting Wednesday, Sept. 1.

Urban Tree Committee

Applications are being accepted for four positions on the City of Grants Pass Urban Tree Advisory Committee due to expiring terms. These are two-year appointments.

The purpose of the UTAC is to review, develop, and implement programs and activities which promote, protect and enhance the city's urban forest as a part of the Tree City USA program.

Applications are available at the City Administration Office, 101 N.W. A St., or online at www.grantspassoregon.gov/committee-application.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 3. Applications will be reviewed by the committee Monday, Sept. 13. Appointments will be made by the city council at their meeting Wednesday, Sept. 15.

Contacting The Council

The mayor and councilors are volunteers and do not keep regular office hours. They can be contacted by:

Phone, email, or by regular mail at 101 NW A Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526.

The City Council appreciates hearing from citizens. Your questions are handled as follows:

Questions sent by email that are technical in nature will receive a direct response from staff.

Questions regarding policy decisions will be referred to Council for their consideration and response. The mayor and council members can be emailed collectively at: mayorcouncil@grantspassoregon.gov.

Council will only respond to emails with a disclosed name and address.

Please note that all emails become a part of the public record.

GP Now
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(541)450-6000

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TYP0 TALLY!

A wise old editor once said: "Typos are here for those who won't be happy until they find one."

Thousands of words composed of thousands of letters means we are bound to get a few out of place. Let us know when you find them!

Kelly Busch of our own GPDPS pointed out transposed numbers in a phone number listed for her in the July issue. Great catch, Kelly!

Can you find any typos in this August issue?

Email us to let us know, and we'll thank you in print right here in the next issue!
ssabel@grantspassoregon.gov

Accepting Nominations: Volunteer of the Year

The City of Grants Pass is accepting nominations from the public for its annual Volunteer Group of the Year Award and individual Volunteer of the Year Award. The deadline to submit nominations is 3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 9. The awards will be presented at the Mayor's Volunteer Dinner Thursday, Sept. 9.

The Volunteer Group of the Year Award recognizes a community group that has made a significant contribution to the overall health and livability of the City of Grants Pass.

The winning group will be selected based on significant impacts made through enabling and empowering individuals to improve their knowledge and skills toward a greater quality of life; demonstrating exceptional commitment to volunteerism by helping with a special project or ongoing activities; demonstrating exemplary leadership, creativity, cooperation and hard work in their service to others; and/or demonstrating outstanding contribution to the community through their volunteer service.

Nomination forms for Volunteer Group of the Year are available at: <https://bit.ly/2UM-jSwv>

The Volunteer of the Year Award is annually given to an individual for making a broad and substantial impact on the community. This award recognizes an individual's leadership in promoting non-profit causes and organizations. The nominee's activities need to have been centered in the Grants Pass area.

Recognition will be given for leadership and performance for work above and beyond his/her paid profession. The nominee should have participated in a

broad scope of activities.

Applications will be evaluated based on demonstration of exceptional commitment to volunteerism by helping with a special project or ongoing activities; demonstrating exemplary leadership, creativity, cooperation and hard work in their service to others; and demonstrating outstanding contribution to the community through their volunteer service. Nomination forms for Volunteer of the Year are available at: <https://bit.ly/2T9a4wn>

Return completed nomination forms to City Recorder Karen Frerk, 101 NW A St., Grants Pass, OR 97526, or email to: kferk@grantspassoregon.gov.

Council Community Connection

Join members of the Grants Pass City Council for discussion and conversation about various city programs, agenda items, and other issues of public interest at Council Community Connection events 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on select Fridays each month.

Each Council Community Connection session will feature two city councilors who will be available to answer questions, receive comments, and exchange ideas with members of the public.

This month's events are Aug. 13 and 27 in the City Hall Ridge Room #108, 101 NW A St. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, visit the city's website: <https://www.grantspassoregon.gov>.

Animal Carcass Removal Options

The City of Grants Pass does not provide animal disposal services for animal carcasses discovered on private property. Animal carcasses cannot be placed in personal garbage cans.

