



The City Newsletter

November 2010

Welcome to the
CITY OF JEROME

www.ci.jerome.id.us

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HIRES NEW DIRECTOR

Jon Melone is originally from San Diego, CA, and moved to the Magic Valley with his family several years ago. He has been married to his wife Tina for 29 years, and has two grown daughters, one of whom is married to a native Jerome man. Jon is blessed with two beautiful grandchildren, a two year old granddaughter, and a newborn grandson.



Jon Melone, Director of Jerome Chamber of Commerce

As the Executive Director, Jon brings to the Jerome Chamber of Commerce a great wealth of business experience. Jon has 17 years of experience as an administrator within higher education and other ventures. He was also the founder and owner of Vinifera Wines, a wine bar and retail wine shop that was situated in historic downtown Twin Falls. Jon sold his successful business, and was then offered a position as the Sommelier at Canyon Crest Dining and Event Center, where he was one of the

original managers. Jon looks forward to his new role with the Chamber of Commerce, and working to enhance the business community of Jerome.

CITY OFFICES CLOSED:

November 11:

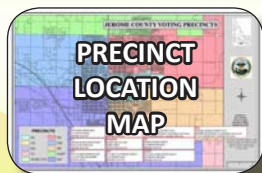
In observance of Veteran's Day

November 25-26:

For the Thanksgiving Holiday

ELECTION 2010! NOVEMBER 2

For Polling Places, click the image below or call the County Auditor/Recorder at 644-2714:



PATTY WARD RETIRES AFTER 31 YEARS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

On October 10, 2010, one of our most valued and most tenured city employees retired, Patty Ward. The following article concerning Patty's tenure in public service appeared in the October 6th issue of the Time News, written by Amy Huddleston:



Patty Ward, retired
October 10, 2010

JEROME — Sgt. Patty Ward is quite the woman.

She killed her first elk when she was eight months pregnant, raised three children in Jerome, fished for steelhead on frozen banks with her husband and was the first female officer at the Jerome Police Department.

The 5-foot, 2-inch blonde has had to prove herself throughout her career in law enforcement — but she'll tell you with a smile that she's done it her way.

"It was hard at first," Ward said in her warm, encompassing voice. "It's a man's field so you had to be, I don't want to say strong enough, maybe just 'whatever' enough so the men would accept you. But you still wanted to be a lady too."

Born and raised in Jerome, Ward left for a year to attend Ricks College and returned to her hometown, where she met her husband, Jeff Ward. She started working as a dispatcher and then took over secretarial duties when the Jerome Police Department was in the basement of the courthouse.

That piqued her interest in becoming an officer, and in 1983 she attended the Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training Academy. Only one other woman went through training with Ward, and both faced proving that they could do the job as efficiently as the men.

Article continued on next page

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City Council

Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm at Council Chambers, located at 100 East Ave A, Jerome, ID 83338

Council Meets:

- November 2nd
- November 16th

For a copy of the most recent agenda, visit our website or email: sfraser@ci.jerome.id.us

BECOME A FAN!

Follow the City on the City Facebook page or the City Blog by clicking the icons below. Or, find us on Facebook at City of Jerome, Idaho. Our City Blog is www.cityofjerome.blogspot.com.

facebook

Blogger

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

EMAIL ENews@CI.JEROME.ID.US OR CALL 208-324-8189

WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US

PATTY WARD RETIREMENT (CONTINUED)

Continued from page 1 . . .

"If they were going to let women in, I was the one that could do it," said Ward. She has since seen the once male-dominated field turn into a place where women mix easily into what she calls the "law enforcement family" — though that family has room to grow. Nationally, women still make up only 4 percent to 15 percent of full-time sworn officers in U.S. police departments and sheriff's offices depending on their size, according to U.S. Department of Justice statistics.

In her 31 years of public service, Ward has seen six police chiefs come and go. She's witnessed the advancement from the typewriter that could erase letters to computers installed in patrol cars. She's worked as a patrolman and a detective, dealt with both homicide and what she calls "the little things."

Now, Ward works in administration. While she said she'll miss the people, it is time to move on to something different.

"You kind of get to a point where you need to let the younger people take over," Ward said. "It's getting harder to compete with 20- and 30-year-olds."

But Ward, 56, said she is still young enough to work and is looking forward to getting a job where



people walk through the door excited to be there.

"It's going to be weird to go to a job without a gun on," she noted.

And when Ward retires her badge and her weapons, she will leave a legacy of compassion, toughness and a message of respect.

"I would like to say I'm leaving law enforcement because there isn't a need — that everyone respected each other and themselves," Ward said. "I've had to work toward respect. If I was going to work shoulder-to-shoulder with the men then I had to prove myself.

