

Mayor's Newsletter

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I'm Grateful

It's the time of year when we start to think about what we're grateful for in our lives. This month I want to share with you a few of the things I'm grateful for and why. First, I love the four seasons we have, although it can go from 90° to 20° overnight. Fall is particularly a great time of year. Temperatures are falling, the leaves are turning different shades and I love to drive through the city and into the mountains to see all the changes.

I'm also grateful for our community. The Gate City is one of the best places to live, and I can't think of a better place to raise a family. Kiplinger.com agreed and named Pocatello one of their "10 Great Cities for Raising Families" last year.

Cooperation is something else I'm grateful for, specifically the cooperation we have between Pocatello, Chubbuck, American Falls, Blackfoot, Idaho Falls, Bannock County, Power County, Bingham County, Idaho State University and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Most areas around the nation cannot say they have such a positive relationship between government entities. We are fortunate in Southeast Idaho to enjoy this type of cooperation, because we all truly want what is best for the area.

I'm thankful for the different groups in our area that are willing to do things to make Pocatello better. Brooklyn's Playground is a perfect example, because we would never have this amazing all access playground without a

volunteer group like Valley Pride. This isn't our only volunteer organization or volunteer effort. We have some of the best people anyone could ask for living in our community, and so many of you volunteer your time and talents. It's exciting to hear of your successes whether helping in the community or just taking time to talk with your neighbors.

As we work together to take pride in our city, we will see more economic development. We are one of the very few places that has been successful in bringing business to the area. I am sure if we continue to work together we will see more success in the future. As always, I am proud and grateful to be your Mayor!

Budget Billing

A great way to get your City utility bill off the monthly roller coaster is to sign up for budget billing. Now is the ideal time to get started.

How the plan works is the previous 12 months of your billings are totaled and then averaged. This average is what you pay each month. The purpose of budget billing is to help you build credit during the winter months when water consumption is low. The credit helps carry you through the higher usage months of summer. Here's an

example. If over 12 months your total billed charges amounted to \$756, your budget bill would be \$63 a month.

Average winter month bills range between \$41 and \$47. Adding another \$20 to your payment helps you save up for higher summer bills. Each November your account is recalculated for actual charges over the previous 12 months. Your budget bill amount may go up or down depending on your usage. With budget bill, you still receive a monthly statement, so you can monitor your account and consumption.

Even if your payments have not been timely over the last year, please talk to the Utility Billing staff to see if budget billing would benefit you. Their office is located in City Hall, 911 North 7th Avenue, and office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You are also welcome to contact a customer service representative at 234-6241. For more information on all our billing services, go to www.pocatello.us, click on "Departments" and choose Utility Billing.

Special Collection. Leaf collection for Pocatello residents runs October 31 through November 26, 2011. Set bags/boxes of leaves out in the same location and at the same time as regular garbage. Remember, there is a 25 pound weight limit for each bag/box.

"Pollution Prevention Champion"

I'm excited to announce that last month the City of Pocatello was recognized statewide for our curbside recycling program. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality named us a "Pollution Prevention Champion" and presented our award at a City Council meeting. This award would not have been possible without the hard work of our Sanitation Department employees and the support of all of you who recycle!



Following is the State's news release explaining the award.

The city of Pocatello has been recognized as a "Pollution Prevention Champion" by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for its commingled residential recycling program

"The city of Pocatello has taken significant strides to reduce pollution by implementing a commingled recycling program," said Ben Jarvis, DEQ's Pollution Prevention Coordinator.

"By diverting waste from the city's use of the Bannock County landfill through recycling, the city and its sanitation department are extending the life of the county landfill, preventing unnecessary disposal of recyclable items, and generating positive pollution prevention results," he said.

The city is one of four Pollution Prevention Champions recognized by DEQ this year for implementing pollution prevention practices.

Pollution prevention is any technique used to reduce or eliminate pollution generated. In contrast to most pollution control strategies that manage a pollutant's effect on the environment after it has been generated, pollution prevention seeks to eliminate or minimize the amount and toxicity of wastes and pollutants before they are generated.

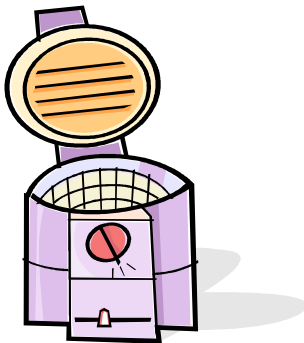
To qualify as a candidate for pollution prevention

recognition, recipients had to submit an application to DEQ demonstrating how they had incorporated pollution prevention into daily operations by reducing raw materials or toxic materials purchased, hazardous or solid waste generated, water, energy or fuel used, or air pollutants emitted.

Fifty-seven percent of the city's residents, nearly 10,000 in total, participate in the voluntary recycling program, which has diverted 3,800 tons of recyclable materials from the landfill since it began in 2009.

To learn more about this year's Pollution Prevention Champions, visit DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/pollution-prevention-recognition.

For more information on how to put pollution prevention to work for your business, contact Ben Jarvis at (208) 373-0146 or ben.jarvis@deq.idaho.gov.



Thanksgiving Safety

Please remember to use caution when cooking your Thanksgiving meal, especially if you're using a turkey fryer! Place the fryer in an open area AWAY from walls, fences or other structures.

Never use the fryer IN, ON or UNDER a garage, carport, breezeway, porch or any structure that can catch fire. Make sure the turkey is THAWED and dry! If the oil begins to smoke,

immediately turn the gas supply OFF. Finally if a fire occurs, call 911. DO NOT attempt to extinguish the fryer fire with water.

Be safe and enjoy this holiday season!

If there is a topic you'd like me to address in future newsletters or if you want to comment or ask a question, write it down, tear off this part 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. v14,n11

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____