



# The City Newsletter

December 2010

Welcome to the  
CITY OF JEROME

[www.ci.jerome.id.us](http://www.ci.jerome.id.us)

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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:

- December 7<sup>th</sup>
- December 21<sup>st</sup>

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

## IDENTITY THEFT: THE REAL GRINCH STEALING CHRISTMAS

Almost everyone knows the story of the odd looking Grinch who set out to stop Christmas in Who-ville by stealing everything right down to the presents, the ribbons, the tags, the tinsel, the trimmings and everything to do with Christmas. Today here in Who-ville, or I mean Jerome, there is a new Grinch that is out to steal your Christmas. Unlike the story, this Grinch is not green and doesn't come to town on an oversized sled pulled by an undersized dog. This Grinch may look like you or me and may even steal your Christmas from thousands of miles away; for the Grinch of our story is the person that is out to steal your identity. Identity thieves can be particularly active during the holiday season. Here are a few tips to help prevent you from having your Christmas stolen by the Identity Theft Grinch.



Article by Dan Hall,  
Chief of Jerome Police  
Department

- Make sure you know who you are dealing with and don't give out your personal information to others unless you have a reason to trust them.
- Never give out personal information over the telephone such as your date of birth, social security number, mother's maiden name or information that may be used to verify your identity. Your bank or financial institution will not call you and ask for this type of information.
- Don't reply to e-mails requesting your personal information in order to receive a prize or gift.

*Article continued on next page*

## New Trash Removal Information

From December 13<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, all trash will be curb-side pickup only in preparation for snowy streets. There will be no alley pickup for trash during this time. Beginning December 15, all alley carts must be placed on the curb for pickup.

For questions, call PSI 733-4441

## WINTER HAS ARRIVED: DRIVING TIPS

With winter making its dramatic entrance last week, the City Police would like to remind all Jerome citizens of a few safe winter driving tips:

- Buckle up always and use your safety belt. This means all passengers and children.
- Be prepared; always carry a First-Aid kit, map, ice scraper, snow brush, matches, candles, flashlight, and warning triangles.
- A blanket and an old pair of boots should always be kept in the car.
- Keep all your car's windows, mirrors, and lights clear of snow and ice.
- Check that headlamps, turn signals, and tail lights are unobstructed by snow and ice.
  - Clear off the entire car when scraping windows in the morning, not just a little peephole in the windshield.
  - Add gas line anti-freeze to the fuel-tank when refueling in extremely cold weather.
  - Always keep gas tank over half full. If you get stranded, the engine will be your only source of heat.
  - Make sure your windshield wipers are in good operating condition.
- Check windshield washer fluid level.
- Check engine oil, cars use more oil in the winter.
- Have a mechanic check the battery charging system and belts.
- Always maintain a safe following distance between your car and the vehicle in front.
- When driving in the snow, do everything cautiously and defensively!
- If you must go out when the conditions are poor, take a friend with you. Four eyes are better than two
- Restrain your pets and don't forget to provide ventilation for them.
  - Before beginning your trip, know the current road conditions and weather forecast. You can get information via the phone at 1-888-IDA-ROAD.



Please drive safe and for more Winter Driving Tips, please visit [www.isp.state.id.us/winterdriving.html](http://www.isp.state.id.us/winterdriving.html).

## AVOIDING A DISTASTROUS HOLIDAY SEASON

**B**etween 2003 and 2007, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 250 fires per year started by Christmas trees, and another 170 started by Christmas decorations. Between 2003 and 2006, an estimated 14,800 residential structure fires were started by candles. In that same time period there were 160 civilian deaths, 1,340 civilian injuries, with property damages in excess of \$471 million. While these numbers are pretty



Article by Jon Lenker,  
 Jerome Police  
 Department

grim, they could be a lot worse if it were not for the well-trained men and women in fire departments all over this country. To avoid a disastrous holiday season with unnecessary risk, this article provides a few tips that can make this time of year bit safer. We all love our public safety personnel but would rather not see the lights in front of our house on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

