



# CITY OF BIGGS

465 C STREET  
P.O. BOX 307  
BIGGS, CALIFORNIA 95917  
WWW.BIGGS-CA.GOV  
(530) 868-5493

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

### City Council

Nathan E. Wilkinson, Mayor  
James "Bo" Sheppard, Vice Mayor

### Council Members:

Brian Bassett  
Roger Frith  
Angela Thompson



**From the Mayor:** We know this time of year is busy for everyone around our community with the school year wrapping up, lots of work in the fields and orchards and great community events taking place. We too at the City of Biggs have been busy trying to make our community a little better. We break ground on the expansion of the Waste Water Treatment Plant as soon as weather permits, improving the process to bring the City into compliance with regulations.

We are working with local and regional developers to create more housing in Biggs, and several projects are already underway. We will be performing some much-needed updates to the current Council Chambers. As a way to save money, the City Council and City Staff will be doing a majority of the work and we would love to have volunteers join us at a date to be announced very soon. Please feel free to join us on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM, for our regularly scheduled council meetings. Lastly, congratulations to our BHS graduating senior class, proud of our Wolverines! Mayor, Nathan E. Wilkinson.

**Smoke Testing of Sewer System:** The City will be smoke testing the sewer collection system during the month of June 2019. **Estimated to be June 6.**

Smoke Testing part of an effort to reduce rainwater and ground water infiltrating the sewer system. The smoke will be blown into sewer mains and will escape through sewer pipe cracks, breaks and uncapped clean-outs. Workers will identify those issues for future corrective actions. Smoke may also be seen coming from plumbing vent pipes.

The Smoke is harmless and non-toxic. Smoke may come out of pipes or drains in houses with broken or improper plumbing, or due to dry drain traps. If broken or improper plumbing is the issue, then we suggest you contact a plumber to fix the problem as soon as possible because if the smoke gets in your house, then potentially toxic or dangerous sewer gases could also enter the house.

During the smoke tests work crews will be in the streets accessing areas of the sewer collection system. Questions should be directed to the Public Works Superintendent: Paul Pratt, 530-868-1396, [paul@biggs-ca.gov](mailto:paul@biggs-ca.gov)

**New City Web Site:** Watch for a new City of Biggs web site to launch in late June! The current web site was created about 10 years ago and is based upon a now outdated editing platform. The new web site contains large amounts of information updates, is easier to use, more legible and will be easier and less costly to update and maintain. [www.Biggs-Ca.gov](http://www.Biggs-Ca.gov)

**New City Financial Accounting and Utility Billing Software:** Transition work has begun to update to a new, modern, more functional financial accounting and utility billing system. You'll see a

new statement in early 2020 with online access to account balance, electronic delivery options for monthly statements and reminders, auto pay functions, and many other improvements.

**Mosquitos:** Contact Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District with any mosquito issues. If you need to report un-maintained pools or ponds, or would like your property inspected for mosquitoes, you can go to the online service request form or you can call the district office at **(530) 533-6038** Please provide the following:

- Name, address, closest cross street and daytime phone number
- Time of day you were bitten (morning, afternoon, evening)
- Were you bitten inside or outside?

You do not need to be home in order to have your property inspected or treated for mosquitoes.

[www.bcmvcd.com](http://www.bcmvcd.com)

**Sewer FOG (Fat, Oil, Grease):** What is F.O.G. and why should you care? Nearly 50% of all sewage overflows nationwide are caused by homeowners and business owners who improperly dispose of F.O.G. - everyday fats, oils, and grease.

**Common F.O.G. sources include:**

- Oil from cooked meats and fish
- Gravies, sauces, and soups
- Cooking oil, butter, shortening, lard, and margarine
- Milk, cream, sour cream, and mayonnaise
- Food scraps

F.O.G. products poured into the drain, through the dishwasher or the garbage disposal will harden and cause sewer clogs-like this one! Hot water or a dishwasher might melt the grease and push it further down the drain. But it will only solidify again once it cools. Chemicals that claim to dissolve grease will only temporarily push the grease down the line, affecting neighboring lines.



No one wants the heavy cost and mess of sewer backups! Clogged sewer pipes will eventually cause sewer backups in your home and neighborhood. Clogged sewer pipes can also release sewage into waterways, harming the environment.

**Here's how to protect your sewer from F.O.G. buildup:**

1. Scrape and wipe first. Take a paper towel to all pots, pans and dishes with heavy grease buildup before washing—grease enters the sewer through the dishwasher too! The towel can also be composted with your food scraps.
2. Avoid use of in-sink garbage disposals. All food that goes into your garbage disposal (including greasy scraps) goes straight to your pipes. Use a sink strainer to trap food waste before it enters the drain. Be **EXTREMELY CAREFUL** what you allow down your garbage disposal - if oily or greasy food solids, compost instead.
3. For proper disposal. Cool excess grease, pour into a container like a coffee can or food jar, cover, and place in the trash.