



The City Newsletter

January 2011

Welcome to the CITY OF JEROME

www.ci.jerome.id.us

CITY FINANCES FOR 2011: A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JOHN SHINE

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Mayor John Shine

When I was sworn into office as Mayor on January 3rd, 2010, I pledged to do my best to make sure the City would maintain services without raising taxes. I am pleased to report that after one year of office I can say that we have achieved this goal. I wish this could always be the case, but I have also learned that the City does not have unlimited resources to maintain the same levels of service indefinitely. Indeed, I have received many calls and have read many letters, emails and postings on the City's Facebook page from concerned citizens that are not satisfied with the level of service

the City is providing in certain areas. I share their frustration on a number of issues including snow removal, irrigation, community "eyesores", loose dogs, feral cats, rough roads, and more. It is quite possible to

overcome any of these issues with the right investment of time, labor and equipment. Unfortunately, the City can't fix these problems without taking away some of our ability to respond to calls for police or fire service or even to maintain the roads the way they are today.

As you can see from the chart above, this year's budget was unusually tight for the City and we have had to make do with less than what our needs are in each department. The Police Department didn't get a new cruiser in our fleet replacement schedule, the Fire Department will not be getting specialized equipment for confined space rescues and the Streets Department will have to scale back its plans for the road maintenance

that was scheduled. Even with these cuts, the city needed to use some of its small reserve balance. These reductions may not amount to anything the public will notice this year, but over the years these needs will outpace our ability to keep up and then the problem will be obvious to everyone. Unfortunately, the reality is that the current level of service is not sustainable, despite the remarkable efforts made by those employed in public service.

During this year's budgeting process, it became clear to me that the City has fallen behind the curve on staying abreast of the cost of providing services. In an effort to do more with less and stretch the tax dollar to the limit we are now at a point that we can only do less with less. Our equipment is wearing out and we frequently buy replacement equipment used instead of new. We have spent down the city's reserves (savings) the past

Governmental Funds				
	General	Street	Library	Park
09-10 Projected Beginning Fund Balance	370,687	900,325	41,206	42,424
10-11 Revenues	3,742,344	1,304,533	379,668	163,059
10-11 Expenses	(3,947,865)	(1,974,349)	(382,312)	(160,623)
10-11 Projected Ending Fund Balance	165,166	230,509	38,562	44,860

two years to maintain services and balance the budget without raising taxes. Without a lot of money in reserves or a new source of revenue, we are going to have to take a hard look at what level of municipal services we are going to maintain in the future. This is going to be a major issue that the City and its citizens must deal with over the next five years or we will begin to see City services decline sharply. Over the next few issues of the City Newsletter I will share my observations on some of the challenges, including the City's budget process, that we are faced with. And I invite you to share any feedback that you, our reader, would be willing to provide.

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

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:

- January 4th
- January 18th

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S 2ND ANNUAL CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

The Police Department and the County Sheriff's Department are hosting their second annual Citizen's Academy beginning in early February 2011. Beginning February 3rd and continuing every Thursday for five weeks. No cost, must be 18 years of age to attend. For details, call the Police Department at 324-4328 or click [here](#) for details. For questions, call 324-4328.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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

WWW.CI.JEROME.ID.US

JEROME'S NEWEST PARK LOCATED WEST OF SENIOR CENTER

City Engineer Rick Wuori has worked closely with landscape architects, landscaping contractors, concrete and electrical contractors, and outdoor furniture suppliers to design and construct the new city park located on N. Lincoln Ave between 4th and 5th Streets, west of the Senior Center parking lot.

The new park (name still to be determined) was mostly recently completed this fall and includes a flowing concrete sidewalk which circles the park, a concrete pad for tables and a future pergola structure, places for benches and trash receptacles, a flag pole (the base and setting work donated by a local Eagle Scout), several trees and shrubs with permabark beds, sod and two horseshoe pits. The tables, benches and trash receptacles have been



shipped and will be stored until spring when City crews will install them. A sign for the park is still in design and will be erected this spring.

Also earlier this year, engineering worked with a local stone mason to repair and preserve the historic lava rock wall which borders the park on the west side and fronts Lincoln Avenue. Local historians have said the rock for the wall came from the construction of Lincoln Avenue during the early days of Jerome, estimating the wall is over 80 years old. The park also includes a new automatic sprinkler system and electrical power outlets.

