

# TOWN OF OAKESDALE NEWSLETTER

## JANUARY 2010

### **CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, January 18th in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

### **DOG TAGS**

New dog tags are required for all dogs within the Town effective January 1st, 2010. Fees for spayed or neutered dogs are \$7.50 each and \$10.00 each for non-spayed or non-neutered dogs. These fees increase by \$5.00 for dogs that are not licensed by February 1st.

### **WATER METER READINGS**

You probably noticed your last month's water bill was for the minimum charge only. We discontinued reading water meters in November until the weather permits again in the spring.

### **COUNCIL APPOINTMENT**

The Town Council, at its regular meeting on December 21st, chose Tom Crooks to fill the council position which will be vacated by Mayor Elect, Dennis Palmer, on January 1st. Also interviewed for this position was David Hooks.

Councilman Randy Robinson has chosen to remain on the council since no one filed for the position he would have vacated on January 1st.

### **VAN POOLING**

Whitman County is investigating the possibilities of establishing van pool teams for the towns of Oakesdale, Garfield or Palouse. If you are interested, call Mary at City Hall (285-4020) for more information.

### **FERAL CAT SOLUTIONS**

The Humane Society of the Palouse has asked us to inform you that they will be holding a Spay/Neuter clinic for feral (wild) and barn cats only again this year. If you are interested please call 509-334-7099 after January 15th.

### **MAYOR'S SWAN SONG**

Thank you Oakesdale for the privilege of being your mayor for the last 5 years. When Darlene and I chose Oakesdale as the place where we would like to retire and build our retirement home

in 1999 little did we know that I would spend six years involved in the town's government - a little over five years as mayor.

We chose Oakesdale for several reasons. Both of us had been raised on a farm. Both had lived near small towns. After spending 32 years in Beaverton, Oregon we knew we didn't want to retire in that area. After visiting our son, Craig, here in Oakesdale for several years prior to retirement we decided this would be a great place to retire. We liked the town, the people, the four seasons, the farming atmosphere and being close to the Lewiston, Idaho area where we both had many friends and many family ties. In the ten years we have lived here we have not changed our mind. We still love it here for the same reasons.

I look back at the time I spent as your mayor and realize how much this has enhanced my retirement experience. I have been privileged to serve with some of the town's finest councilmen. I have had the opportunity to meet our county commissioners, our state senator and our representatives as well as many other state and county officials, not to mention the many Oakesdale residents I would not have had the opportunity to meet.

Your town is in good hands. Dennis Palmer is no stranger (as I was) to Oakesdale and will be a fine mayor. You are well represented by a dedicated and respected group of councilmen. The town's employees are some of the finest and will continue to serve you well. We get a lot of comments from outsiders about how nice our town looks.

The town is in a very stable financial position. We have been the envy of many of our neighboring towns because we have not had the financial struggles that many of them have had.

My only concern for our town is the condition of our water system. No one knows how old some of our water mains and service lines are. We are constantly digging up our improved streets to repair water leaks. This situation will have to be addressed in the not too distant future.

### **Mayor/ Council Contacts**

#### **Councilmen:**

George Dewan = 285-5282, Alan Evans = 285-4727, Tom Johnson = 285-4303

Dennis Palmer = 285-4209, Randy Robinson = 285-6750

**Mayor:** Russ Rickett = 285-4049, **City Hall** = 285-4020