



# City of N. Bonneville Newsletter

## August 2010



A message from the Mayor's Desk

Summer may have arrived late this year but it's sure making up for lost time. The weather is not only a welcome change of pace for us, it's also allowing construction of our new wastewater treatment plant to pick up speed. The contractor is continuing to pour concrete and has begun electrical and other work. The late rains set the project back a couple of weeks but we still anticipate completion this fall.

Last month's Gorge Days celebration was a big hit with many residents and visitors. On behalf of the city, we'd like to thank the North Bonneville Business and Community Association and all our resident's and others who volunteered to help. Their efforts resulted in an enjoyable weekend and helped showcase the natural beauty and community spirit that makes North Bonneville such a wonderful place to call home. Once again there were hundreds of beautiful cars to see, lots of great food to enjoy and fun events for kids of all ages. For the record, trying to pick one of those cars as a trophy winner was a real challenge. I settled on the turquoise 1956 Thunderbird, but there were literally dozens of other cars that were equally impressive.

On Monday, August 19th we had our largest court docket in two years. More details about the breakdown of cases can be found elsewhere in this newsletter but it's worth mentioning here our contract with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office is having a positive impact in our city. One of those impacts has been a reduction in the number of speeders around town and while we are glad to see that issue improving, we are still working on other ways to keep improving safety on our streets and in our city.

As many of you know, we have been reviewing our utility rates for some time. It has been a slow and laborious process compiling the historical information in order to adjust our rates appropriately and accurately. Like all of you, I don't want to pay more than I should be we also need to realize we have not had any increase in our water and sewer rates for over five years. State law requires all cities to operate their utility services "in the black" and we have had an increasingly difficult time meeting that requirement over the past few years. Our intention is to determine a fair and equitable rate schedule that will be implemented beginning in 2011 and we will be holding at least one public hearing in the upcoming months to explain the city's situation and listen to your input and ideas.

As always, I appreciate hearing your questions, comments and concerns regarding our community and encourage you to contact me in the manner that best works for you. My email address is [don@northbonneville.net](mailto:don@northbonneville.net) and the phone number here at City Hall is 427-8182. I am not always in my office but I will get back to you as quickly as possible.



August Meetings at City Hall  
Planning Commission 17th ~ 6:00pm  
City Council 10th & 24th ~ 6:30pm



**A Note On City Finances from your Clerk/Treasurer**

Judging from public discussion at city council meetings, there is a lot of interest and concern in the community about the state of the city’s finances. I am still working my way though our books, but I can make the following observations from my initial research:

- Since the current recession hit, we have been steadily withdrawing funds from our savings to pay for on-going expenses in each major fund. (General Fund, Water and Sewer);
- Our Water Fund has no saving and is in debt to the General Fund for \$100,000.
- Most other funds have decent savings, but their outlook is poor over the long term.

We are not in a crisis yet (we still have adequate savings), but we will be soon if we don’t make changes to both the expense and revenue sides of our accounts.

What does this mean to you as a resident? It means we are now looking closely at our expenses and may be forced to reduce some services (for example, we chose not to replace one of the city hall staff who left in June and we have cut some non-essential contracts). At the same time, you are likely to see rate increases in Sewer and Water next year, and you will likely hear discussion about other tax or fee increases this Fall.

The discussions coming before the council will have a direct impact on you. I urge you to become informed, attend council meetings and share your opinions. I will be working very hard to provide the best possible information and a wide range of options for council to consider.

~ Best Regards, John Spencer

**MUNICIPAL COURT HAPPENINGS**

**June**

- 2 TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS
- 9 SPEEDING INFRACTIONS
- 4 CRIMINAL NON-TRAFFIC

**July**

- 2 TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS
- 1 SPEEDING INFRACTION
- 3 CRIMINAL TRAFFIC
- 2 CRIMINAL NON-TRAFFIC



*Public Works does not spray  
the blackberries ~ Enjoy*



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Please notify the city of blinking or broken street lights.

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**Limb chipping is available during the burn ban. Please contact City hall for information.**

**Skamania County Fair & Timber Carnival**

August 11 - 15 at the Fairgrounds in Stevenson. This is the Last Original Free Fair! The 2010 Fair Theme is ~~Make~~ Tracks to the Fair+ The hours are: 8 -11 noon - 10 pm ~ 8/12 - 14 10 am - 10 pm ~ 8 - 15 10 am - 4 pm.

There are many opportunities for volunteers, please contact them if you can help. Information is available at the County Fair office, phone 427-3979 or e-mail fair@co.skamania.wa.us.





**REMINDERS**

Water/Sewer/Cable TV Bills are due on or before August 20th. If you need to make payment arrangements please call city hall.

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Curfew for children under age 18 is 10 p.m.

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**No parking** on city streets between 12 a.m. and 7 a.m.

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**Lock your vehicles.** There have been many complaints of vehicle prowls.

**Bookmobile Schedule**

Saturday, August 7 & 21	
Celilo	9:00 - 9:30
Windsong Estates	9:45 - 10:15
Hamilton	10:45 - 11:15
Wacomac	11:30 - 12:00

**Library Happenings**

There's still time to read and earn prizes in the library's Summer Reading programs. Children can read for five hours and earn a prize, for up to 10 items. Teens who read for 10 hours and fill out a book report can earn book gift cards, or enter a contest to win a bicycle, laptop, guitar and other prizes in a drawing at the end of August.

Adults are invited to browse the North Bonneville library's ever-changing collection of great fiction, recent best-sellers, biographies, how-to books and more.

Teens can enjoy a two-day program at the Stevenson Library on how to create graphic novels August 20 and 21, 2-4 p.m. Participants will have their creations featured at Maryhill Museum.

Have a student going back to school in the fall? Join organization expert Meagan Spears at the Stevenson Library on Tuesday, August 24, 6-8 p.m. Get tips on setting up a home study area, picking the right backpack and notebook, and staying organized for the entire school year.

Call the North Bonneville Library at 427-4439 or the Stevenson Library at 427-5471 for more information.

--Chris Hughey, Librarian

**NORTH BONNEVILLE HERITAGE TRAILS**



THE CITY OF N BONNEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUT A BIG THANK YOU TO THE OREGONIAN FOR SPONSORING THE HERITAGE TRAILS TREASURER HUNT.



**Heritage Trails Treasure Hunt Results**

- 1st prize - Karen Bolger - \$200 resort gift card
- 2nd prize - Mike Jones - Garmin GPS
- 3rd prize - Sarah Caird - \$100 gift card

**PLANNING COMMISSION IS STILL IN NEED OF ALTERNATES**

- \*PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT
- \*LAND USE ISSUES
- \*LOCAL REGULATIONS
- \*COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- \*HERITAGE TRAILS
- \*ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

\*\*\*\*\*NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED\*\*\*\*\*

**CONTACT CITY HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION 427-8182**