



CITY OF BIGGS -

WHERE THE PEOPLE OWN THE POWER AND THE WATER

JUNE 2011

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Police Contract Extended

Biggs and Gridley city councils in June gave unanimous approval to an agreement extending the current law enforcement services partnership through at least June of 2014.

The new formula for cost share will continue with adjustments intended to address current and anticipated costs of operating the Gridley-Biggs Police Department.

Biggs is now paying just over \$400,000 of the department's \$2 ½ million annual budget. GBPD includes 16 sworn officers, 24-hr dispatch services, a dozen patrol cars, participation in regional programs like BINTF, and a new detective position. Congratulations to Officer Scott Smallwood on being promoted to Detective.

Mayor Roger Frith said, "Our communities are well served by one of the best staffed police departments around. This isn't the right time to restart our own police force, so we are fortunate to have what we do. Working together both cities are better off."

Negotiations in 2010 produced a police contract with 42% (almost \$300,000) in savings for Biggs, but it was limited to 24 months. Biggs had been exploring all options in an environment of constrained general fund tax revenues. Both city councils recognized benefits of continuing the partnership if it could be made affordable.



Who Is Planting All Those trees?

Biggs Community Action Volunteers (BCAV) has been busy planting new trees downtown. It will take a few years but these trees are expected to bring beauty to downtown without creating a mess. Thank you to Waste Management for the donation of the trees. BCAV is also preparing to construct bench surrounds for these tree planters. City crews helped on the downtown project and have been planting trees in landscape areas throughout town. Many of these trees are replacing others that fell victim to past storms or disease. Most of the tree planting was also helped by teamwork from school classes. From third grade up to the Biggs Community Day, many local youth have helped beautify Biggs.



Protect your kiddo's



Swimming pools – large or small, in-ground or above-ground -- must be fenced so that young children in the neighborhood are not attracted to wander in. City code allows placing a pool within a completely enclosed back yard, or a 48" high fence immediately around a pool. Any small kiddie pools left in a front yard are in violation and should be emptied on a daily basis.

YOUR COUNCIL:

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Good Clean Water



Included with this newsletter is the city's annual drinking water quality report. Required by the state, the report details many minerals and other constituents that are typically found in fresh drinking water, and shows the tested composition of water in Biggs. We are pleased to report that water pressures are almost double what they were a few years ago, service is reliable now, and the quality meets all of California's strict standards for drinking water.

Battery Drop-off Made Easy

In partnership with Waste Management, the City of Biggs is now offering a convenient, environmentally responsible and free way to dispose of batteries. Drop-in receptacles especially designed for all common household batteries and cell phone batteries are now available at city hall and at the Biggs post office. Just drop off your batteries in the collection container, as you would an empty beverage can, and the city will get them recycled for you. Please put tape over the battery terminals to avoid leakage or fires.

The City Council initiated this service as part of its ongoing commitment to provide convenient ways for people to divert waste material -- especially hazardous waste -- from the County landfill.



You've Got Options

You can now choose to pay your utility bills by credit card, debit card, or E-check, and you can do so at the city customer service window, at home, or by phone from anyplace. The online and phone options are available to you 24/7, every day of the month, whether your bill is current or late. There is a \$4.95 charge per transaction for using these options, collected by the third party vendor that provides the service to the city. Of course, the city still accepts personal check and cash payments with no transaction fees.

How Can I Get a Rebate?

Yes, Biggs still offers rebates for energy efficiency upgrades you make to your home, business and appliances. Check the city website (www.biggs-ca.gov) or call Marlee at City Hall: 868-5493.



City Wraps up Sidewalk Project



On time and within budget, the City Public Works crew is completing its 18-month sidewalk replacement project. After citizen volunteers helped determine where the worst sidewalks were located, the city got to work removing the lifted and cracked concrete, cutting out big old roots, and pouring nice new sidewalks. We replaced 2300 square feet of damaged sidewalk, making Biggs a safer and more attractive place to take a walk. Our next project: replacing worn out gutter valleys.

Water Rates Changing

City water rates are being adjusted for the first time in five years. You will see the change in this month's bill. Flat rate customers will be paying more, \$55.00 per month compared to the previous \$46.10. Metered customers will be paying a higher base fee but will be allowed much more "monthly allotment" usage before overage charges kick in; most metered customers are expected to see bills of about \$55/mo most of the time, which will be a cost reduction for many customers.

