

Downtown Project

Thanks for your patience during the Downtown Improvement Project. Work started on the south side of Main Street after the 4th. The project will continue through the summer and into fall. Once the sidewalks are poured on the south side, the demo will start on the north. While it is a nuisance now, we will have a beautiful downtown when it is completed. Your understanding with limited parking is appreciated. The contractor is providing an access to each business during construction, so please continue to patronize our local businesses. The engineer's drawing of the project is shown below.

More information is provided on page 4 & 5 including the planning process for the downtown project which started in August 2006. The concepts for the improvements

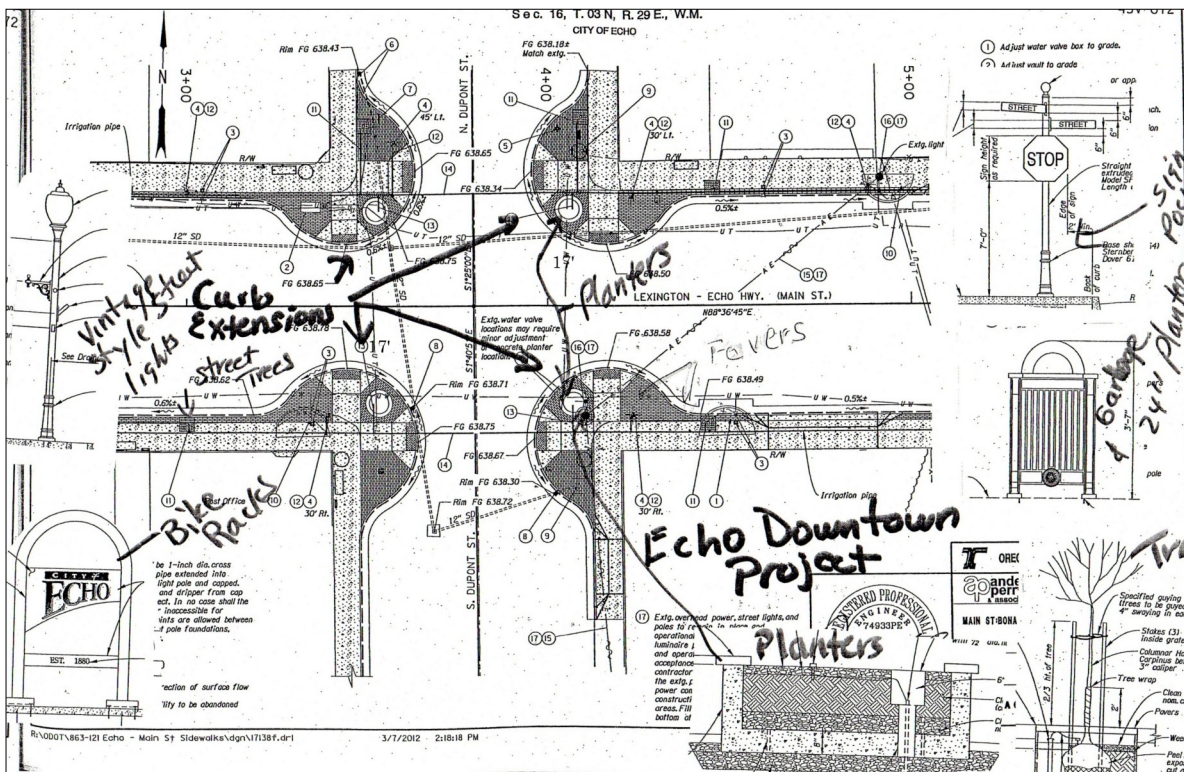
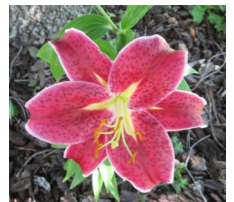


National Night Out, Aug. 7 @ 7 pm

Everyone is invited to participate in the annual National Night Out in the Park and Masonic Lodge on Tues. Aug. 7 at 7 pm. Hills Hot Dogs, chips, cookies and beverages will be provided free of charge. There will be children's games and a bouncy house. Peggy Haines has volunteered to run a bingo game. Again this is free and there will be prizes. We will also have a drawing for door prizes such as DVDs, an I-Pod (cont. pg 2)

Beautification/AIB

The annual Beautifica-



tion Contest winners will be announced at National Night Out on August 7. Prizes will be awarded for the 10 Best Floral Displays, Curb Appeal top 10, 3 Most Improved and 17 Honorable Mentions.

Although we didn't join the America in (go to pg 3)

(NNO from pg 1) Docking Station and various other prizes.

