

POINT OF VIEW

JEROME'S NEWSLETTER

April - May 2013

From the Mayor

Okay, enough beating around the bush. The Town has a very nasty issue on its hands. I would be surprised if you haven't already heard an earful about the topic of Vacation Rentals, sometimes referred to as Transient Dwelling Rentals (TDR's). This issue has been brewing up since autumn and several meetings have taken place regarding the topic in both P&Z and Council. The topic is quickly becoming divisive and polarizing. I have chosen to write about this in the newsletter so that the collective 'we' can continue to make progress towards an end that will address public concerns and avoid figurative lynchings.

First, some concerns. I, among many, am concerned that a boom in vacation rentals has the potential to gut our community of homes to house permanent residents. Our Town, dependent on volunteers, would certainly suffer if the number of long-term residents was impacted. It is also very clear that having too many strangers in a neighborhood is an unnerving thought, whether you have children or not, the ability to know your neighbors closely is important to Jerome residents. Many other facets to the topic are potentially troubling.

Unfortunately, in my opinion (and I do not speak for council), there are several issues presented by categorical ruling out or regulating Vacation Rentals in the R-1 zone without clear definitions. One such issue is that

length of stay is not specified by our code regarding residential rentals. Currently, if you rent a residential space, there is nothing in our code that expressly specifies that you must rent it for a minimum number of days. Also, it is true that there is currently one Vacation Rental with a business license issued by the Town (twice consecutively) operating in an R-1 zone. Also, Bed and Breakfasts in the R-1 zone need a conditional use permit currently to operate. If we leave Vacation Rentals undefined, categorically rule them out, or regulate them, issues of equity surface.

I want you to know that we are working hard to come up with a solution to this complex topic. I would ask that you be kind to each other and to Town Staff during this heated time. Also, I would like to encourage everyone to learn more about this topic. The proposed Transient Dwelling Rental Ordinance that was crafted by Council and will be heard by P&Z can be found on the Town of Jerome's Facebook page (and soon our official website) or it can be provided by email – send requests to c.gallagher@jerome.az.gov. The Council and Board, I am sure, are still open to community

input on how to untangle this knotted mess. Though I believe we are off to a good start with the ordinance, we would like your help on this one. Thank you for your support.

Mayor Nikki Check

Town Holiday Schedule

Town Hall will be closed
Monday, May 27,
for Memorial Day.
Trash will be picked up on
Tuesday morning.



Meeting Dates for April, May, June 2013

Regular Council Meeting
April 9 at 7:00 pm

Planning & Zoning
April 3 at 7:00 pm

Design Review Board
April 8 at 7:00 pm

Regular Council Meeting
May 14 at 7:00 pm

Planning & Zoning
May 1 at 7:00 pm

Design Review Board
May 13 at 7:00 pm

Regular Council Meeting
June 11 at 7:00 pm

Planning & Zoning
June 5 at 7:00 pm

Design Review Board
June 10 at 7:00 pm

AS THE EGG FRIES

I have Stravinsky's *Rites of Spring* on in the background as I write. It's that time of year and I'm hoping it will put me in the right mood. An oboe and the French horn



call softly in the distance.

Spring is the height of confusion...everything new, bursting with energy, starting quietly, then growing to thunder. The dancers

awake, march back and forth, faster and faster. Fresh scents in the wind, all the trees and flowers in blossom, Nature hard at it. The strings build and crescendo. New ideas and plans and hopes in the humans.

Town Hall has scarcely got the spirit yet, at least not my part of it. This headache in Zoning has the neighbors worked up, angry and distracted. Hard to get with the good old pagan rites when folks are at loggerheads. Stravinsky's trumpets blare and drums boom; Spring is brash and loud, the dancers are full of hard angles and edges. No telling where this will end.

But Winter is gone. There's a high pitched excitement in the strings, rolling, rushing, repetitive. Furious activity, then silence. Symbols clash. The dancers circle and posture. The rituals go on.

