

## PARKING: Striping will be done when weather permits

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forecast for this week isn't very promising. They also are going to have to piece it into the existing schedule of work. Once started it shouldn't take more than about a week in man-hours to complete. Bertagna hasn't had time yet to pencil in an estimate of costs.

The bike lane will remain on Main Avenue, and all of the crosswalks will receive new paint as well.

Work on the Main Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project was begun in February 2012. The project was funded by a grant from Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Bicycle and Pedestrian division to enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety within the city of Sisters by having drivers on Main looking forward while pulling out of a parking space. At that time, Main Avenue was designated as the bicycle route through Sisters.

Because Cascade Avenue was made narrower during its upgrade project, there was no longer room there for the TSP-required bike lanes. Through aggressive grant-writing, the City and ODOT were able to get grants to upgrade the roadbed, parking and sidewalks while also allowing for the requisite bike lanes. The belief is that Sisters was awarded the grant in part based on back-in parking along the bike route.

In addition to the controversial back-in parking, the project included widening and reconstructing existing sidewalks, striping bike lanes, and improving the storm-drainage system. There were also additional streetscape features like lighting and landscaping. The

grant from ODOT covered 90 percent of the project. Total cost was \$723,409.85. Of that amount, the State paid \$651,068.87 and the City \$72,340.98.

Back-in parking was originally recommended by the Sisters TSP Project Advisory Committee and added to the Sisters TSP in December 2008 and approved in 2010 following six community workshops in 2007 and 2008. Main Avenue merchants were also included in a number of focused workshops during that same time period.

There was controversy over the back-in parking before the project ever began and the discontent continued for two years until the current council chose to return the parking on Main Avenue, a block of Larch Street and a block of Pine Street to head-in parking.

A search of *The Nugget* website for references to back-in parking over the past two years revealed a long list of letters to the editor, both pro and con, guest columns, and a number of news articles.

One letter to the editor on April 3, 2012 warned that the back-in parking "could be an expensive experiment for the City of Sisters" and questioned why "such a matter was not brought before the voters."

Others feared the merchants on Main Avenue would suffer financially from loss of business due to locals and tourists choosing to not adapt to the new parking regulation and electing to shop in other areas of town.

There were pleas for the Council to have the "courage to admit that the decision was wrong" less than a month after the project was completed.

One letter-writer pointed out that although Main Avenue "is the designated east-west route through Sisters for

cyclists ... both bike shops are on Hood and the vast majority of cycling venues are on the Hood side of town; McKenzie Pass, Three Creek Road, the trails to FivePine and Tollgate, and the extensive Peterson Ridge system."

Not everyone thought the new parking project was a mistake. There were those who found "it not at all difficult and a much easier and safer way to reenter traffic." There were kudos to "those who brought it to Sisters."

After the 2012 summer tourist season the Sheriff's office announced it would enforce the new parking regulations by issuing a \$25 ticket for anyone parked illegally, which included backing into a front-in diagonal parking space or parking front-in in a designated back-in space.

The ODOT grant funding the improvements on Main Avenue included a clause that required the back-in parking to remain in place for at least 24 months. The end of that time period is approaching, allowing the City to reverse the back-in parking.

A year ago, the City engineer determined that reversing the striping to front-in parking would eliminate 45 of the 314 parking spaces due to the direction of current bulb-outs. However, this week Bertagna indicated that with some realignment of curbs and the removal of the mid-block bulb-out in front of the Habitat Thrift Store, the number lost will be lower.

Overall there seemed to be decidedly more criticism than support for the back-in parking and to this day, it is only intermittently observed. Many citizens have considered it a waste of money, a confusing scenario for tourists, and an unsafe condition that needs to just go away. The City Council apparently agrees.

## House: Bikers may turn on red

By Sheila V Kumar  
Associated Press

SALEM (AP) — Citing the annoyance of having to endlessly wait for a green light while on a bike or motorcycle, Oregon House lawmakers unanimously passed legislation Wednesday allowing them to run a red light if sensors under the pavement don't flip the signal to "go."

"On my way home I sat at a light for, OK I'm exaggerating, 17 hours. I sat for a long time, being a law-abiding citizen, waiting for the light to change and it would not change, I hated it, it drives me crazy," said Rep. Bill Post, a Keizer Republican.