Volunteers to help with serving, children's games, etc. are always needed. Contact City Hall at 541-376-8411 if you would like to get involved. Thanks to Gene Hampton & Jerry Gaunt who have volunteered to BBQ hot dogs again this year. NNO is dependent on volunteers and donations. This is the 8th year the community has had a NNO celebration. In 2005 about 75 people attended the event, the next year 150 and the last five years it has hovered around 250 people.

NNO Donations to date:

Diane Berry \$50, Echo Boosters \$25, Echo Golf Course \$50, Echo Quarterback Club \$100 Janie Enright \$25, Fran & Jack Fitzhugh \$25, Fort Henrietta Fnd. \$25, Doris Pitzer \$25, Pat & Judy Wood \$25; Pledges from Echo Community Church and Gene & Jeanie Hampton.

New Utility Rates effective with August (this) Billing : \$29 Water base; \$45 Sewer.

Volunteers & Donations

Thanks to all those who have made donations of funds or labor to make our community a better place: Sue Kays, watering city hall containers every morning; Jerrie Fife weeding the Farm Equipment Display;

Thanks to the Lake Oswego Church Youth Group and chaperones for helping out with community projects such as weeding in the arboretum, at the tennis courts, north town entry and along Thielsen Street, as well as working on the Masonic Lodge and in the Echo Museum. We appreciate your help.

July Library Donations

Anonymous-Children's Programs	\$10
Ashley Benson	30 books
Yvonne Daly	2 books
Jerry Gaunt	35 books
Kasey Hewlett	19 books
Gloria Rodriguez	1 box cds
Judy Webb	9 bks.

eBooks Grant

The Oregon Digital Library Consortium (ODLC), providers of eBooks to Oregon library patrons through the Library2Go site <http://library2go.lib.overdrive.com>, was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to purchase new eBook titles for library patrons. ODLIC has been providing digital books to the patrons of participating Oregon libraries since 2005. Most public libraries in Oregon participate (including Echo). Though member libraries contribute annual funds to the consortium to purchase eBooks, the demand continues to rise, forcing ODLIC to seek funding to help purchase more books, and alleviate long waiting lists for popular titles.

Echo Patrons interested in Library2Go books can contact librarian Wendy Holben for help in accessing the system.

The Oregon Community Foundation was created in 1973, with the goal of improving life and uniting Oregonians through philanthropy. OCF works to connect resources to needs, organizations to organizations, and people to people, by developing and funding strategic partnerships in Oregon.



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.

- Beautiful Bouquets
- Gift Center
- Blooming & Houseplants
- Visit us on Facebook

541-567-3278
465 W. Theater Ln. Hermiston



(AIB from Pg. 1) Bloom Program this year, we have continued with beautification & livability improvements. A number of individuals have lent their support to this program through donations. Our thanks to the following donors:

Kopacz Nursery: Flowers			
American Printing	\$25	Diane Berry	\$50
Echo Boosters	\$25	Golf Course	\$50
Ft. Henrietta Fnd.	\$50	Doris Pitzer	\$25
Mick & Susan Tolar			\$100



Wanted: Old Tractor

Part of the Fort Henrietta Park Upgrade Project is playground improvements. One idea for an addition to the playground that is in keeping with our agricultural background comes from the Oregon Zoo. At their farm display they placed an old John Deere Tractor that draws kids like a magnet. The kids stand in line to get a chance to climb around on the tractor, sit in the seat and turn the wheel. We would like to find an old tractor that we can paint and place in the playground near the swings. If you have an old tractor you would like to donate (it doesn't need a motor), please call and let us know. Phone 541-376-8411 or email: ecpl@centurytel.net.

Thunderstorm/Rain

The July 19 Thunderstorm and rain did a great deal of damage around town and especially on golf course hill. Lightening hit near the golf course and destroyed electric meter bases and damaged the chlorinator, well controls and other

water system equipment at the booster station, Wells 3, 4 & 5. It also did damage on both Smith Drive and Golf Course Road and to the golf course clubhouse, as well as to private property in the area..



Most of the equipment is now repaired or is in the process of being repaired. In the interim the water system is chlorinated by direct application of chlorine into the reservoir.