The new rate structure is intended to make the cost share more equitable among customers while fully covering the city's cost of providing the service.



Electric Rates Remain Stable

Biggs customers have not seen an increase in electric rates since July 2008. We are proud to be providing reliable power and maintaining a safe system consistently within budget. This is a notable achievement in a very challenging period for the energy industry, and a tremendous benefit to our customers struggling through this troublesome economy.

As demonstrated in a recent survey analysis by the Northern California Power Association, Biggs electric rates are comparable to other public utilities and are now below those of PG&E for residential, commercial and industrial customers.

Understanding the Label on Your Electricity

Like a food can label, the State-required annual "Power Content Label" included with this newsletter is intended to explain how much of your electricity comes from "renewable" sources. Over 10% of our power is from a geothermal steam turbine project we partially own in Lake County. Including hydro-electric power from dams like Shasta, Biggs' power is more than 52% renewable – a very high score! California recently set a standard of 20% now and 33% by 2020, but this state doesn't count power from large hydro-electric dams as renewable. Thus, according to the state's current formula, Biggs is at 12%. This is still better than the average of all utilities in this state. In buying power and investing in new energy projects, low cost for our customers is our first priority, balanced by our interest in renewable sources where it makes economic sense.

POWER CONTENT LABEL		
ENERGY RESOURCES	Biggs 2010 Fuel Mix % of Load	"Total CA ** System Power" (for comparison)
Eligible Renewable	12.1%	11%
-- Biomass & waste	0.0%	2.1%
-- Geothermal	11.5%	4.5%
-- Small hydroelectric	0.6%	1.4%
-- Solar	0.0%	0.24%
-- Wind	0.0%	2.4%
Coal	0.0%	18%
Large hydroelectric	40.6%	11%
Natural Gas	0.0%	46%
Nuclear	0.0%	14%
Other	0.0%	
Unspecified	47.3%	
Annual Total	100.0%	100%
<p>** Percentages are based on the California Total System Power</p> <p>For specific information about this electricity product, contact City of Biggs at 530-868-5493.</p> <p>For general information about Power Content Labels, contact the California Energy Commission at 1-800-555-7794 or www.energy.ca.gov/consumer.</p>		

CITY OF BIGGS

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 Biggs CA 95917
 Phone: 530-868-5493

Opportunity Drawing Fundraiser for July 4th

Biggs Hometown Celebration Committee will be offering tickets for an opportunity drawing for one of two shot guns. A Remington 870 Magnum or a Ruger 10/20 Shotgun. The tickets are available from members of the committee or will be sold at all of our up-coming events. The cost is \$5.00 each. First ticket drawn will receive their choice of the two and the second ticket drawn will receive the other.



City of Biggs 9th Annual
 All-American
 Hometown Celebration

**4TH OF JULY EVENT SCHEDULE**

7:00 am ~ Biggs Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
 at the Biggs Community Hall

8:00 am ~ Vendor Booths Open

10:00 am ~ Parade down historical "B" Street followed
 immediately by live DJ music and entertainment in Cork Oak Park

at 11:00 am along with the vendors, great food,
 and the Biggs Pool open free all day

~ FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY ~

7:00 pm ~ Evening begins with

live music by local Biggs band Resonate Sounds,

Shotgun/rifle drawing, a drawing for more great gifts, special guests and an
 end to a perfect day ...

FIREWORKS!!!

(Tax Deductible Donations welcomed at the gate and all year long!)

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

COMMUNITY CORNER

Schohr Pool is open M-F 1:00 to 5:00 and 6:00 to 8:00, SAT 1:00-6:00, Sun by appointment. New this year: **Adult only swim**
 Wed & Fri 8:00 to 9:00 pm. Call 868-1281x257 for more information.

Schohr Pool **SWIM LESSONS**: July 25th-28th and Aug 1st-4th. Call 868-1281x257 for more information.

A new "Community Activity Center" is opening at the First Baptist Church at 2935 6th Street featuring sports, fitness, and family fun. Call 868-5864 for info.