

The Echo

Feb. 2016 Published by the City of Echo PO Box 9/20 S Bonanza (541)376-8411

Red 2 Red XC Race

The 8th annual Red 2 Red Cross-Country Mountain Bike Race will be on Saturday, March 5 at 11 am this year with a Poker Race on Sunday, March 6, 2015. Registration is available for 13 (junior), 25 and 32 mile courses. All will start and end in downtown Echo, so be prepared for congestion and limited parking around town.

Racers and spectators should not block



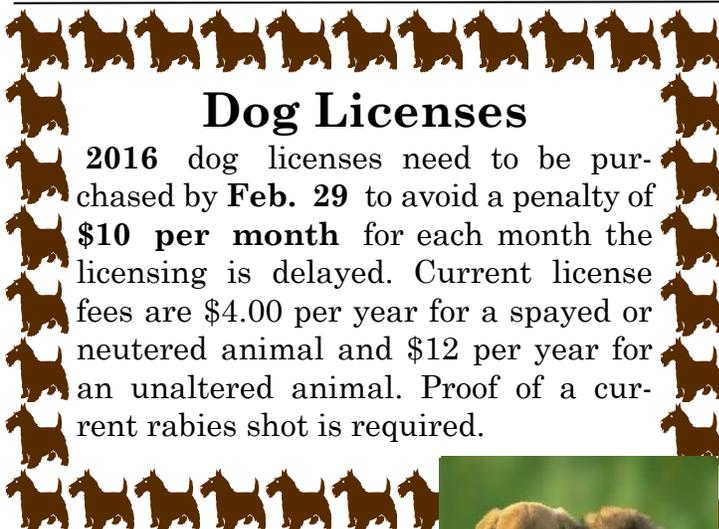
driveways, but they can park on street right-of-way parking strips outside of a driveway. **Please do not block off parking strips.** Do not put out chairs or barricades except at a driveway.

Link to website: <http://www.echored2red.com/>

Council Committees

There are several openings on the city's Budget Committee and on the Library Board. The Budget Committee usually meets twice in May and June. The Library Board usually has a couple of meetings a year also. If you are in-

terested in serving on the committees, you can pickup an application at city hall. Requirements are at least one year residency and being a registered voter.



Dog Licenses

2016 dog licenses need to be purchased by **Feb. 29** to avoid a penalty of **\$10 per month** for each month the licensing is delayed. Current license fees are \$4.00 per year for a spayed or neutered animal and \$12 per year for an unaltered animal. Proof of a current rabies shot is required.



Rabies Clinic

Country Animal Hospital and the City of Echo will hold a Rabies Clinic on Saturday Feb. 20 from 2 to 4 pm in the Old VFW Hall at 310 W. Bridge St., Echo. The cost for a shot is \$20.00. You may also buy your dog license at this time.

Library Donations

Bonnie Berry	2 books
Lou Nakapalau	7 books
Elsie Middleton	4 books
Janice Schulze	2 books

Other Donations

Gene & Jeanie Hampton—Art—	\$25
Kingsley & Margaret Parker—George Park—	\$100

Building Upgrades



Thanks to the Echo Community Benefit Plan the Echo Masonic Lodge's 1st floor has gone through a major transformation. Shown here are the new Kitchen cup-

boards & counter tops. Below is the new Pergo flooring and paint job. Thanks to Kevin Fife Construction for the upgrades.



The Lodge is one of the oldest buildings in Umatilla County and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

It was built c. 1863 in Umatilla Landing and was taken apart c. 1901, loaded on rail cars and transported to Echo where it was reconstructed. The upstairs has always been the lodge meeting room and the first floor was rented out to businesses in the early years. One business was a Billiards Hall where Near Beer was sold.

Old VFW Hall

The Old VFW Hall was given to the city in November and is slowly being transformed into a meeting space, the library's Amazon



book store and the library's craft area. The weekly story and craft time is being held there now on Fridays from 2 to 3:15 pm.

The building does need work to upgrade plumbing and make the kitchen functional, to upgrade floor joists and make outside improvements such as painting and water sealing. Most of these repairs will have to wait for grants and donations.



Food Pantry

February's Chester's Food Pantry for needy families will be back at the Masonic Lodge on Wednesday, Feb. 24.



Kopacz Nursery & Florist



"Helping Make Echo More Beautiful"

Kopacz Nursery sponsors Echo's Beautification Program each year; Providing plants, labor & green house space for floral displays & donates annuals for public areas.

