



The City Newsletter

April 2011



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THE COST OF ESSENTIAL CITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Last month we received the latest figures from the U.S. Census Bureau concerning the population of Jerome. As of April 1, 2010, the City of Jerome's population had grown to 10,890 inhabitants. This is a 40% increase over the 2000 Census count of 7,780 for the city. We attribute this growth to the success the City has had in attracting many new businesses and hundreds of jobs to the local economy in that time. And this growth was only possible because we have the infrastructure to maintain it, which has a direct impact on the city budget. There are three pillars to the city budget: operating supplies, personnel, and capital infrastructure. This month it is my intent to explain how infrastructure impacts the budget so that you can better understand the policy and priorities that determine how your tax dollars are spent in the City of Jerome.

Capital infrastructure makes up 40.14% of the budget (7.35% of it is for debt service payments). Infrastructure investments are very expensive and not very attractive to consider. Although it costs a lot up front, over time these projects can save the City millions of dollars. Infrastructure includes all city land and building facilities, the entire road system, the entire water distribution system, the entire sewer system, and the entire fleet of City vehicles and heavy equipment for Police, Fire, Public Works and Water Works Departments.

Just like when you buy a new car or truck, the initial cost is large, but then it becomes very affordable to run

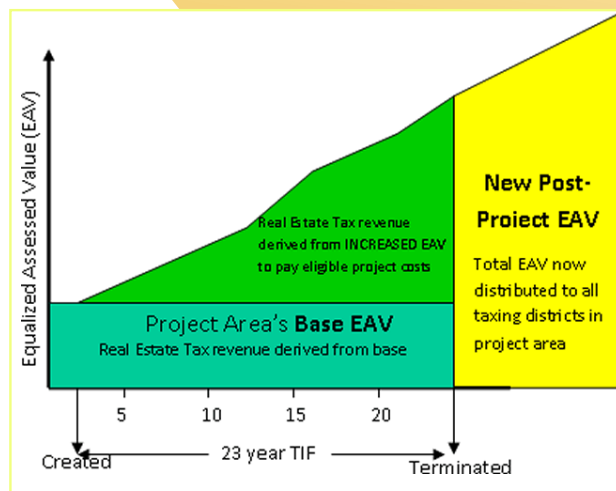


Mayor John Shine

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THE URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY: A VALUABLE JEROME ASSET

The Jerome Urban Renewal Agency was established on October 20, 1994 and activated on November 6, 1998. The Jerome Urban Re-



newal Agency is comprised of five board members that are appointed by the mayor for a five year term.

The objective for an urban renewal agency, also known as a tax increment financing agency, is to improve specified "districts" of the city that are poorly developed or under developed for the purpose of job creation and economic development. The most common type of urban renewal project is to improve public infrastructure, including streets and utilities. Other types of projects may include parks, plazas, and pedestrian facilities. These projects are designed to prepare the necessary public infrastructure that will encourage private development and job creation in those areas.

The Jerome Urban Renewal Agency has two districts
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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:

- April 5th
- April 19th

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

Remember to take the Citizen Survey!

Save \$1 on your next utility bill!

- ◊ The online survey will be available on our website until April 13th: www.ci.jerome.id.us
- ◊ Simply take the survey and enter your utility account number to receive \$1.00 off your next utility bill
- ◊ Kiosks will be available at City Hall and the Jerome Public Library to take the survey
- ◊ Account number NOT required to take survey

Alley Trash Pick Up to Resume

Beginning March 31st, alley pick up of trash containers will resume. Please notify neighbors, friends, and family that may be effected by this change.

For any questions, please call PSI Waste Systems Inc. at 733-4441

THEIR BEST WORK IS NEVER SEEN: WATER WORKS

Out of sight, Out of mind...that's good for some things in life, waste water and sewer issues being one of those. We take it for granted every day, unless there is a problem, and then it's quickly on one's sight, mind, and smell!

The Jerome Wastewater Treatment Facility recently suffered issues with the plant's membrane filters, quickly shutting down the entire treatment process when the filters were no longer able to operate. The Water Works department responded as quickly as possible, testing various methods for cleaning and restoring the membrane filters to operation. After hundreds of overtime hours and a significant investment, the wastewater treatment facility has been operating at full compliance with their clean water discharge requirements since March 11.

