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Brush! UP

NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF BRUSH! COLORADO

July 2014

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Bicycles Are Coming Through Town!

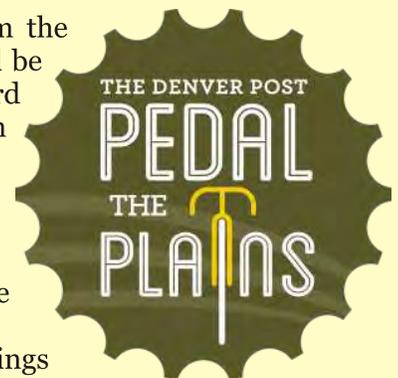
Last month, the announcement came from the Governor that the 2014 Pedal the Plains event will be passing through Brush! Twice to be exact! The third annual Pedal the Plains Bicycle tour, which highlights the beautiful wide open space, charming towns and great people in eastern Colorado, will take place September 19-21. Although Brush! is not an official host community, we have a big

part to play in the event, and will certainly be able to showcase ourselves to those who are a part of the event.

Wiggins will start things off the eve and morning of day one before the riders take Highway 144 along the South Platte River north and east. Fort Morgan, coinciding with the Car Show, will host that night and send off the riders as the sun comes up. They will pass through Brush! on their way up Highway 71 and over to Sterling, where they will be during Sugar Beet Days. The final day will be on Highway 6 back down to Brush!, then some County Roads back to Wiggins to finish out the tour.

Part of the experience for riders is the ability to stop and see what eastern Colorado has to offer. Over the past two years, many communities have set up booths, tours, and entertainment in addition to the basic needs of the event to make the tour all the more exciting for the riders. All the

communities in Morgan County will be working together over the next few months to make this a memorable time for all those who will be a part of the Pedal to Plains festivities.



★ WE HAVE A FULL LINEUP TO CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY ★

6am
Lions Club
Pancake
Breakfast
@ Library Park

7AM-1PM
QUILT SHOW
& BOOK
SALE
@ LIBRARY

10am
4th of
JULY
Parade

11³⁰AM
WATER
FIGHT
LIBRARY PARK

11-5
Museum
Open
House

60 years
7pm
Brush!
FIREWORKS
Fireworks after!

JULY 15-19 Parks & Rec week



All-America City Winner!

Brush! was chosen for the second consecutive year as an All-America City finalist, and this year, Brush! won the official designation of an All-America City! The National Civic League has conducted an annual competition for 65 years where communities throughout the nation can showcase their civic accomplishments and ten of them are recognized as an All-America City. This year the focus was on Healthy Communities, which is very relevant to much of what we have done here over the past couple years.

Throughout the past six months we have been in preparation for the event. We had a committee in the initial brainstorming, planning, writing the application, as well as the framework for the presentation. June 13-15 we met in downtown Denver with representatives from twenty-two other cities met us there for the competition. We had a delegation made up of 32 individuals who presented our community to a group of 14 judges in front of a large audience, as well as a handful of locals who came to cheer us on. Our presentation included our 'Can-do' attitude (exclamation point), Colorado Mission of Mercy (COMOM) event, OneMorgan County, HEAL City initiative, Weigh & Win participation, Hospital Expansion, 4-H and youth ... *continued on pg 3*

City Purchases Old Feedlot

The City recently purchased the English Feedlot on Highway 71, north of town. The property is approximately 140 acres and comes with water shares, which was one of the main reasons for the purchase. The property is also being considered as a location for bio-solid land application as well as future industrial development. One of high priorities



of City Council is continual economic development, which the property could be prime for because of the location and access to water and sewer.



from pg 2... engagement. We had a great time there, and Sunday night was the award presentations, where each of the winning communities were announced. The 3rd judge got and began speaking about our accomplishments, then declared, "Brush! All-America City!"

Brush! is a fantastic community and this award is simply making that known. So a final and grand thank you to our community members who strive to make Brush! the wonderful place that it is. We as a community will be showcasing and celebrating this wonderful accomplishment in different ways, so be on the lookout for news and information as it becomes available through our City website, City facebook and twitter pages, newspaper, Chamber of Commerce, and our local citizens who pass it on.

Our sponsors included: Colorado Energy Management, NV5, East Morgan County Hospital, Sunset Manor, Brush Grocery Kart, Brush Lions Club, American Legion, Rotary Club, and Brush Family Dentistry. Thank you for helping us be there!

