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VOL. 23, NO. 2 | OCTOBER 2023

CITY OF Ammon

WHERE TOMORROW BEGINS



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dear Ammon Residents,

Another summer has gone by! What a wonderful season. I hope you were able to go to Ammon Days, which was the biggest one we've ever had. Did you get to see the hot air balloons? I had so much fun visiting with many of you, and am looking forward to our fall and winter activities. We truly have a wonderful city!

I wanted to discuss a few highlights with you. As you may know, the City received a very large grant to finish Ammon 1st Street. That work will happen starting next spring and will likely last through the summer, as it will be a big job. In preparation for that project, the City will be working on completing Curlew and John Adams Parkway west of the Tie Breaker neighborhood. The City also received a grant to rebuild the 17th Street bridge just north of the Albertsons shopping center. These are exciting changes for the City. We will keep you informed about these changes as they occur.

Residents east of Crowley will see a new walk and bike path that extends from the east entrance of the Cottages west to and across Crowley into the Eagle Pointe neighborhood. This is the result of a grant recently received to help us connect our community and provide safer pathways for our children to walk to school.

We are applying for more pathway grants and also budgeting for more pathways, so I look forward to building more in the future.

Within the next several months the City will start construction on expansion of the City building located on Ammon Road. This project will double the size of the City Building and will address needed issues with the existing building. The Council has long prepared for this project to occur, and we are pleased to be able to do it completely with savings, not costing the residents any additional taxes or interest.

Our Fiber Team has finished the fifth local improvement district, and have already begun work on LID #6, which includes Hillview, Hillsdale, Ammon Townsite, Trailwood Village, Granite Creek, and Quail Ridge. If you are interested in Ammon's lightning-fast fiber, remember that it's extremely affordable and likely costs less than your standard monthly internet bill. Contact the City if you want to learn more about it.

I am aware that there are many roads around town that need attention, and that is the case especially every spring following heavy snow seasons. We need our roads to get to and fro, but with an ever-decreasing property tax levy rate the City is finding it difficult to keep up with needed improvements.

While we have successfully obtained grants for expanding new roads, grants do not cover maintenance of existing roads. Ammon's property tax levy rate has dropped for eight straight years, leaving us with nearly the lowest property tax rate in the entire state for a city of over 10,000 people. Our community needs to find a regular funding source dedicated to road improvement needs, and the City Council will be working on solutions for that over the coming year.

Finally, we have an urgent need to address the Ammon Pool, which has become a huge part of our community over the past 56 years! It is dying of old age, and efforts are underway to find funding to replace it. If you or your business wants to be a part of an Ammon Pool 2.0, whether by sponsoring, donating or becoming a named sponsor, please let me know. My goal is five years to a ribbon cutting! (Splash pad repairs are coming along and we'll update you as they progress.)

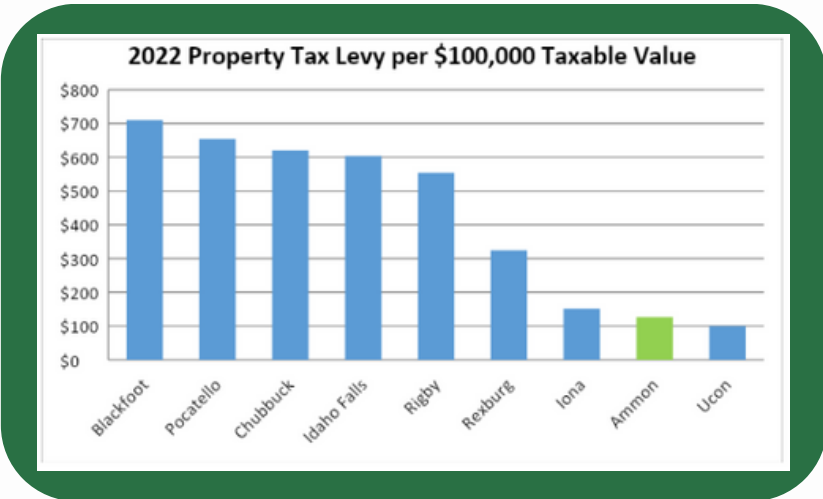
So there's a lot happening, and you can be involved. I encourage you to continue your great service to our community and to your neighbors. We all need each other. Let me know if you have a project or idea for Ammon and want to contribute—many hands make light work! Thanks for being such an integral part of our Ammon community!

