



# The City Newsletter

June 2013

Welcome to the  
CITY OF JEROME

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

## JEROME HIRES NEW DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

### In this Issue:

- JEROME HIRES NEW DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF
- JEROME HIRES NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR
- SIRCOMM ANNOUNCEMENT
- CRIME IN JEROME DROPS IN 2012
- SMOKING & OXYGEN
- THE CITY MOVES TO ANDRIOD PHONES
- OPERATION FACELIFT
- JEROME RECREATION DISTRICT EVENTS
- LIBRARY EVENTS
- CODE ENFORCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT : DON'T FORGET TO MOW

**T**he City of Jerome is excited to announce that Tom Hughes began on April 22, 2013 as the new Deputy Fire Chief. The position has been vacant since November 2012 when former Deputy Fire Chief Jack Krill was appointed to the Fire Chief position. The search for a new Deputy Fire Chief resulted in 37 applicants and after a thorough screening process Mr. Hughes was the top candidate.

**F**ire Chief Krill stated "Tom and his family are a great fit for Jerome and the fire department; we are excited to have someone of his high caliber and reputation on our team."

**T**om has been in the fire service for over 15 years, serving as a firefighter and emergency medical technician in New Jersey, Connecticut and most recently as a fire officer in Oklahoma. He has spent nine years working for the International Fire Service Training Association at Oklahoma State University on many state and national projects relating to firefighter education, firefighter health & safety and public fire & life safety education. His areas of expertise are in structural firefighting, fire safety education and firefighter training. He is currently enrolled in the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy. He

has a master's degree in Public Administration, a bachelor's degree in Fire Administration and a bachelor's degree in Fire & Arson Investigation from the University of New Haven in Connecticut.



Deputy Chief Tom Hughes.

## JEROME LIBRARY HIRES A NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

### City Council

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

### Council Meets:

- June 4th
- June 18th

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

The City of Jerome is excited to announce Assistant Library Director, Linda Mecham, was appointed as Jerome's new Library Director on May 20, 2013. The City of Jerome and the Jerome Library Board are pleased to welcome Mrs. Mecham as the new director.

Mrs. Mecham has spent the last 20 years dedicating herself to

working in schools and libraries. She is currently working on her Master's Degree in Library and Information Science. She stated she is "super excited to start working in the new capacity. I have a great staff, and we have some wonderful ideas we would like to put into play."

Mrs. Mecham and her husband are long-time residents of Jerome.

They have four children and three grandchildren.



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

EMAIL [ENews@ci.jerome.id.us](mailto:ENews@ci.jerome.id.us) OR CALL 208-324-8189  
[WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US](http://WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US)

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

## SIRCOMM ANNOUCEMENT

**S**outhern Idaho Regional Communications Center (SIRCOMM) has announced that it has procured the Everbridge mass notification system for both community alerts and emergency notification. The new Everbridge system will offer the citizens of Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln and Twin Falls County the opportunity to register multiple contact paths including SMS, TTY, mobile phone numbers, email, and landline phones for emergency notifications, severe weather alerts, and community notifications by early summer. SIRCOMM will use Everbridge's leading mass notification system to enhance its communications capabilities during natural or manmade crises.

**S**IRCOMM selected the Everbridge system in part to address incidents like last summer's fires in the Rock Creek and South Hills areas. It was at this time that the importance of mass notification was realized. The ability to quickly notify people in an affected area that they need to evacuate was emphasized. Then the time-consuming manual task of notifying homeowners of the fires was an overwhelming endeavor managed by the sheriff's department.

**B**ecause of community concern expressed after these fires, SIRCOMM was able to secure funding from Homeland Security through the assistance of the Emergency Management Coordinators of Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln and Twin Falls Counties to upgrade the communications infrastructure.

**S**IRCOMM plans to have the new Everbridge system available by the 1st of June for the four counties. Further information on this will be available over the next couple of weeks. "We are incredibly pleased to have received the grant funding which has enabled us to upgrade our communications capabilities and better equip us to get timely notifications out to members of our community during emergency incidents like the fires we experienced last year," said SIRCOMM Director, John Moore. "In addition to emergency notifications, we will be able to utilize the Everbridge system for non-emergency alerts such as street closures, broken water lines, etc., without an additional cost or maintenance fees."

