



# The City Newsletter

March 2011

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:

- March 1<sup>st</sup>
- March 15<sup>th</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)

## HOW WE SPEND OUR MONEY: PERSONNEL

The City Council is preparing for its annual strategic planning meeting and we will discuss the level of services being provided and what our priorities will be for next year's budget process. The cost of government services can be broken down into three parts; infrastructure, equipment and materials for operations and personnel. Infrastructure is a huge upfront cost and once it is built it's relatively affordable to maintain, but historically it has been ignored due to higher priorities and an effort to reduce taxes. The materials and supplies that the city buys each year to deliver services only make up about 20% of its annual operating budget. The City's largest recurring expense is for personnel, which makes up the other 80% of the annual budget. City employees work day in and day out to provide the level of service that we enjoy for police protection, fire protection, roads, parks, irrigation, fresh drinking water, clean sewage treatment, library and other community services. These are labor intensive activities that create the high operations and maintenance costs that define the nature of government services.



Mayor John Shine

This year, even though other taxing agencies may have increased their levies, the City did not. We are making do with less revenue this year even though the costs of doing business continue to go up. I have read in the news that the Idaho Legislature is now considering cutting the "state shared revenues" to cities and counties as a cost savings measure for their budgeting woes. This revenue comes primarily from state sales taxes and represents about \$270,000 a year to the City of Jerome.

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## SEWER OVERFLOWS NOW CONTAINED, PROGRESS

The Jerome City Council held a Special Meeting on Friday afternoon of February the 18th to discuss the crisis at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Due to the appearance of a foreign substance consisting of a calcium slime, the Treatment Plant's membrane filtration system has been compromised since December 30th, 2010. With the failure of the filtration system, the WWTP is only able to separate and treat the solids portion of the incoming flows from the sewer system. Staff immediately began working with its membrane consulting firm Enviroquip to determine a workable chemical cleaning regimen, which did not produce results until the third attempt. The WWTP operators have been working long hours trying to clean the sticky substance from the membranes and were only able to bring the plant back on line in the last week.



At this time there are many more questions than answers and it has not yet been determined where this substance is coming from. Staff is investigating to determine the origin of the liquid calcium slime and has sent samples to the lab for testing. The Jerome City Council has directed staff to begin putting together proposals for systems that can be put in place to prevent uncontrolled overflows of only partially treated sewage into the Northside Canal system. A specific remedy for this incident will be dependent on the results of this investigation.

From the moment the WWTP failed and began overflowing the partially treated wastewater into the canal, the City has been working closely with the Canal Company, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency to inform them of

*Article Continued on Next Page*

## Take the Annual Citizen Survey

### Save \$1 on your next utility bill!

- ◊ The online survey will be available on our website during the month of March at: [www.ci.jerome.id.us](http://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
- ◊ One survey allowed per each utility account number

## 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 quesitons, please call PSI Waste Systems Inc. at 733-4441

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)

## ANNUAL CITIZEN SURVEY NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Each year the City conducts a citizen survey to find out how well you, our residents, think we are doing at providing the various municipal services. This year the City is seeking to get 100% input from all residents while saving money at the same time. To do this the City will be asking residents to enter their Utility account number on the survey and upon completion, their account will be credited \$1.00. The survey will be posted to the City's website [www.ci.jerome.id.us](http://www.ci.jerome.id.us) on March 1st, where it can be accessed through a link throughout the month of March.

Residents without internet may use the computers at the library to complete the survey.



LINK TO ANNUAL  
 CITIZEN SURVEY:  
[CLICK HERE](#)

Our friendly library staff will be happy to provide any assistance necessary. (A library card is required to use the computers, but the card is free to all residents of Jerome.) A kiosk will also be set up at the Utility Billing office in City Hall for the convenience of those who pay their bills in person. This is a very important opportunity to express your thoughts and ideas about your local city government.

The results of the survey will directly tie in to how the City Council approaches the budget process this year in determining what levels of service can be maintained, where cuts, if any, need to be made, and where greater investment may be needed to better serve the community.

To take the survey, click here: [Citizen Survey](#).

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

The talk of further budget reductions could put the City in the difficult position to have to discuss reducing services and/or increasing taxes. This month I wish to specifically focus on those governmental services that are funded almost entirely by our taxes. As I discuss each department and function of the City, try to imagine what it would be like if we had to go just one day without it.

The Jerome City Police Department maintains two divisions: Investigations and Patrol. The Investigations division has a staff of Detectives who conduct investigations and solve crimes. They track cases and see them through to their conclusion. At present staffing levels the City maintains a well balanced case load, meaning, we are able to clear out cases at about the same rate they come in. The Patrol division has a staff of Patrol Officers available to respond to calls, conduct law enforcement, deter crime and provide for public safety. The current staffing level allows the City to maintain two patrol officers on the streets most of the time.

