



Northam News

July 2016

Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

President's Message

There is a great deal of investment currently taking place across our Shire that will have significant effect on public safety and quality of life over the next 12-18 months.

Work on the new shopping complex at the 'Old Hospital site' is progressing strongly with demolition underway on the old hospital. The new shopping precinct will be a significant boost to the town's retail offer with Aldi and Coles as anchor tenants.

Council recently received the building application from DOME café to develop the 'OLD Shamrock Hotel site'. The preliminary plans suggest that the completed facility will be an asset to the town for residents and visitors alike. Council expects the application to have been processed by the end of the financial year.

Council has also recently provided detailed comment to Main Roads WA on their proposed improvements to the Great Eastern Highway at Bakers Hill. While commending any improvement, Council continues to lobby strongly through the Minister for Transport to extend the Hwy to two lanes from the 'Lakes Area' through to Wundowie.

Additional to our regular maintenance programs, the Shire is also currently engaged in a number of larger development projects in public spaces. Improvements to the Swan enclosure will complete drainage works on Minson Avenue while also enhancing the aesthetic value of the site.

Beautification works enhancing the garden beds on Fitzgerald St between Peel Terrace and Gairdner Streets have experienced delays due to the original works being of insufficient quality, requiring further remediation work. Once complete, works will commence on the Avon Mall with new shade structures and other improvements. Council is also taking a renewed approach to tree pruning that should improve the look of our street trees.

There are many other proposed developments and confirmed developments which are very positive for Northam. I will look to focus on some of these in coming updates.

Northam Library Better Beginnings

Runs every Monday and Wednesday for children under five in the Children's Library. Sessions start at 11.00 am for toddler Craft and 10.30 am for Story Rhyme Time. Limited place available for craft, pre-bookings essential.



June Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Month

The Shire of Northam congratulates June Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Member of the Month - Alec Learner of the Bakers Hill Bush Fire Brigade.

During Alec's time he has attended numerous bush fires throughout the Shire of Northam and, when called upon, in other areas of the State. He has attended fires in Parkerville, Bindoon, Bullsbrook, Boddington & the Waroona fires.

Alec has a never say NO attitude. On the fire ground he is a quick thinker and gets on with the job at hand. He is passionate, and is an all-round true blue fire fighter.

It is people like Alec who help to keep our families and property safe, putting their own safety at risk in the process. The Shire of Northam deeply appreciates your efforts Alec, thank you!



The Avon River Festival

The Shire of Northam is hosting the annual Avon River Festival from 4pm on Friday, August 5, 2016. The Festival launches the start of the Avon Descent, the biggest event on the regional calendar attracting more than 800 competitors with families and support crews.

Aimed at families, the Avon River Festival has attractions and activities for all age groups. There will be live performances from Perth band Murphy's Lore, a street parade plus roving performances, a fire show, BMX displays and a demonstration from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Side show alley will entertain the young at heart with a host of games and rides. There will be market stalls and food vendors offering local produce, arts and crafts.

The popular firework finale on the River closes the Festival and sets the scene for the start of the Avon Descent the following day.

The Avonlink train is running three extra services from Midland to Northam via Toodyay return to support the Festival, offering people the opportunity to leave the car at home. The revised timetable can be seen on the Shire of Northam website www.northam.wa.gov.au or by contacting TransWA on 1300 662 205.

Everyone Connects - Mini Expo

On the 7th of July the Northam library is hosting a mini expo, Everyone Connects.

This event is free for people with complex communication needs plus one carer. Professionals and others are welcome to attend for a cost of \$25 per person.

This expo allows people to try communication apps and software, eye-gaze access, switches, mounts, accessibility features, & accessories for communication devices. For more information please email Angie McCluskey, Library Manager

Upgrades to the Swan Enclosure

Work on the redevelopment of the Bernard Park 'Swan Enclosure' has commenced.

The works on Swan Enclosure have two main objectives, firstly to assist in relieving some of the water/flooding issues in and around the CBD, particularly Minson Avenue, and secondly to improve the ascetic appeal of the enclosure.

The Shire of Northam has been undertaking extensive works around the Minson Avenue area in relation to drainage. The 'Swan Enclosure' works are the final stage of these works.

Shire of Northam Chief Executive Officer said the works being undertaken will add value to the park and CBD area generally.

Works include viewing platforms, rock pitching and plantings. The current fencing will be removed and replaced with more appealing and less intrusive fencing.

The works will require a significant portion of Bernard Park directly adjacent to the Swan Enclosure to be closed. The Shire of Northam is asking visitors and residents for their patience and understanding during the closure period.

Wundowie Community Plan Update

Planning for the commencement of the Wundowie Community Plan is underway. Expressions of interest have been received for consultants to assist with elements of the community consultation process with consultations scheduled to commence in July.

Shire Wins CCTV Grant

The Shire of Northam has secured funding through the State CCTV Strategy Infrastructure Fund to install new CCTV equipment and infrastructure throughout Northam.

The CCTV infrastructure upgrade is a key strategy of the Shire of Northam Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2016-2020, which was recently developed by the Shire in partnership with the Northam Community Safety Committee.

Chief Executive Officer, Jason Whiteaker said "The Shire of Northam is committed to implementing crime prevention initiatives to improve safety and security for all community members and visitors to the area".

Additional cameras will be installed in known hotspots throughout Northam which is expected to reduce criminal activity and anti-social activity.

The State CCTV Strategy Infrastructure Fund is an initiative of the Government of Western Australia.

Changes to Greyhound Legislation

Have you ever thought about adopting a greyhound but been put off by the idea of having to muzzle the dog in public?

The Dog Act 1976 has recently been amended to enable appropriately retired racing greyhounds to return to the community as pets without having to wear a muzzle.

An amendment to the Dog Act 1976 introduces the provisions for greyhounds to undertake a specific training course to exempt them from wearing a muzzle in public. Exempted greyhounds will be granted a "green collar status" and be issued with one on completion of training. For information on the assessment process, please contact Greyhounds as Pets on (08) 9458 4600.

Guinness Book of Records Opportunity

Children and youth aged 6 - 17 years are invited to attempt to break the Guinness Book of Records for placing the most Lego bricks on a base board in 30 seconds at the Northam Library during the July School holidays.

This is an official Record attempt and as such, parents must complete a registration form. Each attempt must be booked in advance and performed under strict supervisory conditions. As a result, attempts are limited to one per child.

Should someone successfully break the existing record, the result will be published on the Guinness Book of Records website with a photograph.

Interested youth are encouraged to practice at the Library, where facilities will be in place.

The event is being sponsored by Northam Bike and Toy World, with the highest scoring attempt earning the participant a new bicycle, irrespective of whether a new record has been set.

For a registration form or to book an attempt please see one of the Library officers at the circulation desk.



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