

Annual Newsletter

CITY OF BREWSTER



Public Awareness for Weather-Related and City-Related Issues

Reminders:

Property, Weeds and Grass



It's Mowing Time! We would like to encourage everyone to maintain their yards and properties. Weeds and grass must be kept at less than 12" in height. If you have debris or trash in or around your yard, **CLEAN IT UP!**

If a violation occurs, action will be taken to correct the problem. The city will exercise the right to file a complaint until the nuisance has been corrected. A one-time notice will be served to the violator.

If you have dead trees, we ask that you remove them from your property. You are responsible for cleaning up your trees and branches if they fall or break. It is **NOT** the cities responsibility to clean up your trash and debris following a storm.

All trees and branches picked up by the city must be less than 4" in diameter, less than 50 lbs., less than 36" in length, tied and in bundles less than 18" in diameter.

Dogs



If you live in the city limits, your dog(s) must wear a collar with a current dog tag attached. Proof of a current rabies vaccination certificate must be provided when purchasing your new dog tag.

If your dog gets loose, we will notify you if we find your dog. The owner of a dog running at large without the tag shall, for the first offense, pay a fine of \$25, the second offense, \$50; the third offense, \$100. The owner will also be required to pay the boarding bill on each offense.

For the first offense of a dog running at large with a tag, the owner shall, pay a fine of \$10; the second offense, \$25; the third offense, \$50. The owner will also be required to pay the boarding bill on each offense.

Remember, Brewster does have a leash law. Keep your dog(s) on a leash!

The 2025 City Dog Tags went into effect on May 1st. Did you purchase yours?

In this newsletter you can expect:

- PROPERTY, WEEDS AND GRASS
- SIREN SIGNALS
- SEVERE WEATHER
- FAMILY DISASTER PLAN
- DOG/DOG TAGS
- ABANDONED AND INOPERABLE VEHICLES
- SEMI TRUCK/TRAILER PARKING
- 911 EMERGENCY CALLS
- TRASH
- WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT DUMPING
- WATER AND SEWER
- OPEN BURNING
- DELAPIDATED PROPERTIES
- BB GUNS
- 4 - WHEELERS/ATV'S
- BB GUNS
- BICYCLES
- CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR)
- AUTOPAY/EMAIL BILLING

SIREN SIGNALS

NOTE: Brewster recently received a new tornado siren from the Thomas County Emergency Management. It is a rotating siren and the signal may sound wavering.

TORNADO SIREN – A 3-MINUTE STEADY BLAST SERVING AS NOTICE FOR A POSTED WARNING. IN THE EVENT OF A TORNADO HEADED IN THE BREWSTER VICINITY, SIRENS WILL BE RUN CONTINUOUSLY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. Please take cover immediately! People outside the city limits may need to be contacted individually.

DURING A TORNADO WARNING, THE TORNADO SIREN MAY BE OPERATED EVERY 30 MINUTES UNTIL AN ALL CLEAR IS DETERMINED BY THE NOAA WEATHER OFFICE IN GOODLAND AND/OR THE THOMAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

TORNADO ALL CLEAR – A 5-SECOND SHORT BLAST.

FIRE SIREN – A WAVERING BLAST BEING RAMPED UP AND DOWN CONTINUOUSLY FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE CYCLES. (It is unlawful to pursue a fire department in route to a fire – please stay back and out of the way.)

WATER SERVICE DISRUPTION or REPAIRS – 2 SHORT BLASTS. Remember that city services are not guaranteed.



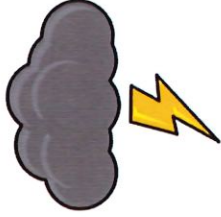
SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION

Weather is unpredictable so be prepared and stay informed with a battery powered weather radio for watches and warnings. Planning and locating shelter before the need arises should be a priority.

Radio and TV Alerts

TORNADO WATCH: Tornadoes are possible in your area.

TORNADO WARNING: A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. If a warning is given, please move to your pre-designated place of safety.



WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR TORNADO SAFETY

Before the storm:

- Develop a plan for you and your family for home, work, school and when outdoors.
- Have frequent drills.
- Know the county in which you live and keep a highway map nearby to follow storm movement from weather bulletins.
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio with a warning alarm tone and battery back-up to receive warnings.
- Listen to radio and television for information.
- When planning a trip outdoors, listen to the latest forecasts and take necessary action if threatening weather is possible.

