



North Bonneville Newsletter August 2011



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

I never wanted a career in politics and my time as an elected official here in North Bonneville has made me even less likely to continue any longer than I feel is in the best interests of our city. I have learned a few things that I would like to share.

First, no matter what decisions one makes, there is absolutely no doubt some people will not agree with those decisions.

Second, it's not only politicians who sometimes misstate facts. We can all be victimized by the "rumor mill", particularly when we hear something we want to believe. If one hears something that sounds a little "out there", it's a good idea to check into it a little further before passing it on.

Third, no matter how thick one's skin, it probably isn't thick enough. I like to think I'm getting better at accepting criticism, but a recent letter to the editor of the Skamania County Pioneer was so filled with errors I feel compelled to set the record straight.

It's true our City Council passed an ordinance on July 13, 2010 that eliminated on-call and overtime pay for the positions of Clerk/Treasurer, Public Works Director and Police Chief by officially classifying those positions as Exempt. The rest of the story is the Public Works Director and Police Chief positions are still eligible for on-call and overtime pay because the ordinance is superseded by the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

In the same meeting, the Council approved a raise for the Clerk/Treasurer position from \$21.94 per hour to \$50,004 per year (an increase of \$4,368.80) as partial compensation for the loss of overtime pay. Compared to the previous Clerk/Treasurer's 2009 total pay (including OT) of \$54,523, the net result to Mr. Spencer was a reduction of about \$4,500 per year. As part of the budget cuts enacted earlier this year, his position was reduced by an additional 20% in both hours and pay. The truth is John frequently works more hours than he's being paid for (382 in his first year), and should be commended for doing so, not attacked with misinformation and innuendo.

The notion our Public Works staff are the only employees experiencing reductions is pure male bovine excrement as is the claim our City Planner is a full-time position. Our City Planner has always been a part-time position and he is being furloughed two days a month for the rest of 2011. The Deputy Clerk and Public Works positions are all being furloughed one day a month for the rest of 2011.

I think the issue of our utility rates has been sufficiently reported already, but I will point out the revenue received through our utility services is spent on utilities, not attorneys or mowing grass.

Finally, the interruption of the TNT network on our city cable system was due to a failed receiver that was on backorder for some time, not our budgetary issues. It was replaced and TNT is back on the air. TNT claims to "know drama"; maybe having their version of it back on the air will reduce some of ours.

As always, I welcome all comments, ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to contact me via email at don@northbonneville.net or by phone at 427-8182.

A note from your City Administrator –
Please Volunteer!

Civic life in the USA depends on volunteers. They serve on state commissions, work on projects through civic organizations (here's a shout out to Lions for their recycling program), help people in need through churches, and so on!

The City of North Bonneville could really use some volunteer help. We have positions open on both the council and the planning commission. We have a committee working on creating a community garden, a parks and recreation committee, and we could sure use some help with a variety of projects at city hall.

If you can come up with some spare time and have an interest in government, give us a call or drop by, we'd love to talk with you.



BEACON ROCK
GOLF COURSE
40TH ANNIVERSARY · 1971-2011

Outdoor Dining Coming Soon! To find out about opening day, special menus, and beers of the week, join our e-specials club at www.beaconrockgolf.com, “like” us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter. BRGC is celebrating its 40th Anniversary, and you could receive the big gift: an LG 50” 3-D Plasma TV! Details are on the website.

August Meetings at City Hall

2nd & 16th ~ 6:00pm Planning Commission
9th & 23th ~ 6:30pm City Council

August at Bonneville Resort

Gorge Adventure Package:

Explore the Beautiful Columbia River Gorge during the month of August with our Gorge Adventure Package, includes:

• **Overnight stay ~ Breakfast buffet ~** two water bottles w/logo and your choice of one of the following activities:

- White water rafting trip with Zollers Zoo Raft;
- Scenic dinner cruise on the Sternwheeler; **or**
- 4-hour waterfall and wine tasting tour with Martin's Gorge Tours.

After your adventure, relax with a complimentary 50 minute bath & wrap for two in our spa.

