

New Banks City Councilors and Mayor sworn in on January 13

A standing room only crowd filled city hall as Mayor Teri Branstitre called to order the January 13 meeting of the Banks City Council. At the sound of Branstitre striking the gavel for the last time as Banks mayor, the crowd listened at-

tentively as she proclaimed January 2009 as Big Brothers Big Sisters month. Branstitre enumerated the positive results of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and encouraged the city to get involved.

A ceremonial swearing-in of

Councilors Craig Stewart, Brian Biehl, Christy Greagor and Mark Gregg was held. When they were seated, Mayor-elect John Kinsky was sworn in as Banks new mayor. Before breaking for a brief reception, Branstitre spoke again, saying, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve with council for the last eight years." After her concluding comments, Councilor Ryan Birr presented Mayor Branstitre with a plaque recognizing her service and commitment to the city.

Raymond Deeth, of Banks Chamber of Commerce, presented awards to the top three contestants in the Holiday Lighting Contest. First place went to Jean Forest/Bigsby, second to Don and Cheryl White and the third place win-

ner was Tim O'Connor. The event was a joint effort of the city and the chamber to encourage community spirit during the holiday season. Deeth commented that the contest created "holiday and community spirit."

Mayor Kinsky called the meeting back to order and Deputy Tran presented the police report. In December there were 37 calls for service, three

arrests, 50 traffic stops and ten citations.

Tran also presented a power point analysis of police activity data for 2008, and a comparison of 2007/2008 data. The report displayed activity categories in bar graphs which portrayed the decline in crime since the city contracted with the sheriff's office for law enforcement.

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Left; John Kinsky is sworn in as Mayor of Banks at the January 13 Banks City Council meeting.

Above; former Mayor Teri Branstitre receives an award for her service and commitment to the city from City Councilor Ryan Birr. After the swearing in of Mayor and councilors and the award, there was a brief break in the meeting for a reception.

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