If a warning is issued or if threatening weather approaches:

- In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.
- If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture.
- Stay away from windows.
- Get out of automobiles.
- Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car; instead, leave it immediately.
- Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes, and should be abandoned.

Family Disaster Plan

Families should be prepared for all hazards that affect their area. NOAA's National Weather Service, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the American Red Cross urge each family to develop a family disaster plan.

Where will your family be when disaster strikes? They could be anywhere - at work, at school, or in the car. How will you find each other? Will you know if your children are safe? Disasters may force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services - water, gas, electricity, or telephones are cut off?

FOLLOW THESE BASIS STEPS TO DEVELOP A FAMILY DISASTER PLAN

I. Gather information about hazards.

Contact your local National Weather Service office, emergency management or civil defense office, and American Red Cross chapter. Find out what type of disasters could occur and how you should respond. Learn your community's warning signals and evacuation plans.

II. Meet with your family to create a plan.

Discuss the information you have gathered. Pick two places to meet: a spot outside your home for an emergency, such as fire, and a place away from your neighborhood in case you cannot return home. Choose an out-of-state friend as your "family check-in contact" for everyone to call if the family gets separated. Discuss what you would do if advised to evacuate.

III. Implement your plan.

- (1) Post emergency telephone numbers by house phones and save these numbers into all family cell phones.
- (2) Install safety features in your house, such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.
- (3) Inspect your home for potential hazards (such as items that can move, fall, break, or catch fire) and correct them.
- (4) Have your family learn basic safety measures, such as CPR and first aid; how to use a fire extinguisher; and how and when to turn off water, gas, and electricity in your home.
- (5) Teach children how and when to call 911 or your local Emergency Medical Services number.
- (6) Keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days.
- (7) Assemble a disaster supplies kit with items you may need in case of an evacuation. Store these supplies in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers, such as backpacks or duffle bags.
- (8) Keep important family documents in a waterproof container. Keep a smaller disaster supplies kit in the trunk of your car.

A DISASTER SUPPLIES KIT SHOULD INCLUDE: A 3-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day) and food that won't spoil, one blanket or sleeping bag per person, emergency tools, including a battery-powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable radio, flashlight, plenty of extra batteries, and special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members.

IV. Practice and maintain your plan.

Ask questions to make sure your family remembers meeting places, phone numbers, and safety rules. Conduct drills. Test your smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries at least once a year. Test and recharge your fire extinguisher(s) according to manufacturer's instructions. Replace stored water and food every six months.

Practice and safety, it may just save your life!



Dogs/Dog Tags

All dogs over six months of age need to be registered with the City by May 1st of every year. Please call the City Office (785) 694-2205 to register your dog, if you have not already done so. Proof of a valid rabies vaccination needs to be shown to get registered.

DOGS – It is a violation to allow dogs to run at large and to harbor vicious dogs. Dogs left unattended must be penned or on a leash.

The City Superintendent/Law Enforcement official has the authority to dispose of any animal showing signs of aggression to preserve the safety of the community. If you own a dog of this nature, please remove it from the city limits as you will be held fully accountable if and when an attack occurs.

It is unlawful to allow your dog to disturb the peace. Please try to keep your dog(s) from barking excessively and bothering your neighbors.

Dog Tag Rates;

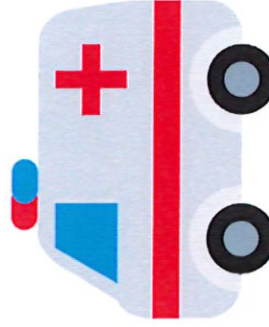
1 dog – \$5.00. If you have two dogs, the second dog – \$10.00. So, two dogs will be \$15.00 total.
3 or more dogs (Kennel) – \$30.00



Does your dog have a 2025 Dog Tag?

911 Emergency Calls

All residential and business properties need visible addresses. Numbers should be placed by the front door of your property to help Emergency Rescue Personnel find the right location.