Spa Special:

Euphoric Bath and Wrap ~ The blend of organic essential oils of Clary Sage and Lavender added to our mineral water will complement each other as a treat to balance and warm the spirit.

50 min ~ \$35 Mon – Thurs and \$45 Fri – Sun

Saturday night music:

Every Saturday night in August enjoy free live music in our great room from 7-9 pm

Beer Garden at Too Hot for the Streets:

11:00 am – 4:00 pm BHSR will be hosting a beer garden in Bonneville Park on August 27th at the “Too Hot for the Streets” Motorcycle Rally

Pig Roast/Art & Craft Fair:

September 24th Concert on the Lawn with John Ford Cooley

www.bonnevilleresort.com

Skamania County Fair

August 10 - 14 at the Fairgrounds in Stevenson.

2011 Fair Hours:

Wed • August 10 • Noon to 10pm
Thurs - Sat • August 11 - 13 • 10 am to 10pm
Sun • August 14 • 10 am to 4 pm

Skamania County Fair Office 509-427-3979

Did you know?

City curfew for children under 18 is 10 pm

No parking on city streets between 12 am - 7 am
&

No Overnight Camping or Parking

GAZEBO RENTAL FEE

Residents = \$15 1/2 day/\$25 full day
Non-resident=\$40 1/2 day/\$50 full day

DISC GOLF RENTAL FEE

Disc golf course tournament fee \$100 per day.

Burn ban in effect beginning July 1st. All burn permits expired June 30th. No burning until October 1st.

Public Works does not spray the blackberries.

Utility Billing

Remember the city bills every other month for water, sewer and cable TV service. The bills are mailed out the 1st and are due by the 20th of the billing month. If your payment is going to be late or you would like to make payment arrangements please call city hall at 427-8182.

Name that park...

We are still taking suggestions for naming the park behind city hall. Please call 427-8182 or attend a planning meeting held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. You can also drop your suggestion off at city hall.

THANK YOU

The Planning Commission would like to thank the **Oregonian** for being one of the sponsors for the Heritage Trails Treasure Hunt.

They also want to send a big thank you to the local volunteers who helped make the treasure hunt a HUGE success!!

Heritage Trails Treasure Hunt Prize Winners

Mariners v. Red Socks tickets ~ Hilary Dersch

Mariners v. Royals tickets ~ Steve & Linda Sass

\$200 resort gift card ~ Zach Bleth

\$100 resort gift card ~ Patti Tucker

Community Garden

The City of N. Bonneville is planning a community garden to create opportunities for people to grow healthy food for themselves and their families. The garden will be located near the Hamilton Park Apartments, across the street from the baseball field. Raised-bed garden plots will be leased to individuals and families for a minimal fee.

We are currently in the fundraising and planning stage of the project, and are eager to assess the interest of the community. If you would like to see the project implemented and would be interested in leasing a garden plot in the future, contact City Hall as soon as possible.

The next planning meeting for the garden will take place in City Hall on August 24, 2011 at 7 p.m. We strongly encourage all interested individuals to attend this meeting to learn more about the project, contribute ideas and find out how to get involved.

Community Garden Raffle

It's not too late to get raffle tickets for the drawing on August 27th \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Prizes include: One night stay at the Bonneville Resort; \$100 at A&J Select Market; Golf for 2 with a cart at Beacon Rock Golf Course; Two 1 hr massages with Melissa of PNW Massage; Hand made quilt by Jannete Viner; Hand made quilt by Betty Bratrud; Hand made afghan by Ginnie Arthur; Big River Grill gift certificate; Andrews Pizza gift certificate; Wind River Inn gift certificate; Multiple donations by Riverview Community Bank; and a gift basket from NAPA Auto Supply.

North Bonneville Library

Tuesday 1pm - 5 pm

Wednesday 1 pm - 5 pm

Thursday 1 pm - 5 pm

Bookmobile Schedule

Saturday, August 6th & 20th

Celilo	9:00 - 9:30
Windsong Estates	9:45 - 10:15
Hamilton	10:45 - 11:15