



**Welcome to our first e-Newsletter!** Here's an update of what has been happening, most of it being "behind the scenes."

**Board Update:** The Board just completed their first year. While our bylaws allow for 15 to serve on the board, we started with 7 for our first year:

Jim Houseman, President  
Wendi Stinnett, Treasurer  
Beth Houseman, Secretary  
Janel Sorenson

Joshua Waechter  
Michelle Harding-Olson  
Colin Murphy

All have signed up for a second year! Board meetings are held monthly, in the evening. If you are interested in serving on the board or attending a meeting, contact Beth at 541.680.7906.

The Board submitted all the necessary forms and reports required to start a new Oregon non-profit, including our application for tax-exempt status to the IRS. **We are pleased to announce we are now a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization!** Look for our new website, complete with a new email address, and our first brochure to debut shortly.

**Ford's Pond** continues to draw visitors, with over 500 logging in on our clipboard in the first half of this year. The favorite activities are birding, walking, dog-walking, fishing, cycling, and a few paddlers. The Umpqua Valley Audubon Society hosted guided walks and the Oregon Birding Association hosted their annual meeting in Sutherlin, which drew in birders from around the PNW.

Recently, Pacific Power Corp. donated an osprey nesting platform and pole, and the labor for installation, to the City. This is the type of partnerships we hope to see continue as we work to create a space for locals and visitors to enjoy.

The City is working to prepare the pond for storage as stated in the wastewater facility upgrade plan. Please do not disturb their work. You will notice they are also making use of surplus asphalt in creating a safer place for parking (along with the access they need). We remind you to pack out all trash and dog waste; the trash can on Church Rd. was donated by the City and is being maintained by The Friends. No household garbage, please! Please follow all other posted rules to help keep this area open to the public.



**Thanks** to everyone for their support and patience as we established our new organization. We love watching families out for a late afternoon stroll, dads teaching their kids to fish (and they are catching!), early-morning runners, happy dogs, and seeing this beautiful piece of land being used and enjoyed.