



POINT OF VIEW

JEROME'S NEWSLETTER

September-October 2021

A Note from "Dr. Mayor" Jack Dillenberg ...

As we approach a new month and seasonal change, a lot is happening in and for Jerome. Your Town Council has been meeting and reviewing public and consultation suggestions on how to address our sewer and water rate structure. There will be more discussions—open to the public—prior to any action being taken. We are committed to having a fair and effective utility rate structure that meets our community needs, for both commercial and residential users. Please read Councilmember Jane Moore's article about this very topic in this edition of the newsletter.

I'm excited that the Chamber of Commerce is meeting regularly once again, with new leadership and new members. They are discussing some neat opportunities to benefit businesses while promoting our special community!

I encourage you to please attend our Council meetings and make your thoughts known, whether in person or remotely. We want to hear from you! Because of the latest information on the Delta variant, we are taking all safety precautions at town hall and may hold meetings via Zoom if necessary. Please check with town staff for the latest information.

Happy Fall to all!

All the best,
Mayor Jack



Scheduled Meeting Dates for September, October, and November 2021

Town Hall is currently open, but masks and social distancing are required.

Meetings may be held in person or online via Zoom. More info at the town website.

Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 14 at 7pm

Planning & Zoning

Wednesday, September 15 at 6pm

Design Review Board

Tuesday, September 7 at 6pm

Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 12 at 7pm

Planning & Zoning

Wednesday, October 20 at 6pm

Design Review Board

Monday, October 4 at 6pm

Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 9 at 7pm

Planning & Zoning

Wednesday, November 17 at 6pm

Design Review Board

Monday, November 1 at 6pm

A Final, Fond Farewell to the JHS Flea Market

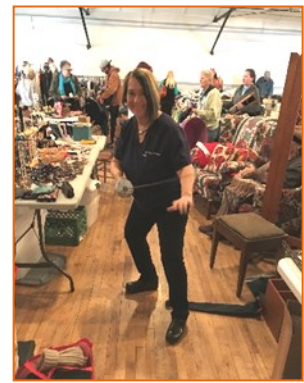
(That means no more stuff, please!)



Over the past several weeks the JHS team has been clearing out flea market storage areas and packing up remaining supplies, equipment, and leftover items to take to the valley for donation. With this last load-out complete, the retirement of the JHS flea market is official!

We know that ending such a beloved tradition is poignant. In fact, so adored were these epic sales that some community members are in denial and continue to leave piles of “stuff for the flea market” at the clinic and Town Hall. We appreciate the gesture, but we no longer need (and really, really don’t want!) any more items left at our door. Please take donations to another worthy organization such as the Mission, Habitat for Humanity, or Goodwill, to name a few.

Feeling blue about the flea market? Shake it off and come find shopping comfort at our blockbuster brunch and auction on Sunday, October 17! Save the date and stay tuned for more information coming soon about our fun flagship fundraiser. Until then, be safe and give your furry family members a scratch, pat, and kiss from your pals at JHS. We’ll see you soon!



From the Jerome Chamber of Commerce

Greetings, Jeromees,

Our newly elected Chamber board is working hard to engage some of you to join. Some of the benefits are utilizing our Visitor’s Center, the Chamber map, website, events, advertising, and other opportunities! Please go to jeromechamber.com and click on the “Join” tab for more details.

- ⇒ We recently voted to start First Saturday again on **October 2 from 5 to 8pm**. We are committing a considerable amount of time and expense for this renamed event, "**Roam in Jerome.**" It's more than an art walk and will include all member businesses that would like to participate on the first Saturday of each month. We are primarily targeting visitors at high-end locations looking for something unique. We already have a nice list of committed businesses and expect that we will have great participation. We would love for you to join and help with the fun!
- ⇒ We are also gearing up for our traditional "**Light up the Mountain**" event on Saturday, November 27. Santa and Mrs. Claus are definitely *Coming to Town!* More details to follow.
- ⇒ Last year we signed up for a program to help save our members **a lot** of money (on their printing needs primarily) at Office Max/Office Depot. We would like to share with all Jeromees (not just members). Type either into your computer: <https://jeromechamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/JeromeChamberSPC.pdf> to get your in-store laminated card, or <https://community.officedepot.com/GPOHome?id=38070806> for portal online registration.

