

## Council gives conditional approval to Oak Way traffic light

The Banks City Council discussed plans and a timeline for the traffic signal at the intersection of Oak Way and Highway 47, at their March 13 meeting. If there are no further delays the work could be completed by August of this year. Though several problems were noted during evaluation of the contract between the city, ODOT and West Hills Development, it was approved pending clarification of indemnity clauses and resolution of minor issues to the satisfaction of City Attorney Jim Lucas.

The Water Resources Management Plan presented by the city's consulting engineer Dale Merrell, was accepted and discussed. The city can now move to implement plan recommendations including switching irrigation water from the city supply to Tualatin Valley Irrigation District (TVID), seeking a new water source from a production well on the south end of town and vigorously continuing conservation and curtailment efforts.

The Water Resources Management Plan is also a tool that

allows the city to identify its water needs through 2020 and evaluate the resources available to reliably meet these needs.

The plan predicts that the population to be served in 2020 will reach 1882 inside the city and will include 308 people outside the city who are currently receiving city water. Future residential water needs are predicted at 85-90 gallons per capita day for a total residential use of 9.9 million gallons per year. Minimal future commercial use is predicted.

Average daily demand continues to grow but is expected to moderate after 2005 as Arbor Village is completed. After 2005, and on peak use days,

the city's capacity to deliver water falls below the demand, generating a deficit of approximately 150 gallons per minute. Development of a new water source is expected to take at least two years.

Connection of Arbor Village and the school district to TVID could be completed this summer. Connection costs will have to be met by Arbor Village and the school district, however, irrigation water from TVID is much cheaper than city water, and should result in a rapid payback of the investment and reduced operating costs.

In other business, the Council:

- Accepted a cooperative reimbursement agreement with

Banks Lumber Company to cover costs associated with land use review and annexation application;

- Continued discussion of backflow testing;

- Accepted bid of Roger Potter Construction for Raw Water Line;

- Awarded park maintenance contract to The Landscape Company;

- Added removal of trees in contracts for the Clearwell/Chlorine Contact Chamber (Water system project);

- Approved placement and cost of "Slow Children Playing" sign on Commerce Street;

- Discussed using increased water fees as a method of increasing revenue.

## Redistricting potential discussed by Rep. Starr

State Rep. Bruce Starr appeared at the Banks city council meeting March 3 to discuss redistricting and transportation issues facing western Washington county.

According to Starr, Washington County's increased population will result in an additional representative seat and the geographic area of each district will shrink. Starr's district currently is doughnut-shaped and includes East Hillsboro, Banks, Gaston and North Plains. District Five, the hole in the doughnut, includes West Hillsboro, Cornelius and Forest Grove.

Population changes in Tillamook, Columbia, and Clatsop Counties will also affect Washington County. Currently, House District One consists of the area along the Columbia River from Astoria to Scap-

oose, coming inland only to include the part of Mist that lies north of Highways 202 and 47. House District Two covers a large geographic area, with portions of four counties, from Warrenton south to Tillamook and inland to include Vernonia and Timber.

The Oregon legislature is currently working on adjusting district boundaries and is seeking public comment. (See related article on page 4.)

Representative Starr also said that he would like to be made aware of the issues and problems in Western Washington County, particularly regarding transportation.

## WOEC members approve change in by-laws

In a recent mail election, members of West Oregon Electric Cooperative overwhelmingly approved a change in the Co-op's by-laws to allow participation in business ventures other than the sale of electric energy.

The final tally presented at the March 20 meeting of the board of directors, showed 453 approving the change and 194 in opposition.

## Transitional assistance a help at BHS

The focus of the meeting of the Banks School Board meeting, March 13, was a presentation of the Freshman Connections Team. Using an integrated approach to assist students in making the transition from Junior High to High School the team has been very successful in reducing discipline problems, including harassment of freshman, and in increasing attendance and scores on the CIM tests. Freshman Connections operates as a "school-into-itself" every day from 8:30-11:00 a.m. with groups of students taking an interdisciplinary curriculum and experiencing problem resolution in a supportive atmosphere.

The Freshman Connections team — Colleen O'Neil (English), Karla Clark (Technical Support), Sue Henderson (Art), Pat Ball (Global Studies), Jim Gerlinger (PE/Health) and Rita Hofsheir (Instructional Assistant) — has created a curriculum of six major units. Each unit stresses a different learning style and has a unifying theme. For example, the unit on North Africa and Islamic culture includes calligraphy and design, disease and HIV/AIDS,

study of all religions using Islam as a comparison, and a research paper on Islamic Medicine. At the conclusion of each unit students complete a culminating project. A Renaissance unit is near completion and students will hold a Renaissance Faire with performances of scenes from "Romeo and Juliet." Remaining are units on Ancient River Cultures, the Golden Age of Greece, Connections in the Modern Era and the final project, "Newscast from the Past," where students create a presentation covering the entire year's study.

All of this takes place in one corner of the high school, giving freshman a "safe" place to interact with each other and the teaching team. The team also serves as defacto advisors and liaisons with the larger student population.

In other business the board:

- Approved changes to BHS graduation requirements;

- Approved the Community Use of Facilities and Equipment Policy;

- Extended the superintendent's contract;

- Approved overnight field trips for Advanced Biology and

FFA;

- Passed a resolution in support of Educational Service District Funding Equity

- Received the superintendent and board evaluation instruments;

- Received a copy of the timeline for the Junior High Principal selection process;

- Enjoyed the improved lighting and acoustic ambiance — everyone could actually hear each other!

## Friends of B-V Trail will meet at Tri-City station

The next meeting of the Friends of the Banks-Vernonia Trail is scheduled for Thursday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Banks Fire Hall of the Tri-City Fire District.

All interested people are invited to attend. Public parking at the fire hall is on the north side of the building. Parking in the front of the fire hall is reserved for firefighters.

*Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.*

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