

Panguitch City Newsletter March 2010

Introduction:

It seems that each year the weather is the main topic of conversation, and this year is no different. We have had generous amounts of snow, and it keeps coming. We have gone from talking about drought to talking about flooding. It will be an interesting spring, and hopefully the large snow pack will melt in a way that does not cause major damage but fills our lakes and streams with water for the summer season. The economy is still a major concern locally, in our state, and in our nation. Each of us has been affected in some way. We feel for those who have lost jobs and homes and hope things soon turn around.

Attached to this newsletter is a schedule of events for 2010. We hope you will keep a copy and come out and support the many activities planned for 2010. The calendar of events is also available on the Panguitch City Website at www.panguitch.org. Following is a partial report of things affecting Panguitch. If you have suggestions or have concerns about the city, please talk to the staff, the mayor, or the City Council. The City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., and you are welcome to attend.

General Plan:

It has been 5 years since the city reviewed and made additions to our general plan. That process is now moving forward. The Planning & Zoning Commission and the City Council will be working to update the general plan over the next few months. In connection with updating the general plan a survey will be mailed to all households in Panguitch. This will be your opportunity to give your opinion on what the City should be doing over the next few years. Historically, only a small number send these surveys back in to the City. We hope this year will be different and many of you will return the survey with your comments and responses.

State of the Community Address:

Mayor Janet Oldham will address the Council and the community at an annual State of the Community Address on March 23rd at 5:15 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. City Council will be held early that day so people can get to their precinct caucus meetings, which start at 7:00 p.m. We encourage you to come to this meeting to see what the mayor has planned for 2010.

Landfill:

Starting March 15th, the landfill will again be open for summer hours. The landfill will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Remember our landfill can only accept construction waste, metal, tree limbs, and grass clippings. No household garbage is allowed. Household garbage must be taken to the green garbage bins. We continue to be concerned about illegal dumping at the green garbage bins. **Everything must be put in the bins.** Do not place items on the ground, even if you think they may have value to someone. Tickets will be issued to those not obeying the law.

Baseball Fields:

A committee has been organized to make some improvements at the baseball diamonds. Even though the diamonds are relatively new, it takes constant upkeep and expense to keep them

beautiful and useable. We are looking at adding new and improved infield dirt, replacing the tarps on the dugouts and other items as needed.

An additional committee headed by Paula Palmer is trying to raise funds to add playground equipment and a pavilion at the baseball park. They are looking for fund raising opportunities and donations to make this dream come true. They will hold a 3 on 3 basketball tournament on March 26th for elementary, middle school, high school, and adults. Look for additional information in the coming weeks.

Panguitch will again host a Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament for 11 year-olds July 26th through July 31st. Teams from all over the west, as well as Hawaii and Guam will be in attendance.

Panguitch Homecoming / All Class Reunion 2010:

If you have graduated from Panguitch High, or attended school in Panguitch, ever lived in Panguitch, or have driven through Panguitch, you are invited to attend the Homecoming Festival this year. It will be July 22 through July 25 in Panguitch. Enjoy events such as the community breakfast, Deep pit Barbeque, old fashioned picnic, one of the best small town parades in all of Utah, Rodeo, Junior Prom Formal and Tuxedo Gala, Bazaar, 3 on 3 basketball, and music and entertainment on Main Street. Watch for more details and plan to attend the Panguitch Pride All-school Reunion Extravaganza. To register call the Panguitch City Office at 435-676-8585.

Flooding:

With the large snow pack in our mountains, there is a possibility we may experience some flooding in our valley. If you live in an area where flooding is a problem, we encourage you to prepare ahead of time. Panguitch does have some sand bags and will be working with the county and state to help where possible.

Visitor Center:

Panguitch will once again open the visitor center on the north end of Panguitch. This will be self-serve, and private businesses from Panguitch will be able to put their brochures at this location. A volunteer has offered to help keep this area stocked and clean.

City Wide Clean-up Day:

The City wide clean-up day will be May 22nd starting at 8:00 a.m. We would like to make a special effort to clean up our town in preparation for the all Class Reunion being held in July. Please take some time to clean your yard, haul off the old vehicles and take pride in our city. Please contact the City Office (676-8585) to have items picked up on the clean-up day. Items must be placed in the city right-of-way, unless special arrangements have been made. The City continues to be concerned about items left on the city rights-of-way. Unlicensed vehicles, trailers, or miscellaneous junk should not be stored on city rights-of-way.