Vandalism

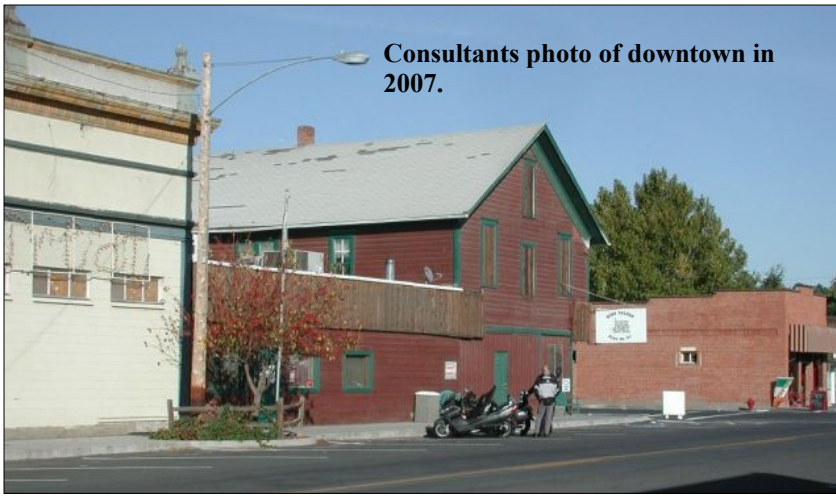
The first week the new CVX restroom was installed in the Fort Henrietta Park, residents found out why most parks are installing this type of restroom. It doesn't have a flush toilet, a sink or mirror. On day 2 of the restroom being unlocked a young man from Hermiston decided it would be a good idea to throw fire crackers into the toilet and to light the toilet paper on fire and throw it into the toilet. While this caused a great deal of smoke to come out of the vent, the concrete building only suffered a little scorching to the floor paint and side of the toilet.

The floor, roof, and walls are all pre-formed concrete made to look like wood or stone. The "toilet" is fiberglass.

We do remind area youth, that if you are involved in any vandalism at the skatepark or any other city owned property you will be banned PERMANENTLY from use of city facilities, including the library, as this youth now has been. If you do enter city property you will be charged with trespass. The City has taken this action twice in the last four years.

Reward: The City does maintain a policy of providing a \$50 reward to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone damaging or vandalizing city property.





Consultants photo of downtown in 2007.

(cont. from pg 1) such as: vintage-style street lights, traffic calming curb extensions, round planters in curb extensions (selected from pictures of Canby's downtown), bike racks, wider sidewalks, and street trees, were developed by the downtown committee and input from interested residents in 2006 and 2007. In the interim the city began writing grant applications which lead to the ODOT Transportation Enhancement Grant. ODOT oversees the project and provides almost 90% of the funding up to around \$640,000.



Photos of downtown Joseph, which was an inspiration for Echo's Downtown.



Grants from Umatilla County, Echo Community Benefit Fund,

Small City Allotment Fund, Wildhorse Foundation and the Meyer Memorial Trust provide the match, as well as any local donations. Once the match was secured, the engineering and design process took a little over a year and the project finally went to bid this spring.

History of Downtown Project

Recently there have been comments about why residents weren't informed about

the Downtown Project or involved in the decision-making. The city has provided information through the newsletter and local media since 2006. As a result it seems like a good time to recap the history of the project. Unfortunately with public projects the process from planning and implementation is usually slow, so sometimes those who help plan for a project are not the ones around when the project is completed.

The public was notified of the downtown plan workshops via media newsreleases, city newsletter articles and invitations to business owners, property owners and civic groups and organizations. The planning process started in 2006 with a downtown committee composed of about 25 volunteers who included business people, members of civic groups, council members and interested citizens. Anyone in the community who was interested in the project and desired to attend the meetings became part of the committee.

Printed below are the consultants notes from the first meeting and walking tour of downtown.

Notes from Walking Tour-Aug. 30, 2006:

"*Need a gateway treatments at Main, just west of RR tracks & at the west end of Main, to cue motorists to slow down as they enter town." **Improvements such as rock gardens, the wagon & new entry signs have been added over the last 5 years as funding has become available.**

"*How about a mural on the side of the Post Office?"

"*There is no playground close to downtown"-**2012-in progress**

"*The skateboard park is too small. In particular, the chain link fence is located too close to equipment for safe use. The park is not lit for evening use." **Grant Funds were obtained to develop the concrete bowl & light it after citizens approached the council & listed this in the downtown planning process.**

"*Bridge Street is the original commercial district, and still has a number of good historical buildings.

*There is no public restroom, since the one in Henrietta Park was closed due to diffi-

culty in upkeep.” **Completed last month.**

“*The downtown does not have a strong connection to the Umatilla River.” **During the subsequent planning meetings, the committee suggested adding signage at the river to point out the access. The sign and artwork near the blockhouse were added c. 2007.**

“*The City-owned RV park is a benefit to downtown and is moderately well used.

*Mini-storage (“Fort”) has good redevelopment potential.

