

Plummer News

September 2018

DATES OF INTEREST:

- September 3
City Hall Closed for Labor Day
- September 13
Regular City Council Meeting
6 p.m.

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PLUMMER COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

The Plummer Community Action Team (PCAT) would like to recognize all those in our community who have made improvements to their residences and businesses. We commend those who have updated their landscapes, cleaned up their yards and freshened up their paint and more. Every little bit of these cleanup efforts helps our community shine, makes our town more pleasing to the eye and shows we care about where we live! Thank you!! If you are interesting in joining PCAT contact Anna Marie Willard at 208 686-7016 or Debi Church at 208 686-0721.

Plummer Community Review

The Plummer Community review is finally complete. You can view the community review by going to the City of Plummer Website and clicking on Administration, then clicking the link for the review.

Library News

Congratulations to the following families who were Summer Reading Program prize winners: Morris, McElderry, Fenton, and McQuades. Back to School is the theme for September's display. "Raising Lifelong Learners: A Parent's Guide" by Lucy Calkins is one of the featured titles. Be sure to stop by the library to welcome new library aide Bonnie Cameron.

Monday-Wednesday: 10a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday: 2p.m.-6p.m.
Friday & Sunday: Closed

Message from the Mayor

By now you should see some of the street work we've managed to accomplish. We had some tough decisions to make that while in the short term may not seem like we know what we're doing, but it will save the city money in the long view. Dust abatement has always eaten up a large portion of the streets budget. After the winter of 15/16 and the damage it caused, from which we have really never recovered, we had to take a hard look at what we can do to mitigate problems coming down the pike toward us, for instance, streets that continue to deteriorate. The biggest consumer of the streets budget has been snow removal, followed closely by dust abatement, leaving little for repairs/improvements. Streets rely entirely on tax dollars. So we made the choice to throw everything in to repairing and paving what we could. Some people complain and are angered about the dust, and our decision to pave, but the goal is to reduce the need for dust abatement over the next several years by covering the gravel roads with pavement. So, residents who are upset by the dust this year, and next year and more, will just have to endure that aggravation and inconvenience as we work to get paving done in snippets over the coming years. It's going to take at least 5 years and maybe as long as a decade. But it has to be done and it has to start somewhere! We are already working on funding via LHTAC and anyone else who will help us with grants or what ever we can get. By not spending upwards of \$40,000 on magnesium chloride per year we will be applying that toward asphalt and other remedies to the streets as we can with any additional funding we can secure from any programs we qualify for. You'll just have to bear with us. There is a method to our madness. We'll keep you posted on our progress.

Work on the community center roof is proceeding with additional support beam(s) and new roofing through September. This will stop any leaking and make the structure more solid. Other work will happen through the coming year as we can do it.

We had a couple of incidents with a pump on the water side and almost ran our reservoirs down, but thankfully, our crew has a good eye and caught it before it became critical. The problem has been fixed and we're back on track with supply. The southeast side of town is experiencing decent water pressure for the first time in decades too. Hat's off to Mountain Water Works and Accelerated Construction for their work in helping us solve that problem! Leonard and the guys assisted the City of Worley recently with a water crisis they had. It's stuff like this that makes me proud to do my civil service with our city staff! Good job guys!

Electric project is coming along nicely! Ahead of schedule! We're going to take on an extra contractor for more work on the lake span. One of my favorite words in the English language is EXPEDITE! So anything we can do with that project to expedite things we will do. Time is money after all! The sooner we get the project finished, the more that can actually be put into actual hardware. (Less labor costs vs. more hardware purchase.)

Finally, we got some bad news on the sewer catch basin project. IHS engineering is estimated only 80% completed, so the clock is quickly ticking time away since it has to be finalized, then bid out, and construction started. Now it's looking like, unless they really get on the ball, that construction of the sewer basin won't happen until next spring. This puts us in a pinch with EPA, and I hope they'll be lenient again since this project is basically out of our hands and control. I hope they will understand that and not put the hammer down on our violations due to our I&I problems. If IHS can get the design finalized quickly and the bids out quickly, there may be time in the fall to get the project done. I've got my fingers crossed, and in the mean time am going to work with K&L Gates, our attorney, and EPA in negotiating more time. I wish I had better news, but it is what it is.

You're up to date on what's happening with the city. I'll see you next month!

Mayor William Weems