



DECEMBER 2010

City of N. Bonneville Newsletter

A Message from the Mayor's Desk

Well, winter is starting off with a bang and while the snow is scenic, it brings extra challenges for those who drive and walk around our town. As we head into the winter season, I want to take time to recognize our Public Works crew for all they do to keep us all safe and sound. Ray, Brian, Jim and Cameron have been hustling the past few weeks to prepare for the arrival of freezing temperatures by winterizing the city vehicles, rebuilding the hydraulics on our snowplow and draining water lines that won't be used again until the spring. We are reaping some of the benefits of their efforts as the snowplow has already been put to good use clearing our streets.

There are ways we can all help Ray and his crew and I would like to highlight a couple of the most important. The biggest step we can take is to pay more attention to what we flush down our toilets and dump down our sinks. During the Thanksgiving holiday, our Public Works crew were called out twice for sewage lift station problems. Responding immediately, they found the same cause of virtually all our pump station alarms, the pump was jammed with feminine hygiene products, "disposable" diapers and baby wipes, and kitchen grease. They restrict flow in our lines and pumps and in some cases can entirely plug them. I'm sure we all agree the last thing we want is raw sewage overflowing into our city streets, so please join me in helping keep our costs (and utility bills) down by not putting any of these things down the drain. One call took the crew nearly two hours to correct.

Also during the freeze we had over Thanksgiving weekend, the Public Works crew received a call informing them someone had lifted a storm water catch basin cover and dropped it into the basin, leaving a gaping hole in the ground. It took two men and a backhoe to lift the grate out and put it back in place. Many of these catch basins are quite deep and usually have a lot of cold water in the bottom. If someone were to fall in they could be seriously injured and if someone were to drive into an open one it would cause serious damage and perhaps an injury. This is not the first time this has happened, but we will be doing our best to ensure it is the last time. Please call the city immediately if you find any out-of-place grates or witness any suspicious behavior. If we catch those responsible, we will prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.

You should have received a notice of the increase in our water rates along with your city utility bill. Reminders were also sent out to those our records indicate need to renew business licenses, dog licenses and golf cart permits. As always, I am happy to address your questions, comments and concerns regarding all aspects of our community. You can reach me by email at don@northbonneville.net and the phone number here at City Hall is 427-8182. I'm not always in my office but I will get back to you as quickly as possible.

City Hall will be closed December 24th & 31st





Clerk/Treasurer's Note

As you may have already heard, our water rates will increase on January 1, 2011. The new rate structure will be a flat rate of \$17.00 per month plus \$1.66 for every 100 cubic feet (about 750 gallons) of water used. No water will be included in the base rate. We will also be discontinuing special rates for seniors and low income accounts since the new rate structure benefits those who use less water.

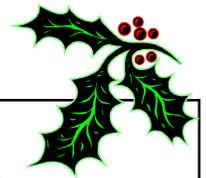
We understand these changes come during economically challenging times, however state law requires our utilities to pay for themselves. It has been a long time since we last raised rates, and we must implement these new rates in order to continue operating our water and sewer systems within the law; state regulations, an aging infrastructure, and inflation have all combined to raise our costs.

Also effective January 1, 2011, both water and sewer will be billed monthly. Water meters will still be read on a bi-monthly basis. The first month's water billing will include the flat rate plus a usage charge based on your average consumption. The second month's billing will include the flat rate plus the recorded amount from the reading to reflect actual consumption. We have made this change with the hope that it will make budgeting for utility bills a little easier.

We are currently evaluating our sewer rates and expect them to increase as well sometime early next year.

~ John Spencer

Thank you to our public works crew for plowing the snow and keeping our City safe.



Planning Commission

It always seems fitting to start the new year by looking back at the highlights of the last - in that regard - it has been an eventful year. We do not necessarily remember every little detail but we do remember those things that impact our lives.

I urge you to take a moment to reflect back on your year and take note of those events that provoked you to take action.

The Planning Commission highlights include:

- Successful Gorge Days Treasure Hunt.
- The near completion of the Greenleaf section of the Heritage Trail System.
- The welcoming of new commission members and staff.

In all, a great year! Please accept an invitation to join us in planning the treasure that is North Bonneville.

~ Chair Greg Hartnell

The Commission is looking for two alternate members. Alternates take part in all discussion and fill in for voting members if they are absent. The commission meets the first and third Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in joining please come to a meeting or pick up a bio sheet at city hall. **No experience necessary.**

The Commission is currently working on the Heritage Trails Children's Loop. Come to a meeting and find out about this exciting project!

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LIKE HISTORY? CITY HALL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ARCHIVE AND ORGANIZE CITY HALL. PLEASE CALL 427-8182

Good news, the wastewater treatment plant is now operational!

Please contact Jennifer @ 427-8182 or jennifer@northbonneville.net with any news, events, or suggestions for the monthly newsletter.



Library News



Looking for last-minute gift and food ideas? Visit the library for inspiration and how-to's. For more holiday fun, join the staff and Friends at Stevenson library on Wednesday, December 1 at 4:30 or 6 p.m. to make a beautiful wreath. All materials provided by the Friends, and greenery courtesy of Ray and the City of North Bonneville! Bring a metal wreath form if you have one.

On Wednesday, December 8th at 2 p.m., we'll spend an afternoon painting and creating ornaments. Great family project, and wonderful gifts for children to give. The Friends are again providing all materials, snacks, hot cocoa and more.



The Friends will host their annual Holiday Sale Friday and Saturday, December 3rd and 4th in the Stevenson Library gallery. Gift books, crafts, baked goods and more. Free wassail and gift wrapping! The event runs Friday, 12 to 5 and Saturday, 9 to 5.

Don't get snowed in with nothing to read -- we have a great selection of adult fiction, cassettes and more at North Bonneville library for your winter pleasure.

--Chris Hughey, Librarian

Bookmobile Schedule

Sat, December 11

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Celilo | 9:00-9:30 |
| Windsong Estates | 9:45-10:15 |
| Hamilton | 10:45-11:20 |

December Meetings at City Hall

7th - Planning Commission 6:00pm

14th - City Council 7:00pm



Christmas in the Gorge

12/03/10 - 12/05/10

Starlight truck parade, arts and craft bazaar.
Community events and business open houses

Carson Winter Wonderland

12/01/10 at 5:30 pm

Lighting of the largest living Christmas tree in the area. Caroling, cocoa and cookies.

Remember Water/Sewer payments are due by December 20th. Please call City Hall If you need to make payment arrangements.

NOTICE

Please do not park on the streets when it is snowing (or expected). The snow plows need room to keep the streets clear.



Please join North Bonneville Community Church for a retirement party to honor Pastor Tom and LaVonne Payton.

When: Sat., December 04, 2010

Time: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Where: N. Bonn Community Church

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM

DON, JOHN, TOM, DAVE, AND JENNIFER

YOUR STAFF AT CITY HALL

DID YOU KNOW, THAT CITY HALL HAS A DROP BOX BY THE FRONT DOORS??? YOU CAN DROP OFF PAYMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR STAFF