*Historical lampposts with flower baskets would be nice .“ **Several attendees indicated they would like Main St. to look like the area around city hall. Committee members reviewed pictures of what other communities in Oregon had done to their downtown such as Heppner, Canyon City, Union and Joseph.**

“*Railroad property has great potential for industrial or commercial use

*The most important intersection for identifying Echo is probably Main and Dupont – could be the 100% corner – the location that people identify as Echo.” **In later meetings the committee decided they wanted to push Main & Thielsen as the main entry due to the crossing problems on the angled railroad crossing on Dupont.**

Post-Tour Meeting:

“*Echo needs more businesses in downtown

*Better street lighting, historical lampposts

*Town looks dead

*Need some visual cues to slow down traffic.”**The curb extensions are designed to slow down traffic by giving the illusion of a narrow road (Traffic Calming). The distance between extensions will actually be 34 feet, whereas on most city streets the paved travel lanes are 11-12 feet wide for a total of 22-24 feet.**

“*Destination winery would be a big draw.” **The Piercy’s have and are developing an award-winning winery, restoring historical buildings and creating an event center. Main Street use and Parking has increased tremendously over the last two years, especially on Thursday and Friday afternoons and evenings.**

“*Security, mainly problems with older kids, is an issue

*Façade improvements are needed” **Many of the buildings have had such improvements in the interim.**

“*Bike racks would be good, lots of potential

for bicycle tourism through area..” **New unique bike racks are part of the project.**

“*Parking on Dupont at Post Office creates potential safety concerns.” **Some people wanted to see parking change from diagonal to parallel, but the majority of the committee, especially business owners did not support this suggestions & ODOT provided data showing there had been few reported accidents.**

Nov. 2006 Workshop

Downtown design concepts & examples. Consultant Karen Swirsky introduced principles of smart development, & showed examples of other small cities and towns that have successfully implemented main street improvement projects.

Stakeholder survey. The results of the stakeholder survey were discussed. Three charts illustrated the results

Historic resources. The historic resources in Echo have been photo-inventoried and will be made a part of the final report.

School children’s workshop. A workshop with 5th grade children at Echo Elementary was held earlier in the day. Previously, the children were given disposable cameras and asked to take a picture of their favorite place and least favorite place in downtown Echo. At the workshop, each child selected one or two photos from each category and pasted the photos a piece of paper. They were then asked to write one or two sentences about what they liked or disliked about the place. They were also asked to give ideas on how to improve the place they didn’t like. The results of this exercise are attached to this summary.

Opportunities & constraints. A map of opportunities within the town was discussed. This included possible park improvements & gateway treatments, .

Preliminary Design. Preliminary design concepts for Main Street & Dupont Street were discussed.

Envisioning the future. The consultant asked attendees to provide ideas about what they’d like to see in Echo in 5, 10, or 20 years. The responses included the following ideas:

What would you like to see in 5 years?: “Historic Street lamps and flowers; a grocery store, a bank, a bigger skateboard park, Bike & Skateboard racks, Benches, a Gas station, Sub-style sandwich store, a downtown play area, Sidewalk improvements, A lit walking path, Wi-fi, Cell tower for better phone reception, Urgent care;

Heppner Main St. Curb Extensions



What would you like to see in 10 years? A Motel, a Bigger park- for events, Fill vacant lots, Ice cream shop, Fast food type burger or family restaurant, Truck stop, GP physician, More attractive post office, Professional offices in downtown, Better railroad crossing, Bike paths – especially for kids so they don't have to ride on the streets, Façade improvements on historical buildings, Walla Walla Wine Trail extension,



Tues. Aug. 7, 2012

Echo City Park—7:00 pm

Join the 10,000 people across the nation to support Law Enforcement and say no to crime by participating in National Night Out.

NNO is designed to: Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; Strengthen police-community partnerships; Send a message to criminals letting them know that communities and neighborhoods are organized and ready to fight back.

***Free hotdogs, chips, beverages,**

If you would like to help, with games, serving or donations, please call city hall, 376-8411.



2012 Donors (so far): : Echo Boosters \$25, Echo Hills Golf Course \$50, Janie Enright \$25, Fran & Jack Fitzhugh #25, Fort Henrietta Foundation \$25, Doris Pitzer \$25, Pat & Judy Woods \$25; Diane Berry \$50; **2011 Donors:** Amstad Farms, Anderson Perry Engineering, , Diane Berry, Echo Boosters, Echo Fire Fighters, Echo Community Church, Echo Quarterback Club, Echo Hills Golf Course, Janie Enright, Dale & Jerrie Fife ,Fort Henrietta Fnd, Jeanie & Gene Hampton, His Design Gift & Thrift Shop, Nancy & Tim Novak, Power Pro Electric, Elaine & John Ramos Umatilla Electric; Pat & Judy Wood; Gift Certificates: A Cut Above, Bi-Mart, H & P Café, Sanitary Disposal, Wildhorse Gaming Resort;