

Mayor Deeth resigns; council president Bob Orlowski steps up

In a stunning, surprise move, Banks Mayor Ray Deeth, resigned immediately after opening the Banks City Council meeting October 10. Deeth stated that the previous mayor had walked out of a council meeting in December of 1998 in frustration and that he has experienced the same frustration for the last two years. Citing the council's "disrespect toward the office of Mayor," Deeth said that his health was being affected and that he was regrettably resigning, effective immediately. He adjourned the meeting and walked out of City Hall. Council President Bob Orlowski reconvened the meeting, assuming his role as presiding Mayor, as provided in the city charter.

Revisiting the fence ordinance, city attorney Jim Lucas suggested a procedure for enforcement. A letter clearly summarizing both the old and the new ordinance could be sent to property owners, Lucas explained, stating that their fence or hedge may be in violation. Property owners would then

Tips to keep your winter comfortable

If you read mysteries or watch them on TV, you know that hidden passages in old castles often hold the key to the solution. It's much the same in your home. Once you find gateways to the hidden passages, you're on your way to solving winter drafts.

Here's a hint to help you find your home's hidden passages: Look for openings inside your house that typical exterior caulking and weather stripping won't seal. These are the most important gateways to your home's hidden passages. These clues are hard to find. Start in the attic. Then go to the basement.

Air leaks have many paths to follow once they get inside the wall or ceiling of a home. Therefore, it's important to seal openings so air can't get into walls and ceilings. You'll find these cracks and holes around attic access, recessed lights, baseboards, window moldings and electrical outlets.

Other leaks may be found behind built-in cabinets and storage closets, plumbing access and wiring through floors and ceilings, where masonry meets wood and plaster, and through interior partition walls.

Sealing these air leaks from the inside is much more effective than exterior caulking. A good time to seal these leaks is before you insulate your attic.

Extension publication EC 1286, "Finding and Fixing Hidden Air Leaks," is available from the OSU Extension County Extension Office or by writing Publication Orders, Agricultural Communications, Oregon State University, Administrative Services A422, Corvallis, OR 97331-2119. Single copies are available without charge.

The illustrated publication explains what causes these air leaks, where to find them, and how to seal them.

have an opportunity to comply with the ordinance or to contact city hall to discuss why they feel they are not in violation. The letter would specify the amount of time allowed and notify property owners that citations would be issued at the end of that time and fines would begin to accumulate. The current fines may be as much as \$100 per day, up to a maximum of \$1,000. Lucas strongly suggested that the city council raise these fines and that the time allowance be no more than 30 days.

The council expressed a preference for this low-key method, but was cautioned by Lucas that a more pro-active approach was necessary any time citizens are endangered. Lucas suggested that dangerous situations should be handled with an initial phone call, from the mayor or police chief, stating the nature of the problem, the potential for lawsuits and the need for an immediate solution. If property owners are not cooperative, the city can schedule a hearing to declare the violation a public nuisance. The citizens would have an opportunity to defend themselves in circuit court. If found guilty, the city could then issue a notice of abatement and seek recovery of all costs associated with the abatement, as well as court fees, fees for the city's defense, fines for violation of the fencing ordinance and for creating a public nuisance.

Orlowski will meet with city planner K. J. Won to determine which violations are the most dangerous and begin meeting with those property owners. The city will also train the police department to identify vio-

lations and draft a letter to be sent to property owners. All 16 property owners issued letters earlier this year will receive either a phone call or a letter soon.

City engineer Dale Merrill reported that the state Office of Economic Development had notified him that the application for a revolving loan for replacement of the raw water transmission main, addition of a 300,000 gallon clear well/chlorine contact chamber and the installation of a flocculation basin at the slow sand filter has been approved. The loan amount is \$700,000 with city funds of \$67,500 included in the project to upgrade the water main from 6" to 8" for a total project cost of \$767,500. The 20-year loan will have an interest rate of 4.5 percent. The new water rate has the capacity to repay the loan. The council has scheduled a special meeting for October 25 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall to complete the loan acceptance procedure.

