



Inside Idaho Springs

Volume 1, Issue 2

April, 2010



TOWN MEETING

May 3, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall

An open forum for Q&A
with the City Council

Other Events

May 8 - City Clean-up Day

May 15 - Cemetery Clean-up Day

May 15&16 - City-wide Yard Sale

May 28 - Weekly Farmers Market begins.

Every Friday all summer.
(Sponsored by the Idaho Springs Chamber of Commerce)

June 12 - Firefighters Day Parade & Free BBQ

July 4 - The best fireworks show in the mountains!

Council Matters

In the coming months, the City Council expects to be talking about:

- Water billing cycles
- Colorado Blvd. plans
- Special Event applications
- Engineering and bids for street paving work
- First quarter budget review

Inside this issue:

Mayor's Message	2
F.Y.I.	2
Saving Tax Dollars	3
Public Works	3
Paving Plan	4

Big Plans for Summer Projects

The City is gearing up for a busy summer. Here's some of what is being planned.

Colorado Blvd.

Phase 2 of the Colorado Blvd. Project is expected to begin in late summer. The Phase 2 area runs from 8th Avenue to the bridge at Riverside Drive. As with the 2005 work on Phase 1, underground work will be included to replace or repair aging water and sewer lines under the street and upgrade the storm sewer system.

Wastewater Plant

A \$1.7 million project to upgrade the water and wastewater plants is scheduled to be completed this summer. The project is primarily funded through a Federally-issued State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG), with additional funds from the City. The upgrades will replace aging equipment with more energy efficient designs.

Idaho Springs Public Library

Under the supervision of the Clear Creek County Library District, the Library building will receive a complete exterior restoration. New roofing and gutters will be installed, the brick will be replaced where necessary, re-pointed and cleaned, trim will be painted and the front and side steps will be reset. The 106 year-old building will look new again. The project is funded in part by a grant from the State Historical Fund, a program of the Colorado Historical So-

ciety, with matching funds from the Library District, the City and private contributions.

Street Paving

The City's commitment to street improvement will continue on Idaho St. from 1st Ave. to 5th Ave. See the articles inside for more information about the plans.

*Courtney Riley Cooper Park
Morgan C. Durham Playground*

With funding from Great Outdoors Colorado (lottery proceeds), the popular playground area will receive a complete makeover. New equipment, ground cover and fencing will be installed. A related project will stabilize the creek bank behind the play area. Read more in the Mayor's comments inside.

Also this summer . . .

Central Hose House

After nearly two years of planning and work, the Central Hose House restoration is complete. The project was managed by the Historical Society of Idaho Springs and funded through a State Historic Fund grant with matching funds from the City, the Historical Society, the Fire Department and private donations. A ceremony is planned to coincide with Firefighters Day on June 12 to officially open the new self-guided fire history museum and will include turning on the light to illuminate the original bell hanging in the tower.

Remember to de-winterize your sprinkler system, hose bib and hoses and check for leaks before the watering season begins.

A Few Words from the Mayor . . .

Hello everyone,

My, how time flies. We are in our second printing of *Inside Idaho Springs*.

There have been many very positive comments about the newsletter. It is just one way of keeping our citizens informed about their city government. Please remember this is the people's Government. The Mayor, City Council, staff and employees are just temporary custodians of your Government. We are here to serve you. Simply put, we work for the citizens.

On the front page of this newsletter you will find the date of our next Town Hall meeting. It's a great opportunity to bring your questions and concerns to the Council. We hope to see a full house.

The long awaited rehabilitation of the Morgan Durham playground at Courtney Riley Cooper Park will begin in the spring as soon as the ground thaws. The contract has been signed with Children's Playstructures and Recreation. The enhancements will include rubberized play surfacing to make the park ADA-accessible. New play equipment will be installed allowing a special play space for toddlers, a climbing structure for the older children and new swings. New picnic tables will also be a great needed addition.

Unfortunately, the area will have to be closed dur-

ing this project. Excuse our mess while we work, but it will be a great addition to the recreation opportunities for the City.

The City is in the process of implementing a Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) agreement for the upgrades to the infrastructure of the Wastewater plant. This type of contract is fairly new in the industry, but can save the project big dollars. We have checked with many agencies that have used this process effectively and we are taking advice from some of those most experienced at this type of contracting. This is another way the City can get more bang for its buck.

The Clear Creek Watershed Foundation, in cooperation with the City, is completing a project to control sediment and erosion during storm events. The site of the work is on the west bank of Gilson Gulch and in the culvert beneath Riverside Drive. With State grants totaling approximately \$70,000 and a donation of crushed gravel and boulders from Albert Frei & Sons worth \$66,000, the City only had to contribute \$5,000 to make this project a reality to protect water quality in Clear Creek. Thanks to Ed Rapp and the Foundation for pursuing this project.

Special Note: We encourage all City businesses to join the Idaho Springs Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber needs your participation and help. They have many events planned for the summer, so please give a helping hand.

Jack

City offices will be closed May 31 for Memorial Day and July 5 for independence Day.

