



The City Newsletter

September 2009

Welcome to the CITY OF JEROME

www.ci.jerome.id.us

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City Council

100 East Ave A, Jerome

Council Meets:

- September 1st
- September 15th

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

WATER RATE INCREASE TO GO BEFORE CITY COUNCIL

Two Town Hall Meetings were held last month to seek public input on the water rate increase. Many citizens attending the meetings offered their concerns and expressed their appreciation for being given the opportunity to learn about and give input on this issue. So far, there has been broad support for the proposed increases necessary to maintain the water system.

The Water Works department is proposing a base rate increase of \$6.37 from \$8.55 to \$14.92. The base rate is a flat rate users pay to use city water, regardless of whether any water is actually consumed. The City proposes an increase in the usage rate also, from \$0.90 per 100 cfs to \$1.40 per 100 cfs. 100 cfs approximately equates to 748 gallons.

This rate increase will provide revenue needed to make needed investments to the aging City water infrastructure system. The amount and

Proposed Water Rates for Residential Customers

Rate Type	Current	Proposed	Increase of:
Base Rate	\$8.55	\$14.92	\$6.37
Usage Rate	\$0.90	\$1.40	\$0.50

regularity of leaks has been growing for several years now.

The rate increase proposal will go before the City Council for review on the 1st of September at 5:30 pm at the Council Chambers located at 100 East ave A. A public hearing will also be held at that time concerning the rate increase. The proposed new rates will increase the average resident's bill by \$12 to \$20 dollars per month. The monthly sewer charges will not be affected.

For questions or concerns about the rate increase, call 324-8189 ext 101.

CHIEF OF POLICE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Chief Dan Hall of the Jerome City Police Department was awarded one of the highest honors available for law-enforcement professionals. The award, the POST Executive Certificate, is awarded each year to less than a dozen law enforcement professionals throughout the state.

At the Jerome City Council meeting of August 18th, Director Jeff Black of Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy presented Chief Hall with the award certificate.

"I'm honored to present this certificate to him for his hard work and continued dedication to the law enforcement community," Black said.

Chief Hall retired from the Idaho Air National Guard after 22 years of service. During his tenure with the Guard, he was employed by the

Twin Falls County Sheriff's office for twenty years in various law enforcement capacities. In 2004, Hall was hired by the City of Jerome as Chief of Police where he has worked for over five years.

Chief Hall resides in Jerome County.



City Property Available Through Online Auction

Computers, cell-phones, equipment, vehicles.

To make a bid, visit:

www.PublicSurplus.com

FOLLOW THE CITY ON THE CITY BLOG!

Keep up on current events and receive regular updates!

www.CityofJerome.blogspot.com

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

EMAIL ENews@ci.jerome.id.us OR CALL 208-324-8189

WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US

CHANGES WITHIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

We have had some exciting changes within the Fire Department in the last few months. Up until two weeks ago, the fire department only had two Captains, covering 8 am to 4 pm, M-F. Jeremy Presnell was promoted to fill a vacant Captain position, and



Sam Craig, Brent Blamires, and Jeremy Presnell

Sam Craig was promoted to a newly created Captain position. These positions allow our fire dept to have a captain on duty 24/7 on all shifts. This is an important step in our department's progress in complying with national standards by fully staffing our station on each shift. Most importantly, this is a more efficient use of resources to better serve the community.

The longest serving of our three captains is Brent Blamires. Brent was hired in 2002 as a firefighter and promoted to Captain in 2006. Brent is married and has 2 boys. He is on C- shift with Lynn Weigt and Mike Harrison.

Our B-shift Captain is Sam Craig. He started as a volunteer in 2004 and was hired full time November 2006. Sam is married with 3 boys

and 1 girl (that already has him wrapped around her finger). His crew is completed by Dave McBride and Gary Showers.

C-Shift Captain is Jeremy Presnell; he has been with the department for almost a year. Jeremy has been a firefighter for 7 years, 6 of those with the Idaho

Air National Guard. He grew up in Glens Ferry and has an 8 month old son. He heads up A-Shift with his staff of Shawn Kirk, Charlie Cain and Larry Garey.

