



THE CITY NEWS

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“NEW BEGINNINGS”

for the new lagoon may not be installed in time and the work would have to wait until the Summer of 2008. A delay would have caused serious financial complications. Fortunately, we caught a window of weather that allowed the sub-contractor enough time to finish the job; their crew was delayed in San Diego due to the fires. The Contractor, Emery & Sons, actually brought in a little helicopter to dry the bottom of the lagoon for the installation.

Phase II, the collection line installations, finished up in early December 2007. The City is currently working with all parties involved to add a few more collection lines to the project. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) had originally

Since the last Newsletter in September of 2007, the Wastewater Improvements Project has moved along very nicely. The City hit a major scare in October when there was a distinct possibility that the liner

granted the City a little over \$1 million dollars for this project. The State and Federal governments require all approved loan money to be spent prior to releasing grant funds. As the City neared completion of the project, we were able to see how much funding was remaining and it appeared that the grant money was going to go unspent. USDA allowed the City to add three major line rehabilitation projects: 1) Kirk Avenue from Putman to Howe, 2) Averill from Kirk to Stanard and 3) Seven Mile Lane from Hausman to the North Lagoon Treatment Works, which will mainly be paid for with the additional grant funding.

Currently, the plans are being drawn up by the Engineer. We hope to see the new projects begin around April 1st and all three projects to be completed by the middle of June. We are planning to start with Averill, then Kirk and finally Seven Mile Lane. Pacific Excavating will be doing the work as we are simply adding to the original contract in order to take advantage of the funding.

~ S. Scott McDowell, City Administrator

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

City Council - Tuesday March 25, April 22, May 27
Library Board - April 10, May 8, June 12, Aug. 10
Chamber of Commerce - April 8, May 13, June 10
Park Committee - April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1
Planning Commission - April 14 and TBD
School Board - April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14
Rec Board - April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28

CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Recently we have experienced some water leaks around town. We access our utility billing information in the event of a leak. 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 or write the new number underneath your address on your next bill stub. Thanks!



IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CEMETERY

Brownsville Pioneer Cemetery evolved out of the William R. Kirk donation land claim and had its' first burial in 1851. Our cemetery is an outdoor museum that contains the rich history of Brownsville. The artwork on the stones that decorate each grave not only is a part of art history, it tells us something about the person as well.

Brownsville Pioneer Cemetery was fortunate enough in 2007 to obtain a small grant from the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries. In carrying out the terms of the grant we were able utilize Northwest Monument Services to repair 27 headstones.

The City of Brownsville also held two workdays last spring with fourteen volunteers receiving training on the care & cleaning of

headstones with 37 headstones being cleaned.

There is more work to do. We cannot accomplish everything in one year but we can continue to work on cemetery needs each year. The more people who get involved makes the workload just that much lighter. With that in mind, we have scheduled the following dates for work parties:

April 19 – May 17 – May 31

The exact time is yet to be determined but each day will be a three hour time frame either 9:00 a.m. to Noon or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Your interest and participation in the conservation of the Brownsville Pioneer Cemetery is greatly appreciated!

~ Kathy Nida

COMMUNITY GARDENS NOW OPEN

The Brownsville Community Gardens have expanded. We now have two sites in town. The north side site is located around the Croquet Court at Pioneer Park with ten (10), 10' x 30' plots, to be tilled ready for planting, for \$20 each per/season. For information contact park site managers David and Tricia Thompson at (541) 466-3035. The "New" south side site, located at the old Brownsville Elementary School baseball field, at 331 E. Blakely will offer six (6), 15' x 30' single plots for \$30. each per/season and eight (8), 15' x 40' family plots for \$40 each per season. We will also develop a 15' x 100' Community Vegetable Garden for low-income local food programs and seventeen (17) demonstration garden sites. The new site will be a work in progress, developed in stages as a living Ag lab. We will start with installing a water system and sheet composting the area with cardboard and leaf mulch. Volunteers and donations of supplies are needed. For information contact J.D. Cochran

at (541) 466-3116. Applications, Guidelines and a Wish List for the gardens can be found at the City of Brownsville website at www.ci.brownsville.or.us.

