



Dunes City
PO Box 97
Westlake, OR 97493

Go GREEN!
Save the City printing and mailing costs
by e-subscribing ~ send an email to
admin@dunescityor.com with
"Newsletter" in the subject line and
receive future newsletters by email!

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Florence, OR
Permit No. 11

LEISURE EXCAVATING INC.
Gary Rose - Owner

**Septic Problems?
Sewer Troubles?**
It May Not Be A Disaster!
Your sewer issues may just need a simple repair.

We Confidently Use the New
AdvanTex
Treatment Systems

Landscaping Products - You Haul or We Deliver
Decorative Rock & Bark • Rock Products • Sand • Top Soil

Demolition • Roads & Driveways • Trucking • Grading • Site Clearing
Septic, Design, Permitting, Installation • Standard, Low Pressure, Sand Filters & ATT's

CCB#: 192661 DEQ#: 37943

4525 Hwy. 101 • Florence "When Quality Counts" **541-997-6300**



DUNES CITY PREPARES FOR ITS PREMIER EVENT

On Saturday, May 7th...

Dunes City streets will again be filled with cyclists competing in the 4th annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon. The event begins with an often icy swim in pristine Woahink Lake, followed by a bicycle ride through the rolling countryside beginning at Honeyman State Park, moving along Clear Lake Road, around Darlings Loop, and then out toward Ada Grange, and returning to Honeyman State Park where athletes drop their bicycles, don their running shoes, and head out through the trails of Honeyman-finally arriving at the finish line on the top of the dune by Cleawox Lake.



What many residents don't realize, however, is that this is an Olympic sanctioned event, meaning Olympic Team hopefuls can participate in this event on the way to achieve their goal of landing a coveted position on the Olympic Triathlon team. Last year over 250 athletes competed. As of this same time last year, athlete registration has nearly doubled.

"Dunes City's only obligation in the event is to help provide volunteers to keep our athletes on track and safe," said Mayor Rebecca Ruede, "and we get to keep half of the sponsorship fees for the general fund." The City is offering a \$250 prize to the organization that provides the most volunteers for the event.

An organization can be a formal organization, such as CERT, Kiwanis, Rotary or Elks, or it can be an informal group, like a bunch of neighbors who are raising funds for a special project. Volunteers are needed to help direct athletes as to which direction they are to ride or run, to help hand out water and other items at the aid stations, and to just provide encouragement to the athletes by cheering them on. "I always seem to become attached to a particular athlete during registration, laughed Interim City Administrator Jamie Mills, "whether it's the 9 year old running his first event or the recently widowed 68 year old or the slightly heavy teenager trying to prove to themselves they can do it, I always find someone special to cheer for and keep tabs on throughout the day. It is so much fun to go out and just people watch while doing volunteer service. I recommend that everybody try it at least once!" she added.

Staggered starts for the Olympic and Sprint races begin at 8:00 a.m., so most volunteers will need to be there around 6:30 a.m. to receive their equipment, assignments, and brief training. The event can go as late at 2:00 p.m., but is usually done around noon.

If anyone is interested in volunteering some time to the City for this event that helps defray the expenses of the City, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Rapunzel Oberholtzer at City Hall: 541-997-3338. ☺

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Dunes City's Premier Event	Front Cover
Getting to Know Your City	Pages 2 & 3
Septic Preservation Tips	Page 4
Promote Your Business	Page 5
Benefits of Volunteering	Page 6
Water, Water and More Water	Page 7

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CITY

Mayor's Message



THE HEART OF THE CITY

You might not realize it, but April is National Volunteer Month. This is a time when we honor all of those who freely give their time to help their neighbors and communities. I would like to thank everyone who stepped up and responded to our recent letter asking for volunteers. Thanks to you, we were able to fill many vacancies on the Commissions and Committees that are so vital to Dunes City.

Each year Dunes City honors one of its volunteers with a "Volunteer of the Year" award. The Volunteer of the Year program was established by Resolution in May of 2012 as a way to formally recognize outstanding volunteerism. The program was suggested by Councilor Duke Wells and the Resolution to adopt the program passed by unanimous vote.

