

Citizen asks Banks City Council to support funding efforts for schools

At the November 8 Banks City Council meeting, Bobbie Gregg, an interested citizen, requested support from council and the citizens of Banks regarding the funding situation at Banks School District #13. Gregg highlighted some major reductions that the school district has made and drastic cuts and major reductions that will be going in to effect next school year.

According to Gregg, the reductions include the elimination of physical education and music programs at the elementary school, elimination of all sports funding at the junior high school, elimination of ten contract days for the 2010-2011 school year, elimination of full-time counseling services for the elementary school, reduction of certified staff by 12% and classified staff by 9%, and no funds for curriculum to let teachers comply with the new math standards at the elementary school.

Gregg also addressed budget shortfalls, class sizes, and the inadequacy of buildings due to age. A petition was distributed for concerned citizens and parents to sign, which will be forwarded to Senator Betsy Johnson and Representative Deborah Boone.

Mayor John Kinsky presented the Proclamation of Human Rights Day – December 10 to Selma Ahmad. Ahmad informed council that this year's motto is "My rights start with me". On December 10, 1948, the member States of the United

Nations signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and countries of different political, economic and social systems unanimously agreed on the fundamental rights that all people share solely on the basis of their common humanity. The mayor and council encourage all City of Banks citizens to study and promote the ideas contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the end that freedom, justice and equality will flourish and be made available to all.

Washington County Deputy Todd Hanlon, the city's contract police officer, briefed council on the October police report, which included 29 incidents reported by the public, three arrests were made, nine written reports, 40 traffic stops and five citations issued. Hanlon has received several calls regarding high school students smoking in the wetland area near the walkway. Hanlon reports that he has been walking down the trail during those times and received a few surprised looks.

Councilor Pete Edison commented that he has been getting good community feedback regarding the after-football game traffic control service that the Sheriff's Office has been providing.

City Manager Jim Hough reported the following:

- Leslie Sipp from the Family Resource Center is working with the Banks Chamber of Commerce to collect extra reusable bags for donation to

the Sonrise Food Pantry at the fire station.

- November 9, at 11:00 a.m., there was a nationwide Emergency Announcing System (EAS) drill on all radios and televisions. The drill lasted about 30 seconds.

- The city sent letters to property owners regarding tree pruning safety discrepancies. A number of responses have been received and the city is working with each property owner to effect this improvement for safety.

- A section of the Banks Municipal Code (92.09(C)) provides the following, "It is unlawful to operate a skateboard, skates, roller blades, bicycle, or scooter in or on any structure (i.e. gazebo and the like)." Hough is proposing that signs be posted at either end of the gazebo.

- The meter replacement program is continuing, with 240 of the 675 meters having been replaced.

- City planner K.J. Won, has presented a draft ordinance regarding uniform addressing in the City of Banks.

Council unanimously adopted an Ordinance Amending the Public Works Water Code regarding Bulk Water Sales and services. They also approved a motion to amend the City of Banks Financial Management Policies and Procedures.

The board and committee members whose terms will become vacant on December 31, 2011, were reappointed by council.

Following a goal set at a recent retreat, Council unanimously approved a motion to establish a semipermanent Christmas tree in Greenville City Park.

The Banks City Council will meet next on Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. in council chambers, 120 South Main Street.

Banks voters say "Yes" to 34-194

With a voter turnout in of 41.03 percent for the 1st District Congressional primary election, Washington County voters selected Democrat Suzanne Bonamici by 64.89 percent, similar to her statewide results of 65.26 percent. Republican voters cast 72.87 percent of the county vote for Rob Cornilles, again similar to the 72.70 percent for Cornilles the statewide vote.

The statewide voter turnout was 44.17 percent.

Bonamici and Cornilles will

face off in a Special General Election to be held January 31, 2012. Ballots will be mailed January 13-17. The winner will replace Congressman David Wu, who resigned earlier this year.

The City of Banks Levy, 34-194, was approved by 53.18 percent of the votes cast (167 votes). The No votes equalled 46.82 percent (147 votes). The levy will be used to continue police and administrative services in Banks.

Winter property protection tips

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sideration in these areas. A serious condition can be created when a taller building or a taller addition is built adjacent to shorter, existing building. Unless the shorter building is strengthened in the area next to the taller building or addition, snow accumulation on the lower roof near the step could produce much higher loads than those considered by the original

designer for the existing building.

The best source for determining how much snow load a building can handle is the original design plan. Most roof designs can support at least 20 pounds per square foot. However, design loads can range from 10 pounds to 20 pounds per square foot in Mid-Atlantic states, and between 40 pounds

See Tips on page 14



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From all of us at Jim's
Happy Thanksgiving!

WE WILL BE OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY
FOR YOUR LAST MINUTE NEEDS.
7 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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*Donation of turkey or \$30 required to charity determined by club. See club for details. Offer based on first visit enrollment, minimum 12 mo. cd./eft. program. Discount applies to initial service fee. New members only. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at participating locations. Limited time offer on dates as specified above. © 2011 Curves International, Inc.