

D A T E S O F  
I N T E R E S T :

- Regular City Council Meeting Thursday March 11th at 6:00p.m.

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# Plummer News

## March 2021

### Plummer Gateway Fire Protection District

Volunteers needed for fire or ems contact the Plummer Gateway Fire Protection District at 208-686-1313.

### Library News

Idaho tax forms with instruction booklets are available at the library. Friends of the Library will resume meetings on March 9th at 1:00 p.m. Social distancing will be maintained and face masks are required. The library has an opening for a competent substitute library clerk. If interested, please submit a resume' and cover letter in person during library hours. Monday through Wed. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Thurs. 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Recall Election

There is an election scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Plummer Bible Church located at 1090 D Street. The polls will be open from 8:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.

### HomeServe

If you are looking for home insurance to help with Plumbing, Electrical, Heating & Cooling. You can purchase plans from [www.homeserve.com](http://www.homeserve.com)

### Message from the Mayor

One thing I wanted to accomplish when we were developing the electric rebuild project, was to install a main trunk, or a backbone, of fiber optic through town. It wasn't only to add the potential for internet services availability in town, but I wanted to bring Plummer in to the 21<sup>st</sup> century as far as connecting our utility services to central locations, like City Hall and the sewer plant through what's known as SCADA. SCADA is the acronym for Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition, and is a computerized system for gathering, analyzing, monitoring real time data, and controlling equipment, in this case the sewer plant/wastewater, as well as use for telecommunications, potable water, and energy (electric) systems. In other words, monitor and control of our utilities from a centralized location(s).

So we budgeted the electric project to set the baseline for expansion of SCADA in the future. Then the CARES ACT fiber optic broadband funding became available, which added more than we could have imagined to the plan for broadband and took some of the pressure off the electric project budget, and now the SCADA system is being developed as we speak!

What this means is that all our wells, booster pumps, reservoirs, lift stations, the sewer treatment plant, our shops, and connections to the substation reclosers will be able to be monitored and controlled from City Hall and the sewer plant. One hand will always know what the other hand is doing so to speak. Which should create a smoother workflow and quicker response times to problems. Staff at city hall can look and see the same thing that staff see at the sewer plant. Or any well. Or how much water is in our reservoirs. Which pumps or lift stations might be having problems. Or where electric service problems are.

Next down the road will be expansion to include water and electric meters. But that'll be down the road.

I'm just tickled that what I thought would be a year's long down the road SCADA addition is coming to fruition now thanks to that broadband CARES ACT funding.

I've also started the process again to ask the Idaho Bond Bank if we can refinance the smaller of the sewer plant loans to see if we could get a lower interest rate and thereby reduce the sewer bill, even if it'd only be maybe \$5 bucks. All they can say is no, right? It's been 4 years since I last tried, and after they said no back then, they told me to come back in about 5 or so years, so I am.

There is also an insurance program I'm looking in to for sewer service lines on the private property side. When we did our I&I investigation last year about this time, we found a lot of I&I coming from residential responsibility side of the lines. When Leonard checked for running toilets or dripping faucets there weren't any, which means leaking lines allowing storm water into the system. We scratched our heads about what we could do, since we can't force people to fix their lines and I know lot couldn't afford to anyway, me included. This program, if we could manage the premiums, would allow for us to make claims on behalf of the resident who had a problem, and the insurance would repair the leaking pipe. This is used with success in Sandy, Utah, and I met with the president of their sewer district. We'd still have to find funding to fix our side of things, but any little bit helps. But I might not be the mayor and this work might not go anywhere from that point on. You'll know if you don't see another message from me. But I'm good whatever happens. I will say this. I've left Plummer in better shape than when I got elected. That's just a fact. Good luck! To all of us!

Mayor William Weems