

Mayor's Corner

Best wishes to all for a *Happy New Year!!!*

1999 brings to the Town of Butte Falls a new Mayor, Jack Brown. Jack will take office at the January 12th Council meeting. The Town of Butte Falls, as with many small rural communities in Oregon, is lucky to have someone willing to volunteer their time to run for a local office. In Butte Falls, the Mayor is the "Chief Executive Officer" of the Town by designation in our charter. The role is that of an unpaid city administrator. I personally thank Jack for his willingness to step in and take on the responsibility of the role. I ask that the residents and other officials support him and work together to maintain the quality of life in Butte Falls. Thanks Jack!

I cannot begin to list all the persons who have supported me and helped with Town projects during my tenure as Mayor. I personally need to thank the Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, Butte Falls Resource Area, for making Alan Buchta available to assist the Town of Butte Falls. Alan has played a major role in our monthly newsletter, has written grants, and been involved with many projects, too numerous to list. Alan may not be a resident of Butte Falls, but his strong feelings for this community are self evident.

Nostalgically, I recall the support of some of our senior community residents. Naomi Fredenburg came to my home shortly after my appointment to the role of mayor to provide me with an old newspaper article about a former mayor and some words of wisdom. Naomi was proud to have a female mayor for the first time, and proudly took pictures at the first community event in our park. Elga Abbot and I visited talking about his days as Mayor of Butte Falls. I was proud to have the support of so many of our long time residents. I would also like to give Gloria Karches a special thanks for her hours of work with the newsletter and especially for her work with the children of this community. Joyce Hailicka also deserves a special thanks for her years of grant writing, creative dreaming and on-going support for Butte Falls projects. I appreciate the work done by the students and their families on Mac Field, the Youth Center and the Cemetery projects. I sincerely thank Linda Matthews and the Earl family, and the many others who have provided financial support to the Town. A heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported Butte Falls in other ways, including our fund raising projects and Cycle Oregon visits.

I am proud of our volunteer fire fighters and their dedication to willingly serve our community. Our employees deserve a special thanks for their loyalty and efforts to serve our community. Anne Tucker must be praised for her faithfulness as an employee, and for her endless volunteer time for other projects. Sue Macy will be our new Treasurer beginning in January.

Words cannot begin to express my appreciation for the tireless efforts of Bill Tucker for his faithful and selfless service.

Melissa Owens has been our Budget Officer for several years now. Her computer expertise has allowed us to have our budget totally automated. Thanks Melissa too for your dedication to help Butte Falls as a Budget Officer and in other roles (i.e. EMT and School Board member).

The Town Council members, past and present, must be thanked for their countless hours of volunteer time. I must include also the Budget Committee members, Planning Commission, past and present and our Water Commission members. Dan Murphy should receive recognition, for his time spent currently on the Water Commission, but also for his years of work on the water bottling project, his efforts this year to save our local fishing rights and currently his work with reviewing our charter and ordinances. Thanks to Richard Harrington for his interest and efforts in our local waters and attempts to keep our local fishing. Ed Lux should get an award for near perfect attendance at council and budget meetings. Ron Hailicka supports our community with many projects and is probably our largest employer of community residents.

The Forest Service deserves thanks for their continued presence in our community considering their downsizing and changing organization. The Forest Service too has provided a Rural Community Assistance person, Paul Galloway, who is shared between Butte Falls and other Upper Rogue communities. The Forest Service, as my employer, approved my volunteer work for the Town. The USDA has funded many of our projects with grant dollars. Thanks to all the employees of the Forest Service also who support local events such as the Cycle Oregon visits.

I truly hope that I have not missed anyone in my special thanks for support. This brings to mind the support we have had externally from persons such as Paul Fattig of the Medford Mail Tribune, who has written so many positive articles about our community. One such article about our water system brought us Dave Wilson, offering to help. His grant writing allowed us to obtain our current funding to replace our water distribution system.

The water distribution system construction should be ready for bids by the first of March, with work beginning in early June or sooner. The work is estimated to be completed by fall. This will bring much activity to Town in 1999. We have recently been doing video work on our sewer lines. This has enabled our public works department to know exactly where we have problems and repair work needed. Currently we have work being done on a feasibility study for a park at The Falls. After completion of planning, Butte Falls will be able to make a proposal to the land owners. We are still going forward with our water bottling business. Charlene Brown applied for and received a grant for a special botanical interpretive park on the edge of Town. An application for a block grant is in the process to do a waste water system twenty year facility plan. Another grant is being investigated that would allow eligible home owners dollars for home improvements. 1999 promises to be a busy year.

A final thanks to all of you who have told me that you enjoyed my monthly contribution to the Butte Falls Bulletin. I have enjoyed sharing information with you. I plan to stay involved in our community and will be in the audience at Council meetings instead of facilitating the meetings. Please join me.

Thank you, *Sara*