

Mayor's Newsletter



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Partners in Pride

Spring cleaning season is here, and the City can help. The Sanitation Department has a program called "Partners in Pride," a worthwhile partnership between the City and you.

The purpose of the program is to promote dignity and maintain the livability of our city.

Through this program, citizens play an integral part in making our community cleaner and safer. Partners in Pride is a great way to promote community pride and goodwill within your organization or neighborhood, or among family and friends. The program has 2 features.

Container Program

The Sanitation Department has made available, at no cost, the use of 3-yard or 17-yard dumpsters for qualifying residential customers. Customers can use the

dumpsters to remove unwanted items/debris or work on projects that extend beyond the capacity of their usual trash service. The intent is to help promote beautification and upkeep of residential properties within the city.

These containers are available on a first come, first served basis and may be reserved for a 48-hour period or over a weekend. Each residential customer is limited to one free container use each calendar year, based on availability. For details and reservations, call 208.234.6192.

Volunteer Service Program

This is an "adopt a cleanup area" program. Any group, school, business, or other organization of individuals 16 years or older, is invited to commit to a 2-year period with a minimum of 3 organized cleanups per year. You can choose the area where you want to remove litter and weeds.

Areas may include a designated street section; City-owned property, including landscaping and beautification areas; sections of the Portneuf Greenway; or storm water retention areas. The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council has adopted a section of the Upper City Creek Trail, and we have a great time going out to clean up our community. To get started or learn more, call 208.234.6192.

There's more information about the Partners in Pride Program at

pocatello.us/393/Partners-in-Pride. You can also find information about all the Sanitation Department's programs and services at pocatello.us/361/Sanitation.

Thank you for your efforts to make Pocatello the great city it is. As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

Wildfires

Wildfire season will soon be upon us. Are you ready? The Pocatello Fire Department uses the "Ready, Set, Go" Program to teach residents how to prepare against fire threats to life and property.

Ready—Preparing for the Fire Threat: Be ready, be Firewise

Take personal responsibility to prepare long before the threat of a wildfire. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Clean your property and home of any weeds or debris. Use fire-resistant landscaping, and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures.

Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe spot. Make sure all residents within the home are on the same page when it comes to fire safety.

Set—Situational Awareness When a Fire Starts

Pack your vehicle with your emergency items when you hear of a wildfire starting. Stay aware of the latest news from local media and the Fire Department.

Go—Leave Early

By leaving early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire. You also help firefighters by keeping roads clear of congestion. If advised to

leave, do not hesitate! Know where to go and how to get there. Have a communication plan to reach family and friends.

For more information on how to make your home firewise or to learn about our fuel reduction program, contact the Pocatello Fire Prevention Bureau at 208.234.7083.

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Pet Licenses

City of Pocatello pet licenses expire June 1. Pet licenses are required for pets living within the city limits.

As an incentive to license your pet, Animal Services offers licenses for half-price during the month of May. Half-price fees are

- Non-Spayed/Non-Neutered Pet = **\$10**
- Spayed/Neutered Pet = **\$5**
- Senior Citizen rate for Non-Spayed/Non-Neutered Pet = **\$9**
- Senior Citizen rate for Spayed/Neutered Pet = **\$2.50**

For more information about pet licenses or animal services in general, call 208.234.6156.

Be Waterwise

There's a myth that Idaho's name means "the land of many waters." While this is just a myth, the 93,000 miles of streams and rivers that snake through our state and the 2,000 lakes that dot our magical landscape provide some justification for this myth. But, that's just on the surface. Idaho is also home to groundwater sources, known as aquifers. The majority of Idaho's drinking water is supplied from these aquifers, including right here in Pocatello. All of our drinking water is sourced from the Portneuf Aquifer.

Although Idaho doesn't really mean "land of many waters," we do have a lot of water, right? Well, Idaho is one of the driest states in the nation, which can

Solar Power

Are you interested in solar power? The City is working to make our solar power permitting process more transparent so citizens and businesses understand what is needed to install solar panels.

Since the creation of our Energy Taskforce, we've sought ways to be more environmentally friendly in an effort to reduce power consumption and reduce our carbon footprint. One example of our efforts is working towards earning the SolSmart silver designation.

be a problem for our surface and groundwater sources. They depend heavily on rain and snow melt. When the snow pack is low, as it has been this season, drought becomes a real concern, and Pocatello is currently facing moderate drought conditions.

Thankfully, we as a community strive to be waterwise and do our best to conserve water. As we approach hot summer months, the City encourages you to continue conserving water. The Water Department has a few helpful tips.

- Adjust your sprinklers so they don't spray sidewalks and driveways.
- Direct downspouts and other runoff towards shrubs and trees.

SolSmart is a national program led by the International City/County Management Association and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, along with a team of partners with deep expertise in solar energy and local government. The goal of SolSmart is to streamline solar permitting processes to make installing solar panels more accessible to residents and commercial industries alike.

Here's what we've done to earn the SolSmart silver designation

- Created a solar energy landing page

- Water only in the early morning or evening when it's cooler.
- Try xeriscaping – less grass and more shrubs, wildflowers and rocks add curb appeal and save water (and money).
- Check your faucets for leaks, and get them fixed.
- Get rid of weeds – not only are they ugly, but they rob water from other plants.
- Use drip systems and soaker hoses in flower and vegetable gardens.

For more ideas on how to be waterwise, go to pocatello.us/DocumentCenter/View/187/Waterwise-Guide-PDF?bidId=.

- Developed memos and a new solar permit and checklist
- Trained Building and Planning & Development Services staff on permitting, inspecting and zoning for solar installation
- Leveraged work the Energy Taskforce has done to establish interest in energy efficiencies and renewable energy

For more information, go to pocatello.us/831/Solar-Energy-Resources or call 208.234.6189.

If there is a topic you'd like me to address in future newsletters or if you want to comment or ask a question, please use this sheet and send your comment to me. If you wish to call or e-mail, my number and address are listed on the front page. While I cannot respond to all comments individually, I do pass them on to the appropriate departments. V25,n4

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____
Email _____ Telephone _____