

The Echo

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Email Newsletter

If you would like to receive the city newsletter and other notices electronically, send an email to ecpl@centurytel.net with your name and a note indicating your interest and we will add you to our newsletter email file. The newsletter will come in a .pdf format.



Oregon Scavenger Hunt



Love Oregon and eager to prove it? Now you can! Celebrate our beloved state's 150th birthday by doing the Sesquicentennial Scavenger Hunt. The game starts April 7th and you can pick out the sites you want to hunt. When you're done, you'll have a chance to win a Grand Oregon Tour with special food, lodging and adventures all over the state. To be notified when the game launches, sign-up for the [e-newsletter!](http://www.traveloregon.com/Seasonal-Offerings/Oregon-150-Celebration.aspx)<http://www.traveloregon.com/Seasonal-Offerings/Oregon-150-Celebration.aspx>

other story of beautification efforts titled, East Side Residents are Beautifying Property. "Residents in the district in the eastern part of town are making a wonderful improvement on their property. New lawns have been put in at the Litsey place and at Lee Pearson's, and flower and vegetable gardens along the street add much to the appearance of the neighborhood. Along the highway Mr. Bard has transformed a former weed patch into a good alfalfa field and has set out s h a d e trees..

Mr. Cunha is now having the old scouring mill buildings torn down and he contemplates leveling the ground and seeding it to alfalfa. Mr. Luciani has the tract south of the Echo Mill property (Fox Hollow) leveled and seeded..."



Tradition of Beautification

The efforts to beautify Echo are not something new. It is not something that started with entry in the America in Bloom Program in 2006.

Around 1910 the ladies of Echo who belonged to the Needlecraft Club sold tags to earn money to buy trees to place along Echo's streets. Then business people carried buckets of water across the street to the park behind city hall to make sure the new Locust Trees thrived.

In a 1932 "Echo News" article is an-

We Noticed Program

In Sandusky, Ohio the community started a "We Noticed" Program in 2002 to recognize efforts by residents and businesses of beautification efforts, floral displays, painting etc.

This year we will implement our own "We Noticed" Program in Echo. If you notice that someone in town deserves kudos for efforts to spruce their home or yard or business up—let us know and we will recognize the effort in the Newsletter & send a certificate of appreciation.





Dog Licenses

Residents who have not purchased a 2009 license for their dogs are subject to a penalty of \$10 per month for each month the licensing is delayed.

Through March license fees are \$14.00 per year for an altered animal and \$22 per year for an unaltered animal unless you are a new resident (less than two weeks) or have a new dog. Proof of a current rabies shot is required.

Great Bird Count

Darrell Power was the only participant in the Great American Backyard Bird Count Feb. 13-16 and will receive a certificate for his counts. If you participated, please let us know and we will provide a certificate. A checklist is available at city hall. .



Library Donations

Patty Cisneros	24 Books
Roberta Harsh	1 Book
Dan Higgins	7 Books
Sharon Lilly	1 Book
Chris Marcum	1 DVD
Fritz Ramos	21 Books
Dale Fife	Misc. Periodicals
Anonymous Donation	\$20

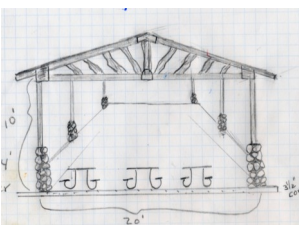


Railroad Museum Donations

Dale Fife UP Goblet & Carafe

Park & Skatepark

A State Parks grant to provide the bulk of funding for the Skatepark and other park improvements is due April 1.. The city was on the alternate list last year, but the projects ahead of us on the list were able to secure the funding to go forward with their projects.



To be in a good position, the city needs to secure as much funding as a match as possible. A \$2000 anonymous dona-

tion received in February is a major help. The Echo School Shop Class is also working on a fundraiser for the project.



As well as a 6000 s.f. concrete skatepark, the project will provide a covered picnic shelter w/kitchen facilities, a restroom and playground.

The grant program provides extra points for projects that provide "Natural Play areas" to encourage inactive youth to play outdoors. The skatepark retention basin area will be made into a natural play area through addition of boulders and logs instead of grass. The access to the river will be improved, giving children better access to one of the greatest "natural" play areas. We don't have to create sandy or rocky areas or mud and water for children to splash in or boulders to crawl over, its there already.