Most of our firefighters are also Emergency Medical Techs (EMT) and are constantly training to insure the safety of all of us that live in Jerome. As always, the Fire Department is looking for volunteer firefighters to serve our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by the station and talk to Brent, Sam or Jeremy who can address any questions you may have.

We are also in the interviewing process of hiring a new Fire Chief. We currently have 3 candidates that were interviewed on Monday, August 24th. We will keep you updated in our next newsletter.

COORDINATING THE CITY'S HIVE OF ACTIVITY

Welcome to City Hall! Gina, Bernadette, and Mahana will greet you as you enter our front lobby. Together, they work in the Water Utility Office serving you and listening to your concerns and suggestions regarding city services. They are eager and willing to help answer your questions and assist you in any way they can.

This team's primary duty is to serve you, the citizens, in a professional and courteous manner. They are committed to providing the highest level of service in addressing their numerous and varied daily activities. Whether you need new utility services or you are terminating your current utility services, these women are ready to process your requests.



Mahana Gomes, Bernadette Gomes, and Gina Jerke

Other duties include, but are not limited to, answering all incoming telephone calls, written customer correspondence, preparing and mailing monthly water bills, posting customer payments to individual accounts, daily bank deposits, city park reservations, and coordinating availability of the city's branch chipper and dump trucks for public use. They are also busy preparing monthly accounts payables, communicating with irrigation operators when irrigation water is requested, and directing related calls for various city services.

For your convenience, the drive-up window (located on north side of City Hall) is open from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm and the inside lobby is open from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm daily, Monday through Friday. For all inquiries, please contact them at 324-8189.

2009 TOP LIBRARY READERS: CHILDREN'S SUMMER READING!



Children of Jerome were invited to continue their reading endeavors in a summer long reading program. Over 350 children participated in this incentive program. Top Readers received a package of books from Idaho Commission for Libraries with a grant sponsored by Fred Meyers.

Top Five Readers from each age category:

BIRTH- 5 YEARS

- 1(tie) - Hilary Anderson
- 1(tie) - Gabrielle Thornton
- 3- Carter Anderson
- 4- Jackson Hobson
- 5- Kya Hobson

KINDERGARTEN- 3RD GRADE

- 1-Faith Johnson
- 2- Abbey Anderson
- 3- Brielle Young
- 4- Hannah Ziersch
- 5- Ashley Collins

4TH GRADE- 5TH GRADE

- 1- Victoria Thornton
- 2- Thomas Thornton
- 3- Esther Johnson
- 4- Issiah Ziersch
- 5- Dawn Collins

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

TOP GUN: KEN RUSHING



Ken Rushing of the Jerome City Police Department recently competed in the Top Gun Competition of Eastern Idaho. Law enforcement officers routinely test their shooting skills, but at a special event August 1, 2009 they were also

looking for some bragging rights. The shooters compete for accuracy and tactical shooting categories of patrol, detention, and SWAT. Each person goes through three scenarios, and eventually the winners of the three categories compete to determine the overall "Top Gun".

The competition invites agencies all over Eastern Idaho. Jerome City Police Department Fire Arms instructor, Ken Rushing, requested to participate at this year's competition. The city department sponsored and provided all materials for his participation in this event. Most of the agencies that attend and compete in these events are teams that train together on a regular basis. Rushing was the only officer to participate from the City of Jerome, and competed on an individual basis.

Rushing placed third place overall in the Sharp Shooter Competition. Congratulations Ken Rushing on your accomplishments.

Jerome City Police Department would also like to thank the Sheriff Department for their help at the Jerome County Fair.

ASK THE ADMINISTRATOR



Have a question for the City Administrator, Ben Marchant? Send an email to: eNews@ci.jerome.id.us with "Ask the Administrator" in the subject line.

You just might see the answer to your question in next month's electronic newsletter.

YOUR STIMULUS DOLLARS AT WORK: PART 2



The Workforce Investment Act provided funding this summer that has allowed youth to obtain employment with the City. Since beginning the program several weeks ago, the program has been a huge success, not only for us who benefited from the extra help but for the youth as well.

For some of the youth employed through this program, this was their first experience working a full-time job. When asked, many related that experiencing several different kinds of work and trying new things has been rewarding. As well as developing a positive work ethic, they have enjoyed earning their own money and learning the responsibility of budgeting their income. According to them, it is not often opportunities like this actually come knocking on your door and they would highly recommend the program for those considering this in the future.

