

There is one thing that every Dunes City resident has in common: our love of this beautiful place we call home.



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## DC—A community coming together

Over the past two years, the Dunes City community has had more than its share of controversy.

Those of us who put together this newsletter, and who plan community events, felt it was time to look toward the positive.

Through this newsletter, and the efforts of the city's new Communications and Education Committee, we will highlight the ways—large and small—that we as a community are coming together.

It is ironic that the very controversies that can set people apart also can bring them together. A rise in the awareness of threats to the water quality of our lakes grew as quickly the algae blooms that have blossomed the past few years in Woahink Lake. Suddenly our drinking water smelled awful. Some people worried about toxic algae and potential health effects. Folks stocked up on bottled water and waited for the algae to go away.

These algae blooms were a wake-up call. Citizens began attending the water quality committee to learn more about what was happening and what could

be done to stop the deterioration of water quality.

Despite its small size and its contentiousness, Dunes City has proven to be a leader in developing measures to protect water quality and preserve our quality of life.

Dunes City was the *first* city in Oregon to adopt:

\* A moratorium on major developments specifically designed to protect its drinking water.

\* A septic ordinance to require that its citizens adequately maintain their

septic systems.

\* A phosphorous ordinance designed to educate residents to limit phosphorous in homes.

Dunes City also was the second Oregon city to adopt a comprehensive plan (back in 1979).

Two other landmark ordinances are in the works: one for erosion control and another to keep stormwater runoff out of our lakes. (See articles on pages 4 and 5 for more information about these ordinances.)



Each of us wants to preserve the beauty of our environment for our children and grandchildren.

*"For our community to come together it will require more involvement and input from our citizens."*

— Sheldon Meyer  
DC Mayor



Cynthia and Mark Chandler won the grand prize at the Dunes City picnic in April. They decided to donate the gorgeous Rhody to Florence's proposed senior center.

## **Coming together...** (Continued from page 1)

Regardless of these accomplishments, Dunes City struggles to reach consensus. As one notorious newsmaker once lamented, "Can't we all just get along?"

The newsletter staff has sought the input of each councilor to find out how they envision our community coming together.

Mayor Sheldon Meyer believes that "for our community to come together it will require more involvement and input from our citizens."

Meyer said he believes in listening to concerns "from any and all citizens of Dunes City." He doesn't promise that every idea will be implemented, but he encourages citizen "input and dialogue."

Meyer also believes having the council meetings televised allows anyone to "see and hear the progress that we are making."

### **Raise community spirit**

According to Councilor Susie Navetta, events like the community potluck and the Festival of the Lakes "are helping to get some spirit back into the city." Navetta said that this year's festival is "bigger and better than ever." It will have more booths, more informational demonstrations, festival t-shirts, a bake sale, other food and entertainment.

Councilor David Bellemore reminded us that Woahink and Siltcoos lakes bring more than one and a half million visitors to our community each year. These lakes also are magnets for sportsmen.

"The folks who voted last fall clearly indicated they want these treasures preserved and protected," said Bellemore.

### **Find solutions**

Bellemore believes that for the whole community to understand the problems and come up with cooperative solutions that everyone can live with "requires ongoing constructive conversation."

He said the Festival of the Lakes is a "great time to come together face-to-face with mutual respect" and have these conversations.

"Just as it takes a whole village to raise a child, it takes a whole community working together to preserve our lakes," said Bellemore.

"Community has at its core 'difference,'" said Councilor Richard Koehler. "Groups," said Koehler, "find security in common ends."

We need to discuss things in open dialogue so that facts and interpretation are not so far apart."

"The sense of community forms as circum-

stances demand," said Koehler. "Community is citizens taking an active role for the benefit of the whole."

"Despite differing perspectives," said Council President Dr. Peter Howison, "more people are involved in the democratic process when we have difficult issues to address."

Howison said that in his role as president of the Council he "can help prioritize the issues that need to be addressed" to keep our city moving towards solutions.

As chair of the community center, Howison also has "responsibility to provide an environment where staff and citizens engage one another and work together toward solutions."

### **Preserve our homeland**

There is one thing that every Dunes City resident has in common: our love of this beautiful place we call home.

