

# Mayor's Newsletter

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

- [www.pocatello.us](http://www.pocatello.us)
- (208) 234-6163
- [mayor@pocatello.us](mailto:mayor@pocatello.us)

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## Plans for the 116<sup>th</sup>s Return

I have truly enjoyed this summer, and I'm having a difficult time believing it's coming to an end. Children are back in school though, which means fall really is here.

One great thing about September, and something I've been looking forward to for a while, is the return of the men and women serving in the 116<sup>th</sup>. If you remember, it was a year ago this month we sent our citizen soldiers off to Iraq with the promise they would return in a year. My understanding is that they will be home by the end of the month!

As a community, we will be hosting welcome back activities for the soldiers and

their families. We want them to know how much we appreciate and support them and how excited we are to have them back! They are our hometown heroes, and we want to make sure they feel like heroes.

One special party is set for October 8, 2011. We will have a welcome home party with the help of Idaho State University (ISU). Activities will start with an event just for the soldiers and their families. Next will be a tailgate party at Holt Arena for the soldiers, their families and the whole community. After the tailgate party, our soldiers will be ISU's guests to watch the ISU vs. University of Montana football game. I hope everyone will plan to attend the game so that we can 1) show our support

for our returning soldiers and 2) show our Bengal pride!

This has been a long and challenging year for the members of the 116<sup>th</sup> and their families. Our community has been holding its breath while our men and women have been gone. Soon, they will be home, and we can all breathe a little easier. Please plan to help us welcome them back!

If you are an employer, I also encourage you to learn more about the Hire One Vet program. Call the local Department of Labor office at 236-6710 for more information.

Thank you for all you do, and as always, I am proud to be your Mayor.

## Reverse 9-1-1

The Pocatello Police Department is encouraging residents to register their cell phones for the reverse 9-1-1 system. With our upgraded system, residents who have their names listed in the published phone directory have already been added to the alert system.

However, we recognize that many citizens use their cell phones as their primary or only phone service. If this applies to you, it is important to register your cell phone for the reverse 9-1-1 system. By

doing so, you will receive text and/or voice messages for such things as Amber Alerts, fires, accidents, hazardous materials spills and other incidents that occur in your area.

Even if your traditional landline is registered, you can still register your cell phone. This will allow you to be notified about emergencies even if you are away from home.

The reverse 9-1-1 system works well and is an important part of our emergency notification plan. For a recent

example of how it was used, in July 2011, we used it to alert residents living near the Highway 30 fire. We were able to inform them of traffic congestion and then road closures. We also let them know about the dense, dangerous smoke coming from the fire.

To register your cell phone (or your unlisted telephone number), go to [http://www.pocatello.us/police/police\\_911.htm](http://www.pocatello.us/police/police_911.htm). For more information, contact Lt. Paul Manning of the Pocatello Police Department at 234-6131.

**Reminder...** Don't forget about our prescription drug take-back boxes. They are located in the lobbies of the Pocatello Police Department, Chubbuck Police Department and Bannock County Sheriff's Office. To make arrangements to drop off your unused/unwanted medications in Pocatello, call 234-6100.

### Fire Safety Months

September is Campus Fire Safety Month. Colleges and universities across the country are conducting events to raise awareness of campus fire and life safety issues. The Pocatello Fire Department is also taking time to send out message to college students about fire and personal safety. The Fire Department is stressing the importance of working smoke detectors, the proper use of cooking and heating appliances, not leaving candles unattended and never mixing alcohol and fire.

For the entire community, National Fire Prevention Week is October 9 through 15, 2011. This year's theme is "Protect Your Family from Fire." Your home is the place where you and your family should feel the safest, but home is also where fire deaths are most likely to occur. Four out of every five fire-related deaths among civilians occurs in the home. Areas of particular concern in home fires are smoking materials, cooking, heating equipment and candles. The Fire Department has several

awareness activities planned for October. Events will range from school and business visits to fire extinguisher classes to a live burn of a simulated room. All of these activities are aimed at educating the public on how to prevent fires and how to avoid serious injury or death if a fire occurs.

For more information on fire safety or to schedule a fire extinguisher class, contact the Fire Department's fire prevention bureau at 234-7083.



### Household Hazardous Waste

The average household contains between 3 and 10 gallons of materials that are hazardous to human health or to the natural environment. These materials may be everyday cleaners and products, but they can poison our water if they are not stored or disposed of properly.

medications, chemicals or other hazardous material. You should NEVER pour these items down any toilet, sink or floor drain in your house or garage. Our Wastewater Treatment Plant is not designed to treat these types of materials.

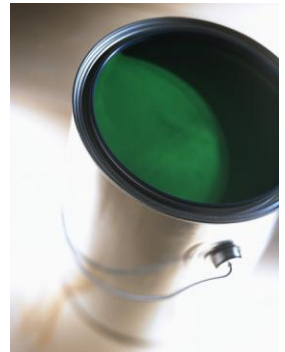
onto the ground, into a septic tank or into a dry well. These materials have the potential to pollute the groundwater and/or runoff into the storm drain system.

Right now you are probably storing many things in your garage, basement, bathroom or kitchen that need special consideration when disposing of used and unused materials. These items include paint thinners, paints, automotive fluids, lawn fertilizers, insecticides,

We also ask that you NEVER pour any household hazardous waste into a storm drain. This includes the street gutters around your house and any catch basins located in your neighborhood. The storm drain systems drain directly to the river without any treatment. You should also NEVER pour any materials

Please save all hazardous household products for Bannock County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days. These are the first Saturday of each month April through October. For more information, call the Bannock County Landfill at 236-0607.

For more information on what can and cannot be disposed of in your house drain, call Water Pollution Control at 234-6256.



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,n9

My question/comment is \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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