Sean J. Tolun



FINANCIAL & BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The property tax chart below compares the 2022 Ammon property tax levy with nearby cities. The property taxes paid to the City of Ammon are one of the lowest in the area, region, and state. The Ammon property tax levy rate has reduced the last eight years in a row. For 2023, the property tax levy rate is estimated to be .001105850. Which means that for every \$100,000 of taxable property, \$110.58 is the Ammon tax levy amount. Property values have increased in eastern Idaho and the property tax levies have reduced because property tax dollars received by the City can only increase a max of 3% of the property tax dollars assessed.



The budget for fiscal year 2024 is focusing on accomplishing Ammon’s strategic plan, preparing for the future, and helping residents have positive experiences. The following exciting projects will further enhance Ammon:

- The current City Hall was built in 1995 and has served the community well. With the growth in the City and employees, we are needing additional space to work and conduct meetings. We are starting an extension to the current City building, it will extend to the east in the grass area. The view from the road will remain the same. We appreciate your patience during construction as we need to modify access and procedures.
- Fiber is now connected to over 2,000 Ammon homes and businesses. Fiber Local Improvement District # 5 is wrapping up and Fiber Local Improvement District # 6 is under construction.
- We are working on updating 1st Street from 25th East (Hitt Rd) to 35th East (Ammon Rd) to five lanes with the help of a federal grant.
- We have been awarded a Safe Streets for All grant to prepare a plan to improve sidewalks, make pedestrian and bicycle travel safer, and make a more walkable community.
- Pressurized irrigation is now available in a few subdivisions. This is using canal water (surface water rights) for landscape watering, making our ground water rights go further. We will continue to add subdivisions when it is feasible, not all neighborhoods have canals with regular water supply nearby.

Ammon continues to maximize current services and prepare for a great future.

AMMON MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (MYAC)

The Ammon Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council is about bringing the youth together and doing activities and decisions that help us to understand our city better. We do activities such as being in parades, helping with food drives, and learning about the jobs here in Ammon. We learn skills such as decision making, how to maintain health, emotions, thoughts and actions as we go through life.

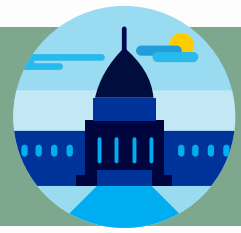
We have learned how to understand each other and become more like a family. We support each other through ups and downs, exciting and harder days. Also we are able to interact ourselves with the Mayor and the Ammon Council. This gives us wonderful opportunities for our futures. We enjoy going out into the community and learning about how Ammon functions and works. We welcome and invite new people who want to join our cause of making our future a bright one as we grow to know what our community is striving for and what makes it move. We hope to see new, wonderful faces with this new year coming up.

-Clara Taylor, Ammon MYAC Youth Mayor

Fill out an application to participate. Go to cityofammon.us, click on "Departments," then "Administration," then "Mayor's Office" to access the application and get additional information.



THE MORE YOU KNOW



GET OUT AND VOTE!

CITY COUNCIL

The City Council sets and administers the City budget. They also act as a legislative body, enacting new laws and ordinances and amending existing ones. Their approval is required for annexations, plats, and a variety of other projects, as well as business licenses.

The council meets in the City Council Chambers at City Hall twice a month, on the first and third Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. A round-table work session takes place on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

On November 7, 2023, be sure to head out to your polling location to vote for Ammon City Council!

Four seats are up for election in 2023 and the following qualified electors have filed to run:

Seat #1: Scott Wessel, Sean Crystal

Seat #3: Debra W. Clapp, Sid R. Hamberlin, Jeff Fullmer

Seat #4: George Vander Meer, Kris Oswald, Robert Loveland

Seat #5: Heidi Boyle, Nolan J. Wheeler

This election is District Wide which means every registered voter in Ammon is able to vote for one candidate in each of the four seats.

If you'd like more information about voting or need assistance finding your polling location, contact Kristina in the City Clerk's Office at 208-612-4010.

AMMON PETS

We are excited to announce our Animal Services partnership with Snake River Animal Shelter (SRAS)! Beginning October 1, 2023, Ammon's lost and found dogs and sick or injured cats and kittens will be accepted at Snake River Animal Shelter located at 3000 N Lindsay Blvd. in Idaho Falls. Residents wishing to participate in our Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) Program for cats will need to coordinate with SRAS prior to setting traps in order to coordinate surgeries and releases. We are looking forward to participating in community events and continuing to find loving forever homes for our pets in need.