We may disagree about what needs to be done or differ in our approach to doing it. But at our core, each of us loves our homeland and wants to preserve its beauty for our children and grandchildren.

If we can keep this truth in mind, we truly will be a community coming together.

# Festival of the Lakes

Saturday August 18

10 am to 3 pm

Dunes City Hall, 82877 Spruce Street, Westlake

**Fun! Entertaining! Educational!**

Life in small cities can get contentious. That's why the theme of this year's Festival of the Lakes is "A Community Coming Together."

Like last year, the festival will include a photo contest, speakers, information booths, food, entertainment and special children's events.

Highlighting the festival, KCST radio's Bob Sneddon will moderate a roundtable discussion on "Developing Land in the Watershed."

Three individuals will participate in the discussion: a local builder, an environmentalist, and a Dunes City citizen attempting to build a home.

The audience will be encouraged to ask questions and present their own viewpoints.

KCST will air the discussion as its Community Forum. It will also be televised by Alan Campbell Productions and shown on LKAN, Channel 10.

KCST will be on hand in the morning to talk with festival-goers.

This year the festival will have an indoor and outdoor stages.

Some of the presenters include:

- ?? Fuzzy Gates will discuss the need for new ordinances as the population grows
- ?? Someone from Honey-

man State Park will make a presentation.  
?? Master Gardener Pam Washington will show young and old how to compost with worms.

?? CERT trainer Jean Busby will demonstrate a 72-hour "grab & go" kit and talk about long-term survival after a disaster.

The Florence Nightingales, Ron & Lori, and Natalie & Hailey will be on hand to entertain the audiences.

No festival is complete without food. This year's menu includes hamburgers, ice cream, sodas, and an amazing array of homemade baked goodies.



At the Festival of the Lakes, kids will be able to get their face painted, climb on the fire truck, hang out with the Balloon Man, and draw pictures to share.



*"Events like the community potluck and the Festival of the Lakes are helping to get some spirit back into the city."*

— Susie Navetta  
DC Councilor

## Enter your DC wildlife photo in the Festival contest!

Now is your chance to reveal your creativity and share your vision of Dunes City wildlife.

This year the festival's photo contest must be of wildlife taken by a Dunes City resident somewhere in Dunes City.

Each entry will be displayed the August 19 "Festival of the Lakes."

Those attending the festival will vote for their

favorite. The top three vote-getters will be enlarged and framed for permanent display at the Dunes City Hall.

Each photo entry must be printed on 8" x 10" photo paper, unmounted,



and unframed. The photographer's name, address and phone number must be marked on the back or attached to the photo.

Photos are to be received at Dunes City Hall **no later than Wednesday, August 15.**

Hope MacManus, broker at Old Town Realty, will cover the costs to mat and frame the winning photos.

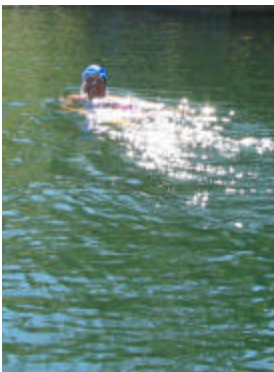




Woahink Lake...ah!

***“Just as it takes a whole village to raise a child, it takes a whole community working together to preserve our lakes.”***

— David Bellemore  
DC Councilor



Swimming is just one of the many joys of living near the lakes in Dunes City.

## New ordinances aim to preserve Dunes City's unique environment

Over the last several months, the Dunes City Council, with input and support from city committees and individual citizens, have worked diligently to develop a set of ordinances designed to preserve and protect the water quality of all

three lakes that fall within Dunes City. The city recently adopted a septic maintenance ordinance. A phosphorous ordinance is now part of city code. Drafts of erosion control and stormwater ordinances are done and await citizen review.

### ***Phosphorous—The biggest threat to our water***

#### **Why are we so concerned about phosphorous in our water?**

Phosphorous stimulates plant growth. Plants use up the dissolved oxygen that fish need to survive. If left unchecked, plants take over and the lake gradually fills in and dies.

