



The City Newsletter

February 2014

Welcome to the
CITY OF JEROME

www.ci.jerome.id.us

WELCOME MIKE WILLIAMS, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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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

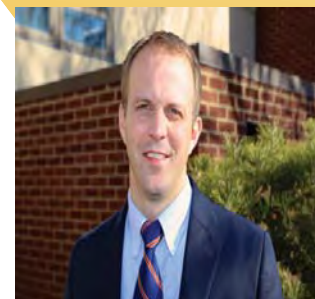
Council Meets:

- February 4th
- February 18th
- March 4th
- March 18th

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

The City Council discussed and approved the City Administrator employment contract at the January 21, 2014 City Council meeting. The Mayor recommended that the City hire Mike Williams (pictured below) as the City's new City Administrator. The City Council agreed to an annual salary of \$85,000. Williams will start in the new position on February 3, 2014.

Mike Williams has served as the Assistant to the City Manager in Twin Falls since September of 2011. During his time with the City of Twin Falls, Williams has worked at length with the City's departments through the City's strategic plan, the development of the City's budget in addition to many other projects. Williams has played an active role in economic development initiatives with his position on the City's Economic Development 'Ready Team.'



Previous to his employment with the City of Twin Falls, Williams was the Vice-President of Government Relations and Team Lead for Zions First National Bank where he built and maintained relationships with local governments and public officials in all of Idaho.

Williams received a Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Boise State University in May of 2008. Williams did his undergraduate work at Brigham Young University - Idaho, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Communications with a minor in Business in 2005.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity I've been given to serve as the City Administrator for the City of Jerome" Williams said. "I'm anxious to begin working with the citizens of Jerome, my new colleagues, Mayor Dave Davis, and members of the City Council as we seek to make Jerome the most welcoming, friendly, and livable city in the Magic Valley."

The City of Jerome had twenty-two applicants for the City Administrator position which opened in mid-October. The City sent supplemental questions to six candidates which were then narrowed to three finalists. One applicant declined the interview, leaving two candidates who were interviewed by the City Council, staff, and community members. The City Council also held two executive sessions to discuss the merits of the next City Administrator.

- Zoe Monahan, Community Development Director

School Zone Safety

There are two new blinking lights, above the school zone speed limit signs in the 400 block of South Lincoln. The purpose of these lights is to help protect school children attending or visiting Heritage Academy. The school zone speed limit signs advise drivers that they are entering a reduced speed school zone area between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday. The reduced speed is effective all year long, even when school is out in the summer months and during the Holidays.

Many drivers may not realize that the speed limit changes three times between Main Street and G Street. If you are traveling north, the speed limit is reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph, and then 20 mph within less than 200 feet. If you are heading South, the 20 mph speed limit remains in effect until you reach the 35 mph speed limit near G Street.

Help us protect the children of Jerome by obeying these posted speeds. It only takes a split second to impact the lives of many.

The penalty for speeding in a School zone according to Idaho State Statute is \$156.50.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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

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

VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The City of Jerome submitted an application to become a member of the Vietnam War Commemorative Partnership Program in December and it was recently accepted. In order to become a member of this commemorative partner program a committee was formed, a statement of understanding was signed, and the application was submitted. By becoming a member of this program the City has committed to holding two events from 2015 -2017 to recognize, thank, and honor Vietnam War Veterans and their families. The City intends to partner with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion to meet this requirement. We also intend to honor other veterans at these events.

At the January 7, 2014 City Council meeting, the Mayor and City Council were presented with a certificate and Vietnam War 50th Anniversary commemorative flag. Committee members from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary were present at the meeting.

As of December 31, 2013, Jerome is one of 20 cities in the Country participating in this program. We are the first and only City participating in Idaho. There are also 21 Walmart locations and 9 other organizations around the state.

