

# Plummer News

## December 2017

### DATES OF INTEREST:

- Regular City Council Meeting December 14 at 6:00p.m.
- City Hall Closed on Monday December 25 observation of Christmas

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### Staff Training Closure

City Hall will be closed for staff training on December 5, 2017

### 8th Street Road Repair

The City has finally signed documents with the State of Idaho for the emergency relief funding for the repair of 8th street. Due to it being so late in the season, construction is not possible until this spring.



TOYS FOR TOTS: We cover children in Benewah County, 12 years old and under, Request forms for parents/guardians will be available on 11-13-2017. Locations for request forms are going to be at City Hall in St. Maries and in Plummer, Auditors office in the court house and Driver's license. Hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The deadline for request forms is going to be **December 13th 2017**. Toy drop boxes are in many different location thru out St. Maries. We will have one at the Fernwood Merc., and Emida at Drifters café, and at city hall in Plummer. If anyone has any questions please call or make contact Undersheriff Tony Eells or any of our volunteers, Laci St. John, Helen Hornbarger, Rhonda Wilks and Mary Wade. Any money donations can be dropped off at the Auditors office, Undersheriff Tony Eells or with any of the Volunteers. Thank you

### Library News

Thanks to everyone who participated in the events for Family Reading Week. Lucy Cash was the winner of the gift basket.

The library has an amazing collection of Christmas books and DVDs for children and adults. Remember, use of the library is FREE as long as your return the items you borrow. Happy Holidays to all!

## Message from the Mayor

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving weekend! Now we are on the slide to Christmas!

Here's what's happening.

Our bond attorney is finalizing our electric project loan agreement. Should be a few more days and that will be done!

We are continuing to replace meters, both water and electric, and are recapturing a lot of revenue that has been lost over the years! It's becoming readily apparent that the city has been losing a significant amount of revenue over the last decade.

Having our own lineman is proving to be cost effective. Outages that would have cost us upwards of \$20,000 bucks have been cut to below half of that. Response time is vastly improved too. We had the first lineman we hired resign because we weren't paying him enough, but our second choice is on now and we are still running. I had budgeted in these positions at mean wages to draw qualified workers, but some council members wanted to reduce the pay range on the final budget approval. That is their prerogative, but it also resulted in no one wanting to work for the city. You get what you pay for in the long run, and these positions are in the USDA/RUS loan for the 4 years of project, and once that project is completed, if there isn't enough revenue to support our own linemen then those positions can be rolled back, but I'm confident you're going to find that with the new system and cost reduction in constant repairs, there will be more than enough to pay quality workers to operate and maintain that system.

Speaking of that, I'm working with the tribe to try and provide an increase in power usage at the "Berg" building down by the mill. There are at least two companies that want to move in there, and are going to need 2MegWatt's or more in additional power, which in turn will add another revenue stream from the electric. This stems from the Community Review we had in September.

It showcased Plummer and our potential, and the Department of Commerce spread the word around about that empty building. The drawback is that the companies want to start up drawing electricity at around 2 MW's and there is only a 1.5 MW transformer down there. We will need to work with Bonneville Power to come up with a plan for costs of the additional power (I don't want it impacting you), with Avista to do a study and upgrade the substation, and put a bigger transformer and lines to the building. The companies want to move in there now and start up now, and it will take some weeks to get things finalized. If they wanted to move in there and fire up at 1.5MW's, there would be no problem, but they want 2MW's with expansion to 10. This will take time. It could add a lot of revenue and some much needed jobs to the community! Keep your fingers crossed!

We are starting to get some of our disaster relief funding trickling in to help with the streets, so depending on weather...but we might have to wait until spring to work on them. Hang in there. We did get a grant for \$7,500 for the community center roof! We will be applying for more as we go through the winter in to spring cycles.

All of us at the city would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!