



THE CITY NEWS

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PHONE (541) 466-5666 FAX (541) 466-5118

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ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

So many things have happened in Brownsville in such a short amount of time. Council continues to make improvements and work towards making Brownsville a great place to live. Many changes have been made and will continue to be made to improve the internal organization and operation of the City. As the City finishes the Wastewater Improvements Project, we look forward to the Transportation Enhancement Grant which will improve the traffic flow and aesthetics at the Hwy. 228 & Main Street intersection. The City will be working with the Linn County Road Department and the Oregon Department of Transportation on this project. The city will be working on an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Linn County Commissioners and the Linn County Road Department for future improvements to Kirk Avenue. (Please see the February 2008 Council Minutes for more information) Council is now reviewing the overall aspects of infrastructure and asset management. This Fall the first long-range Capital Improvements Plan will be prioritized by special committee and presented to Council.

Council will be discussing Economic & Community Development ideas and developing directives in 2009, once a full Council is in place. The City will be drawing information from past studies as well as collecting ideas from the public and specific organizations and groups in a town hall format. The City will be working with the Cascades West Council of Governments and the Oregon Economic & Community Development Department and the folks at the Oregon Downtown

Development Association. Council hopes to identify goals that will improve & provide opportunities for everyone in Brownsville.

Public Works has replaced all three filters at the Water Treatment Plant, improved the restroom facilities in Pioneer Park, made extensive repairs and painted the Library and provided for general maintenance throughout town.

Council continues to work with various groups to provide public services including Central Linn School District, the Calapooia Food Alliance, the Rec Center Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the Library Advisory Board and the Park Board. The City is, as always, a work in progress.

~ S. Scott McDowell, City Administrator

CITY HALL USAGE

Council would like to invite all interested parties to a Town Hall meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the future uses of City Hall once the Fire Department moves to their new location on Blakely Avenue. The meeting will be held upstairs at City Hall in Council Chambers.

An Open House will be held at the Brownsville Fire Hall, hosted by Chief Kevin Rogers, on October 18, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. until Noon, for anyone interested in viewing the existing space prior to the Town Hall Meeting.



WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The City was successful in adding over 3,000 linear feet of pipe to the project since the last Newsletter update this March. The large culvert on Averill Street carrying the Millrace was also replaced. The United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Utilities Services (USDA-RUS) allowed the City to add sewer collection lines on Kirk Avenue from Putman to the City Limits and Averill Street from Kirk to Stanard. The interim financing was officially closed on September 9th, 2008, and the City is now awaiting financial numbers on any remaining grant money from USDA-RUS. Hopefully, the City can install some

more collection lines along Seven Mile Lane and/or possibly making needed improvements to Oak Street between Depot and Locust. Not only was the project the largest Public Works project in the history of Brownsville but also the longest. The City would like to thank Westech Engineering, the Cascades West Council of Governments, Emery & Sons Construction, Pacific Excavating and the many subcontractors who worked on this important project. The City would also like to thank the State and Federal agencies who worked on the funding package for the project.

UTILITY ACCOUNT NAME AND NUMBER

The Utility Billing Department requests that all City residents check the name and account number on your bill, and when paying them make sure that the correct account number is on the payment. We find that many of those who pay online have either really

old account numbers (from our old system) or that the account number and the names do not match up. Please take a moment to check your account information so that we can credit your account appropriately. Thanks!

ARE YOUR HOUSE NUMBERS POSTED?

Public Works has noticed that not all homes have house numbers posted properly. Your address is your lifeline in the event of a medical or other emergency. **For your own safety, please make sure your address can be readily seen from the street.**

The Brownsville Municipal Code says:

12.16.070 - Specifications.

All numbers shall be at least two inches in height and placed in such a position as to be readily seen from the front of the building.

POST IT

The City maintains a bulletin board just inside the front door at City Hall. We post upcoming events, announcements and the like. If you have a flyer for an event that you would like posted, please bring it in.

We are also updating our Visitors Information Center. If you have a brochure or flyer that you would like to be available to the public or any information

that you think may be of interest to visitors, bring it in too. We are interested in events in the general Brownsville area as well so if you know of anyone having an event near Brownsville, please let them know about this opportunity. Events will also be posted on the City website.

