

Mayor's Newsletter



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Table of Contents:

Census 2020	1
Yard-Waste Collection	1
Portneuf Valley Environmental Fair	2
Grease in the Lines	2

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Census 2020

I need your help. Wait, let me rephrase that. OUR COMMUNITY needs your help.

We're not asking much, just 10 minutes of your time. You won't have to come to a meeting, put on your work gloves or even leave the comfort of your couch. So, what do we need your help with? We need you to fill out your 2020 Census form. That's it! That's all!

Why is the Census so important? The answers you provide help determine how much funding federal programs utilized by you, your friends and your neighbors get each year. In Bannock County, that amounts to over \$2,200 per person per year according to a George Washington University study. This money helps our schools, builds roads, provides health care, assists small businesses and much, much more.

Your Census answers are also vitally important to the success of businesses big and small. Through the population and

demographic data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, your responses help companies that are looking to expand or relocate choose a community to do business in. The data can also help businesses identify potential customer bases, determine if an area can support the business, gain insight to the available workforce, etc.

Starting in mid-March, you'll get mail from the U.S. Census Bureau that has information on how you can respond to the Census. Now, here's the part where you don't have to leave the couch during the month of April. New for 2020, you can fill out your Census form online. It doesn't get much easier than that! If you'd prefer, you can still fill out your form and mail it back. You can also call the Census Bureau and complete it over the phone. If you haven't responded by May, Census takers will stop by your home to help you complete the Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau takes the confidentiality of your answers extremely, extremely seriously. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics, nothing more. By law, under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Bureau cannot release identifiable information about individuals, households or businesses even to law enforcement. Every Census worker swears an oath to never release any identifiable information. If they violate their oath, it comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

The Census only comes around once every 10 years, and all it takes is 10 minutes of your time. Think of those 10 minutes you spend completing your Census form as an investment in our community by you and every Pocatellan.

If you'd like to learn more about the 2020 Census, visit 2020Census.gov or call 208.234.6163.

Yard-Waste Collection

Spring is almost here! That means the Sanitation Department is getting ready to offer their annual yard-waste curbside collection service. This year the Sanitation Department will collect carts April 6 through November 28.

Yard-waste carts are collected weekly on the same day as garbage collection day. Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, garden trimmings and flower

trimmings **are accepted** in the yard-waste carts.

Items NOT ACCEPTED are tree limbs, branches, dirt, Christmas trees, kitchen waste, food waste, coffee grounds, pet/animal waste, compostable packaging, paper products and general trash.

To sign up for the yard-waste curbside collection service, contact Sanitation at 208.234.6192. The cost is \$5

per month April through November. Customers who still have their yard-waste carts from last year will automatically be signed up for service starting April 6. Contact Sanitation if you need to change your account.

If you are interested in purchasing compost, we take our material to the Bannock County Landfill. They offer compost for \$35 per ton. Call 208.236.0607.

Portneuf Valley Environmental Fair



Interested in learning more about our local environment? Come to the 2020 Portneuf Valley Environmental Fair at Caldwell Park April 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Learn what you can do at home, work, school and on the road to improve our local environment.

The environmental fair is a FREE community event sponsored by local businesses, organizations and government entities. The fair has something for everyone, just ask one of the 5,000+ attendees from last year. Bring your friends and family and enjoy dozens of free hands-on activities, pick up

green goodies, listen to great, live music and enjoy a free hot dog, freeze dried ice cream or Idaho baked potato. There will be booths focused on water, energy, flora & fauna, habitat & trails, agriculture, environmental health, as well as reuse & recycle! There will also be recycled crafts available for purchase.

Ride your bike to the fair, and enjoy free bike valet parking. You'll be entered into a raffle for bike friendly prizes.

Live too far away to walk or bike? Take one of Pocatello Regional Transit's buses (yep, it's free), and be entered into a

raffle as well. You can also participate in the fair by entering the poetry contest, recycled sculpture contest or the fashion show. In addition, there will be areas where you can safely dispose of unwanted medicine and household electronics.

For more information, go to envirofair.org or call 208.234.6519. See you at the Portneuf Valley Environmental Fair!

Grease in the Lines



Our Water Pollution Control (WPC) Department is continuously battling the issue of grease in our sewer lines. Although collection crews at WPC work diligently to keep City lines maintained, there can be major issues when grease is poured down drains.

Fats, oils and grease are found in most kitchens and can be found in several food items. These items include meats, deep-fried items, sauces, cooking oils, gravies, salad dressings, dairy products and many more! Cooking fats, oils and grease are one of the primary causes for both

residential and City main line blockages.

Once cooking grease is poured down the drain, it quickly cools and hardens, sticking to the sides of the pipes. This creates a barrier that catches even more grease and food items that are sent down the drain. These items can lead to a total blockage of the pipe. Most of these blockages occur between your home and City sewer main lines. Since these lines are considered private lines, the City is not able to help with repairs.

WPC is asking for help to keep grease out of the sewer lines.

Here are ways you can help.

- Wipe out greasy dishes with a disposable towel before washing the dishes, and dispose of greasy towels in the trash can.
- Avoid putting leftover food, scraps and fat trimmings down garbage disposals. Instead, dispose of these items in the trash can.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Water Pollution Control at 208.234.6256.

If there is a topic you'd like me to address in future newsletters or if you want to comment or ask a question, 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,n3

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____
Email _____ Telephone _____