The City is pleased to be a member of the Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program. To learn more about the program please visit http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners

-Zoe Monahan, Community Development Director



Pictured above: Dave Luper (left) and Louis Bay (right) Photo by Charlie Correll

Become A Volunteer Member of the Jerome City Fire Department

The Jerome City Fire Department is a combination department, which means it is made up of both full-time and volunteer members. We are currently recruiting for volunteer members. All required training will be provided and no experience is necessary, although applicants with firefighting experience may be given preference. Members have weekly training, typically on Wednesday nights. The department responds to both building and wildland fires, car accidents and rescues, medical emergencies, and many other types of emergency calls for service.

All new members will be required to participate in Firefighter 1 training and State IFSAC certification testing. This training will be two nights a week and two Saturdays a month until all of the training is complete. This can last between three to four months. Members will be issued fire gear and a pager. Fires and emergencies happen at all times, day or night. The pager will let you know when there is an emergency and when you are needed. Volunteer members may also work at the station by signing up to work either a 12 or 24 hour shift with the full time staff. Most volunteer members work 2-3 shifts a month. Preference may be given to volunteer members when filling vacancies for full time positions.

We will have an open house/info session on Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. and a repeat again at 7:00 P.M. at Jerome City Fire Headquarters, Station 2, 110 W Yakima Ave, Jerome (by McDonald's) to answer questions, explain more about being a member, and discuss the required training. Applications may be picked up at Jerome City Hall, 152 E Ave A, the Fire Headquarters on West Yakima, or downloaded from the City of Jerome website www.ci.jerome.id.us.

If you are interested in joining, we highly encourage you to attend one of the open house/ info sessions. We are looking for individuals who have the time to commit to training and emergencies. It is imperative that you understand that this is a public trust position requiring a high level of ethics. This is a competitive process based on numerical scoring. Applicants must be 18 to join, and must live in Jerome County. The selected applicants will be required to complete and pass a background check, pre-employment drug screening, and a physical agility test. We will hire approximately 6-8 volunteer members.

Applications should be returned to the Fire Headquarters on West Yakima or to Human Resources, located at City Hall, no later than February 21, 2014 at 4:00P.M. If you have questions, please contact Chief Hughes at 208-324-2323 x 112 or via email at thughes@ci.jerome.id.us or Deputy Chief Presnell at 208-324-2323 X113 or via e-mail at jpresnell@ci.jerome.id.us.

www.ci.jerome.id.us

“Community Emergency Preparedness Workbook & Guidelines.”

The Jerome County Office of Emergency Management has recently compiled a handy booklet entitled the “Community Emergency Preparedness Workbook & Guidelines.” It is available to every citizen.

This informative pamphlet is available as a download on the Jerome County website, www.jeromecountyid.us. To access the pamphlet go to the above website and from the main page click on Departments, select Emergency Management, scroll to the bottom of the page and select Pamphlets, then double click on the “Community Emergency Preparedness Guidelines”. The workbook will download and be available to print. It includes several pages of information as well as practical sheets for you to complete with your own information for future emergency use. This will allow your family to specifically prepare a plan for your emergency preparedness needs.

This pamphlet was prepared by the Jerome County Office of Emergency Management with considerable input and review by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Please take full advantage of this opportunity by printing your own copy and then working within your family to help prepare yourselves; thereby making Jerome County a resilient community to live in.

- Clint Blackwood, Jerome County Office of Emergency Management

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

Are you planning on opening a new business? Or, perhaps looking to renovate the exterior of your current business? Do you want to put up a sign for your business? Well, before you launch these projects, you should familiarize yourself with the design review process. The City of Jerome established Design Review Guidelines to help you. These standards were established in November 2010, with the purpose of preserving the historical and aesthetic values of Jerome and ensuring that the community continues to attract new businesses while maintaining a family friendly atmosphere with a high standard of living.

The Guidelines were written to provide a coherent guide for owners, tenants, and design professionals engaging in new construction, expansion, remodeling and rehabilitation of buildings and special spaces in Jerome. They are also a reference guide for the City staff, community leaders, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and other decision-makers in evaluating the appropriateness of proposals.

The Design Review Guidelines must be adhered to for all proposed modifications to any existing or new structure located parallel to and within one hundred fifty feet (150') of the rights of way for either Main Street or Lincoln Street within the City limits, excluding any property used for residential purposes or which is occupied by the owner as a personal residence.

