



# City of N. Bonneville Newsletter November 2011



## From the Mayor's Desk

As Mayor, my first commitment is to improve the financial health of our city. We have made a lot of progress and a lot of sacrifices in my first two years as mayor. On the upside, we have maintained many of our service levels – particularly public safety – and we have started some new projects that will provide long-term benefits. We completed the construction of our new sewer plant, which is designed to meet our community's needs for the next twenty years or more and we have begun planning for a new water well, with construction planned to begin in 2013. Again, this should serve our community's needs for growth and safety for the foreseeable future.

Unfortunately with sales tax and utility tax revenues down 10%, inflation estimated at 3.8% and medical benefits up 11%, we must find new ways to balance our budget. Having already cut all non-essential contracts and supplies, we are left with making staff cuts and finding new revenue as our remaining options. From a high of 8 people (7.5 FTEs), the 2012 budget brings us down to 5 people (4.75 FTEs) – a loss of over 1/3 of our staff. We have cut our general fund budget by 23% from our 2008 high, going from \$644,000 in 2008 to \$498,000 for 2012. Accounting for inflation, our 2012 budget is 27% less than our 2008 expenses.

Additional cuts in the 2012 budget include:

- Loss of one Maintenance Worker (laid off in June, 2011)
- Cut city hall staff training budget to \$0
- Reduced postage costs (through a contract with an outside vendor for our utility billing that was implemented in September, 2011)
- Reduced economic development budget (EDC cut from \$6,500 to \$2,000)
- Refinance the fire truck loan to reduce payments
- Cut maintenance supplies
- Closed the cable television fund (as of October 1, 2011)

Additionally, we accepted a State Ecology grant to update our Shoreline Master Program. While this will offset the costs of our planning department and improve our environment in the long run, it will also severely limit staff time for normal planning operations.

Our cash reserves are at critically low levels due to several unanticipated events in 2011, including:

- Lower sales tax revenues
- Loss of federal aid
- Higher overtime costs
- Higher energy costs
- Unanticipated unemployment taxes
- Lower utility tax revenues
- Loss of state assistance payments
- Lower than expected utility payments
- Unanticipated state payments

Continued from page 1

We cannot cut staff and expenses further without either violating legal requirements or reducing basic public safety services, which leaves us in the unfortunate position of raising taxes in order to balance our budget. Regrettably, your council and I have decided that we need to increase property and utility taxes by 1%. In addition to this, our water and sewer rates are tied to inflation and will increase by 3.8% in March.

On the positive side, we have enjoyed a number of “wins” for the community and are anticipating more. These include:

- By the end of 2011, we anticipate Sawtooth Technologies will be providing high-speed internet service over our formal cable TV system. While not only providing a legitimate second choice to our residents for internet service, this is also an important economic development tool. Providing high-speed internet service is essential in order to attract new businesses to our city.
- The Shoreline Master Program update I mentioned earlier will be a long-term benefit. It will include restoration plans for our creeks and better enable us to avoid future degradation.
- With the completion of our water system plan at the end of summer next year, we will be ready to design and engineer a new well. Once built, it will not only provide backup should we ever have trouble with our existing well, but it will also provide enough water to meet any growth in the next 20 years.
- The 2012 budget will be the first one in recent memory that allows us to begin rebuilding our declining cash reserves. Additionally, we are working to approve an ordinance to build an emergency reserve fund that we can rely on should we ever find ourselves in our current straights again.

Finally, I am excited about our draft economic development plan (formerly referred to as a “sub-area plan”), which has a real chance of guiding the city toward development of its downtown business district. It takes advantage of all the natural and recreational advantages North Bonneville has to build a more robust tourism-based economy in our town.

With this budget we have completed a turn-around from gross deficit spending to slowly rebuilding our reserves. We are maintaining minimum service levels and continuing to plan and build for the future. While there is still progress to be made, I believe we have turned the proverbial corner and I am confident of our city’s future.

As always, your input and ideas regarding your city are welcome. North Bonneville is our city and its future depends on all of us. You can reach me at 427-8182 or via email at [don@northbonneville.net](mailto:don@northbonneville.net).

### **SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM UPDATE**

The next SMP Working Group meeting is set for December 6, 5:30 p.m. at city hall. We will be working on the shoreline inventory, analysis and characterization. Public attendance and participation is encouraged.

