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Editor: Dunes City Administrator

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SVFR ESTABLISHES

PUBLIC USE RESTRICTIONS

Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal Tony Miller announced a schedule of public use restrictions based on the fire danger level. A copy of the restrictions can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

SIX STEPS TO WILDFIRE PROTECTION

*Borrowed from the Oregon Department of Forestry
and the Forest Protective Association Office*

Step One: If there is a home or other structure that is larger than 500 square feet on your property, then a 30-foot fuel break is required to be established around it. If the roofing material on the structure is of a flammable material (i.e., unrated shingles, cedar shake, etc.) then the fuel break must be at least 50-feet.

A fuel break begins at the outside edge of the home's furthest extension (the roof eave or the edge of the deck, if you have one) and it mirrors the shape of the structure's footprint. The fuel break distances are measured along any slopes and do not have to extend beyond the property line.

Vegetation in the fuel break must meet the following guidelines: Groundcover should be substantially non-flammable or fire resistant such as asphalt or concrete, bare soil, clover, green grass, ivy, mulches, rock, succulents or wildflowers. Dry grass should be cut to a height of less than 4 inches. Cut grass, leaves, needles, twigs and similar small vegetative debris should be broken up so that a continuous fuel bed is not created. Shrubs and trees should be maintained in a green condition, be substantially free of dead plant material, and have any potential "ladder fuels" removed. Trees and shrubs should also be arranged so that fire cannot spread or jump from plant to plant. Some thinning may be necessary to accomplish this.



Photograph courtesy of the Association of Oregon Counties. No copyright infringement is intended.

Step Two: On a driveway that is at least 150 feet long, it is necessary to remove obstructions over the driving surface and
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Six Steps . . .

create a fuel break along the driveway's fringe. The horizontal clearance must be at least 12 feet and the vertical clearance must be at least 13 ½ feet. The fuel break must extend 10 feet from each side of the driveway's center-line for a total fuel break area of at least 20 feet wide, including the driving surface. The fuel break vegetation must meet the same standards as set out in step one and, again, the fuel break need not extend beyond the property line.

Step Three: Sparks from a chimney connected to a fireplace or wood-burning stove could catch tree branches on fire. To reduce the chance of this happening, trim all branches 10 feet away from a chimney that vents a wood-burning fireplace or stove.

Step Four: All dead branches overhanging any portion of the roof must be removed. Also, remove accumulations of leaves, needles, twigs, bark and other potentially flammable debris that may be on the roof, in the valleys or in the rain gutters.

Step Five: Keeping the space under wooden decks and exterior stairways clean, and enclosed, is one of the best ways to keep a house safe during the fire season. Firewood and lumber need to be removed, and dry needles, leaves and other litter need to be cleaned out.

Step Six: Firewood and lumber piles near a structure can become a source of intense, sustained heat if they should catch fire. This could ignite nearby vegetation or cause windows to break, admitting fire into the structure. During the months of fire season, move firewood and lumber piles at least 20 feet from any structure. A better solution is to put firewood and lumber into an enclosed shed.

REMINDER

Before having your contractor or anyone move large amounts of dirt around, onto, or from your property, or install a septic system or tank, you need to get an excavating and grading permit from Dunes City.

WASP SEASON IS UPON US!

As a general rule, wasps die over the winter – provided it is cold enough, long enough, to kill them off. In our temperate climate, however, they seem to survive very nicely!

The colonies are bigger than ever, which means the wasps are hungry and more aggressive than ever too. You should never swat or squash a wasp, because when you do, the pheromone that is released will only attract and invite more wasps that are nearby to come to the aid of their brother or sister! How, then, is someone supposed to get rid of wasps? Before you turn to chemical treatments that can be difficult to use and dangerous for yourself and your children or grandchildren, and your pets, consider the following:

PREVENTION FIRST

Prevention is always the first step. Keep them away by removing any unwanted food and covering trash cans. Things they are attracted to include pet food and bird food. They like things that are sweet, like nectar, perfumes and lotions. Maintain your home and out buildings. Check to ensure there is no broken siding or any kind of crevice. Be sure your screens, windows and doors are in

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Wasps...

proper working order so they can't get inside. Check the yard for rodent holes that could make a perfect home for wasps. Fill the holes with dirt so they can't use it. Decorative wasp decoys can help to. Wasps generally won't build a nest that's within 200 feet of another one, so hanging the decoy on the side of your house can deter them from moving in.

