

Mayor's Newsletter



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Community Support Matters

I'm sure many of you, like me, are experiencing COVID-19 fatigue right now. It's on the news all the time, and we have visual reminders everywhere. However, we must continue to be vigilant in our health and safety practices.

Pocatello has been fortunate that our confirmed cases have been low so far. That's due to everyone's efforts to follow the instructions and advice of the Governor and health officials. This advice won't necessarily keep you from getting COVID-19. It will, though, slow the rate of infection and keep our available medical services from being overwhelmed at once.

If anything good has come of this pandemic, we've seen how much community support

matters. Many business owners and managers I've spoken with have greatly appreciated your efforts to help keep them operating. Buying locally, buying gift certificates, paying for appointments in advance, etc. have helped more than you know. It's helped our businesses stay open, reopen and keep people employed. Again, that's due to all of us pitching in.

As Governor Little opens up Idaho in stages, we must continue to follow his guidelines and have patience. I'm excited for Pocatello to be 100% open too, but access to medical care when we need it is our priority. We don't want

to swamp doctors and hospitals when we need them the most.

I recognize it has not been easy for anyone to self-quarantine, follow the stay-home order or wait for each stage of the Governor's plan. Please check in with family, friends, neighbors and your favorite business. I also hope you have reached out when you needed help. Community support really does matter!

Thank you to everyone for all you've done to slow the spread of COVID-19. I can't wait to see you once activities can begin again. As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

Message from SIPH

I asked Southeast Idaho Public Health to contribute an article again this month. I truly appreciate their leadership and assistance during this time! Their article is below.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is unprecedented in our lifetime. It has brought with it devastating illness and economic hardships for many people in our world. We are learning many lessons from our current situation. Perhaps one of the most valuable lessons we can take from this is the importance of other people in our lives. The importance of true connections

with others—family, friends, colleagues, neighbors—has become more and more clear the longer we have been separated from many of those we care about.

As we move forward, it is also important to focus on the things we are able to control. While we might not be able to travel across the country or even a state or two away as easily as we have been able to for visits with family and friends, we do have other options. We can call. We can send a note or card. We can connect through any number of

online platforms (Facetime, Zoom, Skype, etc.) with those we care about. And when we do, let's take the opportunity to express gratitude for the positive difference they have made in our lives. It will probably matter more to them than you ever realized.

Thank you for your cooperation in following Governor Little's Stay Healthy Order and Rebound Idaho Plan. It will take all of us doing our part to help ensure that we move forward in a positive way!

2020 Census. . .What matters to you? Schools? Transportation? Hospitals? Data from the U.S. Census Bureau helps inform planning efforts for all these important resources in Bannock County. There's still time to complete your Census form today at my2020census.gov!



Summer Reading Program

Summer is coming quickly, and that means we are preparing for the Summer Reading Program with the Marshall Public Library. This year's theme is "Imagine Your Story." There will be plenty of imaginative, creative and exciting ways to have fun with books, stories and reading.

The program will be a little bit different than other years, but don't worry. It will still be fun! The main difference is that the activities will be centered at

home for you and your family members to do. For example, every week there will be ideas for recipes children can make, art projects to create and science challenges to experiment with. Links to these projects and ideas will be on the Marshall Public Library's website, and sometimes, there will even be packets for families to pick up at the library, take home and use together.

As in other years, we will have a list of reading activities people can do at home or with friends and family. You'll also need to keep track of the minutes, pages or books you read to receive prizes and win free books. We look forward to a dynamic and imaginative summer at Marshall Public Library!

For more information about this program or the library, go to marshallpl.org or call 208.232.1263.

New Police K-9s



The Pocatello Police Department (PPD) recently acquired 2 new dogs for its K-9 Unit. Barrett is a German Shepherd and was assigned to Officer Joel Weinheimer. Frank is a Yellow Labrador and is partnered with Officer Dane Eborn.

Both dogs were donated to the City and underwent extensive testing to make sure they had what it takes to be a law enforcement working dog. They

showed incredibly high drives and were immediately seen as diamonds in the "ruff." Barrett and Frank have also just completed their training and certification in explosives detection.

The new dogs spent 2 weeks with their new partners and respective families to work on the bonding that is critical for these 4-legged officers. Once the bonding is complete, the handlers and their K-9 partners

go through several weeks of training in specific odor detection. We are excited to say each team received their certification, which means they met the standards established by the State of Idaho.

PPD and the K-9 Unit are proud to add these incredible 4-legged officers to their ranks. These dogs and their partners will work hard to keep Pocatello and the surrounding communities safe.



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,n6

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____

Email _____ Telephone _____