**D**ue to the contract negotiated with Everbridge, all 15 cities in the service area will also be able to ac-

cess the system independently of SIRCOMM.

**T**he data base for land based telephones is already in place, however with the new technologies of mobile communications, each must be individually entered. In order for the public to be entered into the data system each one must self-register with SIRCOMM to identify how you would like to be notified. Look for more information on how to sign yourself up for this notification system in the very near future.

**A**bout SIRCOMM  
**S**outhern Idaho Regional Communications Center (SIRCOMM) is a Regional Dispatch Center and Public Service Answering Point (911 center).

**S**IRCOMM is responsible for dispatching Fire Suppression, Law Enforcement, and Medical Services for the above

**C**lint Blackwood, Jerome County Emergency Management

## CRIME IN JEROME DROPS IN 2012

According to information that will soon be released by the Idaho State Police, crime in Jerome dropped by almost 16 percent in 2012. During the 2012 calendar year, there were 645 group "A" offenses reported in the City of Jerome. During the last 10 years, the crime rate in Jerome has dropped by about 52%. In 2003, the crime rate in Jerome was approximately 122 crimes per 1000 people compared to about 58 crimes per 1000 people in 2012. During that period, the highest year for crime was 2003 and the lowest year for crime was 2010 with only 54 crimes per 1000 people. The average crime rate in

Jerome from 2003 to 2012 was 82 crimes per 1000 people.

The Jerome Police Department participates in the Idaho Uniform Crime Reporting Program through which crime data from all over the state is gathered and analyzed. Crime data is categorized into two broad groups. Group "A" crimes are comprised of 30 more serious offenses including crimes such as assault, burglary, theft, rape, and narcotics violations. Group "B" offenses include less serious violations such as bad checks, disorderly conduct, and trespassing. All

group "A" offenses are reported through the UCR program but only those group "B" offenses that resulted in an arrest are reported. There were 319 group "B" arrests reported for the Jerome Police Department in 2012 which was about a 3.5 percent increase from the previous year. Each year, the Idaho State Police publishes "Crime in Idaho" which summarizes the data collected through the Idaho UCR program. The 2012 "Crime in Idaho" publication is scheduled to be released to the public in July.

-Submitted by the Jerome Police

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

EMAIL [ENews@CI.JEROME.ID.US](mailto:ENews@CI.JEROME.ID.US) OR CALL 208-324-8189

[WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US](http://WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US)

## SMOKING & OXYGEN

The use of oxygen systems in the home has increased over the past decade to help support the health of people who need supplemental oxygen. The number of injuries and deaths caused from smoking while using oxygen has also increased. All injuries and deaths from smoking while on oxygen can be prevented.

When oxygen is being used the room and everything in the room becomes saturated with more than normal levels of oxygen. Fire thrives on oxygen rich atmospheres, which means; when more oxygen is present fires can start at lower temperatures. The fire will also burn hotter and faster than usual. Therefore, in oxygen rich environments things like hair, clothing, plastic tubing, skin, and furniture have a greater chance of catching fire. When a fire starts under oxygen rich conditions it can progress so fast that even the best fire protection efforts may not be enough to prevent injury or even death.

When oxygen is being used or stored in health care facilities they must follow very strict codes and regulations to maintain a safe environment for their patients. When oxygen is being used or stored in a home the same codes and regulations can't be enforced. This allows the oxygen user more freedom in regards to oxygen use. Smoking is by far the leading cause of death and injuries that involve home oxygen systems. There is no safe way to smoke while on oxygen. If a patient is on oxygen they should not smoke, remember that oxygen saturates clothes, skin, and hair so even if they stop the flow of oxygen while they smoke they are still at a higher risk of catching fire.

Anything that creates a flame or spark should not be used in the home with oxygen. A home where oxygen is used should post "No Smoking" and "No Open Flames" signs outside the home to remind others who may enter. The occupants of the home need to test their smoke alarms monthly and have two designated escape routes in case of a fire emergency. Those who may have a difficult time escaping need to have a working phone near them at all times. Stay safe and smoke free around oxygen.

