

NEWS FROM THE CITY



City of Ashton

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

LAWS ARE FOR DOGS!

Spring is here and it seems everyone is wondering "WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?"

Every dog in the City of Ashton is required to be licensed. Licenses are sold at the City Building and cost \$7.50. Any dog owner who is known to have failed to license their dog is subject to a minimum fine of \$25.00. (Ashton Code 6.08.20) **The 2015 Ashton dog license is red and is the shape of a fire hydrant.**

Additionally, even if the dog is licensed, dogs are required to be on your property or on a leash of less than 10 feet. If not, the dog is considered running at large. Any

dog caught running at large is subject to impoundment by the City dog catcher.

If a dog is impounded, licensed owners are contacted and a minimum fine of \$25 is charged for release of the dog. Licensed dog owners have 5 days to claim their dog, but after 48 hours there is a \$5 per day charge for food & care. Unlicensed dogs are kept for 48 hours unless claimed. Fees for the release of unlicensed dogs are significantly higher than those that have their dogs licensed.

Many complaints have been received about dogs running through neighborhoods and out in the City streets. Please remember to keep your dogs inside an enclosed area OR on a leash to avoid any fines or impoundment.

If you have any questions, call the City Office at 652-3987.



Watch Out!

Citizens should be careful to watch out for the City water meter. There have been several water meters damaged this winter. The City will be charging those who damage the meter for the time and materials required to repair the damage.

Please be cautious with the new meter boxes in order to avoid repair costs.

If you have any questions, please call the City Building at 652-3987.



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Calendar Key

City Council Meeting	Yellow
City P & Z Meeting	Cyan
Utility Bill Payment Due Date	Red
Utility Bill Mailing Date	Light Green
City Building Closed	Orange



NEWS FROM THE CITY

Write to Ashton's Legislators

State Senator

Jeff C. Siddoway

1764 E. 1200 N.
Terreton, 83450
Home (208) 663-4585
FAX (208) 663-4428

State Representative

Van Burtenshaw

1329 East 1500 North
Terreton ID, 83450
Home (208) 663-4607

State Representative

Paul Romrell

512 Park St.
St. Anthony, 83445
Home (208) 624-4304

You can email them by following the links at <http://legislature.idaho.gov>

U. S. Senator Mike Crapo

U.S. Senate

239 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6142

Idaho Regional Office

410 Memorial Drive, Suite 204
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 522-9779

U.S. Senator James E. Risch

U.S. Senate

483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2752

Idaho Regional Office

901 Pier View Drive, Suite 202A
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208)523-5541

You can email them by following the links at <http://legislature.idaho.gov/iso/legislative delegation.htm>

U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson

U.S. House of Representatives

2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5531

Idaho Office

802 W. Bannock, Suite 600
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 334-1953

You can email them by following the links at <http://legislature.idaho.gov/iso/legislative delegation.htm>



Write A Letter to Legislators

Thanks to all who have written letters and e-mail messages to our state and federal legislators! Your letters and e-mails have been noticed. We would appreciate receiving copies of any responses you receive. You can bring letters to the City building, and we will make a copy, or you can forward e-mail responses to Cathy Stegelmeier, Ashton City Clerk, at the e-mail address cityclerk@cityofashton.com.

If you haven't written yet, or would like to write again, we've provided a new sample letter with more details about the problem we're facing. You can obtain an electronic copy by contacting Cathy at the address above.

Dear _____

As a citizen of the City of Ashton, Idaho,

I am writing to ask for your assistance with an important matter.

I am paying approximately \$100 per month for basic drinking water and wastewater services. In the past eight years, the City of Ashton, with 1,129 residents, has acquired \$6 million in debt to complete two projects to upgrade its drinking water and wastewater systems. As of October 2019, the City will be required to meet effluent discharge standards that will necessitate wastewater treatment plant upgrades that could cost as much as \$4 million. I would accept this additional burden of debt if I believed these upgrades were necessary to protect the world-renowned trout fishery of the Henry's

Fork River. But these upgrades will do nothing to protect this important resource.

