

Be Ready. Be Prepared.

Visit clepc.org for more information.



While we are “*Staying home except for essential needs*” per Governor Brown’s executive statewide order, it may be the perfect time to plan for other natural disaster or catastrophic events. Do you have an Emergency Go Kit? Do you have a House Fire Plan and meeting place? Do you know how to reduce wildfire risk? These are just a few topics that are covered on the Central Linn Community Emergency Preparedness page. There are links and resource pages as well as information on COVID-19.

Spring Newsletter

April 2020



CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

Administrator’s Corner

By Scott McDowell



The City wants to encourage everyone to be wise not fearful in dealing with this pandemic. Everyone should strive to be sensible and think of others first so that we can all protect those of us who are at a higher risk in our community.

The City continues to operate during this time of crisis. Our doors are closed for public health & safety reasons, but our phone lines remain open to help you during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You will still see our Public Works guys out mowing and maintaining our utility systems. Providing clean water and sanitary sewers are essential to each and every one of us. Please help us by practicing social distancing to keep City employees safe so they can continue providing these vital, essential services.

The regularly scheduled City Council meeting on 03/24/2020 was postponed to 03/31/2020 due to COVID-19. The 03/31/2020 meeting was held as a teleconference to comply with social distancing rules. In total, there were sixteen individuals that attended the meeting, including your Mayor, City Councilors, Staff, and audience members.

If you are interested in being part of the next City Council meeting on 04/28/2020 or any other public meeting, please dial (717) 275-8940, enter the access code 187 3859, and follow the voice prompts.

The City is actively reaching out to support community partners who provide vital services to our residents. So far, the faith community is checking on members and other groups have been in contact with each other. The City is making plans to deal with certain situations should the situation call for such a response.

Please support our local businesses.

Brownsville is a very special place to live. I am grateful to be a part of such a caring, wonderful community. Stay safe, stay healthy. Call if you need help. Many of your community members are willing, ready and standing by!

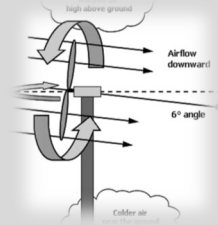


The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month. ~ Henry Van Dyke

Vineyard Wind Machines Awareness



The machines may turn on soon depending on temperatures. Due to low overnight temperatures, the wind machines are used to prevent 'cold injury' to the grape vines. These wind machines are very noisy due to the blades and the engines used to generate electricity. Basically, the machines are programmed to turn on at certain temperature levels, generally around 36 degrees Fahrenheit and can only be ran during certain wind speeds. The site has numerous wind machines and they generate a very noticeable sound throughout town. The motors sound like an old farm tractor and the blades have a high-pitched sound. A low frequency hum can be heard throughout town when all the wind machines are operating.



SCHOLARSHIP TIME!

Sweet Home Sanitation, a Central Linn community partner, is offering a scholarship to a graduating Central Linn High School (CLHS) senior in the amount of \$1,000!

Applications can be obtained online at www.ci.brownsville.or.us.

Due date is April 15th and can be emailed to finance@ci.brownsville.or.us.



Calapooia Food Alliance *By Don Lyon*



The Calapooia Food Alliance encourages healthy living and community resilience through education and the promotion of sustainable food production--Building Community One Bite At A Time! So how do we do that? Not only do we operate the Community Garden and the Thursday Market (May through October) but the hard working Board (Don Lyon, Peggy Purkerson, Kathleen Swayze, Steve Brenner, Jean Hamilton, Lynlee Bischoff and Natalie Wade) host monthly Munch Nights (meal and entertainment for \$10 donation) free monthly New Horizon's Film Nights and we contribute regular articles to *The Times* on good gardening and healthy living practices in the "Taking Root" column. One of the most important offerings is perhaps the least known--the Brownsville Co-Op Buyers Club. We arrange for monthly deliveries of organic foods and supplies from Azure Standard. Many of these items cannot be found locally. To find out more about your free membership in the Buyers Club or about other Calapooia Food Alliance Activities please visit us at www.gocfa.org. At the time of this writing, current corona-virus advice permits outdoor activities where social distancing can be maintained. Get some fresh air and exercise with an inexpensive garden plot at the Community Garden where water and soil amendments as well as tools are provided. Call Don Lyon at 541-654-2052 to obtain your plot.



Planning Department *by Elizabeth Coleman*

Permit Reminders



SIGNS: Want to put up a sign for your business?

