

# Mayor's Newsletter



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## Students are Back

How did summer go by so quickly? Even though this may have been the hottest summer on record, we spent a lot of time out and about this year. As fantastic as summer was, though, I am looking forward to the cooler fall temperatures. And, speaking of fall, students are back in school!

It is always an exciting time for our community when our students are back in school. There are Idaho State University, elementary school, middle school and high school sports, plays, activities and concerts happening. There are so many different ways to support our student population, even if you don't have students

in school. You can find a fundraiser to support, attend a concert or game at the school closest to you or buy season tickets.

Since students are back in school, we also need to be aware there are students walking and driving to school. Please pay special attention to school zones. Motorists, watch for pedestrians in crosswalks and stop for them. Pedestrians, make sure you use the crosswalks and do not jaywalk.

If you are driving yourself or others to school, pay attention to speed limits. School zone speed limits are 20 miles per hour. Some school zones are in

effect for the entire school day, and some are only when the signs are flashing. It is your responsibility as a driver to know where the school zone starts, where it ends and when it is in effect. The Pocatello Police Department is out patrolling to help ensure everyone's safety, but we all play a part in ensuring our students' safety.

I'm excited all our students are back in school! I hope you'll join me in going to as many activities as possible.

Be safe, watch for pedestrians, slow down and enjoy the school year. As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

## Getting Vaccinated Against COVID-19

It is important that we have accurate information regarding COVID-19. We also need to be aware that our active cases are again increasing here in Bannock County. Therefore, I have asked Dr. Daniel Snell to write the article below regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.

As chief medical officer of Portneuf Medical Center (PMC) in Pocatello, I am seeing first-hand the impact of COVID-19 vaccinations on residents in our community.

Over 90 percent of our COVID-19 inpatients have not been

vaccinated. That's because most of the vaccinated population don't get infected, and the few "breakthrough" cases are typically mild and don't require hospitalization. Analysis in the COVID-19 vaccines' clinical trials and real-world conditions under Emergency Use Authorization shows that the vaccines are safe and highly effective at preventing COVID-19 infections and serious illness.

The Delta variant of COVID-19 is more contagious, results in more serious illness and affects a younger population than the COVID-19 infections we experienced last winter.

Widespread vaccination against COVID-19 is the only way to mitigate the effects of COVID-19. Vaccines are readily available in our community at no charge to our citizens. Nearly 70 percent of our employees have been fully vaccinated, and we strongly encourage our employees, as well as the entire community to get vaccinated to help save the lives of local residents.

Daniel D. Snell, MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
Portneuf Medical Center

**November General Election.** . . The City of Pocatello's General Election for Mayor and 3 City Council seats is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2, 2021. To find out if you are a registered voter or where your voting precinct is, go to the Bannock County Election Office website at [bannockcounty.us/elections/](http://bannockcounty.us/elections/). Early voting begins Tuesday, October 12 and goes through Friday, October 30. For more information, contact the Bannock County Elections Office at 208.236.7333.

**Be in the  
Know**

Be in the know in your community!

Sign up for "Notify Me" at [pocatello.us/List.aspx](http://pocatello.us/List.aspx)

Pick what you want us to notify you about. Choose from items such as City Council agendas, road construction/traffic reports, calendars, bids, advisory board volunteer opportunities, events and more! Tell us whether you prefer email or text messages, and we'll send information right to you!

Register today at [pocatello.us/List.aspx](http://pocatello.us/List.aspx)

There is a lot of information available on our website too. Check us out at [pocatello.us](http://pocatello.us).

**Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™**

In October, Pocatello Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years—to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™." We encourage all residents to embrace the 2021 Fire Prevention Week theme.

It's important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. To learn the sounds of your specific smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, check the manufacturer's instructions that came with the box or search the

brand and model online for how to test your alarm.

When an alarm makes noise—a beeping sound or a chirping sound—you must take action! Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond. Also, make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms meet the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

Here are safety tips to help you "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety™."

- A continuous set of 3 loud beeps—beep, beep, beep—

means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1 and stay out.

- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced. All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org). You can also call Pocatello Fire Department at 208.234.6201.

**Leaf Scorch**

The Pocatello Tree Commission asked me to share some great information. As summer draws to an end, people's interest in landscaping sometimes wanes. One sure sign of this is leaf scorch. Leaf scorch is essentially the browning of leaves due to water loss, compounded by high temperatures, dry winds, low humidity and drought.

Symptoms of leaf scorch include browning of the leaf margins and yellowing or darkening of tissues between the main leaf veins. As the condition progresses, entire leaves may dry up, turn brown and become brittle. Leaves sometimes wilt rapidly, usually remaining a pale green even when dried out. Plants may lose many leaves prematurely

during late summer and exhibit some twig dieback.

Species most affected by summer leaf scorch in Pocatello include Norway maple, horse chestnut and linden. Branches on the south and west side of trees and those overhanging heat-radiating asphalt and concrete exhibit the most severe leaf scorch symptoms.

Some causes of leaf scorch are soil compaction, transplant shock, nutrient deficiency and herbicide injury. The most common cause, though, is inadequate water. The loss of leaves is seldom fatal, but conditions causing leaf scorch should be corrected. Plants under the stress of leaf scorch are subject to secondary

problems, such as attack by insects or diseases.

To prevent leaf scorch, maintain a tree's vigor by proper watering and fertilizing. When watering, deep water the entire area under the tree at least 1½ times beyond the reach of the branches. Check the moisture level at least 12" down. If it is somewhat dry, water slowly, allowing water to penetrate to a depth of at least 2'. If the soil is compacted, it may need to be loosened by mechanical means.

Trees should receive deep waterings at least twice a year. Avoid fertilizing unnecessarily, and when using herbicides near trees, do not allow mist to settle onto the trees. It is easier to prevent problems than it is to remedy them.

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. V24,n9

My question/comment is \_\_\_\_\_  
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