



POINT OF VIEW

JEROME'S NEWSLETTER

September–October 2020

From the Mayor

Happy Summer, Jerome, even though it's September. Let's hope for a little more monsoon season.

I want to acknowledge everyone who ran for Jerome Town Council, and congratulate those who won reelection. We've been a good team—I know you all care very much for our little town, and I look forward to working with all of you once again. Thank you all for your service. And I hope to see more participation from our constituents at our monthly Council meetings. Every second Tuesday at 7, folks. We're doing it via Zoom right now so you can attend in your jammies. Info is always on the town website. Call Town Hall if you need help.



If you haven't walked by Middle Park lately, I encourage you to do so—our community garden is taking off with help and excitement from our residents. John Knight our zoning administrator is leading the effort. If you're on Facebook, be sure to check out the page Mimi Romberger set up especially for the [Jerome Community Garden](#) (thanks for documenting the progress, Mimi). If you would like to get involved, I'm sure Mr. Knight would welcome you, as would the rest of the residents who have stepped up to help make the community garden a reality.

I know I've said it before but thank you to the Haven New Methodist Church—the food bank is a blessing.

COVID-19 has not gone away, but at least the number of cases appears to be slowing down. We will continue to be vigilant until the governor moves our state to the next phase. Yavapai County is currently in the moderate spread category, so we're not out of the woods yet. We encourage everyone to wear masks when social distancing isn't possible, especially indoors. Let's hope that this time next year we'll all be happy, healthy, and sharing hugs. Thanks for your patience, Jeromans. It's greatly appreciated.

Mayor Christina "Alex" Barber

Scheduled Meeting Dates for September, October, November 2020

Please note that Planning & Zoning meetings are now on the THIRD Wednesday of the month, and Design Review Board meetings are now on the FIRST Monday of the month.

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, Sep 8 at 7pm

Planning & Zoning
Wednesday, Sep 16 at 6pm

Design Review Board
Monday, Aug 31 at 6pm
[Due to Labor Day on Sept 7]

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 13 at 7pm

Planning & Zoning
Wednesday, Oct 21 at 6pm

Design Review Board
Monday, Oct 5 at 6pm

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, Nov 10 at 7pm

Planning & Zoning
Wednesday, Nov 18 at 6pm

Design Review Board
Monday, Nov 2 at 6pm



JEROME FIRE DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 1025 * JEROME AZ 86331
(928) 649-3034 blair@jerome.fire.us

Jerome Fire Department Picnic/Potluck

Due to COVID-19, the Jerome Fire Department had to cancel our annual picnic, which we were very much looking forward to putting on again this year. But times are strange; hopefully we'll be able to continue with our tradition next year.

The 46th Annual Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary Halloween Dance

The Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary is still trying to put together a Halloween dance fundraiser. However, we have been running into obstacles with the liquor license and a potential band for the event (the Naughty Bits have decided not to perform this year, unfortunately). We have secured the basketball court area for the event just in case and will have social distancing protocols implemented—we'll see if the rest will fall into place. It would be a shame for us to interrupt the years of tradition for this event, but things happen. We will keep you posted.



Firewise USA Community and Jerome Jamboree—and the brush truck

Our annual Firewise event has also been canceled this year due to COVID-19. Hopefully next year all will be back to normal and we will be able to have all of our events as usual.

The fire department will also miss out on the generous donation from the Arizona Bus Club Jerome Jamboree slated in September, which has always been a great event for us. They had to cancel this year.

However, we have been able to send our brush truck out on five different fires, which so far has brought in \$26,000. It was recently deployed to Wickenburg and a fire near Baghdad, so we'll see more revenue come in from those deployments as well.

The Jerome Fire Department encourages everybody to wear masks, to stay safe, and follow all social distancing protocols. Thank you.

FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS AND EMTS

The Fire Department is always looking for new members for fire, EMS, and/or both. Free training, cool t-shirts, drive big trucks with red lights. 5 PM every Thursday. Come on down and see what we do. Everybody is welcome. If the fire and EMS doesn't interest you, but you would still like to help out, the Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary is always welcoming new members as well!! Come join us!! Thank you for your continued support.

