

July 2016

# PLUMMER NEWS

C I T Y O F P L U M M E R

D A T E S O F  
I N T E R E S T :

- July 4 City Hall & Plummer Library Closed for Independence Day
- July 14 Regular City Council Meeting 6p.m.
- July 28 Regular City Council Meeting 6 p.m.

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## Plummer Days Information

The Chamber in conjunction with Pathways are sponsoring Bands, Brews n' BBQ 5- 10 PM Bands featured are: Robb Boatman & Rampage with Billy Fletcher & Four on the Floor. \$15 (Includes dinner, Pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad & apple pie along with drink ticket.) Location: County lot next to Gateway. Tickets \$15 will be sold at Benewah Market & on line Information can be found at Facebook:Bandsbrewsn'bbq Part of proceeds from this event will go toward Senior Meal Site.

There are two other events: Race to the Rez Show n' Shine Car show from 2-5:30 (sign up 12-1:30) Contact Bobbi at Bobbi's Bar. Also Bike poker run. Entry fee:\$20 sign up Bobbi's Bar. Noon-1 Senior Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, eggs & sausage, Pancakes. 7-10 (while food lasts) (Rose Louise Philips will call you with price, if she doesn't it will be on Facebook page) Wellness Center fun 5K walk/run 8 am Contact Wellness Center for more information. Looking for Volunteers contact Tom Nuss at Umpqua Bank 208-686-1921  
Facebook: Plummer Day



## Library News

Monday-Wednesday: 10a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday: 2p.m.-6p.m.

Friday & Sunday: Closed

Saturday: 10a.m.-2p.m.

## Message from the Mayor

During the months of May and June, we were searching for an electrical engineering firm to help us analyze and plan for the restoration of the system. We advertised a "Request For Qualifications" and one firm responded by the June 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. Commonwealth & Associates is the firm, and the city council approved them at a special meeting June 20<sup>th</sup>.

While I was disappointed in the number of responses, the upside is that Commonwealth is the firm that had been under contract for KEC in their pursuit of the pole replacement project and other work KEC has done for the city. This means they already have an intimate knowledge of the system, that a lot of data and research has already been done regarding our system, and we have basically already paid for a large percentage of that data, which should greatly reduce our spending in the design of our restoration and improvement project for our electrical utility. Commonwealth is also local, with offices in Liberty Lake. Outfits like Avista, KEC, City of Cheney, Inland Power, and a lot more local utilities and contractors too numerous to mention hold them in high regard. I have met with them on two occasions now and they consider our area here in the Inland Empire as their community and wish to serve the community to the best of their ability while striving to keep costs as low as possible for their clients without having to go "cheap and dirty" as it is called. Plus they think outside the box when looking for solutions and I personally like that. I am uncomfortable with operations that use the 7 most dangerous words I've ever heard, "That's the way it's always been done."

I traveled to Boise again to meet with Northwest Lineman College about potential linemen and apprentices and the Idaho Parks Director to update him on what's been going on up here. Unfortunately, the lineman college meeting fell through due to a personal issue with the representative but I did get my audience with the Parks Director. Director Langhorst was very positive in his desire to help the city seek funding for improvements in the Heyburn Park spur of our lines. They are starting their assessment of all the parks in Idaho for what is called their "deferred maintenance" program, and this will bring more attention to Heyburn in the Parks hierarchy and at the Governors office level too. What this means is that they are looking at their parks that don't need much in the way of repairs or maintenance upgrades and focusing the money on those parks that do, and Heyburn fits into that perfectly. I'll be coordinating with Ron down at the park as this progresses and we move forward on designing our electrical plan. They are also going to look for any grants or programs that might even remotely fill our need to fix the system. That's good; I can use all the eyes and ears I can get!

I'm still negotiating with electrical systems contractors trying to find the "best bang for our buck" on the day-to-day, week-to-week operations and maintenance of the system. Hopefully we can come to terms and the contractors can also grow working for us as we renovate our system. Ideally, I would like to see everyone who helps us get some collateral benefit from this coming project. I have reached out and started a dialogue with USDA/RUS/Electrical Programs and I mentioned that in the last article I believe. This morning (June 29<sup>th</sup>) I had a phone conversation with the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation about funding through program(s) they offer. Then I met with representatives from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 77 to learn of the advantages/disadvantages of unionized electrical professionals. They are going to educate me on the ins and outs of that aspect of personnel to work on our system. On first blush, it doesn't look like it would really cost any more than non-union contracts with perhaps a lot more resources available. I'll keep you posted on how that goes.

I have met with Indian Health Services and tribal representatives along with our city attorney and engineers working on a project to augment the Army Corps of Engineers work on our I/I problem that will be breaking ground here directly. The idea is to create overflow catch basins near the sewer plant to prevent overflow that results in us violating DEQ and EPA standards. This, if successful, has the potential to reduce the load sewer wise and allow us to lift the moratorium on that utility if we can crunch the numbers and make it big enough to eradicate the things that cause all the violations.

Then we'll *still* have to look at the water situation to get that moratorium lifted so the community, both tribal and non-tribal, can grow and be more prosperous. We need economic development and the only way to get that is to get rid of those moratoriums! The water issue *isn't* going away any time soon and still needs to be addressed in the near future. In fact, I suspect you've noticed discoloration in your water recently. The new well that has come online has affected the dynamics of the flow in our system and hopefully it will clear out. The guys are flushing it so keep your eyes peeled on it and let us know if it doesn't improve soon!

With that, I'll close and wish everyone a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! See you next month!