

JUNE 30, 2010



# Third Quarter 2010 Summer Newsletter

City of Biggs-465 C Street—P.O. Box 307 Biggs, CA  
95917

## Council Contact Information

Mayor Roger Frith	RogerF@biggs-ca.gov	518-9471
Vice Mayor Jon Crawford	JonC@biggs-ca.gov	868-5430
Doug Arnold	DougA@biggs-ca.gov	868-1208
Angela Thompson	AngelaT@biggs-ca.gov	868-5088
Mike Bottorff	MikeB@biggs-ca.gov	868-0740

## Down with Weeds!

Biggs Fire Department will be continuing the Weed Abatement Program this year due to the late rains. Many people thought they had abated their properties and are now getting notices. Please keep the weeds and grasses down to avoid fines and fires!

## 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 last year 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.

## Upcoming Dates

July 4	Hometown Celebration
July 5	City Offices Closed
July 19	Council Meeting 6:00pm
August 16	Council Meeting 6:00pm
September 6	Labor Day

## Keep Sidewalks Clear

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's Sidewalks in any way. You can be fined for blocking the sidewalk. 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.

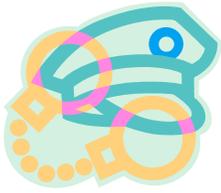
## Wading Pool Safety

It is that time of the year again where the weather warms up and we want to break out those pools we put away at the end of last summer.

It is against the City Municipal Code and State law to have an unfenced, unsupervised pool. This is called an "Attractive Nuisance", meaning that children are attracted to play ( and drown) in neighbors' unsupervised pools.

Please place your pools in your fenced backyard so that all the children in the city are safe. Should you use them in the front yard, each night empty the water onto your lawn and tilt the pool up. This will also help keep mosquitoes out of the area.

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



## Controlling Your Utility Costs



### See It, Report It

If you are aware a crime is being or has been committed in Biggs, please notify the Gridley-Biggs Police. If it is not a 9-1-1 emergency, you can call 868-5590 to make a report 24 hours a day. The eyes of local citizens can make the difference in effectively preventing and responding to law enforcement problems.

If you would like to bring attention to a code enforcement issue, please contact City Hall at 868-5447. You can remain anonymous, or you can identify yourself and receive follow-up communication from the city code enforcement officer.

Code enforcement includes neighborhood health and safety problems like outdoor marijuana cultivation, abandoned large appliances, and household garbage not contained within the waste bins. Code enforcement also includes visual blight like broken windows, debris on front lawns, excessive weeds, and broken down vehicles.

In Biggs, your water, sewer, solid waste and electric rates are set locally by your city council. By State law, the cost of delivering the utility service determines the rate charged to the customers. These are “public utilities” so there are no stockholders needing a return. Decisions on cost control and rate adjustments are made in public meetings right here in Biggs.

One way many customers can get an immediate 10% discount off their utility bills is to pay on time (by the 20th of the month). Many customers pay the 10% late fee every month. If not paid by the 1st of the next month, interest gets added to your bill.

Biggs also offers a 10% discount on electric rates for seniors (65 and older). If you are eligible, check your bill or contact city hall to see if you are getting this discount.



### Mow Strips

Ever wonder who is to maintain the area between the curb and the sidewalk if there is a planting area? As it turns out, the property owner.

The California State law makes property owners that have a lot fronting a public street responsible to maintain it.

The code also says that should you not maintain it then you could be fined.

Maintaining this area and the area up next to the sidewalk helps us all to keep our city looking nice.

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

### Council Connection

Have a comment? Concern? Question? Your city council wants to hear it. Drop in without an appointment for “Council Connection” the first Wednesday of each month, 3-5pm, at City Hall on Sixth Street. This is an open forum discussion with one or two city councilmember and other citizens. You can also contact City Hall any time by stop by in person, calling 868-5493, visiting the city website and feedback tool: [www.biggs-ca.gov](http://www.biggs-ca.gov). City council member telephone numbers and email addresses are listed at this website.

## Want To Put Up A Fence?

The Fence Permit Application Process is in effect. The process is to provide the City an opportunity to review plans for new fences, replacement fences and additions to fences, to assure that fences are located and constructed within compliance with applicable City codes. The process is intended to help reduce the potential for fences being constructed within the City right-of-way and to assure that traffic safety and visi-

bility concerns are addressed prior to the construction of fences.

If you are planning on installing or repairing a fence you do need approval prior to installation. The process is fairly easy and in most cases can be handled within a day’s time. The application and related materials may be found on the City website and in City Hall in the Planning Department.

If you fail to obtain a permit you could

find the City removing your fence. For more information please contact the Planning Department at 868-5447 or come in and see us in our new office at 465 C Street.





## Sell Your Stuff the Easy Way

October 2nd this community will be joining Live Oak and Gridley to sponsor the annual "14-Mile Yard Sale." For \$10 you can get a 10'x10' booth space at Biggs Community Hall (formerly Veteran's Hall) on B Street. Advertisements and free maps will direct shoppers to you. Contact city hall for more information at 868-5493.

## Community Clean-up Day

A week later- Saturday, October 9th- dumpsters will be available in town for you to dispose of whatever. This is a free service for city residents only. Great time to clean out the yard and garbage!

## Hometown Celebration

A list of activities for the Biggs 8th Annual All-American Hometown Celebration is on the back page of this newsletter. Should you want more information please go to the city website at [www.biggs-ca.gov](http://www.biggs-ca.gov)

<b>POWER CONTENT LABEL For City of Biggs 2009</b>			
<b>ENERGY RESOURCES</b>	<b>Biggs System Average % of Load</b>	<b>2008 Total System Power** (for comparison)</b>	<b>Biggs Per Local Objectives</b>
<b>Eligible Renewable</b>	<b>13.10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>48%</b>
--Biomass & Waste	0.0%	<2%	0.0%
--Geothermal	12.4%	<5%	12.4%
--Small Hydroelectric	0.7%	1%	0.7%
--Solar	0.0%	<1%	0.0%
--Wind	0.0%	2%	0.0%
<b>Coal</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Large Hydroelectric</b>	<b>34.9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>34.9%</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>0.0%</b>		<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>52.0%</b>		<b>52.0%</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
** Percentages are based on the California Total System Power			
For Specific information about this electricity product, contact Biggs City Hall. For general information about the Power Content Label, contact the California Energy Commission at 1-800-555-7794 or <a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov/consumer">www.energy.ca.gov/consumer</a>			

What is this? The Power Content Label reports to you, the customer, what sources were used for electric power delivered to your home or business in Biggs. Each utility produces or purchases power from various sources depending on many factors including price, availability, and utility objectives.

The State counts 13.1% of our power for the year 2009 as "renewable." Our score of 13.1% is better than the average of all California utilities, which in 2009 was 11%.

Biggs Municipal Utilities is governed primarily by your City Council. We recognize power from large hydroelectric sources (like Shasta Dam) as "renewable," so our utility's portfolio of renewable power-according to our local standards-is actually 48% for 2009. This exceeds our minimum requirement of 20% renewables.

We are proud to be delivering your power through this locally-owned eclectic utility. Your local utility keeps prices generally below that of private utilities, keeps the power on reliably, and keeps revenues local for support of essential local services.