A free sign permit is required. It is reviewed for code compliance prior to installation.

FENCES & ACCESSORY STRUCTURES: Want to install or replace your fence?

Want to put up a greenhouse or storage shed? Accessory structure and fence permits are required. These permits cost \$30.

For more information, contact Elizabeth at City Hall (541.466.5666) Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Appointments are recommended!





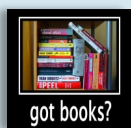
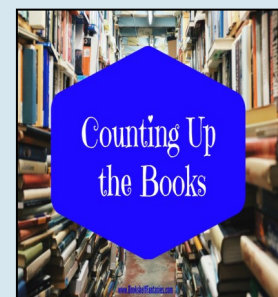
Here are some answers to a few questions I have been hearing:

When are you planning to reopen? Planning to reopen on Tuesday, April 28th with normal library hours. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.; Thursday 1:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 – 2:00 p.m.

What about Story time? I am holding *virtual Story Time* on the Brownsville Library (Oregon) Facebook Page. Story Times are Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. and Friday at 11 a.m. These are being added to our website afterward. These are free and no account is needed for viewing.



What are you doing while the Library is closed to the public? As many of you know, I have many projects going at once. The big one that takes up much of my day is an inventory. I have been taking small sections so that I could complete them in a couple hours. So far, I have scanned adult non-fiction, audiobooks, Large Print, Junior Reference, Young Adult and Junior. Next is the children's section. I fully expect to get sidetracked on a couple books as I find new stories to research for story time! After that, I'll go through adult fiction and so forth. Reada Roomba has been busy running, charging and running some more while there is no one in the building to trip over her. I'm hoping to have time to clean and oil the oak furniture, too!



I am so book desperate! Can you help me? Yes, I would be glad to pass through a stack of books. Please call the Library phone (541.466.5454) or email me (library@ci.brownsville.or.us) and give a list. Please do not say, 'oh you know what I like.' Author suggestions are good though. I'll call you when your books are ready and arrange a timeframe for you to come and pick them up.

Here are some virtual resources that I have checked out and are free:

For Children:

Sesame Street: <https://www.sesamestreet.org/caring>

American Sign Language Story time: <https://dpan.tv/programs/collection-vvevex5tooe>

Audio Books:

Audible: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Ebooks:

Internet Archive: archive.org

Project Gutenberg: <http://www.gutenberg.org>

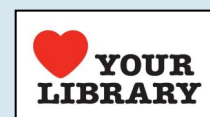
Many books: <https://manybooks.net> (free account needed)

Feedbooks: <http://www.feedbooks.com/publicdomain> (they have others for a fee)

Bookyards: <https://www.bookyards.com/en/welcome>

Getfreebooks: <https://www.getfreebooks.com>

Obooko: <https://www.obooko.com>



City of Brownsville

2019

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report



Our mission

The City of Brownsville is committed to providing clean, safe, quality water for everyone living and visiting our community. Our efforts include protecting and preserving our water resources, as well as enhancing our treatment processes to provide you, the consumer, with quality drinking water each time you turn on your tap.

Introduction

Thank you for taking time to review this consumer confidence report provided to you by the City of Brownsville. This report contains important information regarding the quality of Brownsville's drinking water. Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act in 1974 and gave the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the job of making rules, National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR), to ensure drinking water in the U. S. is safe. In 1996, Congress passed amendments requiring drinking water systems to provide consumers with important information regarding their drinking water. This information includes where Brownsville's water comes from, what is in the water, and how it compares with Federal standards. We hope you find this report useful with regards to the safety of your drinking water.

Where does our water come from?

Brownsville's water sources are a well field and an infiltration gallery located in the southwest corner of Pioneer Park adjacent to the Calapooia River. Due to the close proximity of the river, the City's water sources are classified as "groundwater under the direct influence of surface water", which means that our source water comes from beneath the surface of the ground, but has significant or rapid shifts in water characteristics, such as pH, temperature and turbidity (clarity). The infiltration gallery is located under the Calapooia River and serves as the primary water source during the spring, summer and fall months of the year. The other water source, the well field, serves as our water source during the winter months when the river water is muddy and undesirable for treatment. The wells located in the well field, while still very close to the river, are classified as a ground water source, which means the source is located beneath the surface of the ground, and the water characteristics are relatively stable with only subtle fluctuations in pH, temperature, and turbidity. The City has a source water assessment report from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), which provides additional information such as the delineation of water sources (watershed), potential sources of contamination and other perils within our watershed area. Copies of this report are available for review at City Hall and the Public Works Department.

