

CITY OF JOHN DAY

NEWSLETTER

Best wishes to you and your family for a safe and happy holiday season from everyone at City Hall and the John Day Police Department

SEASONS GREETINGS

FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE KAM WAH CHUNG & COMPANY MUSEUM

By Karin Bantish

Kam Wah Chung & Co. Museum is embarking on a new era. A master-planning process is under way to restore the building and determine the site for a permanent visitor center. Exploratory archaeology took place in October, discovering artifacts significant enough to warrant further in-depth archaeological investigation next year. Meanwhile, stabilization work on artifacts inside the building will begin this winter.

As you know, this fall Kam Wah Chung was designated a National Historic Landmark, only the sixteenth building in Oregon to warrant such prestigious recognition. Achieving National Historic Landmark status is a *very* big deal. This designation elevates Kam Wah Chung from being important regionally and statewide to now claiming world-class significance. It puts our little museum on the cusp of exciting major changes – changes we need to make sure are the result of well-informed decisions.

We've already accomplished much to date. We've raised funds to purchase fireproof storage cabinets for many of the museum's irreplaceable artifacts and archives, and acquired computer equipment to professionally inventory the more than 10,000 objects associated with the museum. The Friends has opened a small gift shop in the temporary visitor center, stocking it with items including T-shirts, hats, chopsticks, fans, and books. The store was very successful this first year, with \$4443.80 in sales. The museum and visitor center received \$7935.65 in cash donations. A record 3195 visitors toured the museum, while 2160 stopped by the visitor center.

Friends volunteers have been instrumental in staffing the gift store – but we've fallen short in staffing needs. We need more people to donate just a few hours each month, from May through October, at the gift-shop counter. And if you can't donate time, cash gifts can also be put to work to help protect Grant County's own National Historic Landmark.

The Annual Meeting will be held in May 2006. The date to be determined. This will be a very exciting meeting showcasing the master plan as it unfolds for the months to come.

2006 is the "Year of the Dog" and is also Doc Hay's Birth year sign. Would you like to help us plan a Birthday Party?

The story of Kam Wah Chung is one shared by all of us who live in Eastern Oregon. It's a story of people, of men and women who chose to settle in the John Day Valley because they appreciated the region's opportunities. And it's a story of success, of meeting challenges head-on, one after another.

All those interested in helping the Friends Group in some fashion with ideas, projects, time in the Friends Store, serving on the Board of Directors, working on a committee for the Annual Meeting and/or Doc Hay's Birthday Party, please call: President, Karin Bantish – 575-2721

Kam Wah Chung Update

What an incredible success story. From the announcements of a \$400,000 Save America's Treasures appropriation and a \$200,000 grant from Meyer Memorial Trust to feature shows on Oregon Public Broadcasting, people have come from far and wide to restore the Kam Wah Chung & Co. Museum. Based on this good news, the campaign team agreed that we should continue to build on the campaign's momentum and combine both phases of the project for a new goal of \$1.5 million. The total raised is \$1,216,003 towards the \$1.5 million goal.

Campaign funds are already at work. This winter, restoration work will focus on the fabric of the historic structure, and on improving the environmental and building systems. Simultaneously, a collection consulting team is assessing and addressing the immediate collection needs and completing the inventory of the collection.

Over-

Winter Readings are now in effect

Just a reminder to inform residents, the City will not read residential water meters from November through March. We will start reading meters again in April and any overage you have will be billed at that time. During this time you will be billed for the minimum water usage of 4,000 gallons at the rate of \$21/month. During the freezing weather we ask that residents run a trickle of water from their faucets to keep pipes from freezing (listen to KJDY for announcement when temperatures drop). The City will credit 2,000 gallons back to the customers in April for this use.

SE Dayton Street Project

At their November 22, 2005 John Day City Council meeting, the John Day City Council approved a resolution to declare the intent to improve sidewalks in the SE Dayton Street area as part of the SE Dayton Street reconstruction project and to assess costs by special assessment to benefited property owners and set a public hearing to receive objections and remonstrance's to this improvement.

Since the holiday season is upon us, the Council decided to hold the public hearing on January 10, 2006 at 7 p.m. At the hearing the public will be able to review four street alternatives. Notice of the public hearing will be mailed by certified mail to property owners in the affected area and will be published in the Blue Mountain Eagle and announced on KJDY Radio station prior to the hearing. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this street project, please call city hall at 575-0028.

Davis Creek (Charolais Heights) Intersection

The intersection of Charolais Heights, Valley View and Davis Creek has always been a concern. Now with the expected increase in traffic from new development, it has heightened our awareness. In the interest of public safety and welfare, the John Day City Council believes that intersection needs to be reconstructed. What we know now is that new development is going up on Davis Creek and there will be new construction on the Holmstrom property on the east side of Charolais Heights. Both of these developments will add traffic to this intersection. New developments that will also add to the traffic will be the possible new development of the Ironwood II subdivision. All of these components will increase the traffic at this already hazardous intersection.

In our research with County Judge Dennis Reynolds, we discovered the County owns the portion of County Road 50 from the east fence at the Oregon State Forestry up through the intersection, up Davis Creek just past the gate (the road between Glen Eddy and Barbara Pollack). On January 10, 1984 the City of John Day accepted the road authority for that section, however, the road was never deeded over to the City of John Day.

On November 10, 2005 concerned property owners and City staff met with the Grant County Court to discuss the intersection and a motion was made to entertain discussions to resolve the issue associated with the Davis Creek Road Intersection, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of John Day and Grant County as to the process and procedure to expeditiously address safety concerns at said intersection. The proposed solution will be provided to the public before the project begins.

At their November 22, 2005 council meeting, the John Day City Council repealed the ordinance no. 84-38-1 accepting jurisdiction over that portion of County Road 50 and authorized the city manager to negotiate an intergovernmental agreement with Grant County.

Paving of Industrial Park/Airport Road

Paving has been completed on all roads leading into the Grant County Airport Industrial Park. The City of John Day entered into an agreement with the County to pay for the road from the Brent Street Bridge to Ansel Krutsinger's property and Skyline Drive.

Guardrails are being installed for added safety concerns. We asked that people using these roads during the winter months be extra careful as the new pavement will be slick during inclement weather. The City and County will be taking extra precautions to keep the residents safe.