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At the community bbq in July, some of our council members were asking residents here in Brush to do a quick survey on what they thought about the current conditions in town. We gained some valuable insight from local citizens; thank you for all those who participated! We would like to get even more feedback from those who weren't able to give it then, so please fill out the four question survey in your newsletter packet so we can get an even greater understanding of the thoughts and needs the community has. Just drop it off at city hall the next time you are headed in that direction. We look forward to hearing from you!

Brush! UP

NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF BRUSH! COLORADO OCTOBER 2012

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Downtown is Done!... Now what?

With the Downtown Streetscape Project completed, and having a much more visually appealing downtown to show for it, the community is now giving a big sigh of relief. Many have no doubt breathed an exasperated, "Finally!" It has been a challenging few years along Edison and Clayton; the three phases of the project have certainly impacted businesses and citizens. But you made it! Here we are with the city's center stage set before us to do what all the work was intended for: revitalize downtown! The new streets, new sidewalks, new landscaping wasn't just to give Brush a make over; it was to prepare the way for economic development, community enhancement, a greater city than before!

The next time you are downtown, take a good look at our streets and sidewalks. They look good! Then, lift your eyes about 5 feet and look around. What will you be looking at? Local businesses. Places where men and women from our own neighborhoods unlock a storefront door in the morning and put it all on the line to offer something to the community, and try to make a living while doing it. Whether it's a haircut, a cheese steak, an insurance policy, or a movie on the big screen, they are doing something they believe in and are passionate about. And they rely on the proud residents of Morgan County to keep it going.

As your eyes continue to sweep across the buildings, you'll see vacant storefronts, empty windows, and doors that have been closed for too long. Some might see that as signs of failure, but some will see that as opportunity! Envision that window becoming a beautiful invitation to customers for your business, and the door that is closed now is a door that people could be walking through to spend money on your service or product.



before construction



during construction

*what does it look like now?
come downtown and
check it out!*

To most, having their own business is something far outside the goals and dreams they have in life. It's too risky, too much investment, and too much pressure. But to some it is an adventure that calls out to be lived. Yes the fearful 'what if's' line the trail, but the possibilities of the reward outweighs them all. The entrepreneur spirit stirs the waters in some hearts to consider running in a new direction with an idea, a dream, a passion!

If starting your own business is something you have considered, or would like to consider, now is ...*continued on page 3*

New Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade is Complete!



In 1997, the US EPA published nutrient removal guidelines for the States to implement in their waste water discharge permitting programs, specifically nitrogen and phosphorus. The State of Colorado did target some watersheds in their program, but there were not any statewide standards. City staff was beginning to see a concern and recognized it was time to plan ahead.

In 2004, the City started assessing what would be required of the new standards and how to comply with the future limitations. Internally, the City first evaluated its current treatment process and its ability to meet future nutrient standards. Unfortunately, it was one that had the least ability to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from the waste stream. Second, staff reviewed the option of additional treatment in conjunction with the current facility, and determined too many of the structures had fatigue and it would not be cost effective to salvage portions of the existing facility. Finally, given the initial cost estimations of using a new treatment process, the City started long range financial planning.

The City contracted with Integra Engineering to conduct a preliminary engineering study, which reviewed: past facility loadings, population growth rates, treatment processes that will meet the new standards, the cost of each of the treatment processes, and the potential impact on ratepayers. The City then hired Stantec Consulting to design the selected facility, which is called Biological Nutrient Removal. Stantec also assisted the City in finding affordable funding. In July of 2010, the design was complete and the City went out for construction bids, and awarded Moltz Construction the contract. Construction commenced in November of 2010 and continued until September of 2012. Because of the nature of the design, future expansion can occur in stages for a very modest cost, providing a strong component to the City's future economic development.



The process not only consists of the standard trash removal and settling processes, but also has several constructed biological environments where selected microorganisms will convert ammonia into nitrate, and some will use the nitrate as an oxygen source, releasing the nitrogen as a gas into the atmosphere. Other microorganisms will uptake phosphorus into their cells as stored future energy. As the facility harvests the microorganisms as "biosolids", the phosphorus will be utilized as fertilizer on a farm field. The water being discharged to the river is a low-level nutrient return that should meet future standards for years to come.



The water that leaves the plant and goes into the natural environment had come into the facility in the sewer drain only about 12 hours earlier

It is also important for customers to consider what they choose to send down the drain. Know that at the end of the sewer pipe, at the treatment plant, there is a biological component. It is an active, living community. If you don't think it would be good for your pets, then don't flush it down the drain. Dumps can upset the treatment process. This includes medications (use DEA take back programs), paint/paint thinners, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil or gasoline, chemical/hazardous wastes, fats-oils-greases, mercury, or just trash in general, just to name a few. Some people think it's okay to use their drains as a trash can; but remember – we all live downstream of someone.

by **DALE COLERICK**
director of utilities & public works



Continued from pg 1... a great time to take it to the next step. Count this as a call to action! You might have a desire to step out and do it, but don't know how to execute it, or maybe you have a rough game plan but you need to further develop it; the resources to help you are closer than you think. Colorado has put something in place for someone just like you. The Small Business Development Center is a state provided program 'dedicated to helping small businesses throughout Colorado achieve their goals by providing free, confidential counseling and various training programs.' They will help you develop or rethink your business plan if you are just beginning or possibly looking like you might need to close the doors. Their phone number is (970) 542-3263, or go to coloradosbdc.org to find out more info. The City of Brush! also offers possible incentives as you get your business started. Just stop by city hall and talk to us about your plans.

