

POINT OF VIEW

JEROME'S NEWSLETTER

January—February 2025

Home Sweet Jerome:
from the Mayor's Desk

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to my fellow Jeromies and a hearty welcome to 2025! 2024 was a challenging year, and brought plenty of changes to Jerome. Myself and my fellow sitting council members were reelected in 2024, and took our Oaths of Office issued by Jerome Town Magistrate Angela Bradshaw Napper at the meeting of November 12th, 2024. I am so honored to be able to continue to serve the town that I live in and love, so thank you to all of our voters for taking part.

Police Chief Allen Muma announced his official retirement from Jerome P.D. for the end of December, 2024. Council appointed Acting Chief/Lieutenant Russell San Felice as his replacement, and he took the Oath of Office at the meeting on December 10th, 2024.



A retirement party was held for Chief Muma at the Fire Station on December 5th, 2024 which was well attended by council members, staff, members of Clarkdale & Cottonwood Fire and Police Departments, and members of the community. Allen Muma will be missed, but we wish him every success at his new venture in Michigan. Congratulations to new Police Chief San Felice, and thank you to all of the staff of the Town of Jerome for your continued commitment to our community!

Acting Chief San Felice takes the Oath of Office and has his badge pinned by Mrs. San Felice



Retiring Chief Muma is presented a commemorative plaque by Fire Chief Russell Blair

Scheduled Meeting Dates for January to March 2025*

All of the regularly scheduled meetings will take place on Tuesdays; Council on the 2nd, P&Z on the 3rd, & DRB on the 4th.

Special Council Budget Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 14th at 6:30 pm

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 14th at 7pm

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 11th at 7 pm

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 11th at 7 pm

Planning & Zoning
Tuesday, Jan 21st. at 6pm

Planning & Zoning
Tuesday, Feb. 18th at 6 pm

Planning & Zoning
Tuesday, March 18th at 6 pm

Design Review Board
Tuesday, Jan. 28th at 6pm

Design Review Board
Tuesday, Feb. 25th at 6 pm

Design Review Board
Tuesday, March 25th at 6 pm

* Dates may be subject to date/time change due to holidays

Jerome Humane Needs Your Help

Thirty-two years ago the Jerome Humane Society (JHS) was established to address the many sick and injured cats roaming our small town. Through the years we prevailed over the initial problem, hired Veterinarian Virginia Kennaway and created a first-rate pet clinic. We are proud to be an essential element of the Town of Jerome, offering exceptional care to your pets.

Recently, due to a feral cat colony that has been allowed to flourish, our resources have become strained. This not only erodes our finances and energy, but it also significantly affects our ability to provide care to our clients. Dr. Kennaway serves our community with office visits on Thursdays and surgery on Fridays. When the schedule is overrun by the necessity to treat feral cats, we cannot take care of YOUR pets in a timely manner. Since feral cats have no owners to help with their medical bills, our budget is significantly impacted with every litter. Our medical supplies become depleted. Our team of volunteers become exhausted and demoralized by the unending supply of feral cats. Our foster parents become swamped and burned out. Good adoptive homes become scarce.

We need to get ahead of this burgeoning problem. How can you help?

- Join our trap/neuter/release (TNR) team headed by Lori Riley @916-220-6674.
- Report any feral cats you observe to the TNR team.
- Agree to monitor traps in your area.
- Since feral kittens are taught to be fierce from birth, step up to be a foster parent to help socialize them so they can be adopted into loving indoor homes.
- Consider adopting socialized kittens into your home.
- And since our funds are constantly being eroded by the needs of feral cats and kittens, please donate and support us when you can.

Thank you, Jerome!

If you have one of Jerome Humane's traps or carriers please return them. You can leave them at the JHS door.

Feral cats do not "live free" and they rarely die of old age. Their lifespan ranges from 2-5 years compared to 13-15 years for domestic cats. They are subjected to myriad infectious diseases such as feline aids, leukemia, conjunctivitis, peritonitis, upper respiratory infections and many more - which may be passed on to your outdoor pets. They are hit by cars, poisoned, and killed by coyotes, foxes and most recently, **mountain lions**.

Feral cats have a high reproduction rate, with a female cat capable of producing 2-3 litters per year, each containing 2-6 kittens, and reaching sexual maturity as early as 5 months old, meaning a single pair of breeding cats can produce a large number of offspring within a short period if left unchecked; under ideal conditions, a pair of breeding cats can produce over **400,000 offspring in seven years**.