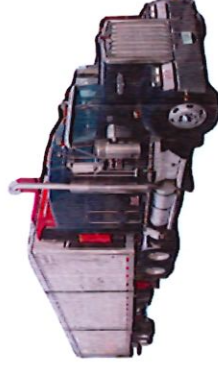
Abandoned and Inoperable Vehicles

It is unlawful for any person to have a motor vehicle that is not currently registered or tagged, parked in violation of city ordinance, incapable of moving under its own power or in a junked, wrecked, or inoperable condition. Please repair or remove these vehicles from private property. We have a 72-hour rule on parking without movement on the streets of Brewster. After 72 hours, the vehicle can be towed at the owner's expense.



Semi Truck and Trailer Parking

It is unlawful to "dolly down" trailers on any of the asphalt streets in the City of Brewster. Parking in the proper direction, according to traffic laws, should be followed.



DID YOU KNOW?

The address of the cemetery is 6550 County Road 37
Brewster, KS 67732

Trash

Trash is picked up every Tuesday morning for all residents!

Have trash in the designated pickup location by 8:30 a.m.

The city has trash containers, trash carts and trash bags for sale (see pricing below) or you may purchase your own. If you would like to purchase or rent a dumpster or purchase a container or bags, contact the City Superintendent.

The following are trash containers which attach to the trash truck and may be purchased from the city: Trash containers with 96-gallon capacity – are available for the cost of \$85.00. 3-yd. trash dumpsters are available to rent or purchase. Dumpsters are available for rent at \$15.00 per month or purchase for \$850.00. All are subject to a monthly pickup fee (see monthly charges to dump with rented containers below).

TRASH RATES:

- \$15.00/month from all residence containers within the city limits.
- \$17.50/month for all commercial accounts with containers.
- \$23.75/month for dumping dumpsters, owned, or rented.
- Rolls of 50 "City of Brewster" trash bags are available for \$10.00 per roll.



Please BAG ALL HOUSEHOLD WASTE. Remember, loose trash during windy days creates a mess! You will need to clean it up when it happens to you. Your property and neighbors will appreciate it!

Use plastic trash bags of not less than 1.5 mills in thickness and make sure they are securely closed and kept away from animals.

Use approved containers with lids for your service. Acceptable trash containers shall be tapered in shape, made of galvanized metal or plastic material of substantial construction. They need to have suitable handles to permit lifting, have a lid and a capacity of no more than 30 gallons. Trash will not be picked up in unapproved containers. **CHEMICAL BARRELS ARE NOT APPROVED CONTAINERS!**

Tires, cement, metal, or trees larger than 4" in diameter and 36" in length will not be accepted.

All branches must be tied and bundled.

Bagged grass will be accepted for disposal at the landfill.

There have been numerous reports of individuals illegally dumping into private containers. If they are dumping without paying for the service, it is illegal and they are stealing!

Wastewater Treatment Plant Dumping

The tree/grass pile is located on the north side of the Wastewater Stabilization Ponds. Disposing of any items at the Wastewater Stabilization Ponds is illegal. Any person found disposing of items without first obtaining permission from the City Superintendent may be prosecuted for trespassing and illegal dumping.

Only **trees, limbs, grass clippings and leaves** will be allowed!

We cannot take wooden pallets, appliances, etc.

Nothing should be dumped without permission from the City Superintendent.

Fines may be issued for non-compliance.



"Contract" or "For Hire" services are not allowed to dispose of items at the Wastewater Stabilization Ponds.

Water

WATER BILLS are due by the 15th of the month and termination is on the 25th of the month. We have two containers where you can drop off your payment. One is inside the Brewster Grocery Store and the other is located by the southwest corner of the City Building at 425 Illinois Avenue.

You may also mail your payment to the City of Brewster, P.O. Box 147, Brewster, Kansas 67732. If you cannot make your payment by the due date, you need to contact the city mayor, city superintendent or office staff in writing to make arrangements prior to the due date. Please pay your bills on time so there is no confusion.

"AUTO PAY SERVICE"

We offer "AUTOPAY (bank draws)" for the water, sewer and trash services from the city. Please contact the office for the form. The payment is taken out on the 15th of the month for the amount due only.

WATER RATES -The minimum monthly water bill service is \$35.00 per month for residential customers. Water use will be charged at the rate of \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons thereafter. For customers outside the city limits the charge shall be a minimum of \$40.00 for the service and then \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons thereafter. The bulk water rate at the water dock is \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons and bulk water through the fire hydrants is \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons of water or any fraction thereof.



