



CITY OF BIGGS -

WHERE THE PEOPLE OWN THE POWER AND THE WATER

DECEMBER 31, 2010

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Happy New Year!

City Council Reorganizes

The November election sent James “Bo” Sheppard to the city council along with incumbents Doug Arnold and Angela Thompson. Jon Crawford stepped off the city council after three years of service.

The council’s first order of business at its December meeting was to elect Roger Frith to continue as mayor, and Angela Thompson as vice mayor. For a list of the council members’ committee and commissioner assignments, please see www.biggs-ca.gov/citycouncil.

Talking Trash

Your Garbage Service Just Got Better!

Several changes are coming to the City of Biggs residential solid waste removal service in January – all good changes. Additional services are now available to you at no additional cost, and billing will be simpler. Some people will actually see their bills go down.

Here is what doesn't change:

- Same pick-up day: Fridays.
- Same schedule: every other Friday for recycling and yard waste.
- Same citywide clean-up day in October – dumpsters will be in town for free drop-off of your extra stuff.
- Same rates as in 2011 for basic curbside service.

Here is what does change:

- No charge for extra carts: Get an extra yard waste or recycling cart *FREE* for short-term or long-term use. Just call city hall; you can pick up the cart at the city public works yard or we’ll deliver it to you.
- You are receiving a coupon to drop off a truckload *FREE* at the Ord Ranch Station any time between January and June. Use it or exchange it at city hall for 12 Bag & Tag coupons, each one good for an extra trash bag to be placed by your trash cart – all at once or spread out as needed throughout the year.
- All billing will now be done by city hall. No more paying Biggs and Waste Management separately.
- All customer service, like cart size upgrades and missed service, will be handled directly by city hall.

This service is provided to you by the City of Biggs in partnership with Waste Management, Inc. Biggs also appreciates donations and volunteer efforts for local events from the Waste Management team.



YOUR COUNCIL:

- ◆ **Roger Frith, Mayor**
rogerf@biggs-ca.gov
530-868-5493
- ◆ **Angela Thompson, Vice Mayor**
angelat@biggs-ca.gov
530-868-5088
- ◆ **Douglas Arnold**
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530-868-1208
- ◆ **Mike Bottorff**
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530-868-0740
- ◆ **James “Bo” Sheppard**
BoS@biggs-ca.gov
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BCAV on the Move

Biggs Community Action Volunteers (BCAV) is a new and energetic group of caring citizens who are getting things done. After helping senior residents participate in the annual City Clean-up Day in October, BCAV took on decoration of the downtown area for Christmas, the Christmas tree lighting program, Santa's visit and the coloring contest for children.

BCAV has lots more in store, including downtown cleaning, entertainment events and the July 4th Hometown Celebration. To participate by volunteer service or by donating, please contact Mary at 632-4401.

Code Enforcement Steps Up

You may have noticed an increase in the city's efforts to bring residents into compliance with Biggs Municipal Code for neighborhood nuisance abatement. This includes removing junk from front yards, pulling trash carts back from public property after pick-up day, fixing up or eliminating dilapidated old buildings, and getting vehicles relocated from lawns.

The goal is to provide a healthier and safer environment for everyone. If you have a concern about a possible code violation, please contact city hall. The Biggs Municipal Code is posted online at www.biggs-ca.gov.



Biggs Does Well Under Pressure

The final touches are now being put on the city's water system upgrade project: increasing water pressures throughout the city.

Pressures were raised 5 psi (pounds per square inch) in December. We plan to gradually raise pressure to 60-65psi by February. City crews are taking test readings and carefully evaluating results.

If you think you have a water pipe leak please contact city hall immediately.

The improved water delivery project also included a radio telemetry system to control and coordinate the wells, automatic back-up generators, and refurbished well equipment, along with new water lines and meters for over half the city and its customers.



Current Events – Latest News

Keep up on all that is happening, or will soon be happening, in Biggs by checking out www.biggs-ca.gov. The site also features forms for requesting permits, contact numbers for city offices, a calendar showing recycle and yard waste pick-up days, the city budget, and current weather conditions and forecast.

The city updates the website often with news you can use.



Make a Council Connection

The first Wednesday of every month, from 3-5pm, city council members are available to you for an open forum informal chat. One or two council members will welcome your visit to city hall on Sixth Street.

You pick the topic[s]. Some residents stop by to talk about safety concerns. Some ask about city plans for business development and growth.

Council members and city staff are also available throughout the month by appointment or by email. Phone numbers and email addresses are listed on the city website www.biggs-ca.gov.



Money for You

Through its electric utility, Biggs offers you opportunities to earn cash rebates while replacing your old inefficient appliances with more efficient models.

You could get a rebate of \$200 for replacing that old freezer or fridge, \$400-600 for upgrading to a more efficient air conditioner, and \$1/sq ft for installing some nice new dual pane windows.

We can even arrange for a no-cost, no-obligation, home energy audit for you.

Please call 868-5493, stop by city hall, or check out the utilities page of the city website for details and rebate applications.

Café Gets State Recognition

Doug and Kari Wheeler's Buckshot Grill is enjoying its recent honor by the California State Cattleman's Association for excellence in serving up beef. See their story and their menu at www.buckshotgrill.com. Step inside to see the local Hunter's Hall of Fame.

The Buckshot Grill is in downtown Biggs, formerly Frith's Thanks a Latte.



New Businesses in Biggs

Two new businesses came to Biggs this year: D&E Recycling and Swanson Timber Products.

D&E is open daily on B near Seventh, next to the market. They will buy back your cans and bottles.

Chris and Traci Swanson purchased the city's former public works shop on Seventh at Aleut and relocated the family business from its previous Highway 99 location. Check out their website @ www.swansontimber.com.

Chris says, "Chances are that if it exists, and is a wood product, we can get it for you!"

CITY OF BIGGS

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Phone: 530-868-5493

**DONATE ALL YEAR
FOR OUR JULY 4TH
FIREWORKS BY
ROUNDING UP YOUR
UTILITY BILL
PAYMENTS. ALL
DONATIONS ARE TAX
DEDUCTIBLE!**

Donate Now for Fireworks Next Summer

Some people have asked how they can donate smaller amounts throughout the year rather than a larger amount at the 4th of July events. You can now make donations for our "Hometown Celebration" by adding the amount and noting it specifically on your check with your utility bill payment.



City Sets Up Water Rate Advisory Committee

Unhappy about your metered water bill? Most metered customers are. Per State law, all customers in California will eventually have to be on water meters. Most cities are in some stage of phase-in of meters. Biggs is about half metered. Funds are being reserved for a future project to install meters on the remaining lines.

Meters are intended to charge more for water to those who use more water. Meters tend to encourage conservation. The cost burden on customers with larger yards to irrigate can be significant.

The city strives to control the cost of operating the water system, and must balance its cost of operating the water system with the revenue from the rates charged. Recognizing general dissatisfaction with rates as they are, the city council is considering what would be the most equitable way to restructure rates. A committee of residents and council members (who are also water customers) is meeting with the city administrator to study the issue and consider options. They are expected to make a recommendation to the city council in January or February.



Project Updates

Plans for replacement of the Sixth Street bridge are delayed by the lengthy process to apply for funding thru Caltrans. It now looks like 2012 for this construction job.

Biggs Community Hall-formerly Veterans Memorial Hall-is open for public rental while we plan improvements to the facility. Projects may include relocation of city hall offices to a portion of the building.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.BIGGS-CA.GOV