If you would like more information or to make a donation, please contact Diane Berry @ 376-8411 or email: ecpl@centurytel.net.

Book Club

A few library patrons have expressed interest in forming a library book club that would meet once per month, probably on Wed. evenings at the library. If you would be interested in participating in such a program, contact Diane Berry or Karen Beacham at 376-8411 or email ecpl@centurytel.net.



Water

Meters: It is time to uncover water meters. The city will begin reading meters again around March 13 and it would be helpful if weatherproofing material have been removed.

Consumer Confidence Report: The annual report on the water system required by the Health Division and EPA is enclosed with this newsletter.



Red to Red

Organizers of the first Red to Red Mountain Bike Race in Echo were more than pleased with the turn out. Over 175 cyclists from around the northwest participated in the first race of the season which started on Main

Street and went to the Piercy Mountain Bike Trail southwest of town and back.

Profits from the race went to the Echo Kiwanis for youth projects.

Community Benefit Fund

If you have been following the local newspapers, you have heard of the Community Benefit Fund that may soon come to Echo as a result of the Echo Wind Farms project. Four of the five tax districts (Echo Fire District, Echo Cemetery District, Port of Umatilla, Vector Control and Umatilla County Special Library District) have to agree to the concept developed by Umatilla County Commissioner that would create a benefit fund with



a board of directors who would give out funds each year in a grant format. Tammy Williams and Commissioner Dennis Do-

herty have been working hard to create this program and with the help of Chet Prior have received approval from the Fire, Cemetery & Port.

The Vector Control Board and Library District have not yet approved the program. Those interested can contact Ken Reading at the library district to tell him of your support for this program at 276-6449 or Vector Control Chairman David Trott (c/o City of Umatilla).

While all of the details will not be finalized until the program is approved, in communities like Helix, Milton-Freewater & Athena the funds have been granted to

school, governmental and non-profit organizations in their communities to fund projects like an ambulance, library improvements, school projects or trips, building roofs, heat systems and youth programs. It is estimated that for the first few years the distribution would be around \$75,000. The program will last for 15 years with funding declining to around \$40,000 in the final years.

Wastewater Project Bond

The Federal Economic Stimulus Package and the city's qualification for a Block Grant places the proposed wastewater project in the best financial position, Brad Baird of Anderson Perry & Associates, said he has seen in years. More funding is expected to be coming into programs like Block Grants and Rural Development from federal stimulus legislation.

The wastewater project will require voters to approve a bond issue. The council is planning to have the issue on the ballot for the May election. However with possible grants of \$1.5 million from Rural Development and Oregon Economic Development Department, residents will be looking at costs closer to \$48 per month for sewer rather than the \$65 that was estimated at first.

The City council is asking for input from residents on their preferences for funding the project. The \$48 (equivalent) can be all monthly wastewater billing, all property taxes or a combination of the two.

The Council will discuss the project further at a special meeting, Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 pm at city hall.

The city is currently operating on a DEQ Memorandum (MAO), which provides relief



from fines for daily operations that violate DEQ regulations, but the MAO will soon expire and if the city doesn't bring the wastewater system into compliance with new and in-

creasingly strict environmental regulations, DEQ will begin assessing hefty fines.

Additionally leaking transmission lines in the southeast quadrant of town are allowing penetration of ground water from the leaking Feed Canal to infiltrate the system. The inflow causes the wastewater influent to increase from 30,000 to 40,000 per day to over 100,000 gallons per day. This throws off the lagoon system wastewater breakdown process as well as adding huge costs for testing, chlorine and pumping and reduces the system's capacity for potential growth.

Historic Recipes

This is the third recipe in the series from the proposed new Echo Cookbook that is being included in the newsletter for Oregon's 150th. If you have a recipe to contribute, please drop it by City Hall.

January-Araby Spice Cake

February-Sour Cream Pie

Portuguese Bean Soup (Darlene "Fritz" Ramos)

1 lg. ham hock	2 Linguica sausage
2 medium onions, sliced	4 carrots, sliced
2 c. chicken stock	2-8 oz cans tomato sauce

3-15 ½ oz. cans kidney beans
4 medium potatoes, cubed Salt & pepper

Cook ham hock & sausage in broth. Cool & add all the vegetables, except beans. Add juice from beans & cook. Add beans last, after vegetables are done. This recipe was in the Fort Henrietta Days Cookbook.