GROW WASP REPELLING PLANTS

Removing flowering plants from areas where you like to hang out is a good idea. Adding certain plants to the yard is a great way to deter wasps, especially, plants like spearmint, thyme, citronella, eucalyptus and wormwood which serve as natural wasp deterrents.

USE ESSENTIAL OILS

Not only do wasps not like spearmint, they don't seem to like any mint. Simply add a few drops of peppermint oil to cotton pads and place them strategically around the outside of places where wasps like to build nests, such as porch roofs, under eaves and other crevices, or where a wasp nest was once located. Some wasps like to move into old nesting sites.

Research has shown that a blend of lemongrass, clove and geranium essential oils manages to repel worker wasps. Just mix several drops of each of the oils in a spray bottle, add a few squirts of dish soap, and spray where wasps like to build nests.

SUGAR WATER WASP TRAPS

You can buy these or make them yourself. Instructions are readily available on the internet. The only downside to using traps is

that it is unlikely to trap wasps that are problem nesters, unless you place the trap very close to the nest opening.

SOAP AND WATER

Add 2 tablespoons of dish soap to a spray bottle filled with water and spray away, directing it at **SMALL** hanging nests. The soap works to clog wasps' breathing pores and they die almost instantly.

IMPORTANT: Removing wasp nests can be very dangerous. It is strongly recommended to hire an experienced professional to do the job for you.



ODF WARNS TO LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD

Deer in our area give birth between May and July of each year. It is not uncommon for mother animals to leave their young alone for extended periods of time while they go off to feed, so never assume a young animal is orphaned when you see it alone. The mother will return when it is safe to do so – when people, pets or predators aren't around.

Animals taken from their natural environment miss the chance to learn important survival skills including how to escape from predators. This usually leads to a shortened life span for the animal.

Removing an animal from the wild and/or holding it is a violation of state law and is considered a Class A misdemeanor. The court could impose a maximum fine of \$6,250 and/or one year in jail.

About Your Water Meter

Every month Dunes City Staff fields questions about water meters—why they're necessary and why monthly readings are required. In this article we'll try to answer some of those questions for the benefit of long-time residents and newcomers alike. As we've discussed in previous newsletters, the provisions of Ordinance No. 231-A, adopted by the City Council in February of 2016, spell out specific water meter rules for property owners who draw water from Woahink Lake under Dunes City's Surface Water Right Permit and its Shared Domestic Water Right Program.

Under Ordinance No. 231-A, Dunes City property owners must install, or allow Dunes City to install, metering devices to measure the volume of water being diverted to the property for domestic purposes. A meter must be installed for every point of diversion, which means that wherever there is a pump in the lake, amount of water being pumped must be measured before it is filtered or enters the house or irrigation system. To the greatest extent possible, meters must measure all of the water used on the property for all purposes. Water meters must be located in an easily accessible and visible location between the pump and the water treatment system on the outside of any structures.

Property owners must report their water usage (meter reading) to Dunes City Hall monthly. That reporting can be done by telephone, email, mail, or in person. In addition to recording the property owners' monthly readings, the City hires someone every year to come out and read the meters, typically beginning in November. Property owners must allow

the City's meter reader on the property to read the meter.

In Dunes City, there are some homeowner's associations that are responsible for submitting monthly meter readings but the HOA is not submitting them. Property owners, particularly those in homeowner's associations, should take action to ensure their monthly water meter readings are being submitted to Dunes City in a timely manner.

Why Is Water Meter Reading So Important?

