



# The City Newsletter

August 2009

Welcome to the  
CITY OF JEROME

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

## CITY WATER SYSTEM DUE FOR UPGRADES

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### City Council

100 East Ave A, Jerome

Every 1st and 3rd  
Tuesday of the  
month at 5:30 pm.  
For a copy of the  
most recent agenda,  
visit our website  
or email [abaker@ci.jerome.id.us](mailto:abaker@ci.jerome.id.us).

In 2001 and 2003, the City of Jerome received an award from the National Rural Water Association for having some of the nation's best tasting water. I'm sure you will agree we have some of the best water in the country right here in Jerome! But have you ever wondered where all the water comes from here in the desert?

The City of Jerome operates six deep wells, pumping millions of gallons of water out of the Eastern Snake River Aquifer Plain every day from an average depth of 300 feet below the surface. In order to deliver this subsurface water to the faucet the City maintains 170 miles of pipe and 12 booster stations. On average the City pumps over 4.8 million gallons of water per day at a peak summer rate of around 4,700 gallons per minute. This adequately supplies water to our 3926 households and 266 businesses every day. However, the City also has its limits of how much water can be drawn out of the ground.

The State of Idaho's Department of Water Resources regulates the usage and consumption of water. According to the City's water rights, the City is limited to pumping no more than 5,700 gallons per minute or 12.7 cubic feet per second total. Fortunately, the City is only using 78% of its share and still has some room for growth.

As the City continues to grow in population and industry, it will become a strategic priority for the City to increase its water rights

in order to ensure sufficient future capacity while still ensuring that the current infrastructure is reliable and cost effective. For years the city's approach to managing the water system has been to seek opportunities to operate the system at the lowest cost possible to keep rates low. As a result, investments have not been made



to provide for the necessary upgrades to the wells, water tanks, pumps, and other costly parts of the system. Over time, the deterioration of aging pipes and valves has resulted in a dramatic increase in the day-to-day costs of operations at the expense of putting funds aside for capital investment. The list of maintenance priorities has grown to a point where it is especially difficult for city crews to keep up with what needs to be done. Crews are in a constant state of reacting to emergencies instead of having time and resources to address the weak spots ahead of time.

At \$0.90 cents per 748 gallons of water used on top of the base rate of \$8.55 per month for a residential 3/4" connection, residents of Jerome enjoy some of the cheapest water in the Magic Valley. Unfortunately, these low rates no longer cover the cost to maintain the extensive system. As a stand-alone "enterprise" fund, the water fund must be self-balancing and self-sustaining by collecting enough revenues to cover expenditures. Over the past five years the water fund has run an operating deficit which has been subsidized by the funds originally set aside for capital investments and contingency. Looking forward, the trend will quickly exhaust and use up

the rest of the capital and contingency reserve funds unless something is done now. If nothing is done the City will lose its credit-worthiness to sell revenue bonds for the water fund in the future as we will not be able to meet current obligations to existing bond holders.

The City is preparing a water rate study with the assistance of the Idaho Rural Water Association to assess its options. A rate increase appears to be necessary but questions remain about how much will be needed. The way we choose to

### Town Hall Meetings: Water Rates and Water System

- Jerome Public Library
- August 13, 7:00 pm
- August 18, 9:30 am

respond to this challenge will have a far reaching impact on our ability to keep rates stable into the future.

The City will be hosting two Town Hall Meetings at the Jerome Public Library which will be sponsored by the Jerome Civic Club to present an in-depth review of the water system and rate study. These will take place on **Thursday, August 13th at 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday, August 18th at 9:30 a.m.** Refreshments will be served at both meetings.

Your participation in the discussion of this critical community issue is important and welcome. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Annual Jerome County Fair!

August 1-8 at the  
Jerome County Fairgrounds

For Details, visit  
[www.jeromecountyfair.com](http://www.jeromecountyfair.com)

### NEW! An Easier Way to Pay Your Utility Bill:

#### DIRECT PAY

- No check to write
- No postage to pay
- No more monthly trips to City Hall

Log onto [www.ci.jerome.id.us](http://www.ci.jerome.id.us) for details

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)

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE: THE CITIZEN'S ACADEMY



Having been Mayor for the past eight years (and councilman for four years before that) I have decided not to run for election this year. I believe it is time for a change both for the city and personally.

Related to that decision, I wanted to provide a way for residents to be more involved with city government and become more informed as to how the city functions. In addition to having 3 elected positions open this year (two council seats and mayor) there are several positions open on various city boards and commissions. Too often people think that they are not qualified or could not be of service because they aren't familiar with the process of government.