Animal Control:

The annual dog license clinic will be held on March 25th from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Triple C Arena. Remember, all dogs must be licensed and kept under the control of the owner. Licenses can be purchased at the City Office.

All livestock within the city limits must have a conditional use permit, and there are certain livestock that are not allowed in the city. Call the City Office if you have questions.

Planning and Zoning / Building Permits:

We have a dedicated Planning and Zoning Commission who work to make sure laws and ordinances are being followed. If you have questions about zoning or building permits, please contact the City Office. Remember, a building permit is needed for a fence and/or outbuildings on your property. A phone call to the City Office may save you from having to tear something down that does not meet code.

Library:

There will be a special Family Story Time Night at the library on March 11th at 7:00 p.m. Join us for stories, crafts, and special treats. The library will begin the Summer Reading Program on June 1, 2010 with Story Time programs each Friday at 1:00 p.m. Our theme this year is "Make a Splash @ Your Library", and we have some especially fun activities planned. The Summer Reading program is for youth ages 3 through 15 and will continue through August 6, 2010. For more information call the library at 676-2431.

Main Street:

The Main Street Committee continues to work hard to benefit the citizens and businesses of Panguitch. The committee will again sponsor several activities this year. They have started a Shop at Home campaign. Many businesses will have pins saying "Thanks for Shopping Locally!" Main Street and the City have also purchased one reusable shopping bag for each home in Panguitch. These bags can be used when shopping to replace plastic bags, which have a negative effect on the environment.

Main Street will also sponsor the Balloon Rally, Fiddlers Festival, Taste of Panguitch, Merchant drawings at Christmas and several other events through the year.

Economic Development:

The mayor is working to get a group of citizens together to work on economic development in the community. If you have a special interest in this area, please contact Mayor Janet Oldham.

Election Year:

This is an election year for all county and many state and national positions. We encourage you to become involved and vote for the candidate of your choice.

Tripe C Arena:

Activities at the Triple C Arena will start in earnest in late March with the first Little Britches Rodeo of the season on March 26th & 27th. There are many activities planned through the season. We also have stalls for rent, and family memberships are only \$50.00 and we have meeting rooms for activities, family reunions, etc.

Quilt Walk Dinner / Panguitch Birthday Party:

On March 20th a fund raising dinner for the new quilt walk park will be held at the Fair Building from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. This is a Dutch Oven dinner and all proceeds will go to paying for the

quilt walk statue, which is in its final stages of completion. Please call Donna at 676-8585 to RSVP for this delicious dinner.

Secondary Water:

Secondary water will be in the system in late April or early May. We will probably stay on a similar schedule as the past few years. It appears we will have plenty of water. However, our problems is keeping the pressure up, so we can water our lawns and gardens. We continue to try and find ways to increase the water pressure in our secondary system. The system is getting older, and we have been using more water as we all try to keep our lawns and gardens green.

Swimming Pool:

We encourage the use of the swimming pool. It is open regularly, and there are dedicated employees working to make th pool a safe and fun environment for youth and adults. Check the weekly Garfield County Insider for times when the pool is open. Last year over 200 students took swimming lessons. Sign-ups for swimming lessons this year will be in early summer.

Census:

2010 is a Census year. It is important that each of us do our part to be counted. The Census count will take place in March and April. We encourage you to promptly fill out the Census forms and return them.

Water / Sewer:

We continue to have a high delinquency on water and sewer bills. The City Council has instructed us to keep our bills current or move to shut off water for non-payment. We can work with you if you are willing to communicate with us and start a program to get current in your water/sewer payments. There is a \$40.00 turn-on fee and a \$40.00 turn-off fee, so it is much cheaper to keep your bill paid on a regular basis.

Panguitch City Budget:

Like all other government entities, Panguitch has seen a decrease in revenue as the economy has spiraled downward. Expenses have continued to climb in spite of the bad economy. The Council and staff are doing all they can to cut expenses and enhance income to get through these tough economic times.

Conclusion:

Remember as you sludge through the winter snows, spring will come, and we will have another beautiful Panguitch summer. The Mayor, Council and City Staff are excited for this year and hope it is a good one for the residents of Panguitch. Come out and support the many activities and enjoy our small town atmosphere.

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