Dunes City's Surface Water Right Permit for Woahink Lake comes with specific requirements that the City **must** meet—one requirement is measuring water usage. If the City does not accurately report its MONTHLY water usage to the State every year, the State has indicated it would deny further delivery of water to those houses that fail to report their monthly readings.

What does this mean? While the State of Oregon considers drinking water for residents paramount, if the terms of the permit are not being met, the use can and will be denied and the State would order the removal of the pump and line that delivers water to the property. This is a scary thought for all of us. We must all do our part and report our monthly water usage!





So, How Do I Read My Water Meter?

The meter measures gallons of water used and ends with two digits following a decimal point. All numbers, including any zeros at the beginning or end (even if they are painted on), and including the decimal point, should be reported on the cards provided by Dunes City upon request, or by email, or simply call City Hall at 541-997-3338. Better yet, bring the numbers to City Hall - we'd love to see you!

You may also just take pictures of the meter and the meter number with your cell phone and email the pictures to recorder@dunescityor.com.

According to Dunes City Code, failing to submit your monthly meter readings is a violation punishable by fines and assessments, including the possibility of placement of a lien against your property. We really don't want to do that, though, and we sure don't want to see you directed by the State to discontinue your water use, so we ask for complete cooperation from all of our Shared Domestic Water Supply Program customers.

PUT WATER IN ITS PLACE

Infiltrate it into the ground!

When we build streets, houses and driveways, we create impervious surfaces which prevent precipitation from infiltrating into the ground. Instead, the water runs off the surface. This "runoff" can erode bare soil, sweep trash and other pollutants into roadside ditches and culverts, and carry them to the nearest lake, creek or stream. Nationwide, stormwater runoff is one of the biggest sources of pollution to rivers, lakes and streams.

Homeowners can take various measures to allow runoff water from rooftops and driveways to infiltrate or soak into the ground. This will reduce both runoff and erosion. An eroded landscape is unattractive. Improperly directed runoff can also fill roadside ditches and storm drain systems with sediment and cause flooding. It is also a violation of State law.

Control runoff from rooftops and pavement by creating infiltration systems connected to gutter downspouts. Soakage trenches are a great way to ensure runoff is adequately filtered before it makes its way to the lake or creek. If you are interested in this type of system, contact City Hall, as we have the plans and diagrams available.

Email: recorder@dunescityor.com

SEPTIC MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Dunes City Code requires periodic inspections of septic inspections. The primary purpose is to decrease the amount of pollutants that make it into our drinking water sources. Originally, the Code required inspections to be done every 5 years, but it has since been changed to allow the inspector to set the time frame for inspection based upon a chart developed by Oregon State University. Based upon the size of the system and number of people using it, some individual systems can wait to inspect for as long as 12 years, provided they are having the system pumped regularly. Dunes City does not track septic pumping. Except for the requirement of an initial pumping at the time of the initial inspection of the system, the City doesn't concern itself with system pumping schedules. If you have never had your septic system pumped and inspected, you are in violation of Dunes City Code and likely will be, or have already, received a letter from the City advising you to remedy the violation. You are asked to comply with the directive as soon as possible. If you are facing financial difficulties that prevent your ability to pay for the inspection, please notify us and we will try to help you get funding to take care of all or a part of the costs. Call: 541-997-3338.

MEET THE CENTRAL OREGON COAST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Central Oregon Coast Amateur Radio Club (COCARC) is a group of licensed amateur radio operators that live in Florence, Dunes City, Mapleton, and beyond. COCARC was established in 1985 as a non-profit corporation with the express purpose of providing emergency communications service for the central coast and surrounding communities. The club has established and maintains powerful 2M and 440 repeaters atop Mt. Herman capable of communicating into the Eugene area and up and down the coast in the event of a catastrophic event and the loss of conventional communications systems.