The City of Ammon wishes to express its gratitude and extends a heartfelt thank you to the veterinarians and staff at Mountain River Veterinary Hospital and Boarding for the services they have provided for the City and our pets the last couple of years. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with veterinary services in the future.

Please feel free to contact the Enforcement Office at 208-612-4072 with any questions.



PLANNING & ZONING

Meetings are ordinarily held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Work meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday, on an as-needed basis. Please contact the Ammon City offices for details concerning work meetings dates and times. All Planning and Zoning and work meetings are open to the public.



SUMMER RECAP

Ammon Parks & Rec

All five movies in the park were a hit, with hundreds of people attending on Friday nights at McCowin Park. We are grateful for East Idaho Health District, Idaho Central Credit Union, and Rocky Mountain Power for their generous financial support that covers the cost of movie nights, including the rights for public showings and the screen and sound systems. Costco provided over 200 free hot dogs every night, and the staff from Cabela's brought over a big grill to do the cooking. Locally owned Mobile Movie House did a great job showing the movies on a giant screen and providing free popcorn. Kneaders and ICCU brought out hundreds of cookies and treats. Prior to each movie, there was a fun activity. The Realm Of Ebonhold showcased a sword play demonstration before Puss in Boots, East Idaho Aquarium brought out a live alligator and several snakes for Lyle Lyle Crocodile. Cabela's handed out model airplanes prior to Top Gun Maverick. We concluded with Super Mario Bros Movie, Mario treats, prizes, and 208 Inflate had bounce houses. We are already working on next year's movie schedule with fun activities.



Ammon Days 2023

Ammon Days was a tremendous success this summer! We welcomed over 120 vendors, great food options, prizes, and giveaways. There were nearly 140 vehicles in the car show, bounce houses, giant slip and slides, archery, obstacle courses, kids games, face painting, watermelon eating contests all day, and many other fun activities. The hot air balloon festival included ten hot air balloon pilots and their crews from all over the intermountain west. Plans are already in the works for Ammon Days 2024!. There are many sponsorship options available. Anyone interested in sponsoring or having a booth next year, please email rmiller@cityofammon.us.



The Idaho Falls Farmers Market came to McCowin Park on Wednesday evenings this summer. The community came out to support the local farmers, food vendors, and artisans and we were so glad to have them. The Farmer's Market will be back next year for Ammon Nights on Wednesdays, come out and see them!

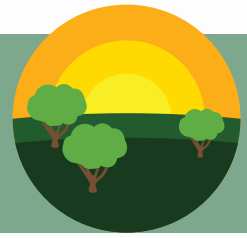
Splash Pad repairs are underway! It has taken some time to have a new vault and tank engineered and constructed, which will be delivered and installed in September. The splash pad will be much improved, and be ready to go next summer.

Ammon Little League

There were nearly 1,200 local youth that participated in Ammon Little League, beginning with T-ball at age 4, to coach pitch, pitching machine, softball, and baseball programs up to age 12. Ammon Little League is truly a community organization in every sense. It is only possible because of the sponsors that help financially with equipment, uniforms, and field maintenance. We are incredibly grateful for the parents who step up as coaches, scorekeepers, taking turns with snacks, helping prep the fields, board members, and so many other things that take place behind the scenes. We are very grateful for sponsors and parental involvement, without them there would be no Ammon Little League. The greatest need is always coaches. If you would like to help coach a team, please email rmiller@cityofammon.us.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Pumpkin Walk

The annual Ammon Pumpkin Walk, presented by Westmark Credit Union will take place October 21-31 at McCowin Park. The kickoff and judging is Saturday, October 21st from 12-4pm. There will be food, vendors, and live music. This is a fun tradition, free to enter and make a creative display or enter a giant pumpkin. Displays and giant pumpkins remain at the park through Halloween, open to the public every night until 11:00 pm. It is a unique way to promote your organization with the chance to win great prize money! For more information and to register, please go to pumpkinwalk.cityofammon.us.

Fire Department Tricks or Treats

Halloween night at McCowin Park, 6:00-7:30 pm or until the candy is gone. The fun will take place at the tennis court lot. Bring the kids out for treats and see the fire trucks. Free cider and coffee will be available at the concession stand.