There are many things to watch for this time of year, and none of them include a corpulent man coming down the chimney, however the chimney is a good place to start. You should have your chimney cleaned on a regular basis to prevent the buildup of creosote. This substance is the cause of many chimney fires every year. Smoke alarms should be checked around the holidays, as half of all home fires occur from December through February. Many of our residents have pets. If you have a pet that likes to chew, be very careful about Christmas tree lights. I had a dog chew up a string of lights one year and, luckily for us, we only had to replace the lights as they were not plugged in at the time. Scented and unscented Candles can be a great way to set a festive mood, but make sure

to keep your decorations away from the candles. Many Christmas decorations are flammable.

I love the smell of a fresh cut Christmas tree in my home. If you decide to keep a live tree, like I do, following a few simple safety tips can avoid a house fire. Always keep water in the base because wet trees are simply more difficult to burn. However, even a well hydrated pine tree will burn. Never put lit candles on a tree and always ensure the light strings are in good shape and designed for indoor use. Never place your tree near a heat source. Heating ducts or baseboard heaters can dry out the tree, even if water is in the base. Electricity in wires and fixtures or overloaded electrical outlets causes heat to build up. While it is festive to spruce up your home with many beautiful decorations, remember to never block exits with them. Keep all



exits, including windows, free from obstructions. If you are having company, advise your guests of where they might be able to exit should a fire start. Friends

and family are a precious gift; property can be replaced.

These are only a few suggestions that the Jerome Fire Department would like passed on for a safe holiday season. There are many more tips that can help you keep this season a safe and happy time of year. If you would like more tips, information, and statistics available and can be reached at 324-2323.

From me, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the entire City of Jerome, have a safe and happy holiday season.

## IDENTITY THEFT

### Continued from Previous Page

- Never send money to someone who promises a cash prize, inheritance, or other large sum of money in return.
- If offered a credit card, prize, or other valuable item and asked for your personal information, request that they send you a written application form.
- If you are leaving home for more than a few days, arrange for someone to pick

- up your mail.
- Check your bank statements, credit card statements, and financial information regularly and look for any unfamiliar activity.
- Always maintain control of your credit cards and financial transaction cards. Never loan them to anyone.
- Invest in a shredder and shred any mail

## 93 TECH PARK PROJECT NEARING COMPLETION



**T**he City Water Works and Public Works have combined forces to finish the 93 tech park project. When the park is finished, there will be 29 lots from approximately 1 to 4 acres that will accommodate businesses to diversify the Magic Valley job market. The purpose of this project is to attract hi-tech companies and jobs to the Magic Valley that will greatly enhance the communications infrastructure to benefit Jerome, CSI and Twin Falls. The project is largely financed by an Economic Development Agency (EDA) grant from the federal government.

Although this project has been ongoing for some time, it is getting close to being finished. The 10 person crew is currently back filling and compacting the last 1500 feet of trench. There will be water, sewer, fiber optic lines and power available for businesses that choose to locate in the park. It is anticipated that the project will be finished and ready to occupy sometime in 2011.

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**COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES:**

**ANIMAL SHELTER FUNDRAISER**

Join us this holiday season helping the dogs at the shelter make their Christmas Wish come true. SantaPaws has told me that the dogs are hoping for new bowls, dog food, warm blankets and Kuranda dog beds this year. But they all really want for Christmas a forever home.

Help SantaPaws give the dogs their Christmas dreams by supporting the Jerome Animal Shelter in a unique fundraiser.

This is also an opportunity to give this as a gift for the person on your list that not only would love to help the dogs but would also love the quality of this gift for themselves and their pets.