The first step in the permitting process for all owners altering or building structures located in this area should be to consult the Design Review Guidelines and the Planning Staff to ensure that the renovation or conceptual design conforms to the Guidelines. Applicants should also review the City's Comprehensive Plan, and the applicable City Codes before meeting with the Planning Staff. Applications, City Code, and Guidelines are available online at <http://www.ci.jerome.id.us> or at City Hall. The completed application should be submitted to the Planning & Zoning Staff for review. Staff will review the request and schedule a Planning & Zoning meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Commission meets the second and fourth Tuesday of every month; the completed application should be received at least two (2) weeks prior to the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. Each design will be reviewed in the context of nearby development and natural surroundings, the applicable zone, and specific design objectives for the property. Jerome prides itself in having an open and friendly atmosphere; the Design Review Guidelines enable business owners, as well as City staff, to continue to uphold those standards and to make Jerome a wonderful place to live. For additional information, please contact the Planning & Zoning department at (208)324-8189.

- Esmeralda Chavez, Administrative Assistant



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Proposed School District Bond Contains Several Components

The Jerome School District has seen significant growth in student enrollment over the last few years. A committee made up of local patrons recommended a bond proposal to address facilities' needs due to the enrollment growth, as well as to address several safety and security concerns at various schools. The enrollment growth has been particularly noticeable in the elementary schools. Beginning in 2007, the kindergarten classes entering the district were approximately 300 students, which is 50 more students than the grade level classes had been previous to this date. Each year since 2007, the entering kindergarten class has been about 300 students, which means as the students move through the grades, the district is growing each year. In addition, new students are moving into other grades throughout the district. Currently, grades 1 through 6 have approximately 300 students in each grade level. The kindergarten class that entered this fall is even larger, starting with 335 students.

Due to the increase in elementary students, the committee focused not only on the need for additions at the high school, but also looked at ways to accommodate the growth in elementary student enrollment. The information in this article will focus on the improvements at Jefferson Elementary, Summit Elementary, and Jerome Middle School.

Jefferson Elementary currently houses 550 students in grades kindergarten through grade three. The campus has modular buildings being used for classes including music, computer labs, and a third grade classroom. The modular buildings are not energy efficient, have ongoing maintenance issues, and lack needed space. The proposed bond would eliminate the existing modular buildings and add seven new classrooms to the North end of the existing Jefferson Elementary building. In addition, work on the student pick up areas and parking lots would be done to help alleviate traffic congestion and safety issues surrounding the building. The projected cost for the Jefferson project is just over \$2 million.

When Summit Elementary and Jerome Middle School were designed, the plan included the ability to add additional classrooms to these buildings when they were needed. The proposed plan includes adding four classrooms at Summit Elementary at a cost of \$826,000 and eight classrooms at Jerome Middle School at a cost of \$1.62 million. Also included in the proposal, is an additional outlet road for these campuses to help alleviate the traffic congestion before and after school.

The projects at these three schools make up about \$4.5 million of the nearly \$24 million bond proposal. The majority of the bond proposal is for the remodel and additions to Jerome High School to accommodate current needs and anticipated growth. Information on the high school project will be included in subsequent articles.

Community members are invited to attend an Open House, which will be held on Tuesday, February 4th, to get information and ask questions regarding the bond. The open house will be held at the Jerome High School Crowder Memorial Library from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The library entrance is on the Southeast end of the building.

- Dale Layne, Ed. S

What's Happening at the Library

Grants

The Library was just recently awarded a "Make It at your Library" grant. The purpose of this grant is to promote the idea of makerspaces and to create makers within the community. The grant will provide all the necessary materials and training to implement creative Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math-based programming for tweens and teens. Our programmers, Darbie Chocker and Alison Morgan, will be attending the first training session early in March. We will have more details available for the April newsletter.

