

# the Bridge

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## NEWPORT PLANS 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

October 23, 2007 marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Newport's incorporation. A committee made up of leaders from several community organizations, including Loretta Harrison, Dee Buchanan, Jim Protiva, Sheryl Eldridge and Wyma Rogers has been making plans for a celebration of Newport's 125 years.

The committee has arranged for commemorative banners to be installed on lightposts in Nye Beach, on the Bayfront, and around other city parks and buildings. The logo used on the banners -the numerals 125 on a marine blue field- will be available for sale as an appliqué patch, suitable for sewing on shirts, caps, and jackets.

An exhibit showcasing the first 125 years of Newport history will be installed July 1 at the Newport Public Library, and will then travel to the Chamber of Commerce, Recreation Center, and City Hall.

Newport Mayor Bill Bain, in the spirit of promoting the celebration, opens each City Council meeting with an historical anecdote. "I enjoy sharing Newport's past with our council and community and will continue until our quasiquicentennial on October 23<sup>rd</sup>," he says.



125th anniversary banners decorate lightpoles near City Hall

Events planned for the fall will include a party on the City Hall lawn October 23, and a surprise event or two to watch for as the actual anniversary date approaches.

For information on how you can participate in Newport's celebrations or to buy the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary patch, call the Newport Library at 265-2153 or the Recreation Center at 574-7783.

### NEW CITY PERSONNEL

'The Bridge' welcomes new Police Officers **Andrew Ashpole, Andy Bailey, Scott Davis, Brent Gainer, and Barry Macy.** **Patrick Blohm** is the city's new Parking Enforcement Officer. **Guy Young** is the Fixed Base Operations Manager for the Airport, and **Robert Fuller** is an Airport Administrator.

### REVISED CITY CHARTER WILL APPEAR ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

On May 18, 1962, Newport residents voted to adopt a City Charter. That Charter became effective on July 1, 1962, and remains effective today.

A city charter is a legal document establishing a municipality. The concept developed in Europe during the Middle Ages. Traditionally, the granting of a charter gave a settlement and its inhabitants the right to town privileges under the feudal system.

In the United States, such charters are established either directly by a state legislature by means of local legislation, or indirectly under a general municipal corporation law. Usually the proposed charter must pass a referendum vote of the affected population.

In the 45 years since Newport's Charter was adopted, gradual changes in state laws have conflicted with the

Charter. Therefore, the City Council recommended that a committee be formed to update the Charter. Mayor Bain appointed Mike Schulz, Cindy McEntee, and Mark Collson to work with staff to develop a revised Charter for the City.

The Charter revisions, though minimal, will bring the existing Charter into compliance with state statutes. Newport citizens will have an opportunity to review the revisions before voting on their adoption in the November 6, 2007 election.

The City and the Charter committee welcome your comments regarding the proposed Charter. Copies of the existing and proposed Charters are available at the Library, City Hall, and on the City website at [www.thecityofnewport.net](http://www.thecityofnewport.net).

# ART DECO STYLE IN NEWPORT'S CITY CENTER

When the Yaquina Bay Bridge opened for traffic on Labor Day in 1936, it opened the door on the modern age of highway transportation for Newport. Built in the modern style of the 1920's and 1930's now known as "art deco," the graceful steel arches and sculpted concrete geometric pylons of C.B. McCullough's bridge design symbolized progress and hope for the future. The new automobile age reoriented Newport's central business district, and as the area developed along Highway 101, in what is now Newport's City Center, many buildings adopted the same art deco style as the bridge.

The bridge continues to be Newport's most recognizable icon and is the inspiration for Newport's City Center Deco District. To honor the district's unique history and provide a focus for revitalization efforts, the Newport City Council designated the City Center as an official Art Deco Heritage District. The District is generally defined as Highway 101 from Angle Street to Fall Street, east to 10<sup>th</sup> Street, west to 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Hurbert Street.

The City Center Newport Association is a non-profit corporation organized to promote the aesthetic and cultural development of Newport's City Center. The Association has developed a brochure that invites readers to explore the recent past by including a walking tour to view art deco buildings and components. The walking tour begins at City Hall where the deco style interior can be viewed. The tour heads south on Highway 101 to the Salvation Army, where the corner entry, vertical columns, and



*An outstanding example of Art Deco style on Highway 101 - the former Midway Theater, now 'The Ark'*

slanted front windows are wonderful examples of classic art deco design. Further along the tour is the Ocean Unity Church with its scalloped concrete entry. Next door is Northwest Radiator with a large plate glass corner window and green on green tones – more examples of deco color and architectural elements.

Continuing on 9<sup>th</sup> Street to Alder Street, the District includes Yaquina Broadcasting Center with its columned front, the old City Hall with its vertical columns and decorative brick inlays, and the Lincoln County School District with its bas-relief window details and concrete relief above the entrance. Next door is The Ark, originally the Midway Theater that has stepped gables, porthole windows, a recessed entry, and a curved portico. The Bushnell's building, formerly home of Tip Top Motors, has fluted corners and a recessed entry.

At the corner of Highway 101 and Hurbert Street is the Kite

Company that has a curved corner and recessed entry. The Oregon Coast Community College facility has a columned façade with tile and recessed entries. The Red Cross, at the corner of Lee Street and Highway 101 has a concrete shelf. No deco heritage tour of Newport would be complete without visiting the Yaquina Bay Bridge – the anchor of Newport's official Art Deco Heritage District.

The next time you are in the City Center, take time to notice the art deco elements of the buildings – and of course, the Yaquina Bay Bridge.

## CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Warmer weather has arrived and brought new grass and weeds throughout the community. The City is working diligently to clean up all City-owned properties, and is asking other property owners to do the same. That includes maintaining the planter strip between the street and sidewalk, since that area is the responsibility of adjoining property owners.

The City Council recently adopted a new nuisance ordinance that goes further than encouraging people to maintain their property.

the ordinance specifies that property, including the planter strip be maintained. Owners are required to mow the grass, remove weeds and trash, and generally ensure that the strip area and their whole lot is clean and neat.

Enforcement of the nuisance ordinance carries with it a fine for violation. Owners will be fined a minimum of \$500 for not maintaining their property.

Mayor Bain noted that the "City has embarked on a clean-up effort of its own properties and has made excellent progress. We anticipate the same efforts on the part of private property owners. Our beautification work is paying off." He pointed out the work at Founders Park, located at Highway 101, south of the old City Hall. Founders Park has been transformed into a beautiful manicured green space.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public notice of all City of Newport meetings will be made by posting on bulletin boards at the following locations:

**City Hall, 169 SW Coast Highway**

**Newport Public Library, 35 NW Nye Street**

**Newport Recreation Center, 225 SE Avery Street**

Notice will also be posted online, on the City of Newport website, at [www.thecityofnewport.net](http://www.thecityofnewport.net)

*Anyone interested in serving on a City Board may pick up an application at the City Manager's Office in City Hall, or download an application from the City's website.*