Residents have several available options of agencies and organizations they can contact for assistance. Always use protective equipment when handling a dead animal, and always be sure to wash hands and other items that come in contact with a dead animal.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
1495 E Gregory Rd
Central Point, OR 97502
<https://myodfw.com/>
541-826-8774

Depending on certain factors (weather, time of death), a carcass may be salvaged by Wildlife Images. It is up to them to determine if they want the carcass. It is possible that they could retrieve the carcass from a citizen's property, but it is not a guarantee that they will have staff available.

Wildlife Images
11845 Lower River Rd
Grants Pass, OR 97526
<https://wildlifeimages.org/>
541-476-0222

Southern Oregon Sanitation will accept animal carcasses at their Redwood Avenue Transfer Station. The carcass must be well wrapped in plastic, and there is a minimum \$15 fee for acceptance.

Southern Oregon Sanitation Transfer Station
1381 Redwood Ave
Grants Pass, OR 97527
<https://www.sosanitation.com/>
541-479-5335

Animal Disposal of Southern Oregon will retrieve animal carcasses for a minimum fee of \$125.

Animal Disposal of Southern Oregon
17095 Hwy 62
Eagle Point, OR
<http://www.animaldisposalofsouthernor.com/>
541-326-2627

A1 Critter Solutions will also retrieve carcasses for a minimum fee of \$150.

A1 Critter Solutions
<http://www.a1crittersolutions.com/>
541-301-0268

R & B Disposal in White City will only pick up deer carcasses. Their minimum fee is \$185.

R&B Disposal
PO Box 2095
White City, OR
<https://rbdisposal.business.site/>
541-890-7382

Downtown Parklets to Remain Through October

Downtown parklets established to assist local restaurants with providing outdoor seating during COVID-19 restrictions, will remain in Grants Pass through the end of October.

A Parklet Addendum to Sidewalk Café Permits established to provide for the popular Euro-style dining attractions is no longer in effect. The addendum authorized the use of designated parklet space for a temporary period due to restrictions put in place by Governor Executive Order No. 20-27.

The Oregon risk-based system of regulations ended at midnight June 30.

Due to the popularity of the outdoor dining feature, the Grants Pass City Council has directed city staff to explore and evaluate the feasibility and design of potential permanent parklets for the future.

Staff will return to the council with details about various options for consideration at a future date.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

**Grants Pass
has 196 acres of
developed parkland
comprising 18
different city parks
of various sizes.**

Art Along The Rogue Seeks Artists, Vendors

The event will take place in downtown Oct. 1-3.

The City of Grants Pass Committee on Public Art is accepting applications from local artists and vendors to participate in the return of Art Along The Rogue to be held Oct. 1-3. The Art Along The Rogue subcommittee will select several featured artists, as well as multiple participation artists to create chalk and paint images on the street during the weekend event.

Artist applications are available online at: <https://travelgrantspass.com/art-along-the-rogue/artist-application/>

The subcommittee will select vendors based upon variety and suitability of products to the venue and available vendor space. Vendor booth space is \$80 for the event. Some vendor spaces may have power available for an additional \$20 charge.

Vendor applications are available online at: <https://travelgrantspass.com/vendor-application/>

Artists must include an image of the art they hope to produce. All proposed creations must adhere to event criteria explained in the application.

Those who wish to be considered for a featured artist designation need to provide samples of previous work. Featured artists receive a stipend for their participation. Artists can also procure their own sponsors to obtain a space. Space is limited.

In addition to street painting and chalk artists, event orga-



nizers are seeking artists in a variety of other art mediums, including oil and watercolor artists, sculptors, potters, jewelry makers, mixed media artists, musicians and more to demonstrate their art making during the event and work in conjunction with planned interactive art activities designed to introduce young people to various art forms.

“The goal of the committee is to open up the event to artists of all types while exposing young people to the artistic process of the artists and providing hands-on activities for young people to experience their own art-making,” said Information Coordinator Steven Sabel.

Sabel is the city staff member serving as liaison to the Art Along The Rogue planning committee.

Vendors must include information and images of the products they wish to sell. The committee is committed to selecting vendors who will not replicate products sold by other vendors.

Artist vendors will be given

priority where possible. Local nonprofit organizations will also be given priority and nonprofit organizations wishing to host an interactive booth can have their vendor space fees waived by the committee.

