

Our City

I was standing in the Golf Club House this afternoon with our Pro Denny Howell watching a few of my students tee off from number one. They knew I was watching which probably made it worse. I am sure they are very good otherwise, after all they are great kids. The threesome and following foursome struggled though and required a few mulligans to get a respectable shot down the fairway. Watching them reminded me of the letter I had waiting on my desk Wednesday afternoon from a local Lady's Association member who was rethinking her season pass after reading my column last week where I had announced that we were expecting about 20-25 tournaments this season. Which in retrospect I can't blame her. I was less than accurate in my presentation of the tournament count as it included a number of events that really aren't tournaments and don't prevent others from playing. So like the young golfers I was watching today I need a mulligan.

After a more careful look at the golf season's calendar that is booked thus far Denny determined that there would be seven private tournaments four of which will last two days, there will be four Men's and Women's League events, two Pro-Ams and two High School tournaments. According to Denny most of these events should only tie up the course for a half a day. Some events may be a bit longer depending on the number of folks playing. So, Linda please accept my humble apology, I am glad you purchased the season pass; weather providing you should be able to make great use of it.

Also last Wednesday prior to the City Council meeting the Council met before hand to review the Strategic Plan that we had developed a year ago. Although we only made it through two of the seven goals it was satisfying to see that we had made progress in our plan. Under goal one there is an objective to support healthy lifestyles within our community. One of the initiatives associated with this objective is the better utilization of the Community Garden. For the past four years there have been four to five families who choose to make use of the free garden space. There is room for ten more. As spring draws near please keep in mind that the garden is there for your use. If you would like help growing and maintaining it I can also provide students to help you plant, weed, water and harvest your plot. The work would do them good too. My folks taught me early on the value of manual labor and hard work, they told me it built character.

Increased recreational activities were also addressed under goals one and two. The community has made some tremendous strides in this regard through several improvements at Willow Bay to the soon to be new basketball courts at Lee Street Park, the progress made on the Ferry Hollow Trail and the very successful Birding Festivals. Thank you Ed Vining and the William's Company for your \$2500 donation to the new courts. One of the items that the entire Council seems to be excited about is the idea of a splash park in South City Park. Council members Love, Jensen and Hofmeister are championing the splash park and are in the process of looking for funding sources. In meeting with the folks from the Bureau of Reclamation on Tuesday of last week some real possibilities loom for other recreational improvements at Willow Bay which could include an 18 hole disc golf course and a new driving range for traditional golfers. The new boat docks should be here in a matter of days and ready to install in a few weeks. Shane Lott, S and J Electric, is making good progress on the new 50 amp services in the north camp ground at Willow Bay as we make ready for an early boating and camping season.

Council members Workman and Jensen will be working over the course of the summer and fall to establish and build a canoe launch for a water trail through the Willow Bay Coves. They will also be using the old docks to build birding stations along the existing trail system at Willow Bay. If you haven't yet you really need to check out the new menu and salad bar at the Bay Café, enjoy.

Council members Hammond, Pankratz and I will be working with superintendents Pete Cortez, Dusty Whited and Clerk Robyn Herndon to come up with a plan tied to the County's Circuit Breaker program that will hopefully allow the City to provide a bit lower fee structure for those who qualify. Along that same line I know several of our citizens had grown accustomed to using the Pocatello Rural Transit for travel to and from Pocatello. With the closure of the Aberdeen Simplot facility those PRT services have been reduced substantially. However, the service is available by reservation. If you are in need of transportation to Pocatello and back call 232-0111 for help or go on line at <http://pocatellotransit.com/Portals/1/Documents/Door-to-Door/Power-County.pdf>.

As Morgan Hatt completed his review of the 2014 audit I was both pleased and proud of the awesome people we have working for the City of American Falls. In a small town like ours the things we have been able to accomplish don't just happen. They happen because good people work day in and day out to insure they happen, all the while doing so with your very best interest heart. Please, I am not talking about the seven of us you elected, no I am referring to those women and men who work day in and day out to make your life just a bit better. All the City employees have my unwavering gratitude. To Robyn, Teri, Debbie and Pat I don't know how you do it but your efforts to keep the millions of dollars that have come in and gone out accounted for to the penny is remarkable. No mulligan needed. You are all freaking awesome!

Until next week...