When you order a museum quality professional digital portrait of your beloved furry four-footed friends, a portion of the proceeds will support your Jerome Animal Shelter. These pictures can be of any animal you wish! Not just your dog! In addition, you get to show off your pet's portrait at our annual unveiling gala. To participate, contact Monica @ 324-8189 or visit [www.jfmgd.com](http://www.jfmgd.com) for details. To see samples of the portraits, visit [www.jfmgd.com](http://www.jfmgd.com) or click the image below:



**A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS:  
 JEROME ANIMAL SHELTER ADOPTION DAY**

**DECEMBER 11, 10<sup>am</sup> - 5<sup>pm</sup>  
 VALLEY COUNTRY STORE**

Come on out to the Valley Country Store on December 11th to meet some of our dogs who are just waiting to find their forever home in time for Christmas. All our dogs come already gift wrapped! Gift wrapped in unconditional love they just want to give to a new family who will love them back. 'Puppies', food, great deals and more! Whether you are planning to adopt a shelter dog, just out shopping, or even looking for a bite to eat, there will be something for everyone! Start the weekend out right, come out and show some support for your local animal shelter.

**OUR FEATURED TAIL WAGGER IS "BRANDI".**

How can you resist this bundle of love? Well, she has one strike against her in that her color is black. Black dogs are the last to be adopted and Brandi is proof of that. She has been with us since August and is anxious to have a home of her own. Brandi is a Labrador mix that was dumped with her sister along the side of a road. Her sister was adopted but Brandi is just patiently waiting for her family to find her. She is under a year old and is just sweet dog! Come meet her and see if she is what you family is looking for!



**ENGINEERING CURRENTLY WITH 80 PROJECTS**

As we turn the page on completed tasks, such as our senior citizen center, we focus on new projects for our city Engineering department. Over 80 projects are on the list to be completed. Among these projects are two high priority sewer developments and the construction of a sidewalk route to the Summit Elementary and Jerome Middle schools.

The Dino Brockman's EDA sewer project, with an estimated completion date of August 2011, will allow for wastewater to be moved from the south end of town to the sewer plant located on the northern end of town by upgrading the Brockman Lift Station and pumping sewage to the H street Lift Station. Also, as part of an EPA STAG grant, the city is preparing to install a half mile gravity sewer line on east Frontage Road so businesses located in this area will not have to rely on septic systems.

The Safe Routes To School initiative will create a sidewalk between 8th and 10th street on N. Lincoln Avenue. The initial objective was to construct a

pathway on both sides of the road, but the bids came in too high, the re-bid will now consist of only one side being completed. Nonetheless, our students will have a safer means of getting to school.

These infrastructure projects are only a few of the 80+ projects currently on the Engineering Department's "to-do" list.



Jerome Senior Center landscaping now complete

## THE GUNS OF JEROME

Article written by Mike Hatfield, Chief of the Jerome Fire Department, concerning a recent interview with Detective Duane Rubink of the Jerome Police Department

In my recent interview with Detective Duane Rubink, we discussed the evolution of firearms in the Police Department and the logic behind the arsenal currently maintained by each squad car in an effort to better protect the community. Long gone are the days of a saddle mounted Model 94 lever action rifle and hip holstered Colt six shooters. We now see an evolution of multiuse shotguns, automatic rifles and automatic sidearm's carried in a multitude of shoulder, hip, leg and waist mounted holsters.

For the most part, the recent innovations in firearms have been derived from military applications and confirmed in the battlefield. Benchmark incidents in the public such as the urban terrorism experience at the Columbine High School and the Hollywood Bank Robbery and subsequent shootouts have also contributed to recent reevaluations of law enforcement practices. The need to arm law enforcement to meet modern day challenges as well as the need to have more discriminating applications of force have created a radical change in the methods, types, and procedures utilized to create an efficient and practical application of deadly force and non-lethal applications as well.

What was considered the tradition ten or even five years prior is now dated technology.

Service revolvers such as the six shot Smith & Wesson in .38 and .357 calibers have now given way to 10 mm and .40, .45 caliber lightweight Glock and Smith& Wesson automatics with



The once popular .357 service revolver (left) has been replaced by Glock (right), with magazine capacities of eighteen rounds.



for the delivery of less-lethal and non-lethal alternatives such as pepper balls, bean

magazine capacities of eighteen rounds. What was once the norm to carry a Remington four round 12 gauge shotgun loaded with slugs and buck shot has now given way to AR-15 and MP-15's with 223 caliber, large capacity magazines with high velocity rounds designed for various applications of stopping power and penetration. Shotguns are still carried but do not have the capacity, accuracy and reach of the modern long gun and are more suited as a platform for the delivery of less-lethal and non-lethal alternatives such as pepper balls, bean bags and tear gas.

