

Welcome to tonight's City Council meeting!

The elected officials of the City of Bonners Ferry are appreciative of an involved constituency. Testimony from the public is encouraged concerning issues when addressed under the Public Hearing portion of the agenda. Any individual who wishes may address the council on any issue, whether on the agenda or not, during the Public Comments period. Normal business will preclude public participation during the business portion of the meeting with the discretion left to the Mayor and Council.

Vision Statement

Bonners Ferry, "The Friendliest City", strives to achieve balanced growth, builds on community strengths, respects natural resources, promotes excellence in Government, and values quality of life.

**AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Bonners Ferry City Hall
7232 Main Street
267-3105
March 1, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Each speaker will be allowed a maximum of five minutes, unless repeat testimony is requested by the Mayor/Council

GUESTS

John Tremble – International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 73
Derrick Barras – Union Discussion

REPORTS

Police/Fire/City Administrator/Economic Development Coordinator/Urban Renewal District

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Approval of Bills and Payroll
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Approval of February 16, 2016 Council Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

5. Electric – Discuss and Consider Recognizing International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 73

NEW BUSINESS

6. City – Approve Catering Permit for American Legion Boundary Post 55 for the FFA Alumni Fund Raiser on March 19, 2016 in the Banquet Hall of the American Legion Building (attachment)
7. City – Authorize Probationary Wage Increase for Deby Garcia (attachment)

8. City – Consider Farmers Market Space Rental Agreement for the 2016 Season (attachment)
9. Golf – Approve Contract Extension Agreement for Timber Harvest and Authorize the Mayor to Sign the Agreement (attachment)
10. Sewer – Discuss and Approve Quote for Bingham Street Sewer Repair
11. Parks – Authorization to Hire Bob Tritt for Seasonal Parks Worker for 2016

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE 74-206, SUBSECTION 1

- (a) To consider hiring a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, wherein the respective qualities of individuals are to be evaluated in order to fill a particular vacancy or need. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office or deliberations about staffing needs in general;
- (b) To consider the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student;
- (c) To acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency;
- (d) To consider records that are exempt from disclosure as provided in chapter 1, title 74, Idaho Code;
- (e) To consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or nations;
- (f) To communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated. The mere presence of legal counsel at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement;
- (g) By the commission of pardons and parole, as provided by law;
- (h) By the custody review board of the Idaho department of juvenile corrections, as provided by law;
- (i) To engage in communications with a representative of the public agency's risk manager or insurance provider to discuss the adjustment of a pending claim or prevention of a claim imminently likely to be filed. The mere presence of a representative of the public agency's risk manager or insurance provider at an executive session does not satisfy this requirement; or
- (j) To consider labor contract matters authorized under section 67-2345A [74-206A](1)(a) and (b), Idaho Code.

ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING DATE

INFORMATION

12. City – AIC Conference in Boise June 22 through June 24, 2016
13. Street – Cleanup Week April 11 through April 18, 2016 (attachment)
14. City – City of Sandpoint and City of Dalton Gardens Big Game Prohibition Ordinances (attachment)

**CITY OF BONNERS FERRY
CATERING PERMIT APPLICATION**

Owners Name: American Legion Boundary Post 55

Business Name: Club 55

Business Address: 6416 Kootenai St.

Bonnors Ferry ID 83805

State Beverage License Number: 3048

I hereby request a catering permit for the following dates: 3rd Sat March 19th 2016

from the hours of 4 o'clock a.m./p.m. to 10 o'clock a.m./p.m. at the

following location: Up stairs Banquet Hall Am Leg building

Catering will be done for the following group or organization sponsoring the

event: Bonnors Ferry FFA Alumni

Type of Event: Annual Fund Raiser

Wine: Beer: Hard Liquor:

Club 55
Mgr.

Judy Stearns
Signature of the Licensee

2-22-16
Date

Judy Stearns
Printed Name

Address: 6416 Kootenai St.