First Annual Nogathon Fun Run

Saturday, November 11th, McCowin Park at 2:00 pm., the City of Ammon is teaming up with Reed's Dairy, ICCU, the Idaho Falls Food Basket, and East Idaho Community Action Partnership to bring cheer to families in need this holiday season. The fun run is one mile on a quarter mile course. Before each lap, participants drink 8 ounces of eggnog. Runners receive a t-shirt and swag bag. Every spectator that brings a non-perishable food item, unwrapped toy, or article of cold weather clothing will receive a free french toast card from Kneaders. Cost to run is \$10, and all proceeds go to the Idaho Falls Food Basket. For information and to register, go to nogathon.cityofammon.us.

Gazebo and Tree Decorating

Back for another year, an Ammon family will have the opportunity to decorate the Gazebo and Tree using all decorations the City of Ammon currently has, as well as \$1,000 worth of decorations from Dillard's and \$200 in decorations from Costco. Interested families should submit an electronic form by October 1st. For more information and the link to the submission form, please email rmiller@cityofammon.us

Winter LightAPalooza

The Annual Ammon Lightapalooza light parade and park lighting, sponsored by Frontier Credit Union, is Saturday evening December 2nd. The parade begins at 6:00 pm at Sunnyside and Eagle. A change this year: the parade will turn left on Midway and conclude at 17th St. Following the parade, Santa will make his way to the gazebo to visit with the children. There will be fireworks, music, vendors, free hot chocolate, and goodies. Santa's Village (the gazebo area) will be lit and decorated through the holidays.

Holiday Lighting Contest

The Ammon Holiday Outdoor decorating contest sponsored by Kneaders is open to all Ammon residents and free to enter. Categories include: Most Lights, Best Traditional, Most Creative, and People's Choice. Prizes are Kneaders baskets for first, second, and third place, per category. Deadline to enter is December 8th. Judging will take place December 11-15. Addresses of entries will be made public, with a link to vote for People's Choice. To enter, go to www.cityofammon.us and click "Community Events"



Icy Inferno

The Icy Inferno Christmas tree bonfire and fireworks show, presented by Lookout Credit Union will be held on Saturday evening January 20th. Vendors will be ready at 6:00 pm. The Ammon firefighters will start the bonfire at 6:30 pm. The fireworks will commence when the fire is roaring. Christmas trees can be discarded December 26th-January 20th at the dirt lot at the southwest corner of McCowin (Targhee and Williams). The area will be clearly marked with signage and you'll see the big pile of trees. Please bring your tree over and help us have a great bonfire!



WATER CONSERVATION

Convert Your Lawn Strip Save Water, Time, and Maintenance

As the summer season recedes and our yards transition to fall and winter weather, it is a good time to start planning changes to your lawn and landscaping for next spring. This past summer was warmer and dryer than usual and keeping a lawn green may have been challenging. While many residents utilize their front and back lawns regularly, the narrow lawn strip between the curb and sidewalk is rarely used and can require significant water demands that add up over the summer in a water bill, along with the required maintenance. Lawn strips are not found in all neighborhoods in Ammon but the suggestions in this article can be applied to other situations where residents are replacing their lawn with water-conscious landscaping.

The City of Ammon encourages residents to convert this strip of lawn from water-demanding turf to an appealing landscape solution that uses less water and is aesthetically appealing. This lawn strip is not required to be turf and can be replaced with a number of creative and drought tolerant solutions that help residents save on their water bill and add variety to their landscape. Plants and shrubs that are native to eastern Idaho require minimal water and are an excellent solution. Replacing lawn strips with decorative rocks and other features that require no water is also an excellent solution. Trees are strongly encouraged, however not all trees are good candidates for this lawn strip. Check with local nurseries and consult their experts when choosing the right plants and landscaping options for your landscape. As a general guide, below is a short list of trees and shrubs that City of Ammon encourages residents to use in the lawn strip for water conservation and resiliency in our region:

5 Recommended Street Trees

- Honeylocust
- Linden
- Hackberry
- Crabapple (non fruit bearing)
- Flowering Plum and/or Pear (non fruit bearing)

5 Recommended Drought Tolerant Shrubs

- Potentilla (Shrubby Cinquefoil)
- Barberry
- Currant
- Ninebark
- Ground Juniper

When irrigating trees and shrubs in the lawn strip, a drip-irrigation system is the most efficient option. This will apply water where it is needed and keeps weeds down, which encourages the desired shrubs and trees to thrive. For more information on landscape solutions for the lawn strip, please visit: <https://utahwatersavers.com/Program/2/flip-your-strip#helpful-resources>.

