

City of Brownsville

Fall Newsletter

September 2013

Administrator's Corner



It is hard to say goodbye to Summer, but with the start of school and football season we are excited for the Fall. The City would like to thank Ann & Vern Moore for another outstanding season in Pioneer Park serving as Park Caretakers. We wish them well in their future endeavors. Seasonal worker Chuck Brown also provided a lot of support in the Park this Summer including the completion of many projects.

The event season was another big success this year. The City thanks all the groups including the Brownsville Fire District, the Linn County Pioneer Picnic Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the countless volunteers who give freely of their time and energy to make Brownsville a great place to live and visit.

Council & Staff are happy to report that the Calapooia Crossing Water Line project came in under budget and on time. The Water Distribution System is now back to full strength. Council is still working on redeveloping a water source from the early 1920's with City Engineer Jon Erwin. Oregon Water Resources Department issued water curtailment for an existing water right the City owns making it very important for the City to secure an additional source. Once the well is redeveloped, the City should have a stable water supply for the next three or four decades.

Staff recently attended a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) workshop regarding the implementation of the required Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan. In 2000, the DEQ had their TMDL implementation plan approved by the United States

Environmental Protection Agency. The primary focus of a TMDL plan is maintaining healthy water quality for aquatic life and is monitored on quantifiable measures such as temperature and chemical content of the water to name a few. The TMDL sets pollution limits that are deemed acceptable in order to meet the expressed purpose above. Council will be addressing this issue over the course of the next several months.

Several projects have been happening on Bishop Way. Dr. Glenn recently moved into his beautiful new office, Kirk's Ferry Trading Post is going strong and McFarland Cascade is working on further developing their property on the western edge of town. Joe DeZurney is working on the former Corner Café site as he looks to rebuild. The City continues to work closely with Bi-Mart and the Willamette Country Music Festival due to the major economic impact the event has for Brownsville business owners and non-profit organizations.

The City has received tremendous cooperation from citizens in the implementation of the nuisance and weed abatement process. We appreciate your efforts toward compliance. Council will be reviewing and monitoring progress closely. For more information about the City and for updates, please visit www.brownsville.or.us or come to a Council meeting.



Let's Plant a Tree

Please join us on Saturday, **October 19th** for our **Arbor Day Tree Planting**.
10:00 a.m. @ 523 North Main.

Recycle a Book, use your Library!!

by Sherril Leachhouse

The Brownsville Community Library is *falling* into place! Thank you to those who have joined us for Story Time and the Summer Reading Program. We have had lots of fun reading stories and creating crafts with Mrs. Thea. Last week we created pictures with pasta. . . Then Mrs. Thea brought out the glitter glue. The children had such fun passing the different colors around and learning to 'use just a little!' Story Times are Friday at 11 followed by Craft Time until noon. On Tuesday morning we have a short Story Time with the Parents and Pals group at 10:15 am. This is followed by play time in the Brownsville Park (weather permitting) or the Rec Center during inclement weather. We will have a Halloween/Harvest Party for the children again this year on Friday, October 25th. WE WILL BE OPEN for trick or treat until 7 pm on Halloween night! The kids are back in school and Story Times are going well on Tuesday at 10:15 am and Fridays at 11. Ms. Thea has brought us some fabulous craft ideas. This month we are talking about Fall. Topics include falling leaves, acorns, apples and autumn colors. Mr. Lee Smith will be teaching how to research your family Genealogy. This is a hands-on class that will be held on Fridays beginning on October 4th from 11-1 p.m. Please call the Library to pre-register. Our phone number is 541.466.5454. The Friends of the Library will be hosting their Annual Book Sale beginning Saturday, December 7th thru 14th. This sale is held during normal Library Hours. Our hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10 – 5 p.m.; Thursday 1 – 7 p.m.; Saturday 10 – 2 p.m. We accept used books throughout the year and sell them to support programs at our Library. Such as Summer Reading Program (July – August), magazines for check out (i.e. Garden Gate, Fine Homebuilding, Taste of Home, and the like), and books for you!