On July 17, Roger Madsen (Director, Commerce and Labor) came to visit the City of Jerome and to personally meet these students and witness their accomplishments. The City wishes to thank Kamron, Jessica, Mariah, Brian, Katie, and Nicole for their hard work over the summer and their contributions to delivering City services.



Roger Madsen (Dept. of Labor) with Laura Burnett (Dir. Jerome Public Library) with participants of the Workforce Investment Act program.

Ask a Librarian

EXPERT MINDS EXPRESS CREATIVITY



Laura Burnett, Director of Jerome Public Library

CREATIVITY

“In the beginners mind there are many possibilities, but in the experts mind there are few.” - Shunryu Suzuki

This summer, the library has followed the themes “Be Creative” and “Express Yourself” in planning the events of our summer reading program. The outcomes produced by the children and youth of our community have amazed, impressed and astounded us! When given a stimulating environment, various artistic resources and a little independence to create whatever their heart desires, children of all ages can do marvelous things.

What I have realized while watching this diversity of artists is that creativity is more than a product - it is a process. An interesting painting, a thought-provoking poem or a unique response to a question, are but a few examples of creative work. But it's the decisions that people make as they paint, sculpt, write and think that are at the core of the creative process.

Teachers and parents can help children learn to think and solve problems in creative ways by giving them the freedom to make mistakes while still respecting their ideas. To solve a problem creatively children need to be able to see a variety of perspectives and from them generate several solutions. Children who are given choices show more creativity than do children who have all choices made for them.

When being creative, children want their work to look like the object they are looking at. Failing in this attempt can be discouraging. Children need to be taught that art does not have to mean copying what they see. Showing children other styles of art, such as impressionism or cubism, can help them to see that the free expression of ideas and emotions is more important than creating a mirror image.

Bottom line: When encouraging creative thought in children, give them suggestions and options but let the child make the decisions for his/her creative work. Encourage individual expression, and praise their efforts. Focus on the use of color and uniqueness rather than just the final product. When being creative and expressing one's self the journey is much more important than the destination.

SHELTER SENDS PUPPY TO ALASKA

As you may have noticed in our last newsletter, we are proud of the steps our volunteers at the animal shelter have taken to ensure that the canine residents are cared for and loved until they can find their forever home.

One little puppy has set himself apart in the group by being the dog that will move the farthest away from Jerome, Idaho and will take up residence near Ketchikan, Alaska.

“Orca,” as he is now known, will get on a plane in Boise on August 26th for his long journey and new adventure. His new owner, Susan Crew, lives on a remote island outside of Ketchikan and found her new best friend searching shelters on the internet. Susan told us that of all the places she inquired to adopt a puppy, we were the only ones willing to ship the puppy to Alaska.

Thanks to our volunteers, a transport crate was donated for him to ensure

a safe trip and one volunteer is taking the

time out of her busy schedule to give him a ride to the airport. They say the sign of a true friend is someone who will help you

move or take you to the airport. The City of Jerome Animal Shelter Volunteers are true friends to these dogs in need.

This generosity of spirit is a reflection of the quality of citizens that call Jerome their home. Thank you to our volunteers and thank you to Susan for taking a homeless dog from the desert and turning him into a member of your family in the tundra.



NO NEWS ISN'T ALWAYS GOOD NEWS

It is often easier to let others know when they have received unprofessional or poor service. While hearing feedback on how we can improve is important to us, we would also like to hear what we have done right as well. We want to continually improve and provide the best services we can through productive criticism so that we will know when we are on the right track.

We invite you to let us know when a City employee has provided you with excellent customer service, helped you when you needed a hand or done something that you think should be recognized. When you have met one of the City employees in any department who you think deserves a pat on the back, send us an email at:

hr@ci.jerome.id.us

You may just make their day! Thank you!



