



Around Town *By Mayor Adam R. Graven*

The City recently entered into a contract to paint City Hall this upcoming summer. The Parks & Open Space Advisory Board and Staff continue to work on playground equipment selection for the new playground to be installed in Pioneer Park. The City's current playground has reached the end of its useful life and will be moving due to erosion concerns.

Cities across Oregon continue to experience challenges complying with State & Federal requirements. Many new efforts include everything from changes to FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to Per- & Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFA's) to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements just to name a few that have Council & Staff concerned. The City has taken a more active role in advocacy over the last two years attempting to increase relationships with our State elected officials and share the financial burdens being placed on taxpayers and rate payers alike. Small towns are not financially equipped to keep up – especially at the current pace of legislative actions and lawsuits being filed against State and Federal agencies.

Council is preparing work on advocating for City positions in Salem during the upcoming short session. Partnering with other communities and increasing our footprint with the State Legislature is the only way for our voices to be heard. The City continues efforts with the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC) to align with other small cities experiencing the same challenges. The City also works as part of a nine city, two county economic development effort known as the Rural Economic Alliance (REAL). REAL has recently hired a consultant and intern to assist in the implementation of the organization's strategic & marketing plan. REAL aims to help businesses with a variety of available programs and to assist entrepreneurs who want to bring a business concept to reality. The group is focused on capturing talent from Oregon State University, Linn-Benton Community College, and the University of Oregon instead of those people leaving Oregon for other states.

It was great seeing familiar and new events in Pioneer Park this summer. The Pioneer Picnic, an amazing Fourth of July celebration, the Antique Faire, and Rally on the River are beautiful continuing traditions. Events that also generated great interest included Stand by Me Day, Hands on History, and Carriage Me Back. Connect Linn County is a new non-profit that continues finding creative ways to engage the public with exciting events. The City Council wants to thank all community volunteers for freely giving your time and talents to make these events possible. You are all appreciated!



"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Edward Everett Hale



Tuesday, November 4th, 2025 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 Monday - Friday, 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.



Calapooia Food Alliance

Autumn News

The Calapooia Food Alliance is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit with a mission to build community one bite at a time.

We do this in four major ways: by offering gardening plots at the Community Garden, creating the Thursday Market that offers vegetable starts, fresh produce, baked goods and crafts during the Market season from May through October. The Co-Op Buyers Club coordinates monthly deliveries from Azure Standard — all manner of organic food products and items for sustainable living. Finally, and a whole lot of fun, your CFA offers mostly monthly Munch Nights with a home cooked meal and a film or speaker on some aspect of having a richer, sustainable life and community.

CFA activities are open to all. Visit our website at www.calapooiafoodalliance.org and watch for notices in *The Brownsville Times*.

Planning & Building Corner | PERMITS REQUIRED

A City of Brownsville permit is required for the following:

ACCESSORY STRUCTURES - Example: Carports, RV Covers, Garden Sheds

FENCES - New & Replacement

NEW CONSTRUCTION - Example: Covered Porches, Decks & Patios



These permits help ensure the construction or placement is not on your neighbors property or the City ROW (Right-of-Way), & meets height & setback requirements for your zone. Contact Elizabeth Coleman, Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or email assitant@ci.brownsville.or.us to obtain applications or additional information.

OLD TOWN COMMERCIAL (OTC) BUILDINGS

A FRIENDLY REMINDER TO OWNERS & RENTERS OF COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN THE OTC ZONE

- 1) Chapter 15.80.080 of the Brownsville Municipal Code determines the permitted uses & administrative review procedures for the Old Town Commercial zone (i.e., new construction or exterior alterations).
- 2) A City of Brownsville Business Registration is required (\$15).
- 3) A OTC Change of Use Permit is required for new businesses.
- 4) Signage requires a Sign Permit. Please contact Elizabeth Coleman if you have questions or would like additional information regarding your property that the City can provide.



DID YOU KNOW? 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 this undertaking. You can call the Linn County Surveyor's office (541.967.3857) to see if there is a recorded survey of your property. If so, it can be emailed, or you can pick up a hard copy (for a fee, depending on the size) in Albany.





