

# Banks City Council votes to put local option levy on Nov. ballot

by Jodi Boylan

The Banks City Council, at their July 12 meeting, unanimously approved placing a local option levy for law enforcement on the November 2011 general election ballot. The purpose of the levy is to continue law enforcement services when the current levy expires on June 30, 2012.

If this measure is approved, the City will levy \$2.35/thousand-dollars of assessed value, each year for five years, beginning in fiscal year 2012, to continue a contract with the Washington County Sheriff's Department for local police services. If the levy fails, the City will be without police services. Services such as crime prevention, work with youth and school programs, investigation of criminal activity, traffic enforcement and many more services will be eliminated. The City has contracted with Washington County for these services since 2006.

Mayor John Kinsky proclaimed the evening of Tuesday, August 2, as Banks National Night Out 2011, and is asking the citizens of Banks to join the Greenville City Park Management Committee, the National Association of Town Watch, and TARGET, Inc., in supporting the 28th National Night Out in our fair city. National Night Out provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of Banks to join forces with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative police-community crime prevention efforts. Crime prevention programs and citizen participation are important in the reduction of crime, drugs and violence in all communities.

Deputy Todd Hanlon gave the report on police activity for the month of June. Total incidents in the city were 134. There were 36 citizen requests for contact, six arrests, 43 traffic stops, nine traffic citations, and 19 reports filed. According

to Hanlon, theft of bicycles has been an issue. Citizens who reported bicycle thefts said they have stored their bicycles on their front porches without any problems in the past, but now find their bicycles missing.

Although Hanlon has been the new contract deputy in the city for a month, he has actually spent only five days on his new assignment. Now that vacation and training are over, he is looking forward to connecting with the community. Hanlon was given a warm welcome by council.

Kinsky presented Christine Fore with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of her support of the City of Banks by serving for 10 years on the Banks Library Commission and Library Board.

Planning Commission Liaison Janet Towne reported that the June 21 Planning Commission meeting was short. The commissioners reviewed training materials, received an update on the Urban Growth Boundary and Urban Reserves from KJ Won, and approved a joint work session. There is currently one vacancy on the board.

City Manager Jim Hough reported the following:

- City staff has begun pre-disaster planning in conjunction with Servpro, a local franchisee that does disaster recovery work with commercial and municipal organizations. The city will coordinate with other entities such as Clean Water Services, Fire District 13, and School District 13 to ensure adequate pre-disaster planning "cross-talk".

- The city gave approval to the Board of Directors of the Banks Chamber of Commerce regarding their Cell Phone and Rechargeable Battery Recycling Program. This is an opportunity to continue cooperative "green" programs for the betterment of chamber members and citizens at-large.

- The 2nd Annual Beaverton, Banks, and Beyond fund-raiser

for the Northwest Bicycle Safety Council will come through Banks on Saturday, August 27. This year, there will be an official rest stop at Banks Log Cabin Park. As part of the

council's desire to have more city-sponsored events, city staff will be manning the station with the assistance of a Forest Grove Junior Girl Scout Troop. The city hopes to set up a City

of Banks Sustainability booth at the rest stop.

The next city council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

## Come find out what's next for schools

by Debi Wagner

On Monday, June 27, while the Banks School Board was contemplating the future of the district's schools, the baseball fields across the street from Banks schools were packed with students and parents enjoying their summer break. School board members gathered at 6:00 p.m. for a work session regarding problematic heating, outdated lighting and a bond issue.

With business manager Simon Lavear, the board discussed a detailed plan outlining the short and long term costs of upgrading the aging schools energy efficiency. After lengthy study, the board decided that more information is needed to make an informed final decision. The plan will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

A new program, Cool Schools (HB 2960), was also outlined. This state-run pro-

gram will offer schools low-cost loans to pay for energy efficient technology retrofits. Supporters of the "Cool Schools" bill say it will help districts pay for high upfront costs of energy efficiency improvements. According to Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum, a chief sponsor of the bill, "This legislation is a win-win for Oregon that will help reduce utility costs, upgrade aging facilities, improve the learning environment for our kids, and create much-needed jobs across Oregon."

The low-interest loans will require no upfront outlay of funds and will come from existing state funding that would be paid back with energy savings. Studies show that students learn better in "green schools," so energy upgrades could also help improve test scores! Cool Schools was a centerpiece of Governor John Kitzhaber's campaign and the Governor

signed the bill into law on June 23, after a unanimous vote by the Oregon Senate.

The last item on the agenda was the recurring issue of a bond measure for the Banks School District. The board decided that, because communication and dialog with the community are very important factor for successful passing of the much-needed bond, a public meeting is needed.

"Community Summit, What's Next for Schools?" is open to the public and will take place on Saturday morning, July 30, at 8:30 a.m. in the junior high school gym. Everyone is encouraged to attend, as the school board is looking for input on what it will take to get a bond passed on the November Ballot. This is an opportunity for everyone to weigh in and offer constructive ideas on what's next for your district's aging schools and your children's educational futures.

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