Information about source water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

The City has
22 Miles of
Water &
Sewer Lines

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

What if I have questions about our water?

This report shows our water quality and what it means. If you have any questions regarding our water, please contact our Public Works Department at (541) 466-3381, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am – 4:00 pm. If there is no answer, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. You may also attend the regular City Council meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Brownsville City Hall. If there is an emergency, please call Karl Frink, Public Works Superintendent at (541) 409-3700.

The City treats
90 Million
Gallons of Water
per Year for
Consumption

The City of Brownsville routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State law. Some of the constituents include total coliform, arsenic, disinfection by-products (trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids), lead and copper and arsenic. This report shows the results of the City's monitoring for the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. As water travels over the land or underground, it can pick up substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amount of some constituents. It is important to remember the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791, or on the internet at: <http://water.epa.gov/drink/hotline/index.cfm>. For more information regarding the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act, please visit the EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/sdwa.

Terms and abbreviations used in this report

In this report, you may find some unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we have provided the following definitions:

Non Detects (ND) – laboratory analysis indicated the constituent is not present.

Part per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (mcg/L) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or Nanograms per liter (ng/L) - one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000.

Parts per quadrillion (ppq) or Picograms per liter (pg/L) - one part per quadrillion corresponds to one minute in 2,000,000,000 years or one penny in \$10,000,000,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – Picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Millirems per year (mrem/yr) – Measure of radiation absorbed by the body.

Million Fibers per Liter (MFL) – Million fibers per liter is a measure of the presence of asbestos fibers that are longer than 10 micrometers.

Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) – Nephelometric turbidity unit is a measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

Variations & Exemptions (V&E) – State of EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Action Level – The level of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Treatment Technique (TT) – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – The “Maximum Allowed” (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) – The “Goal” (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG's allow for margin of safety.

Total Coliform: The Total Coliform Rules require water systems to meet a stricter limit for coliform bacteria. Coliform bacteria are usually harmless, but their presence in water can be an indication of disease-causing bacteria. When coliform bacteria are found, special follow-up tests are done to determine if harmful bacteria are present in the water supply. If this limit is exceeded, the water supplier must notify the public by newspaper, television or radio. To comply with the stricter regulations, we have increased the average amount of chlorine in the distribution system.

Nitrates: As a precaution, we always notify physicians and health care providers in this area if there is ever a higher than normal level of nitrates in the water supply.

Lead: Lead in drinking water is rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, but it can add to a person's total lead exposure. All potential sources of lead in the household should be identified and removed, replaced or reduced.

Copper: Copper is an essential nutrient, but some people who drink water-containing copper in excess of the action level over a relatively short amount of time could experience gastrointestinal distress. Some people who drink water-containing copper in excess of the action level over many years could suffer liver or kidney damage. People with Wilson's disease should consult their personal doctor.

Important! Please note!

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800)426-4791 or visit: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water for any questions you may have.

Summary of test results for 2019

Microbiological Contaminants

Contaminant Description	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	MCL G	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria	N	ND	0	Presence of Coliform in any monthly sample.	Naturally present in the environment.
Fecal Coliform	N	ND	0	A routine sample and repeat samples are total coliform positive, and one is also fecal of E.coli positive.	Human and animal fecal waste.
Turbidity (NTU)	N	0.091 NTU	N/A	TT (NTU) 95% <1 NTU All < 5 NTU	Soil run off.
	N	100%		TT= percentage of samples <1 NTU	

Disinfection By-Products

Contaminant Description	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	MCL G	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5's) (ppb)	N	7.42 ppb	N/A	60 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM's) (ppb)	N	20.7 ppb	N/A	80 ppb	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination.

Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant Description	Violation (Y/N)	Level Detected	MCL G	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	N	ND	0	10 ppb	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronic production wastes.
Nitrates	N	ND	10	100 ppb	Runoff from fertilizer; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Lead	N	0.0 ppb	0	15.5 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Copper	N	0.0 ppb	1.3	1350 ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Asbestos	N	ND	7	7 MFL	Decay of asbestos cement water mains; erosion of natural deposits.