In relating my interests to our city administrator Ben Marchant, he suggested starting a citizen's academy. This would give our residents a thorough understanding of the

city government and an insight into the workings of different departments and boards of the city.

With election filing deadlines coming soon, I will start these sessions after fair week on **MONDAY, AUGUST 10 FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 PM.** and they will be held initially at the Library. The first sessions will be an overview of city government, including the legal structure, what departments we have, and how the budgets affect taxes. I look to these to be informal and with time allowed for answering questions.

Remember, these sessions are for anyone that has any level of interest in city government, whether you decide to participate directly at some time or just want to increase your knowledge of city government.

**To sign up for the Citizen's Academy, contact: Micah Austin, [maustin@ci.jerome.id.us](mailto:maustin@ci.jerome.id.us), 324-8189 ext 101**

## NEW ONLINE LIBRARY

Change is happening at the Jerome Public Library where the staff is busy implementing a new virtual library system. The on-line library kicked off on July 23d and is available 24/7 at [www.jerome.lili.org](http://www.jerome.lili.org). The new system will connect the

Jerome Library, Burley Library, and Rupert's DeMary Library,



giving patrons the opportunity to search for books and other materials in all three collections from their computer. Kids can enjoy the new "TumbleBooks" link where they can log in and view a book page by page while it's read to them, or listen to an audio book. TumbleBooks has pre-school through grade 8 books available, and is a great alternative to video games. The new system will require all patrons to have a library card which will be available after July 23d. The library is planning an open house to officially kick-off and showcase the new catalog and services in September.

## ELECTIONS: OPEN CITY OFFICES

City Clerk Kathy Cone announced the 2009 General Election will be held on November 3, 2009. **City Offices to be filled are Mayor and 2 council seats.** All three offices are for 4-year terms. Candidates for elective city offices must be a qualified elector of the City of Jerome, State of Idaho, and have resided in the City of Jerome for at least thirty (30) days at the time of filing his/her declaration. Also, according to Idaho State code you must certify a Political Treasurer before filing a Declaration of Candidacy.

Below are some important election dates:

- The election will be held on November 3, 2009 at the Jerome Public Library
- Candidate filing period opens at 8 a.m. August 24, 2009
- Candidate filing period ends at 5 p.m. September 4, 2009
- Voter registration ends October 9, 2009
- Deadline for write-in candidates to file is October 20, 2009.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate or in helping out with elections on election day, please stop by City Hall and speak with Kathy Cone, or log onto the City of Jerome website, [www.ci.jerome.id.us](http://www.ci.jerome.id.us), for more details.

## Newly Formed Water Works Department



In previous years, the Public Works Department consisted of three distinct entities: Water & Irrigation, Streets & Parks, and Infrastructure. However, Water & Irrigation have recently been combined with another department and are currently located at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The new department, aptly named the Department of Water Works, combines Waste Water Treatment and Water and Irrigation.

Under the new department, Water and Irrigation still provides the same services as before, however their phone number has changed. If you have any water or irrigation related issues or complaints, please call the new number at 324-7122.

Also, here is some helpful information about the Water Works Department

### Q: WHAT DO I DO IF YOU HAVE A BROKEN PIPE?:

- Call 324-1911; 24/7, 365 days a year for immediate service
- They will dispatch someone to shut off your water or correct the issue.
- You may also call 324-8189 during regular business hours and they can dispatch someone to turn your water off.

### Q: CAN I GET IN MY METER BOX AND TURN OFF MY OWN WATER?

- No. We have a technician on duty 24/7 to address this issue. If you try to turn off your water and break the valve on the meter, you will be billed for all repairs. Also, it is against the law to tamper with the meter.

If there are any questions you may have, let us know:

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER WORKS  
 324-7122**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER!**



Are you over 18 and have a desire to help fellow citizens? If so, then becoming a volunteer firefighter may be for you! The minimum requirements are as follows:

- Must be over the age of 18
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Must not have a criminal record

Feel free to contact any member of the fire department for more information; you can also obtain an application for this position by contacting Human Resources at City Hall, 324-8189 extension 108

Questions?  
 Call Human Resources at  
 324-8189 ext 108



**Volunteer at the Animal Shelter!**



For Information, call  
 Human Resources :  
 324-8189 ext. 108

**PARKS:**

**A VALUABLE CITY ASSET**

The city of Jerome maintains seven parks that total 35 acres. They are the North and South Park on East Main, Camozzi Park on East 16th, Moose Park on North Lincoln, Seasons Park on East 14th, Sheppards Park on East 2nd and A Street Park.