If you know someone you think deserves a bit of extra recognition for their efforts, you can nominate him or her for Volunteer of the Year. It's easy to do, on the Dunes City website, click on the Permits, Forms and Information tab and scroll down to and click on the Volunteer of the Year Nomination Form. Once you fill out the form, you can mail it or deliver it to City Hall. Nominations will be accepted during the month of May and the award recipient will be announced during the June City Council meeting. 🌿

DUNES CITY WELCOMES NEW CITY COUNCILOR

A hearty WELCOME to the City's newest City Council member, Tom Mallen! Tom is a native Oregonian who currently resides in Westlake. He is embarking on construction of a new home that is also located in Dunes City. He is a Viet Nam veteran and has a bachelor's degree and very long resume in the field of finance. Tom previously served as a police officer in Cottage Grove and is acting as an Auxiliary Officer to the Florence Police Department and Oregon State Police.

We welcome Tom's expertise to the Dunes City Council. 🌿



DUNES CITY ACQUIRES SMART TV FOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Thanks to a grant from the Western Lane Community Foundation, an organization created by the Rotary Club of Florence, Dunes City has now purchased and installed a large smart TV for use at meetings and in case of an emergency.

The next day after Councilor Duke Wells installed the TV on the wall bracket, the television was used to assist council meeting attendees by displaying items being discussed by the City Council. It is also hoped that the device will be used to hold classes and training on a variety of topics at City Hall.

Stop by and see our newly acquired asset! 🌿

DUNES CITY SWEARS IN NEW PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

After many years running with less than a full complement of Planning Commission members, all of the vacancies on the Planning Commission have been filled.

The City is excited to welcome residents Brett McKnight, Ken Pesnell and Steve Galbraith, who join Planning Commission Chairman Paul Gargis and Vice Chairman Bonnie Allen, in deliberating land use issues and issues that impact every resident in the City.

Charles, "Brett" McKnight has his Bachelor of Science Degree from Oregon State University and spent the last 30+ years with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the last 25 years specifically as the Hazardous Waste Program Manager for DEQ. He has served on numerous advisory committees and the Governor's Community Solution team. Brett was Vice Chairman of the Oregon OSU Beaver Athletic Club from 2013 to 2014. Go Beavers!

A Navy veteran, Ken Pesnell has resided in Dunes City for over four years. Ken has an extensive background as an electrician for numerous large resorts and casinos throughout the Western United States and now works in that capacity for the Oregon State Lottery. Ken has served as a firefighter off and on throughout his adult life and brings significant knowledge of emergency preparedness and training to the table.

A long-time resident of Dunes City, Steve Galbraith worked as a popular woodshop teacher for the Siuslaw School District for 28 years. Now retired, Steve is ready to put his expertise and knowledge to work for Dunes City. 🍷

Brett McKnight (left), Ken Pesnell (center) and Steve Galbraith (right) taking the Oath of Office for the Planning Commission



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Dunes City's second annual Community Expo will be held on Saturday, August 20th, 2016, at Dunes City Hall. The Expo offers something for the entire family! Games, prizes, raffle items, and much, much more!

Lots of information will be available about emergency preparedness and survival, vendors will be displaying their wares and experts will be available to answer questions.

Admission is free, but we are looking for vendors interested in coming out and displaying their products. Please call Dunes City Hall at 541-997-3338 for more information. Booths are only \$25.00, but space is limited, so call today! 🍷

SEPTIC PRESERVATION TIPS

In a time when every dollars counts, residents, like all who live in Dunes City, need to find cost-cutting ways to preserve septic systems and avoid costly repairs or replacement costs. Here are a few tips to keep in mind:

1. The garbage disposal should be used sparingly-not as a method of disposing of solid food waste. In order to protect drain field operation, solid food wastes should be disposed of in a garbage can or container or the compost pile. (We feed our kitchen scraps to our chickens and they love it!)
2. Septic systems depend on bacteria to function properly. Therefore, is it best not to use strong disinfectants or bleaches—especially where the same results can be achieved by less caustic methods.
3. Contrary to what many of us were taught as we grew up, **NEVER** flush medical supplies or excess medications down the toilet. These chemicals are usually not filtered out by soils and end up in our drinking water sources. Dunes City tested Siltcoos Lake a couple of years ago and one pharmaceutical that showed up, not in dangerous levels but enough to be measured, was cholesterol lowering medications. The likely cause? Excess medicines in human urine that gets flushed into the septic systems and makes its way to the lake. Please dispose of medications properly.
4. While it may seem like a no-brainer to some, you'd be surprised how many people drive over their drainfields. This is a sure invitation to septic failure. If the drain pipes collapse, the water has no place to flow. If the water can't flow away, it puddles and gets very, very messy—and stinky! Avoid driving or parking on your drainfield (and don't build anything on it like a shed or greenhouse).