There's Always Something Happening in Brownsville

Sometime this summer, Alex Paul, reporter for the Albany Democrat-Herald, cruised through town looking for a story. He chanced upon one of Brownsville's many events and said, "There's always something happening in Brownsville. For a tiny town you sure have a lot going on." The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce is one of the big reasons there's so many family-friendly activities throughout the

year. An all-volunteer organization, the Chamber sponsors or partners on at least a dozen events designed to bring visitors into town and increase the quality of life for our residents. Why does the Chamber work incredibly hard to invite visitors to attend local events? When folks from out of town visit Brownsville for an event, they spend money at local businesses; if they have had a pleasant experience they come back and spend more money; they tell friends about our community; they may even re-locate a business here or retire in Brownsville.

Every Chamber-sponsored or partnered event takes dedicated hard work, hours and hours of planning, set-up, and follow-through by volunteers. Take, for example, the Pioneer Picnic Breakfast, a Brownsville tradition for generations. High-flying pancakes, the rockin' Eggettes, a tummy-satisfying start to the day and a favorite social gathering for families. Hundreds of planning hours and a crew of about 15 pull off the Picnic Breakfast year after year. This summer, the Chamber netted almost \$2,000 from the event which was enjoyed by hundreds of people. The Chamber-sponsored City-wide Garage Sale didn't make money this year, but it drew huge crowds of out-of-towners eager for a bargain. Guess who made money from the event? Local organizations and residents who sold everything from garden furniture to cooking utensils and children's clothes had a great day. Local restaurants fed hungry shoppers and many downtown businesses saw an increase in foot traffic.

Located in Pioneer Park for the second year, the Antique Fair and Car Show is growing in size and economic power, netting close to \$4000. Thanks to the shade offered by the Park's big maples, excellent event management, and the fabulous pulled pork lunch served up by volunteers, the Antique Fair is the Chamber's biggest revenue-producer. The 4th of July Breakfast, another solid tradition for our community, earned the Chamber a little less than last year due to increased costs of food products, nevertheless, it netted \$1600. The one day, mid-week celebration of the filming of Stand by Me brought international visitors into town as well as fans from around the West. On the Chamber's website, historicbrownsville.com, Stand by Me gets more hits than any other event. So what does the Chamber of Commerce do with its revenues? Like a good civic partner, the Chamber invests back into the community. Here's where the Chamber spent money in 2013:

Hosting a website (historicbrownsville.com) for members and non-members. Check it out.

- Four months of gorgeous flower baskets (flower baskets & daily watering) adorning lamp posts in downtown & Main Street.
- Contracting with a professional marketer to promote Brownsville and manage our website.
- Events signage.
- Sponsored a Rec Center team.
- Donated to the Brownsville Rural Fire Department and the Brownsville Community Foundation.
- Hosted a shuttle during the Willamette Country Music Festival (WCMF) to transport folks into town to shop/eat and back out to the Festival site.
- Worked with WCMF to provide free advertising for local businesses on the Jumbotron to 15,000 people/day.
- Hosted Business After Hours.
- Partnered with Albany Visitors Association, Visit Linn County, & the Willamette Valley Visitors Association to promote Brownsville.

Get to know your Chamber, come to one of the monthly meetings (always on the 2nd Thursday of each month at noon in the Community Room next to City Hall) or visit the website: historicbrownsville.com. ~ Mandy Cole



2013 Fall Chamber Events



Thursday, October 31st, 2013, from 1-5 p.m. Trick or Treat in Downtown Brownsville

Highlight Brownsville Downtown Trick or Treat in your calendar now; on Oct 31st from 1-5 p.m., many Brownsville businesses will welcome kids and their grown-ups, offering treats and surprises. Look for the big orange pumpkin on the windows of participating businesses. Last year about 100 costumed children wandered downtown, visiting shops and stores, delighting shop owners and parents alike.



December 26th - 31st, 2013, Moyer House Open House

Join us as the Moyer House opens its doors for public viewing. The Moyer House will be adorned for the holidays and members of the Brownsville Women's Study Club will serve as your hostesses. For more information, call the Linn County Historical Museum at (541) 466-3390.



Friday, December 6th, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Best Bites of Brownsville

Enjoy a holiday food tour around Brownsville! A fun and tasty feature of Brownsville's Home for the Holidays will be the "Best Bites of Brownsville," a walking food tour around downtown on Friday, Dec. 6th, 2013 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Organized by the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce and made possible through participating local businesses, the "Best Bites" offers food sampling and beverages in participating downtown businesses. Each business will feature a different sampling of unique seasonal foods and/or beverages. Enjoy downtown historic Brownsville's Holiday atmosphere while noshing on gourmet goodies.