Threat to wildlife: Feral cats and outdoor cats are a significant threat to local wildlife, killing billions of birds, reptiles, and small mammals each year. In the United States, free-ranging cats are estimated to kill between **1.3 and 3.7 billion birds** and 6.3 to 22.3 billion mammals annually. Feral cat colonies also draw predators to the area, putting pets and humans at risk.



Join us on February 13 at 6 pm for our Annual Meeting and Potluck in the Nellie Bly Party Room. This year we'll feature a Safari Slide Show narrated by our vet, Virginia Kennaway!

Blessings from Haven,

A new year has brought to our minds a review of the past year. Remembering the joys, the people, and the events of the world. I am not one to make resolutions as I know that sets me up for quick failure! However, in my weaknesses, I do seek ways to improve with each new day.

It is a good practice to evaluate the past and use that knowledge to improve the future. It is also good to remember the people who have been a part of the joy to the world. It often surprises us when we hear an end-of-the-year report in news media of the many people we have forgotten. People, we are thankful for making our lives and others' lives better even without knowing one another personally.

We have had many people this year working generously on others' behalf. Without even knowing one another, we are enjoying the fruit of their labor at the food pantry each Wednesday. Some of them you may know, however, there are many more volunteers from town and the surrounding areas who help get the food to us at Haven. We also have generous givers who provide funds for ongoing needs.

2024 has been good to us because of all of YOU! Let us go into 2025 knowing we have done well together to make the world a better place and will continue in 2025 to do even better. Thank you for being part of a much-needed place to come and be loved.

**Happy New Year to everyone,
Pastor Vicki Lerdahl**



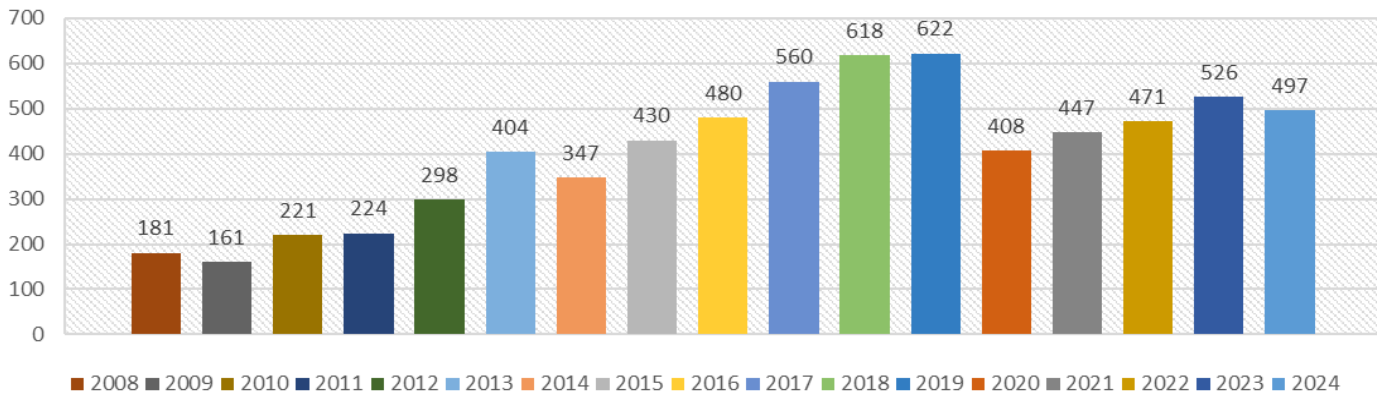
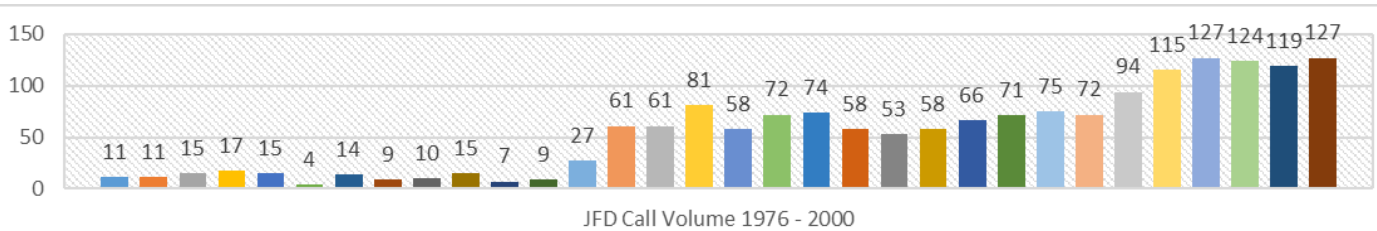
JEROME FIRE DEPARTMENT
 P.O. BOX 1025 * JEROME AZ 86331
 (928) 649-3034 blair@jeromefire.us

