



CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS

# Inside Idaho Springs

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## Busy time at City Hall

As 2016 winds down, the staff at City Hall is keeping busy. In addition to all the day-to-day work, this time of year brings additional tasks.

City Administrator Andy Marsh is working to get the 2017 budget together. The other Department Heads have submitted their budget requests and now it's a matter of figuring out the projected revenue to see what the City can afford while maintaining healthy reserves.

While budget work moves forward on the General Fund, the Improvement Fund and the several other funds, the Water and Sewer Department budgets are delayed while the City waits to hear the results of the rate study and long term capital needs assessment. The consultants will present their recommendations to the Council on October 17.

The entire draft budget is expected to be presented to Council in early November. The budget will be adopted after a public hearing at the Council's December 12 meeting. State statutes require budget adoption no later than December 15.

City Clerk Diane Breece will soon be sending out business license renewal notices. She reminds all business owners that licenses must be renewed by December 31 to avoid penalties. Diane is also working closely with the new Court Clerk (see story on Page 4) for training. At the same time, Utility/Payroll Clerk Katie Cook has been on maternity leave so the office has only had two people instead of the usual three. Katie plans to return to work later this month.

Treasurer John Young submitted his resignation and the City Council appointed Diane Breece to fill the position. City Clerk and City Treasurer are the only elected positions that can be held by the same person.

Deputy Treasurer Sandy Bronson has been busy helping in the main office along with her usual duties. She has also finished coordinating the annual audit which was accepted by Council on October 10.

Community Development Planner Alan Tiefenbach is keeping busy with various land use applications, meeting with the Planning Commission and the City Council. He is also working with the consultant that is developing the east end corridor development study.

All in all, the Administrative Staff is finding they have little spare time.

## Being on Guard...When You Don't Want To Be

One of the things that I have come to love about Idaho Springs is the trust many people share. It is evident in our dealings, contracts closed with a handshake, in many . . . albeit not all cases, being able to come to an agreement after a discussion. And when we don't agree, the civility of our differences is enlightening.

Trust. A productive and vibrant community like ours might not fare so well without it. Sometimes however a trusting soul is a mark. In recent weeks we have been reminded of that. The passing of counterfeit bills is certainly nothing new to our town, but recent events including an arrest of a local man, and the passing of bunk bills by parties' most likely travelling through remind us that with trust must be vigilance.

As the Christmas season approaches please don't let yourself or your employees be taken. It's bad for your business and employment, and bad for the town at large. A little polite scrutiny goes a long way. To avoid being taken don't be embarrassed to take a counterfeit detector pen to large bills. If someone attempts to pay for a

\$3.99 item with a one hundred dollar bill be on guard. Know what to look for on both new and old bills. Sometimes, if the quality of the paper is good the pens will not indicate it is counterfeit. There are most often other clues. Many banks and the internet have information on how to detect bunk bills. There is also new technology in the form of economical scanners that will alert you of questionable currency.

In some respects, technology has not been our friend. The latest technology in inkjet printers produce highly detailed fake bills, but they cannot insert a security strip or watermark and there are flaws that scream to the trained eye. Spend some time doing your own research or a few minutes with your banker.

What to do if someone passes you a bad bill? First and foremost, don't leap over the counter and attempt to detain them. You have several options including a good stall while someone calls 911 (not our local non-emergency number). If they leave, hopefully they will exit the business and leave the bill(s) to be passed on to authorities. Passing bunk

bills on to future customers is never an option. And don't forget that patron may be a victim themselves, having received the phony money in a previous transaction. Above all, be a great witness: manner of clothing, hairstyle, facial features, accents are all good descriptors as well as who they might have been with.

Another good tip, after discovering you have been passed a counterfeit bill and police have been notified, get on the phone to your neighboring businesses. The culprit may very well be trying to pass fake money right next door.

Counterfeiting hurts us all. Losses to merchants result in increased costs to consumers and lost business. Be on your guard.

Best wishes for a prosperous autumn and winter.

Cheers!  
Chris



## Public Works Stays Busy

Summer is over but the work continues for our Public Works crew. Soon the snow plows will be mounted on the trucks and when the time comes the crew will be out plowing. Meanwhile, the crew always has more than enough to keep them busy. They're responsible for just about everything, it seems.

The next time you see a Public Works truck around town, take a minute to think about all the work this dedicated crew of 6 manages to accomplish. They deserve our thanks.

# Mayor's Message

It has been a crazy summer. The number of tourists this year seems to be more than any time I can remember. I know this puts a burden on our community and I appreciate our citizens being patient through it all. As we start to head into a different season I would like to update you on the projects that are going on in our city.

Colorado Blvd. Phase II is still a little behind schedule. Some of this is due to delays by Excel Energy and the contractor having to open the road for weekends. As you may have already noticed Colorado Blvd. will remain closed through the winter with maybe the exception of holiday weekends. We have made an agreement with the contractors that if they meet some milestones we would let them continue to work through the winter.

Phase III engineering is at

90% design and negotiations have been going on with the current contractor to extend their contract and start Phase III in spring of next year. A part of this phase also includes the bridge over Clear Creek and some of this work will be done over the winter while the water table is low.

The Greenway design is on-going as well. The grant that we applied for to build the trail did not make the award. We will be applying again the next cycle and I am very confident we will get the 1.5 million to build it.

We are a couple of months into the East End Action Plan. This has been a very fast paced and interesting process. Some of the ideas that have been brought to us are very exciting. There will be a public meeting coming soon for you to see some of these concepts.

The parking structure is also still moving along. We have

done the site plan and now we are into the geo- tech work. We will soon be hiring an architect to give us some ideas of what this structure could look like and how to incorporate it into our history. We will start looking at ways to pay for it once we have some costs.

Soda Creek Road will be the first project we will be doing with the 1% sales tax that you approved two years ago. We now have enough money to get the project done. Engineering for this project is underway and design will follow. This is an improvement that has needed to be done for many years.

We are very excited about the direction that our city is headed. We have a lot of great things happening. I hope that you will continue to support us as we move things along.

Remember my open door policy and please call with any concerns. It is honor to be your Mayor.

*However you celebrate, have a safe and happy holiday season.*

## City Council Contacts

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# City Personnel Updates

## City Council

From a field of three applicants, Troy Erickson was appointed to fill the vacant Ward 1 seat on City Council. The seat was recently vacated by the resignation of Denise Deese. Erickson formerly served as Program Director at the Mt. Evans Qualifying House and is now the County's Veterans Service Officer. The newest Council member says he's honored to be appointed and knows he has a lot to learn. "I know I've got a steep learning curve ahead of me," Erickson said. Erickson will hold the seat until the November 2017 election when the seat would normally be up for election.

## City Hall

Katherine Cook has moved from her position as Court Clerk to take on Payroll and Utility Billing. Katie says she likes the idea of learning new things so she's looking forward to her new responsibilities.

Katelyn Elliot has accepted the position of Court Clerk. Katelyn has lived in the county for about 6 years and currently resides in Silver Plume. She is enjoying the job and learning quickly.

## Police Department

Steve Blackburn is the newest patrol officer at the Police Department. Steve comes to us in his first law enforcement position. He says he is enjoying the work and is already a big fan of Idaho Springs.

## Tree Lighting Saturday November 26. Citizens Park.



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