

# Hough tells Banks Council of Wash. Co. Visitors Assoc. meeting

Teresa Lyda was recognized with a certificate of appreciation at the December 14 Banks City Council meeting. Lyda was recognized for her strong support of the City of Banks by serving on the Banks Planning Commission. She is a "very wonderful Planning Commissioner," said Mayor John Kinsky. Lyda has served two terms (six years) as a Planning Commissioner. Her second term expired on December 31st.

Planning Commission Liaison Janet Towne told council that "nothing much happened" at the planning commission. The commission received packets with no comments.

City Manager Jim Hough's report included the following:

- Washington County and Metro continue to respond to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) decision on the Metro Urban Reserves. It appears that undesignated and rural reserves in the Banks area will not be changed.

- The Washington County Visitors Association Scenic Bikeway Subcommittee, which Hough chairs, held its first official meeting to start work toward a scenic bikeway in Washington County. The committee has adopted a letter of support for the concept and Hough anticipates that the committee will be soliciting letters of support in January.

- The employees of the City of Banks expressed thanks to Council for funding holiday gift

certificates to Jim's Thriftway.

- The Greenville City Park Management Committee will hold a goal-setting retreat in late January as it works on the City Council's request to make recommendations regarding park usage. The committee also suggested that the City hold a community meeting in mid-February regarding neighborhood watch, park maintenance and usage.

- At the request of Councilor Mark Gregg to develop a more efficient emergency notification program, the city is meeting with Larry Hatch at Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency (WCCCA) to discuss the new system the agency is purchasing. The City will continue to pursue this project and make a report/recommendation in the next few months.

- Two applicants are being considered for the position of Water Utility Operator/Public Works Supervisor to replace Fred Evers when he retires. References are currently being checked. The City hoped to hire a new person in December to work with Evers for a few weeks.

- The first evidentiary hearing for the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Expansion was held at a special Planning Commission meeting on December 15, at 7:00 p.m. Council anticipates that they will hold the second hearing on February 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Council received the Can-

vass of the November 2, 2010, Regular election.

Council reappointed a number of Board and Committee members whose terms would otherwise expire on December 31, 2010.

Council adopt their 2011-2012 Goals, with priority num-

bering for each goal, on a motion by Councilor Craig Stewart. Council drafted the goals at the September 21-22 City Council Retreat.

After the first reading, by title only, of an ordinance adding food waste to the Solid Waste Collection Franchise with

SWATCO. Council approved the first reading with a 3-1 vote.

The next meeting of Banks City Council will be on January 11, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in Banks City Hall.

## Learn how to feed birds in winter

by Chris Thomas, Oregon News Service

When the weather turns cold, wild bird populations in the Northwest have to work hard to find enough food to survive. Oregonians can help by putting out feeders and keeping them full this winter, and there are probably some good post-Christmas sale prices on feeders.

An estimated 50 million people around the U.S. put out bird feeders this time of year to attract feathered friends to their back yards. They may not realize that a bird's diet must fuel a metabolism that can require up to a whopping 10,000 calories a day, so the food has to not only appeal to the birds, but be

nutritious for them as well.

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) naturalist David Mizejewski recommends a combination of seed and suet. But he says the best way to help wild birds survive the winter lies in what you plant around your property, "What you want to think about doing, first and foremost, is adding plants to your landscape that have berries, seeds, nuts, and that kind of thing. Those are the foods that the birds are going to be feeding on in the winter."

Mizejewski says there are some myths to wild bird feeding, like the one that says once you start feeding the birds, you can't stop, "It is something of a myth that birds will become de-

pendent upon your feeder and that, if you stop feeding once you start, the birds are going to suffer and maybe even die. The research shows that birds really only use feeders as a supplement to the natural foods they find in the landscape."

The National Wildlife Federation has a Certified Wildlife Habitat program to educate people about how to safely attract birds and other wildlife, even in urban settings. There's an online application to fill out (at [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)) and the NWF can certify your yard as wildlife habitat. Businesses, churches and schools can also apply for certification.

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