"I tell the women here, they need to remember that they can be ladies but there is a time to switch when you need to."

JEROME YOUTHS RAISE \$500 FOR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTERS

The young people of the City of Jerome are setting the bar high when helping to give back to their communities!

Nathan Nordquist, Joey Lenker and Nick Evans took it upon themselves to help the dogs at the City of Jerome Animal Shelter. On their own initiative, their own time, and with their own determination the trio held a fundraiser that raised \$500.00. They donated the funds to the Humane Society of Twin Falls and the City of Jerome Animal Shelter.

Nathan, Nick, and Joey recruited sponsors for a Pet Gift Basket by approaching various businesses for donations to the basket. The basket included items such as a free spay or Neuter, pet supplies,



Gordon Leininger, Animal Control Officer for the City of Jerome, is pictured here accepting the donated funds from Nathan Nordquist.

and other dog-related gifts. After receiving donations, they tirelessly sold raffle tickets for the basket and awarded it to the winner. From the raffle tickets, they donated the money raised to the animal shelters. To the community we would also like to thank you for supporting these young men in their quest to make a difference!

Please know these donations do go into a fund that is set for the care of the dogs in our shelter. All donations

help with veterinary care, daily care and aid in facilitating adoptions through various means.

Again, our hats are off to Nathan, Joey, and Nick for not only a job well done but for also setting an example as to what can be accomplished with the right attitude, desire and a little hard work.

UPCOMING SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

- Starting Thursday November 4th the Jerome Senior Center will be sponsoring a Straight 8 Women's pool league. This will be every Thursday night at 7 pm and will last through the winter. This is open to women of all ages. The cost is \$12.00 per month. For more information or to sign up contact Kris Shelton at the Jerome Senior Center at 324-5642.

- Starting October 26th, representatives from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program will be at the Jerome Senior Center located at 520 North Lincoln every Tuesday from 9-3 to assist individuals in applying for energy and telephone assistance. Please bring your Social Security cards, most recent heating bill and proof of all income received in the household for the last 90 days. For any questions or concerns, please contact the Energy Assistance Office at 736-0676.

- Every Wednesday from 8-10, come join your friends at the Jerome Senior Center located for coffee and freshly baked donuts.

- St. Lukes Home Health and Hospice will be at the Jerome Senior Center to give flu shots on November 4th from 11:30-1:30. St. Lukes will bill Medicare for seniors so please bring your Medicare card. For non seniors the price is \$25.00. Shots will be given on a first come first serve basis so please come early.

More Senior Center Events on Page 6

CURRENT FUNDRAISING EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

BOOK AND BAKE SALE

- Sponsored by the Friends of the Library group
- November 4, 5:00-7:00pm
- November 5, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- November 6, 10:00am - 2:00 pm

BAKE SALE

- Sponsored by the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), coordinated by Nathan Lind for his Senior Project
- Mon., Wed., Fri. until Dec. 31, 2010
- Time: 3:45-6:00 pm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

INTERESTED IN CLEANING UP JEROME?

Jerome has several abandoned homes and vacant lots that are in serious need of cleaning up. These homes pose a safety risk to adjacent homes and detract from the neighborhood aesthetics. If you are interested in this volunteer experience, call Micah Austin at 324-8189 ext 101.

VOLUNTEER AT THE JEROME ANIMAL SHELTER!

Have a soft heart for animals? Want to give back to the community in a unique and rewarding way? The Jerome Animal Shelter is always looking for new volunteers to help out walking dogs, feeding dogs, cleaning kennels, and transporting dogs to other shelters. If you are interested or would like more information, call Monica Harrison at 324-8189 or send her an email at hr@ci.jerome.id.us.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER!



Fighting fires is a rewarding career but it can also be an excellent way to volunteer and give back to the community. If you already work full-time but are healthy, motivated, and willing to serve, contact the Human Resources Director to see if you are eligible to be a volunteer firefighter.

Questions?
 Call Human Resources at
 324-8189 ext 140

DEPENDENCE ON TECHNOLOGY IN JEROME CITY GOVERNMENT

“The computers are down.” These are the words we dread hearing in the middle of a busy work day at City Hall. Fortunately, the City of Jerome houses a staff of 3 who provide for the operation and maintenance of the computer systems, servers, software applications, and geographic information systems to ensure that those four words are heard as little as possible.