The parks are beautifully kept and the trees are maintained by the City Arborist, Steve Hoffman. But maintaining the parks is more than just mowing and watering the lawns. All of the parks have restroom facilities except Moose Park and Seasons Park, requiring constant updating and improvements. Recently, at the South Park on East Ave A, 385 feet of new sidewalk was installed.



In addition to providing recreation opportunities every day of the week, the parks often host city festivals and regional events. On August 22nd 2009 we will host Joe Mama's Car Show which will be held at the North and South parks on East Main Street.

We ask everyone to please help keep our parks nice so they can be enjoyed by all. Please report any vandalism immediately, as repairs to sprinkler heads requires a substantial amount of city funds each year.

If you would like to reserve one of the city parks please contact City Hall's Utility Department at 324-8189.

**2009-2010 CITY BUDGET**

City Clerk Kathy Cone stated staff has been working on the new fiscal year budget for the past few months. In April, Mayor and Council met to determine strategic priorities. They set a five year strategic plan for the city, and staff has been focused on creating a balanced budget around those priorities.

The Mayor and Council are expected to adopt the tentative budget at the regular Jerome City Council meeting on August 4th. A public hearing to consider the tentative budget will be held on August 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the city council chambers located at 100 East Avenue A in Jerome.

**CITY TO CHIP SEAL 6 MILES OF CITY STREETS**



The Public Works Street Department will be starting the chip and seal process on many of our city streets on August 5th and 6th. There is approximately six miles of streets to be chipped and sealed. Work will begin at 6:00 am each day.

The streets to be chip sealed are:

- West Nez Perce from South Lincoln to Victory Lane
- Victory Lane from West Nez Perce to West Yakima
- West on Peter's way from South Lincoln to Dewitt Diesel
- East Yakima from South Lincoln to the Rail Road Tracks
- East Nez Perce from South Lincoln to Dave's Auto Repair
- Rose Street from South Lincoln around to where South Buchanan intersects continued on to East Nez Perce
- South Lincoln from East Ave I to South Fillmore and all the way to East Main Street on South Fillmore
- Possibly on West Main going North on the 100 North Road to the Water Works Department.

Please be aware of flaggers and City crews as they complete this job as quickly as possible.

**STATE CAPITAL EXHIBIT AT LIBRARY**

Come in and see the Idaho State Capitol renovation display! The Library is hosting a display on the history and renovation of our state capitol now through the end of August. Stop by and see what's been happening in the capitol building and learn a bit of its past. The display is available during the library's new hours: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9am-5pm and Wednesday 9am-8pm.**



## Ask a Librarian . . . . .

### WHO NEEDS A LIBRARY CARD? WE ALL DO!



Laura Burnett, Director of Jerome Public Library

August is **Library Card Sign-up Month** at the Jerome Public Library! During this time of preparation for families who are buying school supplies for their children, please remember that

a public library card is the most important school supply of all.

School and Public Libraries play an important role in the education and development of children and teens. Studies have shown that children who are read to in the home and teens that use their school and public library perform better in school and are more likely to continue to use the library as a source of lifetime learning as adults.

According to Jim Rettig, former American Library Association President, "America's 16,543 public libraries offer a wealth of resources – from preschool literacy to homework help to computer classes. Libraries bridge the divide between those who have access to information and those who do not by providing free and equal access to information to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Your library card is the smartest card you can own and one of the best gifts you can give your child. It can't break, won't wear out and won't be outgrown."

Come to the Jerome Public Library to get your library card today. It is small enough to fit in your wallet...yet powerful enough to change your life!

### CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

The Citizens's Academy is a City sponsored program designed to educate any interested citizens on how the city operates. Questions such as, "What is the difference between the mayor and the City Administrator will be addressed and explained. Join us!

**AUGUST 10  
 6:00 - 8:00 PM AT THE  
 JEROME PUBLIC LIBRARY**

## COPS: JEROME'S FINEST

The Jerome Police Department employs seventeen full time certified police officers and is presently in the process of recruiting a new officer. In addition, they have



a new Code Enforcement Officer, Marcos Noriega, who is helping the community with City ordinances and enforcing City codes for the benefit of the entire community. There are three reserve officers who also contribute to the safety and security of Jerome. With the additional staff, including an Animal Control Officer, a part time animal shelter attendant and

records, the Jerome Police Department is equipped to 'serve and protect' all persons in Jerome.