Mayor's Comments By Don Ware

Bi-Mart's WCMF is a boon to our community...

In August the big event stirred things up in our community again. The Bi-Mart Willamette Country Music Festival brought in thousands of people, hundreds of RVs and cars, and world renowned entertainment. All in our small community.

We need to give a special thanks to Don Leber of Bi-Mart, President of the Festival Anne Hankins, Vice President Karama Billick, and their staff, including Popple Advertising organization, for all their work and effort. And thanks to the Andersons for allowing their farm to be utilized for the good of the Central Linn community.

The shuttle bus to downtown Brownsville worked very well this second year of shuttling folks from the Festival to our town. Most businesses experienced a big increase for the weekend and our business community can really benefit from all those customers. The Chamber of Commerce has done a fine job of working with the Festival leadership in getting the shuttle into town. Some reports even have Festival goers stopping in Brownsville on Sunday and Monday to buy items they had identified over the weekend. We like that sound of cash registers ringing, or is it the subtle sound of a credit card being swiped?

Our Linn County Commissioners have been very tough on the Festival and have demanded much more than required by law and county rules. Perhaps that can be viewed as positive, given the improvements at the Festival, but we know the crew out there did more than asked and want the event to be problem free and safe for everyone. If the Commissioners view the improvements fairly, and allow a 2-year permit and an increase in ticket sales, they can now provide the support that our local community needs and wants from them. As the success of this event becomes more apparent, we are hopeful the Commissioners will lighten up and help this event become all that it can be.

This Festival is a wonderful addition for our community and is providing thousands of dollars, if not more, for our businesses, schools, and social service organizations. Our town gets an increase in tourist trade and many more people are aware we are here. We are already planning to make sure the Festival stays here and is bigger and better than ever. Linn County is the Country Music Center in the Pacific Northwest with both big events, the Oregon Jamboree and the WCMF. Thank you to everyone who made the weekend a receptive, safe, enjoyable, and entertaining weekend.



Brownsville Senior Center Holiday Bazaar—November 16th, 2013—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

We are a little under two months away from our Holiday Bazaar. When we scheduled this event back at the beginning of the year, we thought we had lots of time. Time is on the decline as we roll into the beginning of Fall. Many have responded with items for this great time with our community. We have items coming in or being promised for this special time of the year. These items can be focused around the holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. They can also be items for babies, toddlers, winter, spring or summer. There can be gift baskets, or items made or collections to be enjoyed by others. We need to hear if you can bring homemade food items and what they will be. Anyone can contribute items for our Bazaar, give a call to Kaye Fox at 541.466.9779 and let us know what your contribution will be.

We have received and have people bringing forth items. We are still welcoming other items that you have to offer. All the monies raised go to our Brownsville Senior Center. The monies raised will be used for the ongoing expenses of our Senior Center. We are back on Main Street, soon to complete our second year with the American Legion Post #184 and the Women's Auxiliary. We have 80 plus members and many attendees. We are able to bring in speakers that have relevancy for our Seniors. Speakers who speak to their safety, and their medical benefits which is a big question this year. We want to have a 15 passenger van with wheel chair abilities. We need to help our Seniors have access to getting to the doctor, getting groceries and other shopping or taking a day trip somewhere.



We have said that this Brownsville Senior Center is for our Seniors and also for our community. Sometimes it would be nice to see younger couples with children come in and help with the potluck luncheon and our potluck waffle supper or help out at our Holiday Bazaar. Get to know our wonderful Seniors. Your lives will be greatly filled with knowing our Seniors. Our history is in our Seniors and that history needs to be shared, so we know where we came from, where we are today and where we will go in the future.



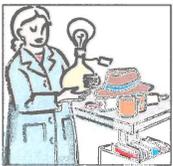


Moving at the Speed of Light by Mandy Cole

Slight exaggeration, but, really, the Brownsville Art Association is an amazingly active group, hosting a new art exhibit every month as well as offering frequent art workshops for children and adults. To manage this semi-frenzied activities schedule, the BAA depends on an all-volunteer crew composed of professional and non-professional artists and friends of the art world. The epicenter for exhibits, workshops, meetings, and more is the Brownsville Art Center, 255 Main Street, next to Brownsville City Hall and across the street from Main Street Coffee. Half of the Center is devoted to the Gallery where rotating shows are displayed as well as a variety of original art; everything from paintings to ceramics, photography, jewelry, fabric arts, sculpture, greeting cards, and magnets are available for purchase at extremely reasonable prices.