Library News & Upcoming Events

By Librarian Sherri Lemhouse

World Cultures & Travel Program

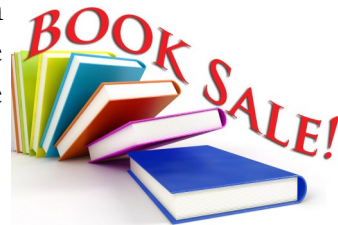
France Provence - Since Roman days, Provence in the South of France has been the favored land and it still is today. Join travel photographer Donald Lyon and sink into the land savoring the aroma of lavender fields, aromatic cheeses and village markets. Roman aqueducts and medieval hill towns invite you to explore. Ride the white horses and run with the bulls -- it's all here in La Belle Provence, Thursday, November 20th, 2025 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Kirk Room at your local Library.

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 18th beginning at 5:00 p.m. This class is for adults and young adults aged 13 and above.
- **Feed the Birds Activity** - Help Teacher Caroline make decorations for the Library Children's Festival of Trees Tree. Ornaments will be pinecones with peanut butter and bird seed. Come join in the fun! November 21st from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Book Sale - December 4th - 13th

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

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. 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.



LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES

November 11 – Veteran's Day
November 27 – 29 Thanksgiving
December 24 – 25 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 **2025 Festival of Trees!**

December 5th & 6th, 2025

- 25 Beautifully Decorated Nordmann Fir Trees
- 17 Locations in Historic Downtown Brownsville
- December 5th | Bidding begins at 10 a.m.
- December 6th | Bidding ends at 4 p.m.
- Tree pick-up/payment at 4 p.m. @ the Library
- Payment: Cash or Check
- Last year proceeds were used to support Brownsville Community Library and Sharing Hands.

Utility News

- ⇒ If you use online bill pay through your bank, please make sure your account number is included on the check. It is important that your account number is correct to properly post your payment.
- ⇒ If you have a name change, please let us know. Make sure the name on the check and the bill match.
- ⇒ Make sure your contact information is current and correct, especially contact phone numbers. If there is a broken water pipe or leak near your residence, it is imperative that we can reach you immediately. Please write the corrected information on the bill you return with your payment, or give us a call at City Hall and we can update your account accordingly.
- ⇒ Want to make your payment by debit or credit card? Go to www.ci.brownsville.or.us and click on the Online Payments tab near the bottom of the home page. This link will take you directly to PayGov.us. If you would rather download the app, the location code for the City of Brownsville is 37033. Be advised there is a 3% convenience fee associated with this form of payment.



If you have any questions, please contact Jannea Deaver, Utility Clerk, at 541.466.5880.

Blue or Black Ink Only

Please only use **BLUE** OR **BLACK** ink on your check. **Red**, **pink**, **purple**, **turquoise**, or **green** ink, while all fun colors, do not process through the bank's check reader machines, resulting in returned checks. Thank you!

WHAT INK COLORS
CAN YOU USE?



Linn County Historical Museum Updates

For Fall season, the Linn County Historical Museum, 101 Park Ave, Brownsville, has new open hours: Wednesday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Admission is still free.

All are invited to wander through the exhibits, discovering stories about the Kalapuyan People who have lived in the Willamette Valley for at least 13,000 years or the thousands of settlers who migrated west starting in the 1840's. Guided Moyer House tours are Saturdays on the hour, noon to 3:00; buy your tickets at the Museum, adults \$5.

The old 1938 caboose is also open for exploring; it's a bit rusty and dusty, but fun to imagine the conductor, engineers, and workmen cozy in the train car with its little wood stove and bunk beds as it rattles along the tracks.

For more information on the Museum or Moyer House please go to www.linnmuseum.com. For group tours call 541.466.3390.



Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

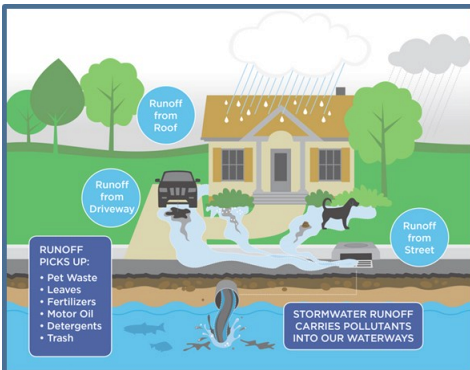
The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to carry out an extensive storm water management plan for the United States. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the State of Oregon's department charged with enforcement of these storm water techniques. The graphic 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, including 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>



Your Neighbor Says...

Thanks for cleaning up after your dog and keeping them on their leash!

Thanks for keeping your speed down in town!

And thanks for the cup of sugar!





Council Meeting Synopsis



Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers on
October 28th, 2025

Everyone was present. Mayor Craven presided.

Thin Line Chaplaincy (TLC) | Nick Droback | Mr. Droback shared the mission of TLC with Council describing the services provided to individuals that includes counseling first responders with critical stress management, providing support to community members in times of loss and trauma, and handling sensitive details during times of unimaginable circumstances, to name a few. Droback also reported that he worked with the Chinese Coalition who was interested in providing an emergency preparedness disaster Conex box. The Brownsville Rural Fire District was successful in receiving a box. The box is equipped with enough supplies to support up to 200 families for two weeks. Deployment is at the sole discretion of the Fire District. The unit is climate controlled and offers water, MRE's, generators, and propane. To learn more about TLC's non-profit services, please visit <https://www.thinlinechaplain.com/>.

Linn County Sheriff's Office Report | Sergeant Frambes shared that Mr. Droback's services are greatly appreciated by law enforcement. Droback has accompanied on death notifications which is one of the hardest things an officer must do. At the scene of accidents, Droback can help the family with the emotional response to the accident while the officer is able to handle the scene of the accident. Frambes said he wished more resources could be dedicated to TLC's efforts. Frambes reported that activity in September was very calm. There was no significant incident(s) to report on. Councilor Hansen asked about the levy. Frambes asked people to review the facts of what the levy provides and decide for themselves. Frambes is not allowed to comment or forecast on the levy.

Planning Report | Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman shared details about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) revisions to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Floodplain Management Standards. Coleman reviewed the four paths being pushed on communities for compliance. Last year the City was forced to pick from a list of options due to FEMA's Pre-Implementation Compliance Measures (PICM). Coleman has attended several webinars to learn more about the government's plans on this critical issue. Coleman shared a picture of the floodplain explaining the impact these rules will have on Brownsville. She said three floodplain functions of primary concern include flood storage, water quality, and vegetation. Coleman reported on the details of tree planting as one example of the regulations. Coleman shared what FEMA defines as activity in the floodplain and the definition is expansive. Currently, the City has decided to handle each case on a case-by-case basis, which is what a lot of communities are doing due to the heavy handed approach being implemented by the State to impose these regulations that will make development even more difficult and costly for landowners.

Library Report | Librarian Sherri Lemhouse talked about programming and service provided by the Brownsville Community Library. Lemhouse shared that the Library offers a way to safely dispose of any unused or unwanted medicine through the Med-project. Don Lyon has been sharing his travels through the World Cultures program. The upcoming event will explore the France La Provence on November 20th at 7:00 p.m. Story time happens each Thursday starting at 10:00 a.m. and includes a craft. The Page Turners Book Club meets the third Wednesday of each month. The Stitchery Group, the Thread Wizards, meets on Wednesdays from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. Everything stitchery from crochet, to quilting, to embroidery is done. Come by and say, "Hi!" There will be rock painting on Thursday, December 18th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The Annual Book Sale is from December 4th through the 13th during normal Library hours.

Public Works Report | Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink | Frink was excused from the meeting this month.

City Administrator Report | Administrator Scott McDowell | Administrator Scott McDowell reported on several bills that will impact the City from the latest session of the State Legislative Assembly. Governor Kotek was very successful getting her housing agenda passed along with a Statewide Shelter Funding and Homelessness Response. The State continues to ignore the ruling the United States Supreme Court made in 2024 on homelessness. The State did not fix the Recreational Immunity issue for public entities. Report continued on the next page.