Excitement and madness can't last forever. A tiny flute warbles softly. A growing theme comes back. Jerome goes on. The percussion and horns start again. Muted trombones pick it up. The great drums crash, pound. A pulsing starts, grows, throbs. The oboes return, then the brass. Nature grows, the town is still here, we'll get through this turbulence. Start after start after start.

The dancers race about, beat the ground, wave their hands in the air, collapse...and it is over.

Lew Currier

Jerome is always fine, but spring is splendiferous! How wonderful to be part of a community so rich in volunteers and love for our Town.

We see success ahead in yet another major infrastructure project, one which has been on the top of my list for a couple decades, of refurbishing our Cleopatra Hill water tanks. Enormous thanks to Candace, with help from Rusty, and facilitated by Ms. Rollins with NACOG for getting a CDBG grant to do this. By some miracle, a bid for the work came in within the amount granted!

Peace, Love, Rock 'n Roll

Anne Bassett



Looking for Angels

Interested in saving the tail of the Miller Building across from the Conner? That upper wall, overhanging the horseshoe court, is in danger of collapse, threatening the all-ready fallen wall below (by the motorcycle parking). To really fix the lower one we need to fix (or destroy) the upper one. It's a mess!

Jerome is a national historical site. We're supposed to protect our heritage—certainly the old buildings like Miller's, which once dominated the center of town. You don't know where or who you are if you don't know where you came from. The Greeks are the Acropolis, The French are the Cathedral at Chartres; we *are* the Bartlett and Spook Hall. Moreover, history is our bread and butter. It draws travelers from all over the world, gives us charm and a distinctive character, and, sometimes, even draws needed support from Prescott, Phoenix or Washington.

So. There are three schools of thought on the Miller wall: (1) ADOT favors full engineering, soil testing, and a contractor at what, \$75,000 to \$100,000? And who knows how long it would take? (2) A local construction pro says with careful, thoughtful, artful work (?), small equipment and cautious, skilled volunteer labor (?) we could save the site in a couple of months at \$20,000, plus possibly another \$10,000 for soil testing *if ADOT demands*. (3) Finally, the frugal favor Rusty Blair and the Town Crew to rent equipment, knock off the top of the upper wall, stabilize the lower wall, and make the situation safe in a week or so...for \$1,000.

Unfortunately, nobody guarantees anything. These are just best estimates.

In the end, maybe it's all about money. Who really cares about history? It's so yesterday. Engineering the road to our sewer plant, re-seeding the grass in the upper park, building the walkway to the 300 Level parking area...those are all \$20,000+ projects. We've been able to find the money for them. But at the moment the Council seems tapped out. Can someone find the money to save the Miller Building wall? The situation seems unsafe, so time is of essence. Is that wall really a piece of us?

Any angels out there? If so, please contact Town Hall at 634-7943.



Jerome Fire Department

Rusty Blair, Chief JVFD



What Is the Wildland Urban Interface?

Fire departments across America are fighting fires along the **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**, defined as areas where homes are built near or among lands prone to wildland fire. Depending on the area of the country, fire departments might refer to wildland fires as brush fires, forest fires, rangeland fires, or something else; however, they are all part of the WUI and all pose the same threat to local assets. The increase in the WUI threat has been steep because of continued development and exposure. Jerome is unique because the brush and native plants have reoccupied the areas where buildings once stood. This has created areas throughout Jerome for the danger of a wildland fire.

The Wildland Urban Interface is not a place, but a set of conditions that can exist in nearly every community. It can be a major subdivision or it can be four homes on an open range. According to the National Fire Protection Association, conditions include (but are not limited to): the amount, type, and distribution of vegetation; the flammability of the structures (homes, businesses, outbuildings, decks, fences) in the area, and their proximity to fire-prone vegetation and to other combustible structures; weather patterns and general climate conditions; topography; hydrology; average lot size; and road construction. The Wildland Urban Interface exists in every state in the country and Jerome is a classic example.

