

# CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

April 2015

## *Hope Springs Eternal* **By Scott McDowell**

As flowers reveal their colors, trees begin to blossom and fresh cut grass fills the air of neighborhoods, winter is gone and the excitement of warmer weather calls. City Engineers Jon Erwin and Ryan Quigley are putting the finishing touches on the water line projects planned for this summer. The City will redevelop the well south of Kirk Avenue, Kirk's Ferry Park, fix the Main Street waterline and replace the old water line that has served north Brownsville for the last sixty plus years. Pioneer Park facilities received electrical upgrades and we will soon be finishing the bollards that will provide electricity to the "prairie area" of the Park.

City Hall has had the good fortune of adding new faces to several boards and committees. The Budget Committee is preparing for FY 2015-2016. We are excited to welcome Sandi & Borden Granger as Park Caretakers. We have an opening for an individual to join the Public Works crew in a seasonal capacity in May. We continue to receive exceptional support from volunteers serving in the many capacities that assist in providing vital services to residents. Growth is happening all over town from redevelopment projects to new ventures. Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman and the Planning Commission have been busy assisting these projects. The City is still working with a local property owner in an effort around locating a financial institution for town. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support on this effort and other issues involving your local government.

Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's Party!" – Robin Williams



**Seasonal Public Works Position** – City of Brownsville is interested in hiring a Seasonal Public Works Operator which is scheduled to start in May and last through October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The position will be forty (40) hours per week. An application is available at City Hall, 255 N. Main Street or on the website at [www.ci.brownsville.or.us](http://www.ci.brownsville.or.us). For more information, please call (541) 466-5880. Application deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, 5:00 p.m. P.S.T. Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).



## *A Note from the Mayor ...*

Believe it or not, the Mayor and the City Council are interested in learning what the citizens of Brownsville think about any and all issues. One of those issues is marijuana and the ballot measure the voters of our town will receive in May concerning its availability and sale inside our town. Although the Council has voted to allow medical marijuana to be sold in a zone along Hwy 228, it can only be done after the federal government declares marijuana legal. The opinion of the voters will either confirm or reject the current status. Your vote, your opinion matters. The Council has basically said no to marijuana. What do you say?

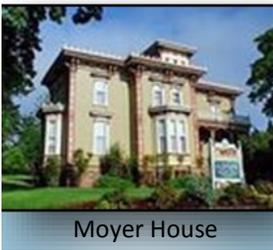


Other activities of the Council include the consideration of the budget for next fiscal year, 2015-16. The Budget Committee will consider the budget proposed by Staff during April and May and comments from the public will be welcome. We believe we have a good budgeting system in place and currently have annual surpluses that are building up our reserve funds for future water, sewer, roads, and other infrastructure demands. The budget will be finalized at the City Council meeting in June.

The Staff and the Council are working together to strengthen our Ordinances so that they are clear and so enforcement can be reasonable and fair. We have found some of our Ordinances need rewriting and are currently looking at a leash ordinance for dogs. Council may also consider recreational vehicles and vehicles that are parked in the public right-of-way. Nuisances are also an area where individual home owners have been asked to meet Ordinance requirements for public safety and for respect for neighbors.

Please let us know what you are interested in or concerned about. I am always available to discuss issues with Brownsville residents and welcome your questions, ideas and suggestions. And finally, please vote in May. We need your input.

*By Mayor Don Ware*



Moyer House

## Fun This Spring at the Linn County Historical Museum and Moyer House

By Mandy Cole, Museum Coordinator

Everyone is invited to the Moyer House, North Main Street, Brownsville, on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. for the Grand Re-opening, a day with free admission and guided tours of the interior of this historic showplace home. During these last winter months, dedicated volunteers have been painting and varnishing and stenciling the walls, woodwork, trim, and wainscoting which have been hidden for decades under layers and layers of old paint and wallpaper. The public is welcome to view the beautiful restoration work and experience the house nearly as it was originally in 1881. The Moyer House will be open from 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. on April 4<sup>th</sup> with refreshments outside from 1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m. Kuri Gill from the State Historic Preservation Office and Brian Carroll, Director, Linn County Parks will be on hand to welcome visitors and speak about the significance of the Moyer House in Linn County's history.

The first weekend in May is guaranteed fun in Brownsville. Every year at this time, Carriage Me Back, the community-wide historical re-enactment, occupies our downtown with historically-based skits popping up all over. Visitors, riding in a horse-drawn covered carriage, are transported back to 1882, experiencing the highlights of that year performed by community actors. Starting at the Linn County Historical Museum, 101 Park Ave, Brownsville, and ending in the Moyer House, visitors are greeted by costumed volunteers who act out stories of Brownsville's scandals, colorful characters, and triumphs. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Museum at 541.466.3390. Carriage Me Back is the annual Museum Friends fundraiser. The Linn County Historical Museum and Moyer House are open Tuesdays-Saturdays 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. For more information, go to [linnparks.com](http://linnparks.com).

BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER

*The Chamber closed 2014 with a spectacular Home for the Holidays and began 2015 with Nonprofit Organization Board Training and a planning session. Our membership drive is currently underway. please check your mail or e-mail for our solicitation.*

*"Volunteering is the rent we must pay to live in a community like this."*

*Brownsville is filled with volunteers; the Mayor and City Council are all volunteer, all of the Chamber Board members are volunteers, our local firefighters are volunteers, the people who cook eggs at the breakfast are volunteers, the Pioneer Picnic staff is all volunteers, the Linn County Museum is staffed by volunteers; well you get the point. I have noticed recently many of these volunteers are the same people. It is not uncommon to see the very same individuals volunteering at the Museum, putting on a Church dinner or serving as an officer in the American Legion.*

*Our community is always in need of volunteers, people with new ideas, people with new energy, I urge you to get involved. Of course you are busy, your family, your children, your house, your business needs your attention, but if you want a family friendly community like Brownsville, you must pay the "rent". Please, join the Chamber, serve on a City committee, burn a few hot dogs at the Antique Fair. You will enjoy it.*



### Upcoming Classes:

- April 11<sup>th</sup>—The Fantastic Face of the Horse
- April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>—Painting with Acrylics
- May—Painting with Chickens and Ducks
- May 9<sup>th</sup>—Silver Clay Jewelry Workshop
- June 20<sup>th</sup>—Trash Bouquet
- July 11<sup>th</sup>—Business Card Holder
- July 25<sup>th</sup>—Trash Earrings
- Aug 8<sup>th</sup>—Cereal Box Redesign and Pinch Bags
- Aug 14<sup>th</sup>—Junk Bracelets
- TBD—Children's Summer Art Camps

## Brownsville Art Association News

By Mandy Cole and Alice Tetamore

Have you seen the "Going Up Stream Exhibit" at the Brownsville Art Center yet? This collection of art is by the Albany Gallery Artists. The Art Center is located at 255 main Street, Brownsville, right next to City Hall and across the street from Randy's Main Street Coffee. Open hours are 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Almost every month the BAA hosts a new exhibit/show and offers a wide range of workshops and classes. The Association encourages everyone, adults and children to enjoy doing art, no matter what your skill level, beginners through professionals. In April a for children Craft-Art Class will be offered usually on Fridays. Sketchbook Club meets Fridays once a month for all ages and emphasizes drawing skill development. More information and registration for these classes is available at the Art Center. Be sure to register early as class size is limited.

In May a special exhibit features art works by Becky Uhler and Roka Walsh interpreting "Nature". Exhibits and shows are always free to the public and the work is available for purchase. June and July is the Community Art Show for all levels and kinds of art for everyone "5 to 85". Then enjoy and participate in the Art d' Junque Show in August. In conjunction with these shows, many free and inexpensive classes are offered.

If you like to do your own thing, you will enjoy Open Studio every Tuesday evening at the Art Center from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Artists of all skill levels gather informally to work on their own projects. The first Tuesday of each month is unique: Rhoda Fleishman teaches a free class focusing on special topics such as shadows, foreshortening, the human face, or perspective. No registration is necessary; Tuesdays are always free.

The Brownsville Art Association is an all-volunteer nonprofit which supports and promotes the arts in the Central Linn Area. BAA has about 100 members who work hard to keep the local art scene lively and interesting. For more information, drop in at the Art Center during open hours and explore BAA's new website under construction now at [brownsvilleart.org](http://brownsvilleart.org).

## Planning News – Permit Needed

### Fences, Accessory Structures, New Construction Brownsville Municipal Code – Title 15 Ordinance 748



As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, Brownsville Municipal Code Ordinance 748 requires that anyone erecting a fence, accessory structure, or constructing a new building must obtain a permit from the City of Brownsville. Property setbacks will be field-verified by City Staff. For questions and additional information, please contact Elizabeth Coleman at City Hall. Brownsville Municipal Code Ordinance 748 is also available on the City website ([www.ci.brownsville.or.us](http://www.ci.brownsville.or.us)) under General Information.



