



City of Medford

Working for You

Continuous Improvement ~ Customer Service



John W. "Bill" Hoke

City Manager Vacancy

At the June 4 Council meeting, the City Council voted to terminate Eric Swanson's contract as City Manager effective immediately. Unlike other paid employees, all aspects of the City Manager's employment is governed directly by the City Council, pursuant to Medford's Charter. While the City searches for a replacement, Mayor Wheeler appointed Bill Hoke as City Manager Pro Tem.

Greyhound Portal Recognized

The Greyhound Portal is an historical marker representing Medford's transportation history by commemorating the Pacific Greyhound Bus Depot at Fifth and North Bartlett Streets. The depot was removed in 2012, after serving Rogue Valley travelers for more than 60 years.

On June 27, the Greyhound Portal was formally recognized by the Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission for excellence in historic preservation. The commission celebrated the achievement by affixing an interpretative award to the portal, featuring photographs of the original building and an explanation of the significance of the Greyhound Bus Depot.

To learn more about this project and historic preservation, please contact the City of Medford Planning Department at (541) 774-2380.



Interstate 5 Pillar Art Project



The Medford Arts Commission selected the artwork concept submitted by Jessilyn Brinkerhoff and Esteban Steffenson for the Interstate 5 Pillar Art Project. Installation is expected to begin the week of July 6 on five pillars adjacent to Hawthorne Park.

For more information and to view the entire proposal, including additional artwork, please visit the City's website at www.ci.medford.or.us and select the June 8 Arts Commission meeting agenda on the "What's Happening Today" link at the top of the page.

Emergency Preparedness Tips of the Month

Smart phones and other mobile devices are valuable tools during an emergency. Below are some tips to remember:

- ◆ During or immediately after an emergency, use your phone only to request emergency help. Cellular systems may be disrupted or overloaded, unnecessary calls could delay response to true emergencies.
- ◆ Call quality will often deteriorate during heavy use. Expect connection delays, dropped calls, and poor sound quality under emergency conditions.
- ◆ Whenever possible, use text messaging instead of calling. Texts use a fraction of the bandwidth and battery power of a voice call, and your phone will automatically keep trying to send a text when connection is sporadic.
- ◆ Add an ICE (In Case of Emergency) to your contacts. It can provide information to emergency personnel or even serve as a reminder for yourself when you're under stress.
- ◆ Prepare a list of up-to-date contact information for important people and places, i.e. schools, work, doctor, poison center, etc. for your phone and wallet.
- ◆ Use your phone as a flashlight.
- ◆ Keep a mobile charger and connectors in the vehicles you might use in an emergency
- ◆ Carry an extra battery or backup USB battery.
- ◆ Turn devices off during expected periods of inactivity, such as very late night/early morning.
- ◆ As always, don't use your phone while driving.

Utility Fee Rate Changes

The City's sewer, storm drain and street utility fees will change **next month**. City Council approved a rate increase effective July 15, which will appear on August utility bills. A brief explanation of each change appears below.

Sewer: There are two rate changes associated with sewer: a 15% increase for sewer collection, and a 7.5% increase for sewage treatment. Sewer collection utility fees cover the maintenance and replacement of sewer pipes and other infrastructure which transport wastewater from homes and businesses to the wastewater treatment plant in White City. This is the first increase in the sewage collection **rate** in 3 years and it will fund a program to repair or replace aging sewer pipe before it fails. Sewage treatment utility fees cover the cost to treat wastewater to meet more stringent federal standards. The last wastewater treatment utility fee increase was 14 years ago. The combined impact of these two rate changes will be an increase of \$1.97 per month to the average single family residential sewer bill. Please note that residents served by Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVS) are charged separately for sewage collection and treatment.

Storm Drain: The monthly storm drain rate will increase 15% or \$1.16 for the average single family, residential customer. The storm drain **rate** has not increased since 2012. The purpose of the increase is to maintain and/or replace aging storm drain facilities and comply with federal stormwater program requirements.

Street: The street utility fee will increase 8.7% or \$0.74 per month for the average single family, residential customer. The increase, which is the first change to the street utility **rate** in 3 years, will fund and implement the pavement management strategy, designed to provide serviceable City street pavements at the lowest life-cycle cost for residents.

Public Works uses a "lowest life-cycle cost" strategy, meaning small increases paid now will keep existing infrastructure from deteriorating and will also avoid large increases or bond issues in the future.

If you have questions regarding next month's fee changes, please call our Utility Billing Services Department at (541) 774-2140. We typically have very large call volumes when rates change and there may be a long wait to reach a representative.