

FERRON CITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2013

PLEASE REMEMBER, NO OUTSIDE WATERING BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 A.M. AND 6:00 P.M.
PLEASE HELP US PASS THE WORD TO EVERYONE!

FERRON NEEDS YOU

We are looking for members of this community to join CERT, Community Emergency Response Team.

CERT members are able to

- ❖ Assist emergency service personnel when requested.
- ❖ Assume some of the same functions as emergency services personnel.

CERT members can be as young as 18 and as old as you feel. Men or women.

CERT members are a valuable asset in emergency response in the period immediately after a disaster when response resources are overwhelmed or delayed.

Ferron is now seeking volunteers to start another CERT course. If you are interested, please contact City Hall at #384-2350.

Do you want to be a part of the problem or be a part of the solution?

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Council meeting will be held on June 13th and 27th. Planning Commission meeting will be held on June 4th. Both meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. If you have anything for the agenda, please contact City Hall no later than four days before the scheduled meeting.

NEXT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

There will be a public hearing held on June 13th at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to discuss the budget for the 2013/14 fiscal year.

DO YOU LIKE TO WATER FLOWERS?

If so, we need volunteers to water the flowers that the City has planted on Main Street and State Street. If you can help, please call 384-2350. Or talk to Council Member Abby Jensen.

2013 CITY ELECTIONS

- There is two four year term City Council position or seat and a four year City Mayor possession up this year. There will be election packets available at City Hall if you are interested in running for one of these seats.
- Filing dates are from June 3rd to 7th during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You will need to appear in person before the City Recorder, Adele, to sign a declaration of candidacy.

LIBRARY CORNER

Summer story hour will be on Thursdays at 11 a.m. June 7th, 14th, 21st & 27th. Dig Into Reading is the theme.

On Tuesday, June 11th we will be making Father's Day cards at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call 384-2637 for more information or come into the library to sign up.

WATER SOFTENER UPDATE

The water softener committee has found that we have around 100 softeners in Ferron. Fewer than 20% of those are working. The committee is working with the CVSSD to see if there is a reason for the problem.

They have found that a couple of resin cleaners may help you if your softener is not working. One is a Sears brand resin cleaner and the other one is called Res-up. If you have questions or need help, please call Kendal Yost.

CEMETERY THANK YOU

We would like to thank Jean Morlan and her helpers for the good job they do at the cemetery. It is looking great. If you haven't been there lately, you need to go check out the new section that is beginning to take shape!

WATERING SCHEDULING

Please watch for any changes to the watering schedules posted in the post office and City Hall.

With moderate to severe water shortages in the towns and cities of Emery County, there is a need to help municipalities and citizens manage and conserve water. With that in mind, I'm passing along some Extension resources that might be helpful.

First, the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) has a web page designed to help communities deal with drought. It can be found at: <http://eden.lsu.edu/Topics/Hazards/Drought/Pages/default.aspx>

Utah's "Slow the Flow" water conservation website can be found at: <http://www.slowtheflow.org/>

Second, I'm offering my assistance to cities, individuals and groups who are looking for assistance in conserving and managing water. This might include making presentations on water conservation, helping cities develop guidelines and information to help citizens save water, and locating appropriate water conservation information and resources. I've been through several droughts as an Extension Agent and as a City Councilman over water, so I have some experience in hands-on water conservation.

There are three basic ways to save water. They are:

1. Fix leaks. This includes dripping taps, toilets that run constantly, faulty valves, broken pipes, damaged or malfunctioning sprinklers, etc. Fixing leaks results in automatic water savings.
2. Install water saving devices. These include such things as low-flow toilets and showerheads, drip irrigation systems, etc. Water saving devices doesn't automatically save water; they simply make it harder to waste water. For example, if a person installed a low-flow showerhead and then stood in the shower until the water heater was drained, they wouldn't save any water. However, they would get a much longer shower than if they had a traditional shower head.
3. Improve management. This is generally the most economical water conservation tool, and simply requires better water management (and measurement) and a change of habit. The old saying, "You can't manage what you don't measure" applies here. Better management includes such things as not using the toilet as a garbage can, using appropriate water settings for washing machines and dishwashers, shorter showers, avoiding over-irrigation, etc. Some years ago Ferron City had to place a high penalty on use of culinary water above the monthly household allotment to discourage people from using culinary water in the landscape. Culinary water use dropped by 40% overnight, all through better management.

Much of our secondary water goes to irrigate turf. Many lawns are over-irrigated, and we could save considerable water through better management. Also, turf responds to drought by going dormant. We can tailor our turf irrigation to the water available. If water is very short, we may be better off to let lawns go dormant and use the water on trees and shrubs. If water is somewhat limited, we might choose to apply "deficit" irrigation to turf. This basically means that we apply enough water to keep the turf alive, but not as much as it wants. We can keep turf green by applying 50 to 60 percent of the water it normally requires.

Finally, we could offer water audits and/or training for city employees who might want to conduct landscape water audits. A water audit is simply a thorough examination of a sprinkler system (usually a turf irrigation system). The auditor first checks to see that everything is functioning properly (fix leaks) and then uses catch cups to measure sprinkler output. This can detect design problems that cause poor application uniformity. It also gives the homeowner or turf manager information on how much water they are applying when they irrigate.

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