For additional information, contact Sabel at (541)450-6011.

Artists Wanted For Art Box Project

The City of Grants Pass in partnership with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) seeks artists interested in submitting artwork to be used as part of a community beautification project that will feature local art on utility boxes in the city.

Interested artists must submit proposed artwork to the city by Sept. 3 for consideration. Proposals will be reviewed by the city’s Committee on Public Art for recommendation to the city council and ODOT for final approval. Selected artists will receive a \$250 stipend.

Artists shall provide existing artwork that can be converted to a vinyl wrap or produce color renditions of proposed art to be painted directly on the utility box by the artist. The painting process will require more coordination with ODOT and the artist.

If the painting method is chosen, the artist will coordinate

with a city representative and receive appropriate paint materials provided by the city.

The artwork should focus on nature-based elements and enliven the area, transform the street, and reflect the neighborhood or area where the utility box is located. The art should be visible from a distance, therefore artists may choose to utilize bold colors and designs. Artists may submit more than one concept.

Full application details and art specifications can be found at the city’s website: <https://bit.ly/3gMD6uB>

For additional information contact Business Advocate Susan Seereiter at (541)450-6014, or by email: sseereiter@grantspassoregon.gov.

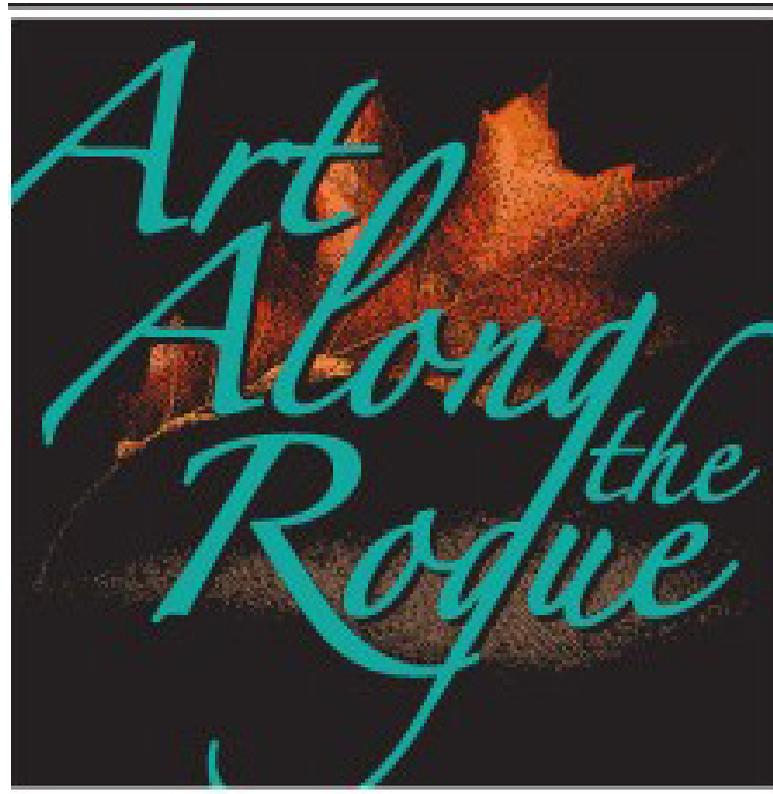
Receive City Email Alerts

Members of the public who wish to be notified about breaking city news, can join the city’s email subscriber list, where preferences regarding the receipt of notices can be personalized by each recipient.

Choose to receive information regarding street closures, public safety information, street sweeping, burn windows, city agendas, job postings, press releases, committee openings, public forums, community surveys, requests for proposals, and so much more!

Members of the public who wish to be notified when new issues of GP Now are available at the website, can also join the city’s email subscriber list:

<https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/list.aspx>



Historic Marathon Honored With Downtown Marker

The historic “Redwood Empire Indian Marathon,” which occurred in 1927, was honored with an official marker in downtown Grants Pass at the site of the marathon finish line. The marker was dedicated at a ceremony July 21.

Chairman of the Karuk Tribal Council Russell Attebery and other members of the tribe were present for the dedication, along with local dignitaries and members of a reenactment of the marathon that occurred in 1987.

