



Advocacy for Brownsville and Beyond *By Mayor Adam Craven*



As we head into Fall, the State Legislature is working on preparing legislation for the upcoming long session in Salem. The City is involved in watching key bills as they are reviewed in various subcommittees before the bill is finalized and sent to the floor for consideration. Projections show that over 4,000 bills will be considered by the Legislature.

Each session, the League of Oregon Cities attempts to stave off regulatory moves made by the Legislature. However, over the years the League's effectiveness has waned. The City founded a group known as the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) which has gathered the support of numerous cities across the region and State to plan and coordinate a voice for small rural communities in Oregon. Unfortunately, small cities get overlooked and often feel the brunt of legislation more greatly than bigger cities.

Of all the issues being considered during this upcoming session, not many are more important than restoring recreational immunity. Recreational immunity prevents city, county and state agencies from being sued by the general public when accidents happen on public lands. The immunity has far reaching implications that keeps Oregon's beaches available for public use, as one example.

The State of Oregon should recognize the extent to which the elimination or diminishing of this immunity would be detrimental to the citizens of our State. Oregon has unparalleled natural beauty that can be experienced in all public places. The liability exposure that the elimination of recreational immunity could cause certain areas to be shut down.

There are many other areas of unfunded regulation continues to be handed to cities while the State feels no burden for the laws the legislature continues to pass. The Legislature is placing undue burden on each and every taxpayer in every city. Unfortunately, everything rolls downhill, and small rural cities are at the bottom of the hill. This is why Brownsville Council is actively working on advocacy issues so that local voices can be heard, and legislative issues can be stopped or modified to lessen the burden to each one of us.



Mayor Craven networking with
Governor Kotek



"A week is a long time in politics." Harold Wilson



October Emergency Preparedness Tips

- Did you know that dryer lint fires are a significant cause of home fires? Lint is highly flammable and can ignite from the heat of the dryer. Make sure to clean the lint trap after each use, and the vent trap at least annually.
- A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives. Make sure extinguishers are readily available and operating correctly.
- Install and test smoke alarms, natural gas alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Test these devices monthly. Teach children what to do when they hear these alarms.
- Check out <https://www.clcepc.org> for more information.



Coat Drive for Local Schools

Bryan from Bryan's Woodshed and Jenna Stutsman, Hybrid Real Estate, are joining forces again this year to host a Coat Drive this fall that will benefit local schools, including Central Linn. New and lightly used coats of all sizes will be accepted. Imagine going to school without a good winter coat; let's warm bodies and hearts

and gather coats that will be loved and appreciated by the kids who receive them. Coats will be accepted until through October 31st. Drop off your coat or cash donations at Jenna's office at 113 Spaulding Ave, at Bryan's Woodshed at 34066 Hwy 228, or in the front lobby of Brownsville City Hall.

Trick or Treat Street on Oct 31st

Bring your little ghouls and goblins to downtown Brownsville October 31st from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. for trick or treating. Look for black and orange balloons in front of participating businesses.



The American Legion Post 184

Haunted House Event for All Ages

The ever popular haunted house at the American Legion is happening soon! Dates are October 29th, 30th, and 31st from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 or 3 cans of food (Please no out of date food). Location is at 339 N. Main Street in Brownsville.



Planning Corner | Accessory Structures, Fences, Etc.

Are you new to town & interested in updating your property but not sure about permits, lot coverage, etc.? Call Elizabeth at City Hall Monday - Thursday, 8:30 - 4:30.

Friendly Reminder: Permits are required for **all** Accessory Structures, Fences & New Construction (i.e., covered porches or patios). If your **non-habitable, one-story** structure is **OVER 200 sq. ft.** & exceeds 15 ft high from grade to the average height of the highest roof surface, a permit from both Linn County (TBD) & the City (\$30) are required. If your one-story, non-habitable accessory structure is **200 sq. ft. & UNDER**, a permit from the City only is required. Questions? I am happy to help, because "do it first and ask for forgiveness later"...isn't all it's cracked up to be.



PROPERTY PINS: Finding property pins can be tricky. If a survey was done for your property, a map with property dimensions & access to a **metal detector** can be great tools for locating the pins. The Linn County Surveyor's office (541.967.3857) may have a recorded survey of your property that can be obtained via email or hard copy (possible fee).

FENCES: Fences can be beautiful, functional additions to a property, providing safety for children & pets, as well as a finishing touch to your home & landscape. Contact Elizabeth for a **Fence Permit Application (\$30)** or a copy of Brownsville's Fence Standards. Onsite verification of property lines is required.





