

Mayor's Newsletter



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State of the City

Happy New Year! As I write this month's article, I am preparing for the annual State of the City address. The City of Pocatello accomplished a lot of exciting things last year, and I'd like to share a few achievements with you.

The Mayor's Million Minute Reading Challenge sponsored by Lookout Credit Union and Marshall Public Library had a record year. Local elementary students read over 2 million minutes in February. Wow! We awarded 5 Pocatello's Promise of Tomorrow Mayoral Scholarships to graduating high school seniors so they could attend Idaho State University. These scholarships are co-sponsored by the Pocatello-Chubbuck Chamber Foundation and funded by local donations. We also had 4 new City Council Members join us – Council Members Mansfield, Marchand, Nichols and Mangum.

Pocatello Regional Airport started work to update the airport master plan and welcomed Morton Buildings as a new tenant. The Building Department issued over 2,500 permits in 2022, and the Marshall Public Library had over 350 people participate in the summer reading program. Animal Services worked hard to keep its "no kill shelter" designation from Best Friends Animal Society through various

adoption events and by working with other shelters and agencies to help rehome animals. Pocatello Fire Department purchased 3 new wildland fire trucks thanks to the generosity of Idaho Central Credit Union, grants and the forward thinking of the City Council.

Parks & Recreation had a very busy 2022. The new Zoo Idaho entrance and gift shop opened thanks to Connections Credit Union's donation. The Mink Creek Nordic Center has a beautiful new snow groomer as a result of Idaho Central Credit Union's partnership, and construction of Lookout Point (new town square) started in Historic Downtown thanks to another amazing gift from Lookout Credit Union.

Pocatello Police Department showed why they are the best in the state. In 2022, the department earned not only the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association accreditation, but also the Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) certification for our dispatch center. Pocatello is the first city in Idaho and the 306th worldwide to earn the ACE designation.

Street Operations treated over 26 miles of road, while Sanitation kept 1,981 tons of recycling material, 180 tons of glass and 642 tons of compostable material out of the landfill. Pocatello Regional Transit provided over 185,000 passenger trips in 2022,

which was an increase of 15% from the previous year.

The Water Department worked on several projects, and probably, the largest was designed to allow for redundancy on the eastside of the city. The project started on Jefferson and went up Pocatello Creek Road to the east water tanks. The department also provided over 4.7 billion gallons of water to customers throughout Pocatello.

Water Pollution Control cleaned over 2.5 billion gallons of water, exceeding regulatory standards by removing over 99.5% of all contaminants. Crews also cleaned over 260 miles of high-pressure or gravity main lines, which will increase the life of the sewer mains for years into the future.

As you can see, the City of Pocatello has been working diligently to provide the services we have all grown to want and expect in our daily lives. This hard work will continue into 2023, and I'm excited to see what we will accomplish together as we move our community forward. Happy New Year, and as always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

Did You Know. . .while holidays and celebrations are a great way to spend time with family and friends, there is also a stressful side that can affect your pets? Cats and dogs are acutely aware of our joy, frustration and sadness, and it often seems they can read our emotions better than our lifelong human friends. Pets, too, can enjoy the fun, but they can just as easily feel the stress of situations that change their daily routine. Be aware of your pet's needs as you plan your 2023 activities.

Volunteers Needed

If you're looking to be involved in the community, the City of Pocatello has a variety of volunteer opportunities available. For example, we have 18 volunteer advisory boards open to individuals living inside the Pocatello city limits. Some require special skills, but most are open to any interested resident 16 years of age or older. One board, the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, is open to any high school age student. You can see the list of boards, their meeting times/dates and any vacant positions at pocatello.us/254/Advisory-Committees. Application forms are also available at this site.

Snow Removal

Since winter is officially here, I thought I would remind everyone about our snow removal process.

Our Street Operations Department is on-call 24 hours a day when a snowstorm hits. Our crews work diligently to keep roadways open and safe. Pocatello has over 267 miles of roadway, with each roadway having 2 to 4 travel lanes. This equates to over 530 miles of roadway that Street Operations maintains with 12 pieces of equipment capable of plowing/removing snow.

The department is in direct communication with the local office of the National Weather Service in order to prepare for upcoming weather events. Several factors are considered when deciding how to treat each storm event. Staff looks at things like air and pavement temperatures, intensity and type of precipitation, wind conditions, geometrics, traffic volumes and emergency service needs.

In the days leading up to a storm, crews may apply salt brine to the streets as a preventative measure. Even with a little rain, the brine sticks to the streets and helps reduce or eliminate ice build-up on the roadway. Typically, brine is applied to main roads and emergency routes but may be applied to other streets as needed.

During a snow event, our plows run continuously, typically in 12-hour shifts. **Arterial roads** are the main thoroughfares through Pocatello and are essential to emergency service vehicles. Crews are instructed to plow arterial roads first. **Collector roads** are roadways that connect local or residential roads to arterial roads, and they are plowed next. **Residential roads** are plowed once arterial and collector roads are cleared. **School bus routes** are also considered a priority and are plowed as needed. A map of the main thoroughfares and collector roads is available at pocatello.us/DocumentCenter/View/653/Snow-Removal-PDF?bidId. Arterial and collector roads are prioritized, because it ensures that everyone in Pocatello is only 1 or 2 streets away from a cleared street.

When a snow event lasts for an extended period of time, plows usually need to re-plow arterial and collector roads before they are able to plow residential roads. Crews focus their efforts on clearing travel lanes and then move to clearing parking lanes if time and the storm allow. Trucks are also out during and after snow events to apply salt and/or sand, particularly at intersections, hills and curves.

Our crews make every effort to clear the roads to the best of their ability and in a timely manner. With each snow event being unique in length, impact

area, temperature and severity, the department must be flexible with procedures to ensure maximum safety and efficiency. The City is focused on keeping roadways open and travelable for emergency service vehicles and the motoring public, all while maintaining a cost-effective and manageable approach. I also want to remind everyone that we do not remove snow for very minor snowstorms, and we do not have a bare pavement snow removal policy.

There are things you can do to help our snow removal crews. Please do not shovel your snow into the street or create large piles of snow in the gutter/parking area. These piles of snow freeze and become extreme hazards for our crews and other motorists. When the weather warms, the piles also cause flooding issues, as many piles block storm drains. We also ask that you park off the street, if you are able, whenever there is a storm event. If our crews have an opportunity to plow curb-to-curb, maybe at 2 a.m., they would like to do so.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions about our snow removal process, please contact our Street Operations Department at 208.234.6250.

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. V26.n1

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____
Email _____ Telephone _____