Kathy Markus

Kathy Markus, employed with the city for almost 16 years, is the department head of Information Services. She is responsible for the administrative duties of the department as well as licensing, contracts, installing and managing the servers, managing phone systems, overseeing the security systems, and all planning and research of software. She also submits bi-weekly reports to the city council, and is responsible for budgeting issues.

Tony Preston has been with the city since 2009 and is responsible for the daily support of



Tony Preston

the computer systems; he responds to the service calls made by city employees regarding any issues relating to the operation of their computer. He also formats and configures the desktops, and maintains the library computers.

Joan Appell started with the city in 2001 and is the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst. Her primary duties include creating and maintaining all maps for the city. She provides hydrant maps for the fire department as well as accident site maps for the police department and infrastructure maps for Public Works and Water Works. Additionally, she is responsible for updating the city map with areas plotted by developers for construction, and she keeps all site maps updated on a regular basis.



Joan Appell

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY CLOSE TO FINISHING BIO-TOWER PROJECT

Article by Berny Marquez, Jerome Police Dept.

I recently had the privilege of taking a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Facility in Jerome. Just like the TV show Dirty Jobs starring Mark Rowen, it takes a special person to deal with people’s waste, but it is a job that requires precision, performance, and science.

Dennis Gross, an eight year veteran employee with the City of Jerome’s Wastewater Treatment Facility, gave me a tour of the plant. Dennis has more than twenty years experience dealing with wastewater and currently assists in overseeing the works of an eighteen person crew.

During the tour, Dennis explained the operating procedures and functions of different machinery within the complex. It is definitely a science to accurately run and process the city’s waste, which includes the commercial industry within the city limits.

On an average day, the treatment facility receives approximately 3.5 to 5 million gallons of wastewater. It takes approximately fourteen to twenty one days for the wastewater and solids to be completely processed from the time it enters the facility to the time it leaves as clean effluent.

Currently, a new Bio-Tower is nearing comple-

tion at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Bio-towers are used in the treatment process to help eliminate odors and initiate the treatment process. Water is pumped to the top of the tower and then processed through honeycomb-like screens, where the bacteria breaks down the materials. The Water Works Department was the general



Honeycomb filters in Bio-tower

contractors for the Bio-Tower project and organized construction of the project using wastewater employees and sub-contractors from the area. It was estimated that the Water Department saved approximately \$60,000 in management and labor costs. This project should be completed within the next couple of months.

I encourage anyone one who is interested in learning more about the wastewater treatment facility to take a free tour. The contact number is 324-7122.

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CODE ENFORCEMENT: JEROME BEAUTIFICATION

The Code Enforcement Officer, Marcos Noriega, has been working diligently to educate citizens about City Code violations and the cleanup efforts. According to Noriega, the most common code violations are:

1. Accumulation of trash and rubbish visible from a public right of way
2. Unmaintained tall grass and weeds (not to exceed 8" in height)
3. Abandoned vehicles without current registration
4. Trailers/RVs parked in the roadway for more than 72 hours
5. Illegally posting signs without a permit

After Noriega has received a complaint for a violation, he takes a three step process in addressing the issue before beginning the citation procedure. First, he notifies the individual who is in violation by calling them or sending a letter. Next, he visits the individual and instructs them on the nature of the violation and how to correct the issue. Lastly, he issues the violator a 5 day warning.

When compliance is not followed, it can be cited as a misdemeanor. The person will have to appear in court and a judge will issue a date when the person must be in compliance. A person can be assessed a fine by the judge up to \$1,000 or 6 months in jail if compliance is not followed.

SENIOR CENTER, A WELL-USED FACILITY

Since its completion in Fall 2009, the Jerome Senior Citizen Center has been well used and well appreciated. Rarely will you see the parking lot empty. To right is a picture of the new facility with landscaping. For events at the Senior Center, see pages 2 and 6 of this issue.



NEW LIBRARY EMPLOYEE

Silvia Rosales' life journey has brought her to the Jerome Public Library as our new Circulation Technician. Silvia is learning a lot, and is impressed by the variety of services offered by the library. Silvia is learning to manage the large number of public access computers, the expanded collection due to the consortium and interlibrary loans, the Hispanic book collection, and the Ro-



Silvia Rosales

setta Stone Software (both to learn English and Spanish), among other services offered. She is bi-lingual, and hopes to reach out to the Hispanic community to increase their library patronage. She also hopes to greet frequent customers by name, as many of her wonderful co-workers do. Next time you are at the library, be sure to welcome Silvia!

Some reminders for staying within Code Compliance:

- Keep lawn and garden areas free of noxious weeds and well maintained
- Keep your sidewalks clear of snow outside of your business or residence
- Trailers can be parked on the street for no more than 3 days
 - Clean up vacant property
 - An unused vehicle on the street needs to be operable, drivable, able to drive on the high-

way, licensed, and currently registered. If this is not followed, the vehicle must not be parked within public view.