The Ember Threat

Wind blown embers also are a cause of concern in the Wildland Urban Interface. Most structures within the WUI are not destroyed from direct flame impingement, but rather from embers. Embers may precede the flaming fire front, carried by the winds that distribute

burning brands or embers over long distances. These embers fall, or are wind-driven into receptive fuels at structures, often going undetected for some time. As the fire front passes, these small embers may ignite incipient fires that spread to the home and then from home to home in a neighborhood.

As residents of Jerome, we should all look at our surrounding homes and create a defensible space of 30 feet around our homes. This is not always possible as many buildings are very close to one another. Therefore, we need to work with our neighbors and provide an achievable option. The vegetation should be clean, cut and maintained.

The Town of Jerome adopted the International Property Maintenance Code in 2009. This code addresses the removal of unused vehicles, debris, dangerous trees and many other combustible unused items on property. Check with Town Hall or call the fire department for further information or if you would like to have a fire-safety inspection on your property.

Let's keep Jerome safe.

This May 25 and 26, Jerome will be hosting the Volunteer Firefighters of Arizona Association annual conference and drills. There will be volunteer firefighters from across the state participating.

The Fire Department is always looking for new members for fire or EMS or both. Free training, cool t-shirts, and drive big trucks with red lights. 5:00 PM, every Thursday. Come on down and see what we do. Everybody is welcome.

If the fire and EMS doesn't interest you, but you would still like to help out, the Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary is always welcoming new members as well!! Come join us!!

Thank you for your continued support.



MILE HIGH ROCKIN' & RIDES NORTHERN ARIZONA STYLE 2ND ANNUAL CAR TRUCK AND BIKE SHOW JEROME ARIZONA

**SATURDAY JUNE 8, 2013 --- 300-Level Paved Parking Lot
Proceeds Go to Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary
& Jerome Kids Christmas Party with Santa**

Where I am From

By Scout Butcher

I am from a slanted mountain town.
That slides an inch every year.
Or so they say.

I am from running around the cobblestone streets
with leather feet.

I am from afterschool snacks of fried bar food
shared with my 4 best friends.

I am from a childhood that was spent sliding down
mountains.

On sleds,
On Cardboard,
And Down the flumes.

I am from polyester AYSO Soccer uniforms, complete
with matching socks.

And skipping down the deserted school house and
hospital hallways.

I am from 105 3rd St.

The house where barbecue chicken and broccoli is
always for dinner.

The house where dogs sit on the couch alongside
their humans.

The house where the remotes are always lost, but
Cheezits can always be found.

The house where each child, no matter how small
can answer the business phone.

The house where pot roast was on Wednesdays,
along with Papa's visits.

The house where Bobo would come every holiday
and bring real vegetarian snacks.

The house where the whole town of Jerome hunted
for Easter eggs together.

Where every child knew to go for a Halloween
bounty.

The house where home wasn't just Jerome, but the
house where Jerome, the whole town, was home.

Feed Your Soil

Here is an easy recipe for making a soil inoculant. It helps build beneficial microorganisms in your soil, which feed the soil, hold the moisture and help the roots uptake nutrients much better. This is especially good for our sandy humus-poor soil. You can also include plenty of peat moss to help hold water. Coconut coir is probably an even better product, as it doesn't repel water.

Recipe for Soil Inoculant

In a five-gallon bucket of non-chlorinated water (let tap water off-gas a day or so), add:

- a handful of fertile dark soil or compost
- minerals (e.g. rock phosphate, granite dust, kelp, or a product called "Azomite" is particularly good.)

Let it sit in the sun a couple of week till it smells strong. Pour on garden, compost, outdoor container plants, etc.

