

# NEWS FROM THE CITY

City of Ashton



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

## WATER SAVING TIPS

Experts estimate that Americans use more than 400 billion gallons of water per day. On average homeowners use 50 to 70% of their water outdoors, sprinkling lawns and gardens. Here are some tips to help conserve water right in your own backyard.

1. Put a layer of mulch around your plants. Mulching helps to retain moisture and prevents evaporation. A generous amount of 3- to 5-inches is best.
2. Automatic timers save water. With or without a home irrigation system, make sure you're getting the most out of your timer. Automatic, programmable timers save more

water than mechanical models. If you use a hose and portable sprinkler, you can purchase a hose end timer to regulate your watering time.

3. Water in the evening or early morning to avoid evaporation. With a timer, you can set watering times even in the middle of the night!

4. Don't fertilize during hot, dry weather. Applying fertilizer can actually enhance drought problems. When you do feed your lawn and garden use a slow release fertilizer.

5. Raise the blade on your lawn mower. Closely cropped grass requires more water.
6. Recycle your grass clip-

ping s back into your lawn by using a mulching mower. You'll not only conserve water, you'll save time while mowing.



7. Cut back on routine pruning. Pruning stimulates new growth, and new growth requires more water. Only prune your plants when it wilts or leaves die out.

8. Sweep your sidewalks and driveway rather than hosing them down.

Conservation will protect our water resource and save Ashton citizen's money.



### April 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		

### May 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
31						

### June 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				

### 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

## Door to Door Sales

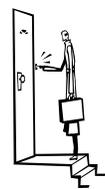
As per Ashton City Code, door to door sales are not allowed.

The Code reads:  
5.16.010: *The practice of going in and upon private residences in the city by solicitors, peddlers, hawkers, itinerant merchants and transient vendors of merchandise, not*

*having been requested or invited to do so by the owner or owners, occupant or occupants, of said private residence, for the purpose of soliciting orders for the sale of goods, wares and merchandise is declared to be a nuisance, and punishable as such nuisance as a mis-*

*demeanor.*  
If a salesman does stop by your door, please notify the City Building at 652-3987. We will notify the City Police and they will notify the salesman that they are not allowed to sell door to door.

Thank you!



## NEWS FROM THE CITY

# WASTE WATER UPDATE



The City is making progress on issues related to its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A NPDES discharge permit is required of all municipal wastewater treatment plants and is intended to protect the quality of water in the stream or river that receives the discharge.

The objective of the NPDES permit system is ensure that surface waters such as the Henry's Fork River remain "fishable and swimmable." This water-quality goal was established by federal laws that are collectively known as the "Clean Water Act." It's the responsibility of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to enforce the Clean Water Act, though many requirements of the Act are implemented by state agencies such as the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ). Currently, the USEPA writes the NPDES permits for discharges in Idaho, but IDEQ designates the beneficial uses that the receiving body can support, and that the permit must protect. These uses include recreation (wading or swimming), aquatic life (fish and invertebrates), salmonid spawning (production of young trout), drinking water supply, agricultural and industrial water supply, wildlife habitat, and aesthetics.

The City's current NPDES permit requires reduction of the concentration of ammonia in the discharge to a level that is much lower than allowed by previous permits. In fact, the concentration is about one-tenth of the previous permit limit, and is intended to protect very young fish. To reach that limit by 2019, the City may be required to build additional lagoons or an additional treatment system. But the City maintains that there are not any fish in the area of the discharge, so reducing the concentration of ammonia to such a low level is not necessary.

On March 10, the Henry's Fork Watershed Council endorsed a plan to assess the physical and biological characteristics of the area where the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) discharges treated wastewater from January through April. This plan will be developed and implemented by the Henry's Fork Foundation, the City's Public Works Department, and the City's WWTP Advisory Committee.

The Henry's Fork Watershed Council is designated by IDEQ to provide public input and guidance regarding ways to control pollution that can enter streams and rivers in the Henry's Fork basin. The Council includes representatives from several

agencies, including IDEQ, Fish and Game, Water Resources, and the Bureau of Reclamation. It also includes members of the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District and other irrigation districts, the operators of local hydroelectric plants, engineering and environmental consultants, conservation organizations, city and county representatives, and interested members of the public.

The information gathered during the assessment is intended to show whether flowing water is always present in the area where the WWTP discharges, and whether fish are present and reproduce in the area. If the City can show that water flow in the area of the discharge is intermittent (occurs only at some times during the year), the USEPA may be able to increase the concentration of ammonia that can be discharged. This finding may also allow IDEQ to extend the schedule for complying with the reduced ammonia concentration, which may give the City more time to find a way to eliminate the discharge or treat it more economically. The City has talked with the USEPA and IDEQ about these possibilities, and expects to learn more in the next few weeks.

## MUSEUM GRANT PROPOSAL

The Fremont County Historical Society requested that the City partner with them on a grant proposal. The request included the City's donating the use of the old City

Building at 604 Main Street, the relocation of the Ashton Archives to that location and that the City continue to fund the Ashton Archives at the current budgeted amount.

The City Council voted that if the grant is received, they would grant the Society's request.

Call the City Building at 652-3987 for more information.



## MAYOR'S CORNER



Mayor Stronks

Spring is here and I've noticed everyone is starting their Spring Cleaning.

Cleaning up and sweeping help make our homes and business look sharp.

In our yards, getting rid of cars that need junked and also taking care of our dogs makes everything more attractive.

I hope everyone will make sure that their dogs are licensed and are on a leash or in a fenced yard showing respect for your neighbors.

The City Crew is also getting ready for the City Cleanup. Please read the story below for information and dates.

Thanks for your help with these house keeping tips and Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

**Mayor Stronks**



## 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.



## CITY CLEANUP

The City of Ashton will be having the annual City Cleanup starting June 1 through June 5.

City residents are encouraged to start cleaning yards and trimming trees. All burnable items should be taken to the **side** of the alleys by June 1st.

Please **do not** place burnable items in the **middle** of the alleys.

City crews will begin picking up tree limbs and other burnable items from the alleys starting June 1st. They will not pick up items again until 2016 so please be prepared.

Any items deemed not burnable will be left for the property owner to dispose of themselves.

Call the City Building at 652-3987 for more information.

**Thank you for keeping Ashton clean!**



## CITY OF ASHTON

P.O. Box 689  
Ashton, ID 83420

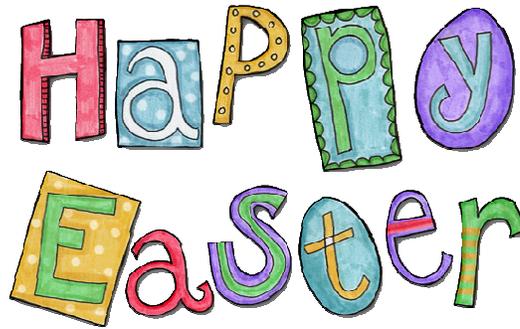
Phone: 208-652-3987  
Fax: 208-652-3401

### 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](http://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 April 14th, 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 opportunity 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.