Youth Programs

The Tweens and Teens of Jerome are now enjoying our brand new Anime Club which was established and devised just for them. The first Anime Club meeting was held Friday, January 24, 2014 and we had seven local youth in attendance. The library has a very large Anime audience, and we are delighted that we were able to provide them with such a club to allow them to explore, play and enjoy that interest. It has also been a wonderful opportunity for our local youth to get to meet fellow Anime lovers as well. The new Anime Club will meet every Friday at 3:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

Adult Programs

The Family History Genealogy class is proving to be a huge success. This is the third class that Marcia and Gary Luther have conducted and it continues to be well attended. More than 20 people have registered for the 5 weekly classes. Classes will conclude on the 19th of this month.

Projects

On January 28th and 29th, it was all hands on deck as the library staff conducted our annual inventory. This intensive process, which requires physically scanning every item housed in the library, enables us to have a relatively accurate accounting of all library holdings.

Water Rights 101

The Public Works department is producing a series of informational articles designed to give its customers a basic understanding of their water supply. The article for this month covers water rights. By definition, a water right is “the right to divert waters of the state of Idaho and put them to beneficial use, in accordance with one’s priority date.”

Everyone in Southern Idaho understands the importance of water, from cooking and cleaning, to drinking and manufacturing. The City of Jerome serves a population of 10,890, according to the 2012 Census. Our community consumes an average of 2.5 million gallons of water per day.

On March 9, 1895 the Idaho Legislature created the office of State Engineer; Frederick J. Mills, from Pocatello, was appointed to this position and served a four year term, from 1895 to 1899. In 1974, after several organizational changes, the Idaho Department of Water Resources was formed. This agency carried on the responsibility of protecting and managing Idaho’s water supply.

Have you ever wondered what gives the City the right to pump the water in the first place? Well, the City of Jerome “owns” several water rights, which allow us to “divert” or pump water from the ground.

Water is considered real property, just like your car or your house. Water rights have always been associated with land or real estate, because water “flows”. Water is found either above ground, as streams or rivers, or below ground, as free flowing aquifers, which are essentially underground lakes that have water flowing in and out of them, similar to above ground lakes. Since water was associated with the land that it passed through, when you sold your land, you also sold your water along with it. The City of Jerome has come to own its water rights through the acquisition of land, which is where our water production facilities are located. Today, water is a commodity, and buying land does not always guarantee that you will get the water rights with it.

Another component of the water definition is “beneficial use”. It is said that the concept of beneficial use must necessarily evolve with changing conditions. This means that society’s view of what is important fluctuates as times change and people evolve. We may need more water one year and not so much the following year. Beneficial use for the citizens of Jerome means whatever purpose our community believes to be important during any period of time. For example, we may enjoy lush green yards one year, but as water becomes scarcer and the costs for it increase, we may decide that lush green lawns are not necessarily what we want. The meaning of “beneficial use” is subjective; it may be interpreted differently by every individual. The “divert” component refers to the mechanical delivery of water; this will be covered in subsequent articles.

The last component is, “in accordance with one’s priority date”. The age of the water rights is referred to as the priority date, or seniority. For example, seniority at your employment may mean that you have the privilege of selecting your vacation time first, if you have more years vested in the company than your fellow colleagues. The same holds true for the priority date of water rights. The priority date is extremely important to owners of water rights, as it determines who may use their water first in a time of drought. For example, some years rainfall may not be sufficient enough to recharge the reservoirs. This in turn, means that there will not be enough water to go around for everyone’s needs. The water is allowed to be diverted by the people who own the senior water rights. During these times of drought, those who own more senior rights may petition the courts to use their water before people who have junior water rights. These actions are overseen by the Idaho Department of Water Resources. They are in charge of notifying junior water rights’ holders that they are not permitted to take water during this time. If they do so, they are subject to the laws that prevail, just like any other crime.

The City of Jerome has a mixture of water rights; some dating back to 1907, and some as late as 1985. Approximately 81% of Jerome’s water rights are prior to 1962. This is very important, because while we may be asked to not produce water using some newer water rights, we still have the right to produce a certain amount of water, using our older water rights. So, in the case that we had to temporarily stop washing our cars due to insufficient water, we would still have water to drink and use for our gardens.