Two resources available to city residents to assist in yard and home clean up are rental of a dump truck for large clean up jobs and brush and limb chipping. The dump truck is \$30 per use and the chipper is \$20 per use, however the limbs must be free of metal (nails, staples) and garbage. Call City Hall to schedule either of these services at 324-8189. In addition to City services, PSI will provides trash buckets upon request and most automotive retail stores, such as Autozone, will take used oil and batteries.

To report an anonymous complaint for a code enforcement violation, call non-emergency dispatch at 324-1911.

SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT AT LIBRARY: DECEMBER

The Smithsonian Journey Stories exhibit will be at the library December 11, 2010 through January 22, 2011.

This exhibit is designed to broaden public interest in American History and develop awareness of local heritage. It is sponsored by "Museum on Main Street", which provides high-quality educational events to underserved rural citizens.

In an effort to promote interest in the exhibit, several book-related presentations have been scheduled. The books are available for check-out at the library, and you do not need to have a library card to check-out these Smithsonian Journey books. If you are too busy to read the book, you are still welcome to come for the presentation. The schedule for the exhibit is as follows:

- November 6, 1:00pm at the Library
 -Idaho's Poetry: A Centennial Anthology by Ron McFarland
- November 20, 1:00 PM at the Library Community Room
 -The Essential Lewis and Clark
 -Presented by Russ Tremayne

If you wish to share your Journey Story or explore other posted stories, visit <http://www.museumonmainstreet.org/journeystories/index.htm>.

Additional library events on page 6.



www.ci.jerome.id.us

FROM THE DESK OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



Public Works crews install the pedestrian crosswalk light on South Lincoln

The Public Works Department has almost finished installing a pedestrian crosswalk light at the intersection of South Lincoln and Avenue I, adjacent to Ridley's. The Hawk Pedestrian System will be up and running on November 2, weather permitting. The Public Works must still finish installing advanced warning lights and striping for road markers.

Unlike all other traffic lights in Jerome, this is a pedestrian crosswalk light that will stop traffic only when a pedestrian is waiting to cross Lincoln. The crosswalks will be on East Ave I, West Ave. I, and South Lincoln. Mr. Appell reported that more people cross at this intersection than the downtown intersection at Main and Lincoln.

When asked why was a pedestrian crosswalk light was installed instead of a four-way traffic light, Mr. Appell said a standard four-way traffic light would cost the City of Jerome and the tax payers \$700,000 to \$800,000 and the pedestrian light cost the city less than \$50,000. Eventually, there will be a four-way light at the intersection when funds allow. The intersection at 10th and North Lincoln will also have a pedestrian crosswalk light as soon as the money can be obtained. At this time there is no date set for this project.

FIRE SAFETY: *STAND BY YOUR PAN!*

How often has the doorbell rung or a child interrupted you while you were cooking, causing you to forget about the chicken you left sizzling on the stove - until smoke filled the house?

If this sounds familiar, I hope you'll read on, because you're running the risk of having a dangerous fire. As chief of the Jerome City Fire Department, I often talk to people about the ways they can stay safe in their homes. Too often, we have that talk after they've suffered a damaging fire.

It's my hope that people reading this article won't have to learn the hard way. If I could give just one fire warning, I'd say "stand by your pan!"

Why? Because cooking is the leading cause of home fires, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Latest statistics from NFPA say that one out of every three home fires started in the kitchen and more than 100,000 fires a year were related to cooking.

And guess why most of these fires occur? If you said it's leaving cooking unattended, you got it right.

"Use Candles With Care - When you go out, blow out!" The NFPA theme reminds us that leaving candles unattended is a bad idea, just like leaving cooking unattended. This is the time of year when we remind people of the simple things they can do to make their home safer from fire.

Cooking safety is no exception. Often when we're called to a cooking-related fire, the residents tell us they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes to go from routine to disaster.

The bottom line is that there's really no safe period of time for the cook to step away from a hot stove. A few key points to remember:

- Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended, and keep a close eye on food cooking inside the oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (e.g. potholders, towels, rags, drapes and food packaging).
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet (1 meter) around the stove. Keep pets from underfoot so you do not trip while cooking.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Always keep a potholder, oven mitt and lid handy. If a small fire starts in a pan on the stove, put on an oven mitt and smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Don't remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire and never discharge a fire extinguisher onto a pan fire, as it can spray or shoot burning grease around the kitchen, actually spreading the fire.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you and your clothing.
- If there is a microwave fire, keep the door closed and unplug the microwave. Call the fire department and make sure to have the oven serviced before you use it again. Food cooked in a microwave can be dangerously hot. Remove the lids or other coverings from microwaved food carefully to prevent steam burns.

