



# Tradin' Crows

February 2015 Edition



## City of Rogue River

133 Broadway Street  
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Rogue River, OR 97537  
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Police (541) 582-4931  
[www.cityofrogueriver.org](http://www.cityofrogueriver.org)

### City Hall Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Closed for Lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### City Council Meetings:

4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers

### City Council Workshops:

1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers

See Calendar (page 2) for other meetings

Mayor: Pam VanArsdale

### City Council Members:

- Bill Jones
- Vacant
- Robert Catherwood
- Shelli Spencer
- Don Daugherty
- Mark Poling

### Planning Commission Members:

- John Schaeffer
- JoAnne Mead
- Shirley O'Gara
- Don Collins
- Evan Goeglein

City Administrator: Mark Reagles

Chief of Police: Ken Lewis

Public Works Director/City Engineer: John Krawczyk

## City Council Update

The first Council meeting of the year was an emotional one. After the Mayor read her "State of the City Message" the City Council and staff said good bye to both Cliff Combs and Earl Shamblin and presented them both with plaques of appreciation for their time served. Rich Pardy was also given a plaque for his time served on the City Council. Planning Commissioners Don Daugherty and Bill Jones were both presented with plaques of appreciation for their time served then sworn into office to serve on the City Council. After all took their seats the City Council elected Mark Poling as Mayor Pro tem for the upcoming year.

In other business the City Council approved both the water and sewer utility fee increases by Resolutions. They adopted the Goals and Policies for the 2015-2016 budget year and appointed City Councilors Bob Catherwood and Don Daugherty to the Finance Committee and authorized them both as signers on the City's banking accounts.

*You may have noticed that your water and sewer utility bills have increased this year. For many years the City council in January has by resolution increased the rates by the January cost indexes, this year's increase of 3.4% comes from the 2014 ENR Report that takes the average of construction, building and materials costs. These small annual increases have allowed the City to avoid large rate increases for many years in an attempt to keep up with*



*inflation and the rising cost of treating water and wastewater. Even with these annual increases the recently completed "Water Master Plan" has identified several large capital improvement projects that the city needs to construct over the next 20 years. As the council prioritizes these projects they will be keeping the citizens of Rogue River updated on the costs of these projects and any proposed future rate increases.*

## It's Time to Get Involved!!!

The City Council is looking for interested citizens to apply for Position No. 2 on the City Council (must be a resident for one year), also two alternate positions on the Planning Commission and two voting members and three alternates for the Sign Review Board. This is a perfect way to learn how the City operates and gives you an opportunity to help keep the Charm and livability of our City. If you are interested or want more information about these positions stop in at City Hall and pick up an application.



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## FEBRUARY 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	
15		17	18	19	20	21
22	21	24	25	26	27	28

## MARCH 2015

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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### Scheduled Events

#### February 2015

4th	9:00am	Sign Review Board
	10:00am	Safety Committee
5th	9:30am	Personnel Committee
	10:00am	City Council Workshop
10th	10:00am	Planning Commission Workshop
11th	6:30pm	Tree City Committee
13th	2:30pm	Finance Committee
16th	CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENTS DAY	
18th	9:00am	Sign Review Board
19th	10:00am	City Council Workshop
24th	10:00am	Planning Commission Meeting
26th	6:00pm	Council Advisory Committee
	7:00pm	City Council Meeting
27th	2:30pm	Finance Committee

### REMINDER!

Last day for leaf pick up will be

Tuesday February 10th. If you have leaves call us at 541-582-4401. Bags are still available at the City Hall.

## Mayor's State of The City Address

We began 2014 with cautious optimism as it appeared that the Great Recession had loosened its grip on our nation as well as our community.

Our largest employer, Murphy Plywood continued to expand and improve the mill site this past year. Ray's Food Place was able to re-structure and keep their Rogue River store from shutting their doors. As the year progressed, we saw the opening of the Lil Pantry Market and Car Wash as well as a number of other small businesses and as the year ended, a Subway sandwich shop had leased space on Main St and begun remodeling, and Dollar General had started negotiations on the commercial property on W. Main St known as Rambo Field. But more exciting than all of that, we sold 19 building permits for new homes in 2014 - homes that weren't just built and sat empty, but that sold as quickly as they were completed. There were downtown businesses that got a coat of paint or remodel and our hanging flower baskets were beautiful, even through some brutally hot weather last summer. Thanks to the efforts of the Mural Society, the largest mural to date was completed on the side of Main Building Supply.

We also saw work begin on our street improvement project, most notably the work done on Pine St and Cedar St and we'll continue that project this spring.

And for the first time, we have affordable bus service 5 days a week between Grants Pass and Medford with dedicated stops in Rogue River.

So now we look to 2015, again with cautious optimism. We'll continue to be fiscally conservative, always looking for grants and other funding sources for projects. In February we'll begin working to update our Strategic Plan. This will help us in determining the needs of our community and the direction we need to take to meet those needs.

And as a team, our staff, City Council and I will work with unified purpose, making tough decisions when necessary, having fun when possible, but always with the goal of being good stewards of the city of Rogue River.

 **Respectfully Yours,**   
**Mayor Pam**

## Come Help Update our Strategic Plan!

A strategic plan is a community's collective vision of what they'd like to be in a decade or more in the future. It identifies what the citizens most value and helps determine courses of actions to preserve and enhance those values.

There's going to be 3 town hall meetings at the Live Oak Grange:

Thursday, February 12th 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, February 18th 7:00 PM  
Saturday, February 21st 2:00 PM

If you can't make it to one of the meetings, stop by City Hall or The Community Center for a survey sheet that you can fill out and drop back off at your convenience.

Feel Free to call Mayor Pam with any questions:  
541-660-4414