DEMANDS OF A FIREFIGHTING CAREER

You will find that in most surveys the firefighter's job is listed as the number one stressful job in America. This stems from various factors ranging from the work demands to the risks of performing the job. Although the City of Jerome is relatively small, our firefighters are not immune from these factors.

To deal with the stress and physical

demands of the job, the firefighters follow various daily exercise routines. Each firefighter is on duty for 24 hours and then off for 48 hours and a rigorous exercise routine can be difficult to maintain with such a schedule. Unlike other jobs Firefighters must pass an annual physical to keep their position at the Fire Department, therefore exercise cannot be ignored.

Physical, emotional and mental conditions are critical factors in the day-to-day life of a Firefighter. They must be ready to safely react and respond at any time to any emergency situation. For the year of 2010, our local Fire Department responded to over 1,000 calls. By exercising and eating well-balanced meals, they were able to perform at maximum levels.

The Mayo Clinic reports that if one exercises regularly the following are 6 benefits one would expect to gain:

- improves your mood;
- combats chronic diseases;
- helps you manage your weight;
- boosts your energy level;
- promotes better sleep;
- puts the spark back into your sex life.

Maybe we can all take a page from the firefighter's book and incorporate more exercise into our lives!



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PUBLIC WORKS FINISHES MAJOR PROJECTS

The Public Works Department is proud to announce that the Hawk Pedestrian Crossing at South Lincoln and I Street is now in full operation. As the population of Jerome grows, so does the amount of traffic on South Lincoln. At this time, the cost of a four-way traffic signal was prohibitive so a more fiscally reasonable, but none the less effective, solution was found.

With the help of Balanced Rock Electric, the Hawk Pedestrian Crossing was installed on November 7th, and became fully functional. The new system has an average count of 30 pedestrians per day utilizing the new crossing. It has made the crossing of South Lincoln a much safer intersection. The Public Works Department is also planning on installing a similar crossing at North Lincoln and 10th Avenue. The equipment and materials are currently in storage, but Public Works is waiting to install the system contingent upon the outcome of the Safe Routes to School Project.

Finally, after 26 years on the books in planning stages only, the West 8th Projects are very near completion. These road extensions have become a reality thanks to the hard work of the entire Public Works Department. The Lincoln Avenue to Date Street section is waiting on the final signature from ITD with the Date to Fir Streets section 85% completed with sidewalks, curb and gutter, and asphalt all in place. These projects have been extremely time-intensive, requiring many man-hours. The City of Jerome would like to thank the Public Works for the hours worked in installing sewer lines and water meters. They have worked tirelessly to get these projects completed.

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 Micah Austin at 324-8189 ext 101.

VOLUNTEER AT THE JEROME ANIMAL SHELTER!

Have a soft heart for animals? Want to give back to the community in a unique and rewarding way? The Jerome Animal Shelter is always looking for new volunteers to help out walking dogs, feeding dogs, cleaning kennels, and transporting dogs to other shelters. If you are interested or would like more information, call Monica Harrison at 324-8189 or send her an email at hr@ci.jerome.id.us.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER!



Fighting fires is a rewarding career but it can also be an excellent way to volunteer and give back to the community. If you already work full-time but are healthy, motivated, and willing to serve, contact the Human Resources Director to see if you are eligible to be a volunteer firefighter.

Questions?
 Call Human Resources at
 324-8189 ext 140

SEND IN THE DOGS!: JEROME PD K-9 UNITS

Bad boys, bad boys, what you gonna do? What you gonna do when the **dogs** come for you? The Jerome City Police Department is proud to introduce two new certified police dogs, as well as a new handler on the force.

Captain Tim Green is a certified law enforcement dog trainer, and has raised Katja, a Belgian Malinois, for police service. Officer Janeece Gonzales has raised Kenzo, a Malinois/Dutch Shepherd cross, to be brought up in the program as well.

Katja and Kenzo started their training last April, enduring 160 hours of the program to become certified narcotics search dogs. Officer Janeece Gonzales is the first female handler for the City of Jerome K-9 unit, as well as the first dual handler once her training is complete. Officer Gonzales has also completed 160 hours of canine narcotics training with Kenzo to complete



Officer Janeece Gonzales with Kenzo,



Kenzo is Belgian Malinois/Dutch Shepherd cross

the program.

