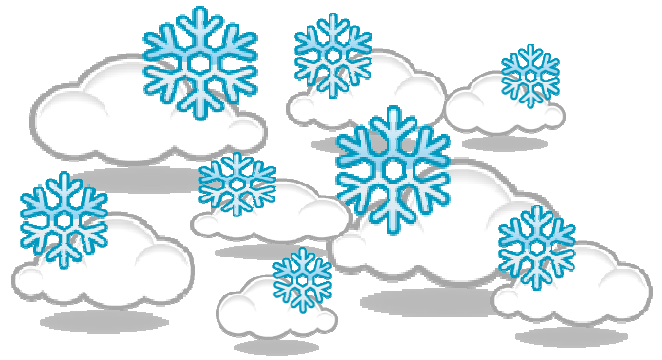


# North Bonneville Newsletter January 2011



## A Message from the Mayor's Desk

Happy New Year! As we head into 2011, our focus is on the future. Last year brought us a mix of challenges and opportunities and this year will undoubtedly bring us more of the same. Our goal is to meet the challenges as they arise and make the most of the opportunities as they present themselves.

One of the biggest challenges our city faces is continuing to provide the services we all enjoy while staying within our budget. In the case of our public utilities, state law mandates our rates must pay for the service provided. This is why our water rates are going up and our sewer rates will be doing the same in the next few months. While none of us likes to see our bills get bigger, we cannot continue to ignore the problem. During the public hearings we held regarding our water rates, I said that I knew for a fact our rates had not increased since at least April of 2005. I know that because that's when I moved here and I have my receipts dating back to that time. After digging into our books here at City Hall, we found that it's actually been almost 10 years since the city raised either water or sewer rates. I know this information doesn't make the rate increases any less unwanted, but I hope it helps us all understand why they are needed.

Another way we have reduced our expenses is by removing the animal control component from our contract with the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Deputies will still respond to dangerous and vicious dog calls, but city staff will now handle all nuisance calls. We hope our residents who own dogs will voluntarily comply with our city's leash laws, but if you see dogs running loose in town please contact us at City Hall to alert us to the problem. We will respond as quickly as possible and impound the offending dog until the owner pays the \$100 fee to get them back. We are not trying to fund the city through these fees and would love never being forced to impound any dogs. Please help us by keeping your dog on a leash whenever he or she is off your property.

We also want to revive our Block Leader program and will be contacting residents who have been Block Leaders in the past to see if they are interested in participating again. If you would like more information you can attend upcoming City Council meetings or contact us at City Hall. Our number is 427-8182 and you can also contact me via email at [don@northbonnville.net](mailto:don@northbonnville.net).

**Notice...** as of January 1st water, sewer and cable will be billed monthly. If you are not able to make your payment or need extra time, please call city hall at 427-8182 to make arrangements. Also, please make sure that the city has your current mailing address and telephone number for billing and emergencies.

### **January Meetings at City Hall**

18th - Parks & Recreation Committee 5:30 pm

18th - Planning Commission 6:00 pm

11th & 25th - Finance Committee 6:00 pm

11th & 25th - City Council 7:00 pm

Everyone is welcome and agendas are posted on the window at city hall.

### Clerk/Treasurer's Note

I am excited for the city in 2011. With a new and balanced budget, resolved personnel issues, new water rates and hopefully new sewer rates, we are beginning the year in a good position and have a lot of momentum to continue making improvements in our city.

In our January 11 council meeting I intend to bring forward what may be the first annual work plan the council has seen. Among the projects we intend to complete this year are:

- Sewer rate increase (hearings scheduled for January 11 and 25)
- Review and discussion of funding options for our various departments
- Completion of an updated water system plan
- Engineering and design of our secondary well
- Discuss and decide the future prospects of the cable TV system
- Creation of a capital facilities plan
- Review and possible revitalization of the block leader program
- Continued development of our Heritage Trail system

The budget we passed a few weeks ago is balanced to our anticipated revenue, including anticipated water and sewer rate increases. You can download a copy from our website at [www.northbonneville.net/finance.html](http://www.northbonneville.net/finance.html). See graphs on opposite page. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

I urge you to attend the council meetings on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the sewer rate increases. As with the water rates, the amount of the increase is necessary, but we want to hear from you about the structure of the rates and the way we implement them.

### HERITAGE TRAILS

The Children's Loop is the next trail to be designed. If you have ideas and are interested in helping, please come to the next planning meeting on January 18th at 6 pm.

Please make sure your pets have warm shelter and fresh water during the winter. Check water often if it's outside as it can freeze quickly. Remember to always keep them away from antifreeze!

Looking to get involved and make a difference in 2011? The Planning Commission needs two alternate members. No experience necessary.

**Thank you for not parking on the streets when it is snowing (or expected). The snow plows need room to keep the streets clear.**

### **New Year's Resolution Fun Facts**

63% of people are still keeping their resolutions after the first two months. 67% of people actually make 3 or more resolutions.

The top resolutions usually involve promises to exercise more (37%), increasing the time devoted to study or work (23%), losing weight, stop smoking or drinking (alcohol and/or coffee), and eat healthier.

People make more resolutions to start a new habit (84%) , than to break an old one (16%). 65% of people made their resolutions between the 28th of December and New Year's Day. The rest usually take up until the end of January.

Of those who successfully achieved their top resolution, 40% of them did so on the first attempt. The rest made multiple tries, with 17% finally succeeding after more than six attempts.

