

Banks Council hears about upcoming school bond measure

Rob Cornelis, who is currently running for a Republican seat in U.S. Congress attended the August 10 Banks City Council meeting. After introduce himself, Cornelis said "all politicians are local" and that he attended the meeting to listen and learn about the issues that the City of Banks faces. He also noted that he is a native Oregonian, is married, and has been a business owner for 15

years.

One of the big issues that faces Banks followed Cornelis introduction. Information about the Banks School Bond Measure was presented by Banks Schools Superintendent Jim Foster, who commented that he wants to make sure the city and school board are on the "same page as we move forward". The school board decided to place a \$25.98 million bond on the November ballot because of population growth, deteriorating condition of the junior high and high schools, and financing. Foster explained that the board made the decision based on multiple sources, including professional reports, recommendations from a "Blue Ribbon Panel", and community survey results. Due to the recession, government qualified construction bonds are currently available for \$15 million in interest-free loans.

Councilor Craig Stewart asked Foster what future maintenance is planned if the school bond passes, because maintenance issues are not currently being addressed, and how will the cost of utilities be covered? Will Moore, vice chairman of the school board, responded that one off-set will be maintenance because construction should allow a couple of years of breathing room; he also said "we never claimed that we are going to save money by doing this." At the conclusion of the presentation, council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting Banks School District #13 Bond Levy.

Deputy Pat Chertude reported that for the July police report in the City of Banks, there were a total of 115 incidents in July, with two arrests, and 20 traffic stops resulting in four citations.

At Councilor Pete Edison's request to address skateboarding in the park, Chertude said that he stops by and that they are all pretty good kids. They try stunts by putting up ramps, he said, and the gazebo is the only place they can skateboard on a flat surface, adding that the "good thing is that the gazebo is getting

used." Chertude suggested that a group of kid volunteers be formed to keep the gazebo clean.

July Planning Commission Liaison Janet Towne informed council that the planning commission approved a building remodel for construction of a dental office that will be located next to Jim's Thriftway. They also held a public hearing on a home occupation because a complaint was filed. The commission approved continuation of the business, but set clear conditions for the homeowners. The commission also decided to continue sending a liaison to city council meetings, to keep communication open.

City Manager Jim Hough presented his report, which included:

- A final decision with PGE regarding changing streetlight

ownership is expected in early September.

- At the request of a citizen regarding lighting along Banks Road, the city has worked with PGE, which agrees that enhanced lighting services would enhance safety. PGE has designed an upgrade and submitted it to the county for authorization. The city tentatively plans to accept financial responsibility for a single street light on the north side of Banks Road that was mandated by the county.

- The Greenville Park Management Committee is working on language for a change to the Banks Municipal Code that would ban skateboarding in the gazebo in Greenville Park. When the proposal is drafted, council will hold a Work Session to determine if discussions

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Worship service to be held Aug. 22

A worship service for the whole community, sponsored by the Banks Ecumenical Association, will be held on Sunday, August 22, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Kelly Field in Banks.

Trace Thornberry, of Grace Hill Fellowship Church, will of-

fer a brief message with music provided through a collaboration of the churches. Everyone is invited to attend.

There will be a free will offering to provide school supplies for the children and youth of the school district.

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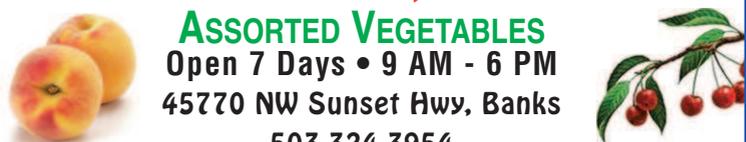
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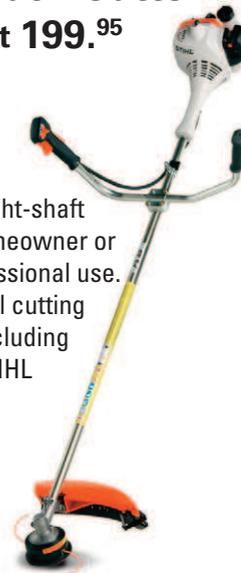
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