Some of the things you should not put into your septic systems are:

Cigarette Butts

Baby or adult wipes

Coffee grounds or tea bags

Cooking grease or oils

Paint and paint thinners

Cat litter

Condoms

Feminine hygiene products

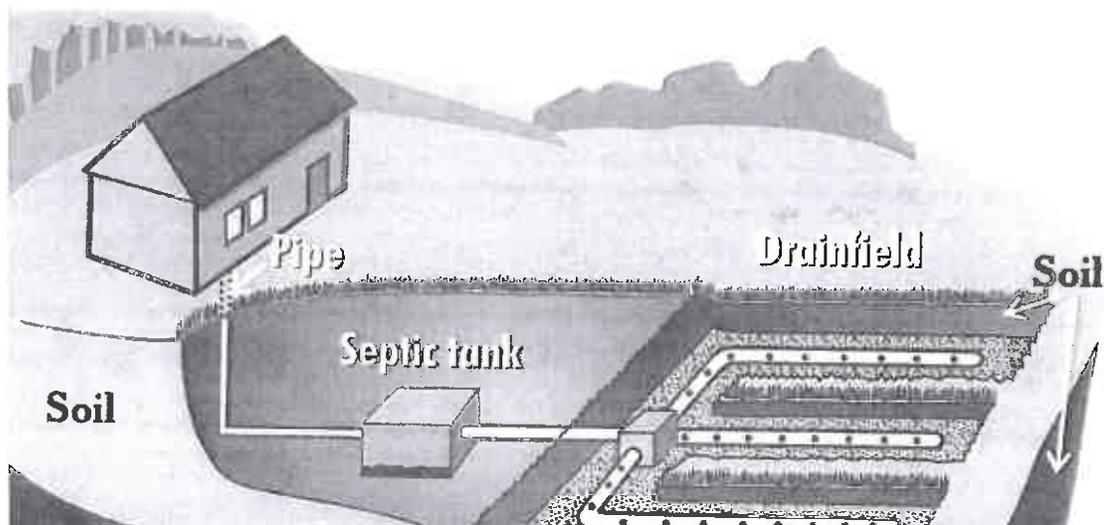
Shells of any kind

Motor oil or fuel

Caustic and Toxic chemicals

Flushable Cleaning products

With just a little common sense and a conscious effort to protect our septic systems, we can avoid costly repairs, system failures, and protect our water sources.





John Murphey
Agent

**COAST
INSURANCE
SERVICES, INC.**

777 Maple Street #1 • P.O. Box 310 • Florence, Oregon 97439
(541) 997-3455 • fax (541) 997-1009
Email john@coastinsurance.com • www.coastinsurance.com

SIUSLAW
Glass & Mirror

Glass for Every Purpose

1780 Kingwood St. / P.O. Box 144
Florence, OR 97439

(541) 997-8526

Fax 997-9132
ccb#55030

licensed Serving our community for over 15 years. bonded



541-268-6914

**Tree Removal & Trimming
Brush Cutting & Maintenance
50' Bucket Truck & 12" Chipper**

insured CCB 103880

WEST COAST AUTOBODY, INC.

P.O. BOX 2418
FLORENCE, OR 97439
wcabody@qwestoffice.net

RICK L. RUEDE

1178 QUINCE ST. ph (541) 997-7117
fax (541) 997-1983



Richard G. Beaudro
Principal Broker
Ocean, River & Lakes
Cell: 541-991-6677

1-800-210-7453

Fax 997-8625

Res. 541-991-6677

1749 Hwy 101
PO Box 3104
Florence, OR 97439



Email: richard@trhunter.com



Richard G. Beaudro
#1 in Dunes City 2014
FREE Confidential
Real Estate
Consultations
Call 541-991-6677

1749 Hwy 101
PO Box 3104
Florence, OR 97439

Email: richard@trhunter.com

Family Owned & Operated for 35 Years

**Chuck's
PLUMBING**

Septic Systems
Well & Water Systems - Sewage Pumps
Backhoe Services
Underwater Pump Diving Services
24-Hour Service Available
541-997-7567



**NOW OFFERING
BUCKET TRUCK
SERVICES**

(541) 997-8148

SIGNS • BANNERS
VINYL LETTERING • VEHICLES
STICKERS • BOAT LETTERING
ILLUMINATED SIGNS

1417 6th Street • Located Inside The Shippin' Shack



**SOUVENIR
OREGON DUNES TRIATHLON
HATS, T-SHIRTS AND HOODIES
AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL**



SURPRISING BENEFITS FROM VOLUNTEERING

Helping others kindles happiness, as many studies have demonstrated. When researchers at the London School of Economics examined the relationship between volunteering and measures of happiness in a large group of American adults, they found the more people volunteered, the happier they were, according to a study in Social Science and Medicine. Compared with people who never volunteered, the odds of being "very happy" rose 7% among those who volunteer monthly and 12% for people who volunteer every two to four weeks. Among weekly volunteers, 16% felt very happy—a hike in happiness compared to having an income of \$75,000 to \$100,000 versus \$20,000, say the researchers.

