If I Were Mayor…

By Nola Kay McGreer

If I were mayor of a small town like Fossil, I'd make sure that there were lots of activities for residents and tourists to participate in. I would get a pool, bowling alley, and an arcade. I'd also improve some of the parks around and make more pet friendly areas.

To add more activities may bring in more tourists to Fossil, so I'd also add more housing and hotels around so there are more places to stay. And also more stores around the town (clothing, food, and others) so tourists can have a place to get souvenirs and people who live in Fossil can have a job and make good money. Along with adding more houses I'd give people the opportunity to remodel their house to match the rest of the houses that have either been added or revenorated. More people coming to Fossil would mean that more houses would be in higher demand, so I'd use the area around us and try to flatten out the hillsides as best as possible to add houses in the surrounding areas. But, I'd also try to limit the growth so there is still plenty of land for all the animals to be in and they don't come into town and mess with people.

More restaurants would be a necessity for Fossil if more people are moving or visiting, there would be times when employment levels would be low and that would be during the beginning when people are considering moving here. But, more restaurants so when lots of people are here have places to eat and options on what to eat.

I'd also renovate both the high school and grade school and either make them bigger or just to update them. Also depending on how things work out later, the possibility of building a separate middle school from the high school. Or later adding onto both the highschool and grade school because more room is needed for all the students.

Also, trying to find more fossil beds, we have the one behind the highschool, but if this is going to become a more touristy town named Fossil, I think that there should be more than one place to go fossil hunting. Another thing I'd do is either expand the museum (but keep all of its stuff) or build a new one. I'd also keep the old school house building and hopefully someone would volunteer to work there and give tours of it to people while telling its history.

(Depending on the weather at the time,) I'd like to add some sort of hydroelectric power if possible to help power all of the house and stores. In general, just to try and make Fossil eco-friendly. Also putting in Tesla charging stations to encourage people to be more eco-friendly. I'd also try to make room for farmers and ranchers, even when/if Fossil gets bigger.

I'd also enlarge Haven House, or if Fossil's elderly population grows, add another one along with giving the clinic the supplies it needs and making it bigger if necessary. And because Fossil is far away from bigger cities like Bend or Portland, putting in a helicopter pad, so if there is a landing they won't have to redirect traffic from the street.

In conclusion, if I were mayor I'd try to listen to everyone's needs and demands along with adding to Fossil's population. Even if Fossil doesn't become as big as I may have dreamed it of, I'd still hope to add some of the buildings or use the ideas. To raise the money I'd throw small parties or get-togethers with the town to raise money for some of the ideas. Really, in the end, I hope to make Fossil better for everyone while trying to make everyone feel heard. That's how I'd be if I was mayor.