



Inside Idaho Springs

Looking Back at 2011 *and Forward to 2012*

A new year is upon us and the City has lots of plans for 2012. Before we get into that, let's take a quick look back.

Sales Tax

2011 Sales Tax revenue was \$1,249,424.36, a 9.17% increase from 2010. Our businesses deserve our thanks for their efforts. Remember to shop locally and do your part to help maintain this trend.

Management Changes

In July, John Bordoni was hired as the new Public Works Superintendent. Since coming on board, John has made some changes in how his department operates and has hired some new crew members. We believe the changes will make the Public Works Department more efficient and effective. Read about the new employees on Page 3.

The City has secured the services of Ramey Environmental Compliance to oversee operation of the water and wastewater plants. Wayne Ramey's experience is proving invaluable as he is helping the City identify a number of equipment and operational changes that make the plants more efficient and less costly to operate.

Election

2011 was an election year and Idaho Springs got some new Council members in November. See the story on Page 3 for more about the newly elected Council members.

Projects

The Creek Crossing Project was finally completed last fall. The City now has several hundred feet of new sewer lines and new manholes along the creek near City Hall. This was the final phase of a project that began in 2005 to stop infiltration and make our sewer lines secure.

The \$1.5 million dollar upgrade project at the Wastewater Plant has been completed. Energy savings and improved treatment processes have been the positive results. The project was funded primarily by a Federal grant.

Plans for 2012

The next phase of the City's street improvement plan will move forward this year. Virginia Street between 8th and 10th will be reconstructed. The project is planned to include 9th and 10th Avenues and High Street. \$292,291 has been budgeted for this project.

There are also plans to rehabilitate the reservoir outlet and replace some faulty valves and lift pumps. Replacement of water meters will continue.

The Historical Society has received some grant funding for rehabilitation of the Bryan Hose House and the City will contribute \$10,000 toward the project.

Roofing, gutters and downspouts at City Hall will be replaced and other minor exterior repairs are planned. \$30,000 has been budgeted and grant funding will be sought.

Water & Sewer rates are expected to change. See the story on Page 2.

Search for New City Clerk Begins

City Clerk Tami DuBois has resigned effective January 13. A new City Clerk will be appointed by Council. Eligible candidates will be City residents and registered voters in the city. Time is of the essence in filling this important position. Applications are due in City Hall by 4:00 on **Friday January 20**. A job application form can be picked up at City Hall or found on the City's website, www.idahospringsco.com, under 'Forms'. Applicants are encouraged to attach a resume. Appointment is planned for January 23. EOE

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Water and Sewer Rate Changes Considered

After months of work, a proposed new water and sewer rate structure was introduced in November. Work continues to revise the proposal.

While it may be impossible to develop rates that will please everyone, the Council is determined to come up with a rate structure that is fair to all our customers without putting undue burden on any group of customers.

Any rate structure must provide adequate revenue to cover the costs to operate the plants and maintain services. It must also cover the annual debt service of more than \$440,000, and allow the reserves to grow.

With potential new requirements coming from the State, it is possible that further significant plant improvements will be required and the City has to be as prepared as possible to manage those.

Council plans to continue study and discussion in the coming months. It is uncertain when new rates will be adopted and implemented, but it is anticipated to happen sometime in 2012.

The City has been fortunate to have the services of a consultant throughout this process at no cost. The service is provided through USDA Rural Development, a Federal program. It is estimated that the free service is valued at more than \$50,000.

City Offices will be closed
Monday January 16 for Martin Luther King Day
and
Monday February 10 for Presidents' Day

Frontage Road Work Planned for Spring, Tunnel Study Continues

As part of the Twin Tunnels project, CDOT is planning significant improvements to the Frontage Road. Work is expected to begin this spring and be completed by fall. When work on the Tunnels begins in 2013, the frontage road will be used to detour traffic.

Improvements will include widening in places, paving and construction of retaining walls where needed. Improvements to the bike path will also be included.

Meanwhile, the environmental assessment for the Twin Tunnels project continues and the City remains involved in the discussions.

At present, CDOT is working to determine how wide the eastbound bore will be. There will be three lanes but it hasn't been decided how wide the shoulders will be inside the tunnel. The width of the bore will determine the width of the roadway to the east.

All widening will be to the north, or right side of the existing roadway so the distance between the eastbound and westbound lanes will not be changed.

The Twin Tunnels project has been allocated \$60 million and will be completed in 2013.

Anyone who travels the I-70 corridor or looks out their window toward the interstate on a Sunday afternoon is familiar with the severe congestion as motorists are heading east at the end of the week-end. The Twin Tunnels were identified as a key "pinch point" along the corridor, and that is what led to the decision to widen the tunnel and the roadway.

Speed Harmonization

For several months, CDOT and the State Patrol have experimented with "pace cars" near the Eisenhower Tunnel during peak travel times in an effort to modulate traffic speeds. It has now been determined that this is an effective way to improve traffic flow and avoid back-ups.

Beginning in mid-December, the Idaho Springs Police Department began participating in what CDOT is calling its Rolling Speed Harmonization effort. Two ISPD officers work Sundays between Dumont and Floyd Hill with the costs covered entirely by CDOT. The initial project period will last five weeks and may be extended. The Clear Creek Sheriff's Department is also participating, working the area between the Eisenhower Tunnel and Dumont.