Please know, we are not advertising for anyone, just trying to help everyone save money!

Our new board is settling in and we have decided to continue our monthly meetings on the second Thursday at Vino Zona! The next meeting is Thursday, September 9 at 5:30pm (upstairs outdoor gazebo or inside street level, if weather is not cooperating).

We would love to see or hear from you. Please email info@jeromechamber.com with any suggestions, questions, or if you would like to sign up for helping us decorate for Light up the Mountain in November.

Nancy Crosby, President - Jerome Chamber of Commerce



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

Jerome Fire Department Picnic/Firewise Community Day on Thursday, September 30

It's time once again for our annual Town of Jerome Fire Department's Picnic and Firewise Community Day. We are looking forward to seeing as many of our townsfolk as possible at this gathering on Thursday, September 30, at the fire station from 5 to 7pm. This is also a great time to thank our volunteer firefighters for all their hard work throughout the year and a wonderful time to talk with your neighbors while enjoying a great meal cooked by firefighters! **THIS IS NOT A POTLUCK THIS YEAR. Please do not bring any side dishes.** The Jerome FD Auxiliary will provide all the goodies, including hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, water, soda, and other tasty treats. Personnel will be our servers, and to help prevent exposure to COVID-19, they will also wear gloves and masks. The event will take place in the bay of the fire station with plenty of ventilation and room for social distancing. **Everyone is welcome!**

The 46th Annual Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary Halloween Dance

Saturday, October 30 marks the 46th year that the Jerome FD Auxiliary has hosted the Halloween Dance and fundraiser. The Naughty Bits will play, the costume contest will be on, and lots of fun will be had. Doors will open at 8:00, and the music will play from 9:00PM till 1:00AM. Please remember that this is an all-cash event, and please drink responsibly (this event is for those 21 and older). Due to the COVID-19 resurgence (please get vaccinated so we can end this), it is likely that the dance will be at the basketball courts near the sliding jail, a decision that should be made by mid-September. We will keep you posted. This annual dance is our largest fundraising event for the year and typically accounts for 60 to 70 percent of our discretionary spending funds.

Jerome is a Firewise USA Community

We are marking our sixth year as a nationally recognized Firewise Community. If you would like us to do a Firewise evaluation of your home, just give us a call. And if you have fuel remediation needs and are unable to do the work yourself, give us a call and we will do what we can to assist you to make your home more fire safe.

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 fire and emergency medical services don't interest you but you would still like to help out, the Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary always welcomes new members. Come join us!! Thank you for your continued support.

Rusty Blair, Fire Chief, JVFD

TIME FOR A NEW TOWN PHOTO. Gather at the steps before the JFD picnic ... TIME TBD!

Michael Thompson has been coaxed into taking an updated town photo on September 30, sometime before the JFD picnic. The last time was 2017! Watch for more details at the post office bulletin board, town hall, and on Facebook. The specific time all depends on the sun, says Mr. Thompson, so please be on time if you want to participate. Let's hope the covid situation has mellowed out by then. Tell your neighbors and be there with bells on! Thanks for being willing to herd the Jeroman cats, Michael!



Blessings from Haven,

As a pastor I have some knowledge of grief and the many ways it expresses itself. Even so, I recently joined a small group, on Zoom, to share my grief. I needed to experience that I wasn't alone. I wanted to hear another person confirm it was alright for me to feel heartbreaking grief. What a relief it was to spend an hour once a week sharing and hearing ways to lighten the load. Each of us had different reasons for joining, but Covid was a common stressor for us all.

Life has been challenging for most people because of the virus. We are all seeking relief and restoration to the way life used to be. On top of that, many of us have been grieving the loss of loved ones, our health, relationships, finances, jobs ... the list goes on.

