

November 2016

PLUMMER NEWS



CITY OF PLUMMER



DATES OF INTEREST:

- November 6 Daylight Savings Ends
- November 10 Regular City Council Meeting 6p.m.
- November 11 City Hall Closed for Veterans Day
- November 24 City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving and no City Council meeting
- November 25 City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving

Plummer Gateway Fire Protection District

Plummer Gateway Fire Protection District will meet the second Thursday of every month at 609 Poleyard Road Plummer Idaho 83851 at 6 p.m. and James Tim Bonnell-Hall is our new Fire Commissioner for sub district one

Reminder

Don't forget to go out and vote on November 8 and make sure your voice is heard. Voting will take place from 8:00a.m.-8:00p.m. at the Plummer Community Center- 520 C Street!

2016 Annual Christmas Bazaar

Sponsored by Native Touch Nail & Skincare

In support of Plummer Senior Center

November 12 & 13, 2016

10:00a.m.- 6:00p.m.

Plummer Community Center-520 C Street

Please contact Leticia Kennar for more information 208-686-0424 or 208-582-4921

Vendor Space cost is \$20.00. Please register by November 9, 2016

Plummer Seniors Pie Sale

Where: Plummer Senior Center

When: November 4th & 5th

Apple, Pumpkin, Pecan and more.

Special requests taken until November 1st

Call 208-686-1863

9" Pies and some mini Pies

Library News

November 13-19 is Idaho Family Reading Week. Check out Plummer Public Library for special activities during that week.

The Plummer Library Board recently recognized Cindy Ubat for 10 years of continual service at the library. Congratulations and Thank you Cindy!

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

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

Friday & Sunday: Closed

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

Plummer City News is published by the City of Plummer and provided to customers free of charge. An electronic version is available upon request. Any comments about this publication can be addressed to Sara Gauthier City Clerk at P.O. Box B, Plummer, Idaho 83851 or (208) 686-1641 or by e-mail at Sara@cityofplummer.org

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Message From The Mayor

By the time you get this, the election will be roughly a week away. We've had several Q & A sessions as well as articles in the Gazette and my entries in our newsletter to get the information out to you. I'll go over some of the main points again to reiterate for you.

The bond we are asking you to pass is an instrument of public, aka **YOU**, permission to seek funding to do the repair and upgrades on the electrical system. The bond **DOES NOT** automatically make your rates go up **or** tack X amount of money on top of your bill! The residents of this town got hosed on that sewer bond. **NOT because a bond had to be passed** to do the project, but by mismanagement and spending on the project itself! The reality is our sewer system is still messed up because part of that project "mismanagement" focused entirely on the plant itself and didn't include the supporting infrastructure between our bottoms and said plant! Plus USKH had a flawed design that no one caught and we've been working with Mountain Water Works since shortly after I first got elected onto city council (2012) to get it operating in the manner that was intended! Spending even MORE money! Thank God Mountain Water Works has brought in \$1.98 million in project dollars though grants and **donated** approximately \$72,000 thousand dollars of their time to do these things! If we would've had MWW on board for that sewer project instead of USKH, we wouldn't be in this mess in the first place! But I digress...

The system repair and upgrade will cost you two rate increases of 4.9% (\$0.0036 the first one and \$0.0038 the second one) bringing our kilowatt per hour rate to 8.2 cents from 7.4 cents over roughly two years. From that point on we just have to keep up with BPA's increases every couple years and we're good!

The revenue to make the payment goes in to a Cushion of Credit account, which earns 5% interest on our payment. This will lower the time it takes to pay back the loan by about 8 years. Once the project is done and the all costs we used to shell out repairing and maintaining it go down, we can direct some of that to other necessities like streets, water, and that damned sewer system! We won't have to worry about the electric system for at least 40 years except for taking care of it (maintenance).

If the bond doesn't pass, we have three choices really. Sell the system, do nothing, or start trying to do a little at a time. The latter suggestion would take between 12 and 15 years and the system is in such bad shape that we would never really get to a point where costs flatten out and we aren't shelling out a quarter of a million a year or more just keeping the system operational. If that plan was working now, we would see progress, but we can never get close to catching up right now! We are already spending an average of a **quarter of a million dollars a year** on just keeping the lights on! Plus, if we had a disaster situation like last November, we would really be screwed because we have no reserves to go off of in an emergency. Even if the bond passes, we still have this winter to contend with!

The bond allows us to get the loan, money up front, and we get it all done in 4 years, repair and maintenance costs drop dramatically once its done, and we start seeing a surplus of revenue to do other things. We could even add more to the principle of the payment and pay it off even quicker!

Also, I'm working with folks to get some grant funding to help with the project, which will reduce the loan and payments as well. But again, can't get the free money without the passage of that bond! I'm still trying to get Idaho Parks to kick in too! The county commissioners know what's going on too, and Jack Buell personally told me if we needed any help what so ever to let him know, and you bet your boots I will!

The state agencies like Idaho DEQ and Commerce support the City. EPA and USDA support our efforts. Our Senator and Representatives support us. The City of Coeur d'Alene and St. Maries are rooting for us! The Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Public Works department is rooting for us! We have quality engineering on board! The whole area of Northern Idaho knows what we face! We have the momentum to get this done! Lets **DO IT!**

On another note, I'm working to try and get that sewer bond "refunded," which is government speak for refinanced. It can be done. I'm just looking for underwriters and a decent interest rate. The goal is to drastically reduce, if not entirely **remove** that \$40 sewer bond fee we all have to pay! If I can find a 2% interest rate (or less) getting that \$40 bucks gone can happen! I'll keep you posted!

Something else. I've been meaning to let people know that if you have property in Plummer with existing connections, the moratoriums **do not apply to you!** In simple English, if you want to develop properties with existing connections here in town, there's nothing holding you back! Those moratoriums **only** apply to new service connections! I've been so distracted with this electrical service thing that I keep forgetting to put it in here. Kudos to councilman Tim Clark for reminding me at last night's electric Q & A session!

In closing, please give the electric bond serious consideration and vote to help us repair and upgrade our electric system for safer more reliable service! Thank you!