Scientists tell us that phosphorous is the “limiting factor” in the proliferation of algae and aquatic weeds.

What that means is: if you take phosphorous out of the

water and leave *all other* nutrients, algae doesn't grow.

#### **How does phosphorous get into our waters?**

We put it there.

The biggest contributor is sediment. When dirt runs off our property and flows into our lakes and rivers it brings phosphorous with it.

The problem is aggravated when land is exposed during development.

During storms, phosphorous-laden soils and other

toxic compounds flow into our water.

Phosphorous-laden effluent in our septic tanks eventually migrates into groundwater and into our lakes.

Studies show that sewage was a particular source of phosphorous to lakes when detergents contained large amounts of phosphates.

Runoff of phosphorous-rich fertilizers flow into our lakes and streams.

### ***The phosphorous ordinance — Read the Labels!***

Dunes City's new ordinance is designed to remove as much phosphorous as possible from our everyday life.

Specifically, ordinance 190 does two things:

- ?? It adds a Water Quality Protection section to the code; and
- ?? It adds phosphorous reduction to that new code section.

Basically, the new code attempts to limit the un-

necessary inputs of phosphorous from fertilizers and cleaning agents into our lakes, streams and groundwater.

The ordinance states that residents may not apply *any* type of fertilizer to property within 50 feet of the shore land.

Fertilizers for lawns or gardens outside the shore land may not contain phosphorous unless the fertilizer is being used for

new lawn during the first growing season.

Residents may also use phosphorous-containing fertilizers if tests results show the level of available phosphorous in their soil is insufficient to support healthy plant growth.

No cleaning agent used by Dunes City residents may contain more than **0.5% of phosphorous by weight.**

**Erosion Control—**

The proposed erosion control ordinance is designed control erosion at its source. That means that the dirt on our property must stay on our property.

Studies show that by volume, sediment is the greatest pollutant entering our surface waters. Sediment buries plant and animal habitat critical to healthy streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Under the proposed ordinance, a property owner must complete an erosion control plan if more than 3,000 square feet of land is disturbed.

The detail and complexity of the plan increases with the amount of square footage or the percentage of slope being disturbed.

In some cases an engineered erosion control plan, complete with drawings, will be required. (A complete copy of the draft erosion control ordinance can be found at [www.dunescity.com](http://www.dunescity.com).)

An expedited plan may be required when previous erosion control methods have not been effective and sediment moves across property lines.

**Stormwater Management-**

The stormwater ordinance seeks to protect and safeguard the general health and safety of the public by reducing stormwater-related impacts on the quality of the city’s water resources including drinking water.

Aimed at people who get permits for development, the ordinance sets standards for the capture and treatment of stormwater runoff from impervious surface areas and for reducing the introduction of pollutants into stormwater.

The city also will adopt a Stormwater Management Manual with goals to:

- \* Reduce runoff pollution from development.
- \* Retain and treat stormwater utilizing on-site controls.
- \* Incorporate vegetation as a key element.
- \* Operate and maintain facilities using facility-specific Operation and Maintenance Plans.
- \* Reduce or eliminate pathways that may introduce pollutants into stormwater and avoid preventable discharges to surface waters or groundwater.



Phosphorous-laden sediments that enter our lakes stimulate excessive plant growth.

***“[It is my] responsibility to provide an environment where staff and citizens engage one another and work together toward solutions.”***

***— Peter Howison  
DC Council  
President***



**[www.dunescity.com](http://www.dunescity.com)**  
*For up-to-date DC news & information*

***Disaster Expo Set for September 15***

In keeping with the spirit of National Disaster Preparedness month and in remembrance of 9/11, the Florence Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is planning a Disaster Preparedness Expo September 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Siuslaw Middle School in Florence.