With changes in technology, we also see changes in training and qualifications with each of the firearms utilized in modern law enforcement. Typically, each officer qualifies once a year with all firearms they are expected to use as well as range practice six times a year with at least one night firing drill.

The police department of today is worlds apart from the police department of yesterday with constant changes in all aspects of the profession. Staying abreast of firearm innovations and applications is only one part of the knowledge base required of the officers of the Jerome Police Department.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT ISSUING PERMITS

What is happening at our building department this month you might ask yourself? Well I am glad to announce that they are keeping busy with issuing occupancy permits to at least three new businesses a month while keeping up with inspections for new buildings or additions. This month, the building department issued more than ten building permits.

Many of the Certificates of Occupancy issued to businesses this month have been for the utilization and renovation of existing establishments. However, a new building is nearing completion in the Glenn Eagle Commercial Subdivision for a long-term care facility which will soon be opening its doors to provide services to Jerome and the surrounding area. The building has just passed the framing inspection and will be installing insulation and drywall shortly. Other companies, such as Jerome Cheese, are expanding their facilities. Jerome Cheese plant will also add on to its staff to accommodate the facility renovations.

New single family dwellings are still being built. There were a total of 8 new applications in one day, to be approved by our Building Department. Some of these new homes will be located in the Stauffer Estates Subdivision.

## NEW EMPLOYEES HIRED IN WATER WORKS DEPARTMENT

### NICK LARSON OPERATOR



Nick has extensive experience with heavy equipment and construction in addition to experience in the Water/Waste Water field. Nick will renew his Operator 1 license shortly and be off to the races!

### DADE PETTINGER OPERATOR



Dade comes to us with experience and education in the Water/Waste Water field. In addition, Dade has chosen this field for his life long career. We are looking forward to Dade learning from us and we are positive we will learn from him as well!

### SUNNIE ROGERS TRUCK DRIVER



Sunnie has over 20 years of experience driving truck along with other heavy equipment operation. She has previously been employed by the City of Jerome as a meter reader and is excited to get back here to continue her career. We are fortunate to have someone with the level of experience Sunnie brings to the table.

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**Jerome  
 Recreation  
 District**

Check our website for the  
 latest information  
[www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com](http://www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com)  
 Questions? Call (208) 324-3389

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

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

**When: December 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
- Every Tuesday-Bingo 6:45 Snack Bar opens at 5:00
- Every Thursday evening 7pm-Women's pool league
- Every Wednesday-Country Boys Band to perform

**JEROME PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS**

- The Smithsonian exhibit will be at the Library starting Saturday December 11th, with an opening gala from 1:00-3:00 pm. and wrapping up on Saturday January 22nd with guest speaker Ron Hatzenbuehler, also from 1:00-3:00. There will be events every Saturday during this presentation. For more information, call the library at 324-5427, or visit the city of Jerome website, [www.ci.jerome.id.us](http://www.ci.jerome.id.us) and follow the link to the library under "City Government."
- Santa will be at the Library at 10:00 am. Friday December 17th, come join us and have, "Cookies with Santa."

**DECEMBER ISSUE STAFF WRITERS**



**Chief Dan Hall** has worked for the City for almost seven years. He provided holiday safety tips for this issue.

**Chief Mike Hatfield** has been with the City for just over a year. He reported on the Police Department for this issue.



**Sonny Henry** has worked for the City for over four years. He reported on the Public Works Department for this issue.



**Jon Lenker** has been a patrol officer with the Police Department for over nine years. He reported on the Fire Department for this issue.

**Silvia Rosales** has worked in the library for just over two months. She reported on the Building Department for this issue.



**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 and the animal shelter.