



# POINT OF VIEW

## JEROME'S NEWSLETTER

January-February 2022

Dear Jeromans,

After a difficult year in so many ways, we enter a new year with the hope and opportunity to harmonize the quality of life for our residents with the demands of increased tourism in our famous little town.

Because of increased tourism, our economic success during the pandemic has been a positive surprise to all of us. Plainly speaking, the impact of COVID-19 has been bad *and* good. I am glad the town was able to provide free vaccines and boosters for those who wanted them. There are still issues to be managed as we move forward, and all of us can play a positive role to get past them.

Our Town Council continues to work diligently to preserve our unique historic nature while supporting activities to repair damaged streets and infrastructure. It's a complicated maze of scheduling and prioritizing, but we have not lost sight of these needed improvements.

Best wishes for a happy, safe, healthy, and productive 2022.

*Mayor Jack*

### IN MEMORIAM

We honor all those who have passed in these recent and extraordinary times. Peace to all.

“You will lose someone you can't live without, and your heart will be badly broken, and the bad news is that you never completely get over the loss of your beloved. But this is also the good news. They live forever in your broken heart that doesn't seal back up. And you come through. It's like having a broken leg that never heals perfectly; that still hurts when the weather gets cold, but you learn to dance with the limp.” *—Anne Lamott*

### Scheduled Meeting Dates for January, February, and March 2022

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.*

**Design Review Board**  
Monday, January 3 at 6pm

**Design Review Board**  
Monday, February 7 at 6pm

**Design Review Board**  
Monday, March 7 at 6pm

**Regular Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, January 11 at 7pm

**Regular Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, February 15 at 7pm

**Regular Council Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm

**Planning & Zoning**  
Wednesday, January 19 at 6pm

**Planning & Zoning**  
Wednesday, February 16 at 6pm

**Planning & Zoning**  
Wednesday, March 16 at 6pm

## A Fistful of Fine Gleanings from 2021: in No Particular Order



**Biggest thrill:** Resuming our World-Famous Auction and Brunch in 2021 after a time-out for Covid in 2020.

**Sweat equity community service:** Our continuing effort to control Jerome’s feral cat colony.



**Best mass adoption:** Five Yorkie dogs rescued from a rough life were treated, “fixed,” and adopted to loving members of our community.

**Nicest Facebook surprise:** Our friends sharing their special day through FB birthday donation posts.

**Best local partnership:** Our pals at Olsen’s continue to support us through the Holiday Pet Photos (thank you, Nick and Deb Hunseder), the Rounding-up program, Olsen’s Bucks, and lots of pet food donations for our Food Bank.

**Best international partnership:** Our FB friendship with our sister agency, the Vieques Humane Society. They’re on a tiny island off Puerto Rico and we’re in a tiny mountain town in Arizona. We were able to send them our dental machine and pulse oxymeter. We purchased new machines thanks to your donations!

**Miraculous rescue:** Found matted and injured in Clarkdale, tiny Eloise was snatched up, groomed, and found a lifelong home.



**Most generous JHS board member:** We’re forever grateful for Margaret Hinrichsen, who selflessly steps up to the plate when funds are needed.

**Coollest client rendering by a local artist:** “Alvie” by Mimi Doggett Romberger (Alvie drawing) Alvie’s mom died on the mountain and he was adopted by Cameron Sinclair and Bethany Halbreich. Fun note: Alvie was crowned King of the 2021 Auction!



**Sweetest poop patrollers:** Marla Quillard and her darling granddaughter, Lily. As always, we thank all our supporters and friends in Jerome and beyond.

Blessings from Haven,

Haven has been blessed by so many givers in 2021, especially givers of their time and physical help to keep the food ministry going. Offerings of food, funds, clothing, love, and prayers have kept us flourishing. Haven and the recipients of your good efforts can’t thank you enough. We hear great appreciation every week. Well done, friends.

In the new year, our hope is to make a better way to move supplies from the street level up to the food pantry. If you have ideas to offer, please speak with Ann Rees.

As the temperatures drop, please remember we have a nice selection of warm and cozy clothing in our Haven Clothing Boutique! The best part is that everything is free to a good home! Stop by and check it out on Wednesdays, 9am to noon. Just a quick reminder: As you are trying to find places for your new presents from Santa, we gratefully accept gently used, clean clothing and household items.

With great hope, we wish you all the blessings of a safe and healthy New Year.