We have a new, attractive downtown that we want to be the highlight and draw for the City of Brush! But to make that happen, we need two things: 1. to fill it with more exciting businesses; 2. people to shop down there. One won't succeed without the other, so spread the word be excited about what's ahead, and let's join together and make this local economy soar!

by TYLER PURVIS
marketing specialist

Help Your Child Succeed in School

by JENNIFER KRAL
principal of beaver valley elementary

It's a fact, an active parent involved in their child's education has a profound effect on their performance in school. One way parents can actively be involved in their child's education specifically in Brush is to access the Infinite Campus parent portal. To do this, obtain the paperwork from building secretaries and they will help you get started. Accessing the parent portal allows parents to stay informed of their child's attendance rates, grades, and assignments. It allows one to also quickly communicate with their child's teacher(s) as well.

Another way parents can help their children succeed in school is to get involved. This could be mean volunteering in the classroom, serving on a school's advisory council where they give input into the logistics of the school, or participating in parent teacher conferences.



In addition to getting involved at school, parents can positively help their child succeed in school by supporting them at home. Here are a few simple steps parents can take at home. Prevent cyber bullying by promoting online safety expectations; model respect for self, child, and others at home—reinforce it by positively recognizing your child when they display the expected behaviors; assign chores to help teach your child about responsibility; read with your child 20 minutes a day and ask them comprehension questions; practice math facts 15 minutes a day; while you eat meals together, ask your child questions about the school day; and reinforce bedtimes and eating healthy.

Students should be challenged at school. Support your child by letting them know you believe in them and that they can do it. Remind them of other challenging tasks they have overcome and now find easy. If necessary, break difficult tasks into smaller pieces and set goals with your child. Take time to reflect on where they started and talk about the journey. Lastly celebrate their success while reinforcing the lesson of effort and not giving up.

Often times when presenting new material, teachers will use the concept "I do, we do, you do". This can work at home to. For example, as parents teach responsibility and assign chores to their children, they can model what is expected, work side by side with their child, and then allow them to do the chore independently while the parent observes and provides feedback. Reinforce that a child complete the chore all the way to the end. This helps supports them in the classroom when they have to finish assignments and larger projects.

Lastly parents can model reading at home. Great readers make great leaders. A parent's positive attitude on reading and being lifelong learners carries over into the classroom. Having materials available at home for child to access is a start. The materials can be of a variety—magazines, newspapers, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, how-to manuals, and even food labels. When was the last time you took time to read, shared something you read with your child, or asked them about something they read.

These are only a few of the many things parents can do at home to help impact their child's success in school. For more ideas, search the Internet or visit with your child's teacher.

Are you still hopping in the car to go over to City Hall to pay your utility bill? Go online and get it taken care of. We have a FREE online bill pay right on brushcolo.com.



Just click the water spout/cup icon, set up your quick registration, and you are good to go!

Storm Water Fee

City Council passed a resolution on September 9th to increase the storm water fees by three cents per linear foot in order to keep up with the cost to improve and maintain quality water drainage. The average for our residential properties is a front footage of 50', which in those cases, would be an increase of \$1.50 per month. Over the last four years, the City has taken small steps to generate revenue to address the storm drainage issues around town, the last increase being in 2010.



It's Not Easy Being Green



Throughout the warm... well, HOT summer we've had, the heat certainly made having beautiful lawns a little more of a challenge. Anyone who's ever had a yard to tend to knows that what you want to grow requires work, what you don't want to grow, comes whether

you like it or not! But as citizens of Brush we are responsible for helping it look nice. We have to take care of our property, how it looks, and how it affects those around us. Over the past few hot months, the Police Department issued 133 warnings for trees and 178 warnings for weeds. Take pride in your yard and making it look good. Pulling those weeds and trimming those trees can certainly be a hassle, but it feels great and looks better when we get it done.

Gathering Leaves by Robert Frost

Spades take up leaves no better than spoons,
 And bags full of leaves are light as balloons.
 I make a great noise of rustling all day
 Like rabbit and deer running away.
 But the mountains I raise elude my embrace,
 Flowing over my arms and into my face.
 I may load and unload again and again
 Till I fill the whole shed, and what have I then?
 Next to nothing for weight, and since they grew duller
 From contact with earth, next to nothing for color.
 Next to nothing for use. But a crop is a crop,
 And who's to say where the harvest shall stop?

Its about that time of year again to pull out the blower and rake. Just remember that the gutter is not an acceptable place for your leaves.

Don't forget to check out the latest info and updates here in Brush! by dropping in on the city's website: www.brushcolo.com



Brush!

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