A cooking fire can quickly turn deadly. I have seen too many homes destroyed and people killed or injured by fires that could have been easily avoided. Please heed these simple safety rules. We firefighters would like to be in your kitchen, but only when you invite us for dinner!

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING COURSE (CERT)



Jerome County Office of Emergency Management is teaming up with the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) to sponsor a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course. The course will be held at the Jerome High School on Thursday evenings from 6:00-10:00 p.m. starting November 4th. Classes will continue on Thursdays, Nov. 11th, and 18th and finishing up on Saturday the 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost of the course will be \$35.00 per participant and will cover the student instructional manual and Basic CERT protective equipment. Students will be given a

list of additional equipment and supplies to add to their individual kits.

The Community Emergency Response Team Program helps Jerome County become disaster resilient and prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century through increased citizen awareness and involvement with advanced training.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immedi-

ately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Contact the Jerome County Office of Emergency Management for more information or to register for the training course. 324-9261 or email:



cblackwood@co.jeromeid.us

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

EMAIL ENews@ci.jerome.id.us OR CALL 208-324-8189

[WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US](http://www.ci.jerome.id.us)



**Jerome
 Recreation
 District**

Upcoming events for November:

Youth B-ball for 1st-6th graders

- Registration for 1st-6th grade basket- ball – November 1 – December 5
- \$17.00 per child in district/ \$27 per child out of district
- Games played on Saturdays Jan 8 – Feb 12, 2011

Kindergarten Basketball Class

- Registration coming in January 2011

**THANKSGIVING
 DAY SPECIAL EVENTS!**

- **JRD will be open 6 am – 10 am**
- **Special Classes Offered:**
 - 6:00 am Spinning
 - 7:00 am Bootcamp
 - 7:00 am Dodgeball
 - 8:00 am Zumba

Remember to Sign Up Early!

Check our website for the latest information

www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com
 Questions? Call (208) 324-3389

**The Jerome Chamber of Commerce
 Ambassadors Club presents:**

**Holiday Fest of
 Dinner, Wine Tasting, & Auction**

When: November 19, 2010

Where: Best Western Sawtooth Inn

Schedule: Wine Tasting Social at 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Dinner Buffet at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Musical at 7:30 p.m.

Live Auction at 7:45 p.m.

Tickets \$15 or 2 for \$25

- Tickets available at:
- Jerome Chamber of Commerce
 - Jerome Recreation District
 - Farmers Natl Bank
 - Washington Federal
 - D.L. Evans Bank

Community Events

SENIOR CENTER EVENTS:

- Bridge-Mon & Wed 12:30
- Pinochle-Tues, Thurs, Fridays 12:30 and Wed nights at 7pm
- Energy Assistance-Every Tuesday from 9-3
- Breakfast-Every Wednesday 8-10 AM Cost \$1.00
- November 7th and 21st-Dance and Potluck lunch with Music Melody Masters Cost \$5.00
- Every Tuesday-Bingo 6:45 Snack Bar opens at 5:00
- Every Thursday evening 7pm-Women's pool league
- November 11th-Free computer classes Please call for an appointment
- November 23rd-Thanksgiving lunch
- November 25th & 26th-Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 5th-Fiddlers to perform during lunch
- November 8th-Free massages courtesy of Jeneal Chapman, owner Lighthouse Massage
- November 12th & November 16th-Gem State Fiddlers to perform
- Every Wednesday-Country Boys Band to perform
- November 15th and November 19th-Last Resort Band to perform
- November 19th-Birthday dinner

LIBRARY EVENTS:

- Family Read Night, featuring Curious George, is November 14th thru the 20th right after school.
- We are adding another pre-school story hour on Fridays at 1:30pm.

NOVEMBER ISSUE STAFF WRITERS



Bernadette Gomes has worked for the City for almost three years. She reported on the IS Department for this issue.

Larry Garey has been a full-time firefighter with the city for almost 14 years. He reported on the Public Works Department.



Kathy Markus has been with the City almost 16 years. She reported on the Library for this issue.



Berny Marquez has been a patrol officer with the Police Department for almost 2 years. He provided updates from the Water Works Program.

Edie Waite has worked in the library for just over five years. She reported on the Police Department.



Monica Harrison is the Human Resources Director and has been with the City for over two years. She reported on the City's new hires.