*Pastor Vicki, Ann Rees, and the Haven team*



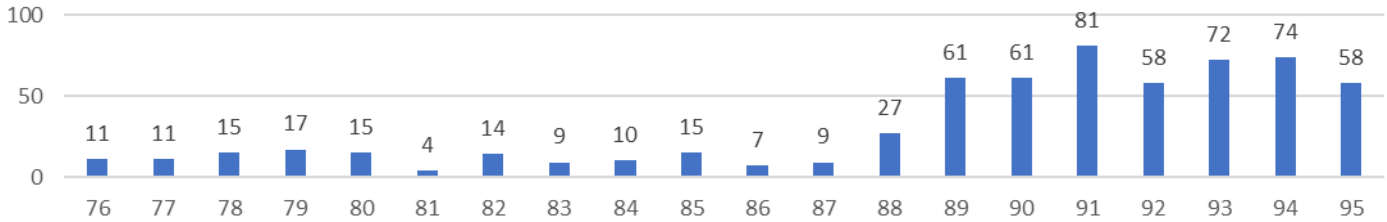
**JEROME FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
 P.O. BOX 1025 \* JEROME AZ 86331  
 (928) 649-3034 [blair@jeromefire.us](mailto:blair@jeromefire.us)

**Jerome Fire Department would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year!**

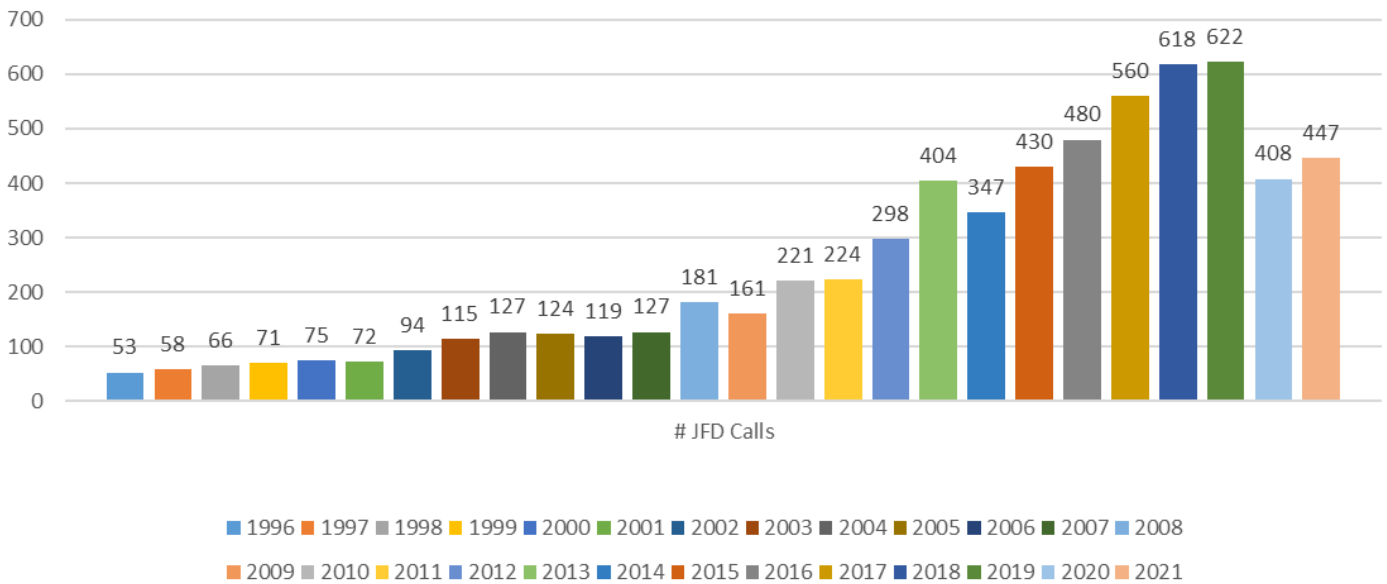
Jerome Fire Department reached 447 calls in 2021 and about 80 other events such as meetings, trainings, rope rescue trainings, and work sessions. Jerome Fire Department has progressively become busier each year, demanding more and more from its personnel. However, the call volume was down from previous years due to COVID-19. Some of these calls can be very stressful and dangerous for personnel, more so these past two years with the chance of exposure to the virus. I would like to take this time to thank all of the Jerome Fire Department's personnel, who have taken the time out of their lives to go to college for EMT, firefighter certifications, and those who attended various other trainings so they can help you on your worst day.

I would also like to thank all those who show up to our regular trainings and those who respond to calls day or night, 24/7.

**1976 - 1995 JFD Call Volume**



**1996 - 2021 JFD Call Volume (12-31-21)**



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### **Fuel Abatement Team**

Jerome Fire has been maintaining a three-man fuel abatement team who have reduced fuel loads throughout Jerome. They have made great progress. In its fifth year, this program has been funded by Yavapai County, State Forestry, Town of Jerome, and Wildland earnings from sending our brush truck out to fires around Arizona and California, which netted \$75,000 this year.

Jerome Fire would like to thank all the residents who have participated in fuel reduction on their properties. This makes it easier to protect your homes and our personnel in the event of a fire. Please do not throw your unwanted fuels onto someone else's property—we have the burn pile available to residents at UVX Road and Beale Street. If you need assistance with fuel removal or access to the burn pile, please contact Jerome Fire Department at 928-649-3034.



### **Annual Fire Extinguisher Service**

The Jerome Fire Department in conjunction with Life & Property Safety are once again offering an inexpensive option for your annual fire extinguisher service. For a nominal fee of \$4.25 per fire extinguisher, a business or Jerome resident can have their fire extinguisher serviced. The service will be offered at the Jerome Fire Department on Wednesday, February 9 and Thursday February 10, 2022, 8 am until 5 pm. Take advantage of this generous service and know your fire extinguisher is in working order.