The significant growth and economic development in the south and west area of Jerome



Water pipes at the Jerome Butte, now underground

has required infrastructure improvements to satisfy the demands of industry in that area. Water crews have been busily installing new piping to handle increased flow demands and help to eliminate at least one of the older lift stations. Once this portion of the project is completed, they will start heading east toward the technology park on Jerome Butte, which will be serviced with city water and sewer utilities.

Even though it's been a cool and wet spring, it's time to start thinking about irrigation again. The water department is geared up and ready for this year's irrigation season. As soon as Mother Nature cooperates, they'll hit the ground running with all the necessary preparations for the irrigation demands. If everything goes well, this department will stay "Out of sight, Out of mind" and keep our city water demands flowing.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

and maintain for a long time. Conversely, the older it gets, the more it costs to maintain and the less it performs the way it is supposed to. Sooner or later you are faced with the need to either completely rebuild what you have or replace it altogether. Today the City of Jerome finds itself in the unenviable position of having very old and deteriorated infrastructure that costs a lot to maintain. In fact, in certain areas, the City cannot even keep up on basic maintenance because it is in a constant state of crisis just trying to "put out fires" that crop up throughout the system. This is especially true of the water system, but also affects roads, sewers and buildings that the City is also trying to maintain.

So what can the City do about all this? The policy options are: 1) Status quo; throw more money, personnel, and resources at maintaining the existing systems as they are. 2) Invest in new infrastructure to replace broken, inadequate and obsolete portions of the systems and get back to a basic maintenance schedule. 3) Reduce services to match available resources, requiring the city to abandon certain performance standards based criteria that could impact public health, the quality

and level of public safety, transportation, and other basic services. Those are the three choices facing your elected officials. In my opinion, option #2 is inevitable and option #3 is distressing to consider. What do you think? I welcome your thoughts and ideas on this important issue to our community. The City Council will be meeting next month for its annual strategic planning retreat to address how we are going to deal with these critical issues in the coming year.

To comment on this article, email enews@ci.jerome.id.us.

JEROME URBAN RENEWAL (CONTINUED)

designated as the South Lincoln Area and the South East Industrial Area. In the last three years, Urban Renewal infrastructure projects in the South East Industrial Area have led to the location of two large companies employing over 150 people. These companies are Scoular and Idaho Milk Products and they will continue to be valuable assets in our community for several years. In addition to the jobs these companies created, they have added a significant amount of revenue to the tax base, which will be used to pay off the amount spent on infrastructure improvements in the South East Industrial Area. At this time, there are ongoing negotiations with at least two other developers interested in building facilities that would employ hundreds of more people in Jerome.

In the last two years, almost every economic development inquiry that the City of Jerome has addressed has resulted from the Urban Renewal districts. This is a testament to the importance and value of the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency. Without it, our community would have hundreds fewer jobs and fewer opportunities for the Magic Valley workforce.

For more information on the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency, call Micah Austin at 208-324-8189 or email maustin@ci.jerome.id.us.

FREE BRIDGE LESSONS AT SENIOR CENTER



Have you ever wanted to learn how to play Bridge? The Jerome Senior Center will be giving free Bridge lessons starting Wednesday April 6th at 1:00. Free lunch will be provided for all those that attend. The classes will be every Wednesday afternoon through April. Please call Kris for more information or to sign up at 208-324-5642

COMMUNITY 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 Officer Marcos Noriega at 316-6494 or email mnoriega@ci.jerome.id.us.

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

EXCITING EVENTS AT THE JEROME PUBLIC LIBRARY!

Growing up, we were always told to be quiet while in the Library, however after a recent visit to the Jerome Public Library at 100 1st Ave East, I'm thinking my information is a little outdated. The librarians are planning a full slate of activities for the public to enjoy with limited time before they start the programs.

Kicking off the month of April is National Library Week to be held April 10th through the 16th.

On April 30th the Library is holding "El Dia Los Niño's" or The Day of the Child, during which there will be Latin Dancers and also a bilingual story time. Keep an eye out for the times of each activity.

Something I didn't know was that the Library holds a "Let's talk about it" reading program.