**LIVE MUSIC — GREAT FOOD — RAFFLE PRIZES**

Learn about and prepare for:

- \* Earthquakes \* Tsunami \* Extreme Weather \* Fire Safety
- \* Medical Needs \* Search & Rescure \* Neighborhood Watch
- \* Water Safety \* Personal Security \* Wilderness Survival

Have fun while you learn:

- \* Create a Family Emergency Plan & Survival Kit
- \* Give Blood \* Watch Live Demonstrations \* See Emergency Vehicles

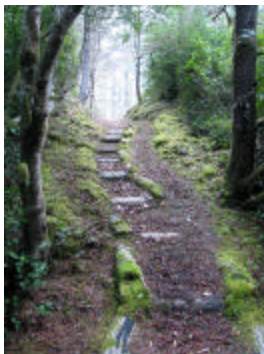
**GET A KIT, MAKE A PLAN & BE INFORMED!**



Dunes City events always create time and space for the youngsters.

***“Community is citizens taking an active role for the benefit of the whole.”***

— *Richard Koehler*  
DC Councilor



The public lands around Dunes City offer quiet respite for the soul.

## **Meet Your Neighbor...**

**John Carlson**

**Building community - bringing us together.**

*Thoughts from John Carlson by Richard Koehler*

Few folks will attend all the meetings that stalwarts like John Carlson did or with the energy of caring present in his personality. In the early days of Dunes City he defended the reasons people moved here.

John was one of the founders of the Dunes City Citizens Association and authors of the comprehensive plan. He has worked hard in many committees planning Dunes City's future.

When a large oil company was encouraged to design a 500 unit time share for RVs or a shopping center was proposed over wetlands, citizens defended their community at great sacrifice, hiring lawyers to defend community rights and in the long term changing the process of how future decisions were to be made.

“After a while those who considered building over what was once considered parkland shifted their outlook,” he recalled, “to respect that this is a darn nice community. Why are we trying to mess it up and make a large city out of it?” Preservation is the key.

Although John sees a need to protect the waters of Siltcoos Lake he has observed the International

Paper's water right and the 15 million gallons a day it used without recompense to the people of Oregon as a core reason to give the water rights back to the state. Even if they sell the rights to a group that returns the water levels to five feet above sea level (from the present eight feet) it would not disturb him.

John explained, “More than a hundred houses were built after the dam went in because of the new level that was established. I don't agree with the principle of people joining wallets to buy a permit that for forty-eight years had enabled private interests to gain from public resources.

“Rather, it would be fitting for the company to return these rights to regulators as prescribed by the state water board. Abandon the permit in favor of the state of Oregon.”

Ideally this would be the fundamental statement of people coming together.

John said, “People who live here do so because of what it is, a city that's really not a city. Dunes City is a community more than it is anything else and one objective is to keep it rural and tax free.”

John reflected that there

are “two classes of people in the city — those who own chunks of land and want to develop them and those who want to keep the city more or less a rural city.

“There is no surety that we all could meet more toward the middle, yet when the need arises so do Dunes City's citizens.

“So far we've got one of the most beautiful cities in the state,” he said, “because the size of the lots determines the amount of greenery there is in the city. When houses go in the greenery goes.”

Cities north of us witnessed an historic boom in building. Many buildings were being established with the hope that sales were imminent. Currently sales have fallen.

It is not necessary to mention development or preservation extremes here.

“It is the in-between that will be important in our future,” he said, “how as we get closer to the center of these extremes that we see how similar we are and how we can coexist.”

The works of the many who carry on with perseverance such as John Carlson's speak for all of us who through caring and selfless service build a community and call Dunes City home.





The Balloon Man, AKA Dunes City resident Tim Sapp, builds fanciful creations for the kids at last year's Festival of the Lakes. See him again in 2007!



Lori Robertson and Ron Kiturkes will share their mellow sounds at the Festival again this year.

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*Our Goal: to promote the understanding, protection and thoughtful management of Woahink Lake and its watershed*

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**Dunes City Community Center**

**Rental Fees**

	Resident	Non-resident
Deposit (refundable)	\$30	\$30
Without kitchen	\$35	\$50
With use of kitchen	\$50	\$75

*Comments or suggestions about this newsletter are welcome..*

*Please direct them to:*

*Communications & Education Committee Dunes City*

*P.O. Box 97*

*Westlake, OR 97493*

Clean Safe Water



This newsletter was prepared by the Dunes City  
**COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Editor: Christine May  
Contributors: Richard Koehler, Susie Navetta, Janet Carroll.

Dunes City  
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