

City of Eagle Point: dual fuel Ford fits fleet vision



Public Works Director Robert Miller will fuel the CNG tank at the RVTD public fueling station on Crater Lake Avenue.

The City of Eagle Point is the proud owner of its first alternative fuel vehicle, a 1998 Ford F150 donated by Avista Utilities.

The ¾ ton 4x2 pickup truck has 118,618 miles. It is a dual fuel CNG vehicle that rolled off the assembly line with two fueling systems.

“This fits our vision for alternative fuel fleets,” said City Manager Dave Hussell.

Public works director Robert Miller said the city will use the pickup to haul equipment for its park system. He will fill the vehicle’s CNG tank at the Rogue Valley Transportation District fueling station on Crater Lake Avenue in Medford.

“This vehicle has a sensor that causes it to automatically switch tanks when one is empty,” Miller said. “That will eliminate the concern of running out of fuel at an inconvenient location.”

The truck was part of the utility company’s dual fuel fleet, said Steve Vincent, regional business manager for Avista Utilities in Oregon. “At Av-

ista we need dual fuel vehicles because of the unavailability of natural gas refueling where we might be traveling,” Vincent said. “Many of our vehicles travel to Klamath Falls, Roseburg and LaGrande.” Avista also donated a 2000 Ford CNG dual fuel pickup to the City of Rogue River.

For Eagle Point, the CNG truck drives the city closer to its goal of using alternative fuels. Green-minded city officials applied for but did not receive a ConnectOregon grant to install an electric vehicle charging station. However, they won’t give up the search for funding to install a charging station at city shops on South Shasta Avenue.

“We will start with a charging station for city fleets,” Hussell said. “We’re not ready to provide a public charging station because there are so many logistical issues to work out. For example, it’s likely the station would be slow charging, which would mean vehicles would have to sit at the city shop

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Above, Steve Vincent of Avista hands over the F150 keys to Eagle Point city staff. Below, factory-installed dual tanks for CNG and gas.



overnight and that might cause liability issues for private vehicles.”

The city’s goal is to install public charging stations downtown Eagle Point.

“Research shows that public charging stations work best in parking garages,” Miller said.

“Portland, Sacramento and other cities have had success installing them in places where people can plug in while they shop or work. “

The city wants to use charging stations to

anchor a downtown plan that includes landscaping, tree planting, new travel surfaces and a parking scheme along the alley. They hope to attract electric vehicle drivers who will shop and dine while they charge and help fuel the downtown economy.

— *Melissa Stiles, Rogue Valley Clean Cities*

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18-20 The Oregon Green Expo, Medford Armory www.theoregongreenexpo.com

June 14-17 2010 Western States Clean Cities Coordinators Peer Exchange Meeting, Denver, CO; presentation by Sue Kupillas, Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coordinator

June 23 Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition Board of Directors Meeting, featuring Pacific Power talk on EV charging, RVTD Translink Building, Medford

October 15 Odyssey Day, alternative fuel vehicles, Cascade Christian High School, Medford

The Chronicle is a monthly publication of Rogue Valley Clean Cities Coalition. The Coalition is made up of businesses and agencies with a shared goal of reducing the nation’s dependence on imported oil. Contact Sue Kupillas, coordinator, by email, sue@roguevalleycleancities.org. Learn more:

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