Library News & Upcoming Events

By Librarian Sherri Lemhouse

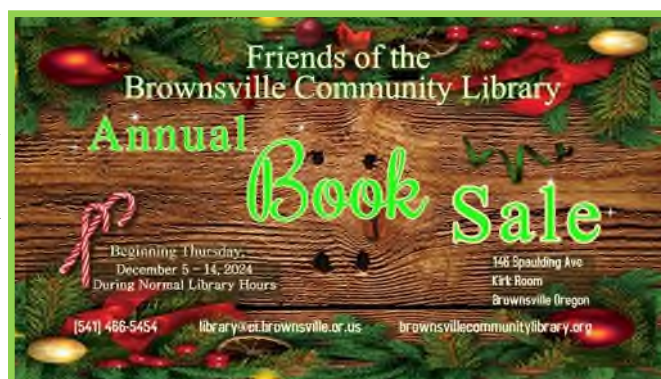
World Cultures & Travel Program continues as former professional photographer and tour guide Don Lyon takes us to view distant lands. These delightful and informative programs will include November 21st, **Human Face of Islam**, January 16th, **Southeast Asia**, and February 20th, **Argentina**. Each program begins at 7 p.m. and are held in the Kirk Room at our Library. All programs are free of charge.

Free Programs

- **Story Time with Craft** Join us every Friday from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. All ages.
- **Stitchery** Group meets every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- **Book Club** meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month.
- **Kindness Rocks Painting** on December 19th beginning at 5:00 p.m. This class is for adults and young adults aged 13 and above.

Book Sale

Each year we have an annual book sale that fills our Kirk Room! There are books from all walks of life. Books are available for adults, juniors and children; non-fiction (true) and fiction (made up). Many of these books are donated by our community. A few are books that have had to be pulled from the Library collection. Paperbacks are \$0.50, everything else is \$1.



Prescription Mail Back Envelopes Leftover or expired medicines can pose several serious environmental and health risks. If not disposed properly, unused medicines can lead to accidental poisonings, addiction or abuse. Medicines can also have health and environmental impacts when they end up in a landfill or are flushed down the toilet or drain. Wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are usually not equipped to treat pharmaceuticals. Chemical compounds from these medicines can pass through treatment plants or septic systems to our rivers or groundwater. Free prescription mail-back envelopes are available for folks at the library.

More information can be found at www.brownsvillecommunitylibrary.org.



LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

November 28 – 30 Thanksgiving
December 24 – 26 Christmas
December 31 – New Year's Eve
January 1 – New Year's Day

NORMAL LIBRARY HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 – 5
Thursday: 1 – 7
Saturday: 10 – 2
Sunday, Monday: Closed





Brownsville Women's Study Club
invites you to the **2024 Festival of Trees!**

December 6th & 7th, 2024

- 25 Beautifully Decorated Nordmann Fir Trees
- 17 Locations in Historic Downtown Brownsville
- December 6th | Bidding begins at 10 a.m.
- December 7th | Bidding ends at 4 p.m.
- Tree pick-up/payment at 4 p.m.
- Payment: Cash or Check
- Last year proceeds were used to support Brownsville Community Library (eBooks) and Sharing Hands.

Linn County Historical Museum Updates

The Linn County Historical Museum's new winter hours are Wednesday-Saturday 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Museum can be reserved for school and group tours on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Moyer House tours are available Wed/Thurs/Fri by reserving ahead, or on Saturdays on the hour starting at 12:00 p.m. To make tour reservations, call the Museum 541.466.3390. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 children under 12.

Watch the Brownsville Times for news of the Festival of Trees, sponsored by the Brownsville Women's Study Club, the first weekend in December. The 1881 Moyer House is festooned in Holiday finery and hosts up to six spectacularly decorated Christmas trees which will be auctioned off to the highest bidders.

Later in the month, free tours of the Moyer House will take place during the week between Christmas and New Year's.



2023 Moyer House Tree

Tuesday, November 5th, 2024 is Election Day!



The City of Brownsville is designated as an official Linn County ballot drop off site. The ballot bag is located in the lobby at City Hall. Normal City Hall hours are from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

City Hall Election Day hours we will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Red , Pink, Purple, or Green Ink

Please use black or blue ink when writing a check. Red, pink, purple, green, while all fun colors, do not process well through the bank's check reader machines, resulting in returned checks. Thank you!