- Edward Walters, Firefighter

---

## THE CITY OF JEROME HAS MOVED TO ANDROID CELL PHONES

The City Of Jerome has updated the Cell phones we use to Android devices. We did this for several reasons. The Blackberry was very secure but the blackberry devices were always the last to have programs made for them. This was part of what made us want to change to a platform that was current. While looking at the options, we found that we liked what Android had to offer more than the iPhone. After we decided to go with Android, we then started to look at which phone to use. Verizon worked with us and we were able to get the Razr M for free. We wanted to make sure that our security was still there, so we reviewed options for phone security. We found a solution that allowed us to have security while being able to access Apps.

One of the Apps that we wanted to utilize is Fix311 (<http://fix311.com/>). This App allows anyone to report problems within the city. This will work great for us and for you, since you can also use this App. When you are out and see something you would like to fixed, you can use the app to attach a picture and send it to the right department to fix the problem. This is one way we are trying to use smart phones to help connect to our citizens.

- Tony Preston, Information Services



### Operation Facelift

Operation Facelift will take place June 10-21 on East Main Street in Jerome. The community is encouraged to participate! You can volunteer or provide donations. Contact Anna Dovenmuehler at (208) 324-7408 to participate.





**Jerome  
 Recreation  
 District**

**Kids' Summer Night**

- June 20th - 7-9PM
- Crafts, pizza & swimming
- Ages 4 and up

**Tennis Camp**

- June 10-14 from 10AM -12PM - City Courts
- Incoming 3rd- 8th graders
- Need tennis racket & can of tennis balls

**Swimming Lessons**

- Registration is open

**Golf Lessons**

- July 23, 24 & 25
- Ages 6-11 - 8:15-9:15 AM
- Ages 12-17 - 9:30-10:30 AM
- Adults - 6:00-7:15PM
- Lessons at Jerome Country Club
- Space is limited to 12 participants per age group

**Swim Team**

- Practice - 7AM beginning June 10th

**Water Arobics**

Sessions start June 10 at 5:30PM

*The pool and new wading pool are open. Contact the JRD for more information.*

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

**Library Events in June**

**PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN**

- KidZ FlickZ: Every Friday at 3:30 PM

**PROGRAMS FOR TEENS & ADULTS**

Contact the Library at 324-5427

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM - "Dig Into Reading"**

- Every Thursday @ 10 am
- June 6th- "Just Dig....things that grow!"
- June 13th- "Just Dig....Dirt Machines!"
- June 20th- "Digging for Treasure"
- June 27th- "Dig in to the Past...Ancient Egypt"
- June 11th- "Dig into Dinosaurs"
- June 18th- "Under the Earth"
- June 25th- Grand Finale Celebration!

**Dig Into Your Genealogy Program**

Gary and Marcia Luther have generously offered to present a five-week series of classes. Preregistration is required for this free event. Register today at the Jerome Public 324-5427  
 Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
 Scheduled Class Dates:  
 June 13th, 20th & 27th, July 11th & 18th

**Teen Summer Reading - "Beneath the Surface"**

Every Wednesday @ 11 am  
 June 5th-July 10th  
 Ages 11-18  
 Questions? Call 324-5427



**DON'T FORGET TO MOW**

As the weather turns to spring and the trees, shrubs, and grass begin to grow again, please keep in mind that by ordinance grass and weeds cannot be over 8 inches tall in the city. Also, please remember that all branches on trees and shrubs which overhang onto a public street or sidewalk must be trimmed. A notice is published in the newspaper each year to inform property owners of these requirements. The City makes every effort to give advance notice of a violation to property owners who are not repeat offenders, but after issuance of the notice's the City is permitted by law to mow the grass or clean the property of rubbish, other declared nuisances and charge the cost back to the property owner. The owner or occupant is responsible from the center of the road to the center of the alley.

Nuisances are defined in the Jerome Municipal Code. For more information, or to communicate special needs or circumstances, please contact the Code Enforcement or Building Department at (208) 324.8189. Thanks for helping to keep the City of Jerome beautiful!

- Sonny Henry, Code Enforcement