

Washington County begins the annual dog licensing campaign

Washington County Animal Services licensing officers are currently canvassing door-to-door to ensure that the approximately 120,000 dogs in the county are licensed. The campaign is expected to last through October.

"Dog licenses are often a

dog's ticket home," said Gary Hendel, Animal Services manager. "When animal control officers pick up a dog wearing a license tag, the first thing they do is try to return the dog home, saving the owner a trip to the shelter," said Hendel.

All Washington county resi-

dents are required by law to license their dogs. All dogs must be licensed when they are six months old, within 30 days after bringing home a new dog, or 30 days after moving into Washington County.

The dog licensing program provides for all animal control

activities and also exists for the following reasons:

- tells everyone that a dog is not a homeless stray
- guarantees a warm shelter, a full stomach, and care until Animal Services can reach the owner by phone or letter if a dog is lost and placed in our

shelter

- provides emergency medical treatment, if needed
- enables funding so that Animal Services can protect neighborhoods from dangerous dogs and enables investigation of dog bites
- helps keep the human and dog population from being infected by the rabies virus
- ensures quick return of lost dogs to their owners/keepers.

Dog owners may buy a new dog license or renew a dog license online at www.LicenseYourPet.com, by mail, or by visiting the animal shelter. There is no licensing for cats or other types of domestic animals. For more information, visit the Web site www.co.washington.or.us/pets, call 503-846-7041, or visit the Bonnie Hays Small Animal Shelter at 1901 SE 24th Avenue in Hillsboro.

Remember—your dog's license is his ticket home and it's the law.

Take some easy steps in emergency preparedness

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is not."

September has been declared Preparedness Month nationally and in Oregon. A proclamation issued August 29 by Governor Ted Kulongoski said that "emergency preparedness is every Oregonian's responsibility," and endorsed efforts to raise public awareness about the importance of being prepared for emergencies at home, school and businesses.

Dr. Allan said that the Oregon Public Health Division has been planning and continues to plan for how to respond to nat-

ural disasters and public health emergencies, including three specific scenarios: chemical spill, tsunami/earthquake and pandemic influenza.

"The work we've done to be ready for these events needs to go hand in hand with what individuals, families and businesses do to help themselves cope with disastrous events," Allan said.

To prepare for emergencies:

- Have a plan that includes contact numbers for family and friends, including those who are out of town.

- Get a kit of emergency sup-

plies that will last for at least three days. The kit should include basic items such as water, food, battery-powered radio, flashlight, medications and a first-aid kit.

- Designate a place where everyone should meet outside the home or neighborhood.

- Learn the evacuation plans for your children's school or day care center and other places where your family spends time, such as work.

- Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and appropriate responses to them.

- Learn about your community's warning signals: what they sound like and what you should do when you hear them.

- Get involved by getting training in first aid and emergency response.

- Find out how to help elderly or disabled persons, if needed.

For additional information about emergency preparedness contact local public health officials or go to the Oregon Public Health Division's Preparedness Web site at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/preparedness/>.

Banks Council hears about plan to create a city emergency plan

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including Tami Stewart, Denise Holmes, Dawn Soest, and Margaret Brady, have applied for appointment to the Banks Tree Board in an effort to reestablish the Banks Urban Forestry program. There is one open position on the committee, which can be applied for by contacting city hall. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 13, October 23, November 20 and December 19. All meetings will be held at Banks City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The city hopes to submit Banks Tree City USA recertification request on December 20, 2007.

Hough requested council approval of the Ready to Read

Grant Application 2007-2008. Since the application had to be postmarked prior to August 31, it was submitted prior to council approval. The grant program is to establish, develop or improve public library early literacy services for children from birth to five years of age, and to provide the statewide summer reading program for children from birth to 14 years of age. Council approved the application.

One of the council goals has been to create a city emergency preparedness campaign; Hough has contacted a graduate student from Portland State University, who is currently working with Portland Police;

The student has put the city on his schedule and is hoping to have a beginning plan by the end of the year. Hough commented that it will be good to have the student's "fresh take and experience."

Hough mentioned that a survey from Washington County Department of Health and Human Services, Disability, Aging and Veteran Services that went out in the water bill has had a good response. The city is sending the responses back to the county.

Deputy Tran reported on the police activity for the city in the month of August. Criminal activity was down, which Tran reports is good, since summer is usually busy. There was a report of an attempted theft with

no suspects, a criminal mischief report from Banks Jr. High school for some broken windows and lights with no suspects. A juvenile was arrested for breaking the fence posts in Arbor Village; otherwise the city has been quiet.

Deputy Tran informed council that he did try to get a speed indicator board for the school zone for the first week of school but, with all of the schools in Washington County requesting such equipment, he was not able to obtain one for Banks. He is hoping to have one by next week.

Mayor Branstitre welcomed Tran back from paternity leave and congratulated him on the arrival of his baby boy. Tran turned the balance of the police

report over to Deputy Joshua Wilson to report on the no parking zone issues with a comment that, "I am jealous that I didn't come up with this idea."

Deputy Wilson proposed that a change to Banks city code could help provide a remedy for the no parking zone violators. By adding language to Ordinance 70.45 to allow towing of vehicles parked (stored) on public streets for more than 24 hours; change language to allow towing of any vehicle with five citations, paid or unpaid, against it during the previous rotating calendar year. Councilor Short expressed support for the proposal stating that it is difficult to see children who run in between vehicles parked along the street in densely populated areas with obstructed views due to all of the cars, campers, and boats. City Attorney Jim Lucas will review the proposed language and look at the ordinance used by the City of Beaverton.

The next city council meeting will be held October 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Banks City Hall.

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