

December 2016

# Plummer News

CITY OF PLUMMER

DATES OF  
INTEREST:

- December 8  
Regular City  
Council Meeting  
6p.m.
- December 22  
Regular City  
Council Meeting  
Cancelled
- December 26 City  
Hall Closed for  
Christmas

## PCAT Annual Christmas Lighting Contest

PCAT will be having their annual Christmas lighting contest. No entry necessary they would just like the community to participate in decorating for the holidays. Judging will occur the week of Christmas. Prizes will be given for residential and business.

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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## 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

By now you all know that the bond for the electrical system passed. I want to thank all the residents, and even those folks from the outlying areas who are on the system, for helping to get the word out about the importance of getting the system fixed! This will benefit everyone over the long term, and hopefully, once the project is completed, will even allow for the rates to be reversed and lowered again. We'll still need to keep pace with Bonneville Power's increases on us, but hopefully once the system is revamped that's the only increases we'll face. A good example of how this might work, is Kootenai Electric's residential rates over roughly the last 5 years were 16.4 cents per hour for the first 200 kilowatt hours, then 7.5 cents for the next 200 hours, then 8.5 cents per hour over 800 hours. This was while they were going through their system. Now that they have a totally updated system, as of the new fiscal year they could drop their rates back down to 7.4 cents per kilowatt-hour for residents. That is what a **NEW** system can do, despite all the naysaying by certain individuals (and we all know who you are) in the community. But now we move forward!

Here's what's happening now that the bond is a go! An Idaho Community Development Block Grant has been submitted to supplement the bond so we can reduce the size of the loan and its payback. We're going to apply again next year. The huge pile of the USDA/RUS loan application is being completed and a Construction Work Plan is being finalized. Monitors for the system to see where our line losses are have been ordered. The model of the new system and final analysis of the data we collected is being finished up. We are working on a "book" of standards that the city will use to manage and maintain the system. The engineering on the worst of the poles is being finished up so we can start replacing them as soon as the moola gets here. I'm hoping by the end of the first quarter 2017 (roughly March) but we'll see how fast the government rolls on it once it's all submitted. We are looking at materials and stock inventories along with a management system so we can track and manage the work, budget(s), and costs. We are having a "construction kick-off" meeting next week to really get the project lined up with benchmarks and punch lists that will need to be met as we move forward. I'll be keeping you all posted as we go, so stay tuned for that!

Other things going on, we have applied for a small grant with the Idaho Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) and I am working closely with Susan Kiebert who is the local coordinator to plan for applying for and using funding for much needed street repairs here in town. We will be working on a transportation plan, a solid plan that will include a street assessment to get ready for the next round of funding applications. I'm going to work more closely with the Benewah Transportation Planning Team (BTPT) as well. I'll be keeping Jim Kackman from the tribe's public works office in the loop as well as working closer with the county commissioners through BTPT in this as we look to improving our streets.

The I and I project that went on over the fall is pretty much done. It took them long enough! It helped with our sewer situation, stopping some storm water from getting in to the system but not what I had hoped for. We'll be looking at what more we can afford to do in the near future. Leonard has really come a long way in getting a grip on the budget process and working with Sara they are seeing and coming up with some project ideas and looking at revenue that will allow us to make some small incremental improvements in our water system in the coming year. I'm still looking into refinancing the sewer bond too.

That's it for now, and thanks again to those who supported the electrical system bond! From all of us at the City, we hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2017!