Meet the Newly Elected Council Members

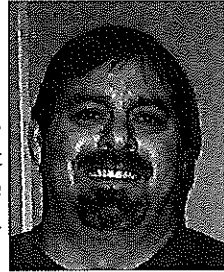


Dee Munchiando (Ward 2)

Dee has returned to her old seat at the Council table. After resigning in 2007, she decided to run again for another 4 years. Asked why she decided to run again, Dee said, "I think the City needs my ideas."

Michael Hillman (Ward 3)

After owning and operating Hilldaddy's Wildfire Restaurant for six years, Mike decided it was time to get more involved in his community. Mike, his wife Michelle and their family moved to Idaho Springs in 2005.



Marilyn Anderson (Ward 1)

Marilyn is now a duly-elected member of the Council. She was appointed to fill a vacancy in 2011, and decided she liked being on the Council well enough to run for election to her seat. Marilyn owns and operates Get Gassed The Stuff Store.



City Council Contacts

Jack Morgan, Mayor
303-567-2793
morganmkt@att.net

Ward One:

Denise Deese 303-567-1229
cwlady1@hotmail.com

Marilyn Anderson 303-567-4652
getgassed@hotmail.com

Ward Two:

Kate Collier 720-299-0758
kcollier45@yahoo.com

Dee Munchiando 303-567-2966

Ward Three:

Phyllis Adams 303-918-7033
montanepros@juno.com

Michael Hillman 303-567-2775
hilldaddy@comcast.net

Employee Changes

Since our last publication . . .

Nathan Smith came back to Public Works in November. You may remember Nathan from his previous employment with the City as the guy who took care of our parks.

Ed Sigward moved from Public Works to Water/Wastewater last fall.

Steve Higgins is the newest member of the Public Works crew and Randy Comstock is the new the Parks employee. Both came on board in December.

Detective Brian Radulovich and Officer Dave Cillisen have both resigned from the PD. The search is on for replacements.

The Police Department has reinstated the Reserve Officer program and the first Reserve to join is Dan Allison. Dan comes to us after retiring from the State Patrol. Reserve officers will provide additional manpower for special events and will be able to fill in for regular officers while they're on vacation.

Holiday Lighting Winners

Idaho Springs was aglow again this year with holiday lights and it was a challenge for the Council members to pick the best. Votes were tabulated and winners were announced at the December 12 Council meeting.

Residential:

- 1st (\$100) Doug & Vicki Sparks, 1002 Colorado Blvd.
- 2nd (\$75) Rick and Joni Albers, 2012 Virginia Street
- 3rd (\$50) Cherie Goodman, 3301 Riverside Drive

Commercial (\$100):

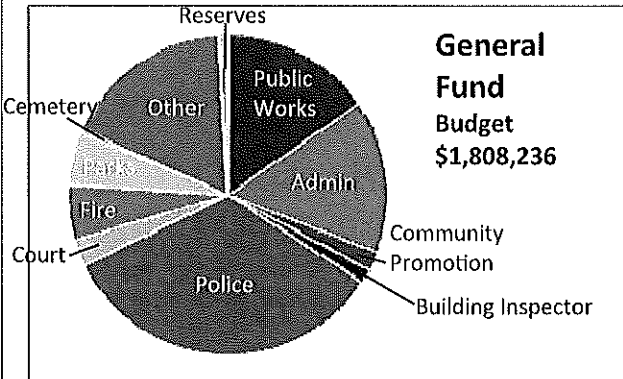
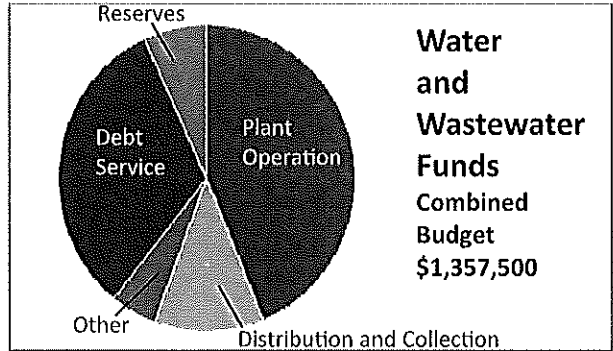
Annie's Gold, Deb Dysinger, 2712 Colorado Blvd.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who joined in the fun and made Idaho Springs sparkle for the holidays.

2012 Budget Highlights

After the usual amount of negotiation and long hours of preparation, the City's 2012 budget was finalized. Council approved it on December 12.

Total expected revenue for all city funds combined is \$4,411,997. Total budgeted expenditures for all funds are \$3,936,205. The excess, \$475,792 has been set aside in the reserves for the respective funds.



The budget is available for viewing on the City's website, www.idahospringsco.com. Click on Reports along the left side then select 2012 Budget. Check there for details or stop by City Hall. Questions should be directed to the City Administrator, the Mayor or any City Council member.

It's your money - take a look at how it's being spent.



CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS
1711 Miner Street
P.O. Box 907
Idaho Springs, CO 80452-0907

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
IDAHO SPRINGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 7
ZIP CODE 80452

POSTAL PATRON
IDAHO SPRINGS, CO 80452

Phone: 303-567-4421

Email: cis@idahospringsco.com

www.idahospringsco.com