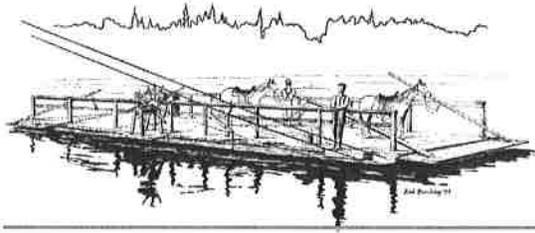
Phone: 267-0194

Date Submitted to City Council 2-22-16

A non-refundable fee of \$20 per day is required with the application

Please make check payable to: City of Bonners Ferry
P. O. Box 149
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805

RECEIVED
FEB 22 2016
CITY OF BONNERS FERRY



CITY OF BONNERS FERRY

7232 Main Street
P.O. Box 149
Bonners Ferry, Idaho 83805
Phone: 208-267-3105 Fax: 208-267-4375

Memo

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Kris Larson, Clerk/Treasurer
Date: 2/24/2016
Re: Completion of Probationary Period

We hired Deby Garcia in September, 2015 at \$11.50 per hour with the opportunity to reconsider the hourly rate after a six month probationary period. Deby is working out great, and we would like to raise her pay to \$12.67 per hour. This is the amount budgeted for fiscal year 2016 for this position.

If approved, the raise would start with the March 13, 2016 pay period.

If you have any questions please call me at 267-0351.

Thanks,

Kris



February 23, 2016

Bonners Ferry City Council

Re: Space Rental Agreement for 2016

The Board of the Bonners Ferry Farmers Market is pleased to submit to you our proposal for space rental for the 2016 Market Season.

The Market is a family event that has been promoting the community for over 35 years. It brings together individuals from Bonners Ferry, Boundary County, and beyond. Its colorful banners and canopies attract people to the downtown core to browse the market and then on to other businesses.

The location and improvements to the Market area are a big part of this success and have made it easier for both vendors and customers to access the Market and downtown area. We appreciate your acknowledgement of our contribution to the City of Bonners Ferry.

The following pages outline our requests and provide details about the Market and the upcoming 2016 season. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to working with you regarding our proposals in order to make the Market a continuing community service.

Sincerely,
Bonners Ferry Farmers Market
Board of Directors

Gail Cathcart
Chair

Barbara Hansen
Treasurer

Ali & Cal Stanch
Secretary

Derek Blumenschein
Advertising



2016 Market Season Space Rental

We propose the following for the Space Rental Agreement.

1. Item 2: USER agrees to pay ENTITY rent for said premises payable on or before May 1st, 2016. Rent shall be \$500 for the 2016 market season. This shall include \$100 fee for the City to install and remove our banners at the beginning and the end of the season.

General Market Details

1. # of market Saturdays for 2016 will be 24 starting on April 30rd and ending on October 1st.
2. Market hours are 8am to 1pm with setup beginning at 6:30 am. Total time usage per Saturday is approximately 7 hours.
3. Space usage for the market is approximately 7000ft.
4. Our average # of vendors in 2015 was 30 per market.
5. Vendors are allowed 1 vehicle with their display. Extra vehicles/trailers will be removed from the market area by the start of the market.
6. The market carries \$1,000,000 in liability insurance through Farm Bureau. The City of Bonners Ferry is a "Named Insured" on our policy.
7. Vendors can only sell products that they themselves grow, harvest, create, or produce. No reselling or selling for others is permitted. No garage sale, flea market or wholesale items are permitted.
8. Products sold must comply with state & local laws, including State Health & ISDA rules.
9. Vendors pay the market 5% of their sales for each market day they vend.
10. All vendors are required to collect Idaho State sales tax.
11. We leave the parking lot area we use cleaner after each market than when we arrived.

SPACE RENTAL AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT made between THE CITY OF BONNERS FERRY, a municipal corporation of the State of Idaho, herein "ENTITY," and BOUNDARY COUNTY FARMERS MARKET, herein "USER",

THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

1. **USE OF PREMISES:** ENTITY hereby rents to USER the non-exclusive use of approximately 7,000 square feet of parking lot, Saturday mornings beginning April 30, 2016, and concluding October 1, 2016. The general area of use is as shown in Exhibit A, attached hereto.
2. **RENTAL FEE:** USER agrees to pay ENTITY rent for said premises payable upon execution of this Agreement in the amount of \$500 per season plus an additional \$100 for installation and removal of "Farmer's Market" banners. It shall be the responsibility of USER to request the installation and removal of banners from ENTITY. Upon receipt of request, ENTITY shall install or remove banners as soon as practicable.
3. **MEMBERSHIP IN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND TOURIST CENTER:** The parties to this Agreement recognize that the Farmers Market has the public benefit of attracting business to our community. As part of that community involvement the USER agrees to be a member of the Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce and the Bonners Ferry Tourist and Visitors Information Center.
4. **PURPOSE:** USER agrees to use the above Premises solely for the purpose of the sale of locally produced goods and for no other purpose.
5. **USE AND SECURITY:** USER acknowledges that this premise is designed for the public and shall not perform any activities or take any action which would endanger the public safety.
6. **HOUSEKEEPING:** USER agrees to keep the Premises clean and attractive at all times and return it to ENTITY in a good and clean condition. USER agrees not to alter the Premises or attach anything to the premises without first obtaining written approval of ENTITY. USER shall be responsible for garbage cans for the market.
7. **VENDORS:** The USER will be solely responsible for the conduct of all market vendors.
8. **UTILITIES:** The ENTITY does not provide for any utilities including, but not limited to, Electric, Sewer, Water, Gas, Garbage, internet access, and structure maintenance. All utilities will be the sole responsibility of the USER.
9. **CONTACT:** All notices or compliance issues concerning this Lease shall be directed to the following individuals:

ENTITY:

Mike Klaus
City Administrator
PO Box 149
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
208-267-0357

USER:

Barbara Hansen
208-267-1200

10. **INSURANCE:** USER agrees to obtain and keep in force during its acts under this Agreement a comprehensive general liability insurance policy in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00, which shall name and protect USER, all USER's employees, ENTITY, and its officers, agents and employees, from and against any and all claims,

losses, actions, and judgments for damages or injury to persons or property arising out of or in connection with the USER's acts. USER shall provide proof of liability coverage as set forth above to ENTITY prior to commencing its performance as herein provided, and require insurer to notify ENTITY thirty (30) days prior to cancellation of said policy.

11. **INDEMNIFICATION:** USER agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless ENTITY, and its officers, agents and employees, from and against any and all claims, losses, actions, or judgments for damages or injury to persons or property arising out of or in connection with the acts and/or any performances or activities of USER, USER's agents, employees, or representatives under this Agreement.

12. **USE:** USER agrees not to store, generate, use or bring upon the property hazardous waste as defined by applicable laws or otherwise use the property in a manner that will increase ENTITY's insurance rates for the property.

The User agrees to that all vendor vehicles not integral to the product being sold will not be parked in the City Parking Lot or the Meeker Parking lot. Parking is available on Riverside Street, Arizona Street, and at the Fire Hall Parking Lot.

13. **TERMINATION:** This Agreement may be terminated immediately by ENTITY for breach of this Agreement by USER and either party may terminate this Agreement by 30 days written notice of termination to the other party.

14. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT:** This is the entire agreement of the parties and can only be modified or amended in writing by the parties.

15. **ATTORNEY FEES:** Reasonable attorney fees shall be awarded to the prevailing party in any action to enforce this Agreement or to declare forfeiture or termination.

16. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:** USER agrees to comply with all federal, state, city, and local laws, rules and regulations.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2016.

