



The City Newsletter

January 2014

Welcome to the
CITY OF JEROME

www.ci.jerome.id.us

In this Issue:

- EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR
- MAYOR SHINE
- THANK YOU MAYOR SHINE
- SKATE PARK
- RESOLVE TO BE READY
- SCHOOL BOND
- CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING
- WASTEWATER UPDATE
- PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP
- CHAMBER HOLIDAY EVENTS
- NEW CITY EMPLOYEES
- JEROME RECREATION DISTRICT EVENTS
- LIBRARY EVENTS
- EVENTS AROUND TOWN

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:

- January 7th
- January 14th
- February 4th
- February 18th

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

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

The City of Jerome acknowledges Tony Preston, Information Systems Technician, as the Employee of the Year for 2013. Tony (pictured to the right) began working with the City in November 2009 as an Information Systems Technician I and soon advanced to become an Information Systems Technician II.

"I am grateful to be recognized by my peers for my hard work," Tony commented when asked about his award. He continued "but I know that the City of Jerome has a lot of people that also deserve to be recognized."

Tony always has a good attitude and a cheerful disposition. He does an excellent job providing technical support for the end users, and is willing to share his knowledge. He is the Chairman of the Safety Committee and also serves on the Wellness Committee. We thank Tony for his dedication and truly appreciate his skills.



MAYOR JOHN SHINE REFLECTS ON HIS TIME IN OFFICE

Mayor Shine (pictured to the right) started his position as Mayor of the City of Jerome in January 2010. His current term ends January 7th, 2014. Before he became Mayor, Shine had a small business doing computer work, computer repair, and some computer education for about 10-12 years. Before that he worked for IBM for 30 years as a financial planner. Mayor Shine was born in Dallas, Texas and was raised in the military, which means he moved many times while growing up. He earned a degree in Business Administration at San Jose, California and became a corporate accountant. He has two sons. They live in California; one is a rock physicist for Chevron, and the other is an insurance agent.



"When I first became mayor, I had this vision of what I was going to accomplish. I had been on the City Council and had been the chairman of the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency, and so well-planned economic development was my first priority," said Shine. This is an agriculture area, he noted, and he wanted to keep economic development consistent with the culture of Jerome, adding, "There are a lot of products that are developed as a result of ag, such as value-added manufacturing potatoes into French fries, and milk into cheese." The Mayor emphasized that job creation happens at the city level, because "The federal government isn't going to come in and help create jobs – they'll help cities like Detroit, or bail out banks, but they're not going to come to Jerome, except through grant opportunities which the City has to apply for, manage and match funds" he said. Mayor Shine is glad that he brought one small company in to Jerome; Old Hickory Buildings, creating about 50 jobs. He went on to say, "The other important thing about economic development is that you increase the tax base. You increase the tax value for the city, and that will reduce residents' property taxes."

2010 was notable for the disastrous Wastewater Treatment Facility overflow. Shine said, "The facility was under-maintained, antiquated, and the money was not being collected to provide enough funding to actually do an adequate job. I do remember, when I was on the City Council, having discussions about raising rates. Rates became a political issue in Jerome. Jerome had some of the lowest rates around and in the

Continued on Page 2

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Mayor Shine Continued from Page 1

meantime the system was falling apart. Our rates now are more consistent with other cities. You have to maintain these old systems." He added, "I had some very difficult decisions to make, they weren't going to be very popular, and I went ahead and made them. One of the things I discovered when I was working with the Wastewater Treatment Facility from a budget standpoint, our plant was terribly underfunded. We should have been setting aside large amounts of money for maintenance for years, and it wasn't even in the budget."

Shine remembered that "The next three years totally consumed all my time in working with engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Justice (DOJ), trying to come up with a plan to keep that from ever happening again. It's not done yet, the work will go on for several years. I have spent a lot of time making sure the EPA and DOJ understand how sincere the City of Jerome is in solving this problem. I have helped to establish some credibility and that working relationship that I know my successor will be able to carry on with."

