

MARCH 31, 2010

Second Quarter 2010 Spring Newsletter



City of Biggs-465 C Street—P.O. Box 307 Biggs, CA 95917
Where the People Own the Water and Power

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www.biggs-ca.gov

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Good News About Police



Biggs is pleased to announce a new contract agreement with the City of Gridley for continued police services at a reduced price. The 24-month agreement will save Biggs well over \$250million per year. More information about this is being be mailed to you separately along with a feedback form we hope you will return to the city.

You can also find more information on this and other local news at our website www.biggs-ca.gov

Weed Abatement

Biggs Fire Department will begin the City's annual weed abatement inspections in the near future. All public and private properties will be checked for grass, weeds and rank growth over a maximum height of three (3) inches, in addition to other flammable materials that endanger public safety by causing a fire hazard.

Upcoming Dates

April 19	City Council Meeting—6pm
May 17	City Council Meeting— 6 pm
May 31	Memorial Day—Office Closed
June 10	High School Graduation
June 21	City Council Meeting 6 pm
July 4	Hometown Celebration

Be Counted: CENSUS 2010

We have all received forms to fill out for the U.S. Census 2010, but why should we answer those questions?

A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

- Each year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data is used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.
- Each resident not counted reduces our community's share of State tax reve-

nues by \$1500. That's less money available for public safety, road repairs, schools, hospitals and other local services.

Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

The Census Bureau has set up Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) along with Be Counted Sites. QAC's provide in-person information and language assistance in completing your 2010 Census form.

Be Counted Sites provide Be

Counted forms for anyone who did not receive a 2010 Census form or believes they were missed on their household's form. Be Counted forms are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese.

Biggs QAC:

Biggs School District Office
300 B Street
Biggs, CA 95917

Open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
From 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Languages: English and Spanish

Marijuana Restricted In Biggs

Despite the common perception that state law may allow cultivation and use of marijuana under certain circumstances, the City of Biggs has strict local ordinances regulating it. The sight and smell of marijuana—in any form—is considered a public nuisance here.

Biggs recently made it completely illegal to grow marijuana outdoors, no matter how many plants. Cultivation of marijuana outdoors in Biggs is punishable by fines of \$1,000/day and active abatement (removal or destruction of the plants).

BINTF (Butte County Interagency Narcotics Task Force) officers and the city code enforcement team look for local marijuana violations and take assertive action.

Biggs has also outlawed any form of marijuana dispensary from operating in the city limits.

If you would like to report possible marijuana cultivation, sale or use outdoors in your neighborhood, please call 868-5447. A law enforcement or code enforcement officer will follow up your concern.



Coming to Biggs-New Bus Route

Beginning July, 5, 2010, B-Line will begin providing direct route service to Chico. This new route will be a commuter route, and though exact scheduling has yet to be determined, it will operate Monday through Friday and will depart the Biggs City Hall at approximately 6:15 am and return at approximately 6:45 pm. More information to come in the Summer Newsletter. This will be in addition to the current routes.

Stricter Code Enforcement

Many residents are receiving letters from the Planning Department that now states there will no longer be extensions. So what does this really mean?

The city will no longer allow extensions to clean up property. This applies to front yard debris, weeds and other nuisances.

City Staff is following direction to step up code enforcement effectiveness.

Code Enforcement is in place to help the citizens and property owners of this city to keep property values up, keep pests out of yards and protect the general health of the commu-

nity.

So, what does this mean to property owners? Simply if you get a letter you need to be aware that fines could be coming along with the city cleaning up your property and placing a lien against it in order to reimburse the city for its expenses.

For more information, please feel free to call the Planning Department at 868-5447.

Blocking Sidewalks

Sidewalks are for pedestrians to be able to walk through our community without having to walk in the streets.

It is prohibited by City Ordinances to block City Sidewalks in any form. You can be fined for blocking the sidewalk. Also, you must keep sidewalks clear from overgrown vegetation, plant cuttings, parked cars, trash cans, basketball hoops, skateboard ramps, etc.

Please keep the sidewalks clear so we can all use them and enjoy our community.

Do You Know Where the City Right-of-Way Is?

The weather is changing and many people are wanting to start outdoor projects. While the city encourages home owners to clean property up, we do want residents to do so correctly.

If you are considering fixing your driveway, putting in a fence, doing any work near the street, please come to the Planning Department and we will be more than happy to help you locate the city's approximate right-of-way.

We will also help you with any necessary paper work that might be required.

Whenever you do work within the city right-of-way you need to have an Encroachment Permit from the city. This gives you permission to work in the city right-of-way and ensures that the project is completed correctly.

Remember that fences require a Fence Permit. It is better to get a per-

mit and know that you are building your fence in the correct place and at the correct height, than to have the city require that the fence later be removed.

