

# Plummer News

DATES OF  
INTEREST:

- Regular City Council Meeting  
Thursday April 8th  
at 6:00p.m.

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State Service Office  
Matthew Ranstrom will be at the American Legion Building 888 C Street, Wednesday's from 10 AM to 3PM. No appointment is necessary for this initial visit to our area. Veterans are encouraged to stop by for a visit/consultation. Coffee/Cookies will be

## Lester Hall

Congratulations Chief Hall and thank you for your 22 years of Service to the City of Plummer. We appreciate all your hard work and dedication. Enjoy your retirement!!



## Plummer Gateway Fire Protection District

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

## Library News

Friends of the Library will meet Tues. April 13th at 1:00 p.m. in the library's meeting room. New members are always welcome. Idaho tax forms are available at the library.

## Message from The Mayor

Well, as you can tell because you're reading this, the recall failed. Now we carry on trying to take care of the issues we face as a small rural North Idaho community.

The senior center project is moving along, and the design is being finalized. Just waiting on USDA to see what their commitment is going to be. But funding for the majority of the project is there. Stay tuned.

I've sent emails to all the other mayors in our area with populations less than 2,000 to see if we can form an alliance of some kind to put pressure on the capitol through our collective district representatives and senators to address our different infrastructure problems, mostly water, sewer and streets. Everyone is having problems with the lack of funding to do anything with our collective streets. Association of Idaho Cities is on board too. We'll see where that goes.

As you may know from my previous reports, we've had a phase I and phase II studies done on the Pole Yard, and now I'm talking with the Tribe, EPA, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and Idaho Rural Partnerships to see what we could potentially do in regard to clean up and development of that property.

University of Idaho will be someone else I talk to. Nothing has gelled yet as to what path we go down taking care of that. So far, it's just talk. As we all know, talk is cheap. I'll let you know when we come up with any viable options for moving forward. But for now, I know nothing tangible as yet. I imagine it's going to take some time and considerable brainstorming. The biggest hurdle is finding funding for mitigation so it can be developed.

We're running in to the limitations we have as a community for affordable housing. It's been coming, but now it's becoming a tangible real time issue. Other communities around us like St. Maries is also starting to feel it too. It's a quandary. Development and jobs require places for people to live to support said development and jobs and improve our economic situation. Once the pole yard is cleared for commercial development, companies will want to relocate here, and they will hire people. But if there's no place to live to work for those companies, it'll make things difficult. One more thing to add to our "to do" list.

Which takes me back to infrastructure. Water, sewer, and electric connectivity that is reliable and safe. You can see the "circle of life" involved here.

That's the stuff we have to deal with in the long view. Governor Brad Little keeps saying things like "investing in Idaho for the prosperity of all Idahoans!" Well...if he's going to invest, I wish he'd invest where it's most needed, and that's at ground level in the more than 150 rural Idaho communities with populations less than 2,000! We do, after all, make up the majority of Idaho cities statewide. We *are* "all of Idaho" in that sense.

Just sayin'...

Until next time.

**Mayor William Weems**