Saving Your Tax \$\$\$\$\$

- \$ You've probably heard about the City's "green" car. The water/wastewater department has purchased a 2006 Ford Escape hybrid. Buying used, the City spent \$4,500 less than the amount budgeted. With an estimated in-town MPG of 33, the savings will continue, both to the budget and the environment.
- \$ The last 4 police vehicles purchased were also the result of bargain-hunting. In 2009, 2 cars were purchased from the City of Loveland, at a cost of \$6,000 each. This year, we've added a used State Patrol car for \$3,500 and a Chevy Tahoe from the Town of Breckenridge, costing \$15,000. These vehicles came fully equipped, saving the City even more money. Barring unforeseen events, Chief Wohlers says the PD's current fleet should serve the City's needs for the next several years.
- \$ The City was no exception to the national norm when the time came to renew its health insurance. Rates went up even more than we expected and budgeted for. By restructuring the percentages paid by the City and by the employees, we were able to keep our costs in line with the budget and still provide quality health care coverage for the people who work to keep Idaho Springs functioning.
- \$ Xcel bills for the wastewater plant for 2009 were over \$9,000 less than in 2008, an 18% reduction. This pleasant surprise is attributed to a number of energy efficient upgrades made last year, and more are planned for this year. See story on Page 1.

Paving, and much more . . .

Over the last two years the City has reconstructed nine blocks plus all of the approach avenues on the west end of the city, north of Colorado Blvd. This project included replacing over 1,000 feet of sewer main, two manhole replacements, 900 feet of sub-surface storm water pipe and over 2,700 feet of new asphalt curb and gutter. This year's funding will be dedicated to completing Idaho Street from 1st to 5th Avenue to include the approach avenues. Next year's project will address Miner Street and adjoining Avenues east of Safeway. Riverside Drive, Virginia St. 9th to 17th, and Virginia St. 19th to 23rd Ave. are scheduled to be reconstructed in the 2012 to 2016 time frame.

Road construction may be one of the most visible Public Works projects, but it is only one of the tasks our small but dedicated crew takes on. These are the same folks who plow the snow, fill the pot holes, empty the trash bins downtown, maintain our water and sewer lines, put up the Christmas decorations, take care of all City-owned buildings, clean the streets, plant the flowers and mow the grass in our parks.

NEW: The Public Works Department has committed to repair pot holes within 24 to 48 hours of a citizen report. There will be a link to the reporting form on the City's web site, www.idahospringsco.com. For now, you can email pw@idahospringsco.com, call the City Shop at 303-567-2400 or call City Hall at 303-567-4421 to report a needed street repair in your neighborhood.

The Public Works Department appreciates all the positive comments and recognition from citizens. We are always open to your suggestions and constructive comments.

PUBLIC WORKS



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- On February 16, the City welcomed our new City Clerk, **Tammy DuBois**. She's been busy settling into her new job and looks forward to meeting and working with all the citizens and businesses of Idaho Springs. Stop by City Hall and say hello.
- There's a new police officer on patrol. **David Hemingway** joined the ISPD on February 17, replacing Officer Mike Grabel who moved on after serving our community for four years. Officer Hemingway comes to us from Commerce City with 14 years of patrol, detective and S.W.A.T. experience.
- The City needs **volunteers** to serve on its boards and commissions. There are currently openings on the Variance Board and the Historic Preservation Review Commission (HPRC). The Variance Board meets the 2nd Wednesday and HPRC meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month when needed, both at 6:30 in City Hall. If you'd like to volunteer, contact the City Clerk for more information.
- At the recent annual meeting of the Colorado Rural Water Association, Idaho Springs was recognized in two categories. Operator **Mike McElhaney** was awarded "**Rookie Wastewater Operator of the Year**" for 2009. Mike was selected from among all the operators in the state with less than 3 years experience. If that wasn't good enough, the Idaho Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant was recognized as the "**Wastewater System of the Year**" for 2009. Congratulations to Superintendent Chris Brownell and his crew!
- Visit www.170mtncorridor.com to keep up to date on the I-70 planning process.
- Attention Comcast customers: The City Council is now broadcasting its work sessions in addition to the regular meetings. Work sessions start at 6:30 and are held on the first and third Mondays of each month. Tune in to **Channel 8** and hear what's going on.

Paving and Drainage Plan Adopted

The Public Works Department recommended and the City Council has adopted a long-term plan for road improvements throughout town.

City street conditions were rated according to industry guidelines and then prioritized according to condition, impact, needs and budgetary limits.

Continuation of the Colorado Blvd. project will affect the timing for work on streets in that vicinity. It is more efficient to coordinate the work for water and sewer line connection to coincide with the paving work so we can ensure the streets all have a matching grade to allow for even paving and effective drainage.

At a cost of up to \$60,000 per block to rebuild streets and install curb and gutter, it will take some time to work through the entire plan.

Since 2008, the City has received funding for roads as a result of a voter-approved, temporary mill levy increase. Those funds are strictly dedicated for road improvement. The ballot question specified the increase would be for a limited period of time, so we

want to get as much done as we can while that funding is available. It could expire as early as 2011. This year, we expect to receive \$147,000.

The Highway User Tax Fund (HUTF) money received from the State is also dedicated for road work and is expected to bring in \$52,000 this year.

The intent is to address all aspects of the infrastructure to include asphalt, storm water collection, curb and gutter, sidewalks where appropriate and water and sewer lines. Underground work, however, is not covered by either the mill levy funding or HUTF.

Improvement of roadway conditions in town was one of the top concerns of respondents to the 2009 City Survey.

In 2009, reconstruction of Virginia Street from the west end to 8th Avenue was completed. For the first time in longer than most of us can remember, the street is smooth. Curb and gutter is in place and drainage has been improved. The project was funded primarily by the mill levy proceeds.

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