The Jerome City Fire Department is comprised of sworn firefighters, paid on call firefighters and an office assistant. The Department provides 24-hour fire and emergency response protection with three 24-hour shifts with about four firefighters on each. They respond to routine calls, but in the event of a major call, off-duty and paid on call staff reinforcements get called in. The level of service we provide has a direct relationship with the cost of fire insurance for all properties within the city. Logically, the more capabilities a Fire Department has to respond, the lower the home-owner's insurance premiums

To comment on this article, email [enews@ci.jerome.id.us](mailto:enews@ci.jerome.id.us)

will be.

The City of Jerome Public Works Department performs the Streets and Parks operations. The Streets Division maintains the transportation system in terms of roads, signs, curbs and gutters. The Parks program maintains the City parks, the forestry program and other City right-of-ways. This department is responsible for a variety of tasks including road repairs, snow plowing, tree trimming, tree limb chipping and hauling, street sign maintenance, street line and crosswalk painting and debris removal.

The Jerome Public Library is an organizational unit within the City that is a vital information resource to the community. It provides important opportunities to City residents and County members for learning, reading for pleasure, researching, job hunting and accessing the vast amount of information available on many professional and academic databases through the internet on the world-wide web.

Each of these vital City operations is wholly reliant on the tax revenues the City receives to maintain and grow their operations. Many of them have not grown significantly over the years despite the increase in population and demands for services. The challenge facing the City of Jerome this year is to determine how much public support there is for this level of service? And, if we do not have the money to pay for it, is the preference to increase taxes or cut services? I welcome any comments or opinions that you would like to share on this important topic of city business.

## FREE MEDICARE 101 CLASS AT SENIOR CENTER

The Jerome Senior Center is proud to offer to all interested a Medicare 101 class. This class will cover information necessary for anyone that will soon be enrolling into a Medicare plan. It will cover and explain in basic terms what all the different letters mean, how the medical coverage's fit together, and most importantly what the very specific deadlines are that Medicare imposes for initial enrollment and annually.

### MEDICARE 101 CLASS:

- March 24th
- 6:00 pm
- Senior Center, 520 N. Lincoln

Chris Stevenson, Westport Insurance Advisors, LLC, will cover what questions you should ask to find the right plan for you. He will also present what Medicare does not cover and how to avoid the "Four Most Common Mistakes" people make with any health insurance coverage.

If you are within three years of signing up for a Medicare plan, are trying to help a family member make sense of all the choices and options available, or want to ask some specific questions about your situation then this class is for you.

This educational class will be held at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 24th, at the Jerome Senior Center located at 520 North Lincoln in Jerome, Idaho.

Snacks and beverages provided by the Jerome Senior Center. The Medicare 101 Class will begin shortly after and will last just over an hour.

For more information feel free to call Chris Stevenson, 208-733-5858

## WWTP ISSUES

Article Continued from Page 1

the situation. The City Council and Staff share their frustration and regrets for this very unpleasant situation that is impacting the environment, the community and the county residents "down-stream" in such an adverse way. The City is committed to doing everything possible to correct the problem and take measures to ensure that it does not happen again.

Contact City Administrator Ben Marchant with your questions, 324-8189.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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**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](mailto: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](mailto: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

**ANIMAL SHELTER: NEW ADOPTION FEE**

**D**id you know the animal shelter facility was built in the late 1970's? Since that time, it has gone through several upgrades including interior lighting, new kennels and an exterior exercise area for the dogs.

The animal shelter facility is operated by Gordon Leininger, a twelve year employee of the city, and a part time assistant, Carlyne Woolf, who has been with the city for five years. The Animal control facility is also very lucky to have over twenty volunteers to assist with the feeding, watering, facility cleaning, dog bathing, and dog exercising. The volunteers also help with the relocation of the dogs to other facilities in the region and outside the state. The Animal Shelter is working with other rescue agencies, such as the Humane



Society, within the northwest region to relocate these misplaced dogs to good homes. The average dog population at the facility at any given time is around twenty.

As of February 1st 2011 there is a mandatory spay/neuter requirement for any dogs being adopted. The cost to adopt is \$50.00, which includes the spay/neuter procedure, a rabies shot, and a city license.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Black Dog Adoption Day coming towards the end of March.
- Dog Wash Day coming the 1st week of June.

Please support the Jerome Animal Shelter and remember, a dog is man's Best Friend.

