

Lexington Fire Department grows to six volunteers

New volunteers a welcome and needed addition

By David Sykes

Reversing a trend that saw its volunteer fire department shrink to just two people, the Town of Lexington now has six firefighters trained and ready for response to emergencies. "This is awesome," councilmember Will Lemmon said when the new and bigger crew numbers were announced at the January 12 meeting. One of the new firefighters is Haley Stuckmeier who joined the department having recently returned home to Lexington after serving in the Air Force. As a bonus she is also emergency medical technician, EMT certified and EVAC trained. There are now two people on the department who are EMS certified it was announced.

At the meeting it was also announced that the fire department is continuing to train with the Ione Fire Department, and that since the department has more personnel now it will be needing some additional equipment and supplies.

In other business at last week's meeting town recorder MacKia Tarvin swore in the re-elected councilmembers Will Lemmon and Bill Beard, as well as Mayor Juli Kennedy.

The council also heard a report from Tarvin on a proposed new water billing system for the town. She has been looking at a system call UB Max that is both better, cheaper and more user friendly than the current billing system she told the council. Tarvin says UB Max is a cloud-based system that costs only \$485 per year as opposed to the current system with a cost of over \$5,000 a year. She



Town Recorder MacKia Tarvin swears in (L-R) re-elected councilmember Will Lemmon, Mayor Juli Kennedy and councilmember Bill Beard. -Photo by David Sykes

added that there is a one-time set up fee of \$865 and a \$50 charge to have a technician come onsite and shift all the data and information over from the old to the new. The new system also would offer online bill paying or paper billing, whichever people prefer. Councilmembers said it sounded good and instructed her to continue looking into it.

In other business the council talked about discontinuing the monthly printed newsletter and shift to just posting notices on Facebook and the town web site. There would also be notices posted at the minimart and at town hall. Two councilmembers said to make sure the newsletter would be available other than just Facebook. "I have never been on Facebook and never intend to be on there," said Lemmon. Councilmember Beard said he was going to drop Facebook.

In other business the council heard from town maintenance man Scott Lamb who said the new shop building project is completed. He also said the well house continues to leak. The council voted to get bids from a roofing

company to have it fixed. Lamb also reported that he is looking into getting better lighting for the town's three Welcome to Lexington signs coming into town. Her said the new ones would be brighter and show the signs better in the dark.

Lamb also reported an ongoing stray cat problem at the town park. He said a nearby resident is apparently feeding the cats attracting them and making the problem worse. He said he talked to the sheriff's office and Pet Rescue in Hermiston and for \$10 per

cat they can be transported there if the city wants him to trap them. Lamb said he has talked to the man multiple times about stopping the feeding, but it is still happening. Mayor Juli Kennedy wanted to know what happens if someone's house cat accidentally got caught up in the trapping project. "The only ones I want to catch are the ones that cr*p in the park," Lamb said. He suggested people put a collar on their house cats so he will know they are not feral.

In other business the

council talked about what to do with the \$200,000 the town recently received from the Columbia River Enterprise Zone, CREZ, for use on infrastructure. CREZ gave each city in the county \$200,000 this year to use especially for sewer issues. The council passed a motion to get a price from an engineering firm to do a water and sewer study. "We need to do some planning," councilmember Bobbi Gordon said. Lamb said the engineering firm of Anderson and Perry, who does much of the infrastruc-

ture work in the area, would be the ones to contact about commissioning a study.

At the end of the meeting, town resident John Edwards, who had submitted a public comment form for council consideration, asked why there was a "lack of emergency warning device in town," and "what could be done about it?" Edwards wanted the town to put an old-style fire siren back up to sound when the fire department is called out. Councilmembers said the old siren is obsolete and is not usable or feasible anymore. Alerts and alarms are now given to the firemen through cell phones and pagers. "It might be, but I don't want to spend the rest of my life tied to electronic devices," Edwards said. "We may not like it, I don't like it, but that is where the technology is going now and there is nothing we can do about it," Lemmon told him.

DEADLINE:
MONDAYS
AT 5PM



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\$89,000

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Three bedroom 1 bath 2 story home in the quiet town of Fossil, Oregon. Large fenced yard ready for kids or pets. Some appliances included. Looking to get away from the big city? Here is the place for you. Call for a showing.

1175 WASHINGTON ST Fossil, OR



\$20,000

SOLD!

Oversized city lot on dead end street. Sewer, water, electric all available. Manufactured home ok. 100 X 132 square foot .3 acres. Located close to grade school. Not far from city park. Addition adjacent lot available for sale.

610 Garrigues St Heppner



\$15,000

SOLD!

Ready to build on lot on dead end street in Heppner. .12 acres. Nearby lot available and can be purchased together.

350 Aiken St Heppner

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I have buyers looking for homes in the Heppner, Lexington and Ione area. Now is the time to sell! Call, text or email me.



\$535,000

Large 2540 sq ft home 1 bedroom 2.25 bath on hill overlooking valley. 114.26 acres w/65 acres water rights from well for irrigated pasture. 46.26 acres of rangeland. Second homestead has well septic also. Large 900 sq ft attached garage. 600 sq ft stable with enclosed tack room, 2 pump houses. Garden space. Large patio & big trex decking around front. Willow Creek runs length of property. Lower level has lots of room and much potential for additional rooms.

67208 HWY 74 Ione, OR



\$139,500

Office building in great condition right on main street in Heppner. Located in the heart of the business district it's ready to move into. Includes front lobby, private office with window to the front. Former bank building with lots of storage. A small kitchenette/break room and a restroom. Alarm system installed. If you are looking for an office or even a small store space this will work for you. Call today for a showing.

127 N Main St Heppner



\$149,500

There are two homes on this property. The bigger one is a 3 bedroom 1 bath 958 sq ft now renting for \$800 per month. Smaller home is a 1 bedroom 1 bath 576 sq ft renting for \$400 a month. There are water rights from the creek to water the yard and a shed in the back. Located on a dead end street. Call for an appointment and have a look.

680 W SPERRY ST, HEPPNER



\$70,000

SALE PENDING!

Two bedroom one bath home on quiet street in Heppner. Lots of personal items that come with the house. Has 2 car garage, chicken coop and garden area. Priced reasonable and with some care, clean up and fix up will make a nice home for you, or as a rental investment property. Call me for an appointment to see.

365 S Gilmore ST Heppner



Information deemed correct not guaranteed