The new Garden site will offer opportunities for hands on training in sustainable gardening practices in conjunction with Oregon State University Extension Service and the Central Linn School District. We want to encourage educational outreach programs, economic development and community wellness by teaching biodiversity with organic gardening to local families, children, students and interested individuals.

An Open House "Garden Party" is being planned for this Spring. Watch for information on this event or contact J.D. Cochran at (541) 466-3116 if you are interested in assisting with this project.

~ J.D. Cochran



Brownsville Clean-Up Day!

Saturday, April 5th, 2008

Sponsored by Sweet Home Sanitation
(888) 325-5068

Stuff we take:

- Old lumber: please cut and reduce to 4' lengths
- Put old appliances out on the curb
- Scrap metal separate and place at curb
- Yard Debris: bundle into 4' lengths and place at the curb
- All materials must be placed at the curb
- Please do not haul your own materials, this is a curbside clean-up
- Please have materials at the curb the night before or by 8:00 a.m. the morning of the Clean-Up.

Stuff we will not take:

- Household Garbage
- Unbundled Trash
- No liquid waste, paint or pesticides (empty paint cans are okay!)

Tires will be accepted at the Brownsville Rec Center:

- | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Car & Light Truck Tires | off the rim | \$2.50 per tire |
| | on the rim | \$3.50 per tire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Truck & Other Tires based on size of tire | | \$5.00 per tire & Up |

Volunteers gather at the Brownsville Rec Center at 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast will be served for volunteers at the Fire Hall generously provided by the Assembly of God and Lunch will be served for volunteers at the City Shop courtesy of Sweet Home Sanitation. Volunteers are encouraged to RSVP by calling City Hall before 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 28, 2008.

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 - admin@ci.brownsville.or.us
Bill Sattler - Planner - planning@ci.brownsville.or.us
Janea Deaver - Utilities - clerk@ci.brownsville.or.us
Kathy Nida - Court - court@ci.brownsville.or.us



WHAT IS A NUISANCE?

Dictionary.com defines it as follows:

nuisance - n. 1. One that is inconvenient, annoying or vexatious; a bother, 2. *Law* A use of property or course of conduct that interferes with the legal rights of others by causing damage, annoyance or inconvenience.

The Brownsville City Council is interested in making Brownsville a better place to live. One way to accomplish this goal is by actively enforcing nuisance ordinances. Brownsville would like to start enforcing violations of the Brownsville Municipal Code nuisance ordinances a bit more effectively and we are asking for your help and support. Basically, the focus of these efforts would be dealing with discarded vehicles, old tires, trees & shrubs, junk and trash. Below are some excerpts from the Brownsville Municipal Code regarding these items:

8.30.130 Discarded vehicles.

A. Definitions.

1. "Discarded vehicle" means any vehicle that does not have lawfully affixed thereto an unexpired license plate or is in one or more of the following conditions: Wrecked; Dismantled; Partially dismantled; Abandoned; or Junked. A discarded vehicle includes major parts thereof, including, but not limited to, bodies, engines, transmissions and rear ends.

2. "Inoperative vehicle" means any vehicle which is incapable of being driven or operated in the manner in which it is intended to be used, but which is not a discarded vehicle as defined herein.

B. Discarded Vehicles Prohibited. It shall be unlawful to park, store or leave, or permit the parking or storing of any discarded vehicle upon any public or private property within the City, unless it is located where it is not visible from outside the owner's property, or unless it is in connection with a properly authorized business pursuant to the zoning laws of the City.

C. Inoperative Vehicles. It shall be unlawful to park, store or leave, or permit the parking or storing of, more than two inoperative vehicles upon any public or private property within the City, unless such vehicles are located where they

are not visible from outside the owner's property, or unless it is in connection with a properly authorized business pursuant to the zoning laws of the City.