The city went to the voters for a \$48 million bond to cure the deficiencies and "add additional capacity". This is the Bond Election the voters turned down. The city then went to the court for Judicial Confirmation for a lesser amount, \$35.8 million, the amount needed to just cure the deficiencies. Shine said, "We needed to get authorization from the courts to spend the money to make the upgrades we needed to make. It's very complicated, because in Idaho you go to the voters to make major capital expenditures and we did go to the voters back in May and they turned us down. The problem is, we have to do the work anyway, whether the people want to pay or not, because it is under mandate from EPA. We have to do it, it isn't discretionary. Since it is wastewater processing for a community, that automatically makes it 'ordinary'. The EPA told us we needed to add capacity to the point where we can demonstrate with a strong likelihood we will never have another event like we had in 2010. We have to spend that money and the EPA is going to give us a consent decree, which means we'll have to do certain things on a certain timeline."

Shine noted that the solution to the wastewater treatment system has been planned but it hasn't been engineered yet; "We do not have a detailed design yet, because we had to pass through the judicial confirmation before we could begin design. The City is working with Keller Associates in Boise. We will be working to design the most cost effective possible solution and will spend less than \$35 million if at all possible. If the city spends less than \$35 million, the people will see a reduction in sewer rates. I always want to remind everybody; we've planned for what we think is the worst case scenario. We're hoping to be able to design a more cost effective solution and not have to spend all that money." He continued, "We have authorization from the court, so now we go to bond and borrow money from the USDA." Low interest loans can be obtained from the Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and USDA. The recent increase in sewer rates is to give us a pool of money every year to service that debt." Sewer rates were increased in November and \$19.50 has been added to monthly sewer bills.

Mayor Shine is very satisfied that he completed a number of projects during his term. "I guess the one I'm most proud of is closing Area 1 Urban Renewal Agency. It resulted in a big reduction in taxes." He also "wrapped up and closed out" several grants that were started before his tenure. During the Mayor's term, the City completed four major infrastructure development projects: 1) The EDA project to add water, sewer, and fiber optics 2) EPA project to contain sewage from Crossroads Business Park and transport it to the City's plant 3) Completion of upgrades to West 8th St. from N. Lincoln to Fir, including new water lines, sewer lines, irrigation pipe, street, curbs, gutters and sidewalks and 4) Closeout of Urban Renewal area #1, resulting in creation of over 400 jobs, the Recreation Center and Fire Station #2, water and sewer improvements, some new streets in the South Lincoln corridor, and an increase in the City's assessed valuation of \$70 million.

Shine is certain that the work he has done for the City of Jerome in the past four years has garnered some very good results, and he feels that the results of his efforts will "...bear themselves out in a good light over time; working to get this wastewater treatment plant done and showing good intentions to the regulatory agencies leaves the City of Jerome in a position of strength that will be able to encourage further economic development."

When asked what his plans are for after his term as Mayor, Shine said, "I will continue to be of service in some way. I will probably be more active in some of the ministries of my church, St. Jerome's Catholic Church. They have a huge food ministry and they always need more arms and legs over there to help. The number of meals being served are five times as many as they were five years ago. There's a lot of work involved with that."

By Evelyn Simon, North Side Journal

Thank You Mayor Shine

The City of Jerome would like to thank Mayor John Shine for his dedication and service to this community and the organization for the past eight years. The projects that were started and completed while he served as Mayor and previously as a Council Member will have a lasting impact on the City of Jerome. The time and effort that he invested into the community is greatly appreciated.

Jerome Skate Park receives \$2,500 from Idaho Community Foundation

The Jerome Skate Park Coalition has received a grant of \$2,500 from the Gladys E. Langroise Advised Fund, Unrestricted Southwestern Region in the Idaho Community Foundation. This funding was awarded to help build a skate park in Jerome. You can help too!

