

April 2019 PLUMMER NEWS

DATES OF
INTEREST:

- April 11th
Regular City
Council
Meeting 6 p.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 Allen 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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Annual City Wide Yard Sale

Bob Huggins is looking for someone to take over the annual City wide yard sale. If you are interested in taking over the annual city wide yard sale please contact Bob Huggins @ 208-661-4444



Reminder Phone Calls

The City of Plummer will no longer be giving reminder phone calls prior to shut offs. Utility bills are due by the 10th of each month and if not paid in full by noon the 20th of that same month they will be disconnected for non-payment. Once disconnected there is a \$35.00 disconnect and a (\$25.00 reconnect fee prior 3:30) (between 3:30 & 5:00p.m. the reconnect fee will be \$50)

Library News

April 7th - 13th is National Library Week. The theme is "Libraries = Strong Communities." All patrons who visit the library and check out items during that week can enter a contest for prizes.

The next Friends of the Library meeting with election of officers is April 9th at 1:00 p.m.

The library will have a resource table on April 10th at the Wellness Center's Baby Fair.

Book club discussion is Wed. April 24th at 12:30 p.m.

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

This month we are starting work on our Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) of storm water into our wastewater infrastructure. This is the culprit that causes us to violate the terms of our permit with the EPA.

We have flow meters installed at three key locations as the mains come down to the confluence at the sewer plant. This will measure water coming in and at what rate it comes in. We have purchased a handheld remote meter too, and as the snow melts and rains collect on saturated soils, Leonard and the guys, along with help from Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) and Dr. Pipeline, can chase the water upstream and finally locate where, exactly, this stuff is leaking in to our system. We have taken on HMM engineering out of Coeur d'Alene to help with this too. They can collect the data from the meters and collate it into a report so we can plan on how to attack it. In that regard...

I have raised the sewer rate almost \$5 bucks over the last couple months so that we can accumulate money to buy new pipe and pay for excavation to repair these after HMM and the guys have found the biggest leakages into the system. Once we can fix a few of the biggest ones (along with the new catch basin that should be online by July) and the I&I slows down enough that we stop violating we'll drop the sewer rate back down to where it was. The downside is that this will most likely take a couple years. The reason being we will build up funds from the rate increase, Leonard will spend it fixing a chunk, then it'll build up again and Leonard will fix another chunk and so on and so forth until we have knocked back the biggest sources of storm water.

With that being said, I have to emphasize to all of you that **NO** storm water should be entering our sewer system. **PERIOD!** Over the years we have fixed several offenders like the roof drain on the high school and basement drains in several churches. It has come to my attention that there may be some homeowners that may be pumping water into their drains from their basements or crawl spaces. **This cannot continue!** If it falls from the sky in any form, it does **NOT** go in to our sewer system. You'll have to figure something else out for that.

So in that regard, and to make it official, we are writing an ordinance since one does not currently exist so that I have teeth to enforce no storm water in household sewer connections. You can pump it into the ditch or something but it is **NOT** to go in to the sewer anywhere! **And it will be enforced!** Leonard and the guys, along with the engineers, will be working on tracing any flows upstream and into service lines at homes. If you have a sump pump or other device that is putting water into our system we will find it, so be warned. We will cite offenders and our new ordinance will be in effect by April 15th. So any thing we find after that time will be a violation of city ordinance and you may be on the hook for penalties or fines. I don't want to have to do this, but having \$16.5 million in fines from EPA constantly hanging over our heads forces my hand. It is time we dealt with it once and for all! I'll keep you posted on our progress.

Mayor William Weems