

Our City

I don't often get direct feedback on these ramblings, other than a few folks here and there tell me they read the column. However, last week I did. Some were in person; others were electronic. I share the following with you not to pat myself on the back. Although I share a lot of personal things in this column it is never intended to be about me, rather what I perceive as the collective "we" and how I can encourage you to help "we." To be thankful for what "we" have and somehow help to make "we" better.

"Marc I just read your article in the Power County Press "Let Us Choose To Respect Everyone". Thank you for what you said and how you said it. I thought it was an exceptional article.

I also have been able to know "Feet" thru Ron Ellis. A couple of years ago he spoke to a small grower group in Teton, Idaho. This was the first time I'd met him. Later that day I was able to golf with him. Yes golfing with "Feet" - what an experience as he cheerfully went around the course that day and inspired us all. His first time golfing since his accident in 2008. What an enjoyable experience. I've been with him on a few occasions since. I was able to eat dinner at Ron's house with him and other friends the night before the assembly. He spoke to us that evening about similar things, very passionate and direct in his remarks.

Then Ron shared with me the events that took place at the school assembly and how well Feet addressed respect and how the way we treat others was a good way to show respect to a Vet. It made me proud and helped me to be more resolute in my approach to others.

Then this morning I read your article. Very well put. I just want to thank you for your great words of advice."

The other comment I will share was from the girl that was told to get the "F" out of the country. Her words were simple, direct and delivered with a smile, "Thank you Mr. Beitia."

What we say to one another matters. How we treat our fellow man matters. Whether or not we choose to respect everyone matters. How we choose to show thanks matters.

A few weeks ago I was contacted by Commander Miguel Dominic, another Iraq war veteran. He contacted me to see if American Falls would be willing to become a Purple Heart Community. While wounded in Iraq by an Improvised Explosive Device, Commander Dominic continues to serve in the Army National Guard and heads the Scenic Idaho Chapter of The Military Order of the Purple Heart. Without pause the City Council voted last Wednesday to become a Purple Heart Community. I will deliver the Proclamation at the December 2nd meeting of the American Falls City Council when the meeting convenes at 7:00 pm.

If you or someone you know is a veteran I would humbly ask that you attend the ceremony. If you choose not to attend, I respect that decision and understand it.

Another comment that I received a month or so ago was that a reader enjoyed my column although she didn't always agree with what I said; she liked knowing what was happening in the City. At the time I said I understood her sentiments, and I still do, I realize fully that I often editorialize sharing my views and perspectives when all you really want to know is what is

happening in our City. I sympathize with her sentiments and realize she is not alone in them, but I will continue to share my thoughts on matters related to our community because they provide the foundation upon which much of what I do is based.

In the Street Department this past week our plow trucks were outfitted and filled with salt and sand. Repairs are being done to four street lights that have issues with their photocells while some warranty work was completed on the Silver Horseshoe sign. Christmas decorations and lights are being put out in preparation for the season and the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Festival on December 5th. Superintendents Piersol and Nelson continued to learn about our streets as they attended a Roadway Materials Course in Pocatello last week; both are also continuing to complete their CDL drivers license qualification so that they can better assist all departments in operation of large trucks.

We recently received the results of our Sanitary Survey completed by the Department of Environmental Quality for our drinking water supply. The report was favorable but will require that we address a few "deficiencies." The deficiencies do not affect the quality of your drinking water; rather most deal with equipment backups and redundancies within our wells. Superintendent Cortez and I are meeting to discuss how to best attend to those equipment needs. The waste water crew continues to flush and camera our sewer lines; identifying trouble spots as they go. Our monthly Total Coliform sampling results were negative (that's a good thing) and our upstream sampling above the Waste Water Treatment Plant verified the extremely clean water entering the river from the plant; cleaner in fact than what flows down past it. Service and maintenance projects remain routine at the Plant while a few minor modifications are taking place.

At last Wednesday's Council meeting it was decided to discontinue the Adult Open Gyms for basketball as they conflict with the lack of gym space required by the youth programs and their regular practices. Adult volleyball will still be offered twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Soon you find that the Willow Bay restrooms will be locked and accessible only to campers with the appropriate key code. The Council took this action after Chris Fehringer reported the abuse the restroom are taking by people not staying at the campground.

Recently Candice Reynolds discontinued her lease of the Willow Bay facilities; currently we are working on getting the bid packets ready to go out by the end of the first week in December. The Council approved that prospective concessionaires may bid to operate just the café, or just the camp ground and boat docks or they may choose to bid both which has been the tradition. Bids must be received at City Hall by January 22, 2016. The facilities will be available to see by appointment no later than December 7.

"December 7, 1941, a day that will live in infamy," Franklin Delano Roosevelt. December 7, 1941, like November 11, 1918 Armistice Day, now Veteran's Day, are hallmarks of this great nation. As we celebrate Thanksgiving this Thursday I would ask that you consider what you are thankful for and the efforts made by others that may have made your thanks possible. For me, beyond our service men and women, my family and friends, I am continually thankful to our City employees who choose to provide each of us with the very best of services and who choose daily to make American Falls the very best place to live. Happy Thanksgiving!

Until next week...