

PANGUITCH CITY SPRING 2007 NEWSLETTER

Introduction: Wow, what a difference a couple of months can make! January was one of the coldest months we have had in many years with temperatures dipping down to the 30 below zero range and lasting for 2 or 3 weeks. Now just 2 months later, we have had a warm spell in March with temperatures near record highs for this time of year. The warmth was enjoyable. However, we do live in Panguitch, so expect another month of winter.

The winter and early spring have been relatively quiet with city employees thawing dozens of water meters, pipes and sewer lines. Now as spring approaches, it is time to get the secondary water system running and do the necessary spring work that invariably occurs each year.

The Mayor, City Council, and Staff hope you survived the winter without any serious problems, and as we look forward to spring, we can have new hope as the robins come back to the valley, the tulips start to bloom, and the grass turns green.

Schedule of Events:

Attached to this newsletter is a schedule of events planned for Panguitch City. You will see there are dozens of activities going on during the spring, summer, and fall months. We hope you will come out and enjoy these events, that you will volunteer to help in many of these events, and you will enjoy the good things happening in beautiful Panguitch, Utah. Please keep this list handy. Even though this schedule is subject to change, it will be a good guide to activities taking place this year.

City Council Positions:

This is an election year for Panguitch City. There are 3 council seats up for election, and all of them are 4 year terms. The election signups will be in the summer, the primary elections will take place in the early fall if necessary, and the general election will be in November. If you have an interest in serving the community, we recommend you seriously consider this opportunity.

Spring project:

The City is moving ahead with the project to improve the springs providing our culinary water. Major reconstruction at the springs will take place during the summer months of 2007. We had

originally hoped to get the work completed in the fall of 2006. However, due to the weather and other unforeseen problems, the work could not be done at that time. There should not be an interruption in water service to the community while this project is in progress. However, it is always a good idea to have a few gallons of water on hand for emergency purposes.

Chip seal:

It was originally intended to chip seal half of our community streets in 2006. However, the contractor was unable to complete the project. Currently, the plan is to chip seal all of the city streets during the summer of 2007. This normally causes very few problems for the citizens of our community. There may be equipment around your neighborhood for a day or two while the project is in progress. Chip sealing our roads is very important as it continues to build the depth of the oil on our roads and keeps them from deteriorating.

Student activities:

Winter brings a flurry of student activities. We are proud of all of our youth for their many accomplishments during the year. This year has been exciting as our youth have participated in sports, drama, debate, and other activities that will

help them become better adults. We hope the citizens in our community will congratulate the youth for their

Water Issues:

Even though we experienced one of the coldest winters in history, it didn't bring a lot of snow to the mountains surrounding our beautiful valley. There should be plenty of water for our needs, however, we encourage everyone to conserve water and to use water wisely during the hot summer months.

The secondary water will be turned on some time in May. This will depend on when the lake is opened and what the weather patterns are during the next month or two. Culinary water meters will be read starting in May, so be careful of your water usage this spring. When the secondary water is ready to be turned into the system, we will post notices and watering schedules. We have a limited amount of secondary water, which is metered by the irrigation company. By conserving water, we can water later into the fall.

Coal Mine:

The talk of the town the last couple of months is the proposed coal mine to be located in Alton, Utah. Although this coal mine will be located in Kane County, the trucks hauling the coal may be sent through Panguitch to Cedar City to unload. There is talk about the pros & cons of this, and the City has written a letter expressing some of our concerns. We will meet with the coal mine officials in April to get more information and get a better idea of the impact on our community. It appears from talking to the officials from the coal mine and government analysts that it will be some time before anything happens. There will be additional public meetings to express support or concerns for this project. The city will try to keep the community informed as we obtain more information. The highway through Panguitch is a state / federal highway. The city does not control traffic on this highway, and even though we may voice our concerns, we cannot shut off traffic on this important thoroughfare.

Landfill:

The landfill hours will be extended starting **April 2, 2007. The landfill will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.** This will continue until daylight savings time changes in early November. The landfill is an important part of our community. We encourage you to take items that are allowed to the landfill, so the green dumpsters do not become overloaded and cause a mess.

accomplishments and encourage them to continue to work hard to reach their goals.

Items that can be taken to the landfill include any kind of metal, tree limbs, grass clippings, construction waste, and tires.

We have made arrangements with the county to allow furniture to be taken to our landfill. This is not normally a permitted use in our landfill. However, these items can be stored at the landfill up to a year. The County will haul them to the County landfill a couple of times during the year. We encourage you to use the landfill. However, remember no household garbage can go out to the landfill. Household garbage must go in the green dumpsters.

We continue to have major problems at the green dumpsters. We have moved the dumpsters to the west side of town, we have fenced the area, and we have done everything possible to try and have an area where household garbage can be taken without causing a nuisance in our community. **People continue, however, to abuse the items that can be taken to the dumpsters. Therefore, the city has passed an ordinance with a severe fine for anyone caught dumping outside of the green dumpsters. This will be strictly enforced. We have asked our sheriff's department and city staff to patrol the area regularly, and you will be ticketed and fined if you are caught putting things in the dumpsters illegally or leaving items on the ground outside of the dumpsters.** Please help us keep our community nice by respecting the rights of others and putting the items that need to go in the dumpsters in the dumpsters. **Never put items outside the dumpsters, and use the landfill for big items such as refrigerators, stoves, furniture, tree limbs, etc.**

Library:

We have just purchased a new copier / printer / scanner / fax machine with funds provided through a grant from The Institute of Museum and Library Services. We have also replaced three patron computers with new computers provided with monies from the Community Library Enhancement Funds administered by the Utah State Library. We are pleased to make this new equipment available to the citizens of Panguitch.

