Council Corner

A note about rural broadband internet for the curious.....

Ten eastern Oregon counties will get access to broadband internet in rural areas thanks to FCC funding of $67.6 million (yes, for Oregon), that will work to bridge the “digital divide” over the next 10 years in 4,689 locations. These counties include Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Jefferson, Malheur, Morrow, Wallowa, Wasco and Wheeler. The FCC standard is 25 megabits per second downstream and 3 megabits per second upstream. Rural internet carriers agreed to accept FCC subsidies based on this model and keep their rates reasonable in areas where cost of installing broadband is high. The Broadband Deployment Report shows the number of Americans without broadband access dropped from 26.1 million in 2016 to 19.4 million at the end of 2017. First due date for carriers to improve and expand services in 2022. A major concern from Eastern Oregon Telecom-based in Hermiston is that in 10 years the FCC standards will no longer be adequate for rural Oregonians.

This brings back the reminder to all of us living in the Lincoln City area, that we do have broadband high speed internet that is provided by current carriers, some with speeds at 100 Mbps down and 25 up. If there is a need for faster internet speed, that is also available to the consumer, unlike our neighbors in remote rural areas where they don’t even have access. Carriers currently also provide basic internet at reduced rates to lower income households. So for anyone wondering if we are able to get rural broadband, the answer is we are not rural enough, and do have service providers in our area.

Have a (Glass) Ball this October

Lincoln City is known nationwide as the place where you can find glass floats on the beach. After 20 years, our glass float drops have become iconic. We’ve gone from float drops in just the off-season to our army of Float Fairies hiding floats on the beach year-round.

Last year, we brought back a much-loved event that occurred up until 2011, the Glass Ball, a gala celebrating our glass art community with emphasis on our famous glass floats. The Glass Ball is a thank-you to Lincoln City’s residents for welcoming our visitors and helping us promote our beautiful city as a great place to live, work and play. It’s also a reminder that all the work and resources that go into Finders Keepers is for our guests.

The Glass Ball is in appreciation for the courtesy and restraint of local residents in making sure Finders Keepers is of the greatest benefit possible to our guests. When a resident finds a float, it’s Finders Keepers, but we ask that the folks who live here keep their finds to just one float.

Everyone who attends the Glass Ball, hosted this year at the Beach Club & Event Center on Saturday, October 19th at 6pm, gets a great meal, enjoys wonderful entertainment and goes home with a glass float. It’s our thank-you for being a good host to our guests.

Tickets for the Glass Ball are $30 per person. All ages are welcome. To purchase tickets, please visit LCGlassBall.com.

Occurring in the Planning and Community Development Department:

In the last couple of months an exciting change has happened in the permitting process. Building permits are now being processed electronically using Accela/e-permitting and marked up using a program called Bluebeam. Applicants no longer need to bring in two sets of large paper plans; the PDF file(s) can be either uploaded to Accela or e-mailed to the Permit Technician. The turnaround is quicker and the job site copies are cleaner and easier to read.

Long Range Planning has been busy wrapping up a wide variety of work program tasks; these include preparing for public hearings on the following new ordinances:
1. Mobile Food Units and Pods - Public Hearing with Planning Commission on Tuesday November 19th, 2019 at 6pm.
2. Sign Ordinance Update - The department has been working with residents, business owners, and sign companies to identify where the existing code is not effective or efficient for the current industry standards. A public hearing and the draft ordinance will be notified and is likely to occur in December of 2019. Please visit www.lincolncity.org and go to the Planning Department subheading to access “Draft Ordinance and how you can participate in the process. 
Lincoln City Parks and Recreation is building a new Park – and it needs a name!
Lincoln City Parks and Recreation is excited to share some good community news: they’re planning and building a new Park in the wooded area of SE 3rd and Keel, just north of the Police Station. And they need a Park name!

The park project is getting underway. Starting on or after Oct. 7, depending on weather, a small section of the trees (20 total) will be thinned in the portion of SE 3rd and Keel, on the Western side near the dead end.

Selective thinning of these overly dense trees will allow for the play area, and will be beneficial for the forest surrounding the play area, as it will open up the canopy to allow healthy understory growth to develop. The project will use a method of tree removal that will minimize damage to other trees and the environment.

The next step will be building trails from the dead end area of SE Keel, east into the Park land, and south from SE 3rd St. These trails will lead to a ‘Story Circle’ area, which is a nature park amenity featuring logs and boulders as a sitting area. Lincoln City is the 1st city in Oregon to be funded for this Park project via a grant from the National Recreation and Parks Association and the Disney Corporation.

Lincoln City Parks & Recreation Maintenance staff will lay the trail, surfaced with wood chips derived from the thinning project. Then to celebrate, LC Parks & Rec is hosting a ‘Trail Party and Picnic’ at the new site, on or about Sat, Oct. 26, during which volunteers will lay the final materials on the trail. All are invited to attend this Party and Picnic! Follow their ‘Lincoln City Parks & Recreation’ Facebook page for info on this event.

And in the meantime, Lincoln City is sponsoring a “Name our NEW Park” contest! If you have a great name idea, please contact LoRee LaFon, Parks & Recreation Ambassador at llafon@lincolncity.org for an application. All entries will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board, City Management, with final decision from City Council. Winner of this contest will receive 1 free annual membership at the Lincoln City Community Center.

In the upcoming years (2020 – and on), Lincoln City Parks & Recreation plans to develop more of this park, which may include more trails, a dog park, a viewing station of the wetlands, etc.

Should you have questions or comments, please reach out anytime to Parks and Recreation Director Jeanne Sprague at jsprague@lincolncity.org, 541.996.1222.

Lincoln Square ADA Improvements
Lincoln City has awarded K & E Excavating the contract to make ADA improvements along Hwy 101 from SE 8th to SE 14th. The main part of the project will be reconstructing curb ramp at the different intersection to bring them up to ADA standards. Other parts of the project will include opening up the north crosswalk at the Burger King intersection and creating an accessible path from the sidewalk to the City Hall entrance. Construction should begin in November.
Curb ramp improvements at:
SE 9th Street
Middle & South entrance to McKay’s Market
SW 11th Street
SW 12th Street
SE East Devils Lake Road
SW 13th Street
SW 14th Street
Intersection improvements at Burger King:
Open north side crosswalk
Improve curb ramps
Provide an accessible path from sidewalk to City Hall building

Lincoln City Police Department announces “Cans for the K9” fundraiser
The Lincoln City Police Department is within $20,000 of our $75,000 fundraising goal for the K9 program. We have received overwhelming support from citizens and businesses thus far. On October 1st, we launched our “Cans for the K9” fundraiser. There are can and bottle donation containers at North IGA, the Community Center, the third Floor at City Hall, McKay’s, Lincoln City Police Department, and both Elementary Schools. The schools will have a competition for the month of October and the class that brings the most cans will win a pizza party with members of the Lincoln City Police Department.

The Lincoln City Police Department will be available to assist with picking up cans if the owner can’t get to a donation container. If you have questions or would like to arrange a pick up, please call the Police Department at 541-994-3636.
Make sure to check out where the new K9 addition to the Police Department will call home. The new building is moving along. For more pictures of the construction visit Rons Report at www.ronsreport.org.

What Makes Cascade Head Unique?
www.oregonmarinerreserves.com is a great resource. Choose the Cascade Head Reserve subheading and learn about the reserve.