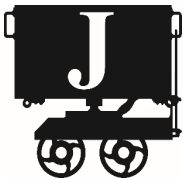
I share all this to encourage anyone who is grieving or feeling depressed to reach out to someone you trust and share your heart. Perhaps a friend, a support group, physician, or pastor. People need people, which has been part of our difficulties. Start a conversation and I believe you too will discover you are not alone! That in itself will give you hope.

You may even realize there is a need to start a new group here in Jerome. If I can be of any help in listening, or if you need prayer for your situation, please feel free to call me at 928-713-1991 or email me at viclennl@yahoo.com.

Peace to you all,

Pastor Vicki

Jerome Historical Society



SOMETHING NEW!

Your Jerome Historical Society has something exciting up our sleeve that we hope you will find interesting and worthwhile.

Working with the good folks out at Gold King Mine, we're trying to put together a fun weekend of family entertainment and historical education at that unique location. We're calling it **Jerome Mining Days** and our goal is to put on a variety of scenes, demonstrations, and stories presenting a living history of the Mining Days in Jerome and the surrounding region (Clarkdale, etc.), along with possibly having music, other family activities, and maybe even food vendors. This event is currently in the planning stages so things may change as we move forward, but we have high hopes of making this event a reality.

In the meantime, we do have some dates for you to mark on your calendars: Saturday–Sunday, October 23–24, 11am to 5pm each day.

Please keep your eye on the Jerome Historical Society Facebook page for further updates and information on entry fees once we get things established. We're also in the market for some "unpaid volunteers" to make this event happen. Opportunities include storywriters,

actors and story presenters, guides, ticket sellers/takers, guest services, etc. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Don Feher at

feher.sailing@gmail.com

or leave us a message at the JHS Office @ 928-634-1066.

Mining is our History.

The JHS feels that it should be celebrated and honored.

You can join the Jerome Historical Society or renew your membership by visiting our website at

www.jeromehistoricalsociety.com or stop by the Mine Museum at 200 Main Street (open 9am–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 *Chronicle* Newsletter
- One Free Hour of Research

On behalf of the Jerome Historical Society Board of Directors,

Steve Pontious, President



From Councilmember Jane Moore: Let's talk about water rates

The fairness of water rates in town has been a topic of discussion for the past few years. The method Jerome has used for as long as I can remember has been a flat rate based on the type of account and the size of business or household. No one had expressed a problem with it until several years ago when a few people had issues with the seeming unfairness of this method, including town staff who were familiar with the rates and what folks were paying, and who had to tactfully ask how many people occupied a home.

The council has been looking into billing by usage rather than by flat rates and has brought in a firm who advises communities on establishing a rate structure to cover repair and maintenance, as well as save for needed improvements. Yes, other communities still use the flat rate system, but as water becomes a more precious resource every day, the town needs to be sure its methods are equitable while covering costs. This has been a difficult process in our unique town, and we want all our residents and business community to be aware that we are currently discussing this and would welcome input!

We are unusual in that our water comes from springs in a gravity-fed system rather than pumping it from an aquifer, so different issues surround our supply and delivery. If we are not using more than the springs' supply, we are sustainable, nor are we depleting an aquifer by pumping more than is replenished. Currently the council is considering a change in rate structure, starting with the commercial and out-of-town water hook-ups and may add residential accounts down the road. The minimum volume base charge being considered is for 8,000 gallons, then for each 1,000 gallons used, a graduated charge will be added to the flat rate, which will encourage conservation.



Our sewer rates are tied to water rates, and much of the water used certain times of year in residential areas is used for outdoor gardens and landscape rather than going into the sewer system. We have all seen the old photos of the mining days when the town was barren of vegetation and had endless problems with land subsidence and mudslides. We see the value of maintaining vegetation to hold soils in place, and we will be considering this issue as we move forward. The Jerome community needs to remember that our water system is also our fire suppression system and was originally built to fight the many fires that threatened the town in the past! We still have this threat to our historic town and have had fires in a few of our buildings that still lack sprinkler systems, so it is very important to all of us and historic preservation that we continue to maintain and improve our water system.

