



# Cheney Connections

## Mayor's Message

During the City's recent *state of emergency*, I was so impressed with how everyone pulled together to unbury our City and to assist others with moving snow. Of course I am referring to the record setting snowfall we were blanketed with in December and early January and the vast number of individuals involved in clearing city streets, sidewalks, roofs and driveways.

Now that the snow is mostly gone and some time has passed, I would like to thank all of you - volunteers, City employees and many others - who worked tirelessly to help this City recover from the snow emergency.

Over a three week time span, Cheney residents experienced a record snowfall-nearly six feet of new snow! Our city street crews worked around the clock, putting in 12-hour shifts for an extended period of time, to remove snow from city streets. Crews sacrificed

family time - even over the Christmas holiday - to insure that City residents would be able to travel safely.

Our Police and Fire Departments worked tirelessly to meet the diverse needs of a community in crisis. Neighbors helped shovel sidewalks and driveways for those who couldn't - some offering safe passage to the doctor, pharmacy, or grocery store to those unable to drive.

The number of people who responded to our City's emergency are too numerous to list by name. I want to thank Cheney residents for their patience during this trying time and for their efforts to help unbury our community. I applaud the entire community for the determination, spirit of service, patience and good will that was demonstrated during this challenging

time. Cheney employees and citizens certainly rose to the occasion. It is our spirit and strong sense of community that represent what makes Cheney such a great place to live!

Legislative Update-President Obama intends to implement an economic stimulus plan that will provide states with money for infrastructure work. During the snow storm, I spent a day with the Spokane County Commissioners along with our interim Public Works Director, Todd Ableman, to present "shovel-ready" projects on behalf of the City of Cheney. These projects have a value of nearly \$15 million. Following this meeting, I have been working individually with our legislators about our projects; as well as working to secure funds to reimburse the City for damages incurred during the snow storm.

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### Calendar of Events:

- Every Friday until April 15— Tax Aid at the Cheney Library from 12—4 pm
- February 7 — 5th Annual Daddy/Daughter Dance
- February 13 — Registration opens for Youth Indoor Soccer Program
- February 21 — VFW Pancake Feed at the American Legion Hall from 7—11 am

## 2009 City Budget Priorities

Though Cheney has the image of a small home town, it provides substantial services to its citizens. The City Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide range of year round activities for children, teens, families and seniors running the gamut from day care to a Senior Center. Public safety is of primary importance and Cheney operates its own Police, Fire, and Building Code Departments to assure the security of its citizens. All utilities services are operated by the city including Cheney City Light for electrical power.

Our 2009 budget priorities focus on meeting the needs of Cheney businesses, resi-

dents, and capital expenditures that provide us with a solid foundation. From this foundation, we can continue to grow sensibly and financially. The 2009 budget reinforces our commitment to the community by focusing on projects that will secure Cheney's future as a family-friendly, safe and viable community. This community values education, and we will continue to enhance our partnerships with the Cheney School District and Eastern Washington University.

While the surrounding areas have seen a loss of sales tax revenue, we have met our projected sales tax goals and we expect to

continue to increase revenue for 2009. Although our expenditures will be slightly above last year's levels, the City will strive to make every dollar count.

We take pride in what we have achieved over the past years through strong partnerships with our businesses, residents and education institutions. Providing excellent customer service to the residents of the City of Cheney is our top priority. We are confident that we can continue to meet the needs of our citizens while maintaining an efficient and cost-effective city government.

# Residents of Wren Pierson Building Forced to Evacuate Due to Roof Collapse

The Wren Pierson Community Center—which has served the City of Cheney well since 1947—has fallen victim to the recent winter storm. Due to significant snow accumulation on the roof, the building suffered significant structural damage. The occupants of the Wren Pierson were forced to evacuate and move to temporary locations. The Parks & Recreation Department relocated to the City Hall auditorium and, due to the quick response of City employees, was able to continue operations without a break in service to the community. The Cheney Food Bank and the Cheney Museum have closed temporarily. The Cheney Clothing Bank is temporarily offering services at the Cheney

Methodist Church and the Cheney Outreach is offering services at the United Church of Christ. For up-to-date information on the status of these programs, please go to the City's website at [www.cityofcheney.org](http://www.cityofcheney.org).

With the incredible support of the Cheney School District, the Cheney Care Center, and Eastern Washington University, the Recreation Department has been able to continue all programs. For an updated list of program locations and times, visit the Recreation website at [www.cityofcheney.org/recreation](http://www.cityofcheney.org/recreation) or call the Parks & Recreation Office at 498-9250.

As we look toward finding a home for the Parks & Recreation Department, the City is exploring several options. It will be necessary to first locate a one or two year temporary location while a new building is constructed to replace the Wren Pierson community center. For additional information, or to offer input as we make progress on decisions relating to short term and long term housing for the former occupants of the Wren Pierson building, feel free to contact the Parks & Recreation Department or plan to attend the next Park Board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>, and will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers at 7pm.

*The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)—a nonprofit safety advocate—says heating devices are the leading cause of fires in the home during December, January and February.*

## Space Heater Safety

It happens every winter. The weather turns cold and people turn on the space heater to warm up. There's always someone who inadvertently starts a fire by putting the heater too close to the furniture or draperies. Another common cause for house fires is a result of a heater being left on all night without supervision.

Most fires with space heaters are preventable if key safety measures are followed. To avoid problems, keep space heaters (both portable and fixed) at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including furnishings, bedding and clothing. And most importantly, turn the space heater **off** when you leave the room or go to sleep.

The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission publishes an important document about space heater safety with guidelines for the purchase and maintenance of space heating devices. You may download this informative document at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUBS/463.html>.

## Meet Zeb Campbell of the Cheney Police Department

Zeb Campbell has been with the Cheney Police Department since 2006. Zeb is assigned as the *Sector Officer* for Sector #7 which includes the area from the Orchard's Housing Development to Elm Street; and from N 2<sup>nd</sup> to N 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Zeb has been getting to know the people that he serves in his sector, and he has been working hard to address the issues and concerns raised by residents in that

area. When you see Zeb on patrol, feel free to introduce yourself if you have not already made his acquaintance.

For Police Emergencies dial 9-1-1. To report a crime call 535-9233. However, for non-urgent issues or neighborhood concerns, Zeb can be reached at 498-9273.

