

FEMA Awards a \$539,298 Grant to Canby Utility

Canby Utility works diligently to provide quality water and electricity to our customers. Always mindful of costs and continuing to be a positive force in our community, Canby Utility embarked on the year-long process of applying for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant. Our objective for securing grant monies was to fund needed upgrades to protect our water against potential natural disaster.

FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risk to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.

In 2003 the City of Canby developed a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. This Plan was developed and implemented

as a collaborative effort between public agencies within the city, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and regional/state organizations. In accordance with FEMA requirements, the city updated the Plan before the five-year deadline to ensure our eligibility to apply for the nationally competitive grant.

With the amended Plan in place, Canby Utility was able to apply for FEMA grant monies to seismically retrofit the 13th Avenue water reservoir. The concrete tank, constructed in 1982, has a 2.0 million gallon water storage capacity. Over time, the structure has developed significant cracks in its walls. Refurbishing the tank will help to prevent wall failure in a catastrophic event.

Canby Utility applied to FEMA's *Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Program* for this grant in November of 2010.

The total estimated cost for the water reservoir renovation is \$722,639. Grant monies in the amount of \$539,298 were awarded to seismically retrofit the tank. Canby Utility will be responsible for the remaining \$183,341 to complete this significant enhancement to our potable water supply.

The State of Oregon is the grantee to FEMA and the City of Canby is a sub-grantee. Canby Utility and the City of Canby signed an inter-governmental agreement for Canby Utility to administer this grant.

The entire project, including engineering, is slated to take 12 months to complete. The actual on-site work is estimated to be completed in only three months. The plan entails wrapping the tank with pre-stressed wire, then shotcrete is applied to the wire. Concurrent to upgrades covered by these grant monies, Canby Utility will perform additional tank maintenance.

The diligence and hard work of our staff, headed up by Barbara Benson, Executive Assistant, has saved our customers in excess of \$500,000 in costs by developing a grant request that met stringent FEMA guidelines. More importantly, the citizens of Canby will have a reinforced water reservoir better able to protect our potable water supply in a natural disaster. ***A job well done for all involved in this process!***

Have a Happy Retirement, Gary!

Gary Kordenat will be retiring on February 15, 2012. Gary began his employment with Canby Utility in March of 1985. As a meter reader, he read both electric and water meters. After a six-year tenure, he was promoted to the position he now holds as operations clerk.

Retirement will give Gary more time to spend with his wife of

45 years, Beverly. The couple will continue to pursue their passion for helping the community. Gary has been an active volunteer with the American Legion, Canby Post 122 for the past twelve years. His wife began volunteering six years ago. They support the many community outreach programs of the Legion.

We'll miss you, Gary!



Matt Michel, General Manager

How to Prevent Frozen Water Pipes

Water starts to freeze at 32°F. One frozen pipe can cause damages into the hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars. Both plastic and metal pipes are pre-disposed to freezing in cold weather. Frozen pipes tend to burst; and a crack as small as 1/8-inch is capable of releasing more than 250 gallons of water a day. Keep your water pipes from freezing with these tips from the experts:



- Caulk around all pipes where they enter the home. Check dryer vents, electrical wiring, water meters and places where heat might leak out or cold air can get in.
- Make sure all crawl space openings are closed. This will prevent cold air and wind from getting under your home, protecting exposed pipes and eliminating a big source of heat loss.
- Insulate and caulk any cracks in your home's foundation.
- Drain all pipes running to the outside of your home such as outside spigots and hose bibs. Shut off the water supply to those pipes, then go outside and open the tap to allow the water to drain. It's important to leave taps open to allow moisture to escape. Purchase inexpensive molded foam covers and attach to the ends of all spigots.
- One inexpensive way to protect exposed pipes is to insulate them with layers of newspaper. A 1/4-inch or more layer of newspaper can provide some protection from the cold in areas that don't have prolonged bouts of freezing temperatures. Carefully wrap the pipes so the ends are butted tightly and wrap tape around any joints.
- Wrap pipes with electric heat tape. Heat tape works with built-in thermostats, but electricity is required. Wrap heat tape in a spiral direction directly on the pipe, before covering with insulation.
- If an electrical outlet is unavailable, consider insulating water pipes running through unheated areas of the home. Use insulated rubber foam pipe sleeves. Rubber insulation is easy to work with, but provides no vapor barrier.
- Fiberglass is a better choice for insulation, although potentially irritating to the eyes, skin and lungs. Wrap fiberglass insulation around pipes and hold in place with duct tape.
- Use a heated reflector lamp for dry, enclosed spaces. Check the light to see that it is functioning on cold nights. Reflector lamps require electricity.
- Open interior/cabinet doors to enclosed spaces. This allows warm air to circulate in areas where pipes may be vulnerable to the cold, such as under sinks.
- If electricity is unavailable or goes out, let the water run only at a slow constant drip; this is cheaper than repairing a broken pipe. First, start a slow drip on the hot side faucet, then a faster drip on the cold side faucet. There is no need to run a lot of water.
- If your home will be vacant for extended periods during the cold winter months, drain the entire plumbing system. A drained system is the only foolproof way to avoid frozen pipes.
- Remember to fully drain all in-ground sprinkler system lines as well.

Share the
WARMTH

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

There are people living in Canby who are struggling with unemployment, medical problems and other financial hardships that make it difficult to pay their utility bills.

SHARE THE WARMTH provides financial assistance to qualified customers who need help paying their electric bill. The program is voluntary and supported by generous contributions from you and Canby Utility.

Canby Utility **Board Meeting**

Open to the Public

When: 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th
Tuesday of each month

Where: Canby Utility Board Room
154 NW First Avenue
Canby, OR 97013



**CANBY
UTILITY**

**154 NW First Ave
Canby, OR 97013
503.266.1156**