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

We have come to the end of another year with Jerome Fire Department reaching 497 calls as of December 31, 2024, and about 88 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. Some of these calls can be very stressful and dangerous for personnel. We would like to take this time to thank all 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 other trainings such as Rope Rescue, Wildland and many more trainings, so they can help people on their worst day. We would also like to thank all those who show up for our regular training and those who respond to calls day or night 24/7.

December 2024 Calls

Call Volume from 1976 to 2024



In addition, Jerome Fire has been maintaining a 2-man fuel abatement team, reducing fuel loads throughout the town of Jerome. This program is vital, and we have made great progress. This program has been funded thanks to grants provided by Yavapai County Firewise, Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, Town of Jerome, and wildland money earned by sending our wildland crew out. This has enabled the town to be reimbursed \$68,000 in wages and the wildland truck itself, netting over \$55,000 in the first half of our fiscal wildland fire year.

Jerome Fire would like to thank all the residents who have also participated in fuel reduction on their properties, this helps us maintain the town's national recognition of being a Firewise community. The Jerome Fire Department offers free Firewise home assessments to all residents, this assessment will provide you with the necessary information to help us protect your home and our personnel in the event of a fire, as well as giving your home owners insurance a better assessment of your homes fire resistance.

Please remember not to throw your unwanted fuel onto someone else's property, we have the burn pile available to residents on UVX Rd. and Beale Street. If you need assistance with fuel removal, or access to the burn pile, please contact Jerome Fire Department at 649-3034.

If you are or know of anyone interested in becoming a firefighter please contact us, we are always in need of volunteers. We offer a lot of in-house training as well as assistance with many other educational opportunities.

Firewise Activities



Please remember that if need assistance with Firewise activities you must fill out a Firewise application and submit it to the Fire Department before work can be approved. Applications can be obtained at Town Hall or the Fire Department.

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 EMS don't interest you, but you would still like to help your fire department, 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**

Annual Fire Extinguisher Service



The Jerome Fire Department in conjunction with Life & Property Safety are again offering an inexpensive option for your annual fire extinguisher service. For a nominal fee of \$5.00 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 February 5th and 6th 2025 beginning at 9am until 5 pm.

For the businesses around town, just know that you need to now bring your fire extinguishers up to the fire station to receive the 5 dollars per extinguisher price. Otherwise, if the company must come to you there will be an additional cost per fire extinguisher.

Water Line Inventory



No Lead



Fellow Jeromies, as you may, or may not, be aware the state of Arizona is conducting a water line inventory. Unfortunately, because of that inventory we were required to send out notices to residents and business/building owners which has caused some alarm.

First things first, there is **NO** lead in our water.

All Arizona communities were tasked with submitting a complete inventory of all water service lines, and Jerome, as small and mighty as we may be, was no exception. For phase 1 of inventory our Public Works crew were tasked with obtaining data for the Town owned portion of all water lines while also completing their normal weekly water route duties. That information was cataloged and compared to historical records, and once completed was submitted to the state on October 16th of this year. Phase 2 of the inventory is obtaining the material type for all water lines on the customers' side of the water meter; this is the water line that leaves the meter and enters your home or business, usually near your hot water tank. Some of you have only 1 meter while some of you have many meters and received many letters. Part of this phase included sending notification to any water user that had 'unknown' lines. What that means is that the Town doesn't know what lines leave the meter and enter your homes and businesses. Maybe it's always been copper or maybe you had a complete plumbing overhaul and it's been upgraded to something else, and that's what we need to know. The last page of the letter many of you received is an inventory form and we need your help by filling out that page and returning it to Town Hall using whatever means are most convenient. You can mail it back to us, drop it off in the payment drop box, or at the utility window, or even scan and email it back if you prefer.