On November 27th, 2010 both dogs officially became certified to handle narcotics investigations. Officer Gonzales will be handling Kenzo and Captain Green handles Katja. Both are Idaho POST certified officers.

After the holiday season, the Police Department plans to begin training dog teams for patrol specific duties. The dog and handler will be trained on various patrol situations such as stand-offs, felony searches, different tracking and searching situations as well as various other procedures. This particular certification will require 240 additional hours of training for both the dog and handler.

The Jerome City Police Department is proud of their new addition of Police Service Dogs Kenzo and Katja to the force, as well professional K-9 Officers like Green and Gonzales to deal with illegal drug activity in and around our community. Keep up the good work, JPD!

RESOLVE TO BE READY IN 2011



As the New Year approaches, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Ready Campaign is once again reminding people to Resolve to be Ready in 2011. Americans who make New Year's resolutions are 11 times more likely to report continued success in achieving a goal than individuals who have not made a resolution, according to the Journal of Clinical Psychology. The Ready Campaign would like to make an emergency preparedness resolution easy to keep by providing the tools and resources needed to take the three important steps: get a kit, make a



Article continued on next page

ROB WILLIAMS RETIRES AS CITY ATTORNEY

The City of Jerome has been honored to have Robert Williams as our City Attorney for 32 years. 32 YEARS! That is longer than many of you reading this article have been alive! A phenomenal accomplishment. But all good things must come to an end....or at least change.

Robert Williams is stepping aside as our City Attorney and handing the reins over to John Lothspeich. Although Rob isn't retiring completely, we here at the City will miss our continuous interactions with him. It's with a fond "farewell" that we thank Rob for all he has done for us and wish him the best as he enters the next phase of his career. Below are some questions we asked Rob regarding his pending departure.

Q: When did you become the City Attorney for Jerome and how did this happen; were you approached etc?

I became City Attorney in 1978. Marshall Everheart won a contested mayoral election. He asked me to take the job of City Attorney because he did not want to retain the previous one. I agreed and the rest is history.

Q: During your tenure as the City of Jerome Attorney, what do you feel is one of the greatest accomplishments of the City?

There have been many significant city accomplishments over my 32 year tenure. I believe the most significant one has proven to be the decision to create the position of City Administrator and hire competent people to fill it. Only a few Idaho cities were doing this at the time. This decision brought professionalism to the management of the affairs of the city and, in my view, has made the Council and Mayor more effective by freeing these well-meaning, part-time elected officials from managing the burdensome, time-consuming daily details of city business. The elected officials have been able



to focus most of their time on their larger responsibilities. The City Administrator has been able to provide elected officials and department heads properly researched facts and ideas for their consideration. Better and more-qualified employees have been able to be identified and hired. Innovative concepts have been implemented. A dynamic city better able to meet the needs of its citizens has been the result. Significant issues remain to be addressed, but the city of Jerome has progressed in many important respects to the point that it is often cited as a positive example of what a small Idaho city can do.

Q: What is your recommendation/advice for the next City Attorney?

John Lothspeich is an excellent, very-well respected attorney. The City of Jerome is fortunate that he is willing to serve. I have often mentioned to others that work for public bodies that I believe the key to success in such roles is never to forget who you work for. I also believe that civility and courtesy are the hallmarks of working for the public, even when it is difficult.

Q: What are you going to miss when you are no longer our City Attorney?

I will miss the daily association with elected officials, dedicated employees and citizens. I will miss being directly involved in attempts to solve legal problems that are vexing the city. John Lothspeich tells me he will knock on my door often, so I will not be completely on the outside.

Q: What are you going to do from here with "all this free time" that you will now have (ha ha)?

"Free time" is a concept I don't understand very well. I'd rather burn out than rust out, so I will continue to be found at my law office wrestling with my many wonderful clients' legal problems...maybe I'll now take a Saturday off here or there.

RESOLVE TO BE READY (CONTINUED)

Continued from previous page:

plan and be informed about the different types of emergencies that can happen in your area and their appropriate responses. We hope you will join the Ready Campaign this Holiday Season in promoting Resolve to be Ready.