Rusty Blair, Fire Chief, JVFD

FROM JOHN KNIGHT, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Community Garden Update

By now you may have noticed raised garden beds popping up behind Middle Park. With the help of volunteers, we have been making great progress on the community garden. We expect to be filling the beds soon, constructing a fence, installing water lines, building a compost corral, and building a garden shed. Thanks to Wendy Irving-Mills for drawing up a site plan and shed design; to Chuck Romberger for helping to haul the lumber, and to Mimi Romberger for the cool logo (right), Facebook page, and for being our unofficial photographer.

If you're interested in helping, or would like to reserve a bed, please give me a call or simply show up for one of the upcoming workdays:

- 1) Saturday, August 29 at 8:30 am
- 2) Saturday, September 12 at 8:30 am
- 3) Saturday, September 19 at 8:30 am

Masks and social distancing will be required!

Join us! It's work, but it's fun work. If you want to participate somehow and would prefer to donate to the garden, we are currently looking for soil, building materials, and garden tools. Thanks!

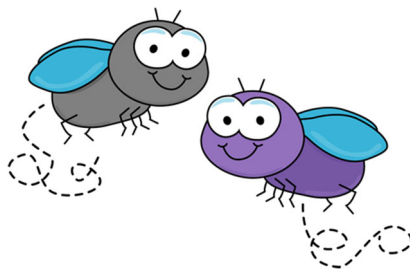


Restrictions on temporary signs

Now that we are in election season, I field a lot of questions and complaints about campaign signs. Temporary signs include but are not limited to campaign signs, real estate signs, banners, A-frame signs, and contractor signs; basically any sign not permanently attached. Jerome does not require a permit for temporary signs but does identify certain restrictions. Temporary signs are limited to a maximum of six (6) square feet in the residential zones and eight (8) square feet in the commercial zone. Temporary signs cannot be attached to utility poles or street signs, cannot create a safety hazard, and cannot obstruct the public right of way (including sidewalks).

If you have a question or complaint about a temporary sign, please give me a call or send me an email.

John Knight, Zoning Administrator
j.knight@jerome.az.gov | 928-634-7943

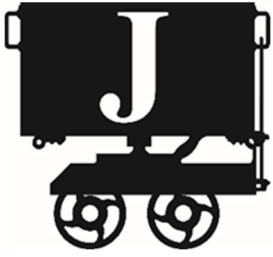


MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Jerome Summer Flea Market is ON!

Saturday 9/5, Sunday 9/6, and Monday 9/7 9am – 4pm
Friday 9/11 and Saturday 9/12 9am – 4pm

Rest assured that we are hyper-focused on creating a safe and sanitary environment for our shoppers and staff, and will be adjusting flea market operations accordingly.



Interesting facts about the 1918–1919 influenza epidemic in Jerome.

The “Spanish” influenza probably started in Camp Funston, Kansas, not Spain.

There was a one-story building to the left of the Clubhouse (now a parking lot) called the Pest House used for epidemics; it was also known as the Isolation Building. It was demolished in the 1920s, around the same time that the south wing of what is now known as the Jerome Clubhouse was also demolished, due to unstable soil and an underlying fault line.

The Red Cross sold masks for 10 cents each and sold over \$1,700 worth.

On Election Day, November 5, 1918, every hour the polling places were sprayed with disinfectants.

The first case of influenza in Jerome was reported October 4, 1918.

The number of influenza cases had fallen dramatically by December 1918.

These interesting and timely epidemic facts are from the Summer 2020 edition of the *Jerome Chronicle* by Patrick Conley, our Archives Manager and Editor. Learn more about your town by visiting the Mine Museum.

You can join the Jerome Historical Society or renew your membership by visiting our website at www.jeromehistoricalsociety.com or by stopping by the Mine Museum at 200 Main Street (open 10am–5pm, 7 days a week). Your membership gets you:

- ◆ Free admission to the JHS Museums
- ◆ 15% off Gift Shop and On-Line Purchases
- ◆ Subscription to the *Jerome Chronicle* Newsletter
- ◆ One Free Hour of Research

On behalf of the Jerome Historical Society Board of Directors,
Steve Pontious, President

Blessings from Haven,

I know Jerome understands the parking problem town folk sometimes struggle with. Unfortunately, parking has been an issue near the church because of our roof replacement. We are sorry, my friends, for the inconvenience, but hopefully it will no longer be a problem by the time you read this newsletter. We are grateful to Hale Roofing for being able and willing to replace our over-the-top designed roof.