## Library News

HELP WITH TECH TOYS --Did you get a new electronic device for Christmas, and now you're wondering how to operate it? We're pairing up teens with "Boomers" (50+) in a program held at the Stevenson Library on Saturday, January 22, at 1 p.m.

Teens can volunteer to be a "coach" and show their elders how to use cell phones, laptops, e-book readers, MP3 players and more. They will receive credit for school and learn how to teach others. "Boomers" are invited to bring their gear and let the young wizards demonstrate how they work.

Family story time will be held at North Bonneville Library Thursday, January 13 at 2 p.m. Watch for the bookmobile to visit your neighborhood on the 8th and 22nd.

Check out our new selection of great reads -- just the thing for getting through the cold and dark winter months.

Chris Hughey,  
Librarian

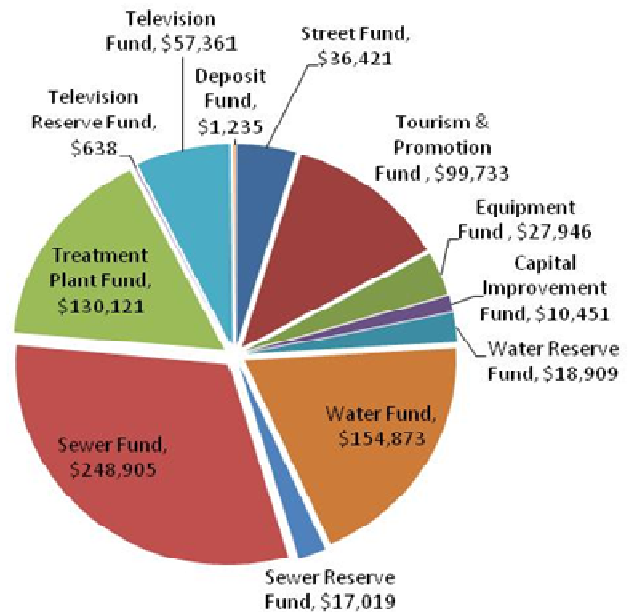
### Bookmobile Schedule

Sat, January 8 & 22

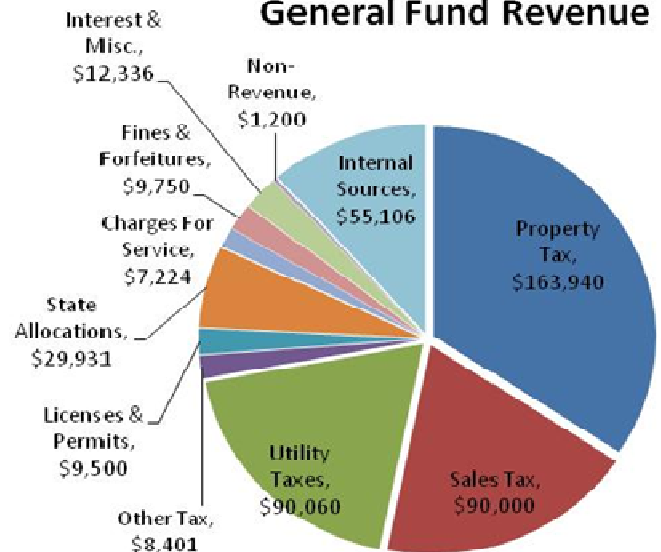
Celilo	9:00-9:30
Windsong Estates	9:45-10:15
Hamilton	10:45-11:15



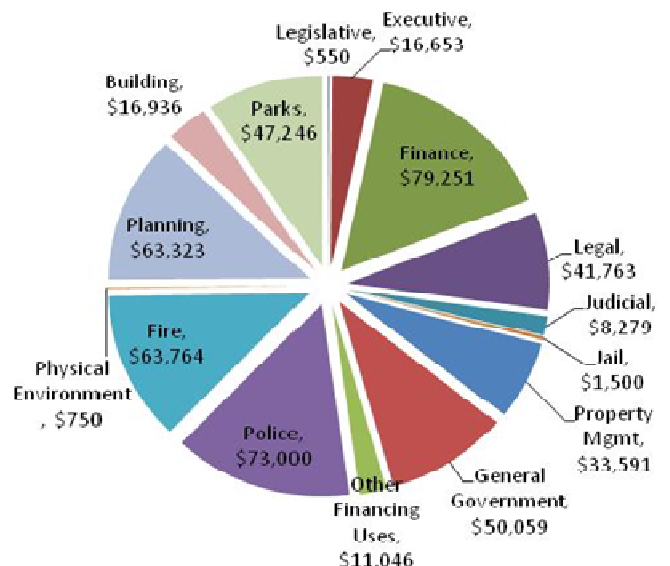
## Revenues = Expenditures By Fund



## General Fund Revenue



## General Fund Expenses



**License Renewals...** It's time to renew your Business, Dog and Golf Cart licenses. The cost for a business license is \$25. A dog license is \$3 if the dog is spayed or neutered, \$10 if not and \$1 for seniors. Please make sure city hall has a copy of the current rabies vaccination. Golf cart permits are \$20. Thank you for your cooperation.

**City Hall will be closed Monday, January 17th in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

**Please contact Jennifer @ City Hall with any news, events, or suggestions for the monthly newsletter. 427-8182 or [jennifer@northbonneville.net](mailto:jennifer@northbonneville.net)**