The skate park in Jerome, Idaho will provide a place for youth to express themselves in an individual and athletic manner. Skateboarding is one of the nation's fastest growing sports and now rivals football and basketball as the most popular activities among youth. It is an activity for all ages. The park will serve approximately 1,116 skaters in the Jerome area. There are also several other benefits of the skate park, such as:

- Help diversify the physical activities available in our community
- Promote healthy lifestyles
- Help build social skills
- Have a positive effect on the skater's mental health
- Reduce criminal activity
- Attract tourism

The amount required to build a 4,500 square foot skate park for Jerome is \$100,000. The grant is helping to bring us closer to this goal. We are grateful for the generosity of the Idaho Community Foundation and the members of our community who have donated and pledged a total of \$81,237.62. The Idaho Community Foundation deserves special thanks for helping the youth of Jerome.

People interested in making a tax deductible donation may contact Kathy at (208)324-8189 x141. Donations may also be mailed to Jerome Skate Park Coalition, 2400 South Lincoln, Jerome, ID 83338. There will be a recognition sign at the park to make the community aware of our generous supporters.

- Jerome Skate Park Coalition

RESOLVE TO BE READY IN 2014

6 Out of 10 American Households Do Not Have a Family Emergency Plan

As the New Year approaches, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is reminding Americans to "Resolve to be Ready" in 2014.

Taking simple steps to prepare now can make all the difference in the event of an emergency.

Disasters can occur without warning and each and every family member needs to know what to do in case one does. Ready.gov/kids has all the info you need to start the conversation with your family including age-appropriate materials, template communication plans, emergency kit checklists and disaster fact sheets.

This New Year, make sure every member of your family knows:

- Who to call
- Where to meet
- What to pack

By making a resolution to take a few simple steps to prepare in advance, you can minimize the impact an emergency could have on your family, home or community. For more information visit the Ready.gov/prepared2014 website, or follow Facebook and Twitter @Readygov.

Jerome County Office of Emergency Management has many preparedness tips and worksheets as well available on the county website www.jeromecountyid.us under Departments/Emergency Management. We wish everyone a Very Safe, Prepared and Prosperous New Year!

- Clint Blackwood, Jerome County Emergency Management

Jerome School District Bond Will Go to Voters

A facilities advisory committee made up of over 60 community members have been meeting since June. After reviewing enrollment projections and facility needs, the committee made a recommendation for remodel and additions throughout the district, which total nearly \$24 million. The recommendation went to the Jerome School District Board of Trustees, who then approved the recommendation during their November meeting. The recommendation also came with a proposal to extend the length of an existing bond, which will help lower the annual cost to tax payers.

If the bond passes, it is estimated that it will cost taxpayers 68 cents per thousand of taxable value. For example, a median priced home in Jerome is currently \$135,000. A homeowner with a homeowner's exemption would pay about \$45.90 annually or \$3.83 per month toward the proposed bond.

Several items drove the recommendation of the committee, one of which centered on the need to address safety and security issues. A second concern is the growing number of students in the district. Of the many safety concerns in the district, the one that stood out the most, is the current location of the office at the high school. The office is currently located upstairs away from any entrance to the building, which makes it difficult to control who goes in and out of the building. The plan includes relocating the office to the South main entrance of the school where the cafeteria is presently located. The project would also eliminate many of the other entrances to the building; helping to control access to the school. A new cafeteria and kitchen would be built as part of the plan with a larger seating capacity and multiple food service windows.

The student enrollment continues to grow throughout the district. More than 200 students are in the schools as compared to just two years ago. All indications are that the enrollment will continue to climb. When compared to the 2012-2013 school year, a conservative estimate has another 450 students enrolled by 2017-2018; the year in which the project would be fully completed.

School buildings in the district are at or near capacity with the current enrollment. There is one available classroom at the middle school which is likely to be filled next year as more students will move into that school for the 2014-2015 year. Students are presently occupying modular buildings at Jefferson, Horizon, and Jerome High School to accommodate existing classrooms.

The proposed project includes:

Jefferson Elementary – Site improvements for parking and student drop off; Seven new classrooms; Elimination of modular buildings

Summit Elementary – Four new classrooms

Jerome Middle School – Outlet road to alleviate traffic congestion; Eight new classrooms

Jerome High School - Office relocation; Security upgrades; New kitchen and cafeteria; Sixteen additional classrooms including a science lab, art room, drama room, and thirteen general education rooms; Elimination of two modular buildings; Site improvements including parking lot and improved entrances and exits to the parking area; Additional gymnasium for Physical Education classes and extracurricular activities, Auditorium renovation.