As we continue to wait for a safe time to reopen the church for Sunday worship, we are maintaining safe food pantry service with your generous support. Thank you, everyone, for your helping hands and financial donations. We now have the convenience of electronic giving at havenchurchjerome.com if you are interested.

We have our clothing and home goods space just about ready for safe shopping. We are still working the details out, but you can feel free to ask us about it on Wednesdays. If you have returned to work and are unable to come to the food pantry but still need assistance, please contact Randy by text at 928.300.8713.

All of us at Haven and those who use the food pantry are always grateful and blessed by the support and care of the Town of Jerome. I can say that in truth because everyone we welcome on Wednesdays shares words of thanksgiving and praise. Together we continue to bless one another. Thank you, Jerome.

Peace and love be with you,

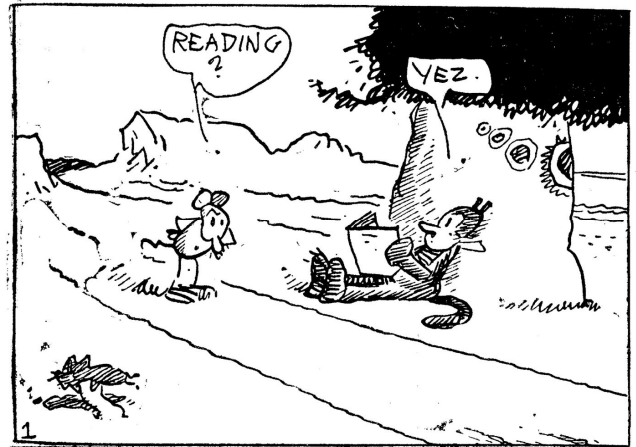
Pastor Vicki

YE OLDE BOOK ROOM

Although the Old Book Room remains shuttered, it hasn't stopped KRAZY KAT from reading—and I hope it hasn't stopped you, either. Perhaps you've never heard of this comic strip, considered by many (including me) to be the greatest of them all. Created by George Herriman, "Krazy Kat" ran from 1913 to 1944. It first appeared in the *New York Evening Journal* and had no greater supporter than its legendary publisher, William Randolph Hearst. Set in the ever-morphing, dreamlike location of Coconino County, AZ, "Krazy Kat" was a mixture of surrealism, playfulness, and idiosyncratic language that has fascinated fans ever since Ignatz Mouse first beated Krazy with a brick to the noggin, which invariably resulted in him being jailed by the local canine lawman, Offisa Pupp (who carried a torch for Krazy) only to have Ignatz escape and repeat the assault (which Krazy interpreted as a sign of affection) again and again. Imbedded in this odd love triangle is the issue of Krazy's gender, which was deliberately unclear. Herriman would switch the Kat's pronouns constantly, sometimes in the same sentence, leaving readers to ponder the significance. When asked directly about it, Krazy identified as "me."

It wasn't long before this seemingly simple yet incredibly complex comic strip was being recognized, as art critic Gilbert Seldes said in 1924, as "the most amusing and fantastic and satisfactory work of art in America today." The list of devotees is long and impressive: poet e. e. cummings, painter Philip Guston, authors Jack Kerouac, P. G. Wodehouse, and Jay Cantor, R.E.M. frontman Michael Stipe, and filmmakers Frank Capra and Quentin Tarantino, who had Samuel L. Jackson wear a Krazy Kat t-shirt in "Pulp Fiction." Cartoonists influenced by the strip are legion, including Jules Feiffer, Bill (Calvin & Hobbes) Watterson, Patrick (Mutts) McDonnell, Charles (Peanuts) Schulz and many more.