### **Public Service & Public Works Contact Numbers**

If you have a water or sewer leak, please contact Jerome Public Works at 928-634-7943.

If you have a traffic-related event, please call the Jerome Police Department at 928-634-8992.

For all other matters, contact us at the Jerome Fire Department: 928-649-3034.

### **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*

### **AREA CODE 928 PHONE NUMBERS TRANSITIONING TO 10-DIGIT DIALING**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as the three-digit number to call the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline starting July 16, 2022.

For 988 to work in the 928, 480, 520 area codes, 10-digit local dialing is required.

According to the FCC, as of October 2021, you should be dialing 10 digits for local calls. If you attempt to make a local call without the 928 area code, you may get a recording letting you know the call cannot be completed.

If you've got equipment programmed with just the seven-digit number (e.g., autodial, contact info on your cell phone, alarm systems, etc.), you may want to update that information too.

The crisis lifeline will remain accessible at 1-800-273-TALK (8255), in addition to 988. More information can be found at [www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/ten-digit-dialing](http://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/ten-digit-dialing).



## Jerome Utilities—New in 2022

By Kristen Muenz, Customer Service & Utilities

On November 9, 2021, Council adopted and approved Resolution 628, which established certain changes to our utility billing rates as of January 1, 2022. I am looking forward excitedly to the changes, and I wanted to share what is changing and who will be affected.

### **What rates are changing?**

Water and sewer rates for commercial accounts are the only rates changing at this time.

### **How are the rates changing?**

Previously, commercial accounts were billed based on occupancy, similarly to residential accounts. The new rates will be based on water/sewer usage. So, the amount of water that a business uses in a month will determine their monthly charges.

### **Who will be affected?**

Only commercial accountholders will have a rate change. This includes retail businesses, galleries, restaurants, hotels, and multi-use buildings with one or more of any of these. It will also include buildings used for residential purposes with four or more individual units.

### **Who will not be affected?**

Residential accountholders will not experience a rate change at this time. This includes single-family homes and multifamily buildings with three or fewer individual units. Businesses with trash-only accounts will not be affected either.

### **How are the charges calculated?**

The new commercial rates have a base usage of 12,000 gallons per month. All commercial accounts will receive the base charge of \$58 for the first 12,000 gallons of water and \$72 for the first 12,000 gallons for sewer. If a business uses 12,000 gallons or less per month, they will ONLY receive these base charges for water/sewer. If a business uses more than 12,000 gallons, they will receive an additional charge for every 1,000 gallons above the base. The additional charge is \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons for water and \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons for sewer. TRASH RATES ARE NOT CHANGING.

### **Is there anything else we should know?**

If you have an automatic payment set up with your financial institution, you may want to discontinue this or make changes soon. The new rates take effect in January, and the first billing statement showing new charges will be mailed in February.

This will be a big change for the Town and the members of our community, and we may encounter a few surprises along the way. As always, I can be reached at Town Hall for any issues. We thank you all for your patience and continued support.

## Greetings from the Chamber

Happy New Year, everyone. Here's to a safe and prosperous one!

The Chamber is busy planning the year's activities, including a town dinner in the spring to make up for our usual holiday town dinner we regretfully had to cancel.

Light up the Mountain was a wonderful event! Thanks to all the volunteers and Chamber members who made it so, and special thanks to the JFD and JHS for helping decorate the park!

We had a great crowd for the viewing of the ceremony. Santa and Ms. Claus greeted children next to the Turquoise Spider, and LaToBo entertained the passersby. The Mingus Jazz/Rock Bands and Choir played music and sang Christmas carols all afternoon in Upper Park. The streets were lined with luminarias, and the town businesses decorated the buildings beautifully.

And the winners of the Holiday Lights Contest were ... Jim Ariola of East Avenue and his 7-year-old neighbor and helper, Benham Nargessi, pictured left, who won the \$100.00 prize for Best Residential, and the Surgeon's House B&B and her pretty pink lights for Best Commercial. Thank you, Andrea, for donating your \$100 winnings to the Haven food bank.

Best Wishes to All!

*Nancy Crosby, President  
Jerome Chamber of Commerce*



## Coming Soon from the Jerome Library: Our Town through the Eyes of Anne Bassett

Happy New Year to everyone from the Jerome Library staff!

We are currently working on an exhibit of Anne Bassett prints that depict over 60 Jerome buildings from the 1980s and 90s in amazing detail. Much of Anne's work is known for being historically accurate.

The prints are a gift to the library from the estate of Anne Bassett. The framing is taking some time but swing on by to see what we've displayed so far. All of Anne's prints will be on exhibit in March.



## Considering a run for Jerome Town Council?

**Candidate packets available at Town Hall.**

**More information on the town website:**

**[www.jerome.az.gov](http://www.jerome.az.gov)**

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