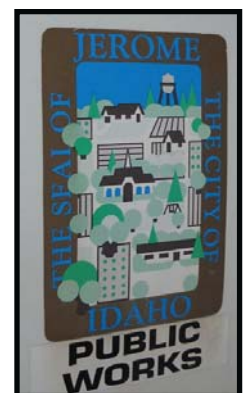
Future articles will provide more detail of each of the projects. To get additional information about the school bond please contact the School Superintendent, Business Manager, School Board Clerk or board members at 324-2392.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Taking down the Christmas Tree can be a time of sadness for some. It signals the end of the holidays – the toys are put away, work resumes, and another year is drawing to a close.

If you put up a live tree this year, you are left with the dilemma of how to dispose of it. The City of Jerome Public Works Department is here to help. You can drop off your live tree at the Public Works facility located at the end of 4th Avenue West and they will dispose of it for you. To find the Public Works facility, turn onto 4th Avenue West off of North Lincoln and drive to the end of the road. The Public Works facility is located at the end of the street.

Be sure to remove all the lights and ornaments from your tree before leaving it outside the gate entrance on the south side of the road. They will accept trees through the second week of January. Public Works employees then run them through a chipper and use the wood chips throughout the summer months for weed control. For questions, call the Public Works Department at 324-9669.



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City of Jerome Wastewater Treatment Facility Highlights 2013

2013 was a very busy and productive year for our Waste Water Treatment Facility. We have compiled an overview of the year's highlights:

Judicial Confirmation

Judicial confirmation was approved, enabling us to move forward with repairing the deficiencies in the treatment plant in order to meet the mandates required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We established and implemented the first steps of the Pretreatment Program, which included development and management to protect the plant from toxic wastewater discharge. We were also able to establish a Wastewater Collection Systems Program; Wastewater Department personnel have succeeded in cleaning over 20 miles of Collection System Piping, this cleaning has greatly reduced the amount of sanitary sewer overflows which ultimately has created a better environment for our citizens.

Plans to Build a Holding Pond

Plans have been made to build a holding pond north of the Waste Water Treatment Facility, this pond will provide for 1- week storage of Influent Flow if a bypass is necessary. This option will also protect the Treatment Facility unit processes in case of a toxic load and will provide valuable TIME if a process unit is down. This will also protect the downstream users of the J-Canal.

Process Control Programs

Process control programs have been put into effect at the Jerome Waste Water Treatment Facility. These programs are designed to ensure that the potential for non-compliance is mitigated and the permit parameters of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System are not exceeded. The primary goal is to ensure the health and safety of the downstream users and the environment. The process control plan is one part of a comprehensive process management program. It defines several components that are necessary for an overall process control management program, such as proper staffing, effective communication, regular process meetings, and documentation.

Management Change

Gilbert L. Sanchez joined the City in September 2012 as the Waste Water Superintendent; he has 37 years of experience in Waste Water Treatment, Class IV Idaho WW, Class IV Idaho WW collection, and a Class IV ABC Waste Water license honored in 27 states. Gilbert has worked in the private sector of Waste Water performing startups, assessments, and initiating operational process changes and control strategies.

Additional Personnel

Dade Pettinger joined the City in January 2013 as the Industrial Pre-treatment Coordinator. He is currently working towards an Applied Sciences Degree focusing on Environmental Engineering Technology. Dade worked for a food processing facility as an Industrial Wastewater Operator, he also worked with municipalities as a Drinking Water Treatment Operator. All personnel are currently enrolled in California State University correspondence courses. The following individuals are the Jerome personnel that tested and upgraded their State of Idaho operator licenses in 2013; Brad Henry, Alfred Alvarez, Dade Pettinger, and Don Bennett.

