

city of CASPER

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NEWSLETTER

New Police Chief

City Manager John Patterson appointed a new Chief of Police late in February. Out of many applicants, James L. Wetzel was chosen. Chief Wetzel is a Casper native, and as many have wondered, he is the orthodontist's son. After graduating from high school in Casper, Chief Wetzel went on to college, earning a bachelor's degree. In 1995, Chief Wetzel joined the ranks of the U.S. Marine Corps, where he has ascended to the position of Lieutenant Colonel. During his very distinguished military career, Chief Wetzel earned the Bronze Star Medal. This medal is one of the highest medals one can earn in the military. At the time he earned the Bronze Star

Medal, Chief Wetzel was a Major in the Marines serving in Iraq. Wetzel received the Bronze Star Medal with the Combat Distinguishing Device for meritorious achievement in connection with combat operations in support of

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM II from 14 September 2004 to 3 April 2005. Alongside his exemplary



CHIEF WETZEL BEING SWORN IN BY JOHN PATTERSON

military career, Chief Wetzel was building an equally impressive police career. He joined the Casper Police Department in 1999 and rose to the rank of Detective Sergeant. In this position, Chief Wetzel was responsible

for the command/control, organization, training, equipping, and employment of the Investigations Section, consisting of ten (10) Detectives, one (1) Intelligence Detective, two (2) Property/Evidence Technicians, two (2) Victim/Witness Advocates as well as the supervision, oversight, and case management of all the department's major crimes investigative activity. During the course of his police career, Chief Wetzel achieved many accomplishments, such as developing and implementing a new multi-layered case management system in the

Investigations Section, Department of Justice Commendation, seven (7) Letters of Commendation, Casper

Police Department, a Meritorious Service Commendation, spearheading the development and implementation of the Criminal Intelligence Team, and training local area officers and deputies.

Free Solid Waste Facility Passes

Did you know every month you get a Solid Waste Facility Pass? That's right every month any water bill **with** sanitation services that the City sends you can be used as a Solid Waste Facility Pass. You can save them and use them when you have many loads to take to the Landfill, or you can use them as they come. The City also accepts water bills from Evansville, the sanitation bill from Bar Nunn, and the punch pass from Mills. Here are some important facts about using your water bill as a pass:

- Residential monthly City of Casper utility bills are eligible as a one free use pass at the City solid waste facility; garbage from commercial businesses are not eligible to use utility bills as payment at the solid waste facility.
- All pickup trucks with business logos are not eligible to use utility bills as payment.
- A residential utility bill may be used for one visit to the solid waste facility with one standard pickup truck box of garbage.
- Materials ineligible for disposal using a utility bill include tires and appliances containing CFCs (refrigerators, freezers, etc.); there are fees for disposal of these materials.
- Residential pickup boxes or trailers longer than 10 feet require two utility bills.
- Residential truck and trailer combinations require two or more utility bills.
- The monthly utility bill must be within one year of the billing month to be eligible as a free pass.
- Without the monthly utility bill, the cost for a one standard pickup truck box of garbage is \$15.
- Hazardous materials, propane tanks, and used oil may be disposed at the City Special Waste Facility across the road from the City Solid Waste Facility at no cost.

City of Casper Receives Grant Funds!

Two state grants will help connect Casper. The first connects Casper's past to its present. A Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office grant to the City of Casper's Historic Preservation Commission is providing \$15,000 to research courthouse records, photograph, and complete Wyoming Historic Architecture forms for 50 buildings in Downtown Casper and 30 buildings in the Old Yellowstone District. Once this work is complete, a map will be drafted and historic district boundaries proposed so that a National Register Historic District could be created. The National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the places in the country which have been deemed worthy of preservation.

The second state grant will improve the connections between Downtown Casper, the Old Yellowstone District and the Platte River Commons. A Wyoming Business Council Community Readiness Grant for \$1,000,000 will complete the reconstruction of West Yellowstone Highway to Poplar Street and reconstruct Walnut Street between West Yellowstone Highway and Midwest Avenue. As part of the reconstruction, the infrastructure under the street, for example the water mains, fire suppression lines, and sewer lines will be replaced. Also, streetscaping will be added, which include sidewalks, street lighting, and trees. With the completion of these two streets, the future reconstruction of Midwest Avenue through the Old Yellowstone District will strengthen and increase safety of alternative transportation modes including pedestrian and bicycle travel and enhance the City's transit system by adding a bus stop and shelter. Once complete, the new intersection of Poplar Street and Midwest Avenue may become a popular gateway to downtown.

City Employees Giving Back

Community involvement is part of the citizen fabric in Casper, and many of the City of Casper employees are part of those citizens giving back. The City is lucky to have employees who are not only dedicated to their work, but also to this community. The City would like to highlight the awesome contributions of City staff in these newsletters.

One such employee is Chad Cheever in the solid waste division, who volunteers for Pop in the Shop. He works with kids whose fathers are not involved in their lives and teaches them how to work on cars. Pop in the Shop also takes donated cars, repairs them, and gives them to families in need. "You talk about putting a smile on those kids' faces, man o' man, when they give that car away!" exclaimed Cheever.

Other City employees giving back are part of the volunteer team that makes up the Casper Police Victim Response Team that responds to horrific scenes at any given hour to provide help with critical incident stress and other emergency assistance. Three city employees serve on this team: Jenny Hunter from the attorney's office, Lynette McCartney from the wastewater treatment plant, and Kimberly Morrison from the Casper Recreation Center.

Yet another city employee, Vicky Macy, is referred to as a "one-woman goodwill tour" by some. She is a regular volunteer reader at one of the elementary schools and is a Habitat for Humanity volunteer where she not only helps build houses but also serves on the housing recipient selection committee.

The City is also happy to have employee, and baritone saxophonist, Nathan Lange from the water distribution section of the public utilities division, who is a member of the Casper Municipal Band that has played in the historic band shell every summer since in 1940. Nathan also is the president of the Central Wyoming Model Railroad Club.

Heads up!

City News & Tips

Recreation

May Events

Recreation Division

May Events:

May 3 ½ Price Family Swim @ the Aquatics Center, 11:15am-1pm

May 11 Ode to Mother's Day Swim @ the Aquatics Center-Moms with their kids get in free all day

May 18 Community Recreation Foundation Event: Snow Day in May @ the Ice Arena, free admission

May 19 Adult Softball League Opener

May 19 Recreation Center changes to summer hours

May 24 Girl's Junior Olympic Fast Pitch Softball League begins

May 26 Memorial Day – Recreation facilities closed

May 27 Adventure Camp Sampler Week for kids 5-11 years old

May 31 Paradise Valley Pool opens for the summer.



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