

COUNTY COMMISSION REPORT

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Tillamook County Commissioners

Main Library grand opening

You won't want to miss the historic grand opening of the new Main Library Saturday, Sept. 30, at 1 p.m. Of course, there will be lots of speeches to commemorate the occasion, bagpipe piping and a traditional ribbon cutting. To add to the festive atmosphere, a stage will be built so people will be able to see what is going on. Enough cake has been ordered to serve 500 people, so come early. Part of Stillwell will be closed to traffic so there will be more room to celebrate.

After the ribbon cutting, the library will be open. There will be live music on both floors to add to your enjoyment as you see the completed building on the inside for the first time. Sara Charlton, librarian, said there will be some surprises in store.

Memaloose Point dredging

The dredging project has been completed. The dredging was scheduled from Sept. 1-15. The actual dredging started after the Labor Day holiday and took place between Sept. 5 and 14.

The county has received several questions and concerns about the timing of the project and the actual dredging. In short, the timing of the project was a direct result of the funding. Grant funds had to be received by the granting agency and official notice to proceed issued to the county before the contractor could be allowed to start work. Proceeding without official notice would have meant receiving no grant funds and the county ending up paying the entire cost.

Concerns have been voiced about the thoroughness of the dredging process, such as ridges 6-8 inches high remaining on the bottom of the boat basin, not dredging under all the boarding floats, silt left on the edges of the boat ramp and finally a silt berm between the boat launch and the river channel. The last concern seems to be the most problematic.

County staff have discussed

staff have scheduled a post-dredging survey of the Memaloose Point Boat Launch and the dredging activities. They will determine if the contractor met the contract specifications. Furthermore, they will review the reported river access limitations and determine what can and needs to be done. Watch for further information about the Marine Board's findings.

Long Prairie Road project

This project is planned for county bid next spring, with construction in summer. Project work involves road improvements to U.S. 101 and Long Prairie Road to aid truck turning.

In 2004, the County Road Department picked up the project from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) at its request. The county had the full expectation that it would be able to work with its hired design consultant for a fall 2005 construction. The project work involves both the County Road Department and the State Highway Division. ODOT was actively involved in roadway design and approval and is currently involved in project road right of way acquisition. The only right-of-way acquisition needed for the project is from the Port of Tillamook Bay, and most of the roadway improvements will be toward the Port property.

ODOT's extended design review process delayed project work until 2006. Most recently, the ODOT Region 2 Right-of-Way office determined that the right of way would not be acquired until winter 2006. This delayed the project construction until summer 2007. ODOT has allowed summer construction because both lanes of traffic will be open.

This project is 100 percent funded by an Oregon Transportation Infrastructure Act (OTIA) grant.

Tree needs pruning

One of the black locust trees at the Courthouse on the corner of Laurel Avenue and Third Street has developed serious rot in one limb, which presents a safety hazard to passersby. The county will contract with a professional