



City of Medford

Working for You

Continuous Improvement ~ Customer Service

Medford Receives National Honor

Medford has received the 2014 Green Power Community of the Year Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The annual awards recognize the country's leading green power users for their commitment and contribution to advance the development of the nation's voluntary green power market.

The EPA announced the award winners on November 19th and presented City officials with the award during the 2014 Renewable Energy Markets Conference in Sacramento, on December 3rd.

"We are proud to receive this award on behalf of our citizens," stated Mayor Gary Wheeler. "Last year's Blue Sky Renewable Energy challenge brought us a long way with the help of Pacific Power, Medford Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, Metro Medford [Downtown Association] and Jefferson Public Radio. But nothing would have happened without the people of Medford who showed their support for renewable power in clear, tangible terms. We will continue to grow as a green power leader making Medford a place for sustainable businesses, new and home grown, to grow with us."

Medford was one of only two communities nationwide to receive a Leadership Award. This award is for using renewable energy in amounts that meet or exceed EPA requirements for residents' and businesses' collective green power use. Medford is currently using nearly 36 million kilowatt-hours of green power annually, which is enough green power to meet 3.6% of the community's purchased electricity use. Green Power Communities distinguish themselves through their green power usage, leadership, citizen engagement, renewable energy strategy, and impact on the green power market.

Dangerous Dogs

On November 6th, the City Council approved a Code amendment pertaining to control of dangerous dogs. The Council's intent is to protect the health and welfare of citizens by requiring dog owners to maintain control of their dogs in public places.

The new Municipal Code defines a "dangerous dog" as any dog that engages in an unprovoked attack in a public place that causes physical injury to another person or animal. The new Code also enables Medford's Municipal Court to impose fines to dog owners who fail to control their dogs and criminal penalties for owners whose dogs threaten or injure another person or animal.

Revisions were made to the Municipal Code sections 5.600 through 5.604 and may be viewed on the City website at www.ci.medford.or.us, under the Municipal Code tab.

Proposed Electronic Sign Ordinance

After receiving comments from the public regarding the safety of Medford's electronic signs, the City Council held public hearings on November 6th and November 20th to consider changes to the Municipal Code.

Items such as animation, brightness, rapid effects such as explosions, and the size and height of signs were discussed. After receiving public input, the Council decided to discuss the matter further before making changes. A Council study session has been tentatively scheduled for February 26, 2015.

The City Council did approve a change in the rate of messages displayed on electronic signs from 2 seconds to 5 seconds.



Council Approves Marijuana Tax

On October 16, 2014, the City Council heard options for a proposed marijuana tax ordinance. After receiving public input, the City Council approved a marijuana tax on October 30th.

Marijuana retailers would be charged a base tax of 6% of sales. The producers, processors and wholesalers would be charged a base tax of 8%. Council would also have the option to raise the taxes up to 18%.

The new Code was incorporated into the Medford Municipal Code, sections 8.3000 through 8.3010.

However, the Code amendment is not applicable at this time, because the City Council's moratorium prohibiting marijuana sales within the City of Medford remains in effect and cannot be lifted without a vote of the Council.

Revisions were made to Municipal Code sections 8.3000 through 8.3010 and may be viewed on the City website at www.ci.medford.or.us, under the Municipal Code tab.

OHSU Latino Survey

During the November 6th Council study session, Police Chief Tim George provided an update on the Latino Relations Survey. The survey is a collaborative effort between Oregon Health Science University (OHSU) students, the Medford Police Department, the Police Advisory Committee and Medford's Multicultural Commission. The goal of the project is to improve the relationship between Medford's Latino population and the Police Department by opening communication between the groups.

To date, 174 surveys have been completed by Medford Latinos during community events. OHSU student Kevin Roberts advised that the group would like to utilize other methods of communication and increase the understanding of the organizational culture and practices of Medford's Police Department. He also noted that they will continue to research other communities to determine how they assess and handle these relationships.

The Medford Police Department's goal is to ensure the health and safety of all citizens. Opening the lines of communication is the first step to providing assistance to those in need.



Working For You

On October 24, 2014, Medford's Municipal Court Judge William Haberlach was recognized and honored by the Oregon State Bar at the Portland World Trade Center for his pro bono work.

Judge Haberlach has worked for many years with the Department of Veterans Affairs, assisting veterans with legal issues resulting from substance abuse, post traumatic stress, mental illness, chronic homelessness or general mismanagement of personal affairs.

Judge Haberlach's career began in 1968 with service as an active duty Navy JAGC for 4½ years. He continued to serve in the Naval Reserve for 22 years, retiring as a Commander. During that time, Judge Haberlach provided legal assistance to Naval personnel and their dependents. Here in the Rogue Valley, he has supervised volunteer attorneys and judges at the Southern Oregon Stand Down event since its beginning. This annual event provides the veterans of our community with many needed services.

Thank you, Judge Haberlach, for your military service and your many hours of volunteer work to support other veterans.

"I feel I have a professional, moral and patriotic obligation to assist those who have served our country."

William P. Haberlach

Fire Safety

Medford Fire Department periodically releases information to the public on fire prevention. If you are interested in learning more about fire prevention, including winter, holiday, fireplace and Christmas tree safety, please visit the City's website at www.ci.medford.or.us or contact the Medford Fire Department directly at (541) 774-2300.

Medford Videos

The City of Medford has partnered with CGI Communications to produce community videos of Medford. CGI provides the videos at no charge to the City.

You can view the videos on the City's homepage at www.ci.medford.or.us by selecting *Medford Video Tourbook* in the bottom right corner.