Essential things to know about water

Inadequately treated water may contain disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. The City of Brownsville built a new slow sand filter water treatment plant to provide adequate treatment and remedies for making our water safe. This new water plant went on line in 1998. We added soda ash to the treatment process of our water to adjust the pH of the water. Adjusting the pH of the water helps prevent the leaching of lead in the plumbing of your home. By making these improvements to our water system, we successfully completed two rounds of lead sampling during the year 1999. That success reduced our sampling requirement for lead from twice yearly to once every three years. We also passed the Phase II & V testing requirements. We successfully completed our lead and copper sampling in 2018 and will sample again in 2021 per the OHA drinking water requirements.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Brownsville is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or on the web at: www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water.

Source water assessment report

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act require that all states conduct Source Water Assessments for public water systems within their boundaries. The assessments consist of (1) identification of the Drinking Water Protection Area, i.e., the area at the surface that is directly above that part of the aquifer that supplies groundwater to our well(s), (2) identification of potential sources of pollution within the Drinking Water Protection Area, and (3) determining the susceptibility or relative risk to the well water from those sources. The purpose of the assessment is to provide water systems with the information they need to develop a strategy to protect their drinking water resource if they choose. The respective Drinking Water Programs of the Department of Human Services and Environmental Quality have completed the assessment for our system. A copy of the report is on file at the Public Works Department and City Hall.

The aquifer(s) supplying water to our well(s): Willamette (sand and gravel). For additional information regarding the Willamette aquifer, please visit: www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/gw/gw_pubs.aspx. Scroll down to locate GW Report No. 22.

Cross connection and backflow prevention

This past year the City of Brownsville has been very active with its' Cross Connection Control Program. The Program has been updated and new regulations and requirements have been implemented. This is a Federal and State required program to help protect our water system from potential cross-connection problems and the life threatening conditions when back siphoning or back pressure can be present. Many people don't understand the need for this program; however, there are many deaths across the nation each year where these programs are not in place. The City requires that all backflow devices be tested annually as required in the regulations. The City also provides a backflow device testing program to have any device tested annually at a reduced rate to our residents. Please call our Public Works Department at (541) 466-3381 if you would like to participate, or have any questions concerning this program. We can also be reached by email at: publicworks@ci.brownsville.or.us

Valuable reminder about drinking water!

All drinking water, *including bottled water*, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water is dangerous or poses a health risk. While industry marketing campaigns promote the notion that bottled water is best, please remember, at this time, bottled water is not required to meet the same high quality standards as municipal water. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1-800-426-4791, or on the web at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>.

MCL's are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one in a million chance of having the described health effect.

In our continuing efforts to maintain a safe and dependable water supply, it may be necessary to make improvements to the City's water system. The costs of these improvements may be reflected in the rate structure. Rate adjustments may be necessary in order to address these improvements. Income from water rates is used only to operate and maintain the water system and is required by law to be self-supporting.

In closing...

The City of Brownsville continually works to meet and exceed all drinking water standards and requirements, and to provide top quality water to every tap. It is important that each of us help protect our water sources to keep our water safe today, tomorrow and for generations to come. Thank you for taking the time to review this report. The City of Brownsville takes pride in serving our community and providing the quality customer service you deserve.

City website: www.ci.brownsville.or.us

Our website is updated regularly and new information is available. The updates include information such as City Council meeting minutes, local activities, newsletters, contact information, municipal codes, meeting information, job openings, and more. Please feel free to visit our website any time for additional information.

