

Banks Council hears Mayor proclaim April 22 as Banks Earth Day

by Jodi Boylan

Several ceremonial presentations and proclamations started the April 12 meeting of the Banks City Council.

Kristin Ramsted, from the Oregon Department of Forestry, presented the City of Banks with a Banner, an award, and a Tree City USA "5th Year" sticker in recognition of the city's achievements as recipient of a Tree City USA recertification award. According to Ramsted, for a city to obtain Tree City USA status, a community must adopt a tree ordinance, appoint a board, department, or commission to advise the city on the tree issues, spend \$2 per capita on community forestry activities, and hold an Arbor Day celebration.

Mayor John Kinsky, upon receiving the award, proclaimed Tuesday, April 26, 2011, as Arbor Day in the City of Banks. Arbor Day was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, 139 years ago, and is now observed throughout the world.

The City of Banks, Kinsky read, is known for its numerous and beautiful trees, and he urged all citizens to care for their trees, recognizing the value that trees add to our city, state, and country. In celebration of this effort, all citizens are invited to attend a tree-planting discussion at the Banks Public Library, at 7:00 p.m. on April 26, to increase the community's understanding of trees and their place in our environment.

Next, proclaiming Friday, April 22 as Banks Earth Day, Kinsky encouraged citizens to support Banks Elementary School sixth grade students in their quest to participate in the Green School Program. Earth Day was first held on April 22, 1970 and has been celebrated annually as a recommitment to the goals of a healthy environment in a sustainable world.

The city acknowledges the Banks Elementary School sixth grade students' desire to participate in the Green School program by conducting recycling training as an Earth Day celebration. Kinsky presented the Earth Day Proclamation certificate to Banks Elementary School sixth grade teacher Shannon Dotson.

Jeff Mathia of Metro West presented Mayor Kinsky with a plaque, and thanked the city for their participation in Emergency Medical Services. Kinsky Proclaimed the week of May 15-21 as Emergency Medical Services week in the City of Banks, noting that Emergency Medical Services are vital to the community, and the members of emergency medical service are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This year's National theme, "Everyday Heroes" underscores the commitment and dedication of EMS providers.

The next proclamation, for National Community Development Week, April 25-30, was for recognition of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, enacted into law by President Gerald Ford as the centerpiece of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

The City of Banks, with \$1,418,301 in CDBG funds since 1979, has provided housing rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization, addition or expansion of community facilities

and shelters, and physical redevelopment. The funding has been reduced in recent years and this reduction has had a profound impact on the City of Banks by eliminating improvement to our roads and infrastructure, and community buildings. The City of Banks encourages all citizens to join in expressing support for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

With the advice and support of the City Council, Kinsky proclaimed May 1-7, as National Drinking Water Week in the City of Banks and called upon the citizens of Banks to observe this important week by renewing efforts to conserve water, protect our water sources from pollution and maintain our home water systems in tip-top condition.

The final proclamation was from the State of Oregon, which has designated April as Earthquake and Tsunami Awareness month, as scientific evidence mounts that the state is at risk of a large, damaging earthquake and tsunami.

Because the City of Banks and its residents are vulnerable to the impacts of earthquakes, the city offers earthquake and general disaster preparedness information, and encourages citizens to be prepared, alert, and aware of threats to community safety and security. Kinsky encouraged all City of Banks residents to seriously consider their personal preparedness, strive to meet the

challenge of increasing their self-reliance, and recognize the need to provide provisions for their families in case of any emergency.

Banks School District Superintendent Jim Foster briefed council on the Banks School Bond Measure coming up in May. According to Foster, the funds would be used for renovation of the old parts of the Banks Jr. High School, emergency access, and paving of the parking lots. In the high school, money would be allocated to remodel one science classroom (needed to meet graduation requirements), a sprinkler and heating system, bleachers in the gymnasium, and outside restrooms.

Deputy Pat Chertude briefed council and the mayor on activity in March. Chertude reported 32 public service requests were responded to, there were two arrests, 38 traffic stops, and six citations. Crimes in the city were theft from vehicle, a stolen bike, and a Minor in Possession (MIP).

Two volunteer Master Students from Portland State University, Jeff Aprati and David Snider, briefed council on the City of Banks Sidewalk Improvement Project Plan.

A status report from the Greenville City Park Manage-

ment Committee was presented by Rodney Jacobs, who chairs the committee. Jacobs was complimented by Council for his thorough report, which included before and after photographs of the park's progress.

The Planning Commission Liaison report was presented by Raymond Deeth. Deeth reported that the commission discussed the Urban Growth Boundary, the Urban Reserves, and their recommendation to council that Teresa Lyda be appointed to the Banks Planning Commission.

City Manager Jim Hough presented his monthly report and requested that it become part of the minutes. The report included the following:

- The city is in the process of updating the video streaming project cost estimate with identified funds to be used to operate the system. The anticipated beginning date was June 14, however the mayor asked to delay the project and council agreed.

- The city's resolution of support for redistricting has been forwarded to both the Senate and the House Committees, and has been entered into the record of the joint committee proceedings.

- The city has accepted a

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