

Wildfire protection rules topic for Nov. 9 CJ meet

Public meetings to explain and answer questions about the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act (SB 360), which is being implemented in Josephine County, will be held.

The act, affecting 19,000 properties in the county, requires wildfire fuel reduction around homes located in urban-fringe and dispersed residential areas, said Oregon Dept. of Forestry in announcing the meetings.

One will be held Friday, Nov. 9 at Lorna Byrne Middle School in Cave Junction. There will be two sessions; one from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and another from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Meetings will include a table for people who wish to apply for a fuel-reduction assistance grant. ODF has received more than \$1 million from federal grants to help people meet the fuel-reduction requirements of the act. In most cases, a grant reimburses a land owner \$400 for completing a fuel break around a home and along a driveway.

These grants are available in most parts of Josephine County.

Other gatherings by ODF about the act, all from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.:

Thursday, Nov. 8, Hidden Valley High School; Tuesday, Nov. 13, Jerome Prairie Elementary School; Thursday, Nov. 15, North Valley High School; and Tuesday, Nov. 20, Josephine County Fairgrounds, Floral Bldg.

Invitations have been mailed to land owners to advise them of the meeting nearest to where their property is located.

During these meetings,

people may attend a presentation about the act, the identification of lands which will be affected by the act, and the fuel-reduction measures that will be required of land owners.

There also will be information tables at each meeting, at which attendees may get their questions answered about how to make a fuel break around a home, how to certify that fuel break work has been completed, and how to obtain on-site fuel-reduction advice.

Currently, implementation of the act in the county is in the identification and classification of lands stage, a task being accomplished by a five-member committee. The committee has identified more than 19,000 lots that will be affected by the act. Maps of affected lots will be available for review during the meetings.

Committee members will attend each meeting to listen to comments and answer questions.

Once the committee and ODF are satisfied that the public's questions about the act have been answered, the committee will schedule a public hearing to gather formal comment about the identification and classification of lands.

For more information, there is a Webpage at oregon.gov/ODF/FIRE/SB360/sb360.shtml that outlines the Oregon Forestland-Urban Interface Fire Protection Act and provides a link to the Josephine County Forestland-Urban Interface Classification Committee.

Information also can be obtained by phoning Kyle Holcombe at ODF's Grants Pass Unit at 474-3152.



I.V. Chamber of Commerce held a mixer Friday evening Nov. 2, courtesy of Southern Oregon Guild. The festive affair, held at the Guild Gallery in Kerby, included art displays and refreshments. Greg Walter (left) and Jim Frick were among nearly two dozen attendees. (Photos by Jennifer Newsted, *Illinois Valley News*)



Marie Hill, Josephine County chief operating officer, resigns position

Marie Hill, a Josephine County employee for nearly 30 years, including the past year as chief operating officer, has resigned her post.

Her resignation was accepted "with regret" by the board of county commissioners. The resignation is

effective Dec. 6.

She began her county career as a parole officer with the Community Corrections Dept. She eventually became the director.

Hill has accepted an offer from SPARC Enterprises, of Grants Pass, to become its new executive

director. She has been the county's COO since November 2006.

"She helped steer the county through the difficult path of coping with an uncertain financial future," said the board of commissioners. "Marie's efforts have been a reassuring influence within

this organization.

"The board of commissioners will miss her expertise and advice, but recognizes that this decision was based upon Marie's love of the good work performed by SPARC and Stepping Stone. We wish her well," the board concluded.

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I.V. Chamber of Commerce

Annual
Public
Auction

Beer & Wine Tasting courtesy
Wild River Brewing & Pizza Co.
Foris Vineyards, and Bridgeview
Winery

Friday, November 16
Wine & Beer tasting begins at 6 p.m.
Auction begins at 7

Wild River in Cave Junction
Free Admission
No Obligation to Bid

Clerking - Anna's Attic
Auction co-chairmen: Terri Hill,
Jim Frick, Dennis Strayer

A friend is one who knows us, but loves us anyway.
- Fr. Jerome Cummings -

Home Valley Bank is proud to announce our

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It's Better At Home. Come Home To The
Cave Junction Branch Office.

We are pleased to "welcome" you to our new Cave Junction branch office. This new branch offers state-of-the-art interior décor which lends itself to a more customer friendly approach to service. It is our goal to be your most valued financial partner and we look forward to our continuing partnership with the Illinois Valley community.

We invite you to attend our Grand Opening Celebration
Wednesday, November 14th, from 11:00 pm to 5:00 pm
for beverages and hors d'oeuvres. So welcome home with our new location at 135 South Redwood Highway in Cave Junction!

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