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deer population because you don't have a lot of prime predators that eat them. We also have a lot of people that are feeding them. ODFW really discourages that, and it creates some problems because it clusters the population of deer, it spreads disease. It can attract predators, like cougars. It's a big deal."

Scott asked about instituting a non-feeding ordinance, which would help discourage residents from feeding wild deer. Mills pointed out that it does appear to be an issue, as the city has received multiple calls regarding wild animal feeding.

"Without a compliance officer, I don't know what an ordinance would do," Forsythe said.

With a small staff and no way to compel people to pay for fines regarding city infractions, the council feared another ordinance might not be an effective deterrent.

"To me, it's a matter of education," Councilor Tom Mallen said. "Please don't feed the deer."

Scott suggested that someone from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife come down to the city and talk about the issue, hoping

an educational push could help restrain the problem.

One member of the audience suggested posting "no feeding signs" across the city.

"You can actually post a sign on the signs that already have deer on it," they said. "Just put underneath it, 'Do not feed.' It's a simple fix, and the posts are already there."

The council stated they would look into mounting a robust educational campaign to help curb deer feeding.

Cougars were the jumping off point for another topic of debate, this time regarding resident-owned chickens. The city had received a letter stating that chickens attracted "undesirables such as bears, cougars, raccoons, skunks and rats. The benefits of having fresh fertilized eggs are not worth the risk from attracting these types of animals."

Dunes City code allows for residents to keep up to 14 small animals in total, including chickens, rabbits, dogs and cats.

"Being in a rural area, I think chickens would kind of be expected," Forsythe said. "Raising chickens and rabbits is kind of why we're out here."

Mallen added, "Prior to retiring here, I lived in Hillsboro, Ore., and owned a ranch. I raised pheasant, chickens, all kinds of stuff. The chickens drove me crazy if a rooster was crowing all the time. I eliminated the rooster for quite a while. Still got the eggs, just not new chicks. But I could go borrow a neighbor's rooster if I had to. It was just never an issue. I just can't imagine picking out chickens and not going after everything else, like dogs. It doesn't make any sense to me."

Unlike deer, Mills did not see any evidence that chickens were attracting cougars, though there had been a complaint of a noisy rooster. The rooster had been "otherwise located," though it was not specified where.

"Maybe a frying pan," Councilor Sheldon Meyer joked.

The council decided not to act on banning chickens within city limits.

Other complaints that came to the city included a well drilling truck parked on a city road for more than two weeks, fireworks being set off and a resident using a vacuum to dredge sand out of Woahink Lake and place it back on his property.

"This particular gentleman put

in a retaining wall in the 1960s to stop erosion," Mills explained to the Siuslaw News. "We received a complaint that he was dredging the lake. He was vacuuming out sand and dumping it on the land. In the state of Oregon, he could move up to 50,000 cubic yards. But because Woahink is a salmon habitat, you're not allowed to do anything."

Also, a few weeks ago, there was an issue with two speedboats racing on Woahink Lake.

"The speedboats were bad," Mills said. "I think they were trying to set a water record on Woahink Lake."

Alas, the boats and the dredging were issues outside of Dunes City jurisdiction and had to be given over to county and state agencies for follow-up. This brought up the issue of how residents should report such incidents.

"Surprisingly, on paper, Dunes City has little or no crime," Mills said. "And that's because crime rates go off the number of reports that are filed with the county. Well, if you're like me, it's a pain to go online, thinking that nobody is going to do anything about complaints. So, you don't report it. Now it looks like we live in a fabulous community with

no crime because nobody reports anything. So, please file reports with the Lane County Sheriff's Office so they know it's not warm and fuzzy over here all the time."

Later, there were multiple announcements made by staff, including a community trash pickup event at Woahink lake on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participants should wear bright clothing and gloves, and safety vests are available at Dunes City Hall.

In addition, Forsythe issued two proclamations, the first declaring Sept. 16 through 22 Home Inventory Week.

"Every family in business in Dunes City is encouraged to take active steps to being financially secure after disaster," he said.

The week encourages homeowners to take photos of each room in their homes and pay close attention to what's on the walls, in closets and storage spaces, noting the make, model, price and other details that might help in filing a claim for loss in case of disaster.

Forsythe also declared October Domestic Violence Awareness Month, stating, "Whereas homes should be a safe and trustworthy place, but to many Oregonians it is instead fraught with terror due to domestic violence. Whereas the crime of domestic violence violates an individual's privacy, dignity and humanity ... Too many Oregonians have lost their lives due to domestic violence, we remember those women, men and children who have died and are taking a firm stance to prevent domestic violence."

"Therefore, I urge all people to actively participate in the scheduled activities and programs to work toward eradicating domestic violence, improving victim safety and

holding predatory domestic abusers accountable for their actions against individuals, victims and our society."

Councilor Susan Snow, who serves as committee secretary to Troop 721 of the Boy Scouts of America and whose husband is an assistant scout leader, is looking for any projects that the scouts could work on for an Eagle Scout project. It was suggested the scouts work on installing a half-court basketball court in Byrd Park, located in the Hilltop neighborhood.

"It used to be we had two kids there, but now it seems like everybody has kids," Mills said. "One of the residents is a contractor, and they said they would help us put in a basketball hoop and paving. I think it's a doable project that wouldn't cost the city a high amount of money."

Mayor Forsythe said, "I think that kind of thing is always well in good, but the cost is in the maintenance. The most expensive thing you can have is a free boat. But if that neighborhood has a lot of kids out there, that would be a neat idea, and would roll into the Boy Scout thing anyway. I like it."

Finally, Meyer stated that he had convinced the Oregon Department of Transportation to change a sign on Highway 101 just south of the bridge, which marked the distance in miles to the nearby town of Gardiner. The sign had been misspelled for years, reading "Gardner" instead of "Gardiner."

"I went in there about a month ago and said that I felt like an idiot living in a place where we can't even the names of towns correctly. They listened to me and now we have a new sign," he said. "So, if you go by there, take a peek at it."

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