



## CITY OF BIGGS -

WHERE THE PEOPLE OWN THE WATER AND THE WATER

JANUARY 2012

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## Secret Santas in Biggs



City Hall staff saw some remarkable things in Biggs last month – like a group of angels who pooled their donations together to pay the outstanding utility bills for a family in need, and a different resident that paid an anonymous family's utility bill so they could enjoy a less stressed Christmas. What a wonderful community we have!

## 2011: Another Good Year for Biggs

This year your city accomplished many projects and programs including:

- Negotiated extension of the Gridley Police contract for two additional years at a cost 1/3 less than 2008 rates.
- Completed another fiscal year in the financial black, rebuilding city reserves.
- Adjusted water rates to bring equity between metered and non-metered customers.
- Identified a better method to dispose of treated waste water from the City sewer system, which will result in savings of millions of dollars for sewer customers in coming years.
- Started credit card payment options at City Hall for utility customers.
- Hired a new city engineer and a new financial auditor.
- Installed emergency back-up power systems for city sewer and storm drain systems.
- Improved the city nuisance code and effectively curtailed outdoor marijuana cultivation.
- Completed the City Bike Path Plan and advanced progress on the General Plan Update.
- Began *lowering* costs of providing health insurance for city employees.



### YOUR COUNCIL:

- ◆ **Roger Frith, Mayor**  
rogerf@biggs-ca.gov  
530-868-1289
- ◆ **Angela Thompson, Vice Mayor**  
angelat@biggs-ca.gov  
530-624-4148
- ◆ **Douglas Arnold**  
douga@biggs-ca.gov  
530-868-1208
- ◆ **Mike Bottorff**  
mikeb@biggs-ca.gov  
530-868-0740
- ◆ **James "Bo" Sheppard**  
bos@biggs-ca.gov  
530-868-1362

## Biggs Businesses Going Viral

Newly produced short videos featuring our community's very own Victorian Rose and Buckshot Grill are circulating around the internet. You can see them at the City website home page: [www.biggs-ca.gov](http://www.biggs-ca.gov).

These fun promotional videos were produced on a complimentary basis by the Butte County Economic Development Corporation, at the request of the City. All the talent is local! Send the links to your friends!



## CITY OF BIGGS

Biggs City Hall  
PO Box 307  
465 C Street  
Biggs CA 95917  
Phone: 530-868-5493



## City Seeks Grants and Your Input

Like all cities, Biggs competes for state and federal grant funds to accomplish local projects that cost more than we can otherwise afford. The refurbished water system, repaved streets and railroad crossings, and new storm drains and sidewalks are examples of grant-funded projects in recent years. Grant funds, however, are becoming increasingly limited and competitive.

In the next two months the city will advertise opportunities for you to comment on projects you would like to see accomplished in town. The first such public hearing opportunity is January 3rd at 4:00pm at city hall on Sixth Street.

The City Council will prioritize projects and direct staff to write the grant application. Please let your elected representatives know what you think are the most important needs to be accomplished in Biggs.

## Public Works at Work



One of the many projects you see going on now is replacement of the city's most deteriorated gutter valleys – those dips at some intersections intended to allow storm water to get from one block to another where there is a drain. This is a City-funded project using all in-house labor. The first gutter valleys replaced were at Third and Bannock, and at Fourth and D Streets.

## January Fee Change: Garbage

Every year our garbage collection contract partner, Waste Management, reviews its costs of operation including fuel costs and landfill tipping charges. In 2010 rates went down 7 cents for monthly service. This year the rate charged to the City rises 6%, but the City Council is only passing this on as a 4.9% rate increase to customers. Basic cart service, starting on the bill you receive February 1, will be \$21.02.

Like last year, each customer is being issued a coupon for a free truckload at Ord Ranch Transfer Station. You can use it that way or exchange it at city hall for 12 "Bag & Tag" coupons for extra curb pick-ups.

Need an extra cart? Available only in Biggs, customers can receive an extra green waste and /or recycling cart at no charge. The City crew delivers it to your residence. Just contact city hall at 868-5493.



## Community Corner ~ City Takes on History Project

Working with the History Department at Chico State, the city has identified a graduate student of Public History who will assist the community in assembling the history of Biggs. Our intern, Rebecca Feldstein, will study, identify, gather, archive, and recommend display methods for our historical stories, documents and artifacts.

Please save any old Biggs photos and other artifacts that might be of interest to a historian and to future generations – we will be asking you to share it this spring. If you'd like to help in any way, please contact Pete at City Hall at 868-0100.

## Zumba Update

Our experiment with a local recreation program continues. The Zumba schedule is:  
Mon 4:00, Wed 5:30, Thurs 7:00. \$4.00 / class

***WE'RE ON THE WEB!***

***WWW.BIGGS-CA.GOV***