Ward Warren, chair of the city’s Historical Buildings and Sites Commission, described the marker as “an attractive and appropriate addition to our historic district.”

The purpose of the original marathon was to promote the

route through the Redwood Empire, a newly-paved highway at the time, beginning in San Francisco and ending in Grants Pass.

The event was an actual foot race between 11 Native American participants. The route traversed each of the towns and cities along the 480-mile Redwood Empire route. The finish line was at Sixth and G streets in downtown Grants Pass.

Participants had to run or walk the entire distance but could stop for rest or sleep as they wished. Each participant was allowed a support car. John Wesley Southard was the first to cross the finish line June 21, 1927, with a time of seven days, 12 hours and 34 minutes.

The marker was constructed with funds obtained by the Umpqua Joe Chapter of the E.

Clampus Vitus historical society through a grant from the Four Way Foundation.

To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the marathon in 1987, Grants Pass High School cross country and track coach Wayne Morrow led five other GPHS alums in a reenactment of the marathon. When they crossed the finish line in Grants Pass, the 83-year-old Southard was there to congratulate them.

There has also been discussion of re-staging the marathon to commemorate its 100th anniversary in June 2027. Warren reports that the Oregon Department of Transportation has expressed interest in assisting in the development and facilitation of an appropriate route if a commemorative run finds community support.

“The HBSC believes that this event was significant to the development of tourism along the Redwood Empire route and carries with it a historical event of great interest,” said Warren.



TOP: MAYOR SARA BRISTOL CUTS THE CEREMONIAL RIBBON AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR THE REDWOOD EMPIRE INDIAN MARATHON HISTORIC MARKER. (PHOTOS BY CURT COLLINS)

BELOW: CHAIRMAN OF THE KARUK TRIBAL COUNCIL RUSSELL ATTEBERY.



REDWOOD EMPIRE INDIAN MARATHON HISTORICAL MARKER.



Caveman Pool Potential Intermittent Closures

The City of Grants Pass would like to alert residents to potential intermittent closures of Caveman Pool operations.

The Grants Pass YMCA, which operates the pool for the city, continues to struggle to find lifeguards to staff the pool.

In addition to the staffing shortage, a recent shutdown of a major chlorine chemical plant in Washington state has caused a chlorine chemical shortage across the West Coast. Required

muritic acid is also becoming harder to come by at this time.

City staff is working diligently to procure more of the required chemicals to keep the pool operational, but residents should be aware that there may be intermittent closures of the pool.

“Our swimmers’ safety is our highest priority and we know that with this heat many people are looking forward to cooling off at the pool,” said Parks Su-

perintendent Wendy Giordano.

“I encourage people to take advantage of our spray parks at Riverside and Morrison Parks,” she said.

For additional information about pool operating hours and days, please contact the Grants Pass YMCA.

Anyone interested in applying to become a Caveman Pool lifeguard, should also contact the YMCA: (541)474-0001.

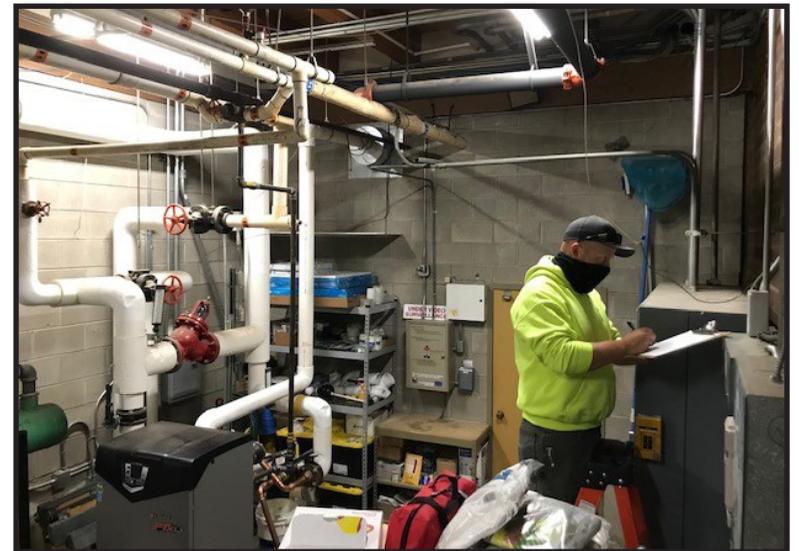
Seeking a New Career?

