

## Our City

A special thanks to Mark Scherer, Karl Kozain, and Dale Mounce, along with Building and Street Superintendent Jeff Nelson, for going the extra mile to help Bill Meadows, owner of Mountain States Oilseed, and Mark Chipps of AMS get ready for Governor Otter's visit last week. Mark, Karl, Dale, and Jeff helped both businesses in their preparations for the Governor's visit. Governor Otter was visiting the businesses last week as a precursor to helping each expand their market share internationally. At Mountain States Oilseed the Street Department helped Bill Meadows finish a street paving project on Elevator Street; while their contribution at AMS consisted of cleaning up after winter storms to make the street and business front more presentable. Neither project was especially huge; but the projects did test the effectiveness and responsiveness of the recently reorganized department. I believe both Meadows and Chipps would agree with me that the Street Department met all expectations. Great job gentlemen!

Also meeting expectations in his new role, Jeremy Peirsol has been working with the City's Attorney to get the memorandums of understanding drafted with the County Highway Department, the Idaho Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Reclamation so construction can begin on the emergency access to Willow Bay. Jeremy is also working through some grants to provide for more improvements at Willow Bay and historical signage at the site of the Silver Horseshoe Park. This Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., the Silver Horseshoe Park will be dedicated with all the folks that have made this project possible. The dedication will be followed that night at 8:30 p.m. with a short lighting ceremony of the historic sign. Please plan to attend one or both and tell the folks responsible for the success of this project that you appreciate their efforts on our behalf, as I certainly do.

Jeremy will be taking a more active role in the Ferry Hollow Trail as well. His grant writing and communications skills will be at work as we begin to make this long-awaited plan a reality. Because of scheduling conflicts, the Trail committee meeting that was scheduled last week has been rescheduled for 4:00 p.m. this Thursday at City Hall. With a bit more figurative ground work, the real thing should begin in the not-too-distant future.

In the immediate future we will see Superintendent Pete Cortez with a smile on his face and a spring in his step as the new Waste Water Operations building is set to be finished in the next week or so. The maintenance shop is due to be complete later this summer. I admire Pete for several reasons, not the least of which is his steadfastness and resolve to do the very best he can for the City. His efforts on all the water and waste water projects over the past eight years have been outstanding; and I know I have said similar things in the past. But it bears mentioning again because his efforts at the new Waste Water Treatment Plant over the past four years have been remarkable to me. To be sure the extended hours, stress from worry and financial wranglings have taken a toll on Pete; but through it all he has remained positive in his endeavors to make this long term investment the very best that it can possibly be. Pete doesn't know it yet, but a small thank you will appear at the new plant sometime between now and when it is entirely complete. I won't tell you or him what it is but he will think it is too cool. Thanks Pete, you are indeed one of the reasons American Falls is the best place to live!

Until next week...