FIREFIGHTERS READ TO CHILDREN

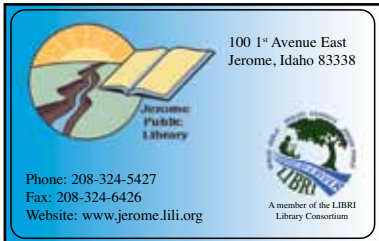


The firefighters of the Jerome City Fire Department work 24 hours a day to protect our community. However, they also find time in their busy schedules to be proactive in the community by reading to our children. On a selected Friday of each month you can find a firefighter at our local library reading a variety of stories to the children. “I enjoy reading to my kids,” says Captain Brent Blamires, “plus the kids like to see the big trucks parked outside and get excited, too.” The firefighters, all of whom are fathers, take the time each month to enjoy that experience with other children in the community. You can reach any of the members of the fire department by calling 324-8189, extension 353.

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LIBRARY THANKS BOOTH PARTICIPANTS

The staff at the Jerome Public Library wishes to thank all patrons who helped to make the Library booth at the Jerome County Fair such a success!! The face painting, arts and crafts were a hit!! The staff looks forward to seeing you all again next year!



THE LIBRARY'S GREEN THUMB

Phyllis Rediker is a Jerome native and loyal volunteer at the Jerome Public Library. Phyllis is the "green thumb" responsible for all the beautiful greenery we see and enjoy throughout the Library. She is very proud of the Jerome Public Library. She feels strongly that "the Library and its staff is one of the best things to happen to the City of Jerome".

SILVER SNEAKERS PROGRAM AT SENIOR CENTER



Have fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement and activities for daily living. Hand held weights, elastic tubing with handles and a SilverSneakers ball are offered for resistance, and a chair is used for seated and/or standing support. The Jerome Senior Center has four different instructors who teach these classes. Class times are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays @ 10:30-11:30. Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10:15-11:15 and Monday and Thursday nights from 5:15-6:00. Humana Gold Choice members are free and all others only pay \$1.00 per class. Come join this nationwide program and get fit, have fun and make friends.

JEROME FIRE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

This year celebrates the 100 year anniversary of the Jerome Fire Department. While many things have changed through the years, the essential role of the fire department has not. Their dedication to serving the public and ensuring the safety of our community remains their top priority.

In the spirit of the Centennial celebration, Firefighter Gary Showers wrote the following narrative as a fictional recounting of a structure fire within the City of Jerome:

It is 1985 on a hot July Sunday afternoon. A solitary on-duty engineer has just finished cleaning the fire station. As he puts away his supplies, the fire phone on the wall begins to ring. On the second ring, the fire engineer answers the phone. On the other end, the Jerome County Sheriff department dispatch center informs the fire station that there was a possible structure fire at 809 N. Birch. The engineer writes down all of the pertinent information and immediately sounds the town's whistle.



Fire Station 2, 2009

As the engineer pushes the fire button on the wall, a siren blasts across town for a full two minutes, alerting all firefighters within Jerome of the emergency.

Before putting on his boots and bunker gear, the engineer writes down the address of the fire on a chalkboard at the fire station, making sure that the other firefighters will find the address. With hydrant map in hand, the engineer roars out of the fire station in a 1974 American La France Engine with all lights flashing and sirens blazing. En route to the fire, the engineer sees a pillaring plume of smoke rising in the northwest



Fire Station 1, circa 1910

sky. Meanwhile, more firefighters arrive at the station and hastily buckle on their gear. With four additional firefighters they quickly leave the station in an open cab 1964 American La France. Lastly, Engine 103 leaps out the bay doors with the lights and sirens screaming as the engineer grinds the lower gears to gain momentum.

The first engine arrives on scene to find a fully engulfed shed fire. The engineer stops a half block down from the fire. The engineer gets out of his fire engine and unravels his three-inch supply line hose. He wraps the supply line around the fire hydrant and then drives to the fire. Once the fire truck is positioned on scene, the engineer pulls 200 ft. of 1.5-inch attack line next to the burning structure. The engineer goes back to the truck, charges the line from his tank water, returns to the nozzle, and finally begins extinguishing the fire.

A few moments later the second engine arrives on scene and a firefighter from the second engine relieves the winded engineer. The engineer then goes back to his fire engine and hooks up the supply line before another firefighter charges the hydrant line. As soon as the line is connected, the hydrant line fills with cool water from the street.