The new theme for the Summer Reading Program is *Get a Clue @ your Library* and will begin on June 4, 2007 with story time activities at 1:00 p.m. each Wednesday starting June 6, 2007 and running through August 1, 2007. Children ages 3 - 15 are encouraged to join in the summer reading program for great reading and great prizes.

Activities:

As previously mentioned, there are many activities planned for this summer. They include our traditional events such as the Cowboys Ain't Dead Yet Festival, the Quilt Walk Festival, the Balloon Festival, the 4th of July and 24th of July celebrations, baseball tournaments and other activities. Please keep you list handy. Don't hesitate to call the City Office if you have questions about activities. We are proud of the many hundreds of volunteer hours that go into making these activities happen. **We always need more volunteers.** You can contact Scott Christensen at the Triple C , Cheryl Church with Main Street, City Staff or others if you would like to volunteer or if you have questions or concerns about the events we have. We know these events have a positive impact on our local economy, but they will only continue if we have people who are willing to help.

On a special note, we will again be having a Babe Ruth Regional Baseball Tournament to be held the latter part of July, and teams from all over the western United States, Hawaii, and Guam will be here to participate. This has been great fun in the past, and we encourage you to come out and watch some very fine athletes play ball.

On May 18, 2007 we will have a special concert in connection with the Cowboys Ain't Dead Yet Festival.

This concert will be the Bar J Wranglers from Jackson Hole, Wyoming. This is a tremendously popular group, and they play music everyone can enjoy. Tickets are now available at the City Office. **We recommend you get your tickets early because this concert will sell out.**

Panguitch Lake Fishing:

As most of you know, Panguitch Lake was poisoned in the spring of 2006. It was immediately replanted with catchable rainbow trout and other types of fish. Special rules have been imposed at Panguitch Lake for the present time to make sure we get a good healthy population of fish that will help control the Utah Chubs, which have been a menace in Panguitch Lake for many years. Fishing should be great. The fish should be significantly larger than a year ago . If you enjoy fishing, take the opportunity to have family, friends, and guests participate in activities at Panguitch Lake.

ATV Parking Area:

The ATV trailhead area north of the hospital will be completed this spring. In addition to a parking area, there will be restrooms with power and water.

Additional items will include landscaping, paving, a small fence and other features to make this an attractive area where visitors can park their vehicles and use their ATVs to enjoy our beautiful Southern Utah area. ATV riding has become a huge sport with many visitors coming to our area to enjoy this activity.

Panguitch City has changed its ordinance concerning ATVs. ATVs are now allowed on all city streets at a speed of 15 mph. However, children under age 16 are not allowed to drive ATVs without adult supervision. Someone over the age of 18 must be with anyone under the age of 16 until they leave the city limits where they are then on county, state, or federal roads. ATV sports are a great fun activity for many families, but it can lead to great tragedies if proper precautions are not taken.

Hospital Expansion:

The hospital expansion is progressing at a good rate. This project may be finished ahead of the scheduled completion in late August as originally planned. This is a great project for our community and County. Garfield County needs to be congratulated for taking this step forward to make sure our hospital continues to be a place we can be proud of and that can take care of the needs of our people. There is a fund raising campaign in progress to raise additional funds for the hospital, and we encourage you to do what you can to support the new hospital addition.

National Mormon Heritage Area / Highway 143 National Scenic Byway:

City staff have been actively involved in both of these activities working closely with many other people in several counties to make sure that our rights are protected but also to help inform people about our area and how they can enjoy the beautiful sights along Highway 143 and Highway 89. Over the next several years, these two highways could become very important as funding is allocated, and people discover the importance of leaving the freeway and enjoying our beautiful area.

Animal Control:

Every newsletter must have something about animal control. We encourage you to bring your dog's information into the City Office and purchase the licenses necessary. Licenses are inexpensive, but they do help us insure dogs in our city have had their rabies vaccinations. This is a very important health factor for all of us, as we do have many wild animals that can come in contact with our pets.

Cats are considered a free roaming animal, and the City

does not become involved in the control of cats. If you would like to borrow a cat trap to catch a cat and dispose of it yourself, we do have traps available.

Skunks have become a problem. This is a very difficult situation. We do have traps which can be used to trap skunks. Contact the City Office if you are having problems with skunks.

Remember any large animals such as cattle, sheep, and horses are allowed in the city only with a conditional use permit. To have those kinds of animals in the city there are specific rules, and you must come before the Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council to obtain these permits. Please follow the law when dealing with these animals.

Websites:

www.panguitch.org: The Panguitch City website is up and running. The website has a list of activities, visitor information, City Council minutes, city newsletters, and many other exciting and helpful features.

This concludes our Spring 2007 newsletter. We appreciate so much the citizens in our community. We thank you for being good citizens and good people. We are blessed to live in such a great area, and we should all work together to make Panguitch an even better place to live. As a City, we are always looking for opportunities to improve our lifestyle here, and we appreciate the hundreds of volunteer hours taking place each year.

We have an open door policy at the City. Please feel free to contact City Staff, members of the City Council, or the Mayor. They are all willing to listen and try to solve any problems that develop. We are sorry we can't control the weather, but there are many things we can solve if we know about them.

May the spring and summer be a good time for you and your family. Enjoy your activities, enjoy our beautiful summer weather, and enjoy living in this great community, state, and nation. In spite of all the problems we have in this nation, it is still the best there is, and we should be proud of the freedoms we enjoy on a daily basis. Thank You!