

Mayor's Newsletter



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Looking for a Speaker?

As I write this article, winter has finally arrived. It's snowing and blowing with more of the same expected our way. Please take precautions as you travel. Give yourself more time, and be prepared with an emergency kit in case you get stuck.

In addition to interesting weather, the first of the year means many groups are scheduling speakers for upcoming meetings. Have you considered asking someone from the City to speak? The Council Members, staff members and I are available to meet with groups large and small, organized and informal.

If you know exactly who you want to invite and/or what topic

you are interested in, I say go directly to the source. If you think a City speaker is a good idea but aren't sure about what topics could be covered, visit

pocatello.us/288/Speakers-Bureau.

Topics range from snow plowing, air service, storm water enforcement, sign codes, cybersecurity, avoiding scams, using your library and much, much more! If the City does it, we'll talk about it!

I appreciate those of you who have invited me to speak to your groups or attend your meetings. I know the Council Members are appreciative too. We try our best to be everywhere to connect with

citizens, but we don't know when everything is happening. (We also don't want to show up to your events uninvited!) If we haven't been – ever or in a while – to visit with your group, reach out! It really doesn't matter if it's a small neighborhood group, a gathering of hundreds or something in between.

Next time you are looking for a speaker, consider contacting the City. There is a lot happening in Pocatello, and we want to make sure you have the scoop. Thank you for all you do, and as always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

Unseen First Responders

Everyone knows who first responders are. They are the women and men serving in law enforcement and fire services. However, there are unseen first responders who support the emergency management team and our community. I'm talking about public works employees.

Our Public Works Department is made up of 7 departments – Engineering, Fleet, Sanitation, Science & Environment, Street Operations, Water, and Water Pollution Control. These departments are often first on the scene of an emergency, respond at the same time as law enforcement/fire services and are the last to leave. Examples of their work include water main breaks, sanitary sewer overflows, flooding, falling trees, road obstructions, drinking water contamination and chemical spills.

Public works employees provide emergency support services through traffic signal coordination, snow removal, geographic information systems, and infrastructure security/resiliency. One of the many important roles of public works is to serve as a first responder. In 2003, George W. Bush, through a Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-8), declared

The term "first responder" refers to those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment, including emergency response providers as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6

U.S.C. 101), as well as emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel (such as equipment operators) that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recovery operations.

We embrace this title since public works employees are responsible for emergency management and protecting, operating and maintaining critical infrastructure. Their skills, tools and professional experience complement those of their first responder partners.

Protecting our city truly is a team effort. I encourage you to look for our unseen first responders the next time you are out.

WaterSmart



Did you know you can take a deep dive into your water consumption data? Last year, the Utility Billing Department began using WaterSmart, and we invite you to check it out.

Through this software platform, you can see information about your water usage, such as average gallons used per day, historical use over a 2-year period, and more. You're also able to see estimated use from household water fixtures and appliances, as well as access

money-saving tips that will help you conserve water and cash. You can also input information about your home and WaterSmart will provide customized advice depending on possible sources of water usage. The software also helps you better manage your account by setting alerts and notifications about water consumption.

More than just data, WaterSmart lets you sign up for alerts that will tell you when

there will be service interruptions and when possible leaks are detected. You can also send a message to Utility Billing staff through WaterSmart if you have a question about your bill.

To register for WaterSmart, visit pocatello.watersmart.com. All you need is your account number. For more information, contact the Utility Billing Department at 208.234.6241.

Cooking Safety Tips



We take cooking for granted. You turn on the stovetop, add oil to the pan, start frying onions and then are interrupted. Maybe you have to answer the door. It's the neighbor, and you visit for a second that turns into minutes. Suddenly, you hear the smoke alarm sound. You are now experiencing the number one cause of home fires – cooking, specifically unattended cooking.

The Pocatello Fire Department asked me to share cooking safety tips with you.

- Never leave cooking food unattended. If you leave the kitchen, even for "just a second," turn off the stove.
- Check food you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling regularly. Remain home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.
- Be alert. You aren't alert if you're sleepy or have consumed alcohol or taken medication that makes you drowsy.
- Get out, and call the Fire Department if you have a cooking fire and are in doubt of what to do!
- Keep a pan lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it's completely cool.

For more information on cooking safety, go to nfpa.org/cooking or call the Fire Department at 208.234.6201.

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Census
2020

2020 Census. . . Your responses to the 2020 Census help our economic development efforts. Companies, including retailers, review Census data when they need to decide where to expand or relocate. Help shape our community's future by completing your 2020 Census form. Go to 2020CENSUS.GOV or @uscensusbureau.

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,n2

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____
Email _____ Telephone _____