

1st Quarter, 2006



CITY OF SALMON, IDAHO

Salmon Newsletter

Mayor's Message

As Mayor, I want to welcome two new faces to the Salmon City Council, Brett Barsalou and John Miller. They will be sworn in as City Councilmen on January 4, 2006. They were elected in November replacing retiring Lila King and Gina Knudson who lost in a very close race. Lila King and Gina have given a great deal of time to this City and they need to be thanked for their contribution. The City of Salmon would like to Thank them and urge them to stay involved.

My Message in 2006 will be: Celebrate the success of this Great Community and take a moment to thank a

volunteer. Remember volunteers help make Salmon "One of the 100 Best Communities for our youth" in the USA. 2006 is the Year of the Volunteer in Salmon, Idaho. We will also be working hard to get our youth involved in the direction of growth and development of our City. I urge all people of the City of Salmon to be involved in what goes on, be cautious that the outside doesn't direct the direction of our community, but you direct it. Salmon is an award winning community that can boast its achievements. We welcome home all our military veterans' and soldiers, you are our hero's. Have a very Happy New Year to all .. be positive, proud and happy.
- Stan Davis -

Administrator's Update

This newsletter follows a year of community growth, challenges, and recognition for the community. The City staff has missed Jay Townsend following his resignation early in the year and we have yet to fill the vacancy of the Community Development Planner. On the positive side, we have added some talented employees to the City team including Monique Villar, Mickey Rhees, and Debbie Walsh.

Our priorities for 2006 will be to provide you with great service, make progress on the City's comprehensive plan, complete the upgrade to the water treatment plant, and continue to find better ways to provide services. Beginning this month, the City will offer credit card payments for customers. We will continue to evaluate other processes that reduce

costs and find better ways to get information to you.

City projects planned in 2006 include replacing the Pollard Creek water line, assisting Salmon River Development Agency with the Brownfields Cleanup project, planning for proposed projects in Island Park and City Park, engineering and permitting for the Salmon Pedestrian Bridge, and completing the Downtown Development Plan.

I encourage all of you to be involved in the planning process. It is critical that we understand how you would like to manage the growth in the City and the outlying areas. On January 30th, we will hold the State of the City presentation, when we will present accomplishments of 2005 and plans for 2006.

- Gary Van Huffel -

CITYOFSALMON.COM

A Business of the Month feature has been part of the City of Salmon's award winning web site since 2003. During that time 22 local businesses have been highlighted and this year that tradition continues. To find out who is in the spot light this month go to www.cityofsalmon.com and click on 'Community Businesses.'

The web site offers information, meeting minutes , agendas and employment opportunities. You can also learn more about the city staff and read the latest news releases in the community. In 2005 there were nearly 4,000 unique hits per month with News, Employment, and Events being the most popular pages visited.

Public Works Department

The year 2005 has been a busy year for the Public Works Department, mainly due to annexations and new construction. Twenty-seven new connections for water and sewer were completed, twice as many as in 2002 and 2003. Over 3,000 feet of water and sewer lines were extended on Highway 93 South. City Parks projects completed by the department included the Sacajawea Center parking pad for the CORPS II Exhibit, and construction of a new septic system for the Sacajawea Center office.

Major projects planned in 2006 include replacing the Pollard water line and assisting with the Brownfields clean-up project at the Beasley site.

The City street crew is using different sanding material this winter. The material consists of washed

chips which causes less problems with sanding trucks and reduces the dust during spring cleanup.



Winter Reminder: It is the property owner's responsibility to clear snow and ice from sidewalks in front of the property.

Frozen Waterlines: If you have frozen water lines you will want to shut off your water before you begin thawing your lines. We recommend that homes have their own shut off valve, but if you need the City to shut off the water at the meter, please call City Hall at 756-3214 or 911 after hours. If you request a shutoff, there is no charge for the first time and \$15 for additional shutoffs .

Police Department

The City of Salmon Police Department took major steps forward in the fields of technology and training during 2005.

Through constant and aggressive research into grant resources and meticulous long range budgeting, new technology has been added to the department that will contribute to both the safety of the public and the officers.

High tech wireless audio/visual surveillance and documentation equipment has provided valuable new tools for the department and a thermal imaging device is a major step forward on several fronts. The device detects and defines heat sources and can be used not only by the police but by Search and Rescue volunteers and by the Fire Department. All of the new equipment has come with complete training in its use.

The Salmon Police Department has also been trained and equipped with the latest in non-lethal Tasers. Seven of the units were purchased in 2005 and a training session was co-sponsored by the city police, the Lemhi County Sheriff's office and the local office of Fish and Game.

On a not so high tech level, some officers took to the streets on bicycles last year and the program quickly proved its worth when a bicycle patrol officer was able to circumvent parade crowds to reach a heat prostration victim and provide immediate first aid attention until the ambulance arrived.

