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**2010 Census** As you are probably aware, it is time for the 2010 Census. Recently, we've put together a local committee that is working hard to share the importance of filling out your 10 question census form and mailing it back. The Bowman County "Census Complete Count Committee" includes: Lyn James, Ashley Alderson, Judy Pond, Lynn Brackel, Father David, Agnes Kitzen, Kari Ruggles from Scranton and Mandi Allerdings from Rhame.

The 2010 Census figures are used in a variety of ways including drawing legislative boundaries, deciding the number of representatives, benchmarks for businesses looking to expand into new communities and most importantly for each person not counted, your community loses nearly \$1,000 per year in state and federal funding. This funding is used for education, healthcare, senior services, public transportation, roads and social services.

Unique to Bowman County and other oil producing counties, an additional \$750 per person per year is allotted to the cities from oil and gas gross production tax funding. In total, that's \$1750 per person per year that can be lost when the form is not filled out.

There's only one chance every 10 years to make our numbers count, so please do your part and fill out your census form in Bowman County.

**Renaissance Zone Near Completion** The Bowman Renaissance Zone Steering Committee has finished their Zone Development Plan and has now chosen the 23 blocks to be included in the zone. The blocks which have to be continuous and contiguous, are located from Hwy 85 to the eastern edge of Bowman.

Once a block is determined to be complete, another block may be added. The city and steering committee hope to see the zone move west across the city as blocks become complete over the 15 year period of the zone.

The zone allows a series of property tax and state income tax exemptions for qualifying projects within the zone. Once the zone is finalized, applications will be available at Bowman City Hall.

Goals for the Bowman Renaissance Zone include;

- to update and enhance downtown infrastructure
- to eliminate parking shortages in the downtown area
- to expand retail and service opportunities and create new high quality jobs
- to increase the number of homes available for purchase and rent by rehabilitating older homes within the zone and creating lots available for new construction
- to improve the general aesthetic of high traffic areas through Bowman

For more information call the Bowman EDC: 701-523-5880.

**Water Leaks** Reflecting back on this winter, it is evident that city's problems with water leaks are still with us. This is due mainly to the age of our pipes and system, the natural corrosiveness of our soils and our winter climate. These leaks are unpredictable and usually occur in the worst weather forcing our city employees to make these repairs in the most extreme conditions. In today's economic conditions it is easy to spend over \$2,000 on repairs on a leak. To plan ahead and to build revenue for the future, the city commission has decided to increase the rates for our water and sewer services effective April 1st. These increases will be small raises but over time will accumulate and will help the city meet its challenges. The water increase will be placed in a special account for future infrastructure projects.

**Water Rates** On March 2<sup>nd</sup> the City Commission approved raising utility rates as follows:

Water: \$3.50 per thousand gallons

Sewer: \$7.00 up to 7,000 gallons and  
.40 cents per gallon there after



## Meeting Highlights



- ❖ James has completed 36 hours of Nims training which prepares leaders in the event of a disaster.
- ❖ Bowman is hosting the Southwest Regional Spring Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The meeting is conducted by the ND League of Cities and provides information to governing bodies on state and federal laws that effect local governments.
- ❖ A motion was made to hire a firm to check sewer lines with a camera. The expense would be shared with the resident who wants their sewer line checked for obstructions and the City.
- ❖ Snavley was appointed as the cities representative on the Bowman EDC board.
- ❖ In 2009 there was 4,036,023 gallons of water donated to the following: Butte View Campground, Lions Park, City Park, James Field & Softball Complexes, Rouzie Rec Center, Cemetery and the Boulevards on Hwy 12.
- ❖ Motion was made to not do private snow cleaning as there are private contractors who do this.
- ❖ Motion was made to grant permission to the school to extend the current handicap parking on the west side of the gym. This would allow for three more parking spaces.
- ❖ Motion was made to pledge \$5,000 for the next four years to the All Seasons Arena Committee for the planned addition to the south side of the current facility.
- ❖ The Bowman Fire Department request for the 2010 budgeted funds in the amount of \$39,500 was approved.
- ❖ The Bowman Golf Course request for the 2010 budgeted funds in the amount of \$40,000 was approved.
- ❖ The City will be requesting Energy Impact money for repairs on Hwy 12 & 85.
- ❖ The Street crew will begin repairs on potholes on City streets as weather permits.
- ❖ Bill Mason and Don Wallman have received a Certificate of Compliance from the State Health Department. Mason and Wallman have complied with all the requirements for the public water system.

**2010 Spring Cleanup** With the warmer weather well on its way and with the warmer temperatures things are beginning to show up in our yards that we might have put off taking to the landfill last fall. This spring, lets all make a concerted effort in taking advantage of milder temperatures and getting rid of that pile of scrap lumber, stacks of scrap metal that has lied untouched for years. How about that vehicle which has not run in years that has become a permanent fixture on your property. I know it might have sentimental value and one day you just might get around to restoring it but did you know that if this vehicle does not run or it is not currently registered you are in violation of city ordinance where fines can be as much a \$500.00 For each violation? Instead of getting a visit from the local police department, take the measures of having the vehicle removed from the property or having it stored in an enclosed building. As for items like scrap lumber, metal, appliances or general waste, make this year to be the year you get rid of it. Take advantage of the Annual City Wide Clean up week and the days when the Bowman landfill is open. Make your neighbors happy and do the city proud by doing your part in making Bowman the garden spot of this corner of the state.

**Annual City Wide Clean Up May 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting)**

Allowable items: wood, trees, iron, appliances (Freon must be pumped with sticker on it), carpet, furniture and tires. (There is a fee on tires based on size)  
Call City Hall to be placed on the pickup list: 701-523-3309

