

Our City

Although it is two weeks away I remain in hopes of a white Christmas. Not just because I think a snow covered landscape is beautiful in the most pure way, but also because I very much enjoy the pursuit of Hungarian Partridge across the same landscape and even more so the firm tug on the terminus of my fly line and leader as the snow bears down around me. For me there is something very primal about being out “in it” as I search for birds of a particular feather or the red banded silver sides of the area’s wild fish. Understand that it is not the killing or catching that does it for me; no it’s the closeness I feel to what truly matters. God, The Great Spirit, Gaia, Allah, Buddha or as one of my friends calls it, G.U.S. (Goddess-Universe-Source), finds me when I am at my calmest on the inside and everything around me is raging. Weird, I know.

Last week I asked you to give the gift of love to someone you normally would not. I know that this time of year can be for some spiritually, emotionally, and financially draining. It used to be that way for me. Used to be. What changed? I did or I should say being able to find my inner peace changed me. Years ago I discovered that being out “in it” brings peace and love quietly to me. It fills me with a renewed sense of purpose and love for what I do each day. Whatever this Holiday season brings you I hope through whatever method works for you that you find peace and love for yourself. May you be blessed with true peace and love that your spirit may be lifted; that you find joy in each new day and that each day brings a renewed love of purpose.

The last storm we had brought with it a week of unpleasantness most of which had nothing to do with the weather. I was unable to get out “in it” and that was part of the problem. Sources indicate that tomorrow and Monday are supposed to be particularly nasty. As I get ready for a down and back trip to Salt Lake to see my daughter Suzanne I hope the back portion beats the storm that is coming and that I can get out “in it” tomorrow.

The first snow of the water year came on Thanksgiving; which was a holiday for most of us, but our City Street crew worked the majority of the morning trying to make the streets in town passable. The same crew spent much of the next week cleaning up the aftermath in preparation for the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Festival. I heard several compliments from citizens about the street crew’s efforts and appreciate those very much. Yet, there were folks who were less than pleased with snow removal on some streets and intersections. I will tell you those same streets and intersections do not go unnoticed by the City; however, we have to be able to get to them to plow them and personal vehicles parked along the street make snow removal very difficult. I know too that many have no choice as to where they park and in those situations if we can work cooperatively it will make thing easier for not only the private property owner but our Street crew as well.

Over the years I have learned during major snow storms that if I shovel my drive way to the right as I face the street or at least not out into the street it makes less work when the plow comes by and fills in my drive way because there is less snow in the street. For those who use a four-wheeler or snow blower I would ask you, PLEASE don’t plow or blow your snow into the street. It makes snow removal from the street much more difficult than it needs to be. For those of us with sidewalks the snow should go on the parking strip or yard. Again, please not

in the street. I received several calls last winter about driveways getting plowed in, mine does too, but I do what I can beforehand to minimize the work required to clear it once it happens. A little forethought and work on my part seems to help in the long run.

To the property owners along Teton I apologize for the amount of blowing trash and tumble weeds that end up in your yards like what happened last Thursday. As I told one homeowner who called, I will be speaking to those who own property to the south and west of town to see if they can do a better job of weed control during the summer and fall. Again, it is a matter of thinking ahead a bit and while tumble weeds on a piece of property outside of town may seem trivial to the property owner, please note that they eventually end up in your neighbor's yard. I would simply ask that you be considerate of that circumstance and be a good neighbor.

On a less nagging note I will tell you that dog tags remain on sale at half price through this month of December. If you are a dog owner take advantage of the cost savings. I plan to.

The bid packets are available for the restaurant and campground at Willow Bay. If you or someone you know is interested in leasing either or both, please stop by or call City Hall and we will provide you with a bid packet. Bids are due to City Hall on January 22, 2016. The City Council will award the bid at the February 3rd meeting. In the meantime if you have an interest please stop by and speak with Superintendent Jeremy Peirsol or Clerk Robyn Herndon to arrange a walkthrough and closer look at the inventory and facilities.

As I look forward to fishing tomorrow in 20 mile per hour winds, sleet, and snow I may well be by myself, but I won't be alone. The long-range weather forecast indicates it will be a white Christmas, my favorite kind. Given what's coming weather wise roads everywhere are likely to be troublesome regardless of individual, City, County and State efforts. In the days prior to Christmas if you are traveling, please do so safely. My trusty helpers and I will be out "in it" tomorrow night admiring your efforts to bring light and love to our community. I am excited!

Until next week...