PTA Carnival

The annual PTA Carnival will be on Friday, March 13 from 6 to 8 pm at the school. Great Fun for the Kids!!

Sanctuary Rededication

The Echo Methodist Church will hold a rededication service in the restored sanctuary on March 15th at 10:45 am. A new sound system, cross and the porch are among other improvements.

The Church now has a website: <http://echoumc.org>.

Choir

The church is forming a new choir, to join call 376-8108.

America in Bloom

Its time to prepare for this year's America in Bloom Judges visit. Please consider making a donation to the AIB program. Donations help with beautification projects, registration fees and Beautification Contest prizes. Donors are recognized on an annual plaque at city hall.

Do you have ideas? Do you want to help? Please feel free to contact city hall or come to a council meeting.

If you aren't a joiner, you can still do your part by beautifying your yard, your home or your neighborhood.

PROJECTS: Among the projects planned for this year



are: **1. George Park Water Feature.** Memorial Funds from Robert Spike, Velma Laughlin & John Woodward will be used to create a water feature, plaque and statuary garden in the George (City) park near the rose garden. **2. North Thielsen Entry Landscaping.** The Landscaping of the area where Thielsen and Dupont Street meet will be finished with additional river rock, boulders and farm equipment. **3. Tree City/150th Project.** A large Cherry Tree will be planted in the George Park to commemorate the city's 20th year as a Tree City USA, the state's 150th anniversary and a memorial for former Mayor Jeannette Bell. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for April 16th. **4. Art Project.** The Fine Arts Summer Reading Program will be the medium for creating a community art project such as a mural that will beautify the community and commemorate the state's birthday. Echo youth will help with the project. **5. Echo "Official Tree".** On Arbor Day the official City tree will be named. **6. History related: Photo collec-**

tion on web site; Echo Cookbook; Trail of History; 7. Downtown Floral Displays; 8. Skatepark/Park Improvements; 9. Backyard Bird Count Participation; 10. Take Care of Oregon Day. Cleanup day along the river and around town. .11. Echo School Community Service Day. This will be the third year Echo students and teachers make



an effort to do projects around the city, school grounds and to help elderly or disabled people in town.

Spring Clean-up

The annual Sanitary Disposal Spring Cleanup week is scheduled from April 1 through April 7 this year. During this week, **cash** customers using the Sanitary Disposal Transfer Station will receive up to a \$12.50 discount off of each load.



This means loads measuring 2.5 cubic yards with a maximum weight of 454.5 lbs. can be disposed of free of charge. This includes all acceptable solid waste with the exception of tires, which will be charged at the regular rate.

The transfer station is located two miles north of Hermiston on Hwy. 395 across from The Lift Co. Inc. It is open weekdays from 8 am to 5 pm and weekends from 9 am to 5 pm.

Church Youth Visit

A Youth Group from the United Methodist Church of West Lake Village, California will be visiting Echo from April 13-19. This group takes on projects at other churches each year. This year they will helping the Echo church with painting the interior and exterior of the church. Additionally they always do a



community service project that benefits the community at large. They may paint a home or cleanup an area of town.

If you know of a needy senior that could use their help, contact Rev. Tim Novak at 376-8108.

Tree City USA 2008

Echo has received official notice not only we have been named a Tree City USA for the 20th time, but that the Echo challenge to city's across the state to participate in the Tree City program has helped the state to finally have over 50 Tree Cities in the program.



Flood Maps

Echo residents may want to stop by city hall and look at a new flood zone map that FEMA is proposing. The map will place much more land into the flood way and create a new "other flood areas" that encompasses most of the west side of town and part of the east side. We are not yet sure of the implications of this zone, but FEMA will be holding a public hearing on the new maps, tentatively in May. We will provide notice of the meeting places



Police Highlights

1-08	Speed Racing-100 Block Buckley
1-12	Theft-800 block Jane St.
1-17	DWS-Misd. Thielsen & Dupont
1-21	DWS-Misd. Thielsen & Main Vehicle Impound
1-28	Runaway-100 Block S. Prescott
1-31	Theft-200 W. Bridge