

City of Glenns Ferry

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MAYOR
Monty White

CITY COUNCIL
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September 28, 2020

Dear Citizens of Glenns Ferry,

Before I get to the updates on city projects, I wanted to take a little time to thank Mr. Payne for his well-written article in the September 15th edition of the Times and Seasons. Mr. Payne hit a grand slam home run in that short article, and I hope it is the catalyst for us all to treat each other with a little more respect. Thank you, David, for the reminder.



The last few days have seen COVID-19 come a little closer to our homes with the confirmation of new cases in the school. The school administrators are taking fast action to control the spread and any city resources that they need are at their disposal.

City Hall has had a possible exposure and we are taking actions to stop the spread. I immediately made the council aware that we did have a possible exposure and I will hold a special meeting if I deem it necessary. A complete cleaning and disinfection of the entire City Hall building and the City Library was accomplished on Saturday the 26th and Sunday 27th.

The City Library will be changing some operational hours and services. Please contact them for the details. The library board has met and are taking appropriate action to protect employees as well as our citizens. I hope everyone will show a little extra patience while doing business at the City Library and at City Hall. I do not plan on closing City Hall or reducing hours. I ask everyone to practice social distancing, wear a mask if you can, wash your hands often and stay home if you feel ill, and above all do not react without advised by a health care professional.

I am not asking anyone to give up anything. I am asking that we all treat each other with a little more compassion and to take proactive measures where we can. If someone is wearing a mask or if one of the businesses ask you to wear a mask please show them courtesy and wear a mask if you can. On the other hand, be aware that not all citizens can wear a mask safely and show them the respect you would want. We can all work together to get through this latest upturn in COVID cases here in Glenns Ferry.

I have received calls about what, if anything, the city will be doing to make sure Halloween and children trick or treating are safe. With the unrest we are seeing in larger cities across the country I was asked if we needed to discourage house to house trick or treating or other large gatherings as well as the wearing of costumes. Currently, my position is to have the parents and organizers of any gatherings decide if they want their children out on Halloween and to take precautions to make sure their children are in a safe area or venue. I do not see the mayor or city council issuing any restrictions on how people celebrate Halloween, but I would again encourage wearing face masks, practicing social distancing, and sanitizing and washing hands often. I am asking every citizen to watch out for each other and alert the Elmore County Sheriff's Office if we observe any criminal activity. I will contact the sheriff and ask for any advise that he may have for us to make Halloween a safe event here in town.

This is a busy time for all Glenns Ferry Citizens. Harvest is on and it is always a pleasant site to see the trucks rolling in with wheat, onions, potatoes, and many other crops on board. We truly are the land of plenty, and we should be thankful for all the farms and ranches that produce this bounty.

The city crew is finishing up at the airport, which I understand is ready for final grading and paving. We have overcome some obstacles that could not be anticipated and are now moving forward to complete the project. The city engineer has predicted the 15th of October for the pavement to be done and ready for use.

I have asked the city engineer to give us a design and cost estimate for a new water line and loop to the airport. I look forward to getting that project underway.

I will be asking the council to allow me to develop a wastewater, and an irrigation master plan for the city. On exploring grant opportunities, we have found that the first question asked is, "Where is the master plan" and "What are the estimated costs"? I hope at our October 13th council meeting the council will approve my proposal seeking engineering bids to develop a master plan. I would like to have a shovel ready plan by mid fiscal year 2020/21. We could then start developing and applying for grants to complete the project.

I wish all of you a safe harvest season. Sammy and I wish each of you the best.

Sincerely,

Monty R. White
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