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## Message from the Mayor

In many ways last year was the busiest I have seen in the 4 years I've been on council. Among the events and activities that encompassed the year, we saw the Love's project complete, and a great traffic flow since they opened; they brought 20-30 new jobs and a stream of increased sales tax revenue that will help our community. The ambulance building on Hospital Road is now open and providing urgent care from a nice new facility. Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center is going through a major construction project (Phase 1) to improve their facility to provide care for our community. They have been an anchor in Brush! for over 100 years, been a major employer as well as a great community partner. This new renovation and expansion will help them continue their excellent mission. We had several homes completed last year, and council has approved keeping incentives in place this year to encourage building. As we all know the housing market for owning or renting continues to be very tight not only for our area but the entire state.

In the pipeline are some additional projects that have begun to take flight:

- Council approved a hotel feasibility study to determine if the city could support another hotel. This study will be completed soon.
- Council approved the annexation of the English feedlot in hopes of attracting commercial and industrial business growth in the future. Infrastructure improvements will soon be starting.
- Council has approved moving forward with developing the 2nd quiet zone for the Hospital Road crossing.
- We received funding to help the development of a Recreation Master Plan.
- We should begin to see a new look for our firehouse soon, as construction will start on expanding our bays and making other improvements.



In the past year, it has been encouraging to see more teamwork involved in looking for solutions to some of our community challenges. I want to thank the representatives of the Brush Area Chamber of Commerce, East Morgan County Hospital, Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center, the Brush School District, the City, the East Morgan County Library District, and Morgan County Economic Development Corporation all working together at our Partnership for Progress meetings to tackle some of these issues. I think we are stronger when we can collaborate together to find solutions.

Finally I want to say that over the last 4 years I have met a lot of people in our community, and many that I slightly knew that I now know better, and I have realized that we really are a community rich with people who are willing to drop what they're doing to help each other out, and donate their time to so many worthy causes. While we may not be a community of great financial resources we certainly are a community of great human resources. I have always admired the fact that this community knows how to pull together. It is for that reason that I am truly honored and humbled to serve as your Mayor. My wife Marguerite and I would like to extend our appreciation for the encouraging support you all have been giving.

- Mayor Rick Bain

# Building Permit for Project

Beyond baseball, birds chirping and flowers growing, spring time often means getting to those bigger projects around the house. So whether it's putting in those new windows, knocking out that wall, installing a sprinkler system, putting up a



fence, or other major work, this is a reminder to come by City Hall and get a building permit before the work begins. We want to ensure things are done safely, and in

accordance with the guidelines our community has, as declared in the City Code.

Cosmetic improvements like repainting, hanging wallpaper, and new carpets or tile don't require a permit, but anything more than that will likely require a permit. Permit fees largely depend on the total value of the project (labor and materials), but some smaller projects are charged just a flat fee of \$25 plus tax. You can stop in City Hall, or jump onto our website under the Community Development page to see the entire fee structure. The time necessary to process and issue a permit will vary, depending on the project; some can be issued on a walk-in basis, while others that are more complex will require additional time. In preparation for a permit, identify the entire scope of work to be done and estimate the cost of the materials you will need. More complex projects will also need construction drawings and a siteplan. While you are planning your project, feel free to call Karen at City Hall with any questions you may have; she is a great resource to provide the guidance you may need to get your project started!

# Spring Cleanup Week

Yes, it's that time of year to take a fresh breath of crisp warm air and clear things out that have cluttered up through the winter with a good spring cleaning. The City will once again assist because we like it when our citizens take pride in keeping things clean and looking good, and we too want Brush! crisp and tidy.



April 30-May 4, the City will be doing our Spring Clean-up where our trash department will collect those items that you can't normally put out. A few rules still do apply:

- *No oil, tires, batteries, hazardous materials, or Freon appliances.*
- *Electronics stacked separately.*
- *If you want to dispose of a tube-type TV, we will split the cost of disposal at the landfill with you. You pay \$15 per TV. Come by City Hall to pay first, and we will have it picked up (still place it by your trash, separately).*
- *Any sticks must be bundled together, be no more than 4 feet long and 1 inch in diameter.*
- *The extra trash needs to be piled neatly and orderly next to the polykarts to make it easy to collect.*

**The pickup for these special items will only be on your regularly scheduled trash-pickup day; if it is set out after your regular day there will be a fee charged to pick it up. So please plan accordingly.**

The same week in the parking lot across the street from the City garage (next to the Post Office), you can drop off your tree branches for disposal. City employees will be there to collect tree branches for disposal.

# Parks & Recreation

**April 13** Downtown Spring Clean Up  
**April 30-May 4** City Spring Clean Up Week  
**May 24** Museum Opens for season  
**May 27** Swimming Pool opens  
**June 15-17** Summer Sizzler Tournament  
**June 23** Brush Rush 5k

**June 30-July 1** Brad Amack Softball Tournament  
**July 2-4** 64th Annual Brush! Rodeo  
**July 16-20** Parks & Rec Week  
**July 21** Disc Golf Tournament  
**July 24** Community Appreciation BBQ  
**July 28-Aug 3** Morgan County Junior 4-H Fair

For more info contact the Parks & Rec office @ 842-5280 or the Chamber of Commerce @ 842-2666



# Water Bill Increase

In accordance with a resolution that City Council adopted in 2016 to keep up with the necessary aspects and costs of providing water, the third of four increases over the span of four years just took place. So those who are served with water from the City of Brush! will see that increase on their current water bill. Those increases are determined and adjusted by the annual Denver-Boulder-Greeley CPI (Consumer Price Index), which is a measurement of the change in the cost to provide services for day-to-day living. The next increase will take place in 2019.