ENTITY:
CITY OF BONNERS FERRY

USER:
BOUNDARY COUNTY FARMERS
MARKET

By: _____

By: _____

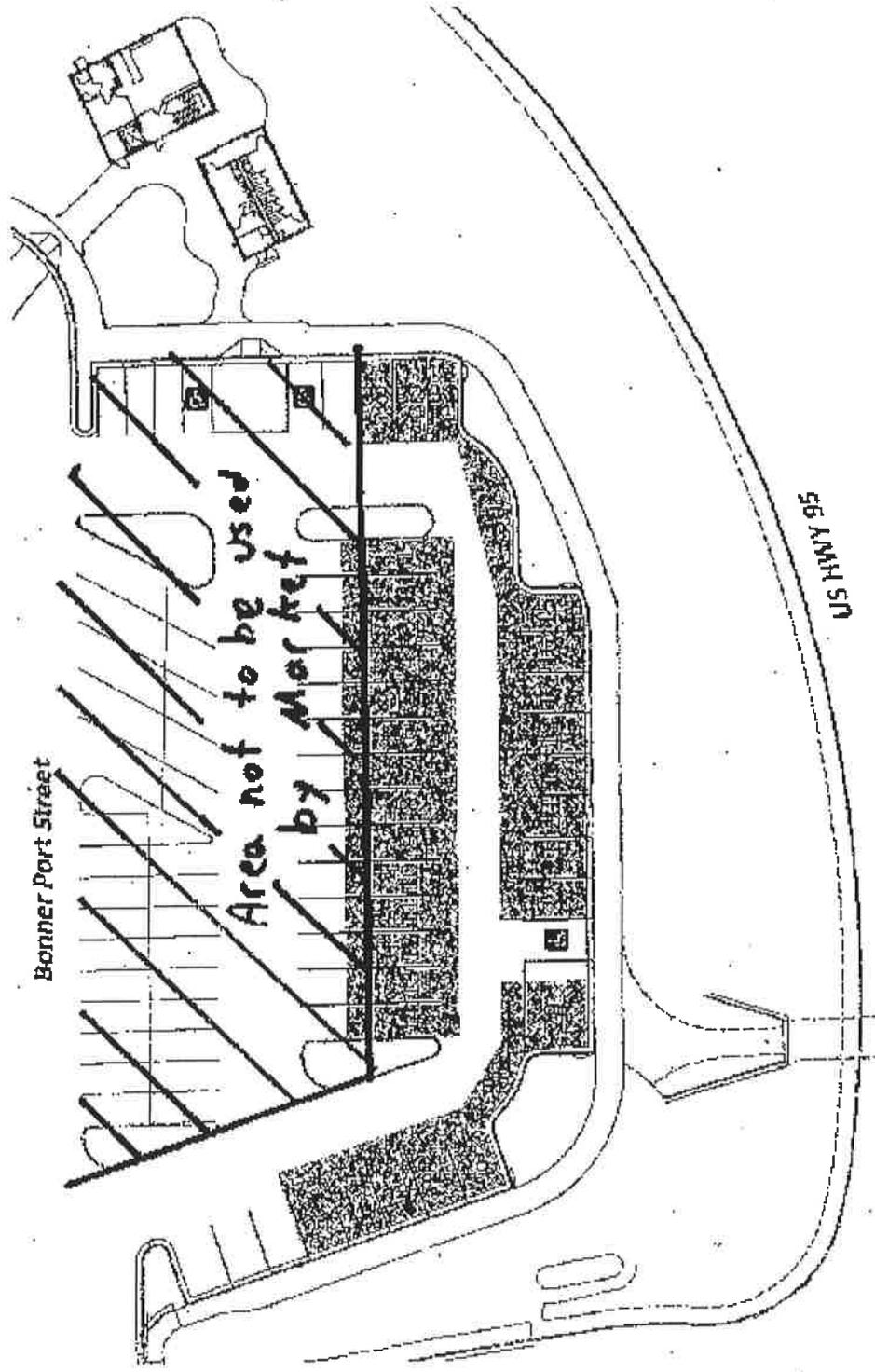
Dave Anderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

WITNESS:

Kris Larson, Clerk

Exhibit A



CONTRACT EXTENSION AGREEMENT

This Contract Extension Agreement (hereinafter "Extension") is made and entered into this ____ day of _____, 2016, by and between the City of Bonners Ferry, a municipal corporation of the State of Idaho, hereinafter referred to as "LANDOWNER," and Maggi Logging, Inc., hereinafter "OPERATOR."

WHEREAS, the parties stated above entered in a Timber Harvest Contract on January 7, 2016, hereinafter "Original Contract,"

WHEREAS, the work contemplated by the Original Contract requires certain weather conditions in order for the work to be completed and such conditions are not likely to be present in the originally contemplated time of the Original Contract,

WHEREAS, the parties mutually agree to extend the time of the Original Contract in order to allow the work to be completed when weather conditions allow.

In consideration of the mutual promises contained herein and in the Original Contract, the parties agree as follows:

1. The completion time in the Original Agreement, Section E, subpart 1, shall be extended for the period of one (1) year, to February 15, 2017.
2. Prior to beginning work, OPERATOR shall receive the approval of LANDOWNER or LANDOWNER'S forester in order to ensure minimal impact upon the property.

All other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the extension.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this contract extension agreement on the date and year above.