Many intersections are embedded with inductive

loops, and those use electromagnetic fields to detect when cars are present. But the loops need to be set specifically for bicycles and motorcycles in order to sense them, and most jurisdictions in the U.S. don't bother with that, said Krista Nordback, a research associate at Portland State University.

So cyclists or motorcycle riders can sometimes find themselves waiting for several minutes at a light while other lanes get the green to go ahead.

Under this bill, they would be able to proceed cautiously through an intersection if they've waited through a full cycle of lights without getting a green.

"If you go through one full cycle and the light does not

change, you may proceed cautiously through the intersection or make your left turn, or make your right turn, without having to sit there indefinitely for the rest of your evening," said Republican Rep. John Davis, who carried the bill in the House.

He said research from Idaho shows there hasn't been an increase in motorcycle or bicyclist deaths since a similar law was put in place.

Similar measures, sometimes known as the "dead red" or "safe red" laws, have been passed in 16 other states, including Washington state in 2014.

House lawmakers approved the measure 55-0 on Wednesday. It now heads to the governor for her signature.

### OUR DRINKING WATER QUALITY TOLLGATE WATER COMPANY 2014

Federal and state agencies require each community water system to provide an annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) to each customer. This is Tollgate Water Company's (TWC) 2014 report.

Where does my water come from?

TGW's water is derived from two wells, which pump from a ground water aquifer. One well is located at the east end of Wagon Wheel in section 5. The other is located just north of the fire substation.

Source water assessment and its availability

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require all states to conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection Area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above that part of the aquifer that supplies water to our wells, (2) identification of the potential sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area, and (3) determination of the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those pollution sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with the information needed to develop a strategy to protect the drinking water resource. The respective Drinking Water Programs of the Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed the assessment for Tollgate's wells. A copy of the report is on file at the water system's office.

Why are there contaminants in drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

Is my water safe?

Last year, 2014, as in years past, your tap water met all U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state drinking water health standards. Tollgate Water Company is proud to report that our system has not violated a maximum contamination level or any other water quality standard. Not all contaminants are tested annually. For those, which are not tested annually, the most recent sampling results occurring in the last five years must be reported, if the contaminant was present.

To help you understand terms and abbreviations found in Table One we provide the following definitions:

Parts per million (PPM) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Maximum Contamination Level – the "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contamination Level Goal – the "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Table One

CONTAMINANT	VIOLATION YES NO	LEVEL DETECTED	UNIT MEASUREMENTS	MCLG	MCL	LIKELY SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION
Fluoride 11/16/11 well #1	No	0.1620	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Fluoride 11/16/11 well #2	No	0.1110	PPM	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits, water additive which promotes strong teeth, discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Lead 7/23/12	No	0.003	PPM	0	0.0155	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper 7/23/12	No	0.1540	PPM	1.3	1.35	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Nitrite 11/16/11 Well #1	No	0.04	PPM	1	1	Runoff from fertilizer use, leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha 11/20/12 Well #1	No	2.400	PC/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross Alpha 11/20/12 Well #2	No	2.800	PC/L	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 11/20/12 Well #1	No	2.200	PC/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.
Radium 11/20/12 Well #2	No	2.800	PC/L	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits.

MCLs are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Health effects

Some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could develop bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or more may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the teeth, and occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums.

Infants and children who drink water containing lead in excess of the action level (Action level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water company must follow. Action level for lead and copper are the same as their respective MCLs) could experience delays in their physical or mental development. Children could show slight deficits in attention span and learning abilities. Adults who drink this water over many years could develop kidney problems or high blood pressure.

Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrite in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome.

Some people who consume water containing alpha emitters or radium in excess of the MCLs over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/Aids or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Water Drinking Hotline (800-426-4791).

How can I get involved?

Your continued cooperation in such programs as the cross connection program helps insure the quality of our water. If you have questions about the water system or the quality of your water, call Betty Fadeley at 541-549-7962 or Lynn Lounsbury at 541-419-9593, or attend water board meetings, which are held the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October in the Tollgate Recreation Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Malcolm Murphy  
Board Chair

Lynn Lounsbury  
Distribution Manager