

Our City

All are part of the whole. It was a thought passing through my mind yesterday as Sally and I were headed north near the Montana border on our way to Moscow / Pullman and KodyLaggis' wedding, when my phone rang. As you will read in Preston Crompton's report on the City Council meeting last week, discussions and motions were made in regards to operations at Willow Bay Café and Campground. Some things have changed, at least as to the Café as a result of the phone call I received. Following the Council meeting Thursday morning, Golf Pro Denny Howell, Grounds Superintendent Cody Moldenhauer, Clerk Robyn Herndon, Councilperson Hoffmeister and I were in a meeting in the golf clubhouse discussing how to make golf more inclusive and enjoyable for non-traditional folks. It was that conversation that may incentivize campers at Willow Bay to hit the links as they stay with us. I was mulling that meeting over as Tamby Gilley's name popped up on my caller ID.

You may remember that a new solar project is being constructed east of town off Ramsey Road. It was the construction crew wanting to stay at Willow Bay that prompted Tamby to call me. If you read the Press regularly you also might remember the Council allowed a slightly reduced rate to be charged to the five long-term campers working for Idaho Power on projects around American Falls. The crew building the solar project was requesting the same rate. I approved their request based on the Council's previous action. According to my conversation with Tamby, the solar crew would also be bringing in a food truck. I didn't take exception to that possibility because the Café would be closed as of September 6th. What I didn't anticipate was the call I received shortly after my conversation with Tamby from Scott Ploussard, the proprietor and chef at Willow Bay Café.

Apparently after his conversation with Tamby, the solar project's foreman talked to Scott and has contracted him to feed his crew for the duration of their stay with us. As such, Scott's doors will remain open and great food will be available at present hours, 6 am. to 9 pm. daily, into October at least. To those of you who are inclined, Scott also received his beer and wine license and those beverages will be available now at Willow Bay Café.

So how does Willow Bay tie into the golf course? It never has. As a result of the meeting last Thursday morning we hope to change that. I will place on the City Council agenda for September 7th an item to consider offering half price golf for anyone staying at Willow Bay Campground. I have also asked Tamby to contact the Idaho Power and solar project folks and extend the invitation for them to enjoy our course. Also on the agenda will be a considered motion to put season golf passes on sale for half price for the duration of this season.

As those of us at the golf meeting discussed how to make the course more inviting, two other ideas surfaced and will be implemented next spring pending Council's approval. Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30 to noon will be family days and times. If approved, families (children accompanied by adult(s)) will golf for free on those days and times. Also a youth league will be started to encourage kids to pick up the game. The suggested cost of a youth pass will be \$60 for those who sign-up for the Youth League. The Youth League will begin after the State High School Tournament on subsequent Tuesdays through the start of school in August. The league will include a golf lesson from Denny beginning each Tuesday morning, those league members who golf three of the four weeks each month will have their names entered into a

drawing for prizes such as a variety of clubs and other essential accessories. The league will be non-competitive and designed to be educational and fun.

The other idea that surfaced from the golf meeting was that of a Couples' Night to be offered on Fridays. Again this is a non-competitive offering where couples who sign up and participate regularly will have their names entered into a drawing for a "date-night package" each month. Ideas for the package included dinner for two and tickets to a popular concert at the Portnuef Wellness Center, dinner for two and movie tickets, dinner for two and passes to the hot pools in Lava. Those packages are just ideas that were tossed around and certainly subject to modification. Sally and I may take up golf just as a way to do something together on Friday nights that doesn't take us to Pocatello. A nice walk around the course followed by Friday Night Steak Night at Willow Bay Café sounds like a pretty good way to spend a Friday night, to us at least. As the drive to Moscow progressed, I continued to think about how things could further be developed in regards to prompting local activities. More will follow once they get a footing someplace beyond my head.

Not long after Scott's call was completed I received a call from George Udy. Palacios Mexican Grill, his neighboring business at Petrol's, is in the process of building a new roof to replace the existing flat roof. If the flat roof was replaced with a double pitched roof, much of the winter snow and heavy rains would have ended up at the base of Petrol's foundation and in its air conditioning unit. After I hung up with George I contacted the City Building Administrator Jeff Nelson, who had previously been contacted by George as well, to see what could be done to resolve the potential issue. Jeff was already ahead of me and in the process of contacting Mario Palacios. He already had the situation well in hand with a meeting scheduled with George and Mario and a solution to the potential problem. My purpose for telling you this is that none of us are infallible and in Jeff's defense, he is doing the very best that he can with the few hours a day he has to fulfill his building administration duties. Further, in the FY2017 budget year Jeff will be spending 4.5 hours per day in his administrative duties rather than the two he currently has. As of October 1st Jeff will be available from 8:00 am. to noon daily; if his services are needed at other times, appointments may be scheduled. In the afternoon Jeff will be working with the Street Department as his extensive knowledge of the City Planning and Zoning ordinances and associated information has proven to be valuable to that department.

Those of you who have been about downtown this past week probably saw Jeff and Abel Aguilar placing the "No Parking" signs. My thanks to the businesses and citizens who have willingly complied with the posting of the signs. Likewise, thanks to the RV owners who have begun complying with the parking restriction imposed on those units longer than 21 feet. It is not at all surprising to me how well things can work when everyone has the greater good in mind; whether it is two neighbors figuring out how to make things work or businesses and citizens doing what they can to make the services provided by the City more efficient, or even those of us at the City figuring out how we can make better use of our resources. Certainly, all are part of the whole and the whole works better when all help.

Until next week...