

Mayor's Newsletter



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State of the City

At the start of each year, it's always a privilege for me to report on the exciting things we've accomplished. This year is no exception.

While COVID-19 dominated in 2020, your Mayor, City Council and City employees continued to work hard for you. Here's a sampling of our efforts.

- The Building Department issued over 3,400 building permits, including 107 new residential permits.
- The Marshall Public Library increased its electronic media section, created curbside and quick pick up options and offered online programs.
- Our new Fleet Department saved approximately \$300,000 taxpayer dollars.
- Parks & Recreation built 5 miles of trail in the Highland area and performed a number of repairs in the City Creek area.
- Zoo Idaho started construction on its new entrance and gift shop and built new ADA accessible walking paths thanks to generous donations from community partners.
- Pocatello Fire Department assisted agencies across the west fighting wildfires.
- The Geographic Information Systems Division created a new public web map application with recreation, zoning, trails maps and more.
- Our Science & Environment Division added new access points to the Portneuf River.
- Street Operations treated nearly 31 miles of road.
- Pocatello Regional Transit provided over 211,000 passenger trips.
- The Fiscal Year 2021 budget approved by the City Council levied \$358,000 less in property taxes.
- We also opted in to Governor Little's public safety program that funds public safety personnel salaries. The \$4.9 million we received from the State's coronavirus relief funds was estimated to give Pocatello taxpayers a one-time savings of \$214.54 per

\$100,000 of taxable valuation on their 2020 tax bill.

- Animal Services began its trap, neuter, release program for feral cats.
- Pocatello Police Department's Narcotics Division was part of a task force responsible for seizing 10 pounds of methamphetamine.

All of this and more happened during the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate everyone's understanding as we complied with national, state and local regulations and adapted our way of doing business to keep you and our employees safe. We tried our best to keep you informed of our changes and updates by creating or sharing 700 pieces of content that resulted in over 2,600 social media posts. Staff also created a COVID-19 resource page at pocatello.us/coronavirus.

I'm excited to see what 2021 brings, and we will continue to work hard for you. As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

Brady Chapel Centennial Campaign

The Brady Memorial Chapel stands as a local icon at the entrance of Mountain View Cemetery. The Chapel was built to memorialize James H. Brady who played a significant role in Idaho's history.

It was dedicated on Memorial Day 1922, the same day as the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. It serves as an excellent example of

French Gothic Revival architecture. Due to neglect and vandalism in the past, the Chapel is in need of restoration and preservation. Fortunately, the City's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is now leading the effort to save this historical Idaho landmark.

HPC's capital campaign plan calls for the ambitious goal of raising \$200,000 prior to the

Chapel's Centennial Anniversary on Memorial Day 2022. We invite you to join the Centennial Capital Campaign to save the Brady Chapel. Your support is crucial to preserve this historic icon so it can be enjoyed by future generations.

To learn more about the campaign, or if you'd like to donate, go to pocatello.us/171/Brady-Chapel.

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Library Display

The Marshall Public Library is proud to ring in the new year with the work of wildlife photographer, and Library employee, Taylor Bunn! Before moving to Idaho with her husband, Taylor had never head of public lands. "Realizing that these spaces are conserved and accessible to everyone was amazing. Enjoying Idaho's wilderness has become essential for our family," Taylor says. She loves the challenge of capturing animals in their natural environment and looks forward to sharing their beautiful variety with the community. "Idaho Wildlife: Photographs by Taylor Bunn" can be found on the reference floor of the Library through February.

COVID-19 Vaccine

I asked Southeastern Idaho Public Health to update us on the COVID-19 vaccine. Below is their information.

Last month, many people were relieved and excited when two different companies received Emergency Use Authorization from the Food & Drug Administration for vaccines for COVID-19. As with many infectious diseases, safe and effective vaccines are a critical tool in helping to keep people and communities healthy!

Because the vaccine is currently in limited supply, Governor Little has worked closely with his COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee to establish vaccine priority groups to "roll out" the vaccine. This process began with healthcare providers (including hospital workers,

clinic staff, EMS, dental professionals and others) and Long Term Care Facility residents and staff. Next are first responders, such as firefighters and law enforcement, as well as pre-K through 12 teachers and staff and correctional facility staff.

Beginning **February 1**, anyone age 65 and older is eligible to receive the vaccine, as are

- Food & agriculture workers
 - Food processing workers and USDA processing plant inspectors
 - Grocery, convenience store and food pantry workers
- Idaho National Guard not already included as healthcare personnel
- Manufacturing workers

- Public transit workers
- U.S. Postal Service workers

More information on priority groups may be found at [When-can-I-get-a-COVID-vaccine-in-Idaho-011221-5.pdf](https://www.idaho.gov/files/assets/IDHS/COVID-19/When-can-I-get-a-COVID-vaccine-in-Idaho-011221-5.pdf).

While the vaccine is limited, amazing community partners, enrolled as Vaccine Providers, are stepping up to assist with vaccinating people in our community as efficiently as possible. These partners include but are not limited to Portneuf Medical Center, Shaver Pharmacy, Maag's Prescription Center, Health West, Bingham Memorial Hospital and Idaho State University. We are so fortunate to be part of a community where partners pull together to make great things happen!

Where Does Recycling Material Go?

Have you ever wondered where recycling material goes and how it's used? In Pocatello, after the Sanitation Department collects it, your material is transferred to Western Recycling.

Western Recycling then sends the material to various consumers that convert the scrap items into products for reuse. Cardboard and mixed paper are sent primarily to mills that re-pulp these grades into linerboard and corrugated mediums used to make new cardboard boxes. Aluminum cans are sent to smelters

where they are melted and converted into sheets used to make new beverage containers. Tin cans are also sent to smelters that melt them for use in various steel products.

Western Recycling sends the different grades of plastic to facilities with optical sorting capability. These facilities sort the plastic and send them to facilities that regrind and wash the material, which is then used to produce plastic containers and other products depending on the grade.

Materials used to be exported to markets in Asia due to a lack of domestic consumers. This is changing, and more domestic consumers are accepting recycling materials. With the market being fluid and changes happening rapidly, Western Recycling made a goal to ship all material domestically, and they have met this goal.

To sign up for the City's recycling program or to get more information, visit pocatello.us/395/Recycling-Programs or call Sanitation at 208.234.6192.

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. V24,n2

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____
Email _____ Telephone _____