The group sponsors an emergency radio unit called the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) through volunteered time, and funding for equipment repair and upgrade. ARES works closely with the West Lane Emergency Operations Group and conducts regular practice exercises, setting up emergency communications and preparing for a disaster. COCARC also promotes amateur radio through events such as ARRL Field Day in June and International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend in August. They provide traffic control at Heceta Head Lighthouse Christmas Open House and promote the art and science of "Ham" radio at Wings & Wheels at the Florence airport. Club members volunteer and donate their time, knowledge and equipment for these events.

COCARC regularly offers a free training course for interested persons to obtain their amateur radio license. FCC testing is offered at the end of each course. For further information about this not-for-profit club, check their website at: www.W7FLO.com.



Dunes City provided a station and allowed an antenna to be installed at City Hall so that our local ARES members can assist the City with communications during a catastrophic event. Dunes City is grateful to our talented COCARC members and ARES volunteers for all they do to help the City!

DON'T SPREAD INVASIVE SPECIES!

Invasive species can hitch a ride on your fishing and swimming equipment, on your boat and trailer, in your boat's live well and bilge water, and even on your hunting boots!

Motorboats, kayaks, canoes, drift boats and other watercraft can carry destructive quagga and zebra mussels, New Zealand mudsnails

and aquatic plants—invasive species that cause serious economic and environmental damage to lakes, streams, and irrigation and water delivery systems.



Quagga mussels render water diversion structure inoperable. Imagine what they could do to a pump!

In an effort to reduce the spread of these invasive species, the Oregon State Legislature passed the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Program in 2009 and established an AIS Prevention Permit. The purpose of the AIS Program is to protect Oregon against the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.

All non-motorized boats (paddle craft) that are 10 feet or longer must obtain a two year permit for \$10.00. All out of state motorboats and sailboats 12 feet or longer must obtain a \$20.00 annual permit. Permit fees for Oregon resident motorboat and sailboat owners are included in their registration fees. Permits are available online via the Oregon Marine Board, at any ODFW licensed sales agent or any ODFW office that sells licenses.

Permits, however, are not enough. Special care and attention must be given to your equipment! Before launching and before leaving, **INSPECT EVERYTHING**. The New Zealand mudsnail is less than 5 mm and can hitch a ride in hunting bootlaces! Clean all visible aquatic plants, animals and mud from your vehicles, boat, motor, clothing, floatation equipment, water toys, and trailer.



THREE BALLOT QUESTIONS REFERRED TO DUNES CITY VOTERS ON THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

The registered voters of Dunes City will be asked to make their choices on three important questions posed to the voters during the November 6, 2018 General Election.

QUESTION

Shall Dunes City prohibit medical marijuana processors, medical marijuana dispensaries, recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers in Dunes City?

SUMMARY

State law allows operation of registered medical marijuana processors, medical marijuana dispensaries and licensed recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers. State law provides that a City Council may adopt an ordinance to be referred to the voters to prohibit the establishment of any of those registered or licensed activities.

Approval of this measure would prohibit the establishment and operation of medical marijuana processors, medical marijuana dispensaries, recreational marijuana producers, processors, wholesalers, and retailers within the area subject to the jurisdiction of the City, provided that state law allows for continued operation of medical marijuana processor and medical marijuana dispensaries already registered, or in some cases, that have applied to be registered, and that have successfully completed a local land use application process.

If this measure is approved, the City will be ineligible to receive distributions of State marijuana tax revenues and will be unable to impose a local tax or fee on the production, processing or sale of marijuana or any product into which marijuana has been incorporated.

QUESTION

Shall the City Charter be amended to clarify the authority of the Municipal Judge and creation of a Municipal Court?

SUMMARY

Approving this measure amends the City Charter of Dunes City by replacing Section 21 with a new Section 21. Adoption of this Charter amendment requires an affirmative vote of the people.

Section 21 of the Charter authorizes the City Council to appoint a Municipal Court Judge. This proposed new Section 21 would replace the current provisions and provide more details as to the Municipal Judge's authority. The proposal allows a Municipal Court Judge the authority granted by State law, unless the City Council adopts an ordinance specifically limiting such authority. The proposal would allow the City Council to contract for the services of a Municipal Court Judge and allow the City Council to authorize holding Municipal Court at a location outside the City limits. The proposal is based upon a League of Oregon Cities model that is in use by many other cities throughout Oregon. If approved, the Charter amendment would take effect January 12, 2019.

