



North Bonneville October 2010 Newsletter



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: City Council Meetings are now being held at 7:00 pm :
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A Message from the Mayor's Desk

In addition to the ongoing construction work on our wastewater treatment plant, you have probably noticed there is a great deal of activity on the east side of our city to the south of Highway 14. The piece of property generally referred to as Parcel 2 is being prepared for future construction and occupancy. It is owned by the Port of Skamania County and is situated within our city limits. It will be known as Cascades Business Park and will offer a wonderful location for new business development.

In the first phase, the eastern portion of the property is being graded and a roadway is being established that will ultimately connect to Cascade Drive on the south side of the Highway 14 overpass. The Port has been diligently working with the city to preserve our open, parklike setting and to make this addition to our community something that will enhance our city while enabling us to attract new sources of employment and revenue.

Speaking of revenue, in case you haven't yet heard the news, our water rates will be increasing beginning in January. Please look for a detailed report from our Clerk/Treasurer inside this newsletter. I do want to assure you this increase is necessary and is being instituted strictly to fund the cost of operating and maintaining our municipal water system. We are required to operate our city's water, sewer and cable utilities on the black+ and the rate increase being proposed will allow us to do so. I've lived in North Bonneville since April of 2005, not very long compared to many of you, but during that time we have not had a single water rate increase. I think we all understand that the costs of virtually everything increase over time, yet our rates have not reflected those changes for at least five years. Our new rates will enable us to continue providing safe, clean drinking water while also providing for the future repairs and upgrades that will inevitably be required. We dodged a bullet with our wastewater treatment plant grant but we cannot count on being bailed out the next time an infrastructure need arises. It is our responsibility to plan and prepare for our future as a community to ensure North Bonneville remains the vibrant, viable city we all love.

As always, I appreciate hearing your questions, comments and concerns regarding all aspects of our community and encourage you to contact me in the manner that best works for you. My email address is 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.



October Meetings at City Hall
Planning Comm. 5th & 19th ~ 6:00pm
Finance Committee 6 pm - 7 pm
City Council 12th & 26th ~ 7:00pm



A Note On City Finances from your Clerk/Treasurer

On September 28th we held a public hearing on raising water rates. My proposal is to change the base rate to \$15 and implement a usage rate of \$1.63 per 100 cubic feet of water, effective January 1, 2011. Unlike the current structure, there would be no water included in this rate. It results in an estimated average monthly rate of \$30.13 (\$11.38 more than the current average of \$18.75). I am still refining the numbers. One of the biggest questions remaining is whether the council wishes to allocate overhead expenses among the city's various departments. While this would greatly help reduce the general fund deficit, it would result in higher water, sewer and TV rates. The council could also make additional changes to these rates.

Allocating overhead costs is not enough to fix our budget problem. My latest estimates show that we need to come up with around \$100,000 through budget cuts, tax and fee increases, or a combination of the two.

Among the changes we have already made to save money are:

- Cut back on parks maintenance
- Cut back on overtime
- Contract out police services
- Cut back on office expenses
- Reallocate personnel costs
- Cut an office assistant position

The options on the table include:

- Change the medical benefit plan
- Contract for court services with Skamania County
- Distribute overhead expenses
- Make further staffing cuts
- Annex into Fire District 5 (would result in new property tax)
- Create a surface water utility
- Raise property taxes
- Raise utility taxes
- Levy additional real estate excise taxes (REET)
- Increase sewer rates

Council needs and wants to hear your opinions and ideas. You can pass a message along to them by calling me at 427-8182.

Remember water/sewer bills are due October 20th. There will be a \$10 late charge for any payments received on or after October 21st. If you need more time, please call 427-8182 and make payment arrangements.

We now have Direct Billing. Please call for details.



**Dogs Roaming at Large
City Ordinance 6.04.080**



We have had many complaints about dogs. Remember North Bonneville has a leash law. All dogs must be on a leash or in a fenced yard. This includes Strawberry Island. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deputy Tina Anderson of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office Animal Control at 427-9490.

**First offense is \$100
Second offense is \$200**

The City is looking for community members to get involved in the Finance Committee. The committee meets on Tuesday at 6:00 pm before city council meetings.

Check out the exciting changes happening on the City of North Bonneville Website.

northbonneville.net

Happy Halloween

Please slow down and watch for little ghosts and goblins crossing the streets. Parents please use flashlights or reflective clothing so drivers can easily see your children.

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

Library Happenings

MORE CHANCES TO GET YOUR BOOKS!

The library is partnering with City Hall to make it easier to pick up books, CD's, and DVD's that you've requested. The shelves of items to be picked up have moved out into City Hall, near the library catalog computer.

Your items will contain a slip with the first four letters of your last name, and the last four numbers on your library card. Just find your materials, put the slips into the drop box on the shelf, and take your books home. Library staff will use the slips to check out your items.

The library is open 12 hours per week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, 1-5), but City Hall is open 45 hours per week (8-5 Monday through Friday). You can order books on the library computer, pick up your holds, use the databases, check the weather, print out a map and more any time City Hall is open.

For more information or assistance in ordering items, call us at 427-4439, 427-5471, or stop by and check us out!

Chris Hughey,
Librarian

The **Burn Ban has been lifted**. Don't forget your burning permit. Burning permits are free and available at City Hall. Please make sure you read and follow the rules listed on the permit. Burn barrels are not allowed and only yard debris may be burned.

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LOCAL EVENTS

10/9 1-4pm SCCDVSA 1st Annual Choctober Fest at Rock Creek Center \$10 pp.

10/7-10/30 Artists of the Gorge on display at Stevenson Library.

10/29 9pm - 1 am %A Monster Masquerade Ball+Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall.

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North Bonneville Seniors annual CRAFT & GIFT BAZAAR

Saturday, November 6th from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm at 33 Cascade Dr.

Come for lunch and homemade baked goodies. There will also be a rummage sale with lots of holiday decorations.

Call Sandy at 427-5199 to reserve a vendor table. The cost is \$10.

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PLANNING COMMISSION

The Commission is currently reviewing the City Code regarding design standards and buffers for the Industrial/Business Park.

The Heritage Trails Committee is in final development and production of a new Greenleaf Trail and Hamilton Trail brochures. The committee is also finalizing placement of three signs and reviewing final design of most of the remaining signs of the Greenleaf Trail.

WOODLAND FAIRY PUMPKIN HUNT

Saturday, October 23rd from 11am - 3pm. The cost is \$7 per child or \$25 per family. The cost includes one pumpkin per child plus refreshments.



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