Beyond the strip itself was the issue of Herriman's race. In a time when trying to pass as white could get a person of color fired, Herriman, who was from a mixed-race family of Louisiana Creoles, managed to cleverly obfuscate this fact his entire career. For a detailed look at this incredible man, his internationally acclaimed strip and more, I recommend the 2016 book, *KRAZY - George Herriman, A Life in Black and White* by Michael Tisserand. It's as satisfying as a brick to the back of the head. —Michael Gallagher



Chromebooks at the Jerome Library

Beginning September 14, Chromebooks will be available for checkout from the Jerome Library.

A Chromebook is a smaller version of a laptop. They will be available for use inside the library or outside on the porch and must be returned by library closing time.

A special computer lab area has been set up inside the library for Chromebook users and with social distance guidelines in mind. Masks will be required, and Chromebooks will be sanitized after each use. A library card will be required for Chromebook checkout, and printing will be limited.

The wifi network is accessible indoors and outside the library, so you can still bring your own laptop or other device and connect to the Library Network. No password is required. Library Staff will be available to answer questions and check out.

Indoor public restrooms will remain closed; a Nice Jon and handwashing station have been set up in the Civic Center parking lot especially for library guests.

Holds from the Yavapai Library Network continue to be available. You can place your hold from your home computer, as usual, or ask library staff to place holds for you. Phone numbers to reach the library are 928-639-0574 or 928-451-1881.

The book stack areas of the library will remain closed until further notice. We appreciate your patience as we work through this difficult time.

Librarian Kathleen Jarvis

JEROME HUMANE SOCIETY

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back

Unless you've lived in Jerome since the 1980s or '90s, you might not know that the Jerome Humane Society was originally established to help with hundreds of feral cats that roamed the town, many sick with feline leukemia. We know firsthand that feral cat overpopulation means an existence of deprivation, injury, illness, and hardship for these beautiful creatures, and it makes life around Jerome more difficult for humans and other species as well.

It took 10 years of painstaking work to get that original feral problem under control and since then, active management programs have kept wild cat colonies from reestablishing in Jerome. **Recently, though, groups of feral cats are making an alarming return in some areas of town.** As this article is being written, the Jerome Humane Society is beginning its fourth week of intensive work to manage a large and growing colony of cats living between 89A and Holly Street. So far, we've trapped twenty-four (24) cats and kittens, with many more to go.

We at JHS are committed to the care of our community's animals, and this development is deeply frustrating for our team, and an enormous strain on our resources. After being trapped, each of the dozens of cats we catch must be neutered or spayed, vaccinated, medicated as needed, housed and cared for during their recovery, in some cases fostered, socialized, and rehomed, or released. It's also an incredibly time-consuming effort for our volunteers who would rather be doing almost anything else than trapping scared, wild cats in the dead of night.

We're working diligently to make sure our town doesn't regress back to the time when suffering cats roamed the streets, but our first and most important line of defense is YOU. To be successful, we need your help, your awareness, your communication, your good judgment and your partnership.

Please hear our plea ... if you notice even one feral or unknown stray cat in your yard or neighborhood, just simply let us know. A quick phone call, a text, a picture, or a Facebook post can save significant pain and suffering (and we're not just talking about the cats!). Working together is the only way we can solve this crisis, so if you see something, say something.

We thank you in advance for doing your part to ensure that ALL cats in Jerome—feral, stray, wild, domestic, indoor, outdoor—are well cared for in their respective environment, and able to live healthy, pain-free, happy lives.

JEROME HUMANE SOCIETY CLINIC HOURS: THURSDAYS 11am to 5pm
For appointments, call 928-235-5960 ☎ Clinic phone: 928-634-6166

THE JEROME BOOK 12th Edition

March 2020

A somewhat accurate list of Jerome residents and businesses.
Compliments of La Victoria Studio



It's a tome, I tell ya ...

The 12th edition of the Jerome Book (a somewhat accurate contact list of Jerome residents and businesses) is still available!

If you are a Jerome resident or business owner and would like a copy, you can get one at Town Hall—but call first! Town Hall is still closed until further notice, but you can set up a time to swing by and get one at the door. The number is 928-634-7943.

A small donation is appreciated.

So far the Jerome Book has raised \$400 for our library. Thanks for your contributions!

(And thanks to La Victoria Studio for the pro bono publishing! :)



Town of Jerome
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