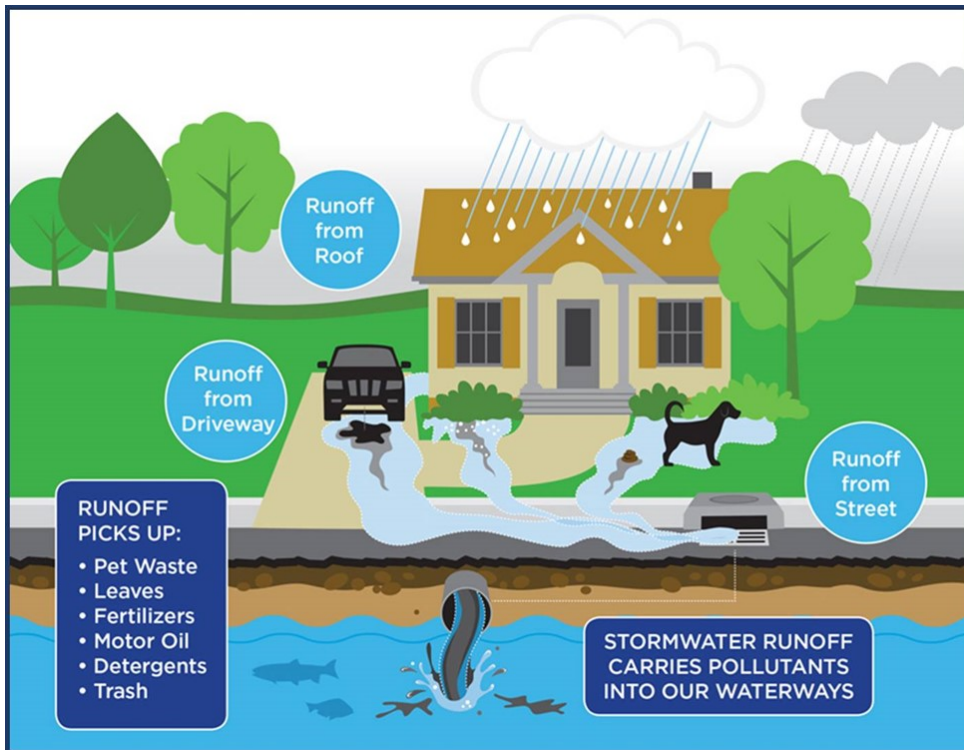
Oregon Health Authority website

www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/healthyenvironments/drinkingwater

PUBLIC WORKS CONTACT INFORMATION

Karl Frink, Public Works Superintendent Mobile/ Emergency: (541)409-3700 Fax: (541)466-5118
Office: (541)466-3381 Email: publicworks@ci.brownsville.or.us Mail: P.O. Box 188 | Brownsville, OR 97327

Page 5 of 5



Created the EPA



Then Congress passed the



The State has enforcement authority



The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) wants citizens to know about the impacts of stormwater on water quality. The program is referred to as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). More information can be found on the City's website:

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

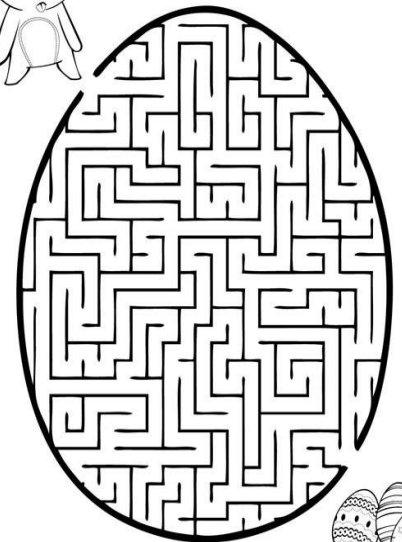
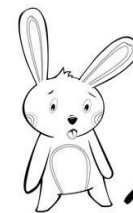
- Please pickup after your pets.
- Please pickup your grass clippings.
- Please be mindful of what drains lead to the river.

Easter Word Find



Easter Egg Hunt in Pioneer Park

Due to current health and safety considerations, the annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by American Legion in Pioneer Park has been **cancelled** for 2020.



- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Family Tradition | Games | Lily | Bonnet | Colored Eggs |
| Candy | Flowers | Bunny | Parade | New Clothes |
| Basket | Peeps | Chicks | Sunday | Hot Cross Buns |
| Chocolate | Daffodils | Easter | Bells | Marshmallow |
| | Robin Egg | Lamb | Egg Hunt | Jelly Beans |

Carriage Me Back has been cancelled.



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

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL POSTAL PATRON
Attn: Brownsville Residents

Just a reminder—the Brownsville Municipal Court Clerk is available
on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Utility Billing News

Online Payments: If you pay your water and sewer bill through online banking systems, please make sure that your current account number and the “bill to” name match what is on your utility statements. Sometimes name changes or old account numbers cause payments to be posted to the wrong account.

Account Information: Please make sure that your account information is current (mailing, phone numbers, etc.). In case of a water or sewer emergency it is imperative that we have a valid phone number to contact you.

Past Due Payments: If your utility account has a past due amount, it is entered into a lien against your property. We update the records each month, and if the past due amount is paid, the lien amount is removed from the property. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jannea Deaver for clarification Mondays 8:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m., and Tuesday—Fridays 11:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. at 541.466.5666.