Banks resident Dorothy Johnston, after a brief statement that the hedge next to her driveway is still growing, told the city council that she had received a letter last week informing her that she was required to have her backflow water valve tested at a cost to her of \$100. According to Johnston, who has lived in Banks for three years, the letter said that this was an annual requirement and she questioned why she had not heard of it previously. Merrell stated that the annual test notice has "fallen through the cracks." Since some older residences in the city do not have backflow

valves, the requirement for annual testing is one of the conditions for new construction. However, all property owners will have to be upgraded to include a backflow valve as part of the water system upgrade. Orlowski said that he would meet with the city planner to explore other options to reduce the cost of these tests.

Police Chief Daryl Crandall reported that the city had recorded 54 incidents and has purchased extreme body armor for all regular officers. Brent Rogers and Barrot Taylor were sworn in as reserve officers. Crandall requested review for a possible new ordinance that would allow the police department to collect impound fees for abandoned cars. Orlowski stated that the city's attorney

could do this only if the police department had money in its budget to cover the costs for review of the ordinance.

In other action, the council...

- Heard the second reading of the Alarm Ordinance. The ordinance will take effect in 30 days.

- Received a report that the Neighborhood Park should be finished in early November.

- Awarded the Wilkes Street Project to D & D Concrete and Utilities, Inc.

- Ratified an agreement between the City and Quail Valley Golf Course Corporation (QV), requiring QV to reimburse the city for all costs incurred by the city in connection with planning policy and zoning changes, and annexation sought by QV.

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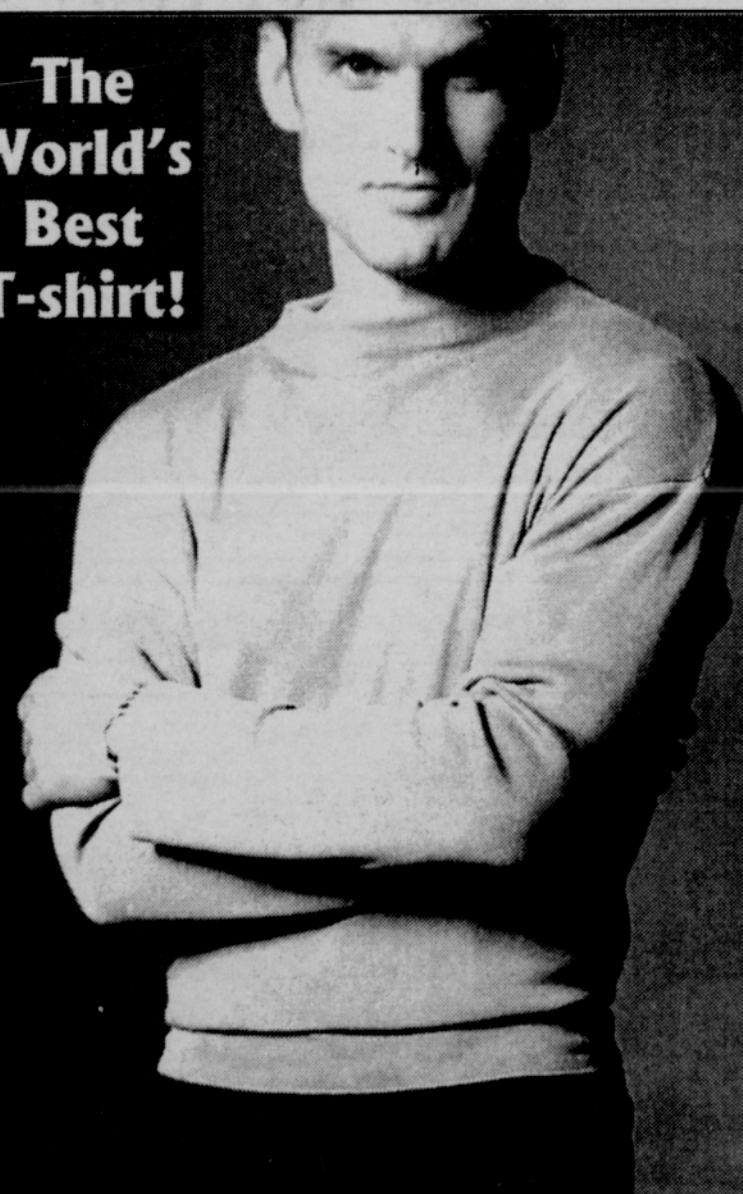


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