The City must be diligent in its pursuit of new water rights, so that we may continue to meet the current and future needs of our community.

- Larry Bybee, Operations Supervisor - Water



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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Jerome Recreation District

"Kids Night"

- February 7th - 7-9PM
- Crafts, Snacks & Valentine Fun!

Spring Ladie's Night Out

- March 20th from 6-9PM

Spring Soccer Sign-Ups

- Sign up now thru March 10th
- 4yrs (by April 5th)- 6th grade
- Four week season

Tumbling

- February 5, 12, 19 & 26
- March 5, 12, 19
- Aerials 5PM & Twisters 5:45PM

Kindergarten Basketball Clinic

- February 18, 20, 25 & 27
- 4-5PM
- Registration open until Feb. 18
- *Must be in Kindergarten*

Valentine's Day Fundraiser

- All proceeds go towards 2014 Kid's Summer Fitness Camp
- Order your gifts, carnations or ballons at the JRD by February 10th. They can be picked up after February 12th

**Check out their website for class
 schedules and the
 latest JRD information:
[www.jeromerecreationdistrict.
 com](http://www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com)**

Jerome Recreation District

2032 South Lincoln ,Jerome, ID 83338

208-324-3389

Events in February

LIBRARY PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

- Game Day Tuesdays @ 3PM
- Story Time on Fridays @ 10AM & 1PM
- Movies Fridays days @ 2:30PM
- Teen Valentine Spa Party for girls grades 4-12 on Thursday, February 13th at 3:30 pm

Contact the Library at 324-5427 for adult programs.



Events Around Town

American Legion Auxiliary meeting Thursday February 6, 4 p.m. at American Legion Hall, North Lincoln and Seventh Street East, Jerome. Contact information: 324-5322

Civic Club meeting, Tuesday February 11, 1 p.m. at Jerome Public Library. Contact information: 329-0570

Friends of Jerome Public Library meeting Thursday February 13, 10 a.m. at the Library meeting room. Contact information: 420-1491

Jerome County Historical Society meeting, Thursday February 13, 6 p.m. at the Depot Museum. Bring an antique article for show and tell. Contact information: 324-3604 or 421-6632

Twin Falls area Chapter Idaho Writers League, Saturday February 15, 10 am. At KMVT Community Room, Blue Lake Blvd. North, Twin Falls. Kory Lloyd, CSI instructor, is speaker. All persons interested in writing are welcome. No admittance fee. Contact information: 324-4813
 - Submitted by Linda Helms

Stay Informed with Community and Emergency Alerts

The City of Jerome has switched to the SIRCOMM Citizen Alert Notification (C.A.N.) system for local emergency alerts. The City has decided to continue to send community updates via Nixle. The City is encouraging citizens to opt in to these programs to receive emergency and non-emergency alerts.

Sign up at www.sircomm.com or select the link on the City of Jerome website at www.ci.jerome.id.us for emergency alerts. When you sign up for the alerts you will have the opportunity to select multiple locations to receive notifications and you will be able to select the type of alerts you would like to receive. The new program is managed by SIRCOMM. The City will be joining Twin Falls County, Gooding County, Jerome County and Lincoln County to provide emergency alerts to the community.

Citizens can sign up for community alerts by selecting the "sign up for Nixel" link on the City's website at www.ci.jerome.id.us.

Citizens can also get information about the City of Jerome in the City Newsletter, on Facebook (City of Jerome, Idaho) or at www.ci.jerome.id.us.

Road Closure: Bridge Replacement Project in Jerome County

The Jerome Highway District will be replacing the bridge located at 180 North Road, (North Lincoln) Jerome, Idaho, Jerome County. Beginning Monday, February 3, to April 1, 2014 the road will be closed to thru traffic approximately 60 days. The bridge replacement is on the Jerome Highway District's Capitol Improvement. The approximate cost of the project is \$130,000. Idaho Sand & Gravel is the prime contractor and EHM Engineers is the construction consultant. If the public has any questions regarding the project, they can contact the Jerome Highway District at 324-4601 or Idaho Sand & Gravel at 324-5100.

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