Industrial Pretreatment Program

The City of Jerome participates in this EPA mandated program to ensure that all Significant Industrial Users are operating within the permit parameters established by the City. This IPP program prevents overloading the capacity of the treatment facility as well as preventing the potential for toxic loads. The IPP program also provides for the control of fats, oils, and grease entering the system.

Operational Spread Sheet Development

Spreadsheet for process control enables entry of the daily data which calculates loadings within each process unit. This enables the operators to make operational decisions with confidence to maintain the desired loadings for effective treatment of the wastewater to meet stringent NPDES permit parameters.

Facility Increase in Organic Loading Rate Capacity

Facility Organic Loading Rate capacity was increased by 1,100 pounds per day by utilizing the entire space available in Bio-tower #2.

Looking to the Future

2014 will continue to be busy as well as bring us challenges along the way. The Wastewater Department will strive to ensure that

Continued on Page 8

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Parkinson's Support Group

The Magic Valley Parkinson's Support Group is forming to provide assistance and support to people with Parkinson's disease in the Magic Valley area. The meetings will be held at the Jerome Library at 100 1st Ave East. The first meeting will be held Monday, January 13, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.

As many as 1.5 million American's have Parkinson's disease and every year 65,000 more cases are diagnosed. The Magic Valley has approximately 1,000 individuals diagnosed with the disease. Most cases are diagnosed after age 60, with men being one and a half times more likely to have it than women.

The first symptom of Parkinson's disease is often tremor. However, other motor disorders may also be present or be exhibited alone, such as trouble with balance, slowness of movement evidenced by difficulty buttoning a shirt, cutting food or brushing teeth, as well as short, shuffling steps.

These symptoms cause personal distress and may limit the person's ability to manage work or social life.

A support group where those suffering from Parkinson's disease and their spouse or caregiver may meet others to discuss and learn methods of coping can be a life-saver to many families. Neurologists who treat Parkinson's encourage their patients to participate in a Support Group to combat depression and learn coping skills.

There will be no charge to participate in the Magic Valley Parkinson's Support Group, and the monthly meeting will include educational speakers, discussion time and socialization. It will be managed by volunteers. The purpose is to offer support and education for Parkinson's sufferers and their spouses and caregivers.

If you or someone in your family has Parkinson's, and has questions, please contact Nancy at (208)536-2131 or via e-mail at nfturley@att.net.

FIRST ANNUAL LIGHTS PARADE & TREE LIGHTING A HUGE SUCCESS

The 1st annual Jerome Lights Parade & Tree Lighting event was a huge success. There were 18 entries in the lights parade and over 1,000 people attend the parade and tree lighting event.

The event would not have been possible without the hard work of our committee and all of our sponsors and supporters including St. Luke's Jerome, Wright Physical Therapy, Valley Country Store, Believer's Church, Hilex-Poly, Jerome Recreation District, City of Jerome, Williams Meservy-Lothspeich, 4-H Club, Girl Scouts, Hot 100 FM, KMVT Television, Latinos in Action and so many more. It truly was a coming together of our community and we are already working on making the event better for next year.

If you have any comments on the event or suggestions for next year, please email Director@VisitJeromeldaho.com.

Chamber of Commerce Window Decorating Contest

The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all of the contest participants that took part in the Jerome Chamber of Commerce business window decorating contest. The goal of the contest is to make Jerome look festive during the Holiday season.

Congratulations to the top three contest winners:

- 1st Place to Canyon Falls Dental, \$400 prize
- 2nd place to Valley Country Store, \$200 prize
- 3rd place to Jerome Recreation District, \$100 prize

Please welcome the newest employees to the City of Jerome!

Alfred (Al) Hodges
Wastewater Biosolids Operator

James Gergens
Public Works Technician

Esmeralda Chavez
Administrative Assistant

Alison Morgan
Library Programs Specialist

Donna O'Brien
Library Circulation Clerk

Malorie Kast
Wastewater Laboratory Technician

Bernadette (Bernie) Gomes
Account Clerk/City Clerk Assistant

Carla Colfack
Wastewater/Public Works Administrative Assistant

Lyle Guffy
Public Works Water Operator

The City announces current job openings on our website at www.ci.jerome.id.us on the Employment Opportunities page.

