

Public Works News

TOWN PROJECTS MOVING AHEAD

Contractor Burl Brim officials plan to have all of the Town's water users connected to the new water system by early April. Street and sidewalk repair is underway and weather permitting, most of the work will move toward completion in April. A start work date for construction of the water system reservoir tank has not yet been set. Public Works is pushing for work to begin this month.

Public Works has been working on a couple of projects of its own. The preliminary plans for paving Main Street from Fir to the Grade School are finished. The plan includes sidewalks which, hopefully, will ease the conflict between cars and kids when school is in session. The other project will put the Town Park out of commission for awhile. Improvements will include installing a sprinkler system, hauling fill dirt for leveling the grounds and grass seeding the entire park. Plans are to begin work in April. Public Works Director Tom Hayes hopes to get some volunteer help from individuals or interested groups to work on the project.

ODDS AND ENDS

and the beat goes on . . . the Falls Park viewing structure was recently vandalized, again, and, one more time Terry Schultz took it upon himself to provide the materials and repair the damage. THANKS TERRY.

A few thought about the Town's new water system. The cost of the project is 1.6 million dollars, half paid by grant money and half paid by loan money. Repayment of the loan money begins July 1, 2001. The Town's yearly payment is about \$46,000. That's \$46,000 every year for the next 40 years! There are lots of nice things about living in a small community, but coming up with the money to pay for the high cost of present-day construction is not one of them. Small communities through-out America are experiencing similar economic stress. Traditional small family farmers and ranchers are also having problems making a go of it. The world of SMALL is being pushed aside by the world of BIG. The challenge to any and everything small is to create ways to become economically valuable and self-sufficient. The community of Butte Falls has work to do.

RANGER DISTRICT NEWS

by Janice Schultz

There is not a lot of news for April, since the snow level will not allow much access to the woods. April is kind of an in between month, with people venturing out after a few hot days to see if they can get a little further, only to have a sudden snow storm trap them indoors again.

Farewell Bend Snow Play area is closed, (or it will be soon) due to insufficient snow. I don't know if they will open it again if we get a big storm at that elevation, but you can call the station at 865-2700 if you are thinking of going to play. 1000 Springs Snowmobile Park will be open until March 31, and then will be evaluated every two weeks until it is closed for the season.

We hope to have some of the smaller campgrounds open by mid-to-late April. There will be a significant change in the administration of some of the campgrounds this operating season. Sites that were previously free or donation will now require a fee. There will be an on-site pay box at the

following campgrounds: For Butte Falls, Imnaha is the only additional fee area, for Prospect add Mill Creek, River Bridge, and Natural Bridge.

I want to talk about the new Regional Forest Pass coming out on May 1, 2000. The pass was developed to make it simpler for the public to use the National Forest. Originally we were partnering with the National Parks System, and developing a pass to be used on both lands, but that concept did not work out. Crater Lake is not accessible with this pass, and is doing its own thing. No work yet on what that is exactly. The Regional Forest Pass is good on all participating forests in Oregon and Washington, at sites where a sign directs that this pass is required. This explanation may seem vague, but that is because I'm not sure about which sites are included on other forest. On the Rogue River the sites that require a Regional Forest Pass are participating trailheads and day-use areas. These areas should be well signed with a clear message letting you know if the pass is

required. The cost is \$30 for an annual pass or \$5 for a day pass, and Golden Age or Golden Access Cards will apply here for a 50% discount. If you already have a 1999 Trail Head Pass, it will be honored until the new pass arrives. This is all I know at the moment, but I will keep you posted as things develop. Have a Happy Easter and a safe Spring from the Butte Falls Ranger District.

EXTENSION EXCERPTS

by Lois Hamann

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at 20 or 80. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young". - Henry Ford

The lesson for April deals with "Families Emotional and Physiological Issues". The date is April 13th at 9:30 am at the Butte Falls Community Hall. Join the Extension Homemakers for lifelong learning. No dues required. Questions? Call Lois at 865-3221.