LANDOWNER: _____
David Sims, Mayor of the City of Bonners Ferry

Attest:

OPERATOR: _____
Maggi Logging, Inc.

**Cleanup Week in the City of Bonners Ferry
April 11 through April 18, 2016**

The City Street Department will pick up yard waste from the front curb side of residences and businesses during the week of April 11 through April 18, 2016. Bundled branches and limbs, bagged grass, and bagged leaves will be picked up at no charge through the morning of the last day of the cleanup week.

If you have any questions or if you have a special need, please call the Street Department at 267-4383 and leave a message.

Thanks for your help!

City Street Department

5-4-21: FEEDING BIG GAME PROHIBITED:  

No person shall knowingly and intentionally feed big game animals. Persons who fail to cease feeding big game animals within seven (7) days of receiving written notice by a city official through personal delivery or certified mail shall be in violation of this section. (Ord. 1313, 5-20-2015)

5-4-22: PENALTIES:  

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter, or fails to comply with the provisions of this chapter, may be charged with a misdemeanor with penalties pursuant to Idaho Code section 18-113 (with the exception of dog running at large, which by Idaho state code is defined as an infraction, with a maximum fine of \$300.00). Each day's continued violation may constitute a separate offense. (Ord. 1313, 5-20-2015)

7-7-1: PURPOSE:

7-7-2: DEFINITIONS:

7-7-3: CONDUCT DECLARED UNLAWFUL:

7-7-4: EXCEPTIONS:

7-7-5: INVESTIGATIONS AND COMPLAINTS:

7-7-6: CITATIONS AND PENALTIES:

7-7-1: PURPOSE:  

The city hereby determined that an increasing population of deer within the city poses a threat to public safety by increasing the likelihood of deer-vehicle collisions, direct deer-human and deer-pet conflicts, the risk of attracting increased predator populations, potential transmission of disease to humans from deer; poses a threat of damage to ornamental plants and gardens, and overbrowsing of limited existing natural habitat. This chapter is intended to reduce these threats by restricting supplement and intentional feeding of deer, which results in unnatural concentrations of deer and can affect the normal movement of deer within the community. (Ord. 240, 12-4-2014)

7-7-2: DEFINITIONS:  

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms shall have these meanings:

ATTRACTANT(S): Any substance, including, but not limited to, food, garbage, or salt lick, which draws deer to a particular location.

FEED: A substance composed of grain, mineral, salt, fruit, vegetable, hay, or any other food material or combination of these materials, whether natural or manufactured, that may attract deer.

FEEDING: The intentional depositing, distributing, or tending of feed in an area frequented by deer. (Ord. 240, 12-4-2014)

7-7-3: CONDUCT DECLARED UNLAWFUL:  

- A. No person shall purposely, knowingly or intentionally provide access to "feed" (as defined in section 7-7-2 of this chapter) to any deer in the city, on lands either publicly or privately owned.

- B. It is unlawful to intentionally feed, provide feed or other attractants, excluding fruit trees, ornamental plants, vegetable gardens and properly hung bird feeders, to deer within the city limits. No person shall purposely or knowingly leave or store any refuse, garbage, food product, pet food, forage product or supplement, salt, seed or birdseed, fruit, or grain in a manner that would constitute an attractant to any deer.

- C. Nothing in this section shall apply to: 1) any agent of the city authorized to implement an alternative control method set forth in any approved community based deer management plan

endorsed by the state of Idaho fish and game department in accordance with the provisions of Idaho statutes on wildlife or 2) any hunter engaging in hunting pursuant to a valid hunting license issued in accordance with the provisions of this code and Idaho statutes. (Ord. 240, 12-4-2014)

7-7-4: EXCEPTIONS:  

This chapter shall not apply to the feeding of domestic livestock. (Ord. 240, 12-4-2014)

7-7-5: INVESTIGATIONS AND COMPLAINTS:  

Upon receipt of a complaint alleging the illegal feeding of deer, the city shall investigate the complaint to determine if there has been a violation of this chapter. (Ord. 240, 12-4-2014)

7-7-6: CITATIONS AND PENALTIES:  

Any city representative or law enforcement officer observing or upon investigation, determining that a violation of this chapter has occurred shall:

- A. On the first substantiated violation, the property owner shall be cited by the city for a violation with a warning that subsequent violations will incur a monetary penalty. As part of the citation, the property owner shall be encouraged to visit the city office for educational materials.

