

Park, police funds revisited; volunteers offer help with Scout cabin

Mark Haynes, a member of the Arbor Village Homeowners Association, told Banks City Council, at their November meeting, that AVHA planned to discuss the parks levy at their next meeting and had invited the Parks Commission to attend. Haynes also said that the board of AVHA would "like the to see the parks levy on the ballot at a future time." Mayor Bob Orłowski commented that the Parks Commission is not empowered to place a levy on the ballot.

Turkey dinner and holiday bazaar for Union Point Cemetery

The 80th annual Banks Union Point Cemetery Turkey Dinner and Holiday Bazaar will be Saturday, December 6. Dinner will be served from 12 to 7:00 p.m., the Bazaar is open from 11 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The dinner will cost \$8.00 for adults, \$7.00 for senior citizens (60 and over) and \$4.00 for children under 10.

All proceeds support the care and maintenance of the Banks Union Point Cemetery.

The dinner and bazaar will be held at the Banks Elementary School gym and cafeteria at 42350 NW Trellis Way.

In response to Haynes' question about the status of the police levy, Orłowski explained that the council had reached a consensus in October to operate the police department with a limited budget out of the general fund in 2004-2005 and place the levy on the ballot at the general election in November 2004. Levys on the general election ballot do not require a double majority. Orłowski went on to say that he, personally, would like to see the police levy placed on the ballot earlier. This exchange sparked a general discussion by council about whether funds resulting from the passage of the levy would be available for fiscal 2004-2005 if the levy were approved at either the March or

May election. Council agreed to discuss the levy at a special council meeting to be held November 25th.

Director of Public Works Tim Grossnickle told council that, for the first time, the city was able to meet demand for water without running the pump. Since this is the largest single expense this will produce significant savings over time. He also said that he may, at some future date, use excess water available in the winter months to replenish the aquifer.

Orłowski told council that the police department had evidence of someone visiting the watershed and moving things around. No actual vandalism was reported, Orłowski said, but there was concern about trespassers in the water plant. Orłowski told council that he asked the police department to issue citations to anyone, other than city personnel, in the watershed.

Sheila Day and Norma Stewart appeared before coun-

cil to offer the services of Friends of Historic Banks as caretakers for the scout cabin. Day told council that the community had a valuable asset, particularly after the renovation. FHB uses the cabin at least twice a year to display some of the many historical artifacts they have in storage. Day said that the group has recently noticed evidence of minor vandalism and inadequate maintenance. Day and Stewart circulated photos of garbage left in the cabin, burn spots on the rug, and damage to the fireplace. Council will discuss the proposal at their next meeting.

Council discussed a memo asking approval for disposition of outdated library computer equipment. Councilor Teri Brandstire, also a member of the library commission, said the request had not come to the commission. Council consensus was to send the request back to the library for additional information and action by the library commission.

During council round table, Brandstire said that her husband has repaired damage to the Greenville Park gazebo several times. Council asked Orłowski to develop a cost estimate for installing lighting at the gazebo.

In other business council:

- Accepted quote from landscaping contractor for replacement of trees and shrubs in Greenville Park.
- Appointed Ryan Birr, Pete Edison and Tim Grossnickle to investigate the feasibility of hiring a city manager. Two additional members for the committee will be sought from the general public.
- Kirk Andrews will coordinate the annual holiday light contest.
- Unanimously passed ordinances to allow the water department to charge application and collection fees. Resolutions setting the fees will be presented next month.
- Approved the library services agreement.

FEMA grant to Banks Fire District

The Banks Fire District 13 has received a grant of \$55,500 from the 2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The award, part of \$750 million being distributed to over 7,000 fire departments in 2003, will be used by Banks Fire District to purchase firefighting equipment.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program is administered by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a division of FEMA, and assists rural, urban and suburban fire departments throughout the United States.

For more information on the grant program or the USFA, contact Tom Olshanski, at 301-447-1853 or <Thomas.Olshanski@dhs.gov>.

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