With more officers on the street we have seen a significant impact on crime in Jerome. Cheryl Peterson, Community Services Officer, has been with the Jerome Police Department for twelve years. Cheryl states that "the department is dedicated to giving the best possible service. We are here for the community and hope that everyone in the community knows we are here to help them." If you find yourself in need of the Police, do not hesitate to contact them as they will be willing and able to assist you in any way they can.

**JEROME CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 ADMINISTRATIVE: 324-4328  
 DISPATCH: 324-1911**

### SUMMER BURN PERMITS

This is a busy time of year for burning weeds and brush at home. The Jerome City Fire Department encourages safety when doing so and requests that a burn permit be obtained prior to burning. The burn permit alerts the Fire Department of potential fires. You can obtain a burn permit by coming to City Hall and requesting to speak to any member of the fire department.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES WHEN BURNING:

- Burn only natural vegetation, no garbage is allowed
- Burn in small piles
- Never leave a burning pile unattended
- Always have water available nearby
- Burning is not permitted on high wind days
- All fires must be put out before dark

If you have any other questions, please call the Fire Department at 324-8189.

### THE BOOK ENDS BOOK CLUB

The Book Ends Book Club is a reading club for kids from ages 5-12. They play games, crafts, read and discuss books, plan & participate in programs for the community and have lots of fun. Their regular weekly meetings will begin again for the school year on September 4th. This club meets each Friday from 3:30 to 5:00 at the Jerome Senior/Community Center. This is a community youth group helping build strong individuals who can go forth in life desiring to read, striving for knowledge, and most important of all, loving themselves for who they are. If you are interested in your child participating please call Ruth Ann Harker at 324-3724 or Tammy Lowther at 734-8814.



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

## BIKE PATH MAINTENANCE

The Jerome Recreation District will be conducting maintenance work on the District's bike path beginning on August 10th and finishing by August 19th. Sections of the bike path will be closed during this period while crack filling and sealing is being done. Work will be conducted on the following sections: the east/west section of Nez Perce (100 south) to 100 east & the north/south section from Nez Perce (100 south) to 20th. If you have any questions please contact the Jerome Recreation District @ 324-3389.



## JEROME ANIMAL SHELTER AT COUNTY FAIR



The Jerome Animal Shelter is excited to announce that we and our canine friends will be at the Jerome County Fair this year. We will be there not only to provide the opportunity to have you meet your next "best friend" but to also help educate the public on dog care, dog training and other things dog related.

In addition, make sure to check out Splash Dogs ([www.splashdogs.com](http://www.splashdogs.com)) that will be at the Fair from August 5th through 8th. It is a great family activity and you can bring your own

pooch to compete. Don't be afraid if you have never done this before as the wonderful Splash Dog employees offer training and practice time. It's a ton of fun, great for the WHOLE family and also supports animal shelters and rescue organizations and their cause.

## BUILDING ACTIVITY PICKING UP

Building is slow but there is still plenty to do," said Building Department official Dave Richey. As reported in the last issue of the City Newsletter building permits have decreased about 66% but there are still a lot of projects in progress.

As of today, the building department has approved 25 residential building permits in the City of Jerome. Another project that is currently in progress is the Catholic Church addition, which is now entering its framing stage.

Other community actions that occurred were the beer and wine licensee's in-



spectations. Last month the Building and Fire Departments worked together to finish the annual beer and wine license inspections. Both departments would like to give special thanks for all the businesses that participated and cooperated in making our community a little safer.

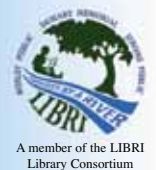
## CHANGES AT THE LIBRARY!

Along with providing free WIFI internet access, the library now has new library cards that are linked to the new Online Library catalog. The new library cards provide more access to information than was available previously available. Come down to the library and get your new library card today!



100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue East  
 Jerome, Idaho 83338

Phone: 208-324-5427  
 Fax: 208-324-6426  
 Website: [www.jerome.lili.org](http://www.jerome.lili.org)



## EDIE WAITE: LIBRARIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE



Jerome native Edie Waite is one of five regular Library staff and several volunteer at the Jerome Public Library. Edie has worked at the library for 4 years and says she's always wanted to be a librarian. Aside from cataloging books and serving the 350-500 patrons per day that use the Jerome library, a day in the life of a librarian includes being a host/hostess, server, sales person, custodian, computer technician, teacher, babysitter, arts and crafts master, and knowing pretty much everything about everything. To support herself in this daunting task, Edie is working on a 4-year library science degree in her spare time.