For residents that live in a neighborhood with a homeowners association (HOA), please check with your HOA before replacing the turf with other landscaping. Some HOA requirements may dictate what type of landscape is permitted within the lawn strip.

Please contact the City of Ammon for any additional questions or to receive direction on the right trees and shrubs for converting your lawn strip. Water conservation is a team effort and it is important that all residents and businesses do what they can to use as little water as possible.

EVERY DROP MATTERS

- 01 Turn off the tap while washing dishes
- 02 Use full loads in your washing machine
- 03 Shower in five minutes or less
- 04 Turn off the water when brushing your teeth
- 05 Check taps and pipes for leaks
- 06 Water your lawn and plants when it's cooler (early morning or late afternoon)

CITY NEWS



Ammon Fiber Updates

Fiber is currently finishing work in the Briarwood subdivision and installations will begin soon. Crews will be returning to subdivisions that were previously connected in LID5 and completing late sign-ups.

Neighborhood Status:

- Oak Ridge - Completed.
- Ross Ave South of Sunnyside - Completed.
- Barbara Jean & Peterson Park Areas - Completed.
- Rawson Street - Completed.
- Tie Breaker - Completed.
- North Centennial Ranch - Completed.
- Briarwood - Under construction. If you are opted in and have not had an in-home meeting to discuss the location of your fiber, please contact us.

If you have signed up in an area that says construction completed and no work has been done to your home, please contact us at 208-612-4082.



The Fiber team is preparing for the next phase of the Ammon Fiber project, LID6, which is already underway in Quail Ridge and Granite Creek. To find out more about what this means for your area and to secure your high-speed internet connection, please visit www.ammonfiber.com for more information and sign-up instructions.

Please let your neighbors know about the Ammon Fiber Project and to sign up! Doing so will reduce the cost that everyone in those areas pays at the end.

LEARN MORE

Want to learn more about the City of Ammon and internal processes but not sure where to start? Take a listen to the new About Ammon Podcast! Each month, Mayor Coletti and City Clerk Kristina Buchan will be joined by various departments throughout the City to learn more about the ins and outs of local government!

Episodes are shared on the Ammon Facebook page and can be found on YouTube at <https://youtube.com/@CityOfAmmon>

Previous episodes have discussed roles and responsibilities of Ammon Staff and Elected Officials, Budgeting Highlights, and Planning and Zoning details. Future episodes will discuss Building, Engineering, and much more!



FIRE SAFETY

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. That also means a greater risk for fire! The following tips will help keep you safe:

- Be sure to place lit-up pumpkins away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways, and yards.
- More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read the manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.



WINTER REMINDERS

SAFETY

Prepare Your Home

- Check your heating systems and replace your filters regularly
- Check your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors

Prevent Falls This Winter

- *Choose the right shoe.* Shoes and boots need to fit properly and have soles with good traction
- *Walk like a penguin.* Take short steps and walk as flat-footed as possible on icy or slippery ground

PARKING

Parking a trailer on the street is only permitted for the purpose of loading and unloading for a period not to exceed 24 hours. Parking vehicles or trailers in a swale is not permitted at any time. Please remember that when the Snow Proclamation is in effect, no vehicles will be permitted to park on the street during a declared Snow Event. Violation of these policies may result in a ticket and your vehicle may be impounded.

PLOWING

The Ammon Snow Removal Proclamation is in effect November 15 - March 15.

- Snow Events are declared anytime a storm is predicted to produce or accumulate two inches or more of snow and are announced via social media and text alerts - make sure you sign up today
- Homeowners are responsible for clearing their driveways and sidewalks of snow
- Snow may not be placed in the public right of way or be moved across roadways

Snow Removal Street Priorities

Snow shall be removed from City streets according to the follow priority order:

- Priority 1: Arterial streets (17th, Sunnyside, Ammon, etc)
- Priority 2: Collector streets (Curlew, Midway, Ross, etc)
- Priority 3: Neighborhood streets. Remaining streets will be cleared as quickly as possible after Priority 1 and 2 streets are cleared and based on essential City services, garbage collection, and/or snow depth