~Jannea Deaver



INFORMATION

- Fire Chief Kevin Rogers reports that the new Fire Station is on schedule for completion around December 15, 2008.
- The Calapooia Watershed Council, in conjunction with Cascade Earth Sciences (CES) is completing the installation of a pump station which will put water back in the Millrace during the summer. The project is slated to be completed by late October, 2008.
- Arbor Day will be held in Pioneer Park on Saturday, October 18, 2008, from 10:00 to Noon. Come out and be a part of the celebration.
- Cemetery Clean-Up Day will be held Saturday, October 25, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at Pioneer Cemetery. The group will focus on cleaning headstones.
- Council has three open seats up for the election on the upcoming November Ballot. Candidates include Robert Boyanovsky, Marilyn Grimes, Nan Van Sandt, Carla Gerber, Lynda Chambers and Jay Marsh. On Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a “meet & greet” with the candidates at City Hall.
- The City is working with the Linn County Clerk’s office to become a certified ballot drop site in time for the November election.
- The Library Landscaping Project will be Friday, September 26, 2008. Mr. Len Baer, representing the Home Depot store in Eugene as part of Team Depot will be making the improvements with the help of Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink, Mr. Mike Nehls of Native Grounds Nursery and Mrs. Sherri Lemhouse with input and advice from Ms. Rhoda Fleischman.
- Veterans of the 20th Century along with local contractors including Karo Construction, Curtis Excavating and Swartzendruber Construction located five benches in the park behind the Library along with the installation of sidewalk along Park Avenue. The City would like to publicly thank all of those involved especially Mr. Rick Dominguez who originally conceived the entire improvement. Thank you Rick!
- Nancy Lane served the Brownsville Community Library for 29 years in various roles including Librarian. Thank you Nancy, you will be missed!

GENERAL

- Motorists are required to by State Law to stop for pedestrians who are in crosswalks or are waiting to cross the street.
- Please check the Lost & Found at City Hall if you or someone you know has lost items in Pioneer Park.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

Emergency: 911

City Hall During Office Hours: 541-466-5666

After Hours Public Works Emergency: 541-409-3700

City Library: 541-466-5454

Fire Department: 541-466-5227

ON THE INTERNET:

www.ci.brownsville.or.us

Scott McDowell - admin@ci.brownsville.or.us

Bill Sattler - planning@ci.brownsville.or.us

Karl Frink - publicworks@ci.brownsville.or.us

Janea Deaver - clerk@ci.brownsville.or.us

Kathy Nida - court@ci.brownsville.or.us



GREEN INVASION STRIKES BROWNSVILLE

This time of year many of us spend time strolling the streets of our beautiful little city taking in the wonders of nature and marvelling at the gardening skill of fellow residents. In nearly every neighborhood however, an invader can be seen in the tree-tops, festooning fences and power poles and engulfing yard ornaments and creeping along the ground. Green and graceful, but bent on being the only plant species to succeed.

Our silent, lovely invader is English Ivy. In our gardens it starts crawling along the ground, very shallow rooted, too shallow to make good ground cover on a slope. But it does shelter rodents nicely and keeps rain water from reaching the roots of cultivated plants. When ivy climbs to four feet and beyond, its roots grow deeper to support really large vines and amazing heights, smothering the foilage of trees and eventually killing them. In a weakened state, such trees are more susceptible to blowdown in windstorms. I think of this whenever I look at Holloway Heights from the North.

Did you know that ivy actually flowers from those elevated reaches (four feet of height is enough) in the Fall? The leaves become larger, with wavy borders, the flowers tiny. Berries form in the Spring, they are green just now but easy to see. The berries are toxic to most native birds, but the starlings and English Sparrows readily eat them and spread seeds everywhere. I personally pulled about 200 ivy seedlings in Pioneer Park last Spring, probably spread

from three infested cottonwoods across the river.

None of our native plants evolved with English Ivy and they have no defense against it! Great stretches of Portland's River Park on the Columbia were all English Ivy until a few years ago. A determined group of young people began systematically eradicating it and replanting native species, making for a much more enjoyable park experience. Following their methods two senior citizens and a seven year old boy (yours truly, Mayor Don Ware and Don's grandson Ryan) killed most of the ivy climbing a dozen or so trees on the river slope below the First Christian Church on one weekend morning last Fall.

We can learn more about the threat of English Ivy to our state's native plant communities and how to control ivy at the website www.noivyleague.com.
~Your neighbor, Patty Linn.

TREE TRIMMING

The Public Works Department has recently been trimming a few trees around town. The Municipal Code requires trees along sidewalks to either be trimmed back from the sidewalk or to be trimmed to more than 8' above the sidewalk. The other area of concern is visibility at intersections. Trees that obstruct visibility and create unsafe conditions will be trimmed.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Recently we have experienced some water leaks around town. The City accesses the utility billing information to contact customers in the event of a leak or problem with the account. We have noticed that several accounts do not have current contact information. If you have changed your phone number or would prefer a cell phone number be used in case of emergency please contact us by phone, email or write the new number underneath your address on your next bill stub. Don't worry, we do not give out the billing

information to anyone else. Thanks!

CITY COUNCIL MOVES TO THURSDAYS

Due to schedule conflicts the City Council has moved their meeting night to the third Thursday of the month until the end of the year.

Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on October 16, November 20 and December 18, 2008.