The City of Grants Pass is a High Performance Organization that has well-defined Mission, Vision and Values providing the framework for our organizational culture. We believe that the best solutions come from empowered teams with the knowledge and shared vision of the community's goals.

We promote a legacy of excellence through a culture of trust, collaboration, and encouragement of personal growth and the celebration of our achievements. We seek to attract adaptable, creative and motivated individuals who share our community pride and dedication to exceptional public service.

Apply Online Today!

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/grantspassor>



Planning Manager Opening

The city is seeking a planning manager (classification title: principal planner) to lead the Planning Division within the Community Development Department.

This position will oversee a \$1.2M division budget, six staff, and current and long-range planning in the city, including development and updates for all land use programs, complex planning projects, the Comprehensive Plan, and Development Code.

The planning manager will serve as staff liaison to the Ur-

ban Area Planning Commission and oversee staffing of the Housing Advisory Committee and Historical Buildings and Sites Commission.

Additionally, this position will direct consultants and oversee their projects, review and present staff reports, connect with other regional partners, and keep informed of legislative changes that may impact planning and land use in the State of Oregon.

The ideal candidate will demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence and po-

litical savvy, effectively lead and develop staff, break down silos and work effectively across other departments and divisions, keep informed of and apply for appropriate grants, leverage resources and technology to continue to improve processes and efficiencies, and engage the community to ensure they are informed on what is happening within their community and neighborhoods.

Desired qualifications include Oregon planning experience.

Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or GED, and one year of general office experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed in the job description.

Licensing requirements include Law Enforcement Data System Certificate within 30 days of appointment and Typing Certificate of 40 words per minute with a minimum 95 percent accuracy.

Facilities Maintenance

The city's Facilities Management Division is seeking temporary workers to assist with performing maintenance and repairs at city facilities, complete work orders, respond to service calls, troubleshoot issues, and conduct preventative maintenance.

The position pays between \$18.14 and \$22.96 per hour.

Ideal candidates will have experience in safely and independently repairing and maintaining facilities systems and grounds. Good customer service skills are also a requirement of the position.

The city is also seeking a facilities maintenance technician to join our team. The ideal candidate will work independently and in collaboration with contractors and teammates operating and maintaining city-owned facilities.

Duties will include troubleshooting and repairing HVAC and electrical systems and associated equipment; performing general building maintenance duties; working on facilities-related projects, including mechanical system upgrades; and performing and documenting preventative and predictive maintenance activities.

This position will also assist in training and guiding facili-

ties staff, seasonal workers, and new hires.

This position is covered in the Teamster Bargaining Unit and incumbents must live within a 30-minute drive of their regularly assigned work site.

Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or equivalent, with two years of building maintenance experience, plus one year of related specialized or technical training in HVAC, electrical and/or plumbing; or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed.

An associate's degree or two-year technical training certification in a mechanical or electrical trade related to facilities management (i.e. HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and/or fire alarm systems) is preferred.

Candidates must have a valid Oregon driver's license. Incumbents will be required to obtain CPR certification and confined space entrant, attendant and/or supervisor certification.

Incumbents must be in possession of or obtain any certification or license required by city, state, or federal agencies to work in the assigned position.

Public Safety Records Specialist

The city's Public Safety Department is seeking a dynamic customer service individual to join the Records Division. This position provides administrative/clerical support to the Public Safety Department and non-emergency call taking for citizens.

This position is responsible for non-emergency police support services including administration of records and customer service. Duties include public counter and telephone customer service, data entry, review and maintenance of records,

electronically routing and filing records and reports, records checks, processing warrants and sealed records, and other general office support activities.

The position works varied shifts from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays.

Upon successful completion of application review, those invited to move forward will complete a written examination on July 22 or Aug. 10; observe the position Aug. 11-13; and interview Aug. 17.