For the planned work group agenda, minutes, work products done to date and other information on the update process, you can visit the city’s website at [northbonneville.net](http://northbonneville.net) or you can get the information at

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

## NOVEMBER MEETINGS AT CITY HALL

Planning Committee 1st - 6 pm  
Finance Committee 8th & 22nd - 6:30 pm  
City Council 8th & 22nd - 7:30 pm

## TURKEY BINGO

The N.B. Fire Department will hold their annual Turkey Bingo Saturday, November 19th from 5:00 - 9:00 pm at the fire hall. There will also be children's bingo from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

This fundraiser is a great way to **support our city's Volunteer Firefighters**. The department uses the money to purchase equipment and to help local firefighters in need. Bring the whole family to enjoy bingo and refreshments and try your luck at a prize!!

If you are interested in joining the Fire Department please attend a meeting. Meetings are every Monday at 7:00 pm at the Fire Hall, or you can pick up an application at city hall. Also, the fire department is in need of a volunteer secretary, if interested please contact J.B. Tennison at 427-5235.

## Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is meeting once per month. The next meeting will be December 6th at 5:30 pm. This meeting will include an update on the Shoreline Master Program.

## Heritage Trails

Bigfoot and littlefoots are coming!! Come to a meeting and find out what this means.

## Bonneville Hot Springs

Water Aerobics Classes  
Starting October 31, 2011

**Only \$5 per class**  
**Monday - Thursday**  
10:00—11:00 a.m.

**Walk-Ins Welcome**

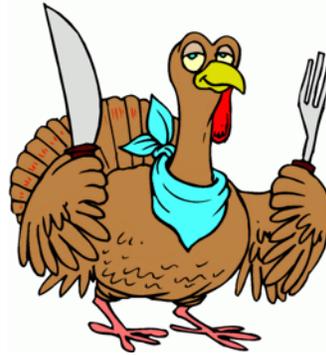
Please call: (360)-608-5624 for more information

## **Thanksgiving Buffet**

\$29.95 adults \$13.95 children 5 - 10

## TIME TO FALL BACK!

Don't forget to set your clocks back Sunday, November 6th.



## **Annual Craft & Gift Bazaar, Bake Sale, Holiday Decoration, and Rummage Sale**

Saturday, November 5th  
9 am - 4 pm  
N. Bonneville Senior Center  
Biscuits & Gravy, coffee & cider and lots of home  
baked goodies!

Proceeds benefit the North Bonneville senior lunch program.

## Library Happenings

Yu-Gi- Oh! Tournament at Stevenson Library

Stevenson Community Library is hosting a Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament for teens 12-19 on Wednesday November 9, at 4:00 p.m. House rules will be read questions answered. Dueling will commence! The duels will be one on one timed rounds. No one will lose their cards if they lose the duel. You may enter only one deck in the tournament. Forbidden cards are NOT forbidden; limited cards are NOT limited. Put your best deck together. Top four duelers will win a prize. Light refreshments will be served.

Lee-Anne  
Librarian

## Beacon Rock Golf Course

Winter Grill Hours  
November - February  
Closed Monday - Wednesday  
9 am - 3 pm Thursday - Sunday

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Planning 6 pm Library 1 - 5 Snr lunch 12 pm	2 Library 1 - 5	3 Library 1 - 5 Snr Lunch 12 pm	4 City Hall Closed	5
6 Daylight Savings End	7 Fire Training 7pm Court 1 pm	8 Library 1 - 5 Snr Lunch 12 pm Finance 6:30 pm Council 7:30 pm	9 Library 1 - 5	10 Library 1 - 5 Snr Lunch 12 pm	11 City Hall Closed Veteran's Day	12
13	14 Fire Training 7 pm	15 Library 1 - 5 Snr Lunch 12 pm	16 Library 1 - 5	17 Library 1 - 5 Snr Lunch 12 pm	18 City Hall Closed	19
20	21 Fire Training 7 pm Court 1 pm	22 Library 1 - 5 Snr Lunch 12 pm Finance 6:30 pm Council 7:30 pm	23 Library 1 - 5	24 Library 1 - 5 Snr Lunch 12 pm 	25 City Hall Closed	26
27	28 Fire Training 7 pm	29 Library 1 - 5 Snr Lunch 12 pm	30 Library 1 - 5			