The whole community can be proud of the huge co-operative effort that has resulted in one of the best law enforcement shooting ranges in the state. The new area features a vast expanse of safe space for everything from shooting practice to all out combined agency emergency services drills. The range is the result of total cooperation between the city, the county, the Bureau of Land Management, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service. A grand open house is going to be one of the events the public can look forward to in 2006.



This year will see a continuation of the Salmon Police Department's successful seat belt campaign, "Click It. Don't Risk It." Through vigilant enforcement, the local seat belt usage statistics have risen from 38 percent in 2003 to the present 60 percent. The enforcement campaign will continue with citations issued for seat belt violations. The Salmon City Police as well as the Lemhi County Sheriff's Department thank the drivers who faithfully use seat belts and our resident officers encourage everyone to buckle up in 2006.

Fire Chief News

The Salmon area has just been through one of the most prolonged sub freezing and below zero cold spells in many years and Fire Chief Bob Perry is very grateful for so few chimney-fire call outs. He sees two possible reasons for fewer calls, one being there are fewer wood stoves now that many people have switched to propane heating systems. Another reason may be that perhaps the chimneys are being cleaned more often. So far this winter the cold has been a moist cold and that promotes a build up of creosote beginning at the top of the chimney and working downward. High pressure patterns and weather inversions also contribute to an increase in creosote residue which can cause stoves or fireplaces to smoke or not draw properly. If either condition occurs that's a signal that the chimney needs to be cleaned.

Chief Perry requests that residents call the Sheriff's Department Dispatch Desk before starting to burn slash piles or debris stockpiled for a safe burning season. He said that even though no permits are needed and with proper precautions it is a safe time for burning, a call to dispatch would be much appreciated since that would avoid the department's

Sacajawea Center

Visitors from all 50 states and 17 foreign countries signed Salmon's Sacajawea Center guest book in 2005 and total annual visitation is estimated at between 25,000 and 30,000 people, not counting those who attended Sacajawea Heritage Days.

The community's ten-day Heritage Days Celebration was a great success thanks to generous contributions from local businesses and individuals, several grants and over 2,000 hours of invaluable volunteer time. The National Park Service traveling Corps II exhibit was one of the center's star attractions with its "Tent of Many Voices" providing eight hours of programs every day for the entire ten days. A conservative estimate for attendance throughout the event is between 7,000 and 10,000 people.

Local school groups and youth organizations have discovered the on-site "School of Discovery" and the facility's popularity is soaring. The school's innovative approach makes learning an adventure. "Students" become personally acquainted with primitive crafts and food preparation as well as this area's cultural history.

being called to what turns out to be controlled, intentional burns.

This is the time of year when some will be heading to warmer climes for a vacation and the Fire Chief suggests a few home safeguards before leaving. "If you leave for an extended period of time make sure your coffee pots are unplugged. They are notorious nationwide for starting fires." Perry warns that the coffee makers tend to short out whether they are turned on or not and can be the cause of wall fires. The Chief advises residents to unplug all appliances and turn off ceiling fans before leaving on vacation.

In regards to heat tape Perry urges replacement every few seasons. "Make sure that they are in good shape and not cracked. They have a plastic coating over them and after awhile they'll start cracking and that's when you get fires." Heat tape should be kept away from direct contact with insulation.

Perry is thankful for this year's decrease in wintertime house-fires and encourages residents to remain vigilant since, "...spring is still a long ways away. We've got a lot of winter left."



The center's 71 acre park is open all year and during winter months is an excellent place for cross country skiing. Some of the trails have actually been groomed for that purpose and people are encouraged to make use of them. Residents are finding the area to be a wonderful place to walk anytime of year with scenery that is at once awesome and peaceful. The park is also canine friendly to responsible people who pick up after and keep their pets on leashes.

Center Director Angie Hurley credits the center's strength to partnerships with the Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Forest Service, Idaho Fish and Game, Salmon Arts Council, Governor's Lewis and Clark Trail Committee and Lemhi County Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee, Salmon Outdoor School, the Lemhi Shoshone, Community Heritage Gardens and the Lemhi County Humane Society. The Interpretive Center is open from Memorial Day through September seven days a week and on weekends during May and October. There is no admission fee for residents of Lemhi County.

Building Department

The year 2005 was a very busy year in the local construction industry according to statistics from the City/County Building Department.

The city saw 12 new homes, more than double the 20 year annual average of 5, and construction began on 50 new homes in the county, compared to the average 27 per year.

The total number of building permits issued in the City and County exceeds the "boom" year of 1995 by two with a total of 279. Construction was steady

throughout the year with March and June seeing the highest number of building starts.

The city's fiscal year new construction valuation from October 2004 to September 2005 was \$2,360,111 which is well above the \$1,671,763 average. In the county increased valuation amounted to \$11,948,540 .

December 2005 statistics have not yet been tabulated. Total construction starts during October and November of this calendar year amounted to a valuation of \$245,567.



Salmon Idaho
An award winning community

