

Mayor's Newsletter



Mayor Brian Blad
City of Pocatello
P. O. Box 4169
Pocatello, ID
83205-4169

- www.pocatello.us
- (208) 234.6163
- mayor@pocatello.us

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COVID-19 RESOURCES

Please go to these sources for accurate and up-to-date information.

www.siphidaho.org
coronavirus.idaho.gov
www.cdc.gov/pocatello.us/coronavirus

You can also call Public Health at 208.234.5875.

COVID-19

As I write my article this month, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has reached Idaho. I know all of us are concerned about the pandemic.

I want to assure you the City is also doing its part to be proactive and help prevent the spread of this disease. We continue to coordinate with the federal government and State of Idaho, specifically with Southeastern Idaho Public Health. They are the agency in charge when large-scale health emergencies happen in Idaho. They have the factual, scientific data.

We ask that you get your information about COVID-19 from reputable sources. Please go to

<https://www.siphidaho.org>,
<https://coronavirus.idaho.gov>,
and <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

The City has also set up a website with information about our operations and available community resources. You can find it at pocatello.us/Coronavirus. We also continue to provide updates directly to the media and through our official social media channels, website and app (Pocatello Connect).

This is an ever-evolving situation right now. We are all nervous and unsure of what's to come or when the pandemic will be over. Please continue to follow recommended health

guidelines. Take precautions to protect yourselves and your families, and do your part to help slow the spread.

I also ask each of you to do what Pocatello does best – help each other. Check on a neighbor, share supplies if called upon and work together. Thank you for everything you are doing. Your actions are why I am proud to be your Mayor!

Finally, if you have any questions about novel coronavirus (COVID-19), please call Southeastern Idaho Public Health at 208.234.5875.

National Poetry Month

Marshall Public Library is still celebrating National Poetry Month throughout April. We invite you to celebrate too!

Starting now, poets and prose-writers of all ages are encouraged to submit their best work for inclusion on the Library's Poetry Wall. Send your submissions by email to Library Specialist Jen Hawkins at jhawkins@marshallpl.org or mail them to the Library at 113 South Garfield Avenue. All styles and genres – and **most** languages and topics – are welcome (please use your discretion). We're seeking odes, rants, elegies, riddles, songs and screeds. Whether formal, free verse or something in between, we want to read the Charlie-horse hearted, the

heavily-quirked or the harrowing!

Many of you may be home right now with your children. This is a good time to consider tapping into your creative side. Sit down as a family, pick a topic, pick a genre and write together. You could even have your own poetry reading at home.

Never written poetry before? No problem! Use our online resources to learn more about all the different forms of poetry. Check out a book or 2 online or watch a poetry reading for inspiration.

Even though the Library is currently closed, we will still display everyone's work. The Poetry Wall will just be digital

for now. When the Library reopens, we invite you to watch for an announcement that our traditional Poetry Wall is up and ready for you to view.

We can't wait to see what you create! For more information about the Poetry Wall, contact Jen by email or call 208.232.1263.

Oh, and as a reminder, the Library has many great online resources. Libby, Overdrive, Cloud Library and Kanopy have e-books, e-audiobooks and movies for all ages. You can find all this at marshallpl.org or call 208.232.1263. Library staff is still available to help you.

Barking Dogs

Many of you have been asking me to include an article about barking dogs. Now that spring is here and our 4-legged friends will be out more, and we'll all be home a little more practicing social distancing, I thought it was a good time for a reminder.

There is a misconception that it is OK for your dog to bark during the daytime. However, Pocatello Municipal Code is not specific about day or night. If the offense is considered an "unreasonable annoyance" by the reporting party (you or your neighbor), it is a violation of City Code. The owner could be issued a misdemeanor citation.

If you need to call to report a barking dog, you can remain anonymous or you can provide your contact information. If you want us to contact you, an Animal Control Officer will make contact with you. They

will then speak with the owner of the animal. If the owner is not home, the Officer will investigate as to why the dog is barking. The Officer will then leave a calling card for the owner asking them to contact us.

Another misconception is that our Animal Control Officers are able to make the dog stop barking. If the owner is not home, the Officer isn't always able to quiet the dog down. The Officer can attempt to, but the majority of the time the dog is now barking at the Officer. We will use our resources to locate an owner, but finding the information can be difficult. You also need to be aware that the Officer cannot seize the dog because it's barking.

Dogs will bark for multiple reasons. Trying to find out why and solve the problem is the responsibility of the owner.

There are trainers in and around Pocatello who will help owners and their dogs with this issue. If you have a barking dog and are working on the issue, please speak with your neighbors. Letting them know you are aware and working on the problem will most likely prevent them from calling Animal Services.

If you have questions about barking dogs or other animal related issues, please call Pocatello Animal Services at 208.234.6156.

Here's one final issue now that it is spring. Please remember to pick up after your dog while you visit our parks or walk around your neighborhood. It's not only the responsible thing to do, but it also keeps it from washing into the Portneuf River through the storm water system.



Get the Lead Out!

Whether you are a homeowner, rental property owner or tenant, it's important for you to get the lead out and have a lead safe home. The City's Lead Safe and Healthy Homes (LSHH) Program can assist you in testing for lead-based paint and can help make your home lead safe.

Although lead-based paint is no longer used, homes built

before 1978 may have old, peeling or chipping lead-based paint. Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), we operate the LSHH Program. This program aims to reduce childhood lead poisoning by creating lead safe housing.

If you have any concerns about the possibility of lead-

based paint hazards in your home, we can assist you in testing and identifying potential lead-based hazards. If you are eligible according to HUD's guidelines, this program is **no cost to you**.

Let us help you get the LEAD OUT! Contact us at 208.252.0125 or visit us online at leaducate.pocatello.us/.



If there is a topic you'd like me to address in future newsletters or if you want to comment or ask a question, please use this sheet and send your comment to me. If you wish to call or e-mail, my number and address are listed on the front page. While I cannot respond to all comments individually, I do pass them on to the appropriate departments. v23,n4

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____
Email _____ Telephone _____