For questions or comments on the Animal Shelter, call Gordon at 324-8436.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT CLOSES STATION 1**

**C**oncerning the recent move from Fire Station 1 to Fire Station 2, Chief Mike Hatfield, explained that the move was necessary for a variety of reasons. He cited several reasons for the move including:

- The cost to maintain Station 1 was more expensive than the current Fire Department budget can handle.
- Maintenance of the plumbing necessary for 24 hour occupation of the facility was becoming cost prohibitive



- The Fire Department has far outgrown Station 1 in the 50+ years it has occupied the building

- Kitchen and living spaces were much too small for the current size of the Fire Department
- The building offered insufficient privacy accommodations for female firefighters
- There was no room for expansion in Fire Station 1



Chief Hatfield also indicated that they had completed a six month study on response times from Station 2. They have three alternate routes if South Lincoln should be blocked by a train (East Yakima, Victory Lane, and West Main Street via the freeway).

For any questions on this recent move, please call Chief Hatfield at 324-2323.

**WATER DEPARTMENT TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE**

**S**tarting soon and going through May the Waterworks Department will be involved in a Water Valve Exercising Program in which they will be open and closing the different water valves in the City several times. The purpose of this exercise is to make sure they are functioning properly and reliably. Sediment and scale accumulate over time in the valve grooves and prevent the valve from closing all the way. This also makes for a more reliable water system, quicker shut down time if an emergency occurs, and lowers operational costs.



with your water such as discolored water, low water pressure, and air in the water line. The best remedy is to run your 'cold' water tap for approx. 5 minutes until the water flows clearly. In the event of the low water pressure, it should return to normal after the Water Works crew is finished performing the maintenance in your area. Be assured that the water department will be working to prevent or minimize any of the above problems. Thank you for your patience with this issue. For questions of clarification, call the Water Department at 324-1911.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT: BURGLARIES ON THE RISE

The Jerome Police Department is encouraging residents to make sure the doors of their homes and vehicles are locked. In a 4 day period there were 13 burglaries reported. The burglaries were reported mainly on the Eastside and in the Newer Subdivision areas.

Police reported that most of the vehicles were not locked at the time of the theft and it appeared they were only after cash. Over \$2000 has been stolen from the 13

burglaries.

Police would like to encourage all residents to lock their vehicles and homes and not to put things of value in plain site.

Police also said leaving lights on in the home and outdoor lighting would detour this type of activity.

In order to keep Jerome a safe community, we must all work together. If you see or hear any suspicious activity please call 911 and report immediately.

**PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES**

- Lock your vehicles
- Lock your home
- Always leave a light on in the home

## 2011 SUMMER READING PROGRAM: ONE WORLD, MANY STORIES

Believe it or not, summer is just around the corner! As the days get longer, and warmer, the Jerome Public Library is gearing up for the 2011 Summer Reading Program.

Darbie Chocker, Children's Programmer at the Library, is putting together an exciting and rewarding reading program and she is looking forward to as many children as possible participating in the program this summer. According to Darbie, the theme for this year is One World, Many Stories. It is a multicultural and travel theme that will greatly benefit the community of Jerome. The dates will be June 9th through July 21st, and will take place every Thursday at 10 a.m. Each week will feature a guest reader or performer that will start the day's activities, and then the children will break off into groups where they will do crafts and play games. At the beginning of the summer, each child will also receive a reading log. They are required to read at least 20 minutes a day, and complete 3 different levels that consist of 10 days of reading. After they complete a level, they can trade their reading log for a prize. The final prize they can receive is a free book to take home! Many local

businesses, in particular McDonald's, have donated coupons to be given out as prizes. In addition to the One World, Many Stories program, there is also going to be a Parent/Child Reading Program with a raffle ticket to Roaring Springs in Boise that will be up for grabs to the Parent/Child team that reads 5 books together.



Darbie is extremely excited about this year's Summer Reading Program and wants to see all children make reading a part of their lives. The Jerome Public Library has many other events and activities for all ages, so be sure to visit your local Library today!!

For more information, call Darbie at 324-5427.

## NEWS FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works department is operating in their winter maintenance mode. They are completing temporary patching and are gearing up to chip and seal the roads in the warmer weather months. The transportation plan for major roads will be limited this year due to budget cuts. As of now, the public works department is planning on working on 3.8 miles of road, down from 6 miles.

The department employees are pruning the trees along the street at this time. The trees are kept at 14' in order to ensure trucks have the appropriate clearance needed on the roads. For truck drivers coming through town, please use the designated Truck Route. Signs are posted for your convenience to follow for the safest route through town.

A recent flood on 16th Street took an entire week to complete the cleanup efforts. On a major holiday, Martin Luther King Day, six employees worked to complete this cleanup.



Rod Jerke, new employee with Public Works Department

In other news, the Public Works Department welcomes a new employee, Rod Jerke. Rod is a licensed electrician and has already been a great asset to this department in the short time he has been employed with the City of Jerome. Rod's primary job will be to work in the Public Works Department, but he will also help out other departments as the need arises. We want to welcome him to this department and are grateful for the expertise he brings.