Rest assured, of the many responses we've already received so far, there have been no discovery of any lead lines in any homes or businesses serviced by the Town. If you are unsure of how to complete your inventory form feel free to call Town Hall and someone can assist you via telephone or even make arrangements for a "house-call."

We hope with the completion of our Inventory that it will be a one time project and we won't have to do it again in the near future, but please note that if you do not complete and return your inventory page you may receive similar notices of "unknown" lines either annually or as otherwise required of us by the State of Arizona.

Michele Sharif,
Accounting Clerk & Admin Specialist, Town of Jerome



JEROME HISTORICAL SOCIETY GHOST WALK



The Jerome Historical Society wants to wish everyone a very happy & prosperous New Year. We also want to give a special thanks to all our citizens who volunteer their time and efforts to keep our town running smoothly, as well as those who step forward to make our yearly events a success. This community outreach allowed the Historical Society to bring back one of our most popular events- Ghost Walk. It was sold out! Many thanks to all for your efforts and creativity!

If you are a member of the Historical Society, you know we are in the process of voting in a new board. We will be able to announce the board members who will move the Society

forward for the next two years in the next town newsletter.

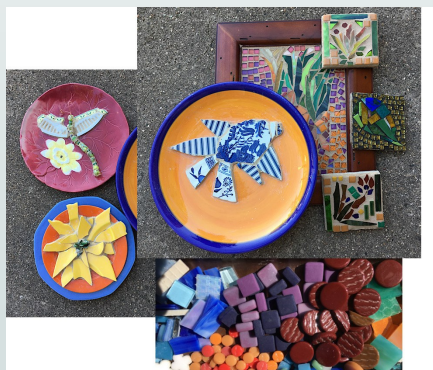
Like many of us, you often go to town to pick up your mail and return back home. If so, you may not have seen our latest exhibit in the Spook Hall window on "Mules & Mining." It talks about how important animals were in the early days of mining, and the care given to the mules who worked along side the miners underground. The exhibit features several photos from our archives. Enjoy!

www.jeromehistoricalsociety.com

Jerome Library Community Art Workshops

If you can't make it to one of our scheduled workshops, how about a private one!! You set the time and we will try to make it happen. We are currently offering classes in:

- Mosaic,
- Felting,
- Ornaments,
- Felted Gloves & Hats with Arizona Alpaca,



- Japanese Marbling,
- Broom Craft,
- and - Bookbinding.

If you are interested in private instruction, let us know! Stop by the Library or call 928-639-0574

Jerome Chamber of Commerce

Happy Holidays Everyone!

It's been an amazing year celebrating Jerome's 125th birthday! Thanks to everyone who came to the Jerome traditions of Light up the Mountain and the Christmas Potluck! We have quite a few new volunteers and a lot of good energy in our community! A big thank you to Traci and The Copper Canyon Christmas store for our new 12' Christmas tree and to all of the volunteers and sponsors who have made this year awesome! All the best to you and yours!

Ginger Mackenzie
President of the Jerome Chamber of Commerce ~



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day 2025
Wednesday, January 1st
(Town Hall closed)

***Martin Luther King Day also Inauguration Day**
Monday, January 20th
(Town Hall closed)

Groundhog Day
Sunday, February 2nd

Valentine's Day
Friday, February 14th

***President's Day**
Monday, February 17th
(Town Hall closed)

Note: for National Holidays falling on a MONDAY (asterisks), Cardboard, Dumpsters & trash on Main street will be collected that day. All other trash on the regular Monday route will be picked up on Tuesday.

Town of Jerome Shuttle's trips to Cottonwood, a service for Jerome locals to provide transportation for the purposes of shopping, banking, and more, runs every Wednesday at 9 A.M. and a 2nd run at 1 P.M. by appointment. Meet the Shuttle at Town Hall, 600 Clark Street, or call ahead to make arrangements at: **928-821-0133**

Public Service & Public Works

Please remember if you have a water or sewer leak, contact **Public Works: 928-634-7943**

or if you have a traffic related event, please call **Jerome PD at: 928-634-8992**

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

Jerome Chamber of Commerce
Special Event celebrating local businesses



Join us every **FIRST SATURDAY** of the Month from 5 to 8 PM

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

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