Sustainable Jerome

Awakening From Hibernation

Hoping all will accept my apology for not following through on the plans we made last year to promote home and community gardening. We hit a wall in finding a location for a community compost pile. And not finding an appropriate place for the compost pile was only one of the obstacles. It was a good idea, but we got discouraged when the difficulties piled up instead of compost. In any event I now find myself on the Steering Committee for the new Town General Plan. As a result I find myself rethinking the mission of Sustainable Jerome and my commitment to do what I can to see our Jerome community survive and thrive and to maintain our town as a safe place to live and in which to do business. I think it's important to identify and develop the resources that make Jerome the unique community it is while preserving our Historical Status. The immediate goal of the Steering Committee is to develop a Mission Statement for Jerome, or more accurately a "Vision for Jerome," that will help us work together toward common objectives while realizing the potential of the varied resources we share personally and materially as a community. The question the Steering Committee is presently addressing is "What do we want Jerome to look like in 2035"? A Big Question!

One component of my vision is to see a local entrepreneur creatively take advantage of an economic opportunity that we were unable to address as volunteers, namely, turning the composting of the waste from our restaurants into a business. This would save the Town money on landfill fees and wear and tear on our garbage truck. Developing the resources we have can help make Jerome more sustainable economically and environmentally. There may or may not be formal Sustainable Jerome Meetings in the future, as we had last year, but for now my intention is to encourage networking on an individual basis as we cultivate our town vision, which I hope will assure that we will remain the unique community that we are. I have been discussing some ideas I have for Jerome with friends and neighbors and I'd be happy to discuss them with anyone who is interested. If you have any ideas regarding the future of Jerome that you would like to share, I'd love to hear them, as would other members of the Steering Committee. By the way, all Steering Committee Meetings are open to the public. If you have suggestions you can submit them in person or in writing. There is a suggestion box in the Library. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm at the Fire House. All are welcome. Contact Henry Melody at 928-639-0158 or henry@melodylife.com.

Update on Jerome's General Plan Update!

WHAT IS A GENERAL PLAN?

- A road map for the future
- A description of a community's aspirations
- A plan which identifies strategies for managing preservation and change
- A document which contains goals, policies, implementing actions and supporting graphics which will form the foundation for Town Ordinances, guidelines and plans

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

February 2013

The Steering Committee met for the first time in late February and formulated a timeline and set a goal of March 2014 for completion of the project. It was decided meetings would be held twice a month, alternating committee meetings and public input meetings. The meetings will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, at the Jerome Fire Station, 6:30 p.m. Discussion about the Jerome General Plan Vision began.

March 2013

An organizational meeting was held in mid-March to discuss the up and coming public visioning process. The visioning meeting, held on March 27, at the Fire Station, was a big success, with approximately 24 people in attendance. Community members participated in an exercise, which focused on answering the following questions to establish the foundation for the Town of Jerome General Plan Vision:

- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?

- Where do we want to be in 2035?
- How do we get there?

WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP?

Development of the vision statement will continue. After the vision statement has been drafted, work will begin on the identifying goals, policies and implementation measures to support the elements of the General Plan.

For information regarding the plan please contact:

Carmen Ogden
Zoning Administrator
928-634-7943

Jerome Humane Society

It's just about that time of year again! The Jerome Humane Society Flea Market, or as we like to call it "The Great Exchange," is coming. Spook Hall, Memorial Day weekend, May 25, 26 and, yes, Monday, the 27th, too! We have collected a considerable volume of goodies already and if you are Spring cleaning, we can take your cast out treasures anytime. Call Mary, 301-7797, or Sally, 301-5079, for pickup or your items can always be dropped off at the Clinic.

With many thanks to Lance and Wendy Schall for the orchestration... our Dog Waste Station... installation... is beginning with the School Street... location very soon.

We are still looking for a forever home for brother and sister, black and white kitties, Harley and Honda. Now calling Soiled Doves Studio their foster home, these two are loving and well behaved. Call Sally or Marge at 639-1341, for the scoop (so to speak).

Dog got skunked? Dr. Virginia says a tomato juice bath does not work! Instead, to remove odor, bathe your dog in a mixture of:

- 1 qt. Hydrogen Peroxide 3%
- 1/4 c. Baking Soda (Sodium Bicarbonate)
- 1 tsp. liquid detergent

After 5 minutes, rinse well with water. Repeat if necessary. This treatment may bleach your pet's hair (oh to be a blonde again). Be sure to do this outdoors. To remove odor from any clothing or towels wash with 1 cup liquid laundry detergent and 1 cup bleach to 1 gallon of water.