There is a lot to consider, and we hope you'll weigh in! The first public hearing to discuss our water rate structure will be at the September council meeting on Tuesday, September 14. We hope you'll join in the discussion or consider sending your input via email to town staff or a councilmember.

Thank you!

Arizona Reading Program:

Build a Home Library 2021 for Jerome Kids

The Jerome Library is participating in the Build a Home Library reading program to increase access to books in the homes of young children 0 to 12 years of age. We wish to educate families on the importance of **building a home library to build literacy in the home.**

Library staff are creating a special basket of books for each participating child. The book baskets will then be hand delivered to your home. **These books are yours to keep.**

To sign up, please e-mail jeromelibrary.jarvis@gmail.com or call the library at 928-639-0574.

We will need your child’s first name, age, and home street address. Books can be picked up at the library if preferred.

This project is supported by the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State, with federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Kathleen Jarvis, Librarian

THE OLDE BOOK ROOM

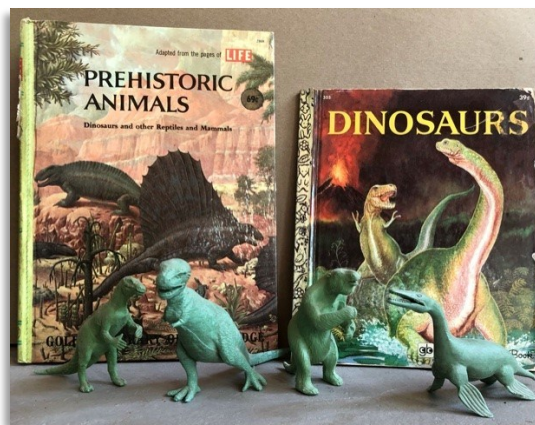
I recently made the remark that sitting (alone as usual) in the Old Book Room makes me feel like a dinosaur. Since starting there in 2017, I've come to realize that the “attraction” of coming to see what we have to offer is akin to operating a store that sells rotary telephones. My/our ongoing efforts to encourage visitors to see historic Jerome ephemera, Katie Lee’s personal library, a chess board, pop culture, Native American and vintage items of interest, etc., have fallen on, if not deaf, uninterested ears. And I get it. Just about everything we have is available online or can be delivered in a couple of days by Amazon or eBay. It all makes sense—including the image of myself as a Gallasaurus.

When I was a kid, like so many others, I was completely obsessed with dinosaurs. I read all the books and articles I could find, memorized their names and relative sizes, and played with the toys endlessly. As you can see in the recent photo, some of those treasures have survived to this day. Of course, I incessantly pleaded with my parents until they took me to see the iconic skeletons at the Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Dinosaurs also inspired me to create my first homemade comic book called “Super Neanderthal,” which featured a super-powered caveman who anachronistically floated through various ancient eras and looked a lot like the characters in Johnny Hart’s comic strip, *B.C.*, which was another major influence on me along with (to a lesser degree) *The Flintstones*. Luckily for all of us, Super Neanderthal met his demise long ago in a cellar flood. Over the years, dinosaurs continued to fascinate me in any and all forms, especially movies; from Ray Harryhausen’s *The Valley of Gwangi* to Steven Spielberg’s *Jurassic Park*. And who can ever forget King Kong battling the T-Rex while Fay Wray screamed her head off?

So, if you find yourself on the third floor of Jerome Town Hall on a Wednesday afternoon and hear a series of reptilian growls, come on in to the Old Book Room. You’ll find me looking out the window, anxiously scanning the sky for the approaching meteor.

—Michael Gallagher



**TOWN HALL
WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6**



Town of Jerome
P.O. Box 335
Jerome, AZ 86331

PRST STD
US POSTAGE PAID
MAILED FROM 86331
PERMIT NO. 5

BOXHOLDER