

MAYOR'S CORNER



Sara Beck

On October 26, the Town council Meeting was held at the Community Hall. The main agenda item was the presentation by Liz Shelby, Southern Oregon State College Small Business Development Center, of the proposed Water Bottling Business Plan. I did not have a positive feeling about the presentation, and therefore could not report anything to you in the last newsletter until I did some fact finding. I could not have recommended a water bottling operation to the town following that meeting. Liz Shelby was to provide the Economic Development Committee of the Town of Butte Falls a two phase business plan. The first phase was to be more of a feasibility study. The second phase would provide more of the "How to". When I scheduled the presentation for the council meeting, I was not aware that we would be receiving an incomplete package. The good news is that we have water that can be bottled and marketed. The reality is that we have some legal issues to address, some decisions to make on the "How to's", perhaps even an ordinance.

I talked with Liz Shelby yesterday. Phase two of the business plan is still not complete, but should be available to our EDC within a week. I was honest with Liz about how disappointed I had been after the October meeting. Liz has assured me that she has concrete information for us in the final plan, including potential funding for initial operations.

I wish to personally thank the many persons who met weekly with Liz and her associate, Bill Jackson. This includes: Joyce Hailicka, Gloria Karches, Dan Murphy, Anne and Bill Tucker, Steve Nelson, Carrie Driskell, Alan Buchta and Charlie McLauchlan. I recall that Sandy and Joe Boyd were at some meetings too. Thanks to anyone I inadvertently missed. At these meetings we looked at potential sites, had a water taste test, shared bottled water survey information gathered by individuals in the group, and shared enthusiasm over the project. Thanks to all!

On November 15th, a meeting was held at the Butte Falls Ranger District Office to provide an-

other concept for a water bottling facility in Butte Falls and to introduce us to the Portland architecture firm that will work on the Butte Falls Master Plan. Tom Armstrong, a business consultant from Tacoma, Washington, was invited to present the idea of a private corporation forming who in turn would be a for profit water bottling business, located in Butte Falls, leasing a facility from the town, buying water, and paying the town a royalty on the profits. Tom had only one hour on the agenda. He met with interested persons the next morning at the community hall to provide a more indepth discussion. Tom is willing to return to Butte Falls for a public meeting in December, if we so desire. The date, location, etc. will be announced and posted when confirmed.

I shall keep you posted in future issues of this newsletter on the water bottling business news.

The architecture firm, SMH Architecture of Portland, has been contracted to provide us with a picture of what Butte Falls was historically, what it is today and what it will look like in the future as we see it. As an exercise to gather information, we divided into several small groups and were given a map of the town. We had color coded marks to represent commercial, residential, etc. Each table was to brainstorm changes, and discuss what we visioned. Each team then had an opportunity to report to the group their recommendations. It was a fun exercise, and many creative ideas were presented. Ideas were vast, ranging from moving the high school to having wooden sidewalks in part of the town. There was a consensus that we want to preserve the character of Butte Falls and keep the historical value. David Slusarenko, President of SMH, took the brainstorming information with him. However, we will have more opportunities for information input. May I invite you to dream a little. What changes would you make in Butte Falls? What businesses would you like to see, and would you support? If you have ideas you care to share, please leave me a note at city hall, or drop an envelope addressed to me in the city hall dropbox.

