

City snapshot

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

News clips of happenings around town

- City of Sisters received two awards in 2015: the Tree City USA and Growth award (covering 2014) as well as the Big Chaining Award acknowledging our bike-friendly community.

- City Council will hold their annual goal-setting session at City Hall on January 21, 8 a.m. The public is welcome to attend. For more information call Kathy Nelson at 541-323-5213.

- Communications from City Hall to Sisters residents is to be enhanced with quarterly notices from Sisters City Council to be included in City utility bills. The Community Development Department will do a separate quarterly newsletter, including a comment form, also sent with utility bills.

- Pay showers are working in the new Village Green restrooms and bike lockers are available (bring your own padlock).

- Citizens are welcome to come to City Hall during business hours to review the draft of the updated City Parks Master Plan before it goes to Council for adoption. There are currently 14 acres of developed parkland and seven undeveloped in the city, with several potential acquisitions identified.

- Sisters Planning Commission will hold a special workshop on Thursday, January 21, at City Hall to continue discussion of future

Development Code revisions. Time not yet determined – check the City website at www.ci.sisters.or.us, go to Committees and click on Planning Commission.

- At the January 28, 7 p.m. City Council meeting, consideration will be given to accepting proposed modifications to select rear setbacks and height restrictions along the northern property line in the Clear Pine subdivision. Planning Commission approved, in a 4-1 vote, a compromise reached between developer Peter Hall and Trapper Point property owner Duane Lee and is recommending approval by Council.

- City staff is proposing providing electronic meeting packets for City Council and Planning Commission members on either a thumb drive or in Dropbox, in an effort to cut expense and save staff time and resources.

- The City is convening a series of Dark Skies meetings for parties interested in the Dark Skies standards currently part of the City Development Code (2.15.2400), which can be viewed on the City's website. The meetings are in response to a Dark Skies study conducted by Rima Givot's astronomy students at Sisters High School and presented to City Council. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 1:30 to 3 p.m. in a conference room at City Hall. For information contact Patrick Davenport at 541-323-5219.

Sisters Robotics Team will compete

This weekend, select high schools throughout the country will host competitions different than their typical basketball games — one among robots.

Sisters Robotics Team 8023 has shown strong again after finishing second overall in Central Oregon FIRST Technical Challenge (FTC).

The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) program and competitions provide one of the best platforms for young people to get excited about the challenges and rewards of engineering. Teams build a remote-controlled robot and compete in two-team alliances combining autonomous and operator-controlled play.

During the season, teams document their progress and deployment of their robot, then present their results to judges. Teams can also earn awards in design excellence, motivation, community outreach and sportsmanship – FIRST motto “Gracious professionalism” echoes through all season.

After the series of local competitions, Sisters Outlaws team is heading to Hood River FTC League Championship this Saturday, and they are busy fine-tuning their robot and team presentation.

The team consisting of David Novotny, Spencer Bordonaro, Tyler Wonderly, Wyatt Adams, Corbin Johnson and Aiden Cummings is coached by Jirka Novotny.

“This year’s game RES-Q, modeled after rescue situations faced by mountain explorers, is a very complex challenge, and our team’s strength is in reliable delivery



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sisters robotics students are ready for action.

of selected tasks,” said the team captain, David Novotny.

For the second year David Novotny and Spencer Bordonaro also serve as mentors to younger Sisters team FIRST Lego® League, which successfully advanced from regional competitions to state.

Both Sisters Robotics

teams FTC and FLL will display and demonstrate their robots at Sisters Science Fair in February.

“We want to thank all sponsors and volunteers for their generous support,” Novotny said.

To learn more visit www.sistersrobotics.com.

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