Edie and her husband Rodney are proud of their three children and especially enjoy their three grandsons.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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



## Jerome Recreation District

- Tough Enough to Wear Pink Fun/Run 5K or 10K Race**

Race takes place on August 1st, beginning at 8:00. Free breakfast following race. Call Jerome Recreation District for details

- Free Community Breakfast**

August 1st at Spears Park. Breakfast will start at 8:00 am

- Flag Football and Fall Soccer**

Registration now open for Flag Football and Fall Soccer. Flag Football is for children 2nd - 5th grades. Soccer is for children 4 years thru 6th grade. \$17 per child for each sport. \$27 per child for out of district patrons.

- Youth Strength Training**

Beginning August 5th, designed for teens 13-17 years of age. Class meets Wednesdays and Fridays, 3:30-4:30 pm. \$15/ participant. \$18 for out of district participants.

- Pool Closing Aug. 23**

Questions? Call (208) 324-3389

**Questions? Call: 324-3389**  
Jerome Recreation District  
2032 South Lincoln  
Jerome, ID 83338

### Empowering Uth Rally

The Back to School Empowering Uth Rally is designed to prepare Jr. High and High School Students for the upcoming school year. The event is **AUG. 18 - 21, 6:30 PM TO 10 PM** each night. We will be talking about Racheal's Challenge and raising money to be donated to the program at the Jerome High School. The event will include games, music, message, snacks, and making new friends. All are invited and welcome to come.

**The event will be held at Life Church, 425 Nez Perce, Jerome. More info. call Pastor Tammy at 420-8372.**

## AUGUST ISSUE STAFF WRITERS



**Det. Sgt. Duane Rubink** has been with the Police Department for eight years. He reported on the Library for this issue.



**Gary Showers** is a full-time firefighter where he has worked for ten years. He reported on the Building Department for this issue.



**Bernadette Gomes** works at City Hall as an Account Clerk where she has worked for almost two years. She reported on the Fire Department for this issue.



**Dave Richey** is a City Building Official and the Planning and Zoning Administrator. He has been a City Employee for more than 19 years. He reported on the Parks and Public Works Departments for this issue.



**Shonna Frasier** has worked for the City for over 19 years in various capacities, but she is currently the Management Assistant for Engineering. She reported on the Administration Department.



**Kathie Maas** has been with the City for over ten years and is currently the Administrative Assistant for the Public Works Department. She reported on the Water Works Department.

## Upcoming Community Events

Date	Event	Location and Details	Contact Information
August 1st	Tough Enough to Wear Pink Fun/Run	Jerome Recreation District	JRD: 324 - 3389
August 1st-8th	Jerome County Fair	Jerome County Fairgrounds www.jeromecountyfair.com	www.jeromecountyfair.com
August 10	Citizen's Academy	Jerome Public Library 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Micah Austin 324 - 8189 ext 101
August 13	Children's Summer Reading Outreach Program: Chalk Art, free snacks and FREE BOOKS!	Recreation District Pool, 10:00 am	Jerome Public Library 324 - 5427
August 13	Town Hall Meeting	Jerome Public Library 7:00-8:30 pm	Micah Austin 324 - 8189 ext 101
August 14-15	Teen Summer Reading Program: Survivor in a Day: Outwit, Outplay, Outlast!	Jerome Public Library Aug 14 8:00 pm - Aug 15 6:30pm	Tina Cherry 324-5427
August 17	Talking Book Program Open House	Jerome Public Library Free service for hearing and visually impaired patrons. Prizes and refreshments offered	Jerome Public Library 324 - 8189
August 18	Town Hall Meeting	Jerome Public Library 9:30-11:00 am	Micah Austin 324-8189 ext 101
August 20	Children's Summer Reading Program, I've Got Rhythm	Jerome Public Library	
August 22	Joe Mama's Car Show	Jerome City Parks: North and South Park in Downtown Jerome	Orlan Stearns: 208-324-8959

### CONTACT THE CITY

Police Department	324-4328 or 911 for emergencies	124 S Lincoln
Public Works	324-9669	820 4th Ave West
Water Works	324-7122	100 W 50 N
Public Library	324-5427	100 1st Ave E

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