

City keeps a wary eye on water

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

Bill Hall, newly appointed member of Sisters City Council, was sworn in at the May 28 Council meeting and hit the ground running, as he was voted to become the new Council president by his fellow councilors.

Public Works Director Paul Bertagna informed Council that due to the disruptive nature of the Hood Avenue lighting and water improvements, the project will be delayed until the fall, to avoid impacting the summer tourist season and to allow for more outreach to the effected businesses.

Bertagna also made Council aware of the recent declaration of drought in Deschutes County by Oregon Governor Kate Brown. Sisters is fortunate that none of its water comes from surface sources; rather the city's water is all supplied by wells. Bend, on the other hand, relies on surface water for 50 percent of its water supply, and will be adversely affected by the drought.

Despite the wells,



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Water is a precious resource.

Bertagna stated, "We must be respectful of a very precious resource."

He reported that the City installed drip irrigation in its Main and Cascade avenue landscaping projects, which is one way to help conserve water. He also recommended that the City consider reducing the hours of operation for the splash pad in Fir Street Park and perhaps reduce the run time of individual cycles to 30 seconds. A portion of the splash pad water runoff is captured in a reservoir and reused for park irrigation.

Council adopted a supplemental budget and established appropriations within the 2014/15 City budget to cover expenses in four areas:

maintenance for painting of the recycling center; \$10,000 to parks for a traffic study related to proposed improvements at Creekside Overnight Park; increased expenses in the planning department as a result of increased revenue; and expenses related to the Barclay Drive water project bringing water to the airport.

At the end of June, Council will be inviting Sisters nonprofits to apply for the annual Community Assistance Grants.

There will be a call-to-action meeting as a follow-up to the Economic Vitality Summit, scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at FivePine. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Get your firewood in during spring

It's getting warm. The grass is greening up, the sage is blooming and you're getting your yard and garden ready to enjoy through the summer.

Time to be thinking about ... firewood. Seriously? Yep. Springtime is the season to be getting next winter's firewood in. There are many firewood cutters in Sisters Country who can deliver for you, and you can make getting it neatly stacked part of your springtime chores.

"A good woodpile should be stacked and covered on

top so that air can flow around the split pieces," says Dave Elpi of Sisters Forest Products. "Even cut green, split firewood stacked in this manner will cure quickly and will be bone-dry next winter. It's easy if you do it now!"

"If you get it split by the 1st of July it'll burn best,"

says Dave Vitelle of Bear Mountain Fire. "Ponderosa pine, by the second year it deteriorates by 50 percent. Third year, it's garbage."

You can rent a splitter and get the job done quickly and efficiently and have your woodpile all stacked up neatly when your yard is ready for summer activities. And when the chilly weather rolls around again, as it does before we know it, you'll already have your wood in, stacked, and cured and ready for the fireplace or woodstove.



PHOTO BY JIM CORNELIUS

Don't wait 'til it gets cold. Get your wood now.

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Fifi's has also been laying mulch for folks and getting kudos for their work.

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