In addition, volunteering is good for your mind and body. Older adults, especially those who have retired or lost a spouse, can find new meaning and purpose in their lives by helping others. Whatever your age or life situation, volunteering can help take your mind off your own worries, keep you mentally stimulated, and add more zest to your life. A key risk factor for depression is social isolation. Volunteering keeps you in regular contact with others and helps you develop a solid support system, which in turn, protects you against stress and depression when you're going through challenging times.

The physical activity involved in certain forms of volunteering—such as environmental projects in parks or along roadways, can be good for your health at any age, but especially beneficial to older adults. Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not, even when considering factors like the health of the participants. Volunteering has also been shown to lessen symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

People with disabilities or chronic health conditions can still benefit greatly from volunteering. In fact, research has shown that adults with disabilities or health conditions ranging from hearing and vision loss to heart disease, diabetes or digestive disorders all show improvement after volunteering.

For those still in the work place, volunteering can teach valuable job skills and can provide career experience. Just because volunteer work is unpaid does not mean the skills you learn are basic. Many volunteering opportunities provide extensive training. Volunteering can also help you build upon skills you already have and use them to benefit the greater community. For instance, if you hold a successful sales position, you raise awareness for your favorite cause as a volunteer advocate, while further developing and improving your public speaking, communication and marketing skills. You also build upon your contacts list to further your career goals.

Dunes City has many openings for volunteers and would love to have you join our "family". Come by City Hall at 82877 Spruce Street in Westlake (hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday), or go to our website at dunescityhall.com to fill out an application form. ☺

Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not, even when considering factors like the health of the participants. Volunteering has also been shown to lessen symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

WATER, WATER AND MORE WATER!

By Jamie Mills, Interim City Administrator

The most recent "rainy season" has been daunting for Dunes City! Drainage problems all along Dunes City roadways became very obvious—usually after dark—as citizens contacted City Hall and the Interim City Administrator in hopes of seeking help to avoid flood damage to their property. I want to take just a quick moment to thank Richard Palmer and my husband, Robin Mills, for being "on call" with me during these times!

All of this has pointed out drainage problems along many of the City roadways that, unfortunately, have usually been caused by an someone unknowingly filling in the City's bar ditches.

Bar ditches are the small indentations-ditches-that run near the edges of roadways to capture water and direct its flow in a pre-determined direction. Sometimes bar ditches are connected to culverts that then pipe or ditch the water elsewhere. When those ditches, which often cross private property, get filled in, problems arise. The water tries to find a different direction to flow toward its final destination—a nearby lake. Sometimes those directional changes result in washing out roadways or driveways, and even foundations and structures.

For this reason, it is imperative that City residents keep the bar ditches open and operational. There are many who have landscaped the right of ways in front of their homes and filled in the bar ditch in the process. While the landscaping is beautiful, it can create havoc with the drainage system and ultimately results in costing the City money—a lot of money. This year, partially as a result of someone filling in the bar ditch that used to exist across their property, the City may have to foot the bill for some \$70,000 plus in repairs and damages. The City doesn't have that much money and rarely receives much more than \$50,000 in total road revenues. Grant funding is scarce. If the City is forced to do the whole project this year, we cannot afford to do our regular maintenance (brushing and sweeping) or the planned upkeep of City streets.

The City prides itself on the fact that its citizens are good citizens who volunteer on a regular basis in an effort to avoid the necessity of property taxes. I'm asking you all to please make sure your actions have not resulted in altering the City's drainage system. If you have any questions, please feel free to call City Hall at 541-997-3338 and we'll come out and take a look. Thank you! 🌿



WANTED

VOLUNTEERS

FOR VARIOUS LOCATIONS AT
**DUNES CITY'S 4TH ANNUAL
 OREGON DUNES
 TRIATHLON & DUATHLON**

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED ON
 RACE DAY FROM ABOUT 6:00 AM
 UNTIL ABOUT 2:00 PM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
 CALL DUNES CITY HALL
 541-997-3338**

SPEAKING OF WATER...

Dunes City is asking residents to tell us where they get their water—from Woahink or Siltcoos, from a well or from another water source.

If you haven't already done so, please call City Hall to let us know. 🌿