QUESTION

Shall Dunes City impose \$1,215.70 each year for five years for operations beginning in 2019-2020?

SUMMARY

The City seeks to impose a local option levy to raise \$1,215.70 per year for five years. The total levied over five years would be \$6,078.50. The money raised would be used for general operations. The taxes will be used for operating purposes and to qualify the City to receive State shared tax revenues.

It is estimated that the proposed tax levy will result in a property tax rate of \$.005 per \$1,000 of assessed value in the first year. For example, a property with an assessed value of \$300,000 would be assessed a tax of \$1.50 by this proposal. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an estimate only based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression, and the collection rate.



P O Box 97
Westlake, OR 97493

WHAT ARE SHARED TAX REVENUES?

State shared tax revenues include cigarette taxes, liquor taxes, gas taxes, and a portion of income taxes. Dunes City has received cigarette, liquor and gas taxes that it may not have been entitled to receive for many years. These tax revenues totalled over \$100,000 in fiscal year 2016-2017 (audited). Dunes City has never received a portion of State income taxes.

According to Oregon Revised Statutes, a City is only entitled to receive State shared tax revenues if it imposes a property tax.

Disasters Happen!

September is National Preparedness Month

September 16 to 22, 2018 is

HOME INVENTORY WEEK!

Home Inventory Week is designated to protecting your family by protecting your assets. To recognize the week, the Oregon Division of Financial Regulation and Dunes City encourages you to do two simple tasks:

Task One:

1. Build your home inventory by taking photos of each room in your home, paying close attention to what's on the walls, in closets, and don't forget storage spaces; and
2. Write a brief description of each item. Note the make, model, price, and other details that might help when filing a claim. Try to group similar items together when taking pictures.

Task Two:

Review your coverage by discussing your policies with your insurance company or agent. Make sure you have the right coverage and know what to expect when you file a claim.

OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS EFFECTS OF FLOOD RISK IMPACT ON DUNES CITY AND FLORENCE

The preliminary map for flood areas in Florence and Dunes City has been released for community review.

On Tuesday, September 18, 2018, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., property owners and community residents are invited to discuss the potential impacts of and provide feedback on the proposed community flood map revisions. The Open House will be held at the Florence Events Center, located at 715 Quince Street in Florence. It will showcase Dunes City and the City of Florence hazard mitigation planning efforts and provide an opportunity for community members to learn how to build stronger and safer in the face of natural disasters.

FEMA has issued a preliminary map showing revisions to the 1-percent-annual-chance floodplain, which has a 1-percent chance of flooding in any year. These maps will help community officials and local residents identify flood risks. Following adoption, these maps will be used to determine flood insurance rates, and inform hazard mitigation plans, and the land use and development decisions.

For Dunes City, all 46 properties previously identified as in the 1-percent flood plain have now been removed.

Dunes City encourages property owners to examine the preliminary maps, attend the September 18th Open House, and ask questions about how revisions could affect them. More information is available by calling the FEMA Map Information exchange, (877) 336-2627, or by visiting FEMA's Flood Map Service Center at msc.fema.gov.

STAN & ANN ANDERSON NAMED DUNES CITY VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

At the City Council meeting on July 11, 2018, Stan and Ann Anderson were awarded the honor of Dunes City's "Volunteers of the Year".

Ann and Stan are the new managers of Boy Scout Camp Baker. This year, they were instrumental in bringing 20 Boy Scouts and team leaders to the annual Oregon Dunes Triathlon. These 20 volunteers helped Dunes City meet the minimum number of volunteers required – for the first time in the history of the event!

Ann and Stan were tireless recruiters and then provided outstanding organizational and logistical talent to make sure the Scouts knew where and when to report and what to do when they got there.

Thank you for all you do, Ann and Stan Anderson!