Please support the request the City of Ashton has made to IDEQ and USEPA to correct the use designations of the receiving water body into which our treatment plant effluent discharges so that I and other residents are not forced to acquire debt we cannot afford to fix a problem that does not exist.

Sincerely,

Ashton Citizen





MAYOR'S CORNER



Mayor Stronks

The City Council and I are so thankful to all of you that have written to the Legislators! Your letters have opened doors for us to try to get our foot in and make a change.

Our local legislators, Representatives Paul Rommrell and Van Burtenshaw and Senator Jeff

Siddoway, set up a meeting with the City, themselves and members of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Sheryl Hill, who is a member of the new City Wastewater Treatment Plant Advisory Committee, wrote a report here in the newsletter to keep you up to date.

We are not finished yet! Please, if you have not written a letter—write one now. If you have written one, write another. It will be a hard fought battle but if we don't fight it—we just lose. Ashton is tough. Let's show them!

Sincerely,

Mayor Stronks

What A Difference You Make!

My husband and I learned about the problems with the City's wastewater treatment plant when we received the City of Ashton's January newsletter. Because I had worked for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), and my husband, Rob Van Kirk, is Senior Scientist at the Henry's Fork Foundation, we attended the next City Council meeting to offer our help. Kim Ragotzkie, an environmental biologist who also attended the Council meeting that evening, was asked by Mayor Stronks if she would serve on an advisory committee. When Kim said yes, the Mayor and City Council authorized creation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Advisory Committee. Stacey Dexter, a former Council member who understands the WWTP issue well, was "drafted" *in absentia* by Mayor Stronks, and

when he returned from working in Southeast Asia, Stacey readily agreed to participate.

The role of the WWTP Advisory Committee is to provide technical assistance to the City, and to facilitate communications with IDEQ and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the two agencies involved in regulating the WWTP. Collecting and treating household wastewater is an essential service provided by the City. But because the City does not employ a staff engineer, issues involving regulation of wastewater can be daunting for its employees and Council members. The language and procedures used by IDEQ and USEPA are difficult to understand by anyone who is not a specialist.

The Committee seems to be making a difference. Thanks to letters written by the City Council

and several Ashton residents, Rep. Paul Romrell arranged for a meeting with IDEQ in Boise. Since then, we've had two more meetings and numerous e-mail exchanges with IDEQ and USEPA representatives, all of which have been observed by our state legislators and federal Congressional aides. In March, the City will ask the Henry's Fork Watershed Council to endorse an assessment plan, and we will then begin working to demonstrate that the requirements of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System (NPDES) permit are overly stringent and do nothing to protect quality of water in the Henry's Fork River.

If you're wondering what an NPDES permit is, it's at the heart of the problem. And I'll explain more about that in next month's newsletter!





CITY OF ASHTON

P.O. Box 689
Ashton, ID 83420

Phone: 208-652-3987
Fax: 208-652-3401

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Regular City Council meetings are held each month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. For specific dates & other meeting information please

refer to our website:

www.cityofashton.com



CITY SUMMER JOB OPENINGS

The City will be hiring for several summer job openings. These positions are summer jobs at the City's Swimming Pool.

Job applications are available at the City Building or can be emailed to you by calling the City Building at 652-3987. **Applications must be received at the City by 4pm on March 20, 2015.**

Jobs available are: Pool Supervisor, Lifeguard and Swim Instructor. Here are brief descriptions of the available jobs:



Pool Supervisor

The Pool Supervisor is responsible for the scheduling of lessons, lifeguards & instructors, receipting & reporting fees and general custodial work at the pool.

Swim Instructor

The City is looking for swim instructors. The City has classes available to get certified as a Water Safety Instructor (WSI). The City is hoping to find several local residents who would be willing to take the class and commit to teaching two weeks worth of classes. Additionally, for anyone who would like to teach more classes,

that opportunities would also be available.

Lifeguard

The City will be hiring several lifeguards for the summer. Lifeguards must be 15 years or older. Lifeguard classes will also be taught right here in Ashton. Lifeguards are responsible for the safety of the patrons at the Ashton City Pool.