#### Library Hours:

Tuesday 10 - 5  
Wednesday 10 - 5  
Thursday 1 - 7  
Friday 10 - 5  
Saturday 10 - 2



Summer Reading Program begins Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Every Hero has a Story!  
Ages Pre-9 Years from 11:00 a.m. - Noon  
Unmask! Ages 10+ Years from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00  
p.m. Registration begins Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Parents and Pals Story Time each Tuesday morning at 10:15 a.m. followed by a free play group at the Brownsville Rec Center.  
Regular Story Time is each Friday at 11:00 a.m., followed by craft time until Noon.

Brownsville Community Library will be closed June 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## Historic Review Board

Brownsville's "Old Town Commercial" Zone (OTC) – the commercial area on the north side of the Calapooia River - contains many buildings that are fine examples of early Oregon architecture and provide a nice overview of structures typical of the mid 1860's through the 1920's.

The oldest commercial building is the former Corner Café, built about 1874. The Carlson Hardware building and the original "Bank of Brownsville" (which now sports a Coca-Cola sign) were Brownsville's first brick buildings, constructed in 1903. The old Baptist Church was completed in 1906. The brick Howe Building dates to 1908. Pioneer Antiques was built that same year, but an earthquake in the 1940's caused damage that required the brick be covered with plaster. After a huge fire in June of 1919 burned many original wooden buildings, "fireproof" structures took their place. Most of the buildings on the south side of Spaulding Avenue, as well as the Napa building, are examples of these. There are also several residences in the zone built between 1865 and 1920.

One of the services of the Historic Review Board (HRB) is to provide owners with historic information and painted wooden plaques that identify these buildings by their historic name and date. There is no charge for this service, and no obligation other than to secure the plaque where it can be seen by passers-by.

Another service of the HRB is to consult with property owners in the OTC when they plan to do any new building, make certain alterations to existing buildings, or place business signs, so that the OTC retains the character of the historic period from 1860 through 1920.

The Board is currently working on developing guidelines for signs in the OTC. Existing historic district sign ordinances from other cities are being studied. The Board hopes to provide simple and clear guidelines that will allow for effective individual business signage, yet retain and even enhance the historic character of Old Town. For more information, or to secure the services of the HRB, please contact Elizabeth Coleman at City Hall at 541.466.5666. ~ Joni Nelson

## 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 [wnhs.org](http://wnhs.org). Equal housing lender, ML#4909, NMLS# 0098.



# Upcoming Community Events

**May 2 - 3**  
Carriage Me Back



**May 19**  
Election Day



**June 19 - 21**  
Pioneer Picnic



**July 4**  
Breakfast & Fireworks



**July 18**  
Citywide Garage Sale



## PIONEER PARK Facilities

Interested in renting the park facilities for a summer event?



There are still dates available, call City Hall for scheduling.



**July 23**  
Stand By Me Day



**August 1**  
Antique Faire

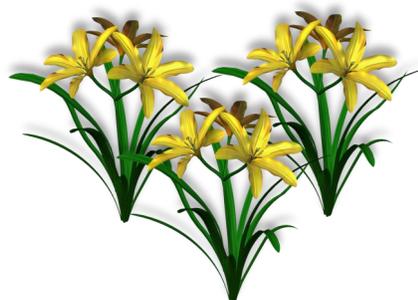


**August 14 - 16**  
Willamette Country  
Music Festival



**October**  
Citywide Clean Up Day TBD

**October 10**  
Household Hazardous Waste





**City of Brownsville**  
 255 North Main Street  
 P.O. Box 188

PRSR STD  
 ECRWSS  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 EDDM RETAIL

**LOCAL POSTAL PATRON**  
 Attn: City of Brownsville Residents



Just a reminder—the Brownsville Municipal Court Clerk is available from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Fridays.

### Weeds ...

Nuisance and weed abatement time are quickly approaching. With the unseasonably warm weather grass and weeds are bound to be ahead of schedule. All properties are required to meet the minimum standards defined by the Brownsville Municipal Code. It can be found on our website at [www.ci.brownsville.or.us](http://www.ci.brownsville.or.us). If you need further clarification, please feel free to contact City Hall.



### Utility Billing News



**Online Payments:** If you pay your water and sewer bill through on-line banking systems, please make sure that your current account number and the “bill to” name match what is on your utility statements. Sometimes name changes or old account numbers make it hard to post payments in a timely fashion.

**Account Information:** Please make sure that your account information is current (mailing, phone numbers, etc.). In case of a water or sewer emergency it is imperative that we have a valid phone number to contact you.

**Past Due Payments:** If your utility account has a past due amount, it is entered into a lien against your property. We update the records each month, and if the past due amount is paid, the lien amount is removed from the property. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jannea Deaver for clarification.