

Explanation of Bridgestone/Firestone tire replacement options

Attorney General Hardy Myers alerted Oregon consumers to options available if their tires are listed on the September 1 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Consumer Advisory tire list.

"Consumers are confused by the barrage of information concerning the recall of certain Bridgestone/Firestone (B/F) tires," Myers said. "This latest information from NHTSA on the expanded advisory tire program will give purchasers a clearer understanding of their rights."

Customers can determine if their tires are covered by the expanded consumer advisory

list by going to the NHTSA home page at www.nhtsa.com and the Department of Justice website at www.doj.state.or.us.

If consumers confirm that they have tires listed on the consumer advisory, they should have the tires replaced as soon as possible. There are a number of options for replacement.

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. will replace, free, all consumer advisory tires if the tires are taken to a B/F authorized dealer. Dealers are listed in the store locator section of the B/Fweb page at www.firestone.com. Tires will be re-

placed regardless of use and condition and without a pro rata payment. The consumer advisory tires may be replaced even if they are not currently on a vehicle.

Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc. will replace consumer advisory tires for individuals or companies. B/F will replace any road hazard warranty or insurance without charge when the replacement tire is installed.

Consumers will not be charged for mounting, balancing, valve stem, sales tax or disposal fees for the replacement of consumer advisory tires at the B/F authorized dealer. B/F will se-

lect the brand and type of tires used as a free replacement under this option.

Consumers are not required to use an authorized B/F dealer for replacement tires. If consumers prefer to replace the listed tires with their choice of competitors' tires, B/F will reimburse up to \$140 per tire for any tire purchased to replace a tire that is listed on the consumer advisory. The \$140 reimbursement includes mounting, balancing, valve stem, sales tax and tire disposal fees. Again, the consumer can elect the reimbursement option regardless of the use or condition of the tire. If the consumer previously had a road hazard warranty, B/F will pay to replace the warranty on the new tires.

In order to be eligible for the reimbursement program, consumers must return the consumer advisory tires to an authorized B/F retailer, fill out a reimbursement form and attach the original tire purchase receipt to the form. Reimbursement checks will be sent within four to six weeks.

The Consumer Advisory Replacement Program is separate

from B/F's earlier voluntary recall program. Under the earlier program, tires are also subject to free replacement by a B/F dealer or reimbursement of up to \$100 when a competitor's tires are purchased. Tires included in the recall are the Firestone P235/75R15 Radial ATX and Radial ATX II tires made in North America and P235/75/R15 Wilderness AT tires made at the Decatur, Illinois plant.

At the request of 49 Attorneys General and territorial representatives, B/F has removed any release language from reimbursement forms. Basically, consumers do not have to waive legal rights to take advantage of any of the B/F tire replacement programs. Additionally, B/F has agreed not to enforce any "releases" on the recall or advisory forms previously signed by consumers.

Consumers wanting information on the tire reimbursement programs may call the Attorney General's consumer hotline at 503-378-4320 (Salem area), 503-229-5576 (Portland area) or toll-free at 1-877-877-9392.

Council approves further exploration of QV proposal

From page 1

ed that the record show that approval of the process outlined by QV, while financially advantageous to the city, did not indicate a desire by the city that growth be limited to one direction. Quail Valley GC Corporation's property is on the east side of Banks.

Noting that the city's annexation procedures indicate that the creation of business and commercial enterprise is a benefit to the city, Councilor Norma Stewart said the city needs to consider the current lack of industry and commercial jobs in any annexation. Kilgras responded that development of a hotel commercial area has been discussed by QV. Council unanimously approved the request and will have the amendments prepared for the Planning Commission. Quail Valley will reimburse the City for all costs relating to their proposal.

In related business the council approved an ordinance establishing policies and procedures for annexation. The ordinance states that the purpose of annexations "when properly timed, ... may allow for the orderly expansion of the city's boundaries." It adds that a citywide vote is required; that the applicant must apply to the Planning Commission, and that proposals must be consistent with the policies of Washington County.

Another section establishes review criteria for annexation, including that a property must be contiguous to the city limits and within the Banks Urban Growth Boundary.

In addition the city council must determine that it is timely to annex property based on the availability of an adequate level of urban services and infrastructure, and that there are no unresolved issues regarding the development of the annexation property.

The criteria add that it may not be appropriate to annex property where the proposed use could be altered by plans of the property owner.

The council officially named Orlowski mayor until January, which opened up a council position. Council will appoint a new councilor to this position based on the number of votes

received in the November election.

Orlowski reported that he and the city planner had prioritized fencing violations. A letter inviting the property owners to meet with Orlowski and Police Chief Daryl Crandall to discuss violations will be hand delivered to all of the previously discussed cases. Orlowski said that he had received a good response, that some of the most serious problems have been brought into compliance and that additional potential violations have been noted. Council also heard a first reading of a change that would increase fines for violations of the fencing ordinance to \$5000 maximum.

A study of City parks was added to the State Community Economic Revitalization Team (SCERT) local priority list. Other local projects on the list are planning and implementation for the Banks-Vernonia Trail End segment, and Main Street planning assistance. Won stated that the Columbia Pacific Economic Development District (COLPAC) is putting to-

gether a proposal so that one agency can handle downtown planning for several small cities. Won also reported that he had met with the ODOT Quick Response Team (QRT) representative. They are reviewing the Banks Vernonia Linear Park project, which would bring the park to the depot in Banks and requires the realignment of Seller's Road, to determine if they can undertake the project. If QRT accepts the project, they will complete preliminary design work. Won added that a representative of the Parks Department told him that the Banks Vernonia Linear Park was number one on the Park's department's statewide list for completion.

In other action, the council:

- Passed a resolution authorizing a loan contract with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department for \$700,000, for improvements to the raw water system.

- Heard the first reading of an ordinance allowing the collection of fines for impounding vehicles.

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- 1990 CHEV LUMINA EURO 2 dr, loaded, clean.....\$2,495

Turkey time is almost here, along with all the Holiday Cheers — Please Don't Drink and Drive.

Jim Walsh