City Administrator Report continued The City will closely monitor any developments as the implications are massive for all public entities including the State of Oregon. The State is now studying Measure 5 and 50 that limit government's ability to levy property taxes. The Feds have also been talking about certain property taxes being eliminated which will impact public schools, fire districts, cities and counties. McDowell gave brief updates on planned computer installations at the Library, updates on the City audit, the Rural Economic Alliance (REAL), and concerns with the vendor handling the creation of new City website. Councilor Winklepleck shared details about Council's goal to honor hometown heroes. Council worked with the American Legion to identify local veterans to begin a banner program honoring their service. The first ten banners are posthumously honoring veterans and will be hung through November. Council and the American Legion will continue the program to show the communities appreciation for those who served in our armed forces.

Resolution 2025.15: Utility Accounts Write-off | Council voted unanimously to pass this resolution making six adjustments to the general ledger.

Ordinance 809: Public Streetlight Application (First Reading) | Council completed a first reading for an ordinance that would clarify the public streetlight process.

Ordinance 810: Public Street Closure Application (First Reading) | Council completed a first reading for an ordinance that would standardize the public street closure process.

Resolution 2025.16: Recognizing Gary Compton's Community Service | Gary Compton served as the Planning Commission Chair for over twenty-five years. Council unanimously passed this resolution honoring Compton's service to the City and community.

Resolution 2025.17: Award City Hall Painting Project | Council unanimously awarded the project to Great Paint & Renovate from Sweet Home in the amount of \$30,989. The project is scheduled to begin next summer with the exact date yet to be determined.

Appointed Officials | Openings & Reappointments | Council re-appointed Dayna Hansen & Matt Shoemaker to the Budget Committee and authorized Staff to advertise for a Planning Commission opening. Councilor Hansen abstained for personal reasons on the re-appointment of Budget Committee members.

Pacific Power | McDowell shared information provided by Pacific Power's Regional Manager about power outages. Councilor Winklepleck has been concerned about outages over the last year. McDowell reported that Pacific Power has installed very sensitive monitoring equipment on their power lines stemming from lawsuits levied against them during the fires over the last few years. Pacific Power can no longer clear an alarm without sending out personnel during fire season which leads to longer outages. The sensitivity of the monitoring equipment is also leading to the short power blips that are happening more often. Salazar explained that when the power gets reset because of a tripped monitor, that it can cause a very brief power blip. McDowell also reminded everyone the Pacific Power has been warning the public on this issue for nearly two years. They have a program that assists in the purchasing of generators to lessen the impacts of future outages.

Franchise Agreements | Lumen & Sweet Home Sanitation | Council will be updating these two franchise agreements over the coming months.

Citizen Comments | Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA) President Don Lyon thanked Council for their support through the years and shared concerns that may arise due to the partnership not being renewed. Richard Fries shared concerns about the bus stop at the intersection of Depot Avenue and Linn Way. Mayor Craven explained that Linn County is responsible for determining any improvements to the intersection and the Staff will review the matter.

Council Comments | Councilor Winklepleck wished everyone a Happy Halloween. Councilor Solberg talked about the contributions Gary Compton made while on the Planning Commission. Councilor Chambers thanked Mayor Craven for his leadership.

Upcoming Events

Council | Next Meeting | November 18th, 2025 | Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.
City Offices will be closed November 27th & 28th, 2025 in observance of Thanksgiving.



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

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LOCAL POSTAL PATRON
Attn: City of Brownsville Residents

Planning Commission Vacancy

MEMBER NEEDED FOR BROWNSVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

The City is seeking a member for the Brownsville Planning Commission. The Planning Commission meets on Monday as needed and holds public hearings regarding land use issues in the City of Brownsville as well as advising the Council on land use policy. Any resident of Brownsville interested in serving on the Planning Commission should complete the Boards & Committees Application found on the City website at <https://www.ci.brownsville.or.us/bc-pc> by Monday, November 17th, 2025, by 4:00 p.m. P.S.T. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Coleman at 541.466.5880. You may submit your application by email to assistant@ci.brownsville.or.us or drop it by City Hall.



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!



"The time is always right to do what is right." *Martin Luther King Jr.*