

Mayor's Newsletter



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

- pocatello.us
- (208) 234.6163
- mayor@pocatello.us

Table of Contents:

A New Normal	1
Message from SIPH	1
Parks & Trails are OPEN	2
Residential Fire Pits	2
Woodwork on Display	2

A New Normal

Back in January when 2020 started, I definitely pictured the year being different. I did not image a global pandemic, earthquakes, social protests, riots, plus the many other incidents and issues that are extremely abnormal for our everyday lives. It's apparent we have a new normal now.

I am not exactly sure what our new normal looks like yet. I think it is still being shaped based upon our responses to these important issues. I am adamantly encouraging our community to continue to be open to changes, to work together and to see the larger picture in our city, state, nation and world.

However, I do know our new normal includes continuing to follow health experts' recommendations, including wearing masks in public and social distancing of 6 feet. These measures, along with all

the other health tips, are extremely important to help slow the spread of COVID-19. As Bannock County's numbers increase, please use the "Idahoan common sense" Governor Little talks about, and do your part.

The City has taken the health recommendations seriously, and we continue to evaluate the best way forward. At each step, we have consulted with Southeast Idaho Public Health and implemented their suggestions to help keep our employees and all of you as safe as possible. For example, the City Council has been meeting in-person, but the setup of our room has changed to maintain distancing of 6 feet. That setup will most likely be our new normal for the foreseeable future.

Speaking of Council Meetings, we have been working to

prepare the City's Fiscal Year 2021 budget. These meetings, like all of our City Council Meetings, are live-streamed at pocatello.us/718/Live-Streaming and shown on Sparklight Cable channel 56. We will publish our proposed budget in the newspaper mid-July, and then, we'll hold our public hearing at the August 6 City Council Meeting. This is your opportunity to officially give input to the City Council about next year's budget. We strongly encourage you to let us know your thoughts.

Please think about what our new normal means to you and how you can contribute. It will take all of us to effect meaningful change. Thank you for doing your part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Wear your mask, wash your hands and help protect our loved ones. As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

Message from SIPH

Thankfully, Idaho has continued to move forward in opening our economy back up. This has been possible due in large part to the efforts and sacrifices of Idaho residents during our pandemic response, who have adopted new behaviors like physical distancing of 6 feet and wearing cloth face coverings when interacting with others in public places such as grocery stores. THANK YOU for making the choice to help keep our neighbors and communities healthy!

As we continue to move forward, we will need to be vigilant about continuing to practice these types of behaviors. As much as we all hope to "return to normal" as soon as possible, the reality is that the virus continues to circulate in our communities. While we can never hope to prevent everyone from becoming infected, our goal is to limit the number of new infections so that those who are most vulnerable among us, who are most likely to become seriously ill, have less risk of

becoming exposed. Preventing large numbers of cases at any given time also helps to ensure that our healthcare system does not become overwhelmed.

Thank you for your cooperation in following Governor Little's Stay Healthy Order and Rebound Idaho Plan. It will take all of us doing our part to help ensure that we continue to move forward in a positive way!

Parks & Trails are OPEN

Another beautiful summer season is upon us, and there's no better time to get outdoors to enjoy the City's extensive park system, open spaces and scenic trails! The City's Parks & Recreation Department has stepped up during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing additional cleanings and sanitization efforts for park facilities and amenities, and all City parks, playgrounds and Greenway trails are now OPEN for your use and enjoyment.

A few key items to keep in mind while using parks and trails.

- Do not use parks or trails if you have COVID-19 or are experiencing its symptoms.
- Maintain appropriate physical distancing of 6 feet from other persons and avoid congregating in groups not from your household.
- Be prepared for potential delayed access to public

restrooms, based on numbers of users.

- Bring your own cleaning items and hand sanitizer.
- Share the trails, and **warn other trail users of your presence before you pass.**



Enjoy the outdoors, and be safe! For more information about the Parks & Recreation Department, please call 208.234.6232 or go to pocatello.us.

Residential Fire Pits

The Pocatello Fire Department receives many calls from residents asking about residential fire pits and recreational fires. (For clarification, recreational fires are outdoor fires used for warmth, cooking, leisure, religious ceremonies, etc.) Here are some key points concerning residential fire pits and recreational fires.

- Commercially made portable, outdoor fireplaces shall be used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and shall not be within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.
- Recreational fires shall be constantly attended until extinguished.
- Material for extinguishing a fire must be readily available. Common

materials are a fire extinguisher, hose, bucket of water or dirt.

- The size of fuel load shall not be more than 3 feet wide by 2 feet high.
- Plastics, rubber, treated wood, trash, etc. may not be burned.



If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Pocatello Fire Department at 208.234.6201.

Woodwork on Display... The Marshall Public Library is featuring the artistry of a community favorite – Portneuf Valley Woodturners Association (PVWA) – through the end of July. Using lathes and hand-held tools, woodturners craft a variety of decorative and practical objects from vases to violins, spindles to tables. PVWA is a diverse, fun loving group. Hailing from all over Eastern and Central Idaho, members have a range of experience and abilities. They emphasize safety and cooperation, and they develop skills through mentorship, demonstrations and friendly feedback. Visit PVWA.club to learn more. Stop by the library at 113 South Garfield Avenue to see the display, or go to marshallpl.org/ or facebook.com/marshallpl/ for more information on the library's programs and displays.

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,n7

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____

Email _____ Telephone _____