**WHAT INK COLORS
CAN YOU USE?**



137th Linn County Pioneer Picnic

June 20th - 22nd, 2025

Did you know the Linn County Pioneer Picnic is the oldest, continuous, annual event in the state of Oregon? It started in 1887 as the Linn County Pioneer Reunion for those who came over the Oregon Trail by covered wagon. Once those pioneers passed away, the families took over planning it and changed the name to Picnic.



In all these years, it has never been interrupted, even through covid! Once it was almost rained out and they thought about cancelling but found a building to hold it in instead.

Those of us on the Board of Directors believe it is an honor to be involved with something as historical as this event. We would love to have more volunteers get involved to help keep this family fun event thriving. Please consider joining us at our 3rd Tuesday meetings, beginning January 14th. We meet in the Senior Center, 339 Main, at 7:00 p.m.

The Linn County Pioneer Association also operates the Pioneer Picture Gallery located across from City Hall in downtown Brownsville. Here you can find local and family history in pictures. The gallery is open weekends in the spring and summer months or upon special request by calling 541.466.5656. Find us on Facebook at: "Linn County Pioneer Association" or on the web at

<https://www.pioneerpicnic.com>.



Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out an extensive storm water management plan for the United States. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the State of Oregon's department charged with enforcement of these storm water techniques. The graphic to the left shows some of the basic principles of the storm water management planning that is required. Many cities have already started charging residents for storm water services to cover the cost of installing and maintaining storm water

systems. The City is required to report annually on five TMDL components which include temperature, bacteria, mercury, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) and all pollutants. The City is required to educate the general public by making everyone aware of the program and its components. The City does many things that help meet the requirements including street sweeping the city streets that have curb and gutter, which aren't many, setting up animal waste stations, collecting leaves in Pioneer Park, monitoring property development among other details.

Storm water drains end up in the Calapooia River. Ditches that may be in front of your home or storm drains that have catch basins in the street or curbing that you see in various places around Brownsville. The City has also installed pet waste stations in Pioneer Park and downtown by the Spaulding Avenue public restrooms. The general public is encouraged to cleanup after your pet, so the waste does not end up in the river.

To report illegal dumping, please contact City Hall at 541.466.5880.

To learn more please visit:

<https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/publicworks/page/total-maximum-daily-load-tmdl>



Council Meeting Synopsis



*Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on
October 22nd, 2024.*

Everyone was present. Mayor Craven presided.

Brownsville Art Association Annual Report | President Dr. Garcy | Lori Garcy reported on several changes the Association has made to better spread-out duties necessary for the operation of the Art Center. The Association is starting classes again in full force. They are supporting many artists and events throughout the year. There is currently a waiting list for people to display their work. There are many others who help the Art Center who are not even artists. Please find more information about the Association's activities on their website at <http://brownsvilleart.org/>.

Chamber of Commerce Annual Report | President Jenna Stutsman | Stutsman reported that the Antique Faire had a banner year for vendors and attendance. Stutsman said the Tetamore's are keeping the Welcome Wagon program working. The Chamber has changed their monthly operation to a Happy Hour meeting that moves from business to business. So far, it has been well received. The Chamber has over sixty members. The two upcoming events are Trick or Treat Street which is scheduled for October 31st, 2024 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Home for the Holidays preparations are being made. The Women's Study Club and the Blue Notes Choir from the High School will be singing carols during the annual tree lighting this year. To learn more about the Chamber please visit their website at <https://www.historicbrownsville.com/>.

Linn County Sheriff's Office | Sergeant Steve Frambes | Frambes reviewed the recent statistics stating that there were five arrests for the month, but four of those arrests were the same person. A window was broken at Dari Mart, but nothing was stolen. Recruiting is tough these days for law enforcement. Frambes has been training deputies recently. He stated that from the Police Academy, to driving a cruiser, takes over a year due to the necessary training.

Public Works Report | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink | Frink reported that the GR12 project has finally wrapped up. Contractors and subcontractors are ironing out electrical and communication issues. Rec Center landscaping is complete. Public Works made several improvements at the Rec Center in preparations for the public rental opening of the building. Public Works has been dealing with an unusually high number of water leaks recently. Frink also completed the reporting on service connections as required by the Lead & Copper Rule enforced by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) on all 876 connections the City operates. Recently, there was a major leak in Pioneer Park. The water was from the water plant and was all treated water that went back into the Calapooia River. Frink welcomed Hayden Holbrook as the newest member of the Public Works team.