# Feral Cats in Brush!

A note from the Animal Control Corner of Brush!:

I would like to take just a few minutes to touch base on a subject that has sparked some interest. I started in Brush! almost 5 years ago (time does fly when you enjoy your job!). I previously worked for the Fort Morgan Shelter, and came to know feral cats were in both communities. However, I did not know how much



of an issue it was until I started picking up feral cats by the dozen. In the first year I was working in Brush!, I picked up 43 cats in 2014, just in 6 months. 2015 I picked up 140. In 2016 I caught another 113 and in 2017, 99. That is a total of 395 cats!

Feral cats are born in the outdoors and have little or no contact with humans. They normally hunt mice for food, run free and live wherever they feel comfortable. We as people come to often feel sorry for them and want to “help” them by providing some food. There is a problem with this. I have been in the animal world for 30 years, and I feel compassion for them the same way; but feeding the feral cats only causes more problems than we want to see. First, when you feed a feral cat, it no longer wants to hunt for food. The cat will stay where it is being fed, and make that it’s new home. It will eventually bring other feral cats to that area, creating the opportunity for a breeding ground. A feral female will have her ... *(continued on pg 4)*

# The Course Improvements

We have some more exciting things taking place over at The Course at Petteys Park! Since the middle of January, the doors at The Course have been closed so that some major upgrades can be done. We are in the process of getting new paint and carpet on the inside of the facility, upgrades in the bar area, a new sound system both inside and outside, and new lighting inside and outside. On the exterior, stucco and rock will be added, as well as new doors, and the installation of an ADA ramp and handicapped parking. In addition, the entire dirt parking lot is being paved with cement!



The current improvements at The Course, along with much of what we've been able to do there since the City took ownership in 2015, has been because of the generous support and donations of the local Joslin/Needham and Jack Petteys Foundations, who have done tremendous things throughout the

Brush! community through the years, helping bring many of the successes we have enjoyed to fruition. Buildings By Design is also demonstrating their philanthropic heart for their home town of Brush! by committing \$50,000 in donations to the current improvements at The Course. The completion of the project should be soon. The overall warmer weather we've experienced has helped the project move along without much delay. We look forward to a grand re-opening this spring, so be on the lookout!



...(continued from pg 3) kittens as near the food as she can. A female can give birth two to five times a year, and produce up to 10 kittens with each litter. If the kittens are born in the wild, they too become feral. Most of the kittens will not make it the first six months of life because kittens born outside in the elements can become sick very easily. If a kitten is born with an upper respiratory infection, it will not survive. Many times feral moms birth still-born kittens, and their bodies are left where born. In addition, the mom feral cat is not vaccinated, so she can pass on diseases to her kittens, extending and expanding the issue. Interbreeding also become a problem after several female and males stay in the same area for food and shelter. Cats that are not cared for can become aggressive and very protected which can cause human contact to get bitten or scratched for no reason. Feral cats are nocturnal, so they roam at night. Therefore they are hit by cars more than the average house cat.

As you can see, there are a lot of challenges that come with a thriving feral cat population in a community. I have contacted many other shelters and discussed this issue with other animal control officers. I would love to see my numbers for cats drop by half, but I cannot do that without some help. You can help! We encourage you to get your cats spade and neutered to better control the cat population. If you have a feral cat issue in or around your home in Brush!, please contact me so that I can get you in contact with Leslie from Northern Colorado Friends of Feral. My goal is to rescue, and to save as many cats as I can.

- Lisa Lebsock

Code Enforcement Officer, City of Brush!

## City Employee Recognition

This past year we recognized some employees for their milestones here at the City of Brush!

Rose Rodriguez 5 yrs  
 Tyler Purvis 5 yrs  
 Randy Forsythe 10 yrs  
 Corey Hardy 10 yrs  
 Loranda Packard 10 yrs  
 Deanna Schwindt 15 yrs  
 Lance Schwindt 20 yrs  
 Dwight Anderson 30 yrs  
 Joanne Gosselink 35 yrs

Thanks for all your service to our community!



### City Council Members

Mayor Rick Bain 842-2496

#### Councilors Ward I

Dana Sherman 467-1454

Marlene Baker 842-2186

#### Councilors Ward II

Dan Scalise 842-4251

Vicky Quinlin 380-2279

#### Councilors Ward III

Heath Becker 467-0028

Jeanine Anderson 571-3986

### 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  
**Tyler Purvis** Marketing Specialist  
**Loranda Packard** Human Resources  
**Melissa White** Court Clerk  
**Deanna Schwindt** Deputy City Clerk/ Utilities  
**Jennifer Vondy** Utility Billing  
**Travis Anderson** Chief of Police  
**Tad Anderson** Fire Chief