The time that it takes you to read this aloud to one of your friends is about the same amount of time the fire department requires to respond to your home from the time the call is dispatched.

The City of Jerome heartily thanks all the firefighters who have given their lives and served in the 100 years to protect the citizens of Jerome. Thank you.

FIREFIIGHTERS RAISE OVER \$4,000 FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

During the Joe Mama's car show on the 22nd of August, the Jerome firefighters were raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy foundation at the corner of Main and Lincoln. Otherwise known as the MDA, or Fill the Boot program, this is becoming a yearly event for the firefighters. This year, they raised a record amount of \$4150.00. This money will help those in need with this debilitating disease. Thank you for all your support.



QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

EMAIL ENews@CI.JEROME.ID.US OR CALL 208-324-8189

WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US



**Jerome
 Recreation
 District**

- **Free Fitness Day!**
 Sept 12: All admission fees are waived! Free gym access, free weight room, and free special event classes. Fresh fruit and vegetable vendors will be on site!
- **Women's Healthy Heart Walk**
 Sept 19 at 9:00 am. Fee is \$10 and includes refreshments and a tshirt! Join us for a 3.5 mile walk just for the health of it!
- **Women's Self Defense Class**
 Sept 24 at 8:00 am. Fee is \$15 each. Moms grab your daughters and enroll in this class. You can never be too cautious!
- **Kids Camp**
 October 2nd, 9:00 am - noon. All kids ages 4-12 are invited! Games, Arts and Crafts, and Nutrition! Fee is \$8 per child.
- **Family Fitness Night!**
 Beginning in September, these will be held on the second Tuesday night of each month from 6:30 pm -7:30 pm.
- **Coed Volleyball and Men's Basketball**
 October will be another busy month at JRD. Watch for registration dates for Coed Volleyball and Men's Basketball!

Questions? Call (208) 324-3389

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

IMPROVED SUCCESS AT JEROME ANIMAL SHELTER

Now is a good time to be a dog at the Jerome Animal Shelter. With a caring staff of 20 volunteers, one full-time Animal Control Officer, and one part-time Kennel Attendant, the Animal Shelter has significantly improved the care and wellbeing of its canine residents. As the result of improved relationships with rescue groups and humane societies, the euthanasia rate has dropped significantly since this time last year. Last year, almost half of our dogs were placed in caring homes, while this year more than 90% found loving homes or were taken in by rescue groups and foster families. In 2009, there has been over an 80% decrease in dogs euthanized compared to 2008. This represents thousands of hours of hard work in caring for and trying to place the dogs in need. One of the Shelter's

goals is to not euthanize adoptable dogs and we are on the right track, as our statistics show. If you are looking for a new member for your family and would like to adopt a pet, please call 324-1911 to set an appointment or stop by the Shelter Thursday and Friday between 1:00 pm and 5:30 pm or Saturday between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **The Jerome Civic Club** begins its 101st year with a potluck on September 8, 2009, 1 p.m. at the Jerome Public Library. All women interested in Jerome community are welcome. For more information call Gretchen 324-8210.
- **The American Legion Auxiliary** will meet September 3, 2009, 4 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 800 North Lincoln. All women who have an immediate family member who is or was in the United States Military are welcome. The Auxiliary held a raffle for a quilt during the summer and Kathy Swegle is the winner. For more information, call Diane 324-1033.
- **Friends of the Jerome Public Library** will meet September 10, 2009, 10 a.m. at the Jerome Public Library. All persons interested in helping with Library projects and the semi annual book sale is welcome to attend. For more information, call Mary 324-1403.

SEPTEMBER ISSUE STAFF WRITERS



Mahana Gomes is an Account Clerk and has worked with the City for just over a year. She reported on the Library for this issue



Angie Haddock is a full-time librarian where she facilitates the Children's Programs. She reported on the Police Department.



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



Cheryl Peterson has worked for the Police Department for 12 years. She is currently a Community Service Officer. She reported on the Public Works Department



Jeremy Presnell is a new captain in the Fire Department and has been with the city for almost a year. He reported on the Water Works Department



Paula Thompson is the Management Assistant for Fire, Planning and Zoning, and Building Departments. She has worked for the City for 20 years. She reported on the Administration and Utilities Department.