The Library provides the books and every couple of weeks holds a session for everyone who read the prescribed titles to talk about what they've read. This is going on now and the books can be checked out at the front desk into the month of May.

The Library also hosts Adult Computer Classes, featuring Basic Internet, Emailing Basics, Word Processing, and Question & Answer. Check with the front desk for availability and scheduling as space is limited.

And last but not least, don't forget to set aside any of your used books that you would like to donate for the "Friends of the Library" Book Sale to be held at the library from May 5th thru 7th.

For more information, call the library at 208-324-5427.

JEROME YOUTHS COMFORT OTHERS WITH GENEROSITY

When things get scary, a soft blanket can make life a little better for any of us--especially children. Unfortunately, all too often there are times when children in Jerome are victims of unfortunate circumstances that involve the police and it can be a scary situation. Recently, two Jerome Youth Service Clubs came together to make warm, fleece blankets for these children. The children in the service clubs tied the edges of 10 blankets and donated these blankets to the



Jerome Police Department. Officers can keep these blankets in their cruisers and offer them to any child in a scary situation.

The youth also tied a special blanket for the officer that was recently injured in the line of duty. They made beautiful get-well cards and

thank-you cards for the officer. Jerome Chief of Police stated, "We truly appreciate the support shown to Officer Clark by these great kids! Youth Service Clubs, such as these, teach children good values and are of great benefit to the community."

The Jerome Youth Service Clubs are sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal financial organization founded in 1883. The clubs involve over 20 children from the ages of 2 to 18. These two clubs can often be seen around Jerome providing service of all kinds. For more information about the clubs or to share a service opportunity, contact Shelley Nash 208-324-5750 or Trachelle Fullmer 208-948-5300.

WE WILL NEVER FORGET: 9/11



Article by
 Firefighter Sean Kirk

This year commemorates the tenth anniversary of September 11th 2001, and I'm sure like every other firefighter in the country I feel very emotional when I think of then and now. I started my firefighting career in early 2002, when I was given a great opportunity by my father in law. I remember feeling extremely proud of getting into the fire service, not as much though as I feel now. Every day that I continue in this career I feel more and more honored that I am able to serve this community, I also feel more and more honored to be a part of a brotherhood that spans across being volunteer or career, male or female, seasoned or probationary. And now and then I get a chance to meet some very extraordinary people.

One such person is Craig Freeman, Craig is a 29 year fire service veteran now retired, who founded FireCareers.com, and he has also decided that with the company of his wife Pam he will drive across the country

from Manhattan Beach CA, to Manhattan NY to spread awareness of the ten year anniversary of 9/11. Craig and his wife Pam are making stops along their way to New York, and they were able to stop here in Jerome on March 26th and 27th. Though we were not able to get the word out as well as we would have hoped I want to say "Thank You" to everyone who was able to attend our Pancake Breakfast on the 27th. These were two very extraordinary people, to raise money at each of their stops they are selling the 9/11 patches, stickers, and helmet decals, and all net proceeds are being donated to the FDNY Bravest Scholarship Fund, The Terry Farrell Fund and The Feel Good Foundation when they reach Manhattan NY on or around 09/11/11.



If you would like to learn more about what Craig and Pam are doing, or would like to keep track of their progress across the United States you can go to www.9-11patchproject.org, or facebook.com/firecareers.

As a Jerome City Firefighter, I hope I can speak for the rest of my brothers and sisters in the fire service when I say "We Will Never Forget".

STORM SPOTTING IN JEROME COUNTY



The community is invited to attend a Severe Weather Spotter Training Workshop co-sponsored by Jerome County Emergency Management and the National Weather Service (NWS). The training session is slated for April 28, 2011 in the First Segregation Fire Department. The session will last 1 1/2 to 2 hours beginning at 7 p.m.

The training will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 28, at the Eden First Segregation Fire Department

Everyone is invited. If you are a current weather spotter, firefighter, law enforcement specialist, land management employee, emergency services technician, transportation operator, outdoor recreationalist, or just purely a weather enthusiast, this training workshop is for you.



The training is an informative session about weather spotting which includes the proper training needed to become an official NWS spotter. Training include definitions and climatology of severe weather, training on cloud and storm recognition, storm hazards and safety tips, and weather reporting procedures.