On this page you will find a toolkit to help your organization develop internal and external messages to encourage your members, employees, constituents, customers and community to make a New



Year's resolution to prepare for emergencies. You will also find Web banners for your organization's Web site, a sample E-mail and a Newsletter you can share with your key constituents.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Ready at Ready@dhs.gov. or Jerome County Office of Emergency Management at cblackwood@co.jerome.id.us Or call 324-9261 for more information about local training opportunities and activities.

DOOR HANGERS USED AS COMMUNICATION TOOL

Have you seen a notice hanging from your doorknob recently? Please don't just throw it away – it may be your City Water Works Department informing you of an important utility service improvement needed soon in your neighborhood

The Water Works Department has the huge task of operating and maintaining the drinking water, sanitary sewer, and irrigation water systems which serve city residents. One of their more challenging tasks, however, is communicating effectively with you, the customer. With approximately 4000 customers, the task of efficient communication is very important. The "door hanger" notice is one of the tools used to inform you of an important event which may require your immediate attention.

For example, the sanitary sewer lines serving your home need occasional cleaning and maintenance. When this maintenance is necessary, a door hanger notice is placed on your door to inform you of the date and time that the work will be scheduled with instructions on how or what you may need to do to prepare. One of the things you may need to do is limit or curtail your water use during the time the work is being done so that the maintenance can be completed efficiently.

Another example is water service interruption. The water service to your house may need repair and a door hanger is left to notify you that water service will be shut off for a certain period of time. When the work is completed, you may need to run your cold water to clear your lines of air and sediment.

Occasionally the department must shut service off due to other circumstances and if they are unable to contact you in person, they will leave a door hanger notifying you to call them to schedule an appointment and resolve the problem. Another time you may have see a blue door hanger on your door is to remind you that shut-off day is approaching and water bills must be paid before that day. Water Works is currently developing an irrigation water door hanger and continues to look for more effective ways to contact and keep its customers informed.

So check your doors, if you see something hanging from the doorknob, please read it. It may be your City trying to provide you better service!

www.ci.jerome.id.us



**Jerome
 Recreation
 District**

Upcoming Events for January:

Team Weight Loss Challenge:

- 4 person teams
- \$100 per team
- First meeting and official weigh-in will be January 3 @ 7:00 pm
- Winners determined by percentage of weight lost
- Winner receive \$600 to split and 6 month membership each

Membership Specials

- 15% discount on yearly contract if paid in full
- 10% discount on yearly contracts if paid monthly through autopayments
- 3 month special: 3 months for regular price of 2 months, valid for use in January, February, and March

January Boot Camp

- \$60 for 4 weeks, Monday thru Friday
- 5:30 am - 6:15 am
- Pre and Post weight with body fat analysis

After School Program

- 3:10 pm - 5:30 pm (Mon- Fri)
- \$60 per child with each additional sibling receiving 25% discount
- Snacks, fitness, homework help, and open gym time
- Must have own transportation to and from the Rec Center
- Call today to reserve your child's spot

Kindergarten Basketball Camp

- \$15 per child
- Registration begins Jan. 3, 2011
- Camp is February 15, 17, 22, and 24 from 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Check our website for the latest information

www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com

Questions? Call (208) 324-3389

Community Events

JEROME PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

- The Smithsonian Exhibit will be on display at the library all through January with presentations at 1:00 on Saturday the 8th, 15th, and 22nd. For more information, call the library at 324-5427, or visit the city of Jerome website, www.ci.jerome.id.us and follow the link to the library under "City Government."
- Teddy Bear Sleep Over will be on January 14th at 10:00 as part of the Preschool Story Time.

JANUARY ISSUE STAFF WRITERS



Martie Maires has worked for the City for over thirteen years in Administration. She reported on the Public Works Department for this issue.

Captain Tim Green has been with the Police Department for almost three years. He reported on the Engineering Department for this issue.



Rick Wuori has worked for the City for over two years as the City Engineer. He reported on the Water Works Department for this issue.



Hazel Marcus was recently hired in the Water Works Department two months ago. She reported on the Fire Department for this issue.

Darbie Chocker has worked in the library for just over six months. She reported on the Police Department for this issue.



Monica Harrison is the Human Resources Director and has been with the City for over two years. She reported on the City Attorney retiring from his role with the City of Jerome.