

## A Wonderful Place to Call Home

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the Mayor's column this week. During the past week I participated in the Northwest Community Development Institute. People from all around the state attended and shared challenges they have with their aging infrastructure.

I was pleased to be able to share our recent successes here in American Falls. Our infrastructure improvements have us poised for growth. With the upgrades to our Sunbeam water line, our new water storage tank, and the recent completion of our new wastewater treatment plant, we have implemented important projects other communities struggle to complete.

Of course the revitalization of our downtown has drawn compliments from people near and far, and we are experiencing growth with the location of a new dental practice there. I believe we will continue to see the fruits of our labors as more people are drawn to the downtown.

We have a small population, yet we are able to accomplish great things. I was especially proud to be from American Falls this past week.

The projects I mentioned above were the result of many people, but at this time I would like to thank our City Clerk, Robyn Herndon. I serve as the councilwoman over the Administration Department where Robyn works. Thanks to her diligent efforts all of our projects have been successful. She has a job which isn't highly visible, but it is very important and complex. The meticulous records she keeps and the expertise she has to keep everything organized have been a great benefit to our city, and have allowed us to be fiscally sound.

She also has a talented team working with her, Deb Erickson, Teri Miller, and Pat Nelson. They all work together well and I appreciate their efforts.

After attending the training I also reflected on the other aspects of our community which set us apart from others and make me happy to call American Falls home.

Another important part of a communities' infrastructure is the availability of health care services. I would like to thank Dr. Williams and his wife Maralyn for their dedication to providing excellent health care for our community. I also want to thank Pam, Dr. William's nurse. I asked Dr. Williams during a visit a few years ago when he was planning to retire. He told me he would keep working for a while as his kids were still in college. I told him that he couldn't retire until my kids were raised. Since my last just left the nest I want to rescind that permission. He can retire when I do, how about that? Kudos to him for his dedication to the people in our community. He really cares, and when he does retire he will be missed.

As a councilwoman I am grateful for the efforts of all of the city employees, they are dedicated to serving our community. It is easy to see that they do more than complete work for our city residents, they care about them. I am grateful to live in such a wonderful community, one I can be proud of and also happy to return home to.

Written by Kristen Jensen