

Mayor's Newsletter



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Stay Active

February always seems like the coldest month of the year. I think it's because we have a bit of cabin fever waiting for spring to arrive. I'm not sure why we feel this way, because there are so many ways to stay active when it's cold outside.

The City's Parks & Recreation Department offers a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. You can snowshoe or cross-country ski at the East Fork Mink Creek Nordic Center or take a brisk walk on the greenway trails. You can join a fitness class or go swimming at the Community Recreation Center. You can sign up for team sports leagues and visit Zoo Idaho during their special winter events. Find out more about Parks & Recreation at pocatello.gov/278Parks-Recreation.

There are also many community activities this time of year. You can attend high

school and Idaho State University (ISU) sporting events. There are incredible community and ISU theater productions. You can visit Pocatello's local museums and attend a variety of private events (like monster truck shows). The point is there is no reason to have cabin fever with so many options to stay active.

If going out in the cold isn't your thing, let's visualize projects and activities that are coming up so you can make plans to stay active during warmer weather. Lookout Point is scheduled to open in May 2023. This new town square in Historic Downtown will be home to the Southeast Idaho Farmers' Market and the Revive at 5 Summer Concert Series.

Zoo Idaho opens for the weekends in April, and the Ross Park Aquatic Complex starts its season Memorial Day weekend. The Portneuf Valley Fun Run Series kicks off in the spring, and Team Sports will have more great

programs as well. Check out the Parks & Recreation Department page for more details.

I love being out no matter the season, but I'm personally looking forward to yard work. I like getting things ready for backyard parties, so that we can hang out with family, friends and the dogs.

Spring is almost here, and as we work our way through cabin fever, check on friends and neighbors to see how they are doing. Sometimes we all need a little nudge to stay active and think positively.

There is no better place in the world to call home. Thank you for all you do for our community. As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

2023 Property Tax Reduction Program

The Bannock County Assessor's Office encourages qualifying property owners to save money by applying for a reduction in property taxes. Qualified homeowners can save up to \$1,500 by applying for the State of Idaho's property tax reduction program, commonly known as the "circuit breaker."

Property owners must apply for the program yearly, as the reduction is not renewed automatically, so everyone who has previously qualified for the program needs to reapply for 2023. If you are approved, the reduction in property taxes will

appear on the December 2023 tax bills. Applications are available now and close April 15, 2023.

More information about the Property Tax Reduction program and other property tax programs, like the tax deferral program, can be found on the County's website bannockcounty.us/property-tax-hub. Contact the County Assessor's Office at 208.236.7260 with questions or for help filling out the application. To request a paper copy of the application, you can email assessor@bannockcounty.us.

If you qualify for the program and reside in the home, the City of Pocatello offers a 30% discount on utility bills. To sign up, provide your approved paperwork to the Utility Billing Department at 911 North 7th Avenue. Remember, the qualifying property owner must reside in the home to qualify for a utility discount through the City.

For more information about City utility services, contact Utility Billing at 208.234.6241.

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Hiring Fair

If you're looking for a new career, mark your calendar for April 21 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. The City will be hosting a hiring fair at our public works annex, 2405 Garrett Way.

We offer a variety of positions from full-time to seasonal. You or your children ages 15 and older will be able to find out information about positions in Team Sports, Outdoor Recreation, Zoo Idaho, Sanitation, Water Pollution Control and more

For a full listing of positions currently available, go to pocatello.gov/546/employment-opportunities. You can also sign up to receive notifications of job openings.

Are You Ready?

When watching the news, you often hear about various emergencies happening around the world. There are hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes and more. Do you wonder, "What would I do if that happened here?"

Pocatello is like every other community in the nation, and we are not immune to an emergency. The City is ready. We have an emergency operations plan for our departments, so we can continue to help you during these emergencies, but are you ready?

The best way to prepare for any emergency, big or small, is to have a plan and practice it on a regular basis. The Pocatello Fire Department encourages

community members to have an all hazards emergency plan. There are several great examples online to help you create a plan, including examples at ready.gov.

In the event of a large-scale emergency, city, county and state officials will work around the clock to address the needs of the community, but we need your help as well. In addition to following the directions of emergency officials, we urge you to have an emergency plan that includes a communications plan for your family and supplies on hand to sustain your household, including pets, for at least 72 hours.

We recommend you create a "Go Kit," so that if you need to leave your residence quickly, you can

take the important items you will need. Your kit should include things like medicine and important paperwork.

To get up-to-date emergency notifications in your area, go to bannock.myfreealerts.com, and click on "Citizens Emergency Notification System" to register. If an evacuation or a shelter in place order is needed, emergency officials can use this system to notify residents based on the location of the emergency.

For more information, contact the Pocatello Fire Department at 208.234.6201. Emergencies do not plan ahead, but you can. Are you ready?

Where Does Your Water Go?

Every day, water is used in homes and businesses throughout our community. When you send water down the drain from sinks, basins, toilets, washing machines, dishwashers or floor drains, where does your water go?

Most people don't give a second thought to the water they use. It goes down the drain and is gone forever. However, to the City's Water Pollution Control (WPC) Department, the drain is just the beginning of your water's journey to a bright, clean future. This is because your water is **renewable**, which means it can be cleaned and

transformed into a safe, valuable resource.

WPC treats an average of 7.5 million gallons of water from our community every day. Staff is dedicated to protecting the health of the public and the environment by ensuring our treatment processes exceed the strict standards set forth by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We employ a team of highly trained professionals who operate, monitor and maintain specialized equipment and complex processes designed to clean the water before it is

discharged into the Portneuf River.

In addition to transforming your water into clean water, WPC extracts nutrients, known as biosolids, for soil amendment and produces energy from the methane gas generated during the cleaning process. In future newsletters, we'll discuss more about what WPC does and the positive impact staff is making by renewing water – one of the world's most precious resources.

For more information about WPC, call 208.234.6254 or visit pocatello.gov/168/water-pollution-control.

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,n2

My question/comment is _____

Name _____ Address _____
Email _____ Telephone _____