Kopacz: Where Flowers Are Our Business.
Check out our new web page. <http://kopacznurseryflorist.com/>

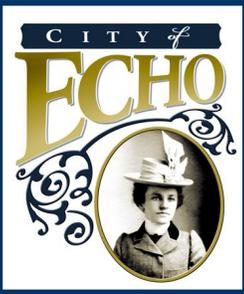
- Beautiful Bouquets
- Arrangements & more
- Gift Center
- Blooming & House plants
- Visit us on Facebook

541-567-3278

465 W. Theater Ln.



Check the city's Facebook Page for tips & websites with garden and landscape ideas.



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Wastewater Project

The City of Echo has a compliance agreement with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) due to problems with our 30 plus year old wastewater system and due to increased environmental requirements for river discharge that necessitates improvements to the sewer system.

To apply for funds to finance the sewer system upgrades, the City must provide certain demographic information about the city to the State of Oregon. Portland State University (PSU) will be assisting the

City in conduct a confidential survey in February. If you receive a survey in the mail, please fill it out and return to PSU as soon as possible to help us apply for funding for the improvements.



America in Bloom

Spring is rapidly approaching and it is time to get ready for America in Bloom. We will continue to provide

ideas on the city Facebook Page for things you might want to do at your home. If you would like to donate to the community AIB program, a donation form is listed below.



Information from the 2015 evaluation is included.



America in Bloom Donation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Donation Amount

Other \$ _____ Patron \$100 _____

Sustaining \$200 _____ Corporate \$500 \$ _____

Donations for other projects

Public Art \$ _____ Hwy 320 entry sign \$ _____

Park Improvements \$ _____

Museum Garden/Mini Park \$ _____

Project Ideas or suggestions: _____



Heritage Preservation

Historical, natural, agricultural, and cultural heritage. Preservation and restoration of buildings, homes, churches, cemeteries; heritage sites and/or monuments; heritage parks, historical gardens; artifacts; historical society; heritage advisory committee, museums, archives, history books, and interpretative programs;

Municipal a w a r d e d points

Leadership in preservation/restoration	22.5
Legal protection of sites	22.5
Resource availability for preservation/restoration	21.5
Total 66.5 of possible 75	
Business	27.5 of 30
Residential	24.5 of 30
Community Involvement	30.5 of 40

Comments and suggestions:

The city hall building houses an extreme number of artifacts important to the community. *A new state-of-the-art facility needs to be constructed to house the materials gleaned from the area, or an existing building could be brought up to museum standards to better house and display items. Contact the American Alliance of Museums for additional help. See www.aam-us.org.*

Cowboy poetry is a cultural phenomenon that could be used to tell Echo's story. *You might consider having an open contest to write poems about Echo and then have an event to hear their readings. Investigate <http://www.westernfolklife.org/General-Information-on-the-Gathering/national-cowboy-poetry-gathering-home-page.html>*

The judges suggest recognizing the story of the current freight trains travelling through town.

The city newsletter is well done and is used to keep the public informed of current events, projects, and Echo's history. A "This month in Echo History" section or a "museum tid-bit" section in the newsletter may serve as a reminder of how history has shaped Echo.

The Echo Historical Museum is located in a beautiful bank building and is loaded with wonderful donations and exhibits. The museum is open on weekends and staffed by volunteers. Efforts need to be made to increase the number of volunteers so the museum continues to grow and operate. Silent movies or old westerns could be shown and the youth volunteers could serve popcorn!

Another jewel is the Chinese House/OR & N Railroad Museum. Located across from city hall, it is housed in a former Chinese laborer bunkhouse. It is bustling with tools, photos, and artifacts excavated from a railroad site. To guarantee that this history is not lost, and can be properly insured, an inventory of items on display and in storage is needed. Another option is to video the facility and then use software designed for historical archiving. The Museum Archive software project (<http://musarch.com>) provides free basic downloads to help organize museum collections. Contact the American Alliance of Museums for additional help. www.aam-us.org. Meanwhile the tools should be labelled so museum visitors can better understand what they are seeing.

Echo's red fire hydrants stand proudly on street corners. These are 'little pieces of art' waiting to happen. Engage local artists or Echo High School art class to design and paint the hydrants to tell a specific story of Echo's. A streetscape, Echo's flower the dahlia, or horses could gallop across the body of the hydrant.