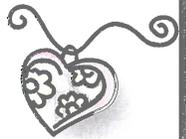
The other half of the Center is dedicated to educational workshops for children and adults; during the month of August the BAA offered "How to Draw Animals", a three-day workshop for youngsters which was attended by over 25 children with several more on the waiting list. The class was taught by three very talented sisters: Shavonne, Devynn, and Cassandra Schumacher who teamed up to design the curriculum and teach students new skills.



In July, you may have noticed lots of energetic construction going on in front of the Art Center, concurrently with the City-wide Garage Sale. The Art Association hosted its first-ever Junk Art Show with three teams of contestants creating original works of art from recycled, re-used, and re-purposed junk, some of it scrounged from garage sale items from around town. With the clock ticking (teams had only three hours in which to create a masterpiece) a 10' tall Junk Monkey, a miniature Log Cabin, and a kinetic sculpture made of wood, rope, and meat hooks took shape. Everyone had a great time, including fascinated viewers.

The Art Association's fall schedule is packed with exhibits and workshops; everyone is welcome. On display right now in the Art Center is "Formed of Fire", an exhibit of original metal, glass, ceramic, and jewelry works by local artists. Photographs and paintings are included. Running from Oct. 1st-Nov. 31st will be "Art Around Town"; this exhibit moves out into local businesses and public places, as well as the Gallery. Look for original works in over 25 locations around Brownsville.

During October, the Brownsville Art Center will be a busy place with a packed workshop schedule. On Tuesday, Oct. 1st, Rhoda Fleischman will teach a free drawing class from 7:00pm-9:00pm. On Thursdays from 5:30pm-8:30pm starting Oct. 3rd, Lisa Chase teaches a watercolor class (register through LBCC), and back for an encore will be the Schumacher sisters with two classes: 2D Animation and Flip Books for kids and "How to Draw Animals" for Junior High through adults. Call Alice Tetamore for details 541.466.5782. Artist Lori Garcy will offer "Polymer Clay Workshop" on Oct. 19th, Saturday 9-1:00pm; Lisa Chase will teach "Matting, Color Theory and Cutting" on Oct. 26th. In November, the Association will offer a Colored Pencil workshop. To register for classes, visit the Gallery, or for more information, drop in at the Brownsville Art Center, 255 Main Street on Thursdays-Saturdays 10-5:00pm. Now is a good time to check out the Gallery for one-of-a-kind well-priced art work and gift items for the Holidays.



**Sand and sand bags are available for City residents.
They are located in the Rec Center Parking lot directly behind City Hall.**

BULLETIN BOARD

City Hall posts upcoming events, announcements, etc. on our bulletin board just inside our front door. If you have a flyer for an event that you would like posted, please drop it off at the front desk and we will post it on the board for you!



Need Home Repairs?

Willamette Neighborhood Housing, a local nonprofit operating on behalf of the City of Brownsville, is offering home repair loans at 0% interest, with no payment, for income qualified homeowners. For more information contact: 541.752.7220, or w-nhs.org. Equal housing lender, ML#4909, NMLS# 0098.

What is this Sewer Debt Service Fee?

City Hall has been getting several questions about the Sewer Debt Service Fee on monthly utility bills. Below is an article from 2008 that explains the fee:

Several years ago, the City was in violation of rules promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and adopted by the State of Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The State mandated the City to make repairs to the Wastewater System. The City embarked on finding funding agencies and an engineering firm to design the necessary improvements. Voters of the City of Brownsville approved a bond tax levy to pay for the required improvements in November of 2004. Cost projections, at that time, were that the monthly utility bills would increase from a monthly average of around \$51 to a monthly average of near \$75. The City secured financing from the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Utilities Service (USDA-RUS) in a loan amount of \$6, 217,000 and grant funds not to exceed \$1,189,000; from the State's Economic and Community Development Department (OECD) which included a \$300,000 loan and a \$250,000 grant from the Wastewater Program and a \$750,000 grant from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The City was required by contract to spend the loan amounts first.