2014 JRD New Year's Team Weight Loss Challenge

Starts on January 6th 2014

Challenge will last for 12 weeks. Teams of 4. First weigh-in will be at the first meeting on January 6, at 7pm. Challenge consists of one free exercise class per week, facebook daily weight loss info and weekly weigh-ins. Winner will be determined by the highest % of weight lost per team. Friends, siblings, co-workers and spouses are all encouraged to make a team.

Cost: \$100 Team

**Winning team will receive \$600 for the team
and a 6month JRD Silver membership!**

Extra Prizes for 2014 Challenge!

- **One hour massage**
- **One hour at Miracle Hot Springs**



*Make 2014 a healthier and happier year
for you, your friends and family!*



Jerome Recreation District

"Kids Night"

- January 2nd - 7-9PM
- Movie Night

Tumbling

- January 8, 15, 22 & 29
- February 5, 12, 19 & 26

Home School PE

- Wed. & Fri. 5-6PM

Kids Fitness Class

- Tuesday & Thursday
- 5:15 - 6PM

TaeKwonDo

- Tuesday & Thursday
- 4 - 5PM

Jujitsu

- Mondays 5-6PM

PiYo is Back

- Mondays & Wednesdays
- 5:30 - 6:15PM

Spring Soccer Sign Up

- Jan. 27- March 10

Kindergarden Basketball Clinic

- Feb. 18, 20, 25 & 27
- 4-5PM
- Registration is open!

2013 Weight Loss Challenge

- Meeting - January 6 @7PM
- 12 week challenge
- 4 person teams

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

Library Events in January

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

- Game Day Tuesdays @ 3PM
- Story Time on Fridays @ 10AM & 1PM
- Movies Fridays days @ 2:30PM

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

- Genealogy Class – Wednesdays at 7PM from Jan. 22 – Feb. 19
 (Pre-registration is required)

Contact the Library at 324-5427 for teen and adult programs.



THE LIBRARY HOLIDAY EVENTS WERE A SUCCESS

Over 100 children and parents enjoyed the "Cookies with Santa" festivities on December 20th at the library. Dave Richey made a wonderful Santa. We had several firemen in attendance, Steven Morgan, Sean Kirk, Lane Sickles, and Larry Garey to read stories. The group of firemen did have to leave to respond to a call, but were able to return and help with the clean-up. Additionally, the children from Miss Sue's daycare sang Christmas carols.

Alison Morgan planned and hosted her first and very successful Teen/Tween Christmas party. Ten youth attended the party which was the best attendance we've had in a while. There were cookies, popcorn and lemonade in abundance. The participants were very proud of the snowman and reindeer ornaments they made. Some even planned on giving them as Christmas gifts.

Events Around Town

American Legion Auxiliary meeting January 2, 4 p.m., at the American Legion Hall, North Lincoln and Seventh Street East. 944-4300.

Jerome Civic Club meeting January 14, 1 p.m. at the Jerome Public Library. We will be creating cloth bags to hold products for the CASA children. 324-8210 or 421-6632.

Friends of the Jerome Library meeting, January 9, NOON—annual potluck soup, salads and desserts. at Jerome Public Library. 324-5427.

Jerome County Historical Society meeting, January 9, 6 p.m. at the Depot Museum 212 East First Ave, Jerome. 324-5641 or 421-6632.

Idaho Writers League Twin Falls area chapter meeting January 18, KMVT Community Room, North Blue Lakes Blvd, Twin Falls. 324-4813 or 421-6632

- Submitted by Linda Helms

WWTF Continued from Page 5

we protect the health of the citizens of Jerome as well as the environment in which we live. We look forward to a new year! We will continue to publish public education articles in City Newsletter. Some of the topics may include:

- Collection System Operations
- Fats, Oils, & Grease Management
- Environmental Issues
- Water Conservation

The Wastewater Department enjoys the opportunity to work for a great community. We welcome all visitors and tours Monday through Friday from 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., by appointment only. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Wastewater Department at (208) 324-7122.