



Manzanita Reporter

Spring 2007

CITIES MOVE TOWARDS JOINT FIRE SERVICES OPERATIONS

The Manzanita and Nehalem City Councils have adopted an agreement to move forward with some of the recommendations made by the Nehalem Bay Fire Services Task Force Cooperative Effort Feasibility Study. The study provided many recommendations for bringing the Manzanita and Nehalem Fire Departments into compliance with current standards and regulations.

As both departments are finding it more difficult to have enough fire volunteers to respond adequately to fire emergencies, the two Departments have set up a system where both departments now respond almost automatically to structure fires and technical rescues in either city. Both Cities have agreed to look at further ways to recruit and retain fire volunteers. Required medical and hearing evaluations of volunteers will be organized jointly where possible. Strategies for training, fire pre-planning and equipment maintenance needs will be developed and implemented.

The agreement recognizes that these operational needs require immediate action. The issue of how to more efficiently fund and organize fire services in the Nehalem Bay area is more complicated. The agreement between the two Cities states that in addition to implementing operational improvements, the Cities will explore consolidation of the two districts, and possibly other districts, into a single regional fire district. A proposal may be brought before voters at the 2008 General Election.

INCREASED FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT TO CONTINUE

Residents and visitors to Manzanita are being asked by the City to have fun, but leave their illegal fireworks at home this July 4th. The City is planning to again provide more law enforcement officers around the Fourth of July to better enforce fireworks laws. Last year, the City wrote over 38 citations and confiscated hundreds of dollars of illegal fireworks. Fireworks that explode, fly into the air, or act in an unpredictable

manner are illegal in Oregon. Such fireworks include firecrackers, bottle rockets, and mortars. Fireworks that are legal in Oregon are permitted.

The City plans again to distribute a number of educational flyers to get the word out that possession of illegal fireworks could result in confiscation of the fireworks and a citation. If you are willing to volunteer to help distribute these flyers at beach accesses on July 4th, please contact City Manager Jerry Taylor at (503) 368-5343. While the City's efforts will emphasize education, the City will again be prepared with strong enforcement measures.

WHO SHOULD BE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR?

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2007 Manzanita Citizen of the Year. A committee of former Citizens of the Year will meet in May to consider nominations and select the individual or couple to be honored this year. To qualify for this honor, one must be a resident of Manzanita or live within the Manzanita Urban Growth Boundary. The Citizen of the Year may be an individual or couple who performs any volunteer community service that benefits our citizens. Quality of service is more valuable in the selection process than length of time served.

Nominations must be in writing and be submitted by May 1st to the Manzanita Citizen of the Year Committee c/o City Hall, P.O. Box 129, Manzanita, OR 97130

KNOTWEED NOT WELCOME IN MANZANITA

The City is gearing up to go after knotweed within the City. This highly invasive plant has appeared in patches around the city, and by its nature is very difficult to control. Left unchallenged, the plant could easily spread and crowd out other more desirable plants in the community. At this time, the community has a chance to take care of the problem before it becomes overwhelming. More information on Japanese knotweed can be obtained at the following website:

http://oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/profile_japkn_otweed.shtml. Information on knotweed eradication is also available at City Hall.

Property owners are responsible for removing knotweed on their properties. The City is asking for cooperation in dealing with this nuisance, and has been removing knotweed on public property. The process of eradicating knotweed takes a good deal of time and effort, but the City feels that it is worth it.

TSUNAMI WARNING SIREN TESTED ON SECOND MONDAYS

Expect to hear the Manzanita tsunami warning siren on the second Monday of each month at 1:00 pm. The sirens are tested monthly to make sure they will work if the real thing occurs. Tillamook County also tests its tsunami warning sirens at the same time. The County sirens wail, while the Manzanita warning system “talks.” In either case, if you hear the warning at any time other than 1:00 pm on the second Monday of the month, get to high ground immediately. If there has been a significant earthquake, assume the sirens will go off and move immediately to higher ground.

MASTER PLANNING PROCESS BEGINS FOR AREA STATE PARKS

A 20 year master plan is being developed by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Nehalem Bay State Park and a new park on the Nehalem River-- Cougar Valley State Park. The Parks Department has begun reviewing current information on recreational use patterns and resource management needs, the related plans of other agencies, and the issues and ideas identified through public input. For more information on the master planning process and activities that have occurred relative to this plan, see the following web location:

http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PLANS/planning_nehal em.shtml

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE COMING SOON

Spring is here, and the annual Fourth of July Parade will be here before you know it. Applications for this year’s parade will be available by the end of April. Mary Brophy is heading up the parade committee and asks that anyone with questions, suggestions and/or a willingness to volunteer to help to contact her at Manzanita Fourth of July Parade, P.O. Box 14, Manzanita, OR 97130.

HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY

If you are considering building a new home or doing a major remodel, you may want to look into home fire sprinklers as a good way to protect your investment and keep your home safer. Increased availability and advances in technology have made home fire sprinklers an affordable option. New designs are smaller and have a low profile. By attacking a fire early, the home fire sprinkler system can reduce property losses by 90%, and save the lives of people who may be physically unable to escape on their own. More information on the benefits of home fire sprinklers can be obtained at City Hall.

CITY WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

Information on City programs and services is now available on the internet at ci.manzanita.or.us . Although the web site still needs some adjustments to be made soon, you will find useful information such as staff contacts, Ordinances and maps. Links on the City of Manzanita site will also put you in contact with other local services you might need.

YOUR COMMENTS ARE TRULY APPRECIATED

All of the comments the City receives on the “What Do You Think?” form, by letter, or by e-mail are copied for each City Councilor and each City department. We are not able to respond back to some of the people sending in their comments, but that doesn’t mean that your comments are not read and considered. We hope that many of you will continue to send the City your thoughts on whatever is on your mind. The City Council and staff find these comments to be invaluable in determining what the community is interested in.

HOLIDAYS

May 28, 2007 - Memorial Day

July 4, 2007 - Independence Day

(Parade starts at 1:00 pm)

(City offices will be closed both days.)