Last year (2007) the City began constructing the largest public works project in the history of the City, a Wastewater Improvements Project that included a new lagoon at the South facility and the replacement of nearly 40% of the City's sewer collection lines. Fortunately, the City received bids that were within the projected budget and two quality contractors. In January of 2008, the USDA-RUS approved Council's request to include additional collection lines to the project accessing the remaining grant money. USDA approved the request and the City is in the process of replacing the collection lines on Kirk Avenue, Averill and Linn Way.

Council decided to place \$15 monthly charge on all sewer accounts (2008). The bond levy will be levied this fiscal year (2008) to offset the remaining balance of the annual payment. What this means is that on the monthly utility bill there will be a line item that reads Sewer Debt Service \$15. The average monthly bill will go from \$56 to around \$75 (2008). The good news is the actual numbers are very close to the original projections and the project came in under budget. The bad news is we all have to pay more for sewer services.

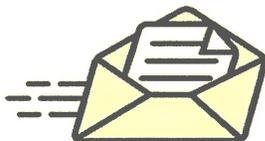
Results for Bond Measure 22-30 at the General Election held November 2, 2004:



Total Votes Cast = 769
Yes = 615 (79.97%)
No = 154 (20.03%)

City Hall Contact Information

Emergency Situation: 911
City Hall during Office Hours: 541.466.5666
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
After Hours Public Works Emergency: 541.409.3700
City Library: 541.466.5454
Fire Department (Non-Emergency): 541.466.5227
WWW.CI.BROWNSVILLE.OR.US



City Staff on the Internet:

Elizabeth Coleman – assistant@ci.brownsville.or.us
Jannea Deaver – clerk@ci.brownsville.or.us
Tammi Morrow – finance@ci.brownsville.or.us
Karl Frink – publicworks@ci.brownsville.or.us
Scott McDowell – admin@ci.brownsville.or.us
Jan Henry – court@ci.brownsville.or.us

Water Capital Improvement Fee

Council recently passed Resolution 712 which added a \$2.50 Water Capital Improvement Fee to the monthly utility bill. The addition to the monthly bill was necessary for a multitude of reasons as Council recently cited. Below are some of the reasons and rationale for the increase:

1. **Calapooia Crossing Waterline** – The City experienced a major waterline break in late December 2011. The City's 12" water main had busted and subsequently had to be taken out of service due to the severity of the break. Fortunately, Public Works caught the leak in time and averted what could have been a major disaster for the City' distribution system. The City is currently under contract to repair this major waterline that services south Brownsville. The repair cost is \$380,420 and was projected to cost \$450,000. The City is able to pay for these improvements out of the utility funds.
2. **Future New Water Plant** – The City will begin planning the next upgrade to the Water Treatment Plant in the year 2020. Water Treatment Plants have a useful life of about twenty-five (25) years. Our current plant went into service in 1996.
3. **Water Debt** – The United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (USDARUS) is the Federal funding agency that rural cities use when executing major capital improvements projects. USDARUS allows for debt to be taken out over forty (40) years which the City did in 1996. When the City moves forward with the next project there will be remaining debt that will need to be rolled over into the next bond or paid down at the time of the next issuance.
4. **Water Capital Improvements** – The City has a number of deferred capital improvements that will need to be upgraded within the next few years including the replacement of the 250,000 gallon reservoir which will be upgraded to a 1,000,000 gallon reservoir to more adequately service the City. The City also has a major waterline on Main Street that needs to be replaced along with other distribution system needs.

Council is aware that the improvements needed over the next decade are going to be costly. Council is trying to stay ahead of the curve and manage the improvements as responsibly as possible. By instituting the Water Capital Improvement Fee, the City will yield an annual amount of just over \$20,000 which will help with the enormous costs that lay ahead.

NOTE: The City of Brownsville is no longer offering notary services.

City of Brownsville
255 North Main Street
P.O. Box 188
Brownsville, OR 97327



The City has changed open hours starting Tuesday, November 13th, 2012.

The new open hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Staff is available as always by appointment at your convenience just call City Hall at 541.466.5880. You can also drop any payments off using the mail slot/drop box next to the front door of City Hall or pay on-line at www.brownsvilletix.com.