Sewer

All sanitary sewer system users need to refrain from flushing any products that are not biodegradable. This may include, and is not limited to: disposable towels, handwipes, diapers or sanitary/feminine products. These products are overloading our wastewater system, and without elimination of the problem, higher costs for the services will be incurred in disposing of these products by mechanical methods. Please dispose of these products in a trash receptacle only.

SEWER RATES – The rate for all customers is \$10.00 per month.



**Remember:
Water Bills
are due on
the 15th!
If not paid by
the 15th, a
penalty of
10% will be
added to your
bill.**

Vacant and Delapidated Properties

If you own a property that is uninhabitable and has no city services, we ask that you either remove or repair it. There have been people looking for rental and purchase properties, so use that to your advantage. If these properties are not cleaned up by the end of the year, it will be costly for the owners!



Open Burning

There is to be NO open burning in any street, alley, or vacant lot within the fire limits or within 25' of any building, except in a screened barrel or approved garbage burner. An approved container has a tapered barrel, two handles and holds no more than 30 gallons.



Brewster Information

City Building

Address:

425 Illinois Avenue
P.O. Box 147
Brewster, KS 67732

Phone: (785) 694-2205

email:

brewsterks@st-tel.net

Hours: Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Website:

brewsterkansas.com

Mayor: Rex Jamison

Council Members:

Don Allen

Donita Baird

Sean McDonald

Dusty Quenzer

Dwayne Randolph

City Superintendent:

Mike Schultz

City Clerk: Dawn Schultz

City Treasurer:

Sandi Bear



BB Guns

In accordance with State Law, BB/Pellet Guns are illegal to use in the city unless operated in the manner listed below.

The unlawful operation of an air gun, air rifle, bow and arrow, slingshot, BB gun or paint ball gun is the shooting, discharging, or operation within the city, except within the confines of a building or other structure from which the projectiles cannot escape.

Unlawful operation is a Class C violation whereby not to exceed one month in jail and payment of a fine of not more than \$500.00.



4-Wheelers and ATV's

According to State law, 4-wheelers and ATV's are not to be operated on a public roadway without the proper permit. (Proof of liability insurance is required). Liability will be your concern if you ride on public streets and an accident occurs. The city council has given exception to those used as work vehicles only (spraying, snow removal, etc.). Special use vehicles will be reviewed by the council on a case-by-case basis.



Bicycles

Bikes and riders are subject to the same regulations as motorized vehicles in that you must obey all traffic laws. Please share with your children that it is their responsibility to pay attention before entering onto a public street. During harvest we ask that parents use common sense to prevent a child and bike/truck accident from happening. These trucks cannot stop quickly, and it is often difficult to see small children. Supervision is critical during these times.



Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

The Consumer Confidence Report is a water quality and monitoring report available for citizens. The Environmental Protection Agency passed Senate Bill 1578 allowing the cities in Kansas to now provide CCR reports electronically, rather than by mail, to save on postage expense. This went into effect on July 1, 2013. To access the report electronically, go to the following address on the internet: www.brewsterkansas.com or www.krwa.net/ccr/brewster. If you have no internet access, paper copies will be available for those who request one. Please notify the city office if you would like or need a paper copy.

Visit our website: brewsterkansas.com

AUTOPAY

We would like to encourage customers to use autopay. This is a great service and one that we hope all customers will take advantage of. Just think, your bill gets paid, you save on time, envelopes, postage, checks and late charges.

Autopay is a service that automatically deducts your account balance from your checking account on the fifteenth (15th) of the month. When you are enrolled in autopay, you will still receive your bill, but the bill will say Auto Bill Pay Setup – DO NOT PAY.

Request an application today!

EMAIL BILLING

One more convenience that we would like to encourage our customers to consider is email billing. If you would like to receive your monthly bill by email, please be sure to provide your email address to us. Not only is this service convenient, it helps us save on time, envelopes and postage. We would appreciate your consideration for this service.



City of Brewster
P.O. Box 147
Brewster, KS 67732

We encourage everyone to read this newsletter and take it seriously!
Please keep a copy of this for reference.