

# Plummer News

## December 2018

### DATES OF INTEREST:

- December 13  
Regular City Council Meeting 6 p.m.
- December 25 City Hall will be closed in observation of Christmas

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### Gateway Fire Protection District

Winter weather is coming! Be prepared for slick roads with traction tires, and emergency kits including flares, water and blankets in case you get stuck. Keep fuel above 1/2 tank in case you need to idle your car to stay warm while waiting for help. Ensure chimneys and dryer vents are cleaned. Test smoke detectors and check batteries. Be prepared for power outages with flashlights and alternative heat sources. Protect children's heads with helmets when skiing, snowboarding or sledding. Have a safe and fun Holiday season! Emergency medical Technician course planned to start mid January for anyone interested. Learn lifesaving skills and be part of our great EMS team serving west Benewah County! Inquire at the station or (208) 686-1313 for more info.

### Winter Weather

With winter weather already in effect, please remember that vehicles need to be moved off the street for our plowing crews. If vehicles are not moved the crew can't plow properly. Please remember to keep all vehicles off of the roadway.

**TOYS FOR TOTS:** We cover children in Benewah County, 12 years old and under, Request forms for parents/guardians are available. Locations for request forms are going to be at City Hall 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 2018. Toy drop boxes are at city hall in Plummer. Any money donations can be dropped off at the Auditors office or with the Undersheriff Tony Eells. Thank you



### Library News

The library has an abundant supply of Christmas/holiday books for children and adults. Warm up with a good book to read aloud to your children during the long cold nights of winter. And please remember to return the items you borrow so that others may enjoy them.

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

I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving holiday weekend! Now that we've "digested," it's time to get back to work.

All along in this electric project rebuild, I've wanted to install a fiber optic infrastructure aerially (on the poles) so that the tribe could tap into it and provide high-speed internet services to our residents. I was the person instrumental in convincing the city council and mayor at the time in stopping their underground installation of fiber a while back, due to the fragility of our water and sewer lines that they would have had to transverse. From the first dialogue I had with USDA to rebuild the system, this was on the table to be a part of the overall project. Now we are working with the tribe's IT department in aligning the installation of fiber on the poles as close to their original drawings as possible. We hope to bid this aspect of the project out sometime during the first quarter of 2019.

On other fronts, you'll see more crews up in the power lines rebuilding the system. We are gearing up to go full speed over the coming year to accomplish as much as possible and stay ahead of schedule.

In other unfortunate news, the delay of the catch basin sewer project has brought the attention of the EPA upon us again. The potential of the looming maximum penalties of \$16.5 **MILLION** dollars is rearing its ugly head again. We are in talks with them and are trying to get their leadership to see the pickle we are in. The project for the catch basin isn't a city project, but an Indian Health Service/ Tribal project. There were some delays in the design from IHS putting the project behind schedule. Couldn't be helped, but it is what it is. There is money available to match money we have received from DEQ to work on the system to mitigate the sewer violations, but the attached "baggage" with any USDA funding is we have to put rates up to match their guidelines. The rest of Idaho is growing economically, yet we are stuck and left out of that prosperity loop due to our current sewer situation. **THAT HAS TO BE ADDRESSED! NOW!**

There is a public hearing scheduled for December 13th at 6:00p.m. so that the City Council can listen to the public and hear their thoughts on a proposed increase to water & sewer connection and capitalization fees. If you have an opinion, please come to the public hearing on December 13th or provide a written comment to the City Clerk-Treasurer up to the meeting date and time.

I didn't cause this problem, but by God I'll take the heat from people to get it fixed! **Once and for all!**

It takes the people within the community to make the community prosperous. I need you guys to bear with me so we can get this stuff taken care of before it gets way more costly to do so than it already is! We have to do something, and the time is **NOW!**

We are seeking funding, and it looks pretty good so far, to address some sidewalks and some more street repairs/paving. This will take place over the coming new year. We are also looking at helping the senior citizens find a place to call their own. We are on a good roll toward improvement, but we've still got a bunch of challenges to overcome. Plummer has the potential to be a prosperous place. On the main arterial of Idaho (Hwy 95), served by rail, 33 miles from an Interstate Highway and 45 miles from an international airport. But we have to work together as a community to set it up to tap into the prosperity the rest of the state is seeing.

Finally, we are coming into the Christmas season. On behalf of all of us at the city, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I'll see you in 2019!

Mayor Weems, Mayor