

City snapshot

By Sue Stafford
Correspondent

• Two parks-related items will come before Sisters City Council for adoption at their May 12, 7 p.m. meeting. The City Parks Master Plan, adopted in 2011, has been updated by staff and the Parks Advisory Board. The other issue has to do with the revision to the parks system development charges (SDCs), which will increase if approved. SDCs are monies paid by builders when they construct new residential properties to cover the expense to the City for improvements and expansion to city water, sewer, and parks systems necessitated by the additional residences.

• The East Portal (at the west end of town) is now open for the season, including the restrooms. To help eliminate unauthorized dumping of large items such as old rolls of carpet, the dumpster is being replaced with two roll-carts to provide for minor garbage disposal by visitors. In case you've ever wondered why it is referred to as the East Portal, it is the eastern entrance and terminus for Highway 242, the old McKenzie Pass Scenic Byway.

• If you haven't seen all the improvements made at the Creekside Campground by the Public Works Department, go by and take a look. The new berm covered with large spruce trees very effectively acts as a screen between the campground and the neighborhood. More spruce trees have been planted inside the fence along

Tyee. Several campsites near Tyee have been shortened to no longer accommodate Class A RVs, thus reducing their impact on neighboring properties. A new fully accessible ADA campsite is located near the restroom, with a paved pad and path to accommodate wheelchairs. The new entrance/exit on Locust is well-marked with a handcrafted wood and iron sign, plus various new signs directing traffic to the campground have been installed on Highway 20 and local surface streets.

“Several campsites near Tyee have been shortened to no longer accommodate Class A RVs.”

• If the City is awarded a grant it has just applied for, a new play structure will be erected at Village Green Park. It will be twice the size of the current structure, without removing any trees. It will be totally ADA-compliant and the surface under the equipment is soft, drains easily, requires no maintenance, and can accommodate wheelchairs. The area surrounding the current play structure is in need of repair, and the structure itself is not ADA-compliant and has no swings.

• The City is still seeking one more member for the Budget Committee to review the proposed 2016-17 budget which takes effect July 1. Residency inside city limits is required. Meetings will take

place the evenings of May 18, 19, and possibly 20 if needed. Application forms are available from City Recorder Kathy Nelson, 541-323-5213.

• The grant proposal submitted to the State for funds to help construct a new public restroom facility at Creekside Campground, which will be larger and ADA-compliant, will be heard June 2 and 3 in Salem. City staff will be making the presentation, and they welcome any local supporters who would like to go to Salem to show their support. For more information contact Community Development Director Patrick Davenport at pdavenport@ci.sisters.or.us or 541-323-5219.

• The wood shake roof on the barbecue structure located at Village Green Park is slated for replacement by a metal roof, which will make it more fire-resistant.

• The order has been placed for the permanent restroom to be installed at Cliff Clemens Park. It should arrive by mid-August. Up until last year, there were no public facilities available at the park until parents of children who play at the park requested the City provide something. A portable toilet was placed in the southeast corner of the park as a temporary solution. The new restroom building will resemble the one located in Fir Street Park, although the color scheme will be gray and green with a slate-gray roof to blend in with the surrounding neighborhood.

Sisters Country birds

By Douglas Beall
Correspondent

Yellow warblers (*Dendroica petechia*) spend their winter in the Central Americas and are now migrating the 2,000 to 4,000 miles to breed in shrubby streamside areas around Sisters.

The migration route is very treacherous, as the yellow warbler flies over the Gulf of Mexico from Yucatan to Texas and Louisiana.

Soon after arrival on their breeding grounds the males begin to select their territories and defend them, singing their bright songs from perches around the nesting area. The female builds a nest made of

grasses with plant fibers woven throughout in 4-5 days and lays 4-6 greenish-to spotted-white eggs, which hatch in 10-13 days. The fledglings are fed a diet of mostly caterpillars, beetles, and wasps, and leave the nest in 10-13 days.

The cowbird is the yellow warbler's enemy; by laying its egg in the warbler nest, the larger fledgling crowds the smaller out and dominates the feedings, and the warbler chicks die of starvation.

A group of warblers is called a “bouquet,” “wrench,” or a “confusion.” For more yellow warbler images visit <http://abirdsingsbecauseit> hasasong.com/recent-journeys



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS BEALL

Yellow warbler.

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