## HOME HAZARD HUNT FOR SPRING CLEANING

The Home Hazard Hunt is a simple project that family members can participate in as spring cleaning activities commence. Take some time to make things safer and more prepared around the home.

### Safety Equipment to assist in hazard hunt

- Install a smoke alarms throughout home
- Test monthly and replace batteries yearly
- Learn how to use your ABC 10 pound fire extinguisher

### Check for Electrical Hazards

- Repair and replace damaged cords and plugs
- Remove cords under rugs or over nails, pipes or heaters
- Use one plug per outlet; don't string surge

protectors together

- Put covers on outlets or electrical boxes
- Repair/replace appliances that spark, smoke or overheat

### Check for Chemical Hazards

- Store flammable chemicals in approved containers and in a well-ventilated location outside your home or garage
- Store oily rags in covered metal containers
- Limit quantities of household chemicals and store out of reach of children
- Separate reactive chemicals like bleach and ammonia
- Don't light candles with less than 2 inches of wax below the wick

### Check for Fire Hazards

- Eliminate combustibles
- Separate heat sources and combustibles
- Keep chimneys, flue pipes, and vents in good repair
- Keep portable heaters in low traffic areas
- Anchor large movable objects to wall studs
- Install a flexible gas line on gas appliances
- Store heavy objects on lower shelves
- Avoid placing beds under windows or heavy objects

### Utilities

- Locate utility shut-offs and know how to operate them

For more information, contact Clint Blackwood, [cblackwood@co.jerome.id.us](mailto:cblackwood@co.jerome.id.us)

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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**Jerome  
 Recreation  
 District**

**Upcoming Events for March:**

Youth Spring Soccer

- Signups end March 7!
- \$15/child (\$25 out of district)

Adult Coed Softball League Signups

- Returning teams, March 7-20
- Open Registration for all teams, March 21-April 15 @ 5:00 pm
- Fees: Team fee \$225 plus \$50 substitution fee/ and - Player fees \$25 per indistrict play or \$30/ out of district

One Pitch Adult Softball Tournament

- April 16 and 17
- Registration until April 8 @ 5:00 pm
- \$200 per team

Ballroom Dancing Returns!

- March 3 - April 7 on Thursdays
- 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- \$12 per person

Tumbling Sessions

- For March, April, and May
- Check it out at the Rec District office!

Check our website for the latest information

[www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com](http://www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com)

Questions? Call (208) 324-3389

**Events at Jerome Public Library**

**CHILDREN:**

- Every Friday will be Family Storytime @ 10 am & 1:30 pm
- Superhero Day! March 11th @ 3 pm
- Spring Break Movie Day: March 22nd @ 3 pm
- Spring Break Game Day: March 24th @ 4 pm
- Reading Rocks Book Club: March 28th @ 4 pm

**ADULTS**

- March 5, 2011 11am- Big Read 2011 presents, Companionship between Dog and Man by the Jerome Animal Shelter
- March 9, 2011 11am- Adult Computer Class- Basic Internet and Computing, Limit to 8 patrons
- March 10, 2011 6pm- Let's Talk About It! I am the Cheese, Speaker Jan Carpenter CSI English Professor
- March 16, 2011 11am- Adult Computer Class- Basic Email, Limit to 8 patrons
- March 30, 2011 11am- Adult Computer Class- Word Processing, Limit to 8 patrons

**TEENS**

- March 3, 2011 3:30pm-5:30pm Wii Game Night @ your Library
- March 4, 2011 2:30pm-4:30pm Dungeons and Dragons Game Day
- March 8, 2011 4pm-4:30pm Teen Book Club, the latest, greatest and scarcest reads!
- March 10, 2011 3:30pm-5:30pm Wii Game Night @ your Library
- March 11, 2011 2:30pm-4:30pm Dungeons and Dragons Game Day
- March 15, 2011 4pm Youth Advisory Council Meeting: think, pursue, success!
- March 29, 2011 4pm Teen Craft Night

**MARCH ISSUE STAFF WRITERS**



**Angie Baker** is the Utilities Supervisor and has worked for the City for over nine years. She reported on the Police Department for this issue.

**Captain Dean Larsen** has worked for the Police Department for over 25 years. He reported on Water Works for this issue.



**Dave Richey** is the City Building Official and has worked for the City for almost 21 years. He reported on the Animal Shelter.



**Rod Jerke** was recently hired by the Public Works Department. He reported on the Fire Department for this issue.

**Eddie Waite** has worked in the Jerome Public Library for over five years. She reported on the Public Works Department.



**Sunnie Rogers** was recently hired by the Water Works Department. She reported on the Library for this issue.

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