City Administrator Report | Administrator Scott McDowell | McDowell briefly highlighted concerns with the migration of the City's website to a new platform and continuing problems with the City's email hosting service. Frink and McDowell are working on reporting to the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Department of Environmental Quality for required reporting due at the beginning of the year. Staff have been dealing with neighborhood disputes in many areas throughout town. McDowell said Staff is putting the finishing touches on the Canal Company Mill Race information that will be presented publicly soon. The City audit has been completed and will be submitted to the appropriate reporting agencies soon.

Library | Sherri Lemhouse | Lemhouse reviewed the robust programming schedule at the Library including the Book Sale December 5th through the 14th, Storytime, Book Club, the Stitchery Group, and the Multicultural programs guided by Don Lyon. Lemhouse shared her fascination with the Vanport Exhibition that was a joint project with the Women's Study Club and the Linn County Museum. She went through the onboarding that happens with each new patron. She reported that the e-Books program represents nearly 10% of circulation.

Council Comments | Mayor Craven | Mayor Craven was invited to Cottage Grove to present the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) information. Craven was joined by Lobbyist Sean Tate and Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC) member Felipe Eversull. Craven & McDowell attended a media training course offered by the League of Oregon Cities. Craven highlighted the shifting priority of media outlets and techniques the City can employ to properly handle situations when and as they arise. He said that materials will be provided to Council during the upcoming training session at the first of the year.

Ordinance 806: Parks & Open Space Advisory Board Code Language (Second Reading) | Council unanimously passed language changes. Park Board requested cleaning up old language to keep the Code current.

Spaulding Avenue Closure | Home for the Holidays | Council unanimously closed Spaulding Avenue for the Home for the Holidays event. Chamber will meet the necessary requirements for this closure.

Approve Council Meeting Schedule | 2025 | Council approved the regular session meeting schedule along with Budget Committee meeting(s).

Appointed Officials | Openings & Reappointments | Council reappointed Gary Compton to the Planning Commission, Pat MacDermott & Pam Solberg to the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board, and Don Andrews & Rick Dominguez to the Budget Committee. Council also authorized advertisements for openings on Boards and Committees. The City has an opening on the Planning Commission, the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board, and the Budget Committee.

Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) Session Updates | The group is growing membership and pushing a few issues for this upcoming legislative session including keeping a watchful eye on recreational immunity, city's rights, home rule and other interests that could negatively impact our citizens and taxpayers.

Citizen Comments | Betty Doren trolled McDowell while explaining definitions of trolling. Steve Van Sandt asked all parties involved to find common ground and cling to the ideals that make Brownsville great. Please remember that we are all neighbors. Take the time to talk to people on the other side of the aisle and put down social media, media and other "echo chambers" that aim to divide us. Don Lyon asked Councilors who were running for office to identify where the Marxist ideologies were in town, referencing a flier he had recently received in the mail. Johnny Claasen asked what could be done with the boat sitting at the end of Oak Street. He would like Council to cleanup the right-of-way. Principal Chad Schrock of Pioneer Christian Academy would like to partner with the City on community service projects. The Pioneer Christian Academy auction starts at 3:00 p.m. on October 26th, 2024.

All information the Mayor & Council received for the meeting can be found on-line prior to every meeting and afterwards at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/meetings>. Please contact City Administrator Scott McDowell with questions at 541.466.5880 or email at admin@ci.brownsville.or.us.

For more information, please visit <https://ci.brownsville.or.us>.



Upcoming Events

Trick or Treat Street | October 31st, 2024 | 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

American Legion Haunted House | October 29th – 31st, 2024 | 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Veteran's Day Breakfast | November 11th, 2024 | 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | American Legion

Council Meeting | November 26th, 2024 | 7:00 p.m. | City Hall

"The readiness is all." --- A Shakespeare quote that means readiness is everything.



City of Brownsville
255 North Main Street
P.O. Box 188
Brownsville, OR 97327

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ECRWSS

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LOCAL POSTAL PATRON
Attn: City of Brownsville Residents



The City of Brownsville website (www.ci.brownsville.or.us) is a wealth of information! You can make online utility bill payments, find agendas and meeting minutes, the Brownsville Municipal Code, Staff directory, make a building or room reservation through a reservation module, obtain permit applications, and much, much more. You can also find history pertaining to Kirk Avenue, the Calapooia riverbank erosion, etc.

There are hot links that will take you to City boards and committees, community civic organizations, and county and state organizations. We feel truly blessed to live in such a beautiful part of the world, and to be able to serve this great community!