In Jerome County, over 30 volunteer spotters and cooperative observers have provided valuable weather reports which are fundamental in helping the NWS to protect life and property. Forecasts are often based on observer data, and warnings for severe weather have been issued based on timely, reliable information received from our trained volunteer spotters.

For more information about the NWS spotter program, please see <http://www.skywarn.org/> or our National Severe Weather Awareness Web Page at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/severeweather/index.shtml>

Please bring a friend, relative or other interested weather enthusiasts. We look forward to seeing you at the training session. If you have questions, please call Bob Diaz 334-9860 or Clint Blackwood 324-9261.

HAZARDOUS TRAINING CLASS TAUGHT, COMPLETED

The month of March was a month full of educational enrichment for the Fire Department and several members of our Police and Water Works Departments. These members participated in a Hazardous Materials Technician Training. Other attendees included firefighters from the Idaho National Laboratory and the City of Pocatello Fire Department.



Several public safety participated in a locally taught 100 hour course on hazardous materials

The training was facilitated through a Federal grant and was presented by the International Association of Firefighters. The primary purpose for the lessons was to prepare our first responders on handling emergency events involving hazardous material and weapons of mass destruction as outlined in the National Fire Protection Association initiative 472. Attending the training also enabled the participants to continue taking part in the Magic Valley

Emergency Response team. In addition, some of the students received instructor credentialing through the program which will allow them to continue educating other individuals within our different departments that did not attend any of these seminars.

The instructors from the IAFF that lead the classes brought with them a combined 23 years of experience on the matter, and were able to compile the information from the original 240 hour program to present the training in a shorter, faster paced version of 100 total hours. The courses were modified due to the rigorous jobs of the individuals that attended and were presented in a span of ten, ten hour days. After the training completed, attendees were certified in valuable information to utilize whenever a hazardous materials situation arises.

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Jerome Recreation District

Upcoming Events for April:

Adult Coed Softball League Signups

- Sign ups end April 15 or until league is filled

T-Ball and Coach Pitch

- Sign ups end April 18th
- \$17 to register or \$27 for out of district
- New Shirt: \$5
- Used Shirt: \$2.50
- We are accepting donations of used shirts in good condition

Girls' Fast Pitch Softball

- 14-16 years old
- Sign ups end May 2nd
- \$40/\$45

Upcoming Community Education

- April 14th: Identity Theft Prevention, 6pm, \$5/ person
- April 21st: Sprouting Class, 6pm, \$5/ person

Closed Easter Sunday, April 25th

Check our website for the
latest information

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

Events at Jerome Public Library

CHILDREN:

- Family Storytime: every Friday at 10 am & 1:30 pm
- Easter Egg Hunt: April 23 at 10 am-2 pm
- El Dia De Los Nino's (Day of the Children): April 30 at 12:00 noon

ADULTS AND TEENS

- April 7 at 6pm: Let's Talk About It! Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, by Mildred Taylor. Book discussion lead by Shelley McEuen, CSI English Professor

TEENS

- Young Reader's Choice Awards Ice Cream Social: Friday, April 15 at 3:30 pm. This is for children and teens grade 4 through high school who read at least 2 titles from the Intermediate YRCA titles, tell a librarian about the book, vote for their favorite, and receive a ticket to attend the ice cream party at Jerome Public Library. Kids can get their ticket for the ice cream party from the public library or their school librarian.
- April 22, 2010 3:30pm Teen Easter Egg Hunt
- Dungeons and Dragons play day every Friday at 2:30pm
- Wii game day every Thursday at 3:30pm
- April 22, 2010 3:30pm Teen Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL ISSUE STAFF WRITERS



Sean Kirk has been a firefighter with the City for just over 4 years. He reported on the Library for this issue.

Detective Duane Rubink has worked for the Police Department for over 9 years. He reported on Water Works for this issue.



Steve Kolar has worked for the Engineering Dept. for almost 8 years. He reported on the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency.



Silvia Rosales has worked in the Jerome Public Library for almost six months. She reported on the Fire Department for this issue.



Micah Austin, Assistant to the City Administrator, edits and compiles the monthly e-Newsletter