D. Owner Responsibility. The accumulation or storage of discarded vehicles or inoperative vehicles in violation of this chapter, on public or private property, shall constitute a nuisance. It shall be the duty of the registered owner of the vehicle, the owner of the private property, and the lessee or other person in possession of the private property upon which the vehicle is located, to remove it from the City, or to have it located where it will not be visible from a public street or other property.

8.30.080 Trees.

No owner or person in charge of property that abuts upon a street or public sidewalk shall permit trees or bushes on his property to interfere with street or sidewalk traffic. It shall be the duty of an owner or person in charge of property that abuts upon a street or public sidewalk to keep all trees and bushes on his premises, including the adjoining parking strip, trimmed to a height of not less than eight (8) feet above the sidewalk and not less than ten (10) feet above the roadway.

8.30.070 Scattering rubbish.

No person shall deposit upon public or private property any kind of rubbish, trash, debris, refuse or any substance that would mar the appearance, create a stench or fire hazard, detract from the cleanliness or safety of the property or would be likely to injure a person, animal or vehicle traveling upon a public way.

The City would like to give everyone an attempt to use the upcoming clean-up day to get rid of trash, old couches and tires. Sweet Home Sanitation will have someone accepting tires for the applicable disposal fees on April 5th. The location is yet to be determined. More information will be in *The Times* and on the City website. Once clean-up is over, the City will create an inventory of properties that have items that need to be removed based on the ordinances. The City will then give the property owner a phone call, followed by a letter if the concerns aren't taken care of by the agreed upon time frame. By enforcing these measures, we hope to make the City a better, more enjoyable place to live.



POST IT!

The City is currently working on the bulletin board just inside the front door at City Hall. We are looking to post upcoming events and announcements. If you have a flyer for an event that you would like posted, please bring it by the office.

We are also updating our Visitors Information Center. If you have a brochure that you would like to make available to the public or any information that you think may be of interest to visitors, bring it by and we will set it out. We are interested in events in the general Brownsville area as well, so if you know of anyone having any event, please let us know about this opportunity. Events will also be posted on the City website, www.ci.brownsville.or.us
~ Jannea Deaver

BROWNSVILLE BOOK CLUB STARTING SOON

All who enjoy reading are invited to the Brownsville Book Club. It's a time to get acquainted with many different types of writers and to share your favorite author or book.

We meet once a month beginning on the third Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Kirk Community Room at the Brownsville Library. There is no cost and it will give you chance to meet friends old and new. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, March 19th, and we encourage you to bring your favorite book to discuss. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served.

If you're interested and would like more information, call Pat Biesinger at (541)466-3532 or Susie Rose at (541)466-3128.

~ Pat Biesinger

BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTING

Homes and businesses with backflow devices need to have them tested annually. Those participating in the City's group testing program will be tested in July, those not taking part in the City's program need to have their testing done and reports submitted by the end of June. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the City's group testing program, please contact Karl Frink, Public Works Director (541)409-3700

ARE YOUR HOUSE NUMBERS POSTED?

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

The Brownsville Municipal Code says:

12.15.070 *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.

PARK CARETAKERS 2008

The City is excited to announce that Butch & Kathy Levere, who were the Park Caretakers last Summer, are returning from their home in Port Orange, Florida for this upcoming season. We are delighted to have them with us again this year!

WEBSITE FACELIFT

We are pleased to announce that the City has recently made some major revisions to our website at www.ci.brownsville.or.us. In an effort to better communicate with each other, we will continue to keep the site updated and filled with current, useful information. Some of the features include finding local utility companies' contact information, a community events calendar, the Brownsville Municipal Code and Council minutes.

If you need to report a street light outage, you can do so by using the Links bar at the top of the page. We hope to add a Library, Courts, Planning and Public Works pages soon. People who post public events on the City's bulletin board will also have the option of the event being listed on the website. We hope the site is useful to you.