BROWNSVILLE CHAMBER

As summer comes to a close, so does another action-packed Chamber events season. "We are grateful for the attendance of local residents and visitors to the community at all this year's events," said Chamber President Sharon McCoy. "We'd like to also thank those who contributed to the Chamber fundraiser breakfasts during both the Pioneer Picnic and Fourth of July."

Besides the typical summer events, Albany Fitwalkers brought the first Volkswalk to Brownsville during the Antique Fair, drawing over 200 people. Besides events, the Chamber was able to contribute to the beautification of Brownsville with the addition of six large hanging baskets along Main Street. "We hope that with the help of downtown businesses we can offer this again next summer," said McCoy.

The Chamber is currently busy planning winter events; the Holiday Open House, Festival of Trees and the Storytelling Festival. Holiday Open House will be changed

to two days this year and will be held December 5 and 6. The Festival of Trees will run in conjunction with the Holiday Open House. If you or your business is interested in decorating and sponsoring a tree, please contact the Chamber at 466-5566. If you would like to purchase a tree, mark your calendar to stop by and place your bid during the event.

The Storytelling Festival is being planned for Saturday, February 28, 2009. The Chamber is bringing in Professional Storyteller Willy Clafin to close the festival. Watch for updates on the event and tickets to go on sale. To find out more about Willy, visit his web site at www.willyclafin.com.

To find out more regarding any events, visit the Chamber web site at www.historicbrownsville.com.

Chamber of Commerce monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at the Corner Cafe. All are welcome.

AROUND TOWN WITH PUBLIC WORKS

It has been another busy summer full of sunshine and lots of activities taking place. Public Works and the Park Caretakers have been very busy assisting with all the activities to keep them welcoming, safe and enjoyable by all. We would like to thank all the vendors, organizers and attendees for making each event a success. It takes everyone working together to make these events successful. We would also like to thank the community for your patience during the construction of the wastewater improvement project. We understand that construction projects such as these are chaotic, disruptive and frustrating at times, but the end result is a much improved sewer system capable of better serving the community.

Aside from all the events taking place and the construction projects going on, Public Works has been very busy working around the community maintaining and making repairs to our water, sewer, streets and park systems to keep them operating properly and to better serve Brownsville. Some of our upcoming improvements include the landscaping at the Library and the media replacement on the slow sand filter at the Water Plant,

Public Works can be reached at (541) 466-3381. P.W. 24-hour emergency number is (541) 409-3700.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Council Candidate Meet & Greet

October 7, 7:00 p.m. City Hall

Arbor Day - October 18 - Pioneer Park 10 a.m.

Cemetery Cleanup - October 25 - 9 a.m.

Holiday Open House - December 5 & 6

Festival of Trees - December 5 & 6

Community Garden Cleaup Day - Nov. 22

Storytelling Festival - February 28, 2009

Digital TV Deadline - February 17, 2009

Daylight Savings Time Ends November 2, 2008

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8, 2009



ARBOR DAY ART & WRITING CONTEST

It's time again for Brownsville's third annual Arbor Day Art & Writing Contest. Age groups will include K-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-12 and Adult, the subjects are nature stories, poetry and art work. Stories should be 1000 words or less. Students should submit their work to their teacher, adults drop off, mail or email their work to City Hall. Submissions are due by October 14, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to the top three partici-

pants in each age group, some selections will be read aloud. We hope to see you there!

The Arbor Day celebration will be held on October 18, 2008 at the Pavilion in Pioneer Park beginning at 10:00 a.m. Winners of the contest will be announced and other activities take place.

CALAPOOIA FOOD ALLIANCE

The Brownsville Community Garden project and the Saturday Farmers' Market have joined forces under the name of the Calapooia Food Alliance. The CFA has had a successful year. As fuel prices continue to rise the cost of transporting food long distances will only continue to increase. The goal of the CFA is to encourage the production of affordable, high-quality local food and to provide a market for local gardeners to share their surplus with the community.

The Saturday Farmers' Market operates from the middle of April until the last Saturday in October, offering a wide variety of local farm products including seasonal fruits and produce as well as breads and jams. Items vary with the season, so check often to see what is available.

The market opens at 9 a.m. and runs until 1 p.m.

The Brownsville Community Gardens operate at two sites, one adjacent to Pioneer Park and one by the old Brownsville Elementary School. The school site provides hands-on education and experience for students and the public. Sites of various sizes can be rented annually for a low fee and water is provided, along with compost as it is available. There is also a community area which is used to provide food for the Sharing Hands Food Bank as well as the Senior Meals on Wheels program.

Additional information can be obtained from Steve Brenner, 466-3060, PO Box 367, Brownsville, OR 97327 or online at www.gocfa.org.

www.ci.brownsville.or.us



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