

Banks City Council continues work to hire a new city manager

Mayor John Kinsky, at the February 14 meeting of the Banks City Council, proclaimed March 12 to 18 as Banks Fix-A-Leak Week.

Malmedal Plumbing and Five-Star Plumbers, Inc, both local companies, are offering leak repair services to Banks residents, with the first half-hour of service provided free during Banks Fix-A-Leak Week.

With the support of Banks City Council, Kinsky commended Five-Star Plumbers, Inc. and Malmedal Plumbing for their support of the citizens of Banks and the Banks Conservation Plan. Household leaks account for nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted in the United States each year.

Deputy Todd Hanlon reported on police activity in Banks during January. A total of 101 police incidents included 19 public requests, three arrests, 24 traffic stops, six citations, and nine written reports. Two men were arrested for siphoning gas, and a woman was arrested for taking prescription medications from a residence.

Hanlon also briefed council on the 2011 City of Banks Annual Police Report, commenting that the Washington County Sheriff's Office is proud to be the law enforcement provider of choice for the City of Banks. A comparison of 2011 to 2010, showed an overall increase of 6.1% in total incidents, with 1446 in 2011 and 1363 in 2010. Incidents include:

- Public requests declined by 11.1% from 2010, 325 to 361;
- Traffic stops increased by 29.6% over 2010, 390 to 301;
- Traffic citations increased 6.5%, with 82 in 2011 and 77 in 2010;
- Deputies took 152 reports in 2011, an increase of 10.1% over 132 in 2010;
- There were 73 crimes in 2011 and 56 crimes in 2010, an

increase of 35.7%;

- Arrests decreased slightly from 39 in 2010 to 38 in 2011.

In 2011 the sheriff's office also participated in National Night Outs, Harvest Festival, sports events, and the Banks BBQ.

City Manager Jim Hough reported on the following:

- The CPO Boundary Procedures Task Force is about to make recommendations to the central CPO Board and then to the County Commissioners.

• ODOT is manufacturing new park signage. The city wants to have them installed in about a month. The city has already upgraded the north-bound school zone signage.

• Four city council seats will be up for election in November, including mayor, currently held by Kinsky, and council positions 2, 4 and 6, currently held by Stewart, Biehl and Greagor, respectively. Election Day will be November 6.

• As part of the City's continuing community support activities it is sponsoring an official rest station at Log Cabin Park during the Beaverton, Banks, and Beyond Fund Raiser Bicycling Event for the Northwest Bicycle Safety Council on Saturday, August 25th. The event brings about one hundred bicyclists through town.

• Hough suggested that council review all nine reserve funds in the budget during the November Council meeting, to

meet a requirement that reserve funds be reviewed and renewed at least every ten years. Presently, there are various dates to review the funds; reviewing them all at one time will reset the clock so the review date is identical for all of them.

If Council agrees to the change, staff will be prepared to bring the issue before Council on November 13. Hough also proposed that Council set a policy to review the reserve funds every five years.

• The city has purchased two Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for installation in council chambers and the library. Training will be conducted for all staff, followed by installation of the AEDs. It is anticipated that the City Hall AED will be ready in April and the Library AED will be ready in June.

• The Traffic and Street Sign Replacement and Upgrade Project that was discussed in 2008, is underway. It is hoped that approximately one-third of the signage will be replaced/upgraded by March. The city likely will postpone upgrading the street signage in old town pending a response from ODOT regarding Main Street

signage, and the re-addressing project that the city planner is conducting.

• Solar panels are being installed on the Public Works Building. The City has executed a net metering and interconnection agreement with PGE and should be generating electricity to the grid by the end of the month.

A draft of the City Manager Recruitment Profile was circu-

lated. With the pending retirement of City Manager Jim Hough, Council has started the process to interview and hire the next city manager. Council has created a recruitment profile so applicants have the opportunity to compare individual experience with the required and desired attributes.

The next city council meeting will be held on March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

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