November 2014 City Ballot Issue

Brush City Council is considering a ballot issue that would provide funding for equipment, safety, and apparatus consistent with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for the Brush Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD). The BVFD last approached the community for tax based assistance 33 years ago when the Fire Department building was built in Dec of 1981 from the 1980 mill levy/bond ballot issue. The bond was paid in full and no more mill levy money has been collected. The upcoming ballot question will propose a Sales Tax Increase of \$0.004% or \$.04 on \$10.00. Those funds would only be allocated for what will be stated on the ballot, which is large building expenses, replacing equipment, gear and apparatus. The current funding for the BVFD is based on one mill of property tax, which is approximately \$40,000 per year that is used for truck replacement, major equipment replacement, personal protective equipment, building maintenance and



improvements and any single purchase over \$5,000.

Upcoming City Projects

Over the next few months you will be seeing work crew scattered across town working on various projects. Here is what they will be tackling:

- A drinking fountain at the new dog park (south of Doty Pond)
- Xeriscape at Doty Pond
- Building new skatepark (Pioneer Park)
- Final Phase of downtown storm water project (beginning on Eaton St, going east past Curtis St to storm water pond, which will also be created)
- Williams Street drainage project (north of Cotton Street)
- Various street preservation projects
- A restroom with plumbing at Watrous Park
- Milling and patching portions of 300-500 blocks of Edison Street
- Milling and re-laying Colorado Ave from I-76 to Mill Street (CDOT)



Flooding in Town

Recent heavy rain and hail caused significant flooding across the County. Whenever there is weather such as we had, the hail and foliage will naturally become an issue slowing down the storm water system as it can cause blockage and quickly back up the drainage. Our crews are limited, but dedicated in their capacity to resolve the issues across town. A reminder that the City has no control over the weather and can only respond using the resources we have, and as long as lightning continues in the storm, our workers will not be putting themselves at risk. Our citizens are welcome to assist the drainage issues by removing foliage from their yards and sidewalks, and even from the streets to prevent them from being carried to our drains and plugging them up. Thank you for your efforts of community partnership as we work together to overcome challenges such as these.

Cats Around Town

During recent City Council meetings, discussions included feral cats around town. The concern of too many feral cats was presented by a Council member. A feral cat is basically a cat that is not domesticated; whether once social with people and possibly even a pet at one point, or a descendent of such a cat; but now has grown accustomed to being 'wild.' This is different from a stray which no longer has a home, but is still generally social with people. Our police department only catches about eight feral cats per year. Although there doesn't appear to be a large concern, if any citizen is having problem with stray or feral cats, they can obtain a cat trap from the city with a \$50 dollar deposit.



The traps must be set Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., since you cannot turn animals into the police department nights or weekends. Once turned in, the cat must be kept by the department for 72 hours. Brush doesn't have a humane society that can take in feral cats, and it costs the department \$17 to euthanize the animals.

Upcoming Events

- July 2-4:** 60th Annual Brush! Rodeo
- July 4:** Fourth of July parade & events
- July 10-14:** Cal Ripken Baseball Tournament
- July 15-19:** Parks & recreation Week
- July 17-21:** D Legion State Tournament
- July 22:** Customer Appreciation BBQ-Library Park
- July 30-Aug 6:** 4H Junior County Fair
- Aug 23:** Demolition Derby



Don't forget about the wonderful summer reading program put on at the library, as well as the Sack Lunch Program on the first Friday of each month.



City Council Members

Mayor Chuck Schonberger	370-1666
<u>Councilors Ward I</u>	
Rick Bain	842-2496
Mark Smith	768-5856
<u>Councilors Ward II</u>	
Kimberly Dykes	380-0593
Vicky Quinlin	380-2279
<u>Councilors Ward III</u>	
Heath Becker	467-0028
Jeanine Anderson	842-9907

City Staff 842-5001

Monty Torres	City Administrator
Karen Schminke	Assistant Administrator
Andrea Strand	City Clerk
Joanne Gosselink	Director of Finance
Lance Schwindt	Director of Parks & Rec
Dale Colerick	Director of Utilities & Public Works
Mark Thomas	Police Chief
Tyler Purvis	Marketing Specialist
Loranda Packard	Human Resources
Melissa White	Court Clerk
Deanna Schwindt	Deputy City Clerk/ Utilities
Jennifer Vondy	Utility Billing
Tadd Anderson	Fire Chief