Have a wonderful Spring and we look forward to seeing you Memorial Day Weekend!

Jerome Pets

Dos tortugas de agua chilling in the Gulch.



Photo by Jeanne Moss

If you would like to see your pet in the Jerome Newsletter, please send a photo and caption to r.shemaitis@jerome.az.gov.

Jerome Humane Society Clinic Hours

Thursdays Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Clinic Phone: 634-6166 *(during clinic hours only)*

Appt. Phone: 639-1341

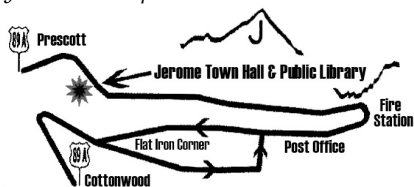
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Drawer I, Jerome, AZ 86331

Sunday 10 am – 2 pm **Thursday** Noon – 8 pm
Monday 10 am – 5 pm **Friday** Noon – 6 pm
Tuesday Noon – 8 pm **Saturday** CLOSED
Wednesday 10 am – 5 pm



News From the Jerome Library

The February ARRRT event honoring library volunteer Les MacDowell brought an evening of food, drink and fun for everyone. Art pieces are now available for sale to the public; donations will benefit the library and the Kids Art Workshop.

Contact Kathleen at the library to view Les-inspired ARRRT.



The Library will be closed Monday, May 27,
for Memorial Day.

Spaces for Rent at Jerome Civic Center

Three studio/office spaces are available on the first floor at Town Hall. Call 928-634-7943, if interested.

To move in to any of them, you will need first and last month's rent plus a key deposit.

There is a monthly utility charge of \$50 for each rental space.

Studio 1 is 608 sq. ft. for \$475.60 per month, including the utility charge and Studio 3 is 661 sq. ft. for \$512.70.

The income generated from these spaces directly supports the Jerome Public Library.

Greetings From Haven UMC

Spring is a miraculous experience. The whole world comes alive after the winter in which it seemed that everything was dead. The world comes filled with color and the scent of delicious greenery. The world that seemed so dull and cold has come alive once again. Little did we know that beneath the cold hard ground the plants and trees were preparing for rebirth. Spring gives us hope for rejuvenation in our own lives as well. Spring is a time to renew the excitement and zest for life that lives inside.

It is also a time for visitors to come up the mountain. We hope that you will let folks know about our Church on the hill.

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 7 and May 5 – Communion.

April 27 (watch for signs) – Navajo Taco Sale.

May 19 – Pentecost Sunday.

48th Annual Home & Historic Building Tour

It's Home Tour Time Again! This year will be our 48th Annual Home & Historic Building Tour – Arizona's Oldest Home Tour. The tour will be Saturday, May 18, and Sunday, May 19, 2013

We are very excited about this year's Tour. Buildings featured will include a look at the historic gems, including some never seen treasures. They are as follows:

- The Mortuary (Carol Whitner)
- The Hillside House and Gypsy Wagon (Nancy Crosby and Mike Parry)
- The Kennedy Residence (Joan Kennedy)
- The Louie House (Kathleen Jarvis)
- The Powder Box Church (The Gale Family)
- The Honeymoon Cottage (Marge Black-Graziano)
- The Audrey Headframe (Jerome Historical Society)
- The Carriage House (Jerome State Park)
- Lawrence Memorial Hall/JC Penney (Spook Hall)

Ticket prices are: Adults - \$15.00, Children 3 to 12 - \$8.00, and Children 2 and under are free.

As always, we are looking for volunteers. We need drivers, hosts and hostesses. Anyone interested, please contact Diana Martin at 634-2604.

For more information please contact Coleen Hall at 928-649-3847, or the Jerome Chamber of Commerce 928-634-2900.

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