- B. On the second separate violation and any subsequent substantiated violations, the city or designee shall issue an infraction citation describing such violation and allowing the person cited to post and forfeit the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). (Ord. 240, 12-4-2014)

APRIL 30, 2013

Tips on Fencing, Prevention, Enjoyment and Feeding

FROM THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Dalton Gardens Citizens: We have provided this newsletter in response to the increasing concern about deer overpopulation within the City limits. This newsletter is a culmination of our own research, coupled with the research provided to us by the Citizens Committee on wildlife within the City. This citizen committee met for 11 months to 1) determine if there was a problem with deer overpopulation and 2) to address any issues related to deer within the City. The Committee was charged with providing the Council information and recommendations. Based upon the diverse opinions and recommendations of the committee, the Council has chosen to send out a community survey to every household on deer. We will be sending out one survey per household and we encourage you to return the survey by June 1st, 2013. If the community survey results deem that there is a direction that the City should go, we will review and take those results into serious consideration.

Several mitigation techniques have been suggested such as deer birth control, a community wide hunt, harassment with paint ball guns and allowing taller solid fences.

We are currently reviewing our regulations to see what steps we may take to mitigate perceived deer overpopulation. While we are conducting this review, we strongly encourage you to take personal responsibility for your actions when it comes to deer. For example:

PLEASE:

Do Not Feed the Deer. Plant deer resistant plants. Adhere to the speed limit to prevent deer-vehicle collisions. Talk to the City Planner about modifying your fence to prevent deer.

DEER KILLING LATE FEB TO MARCH

Idaho Fish and Game, the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department and the City of Dalton Gardens are seeking information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who used a firearm within City limits to shoot and kill deer out of season. Several laws were broken such as poaching and discharge of a firearm within the City. There is currently a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons. The incidents occurred during late Feb to early March. If you have any information, please contact the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department at 446-1300 or the Idaho Fish and Game at 769-1414



FAQ's

Can I shoot a firearm or bow in the City? **NO**

Is hunting allowed in the City? **NO**

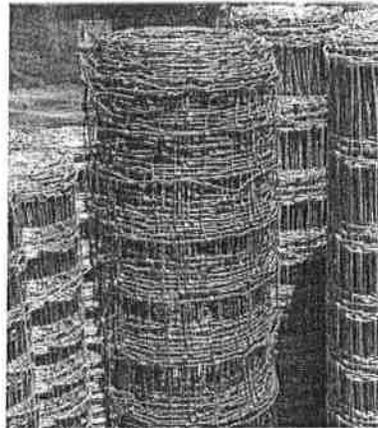
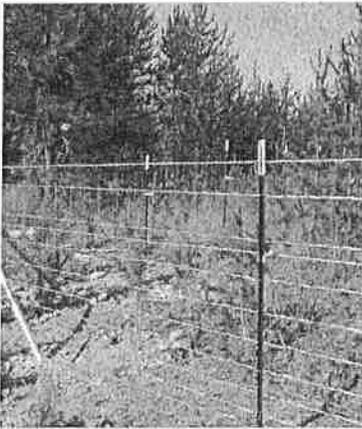
Is feeding deer harmful? **YES, TO THE DEER**

How tall can I build a fence around my garden? **8 feet with a permit, see the Dalton Gardens City Code**

What is the speed limit in Dalton Gardens? **25 mph.**

CURRENT CITY FENCE REGULATIONS

Currently, all fences require a permit to erect in Dalton Gardens. Dalton Gardens has an ordinance regulating fences. In a nutshell, you can have a solid fence in the front yard next to any street that is a maximum 3 feet tall. The exception is if you put field fencing adjacent to the street. Field fencing is open wire construction and as part of the fence permit must be approved by the City. Adjacent to a street, field fencing can be up to five feet in height. Twenty five feet back from the street, your fence can be a solid fence at a maximum of six feet in height or rise to eight feet high if constructed of field fencing. Field fencing is NOT chain link fence. Here are some examples:



WILDLIFE FENCE WEBSITES

Here are some websites that we looked at regarding deer fencing. They provide some ideas on how to erect fences that deter deer. Please click on the links (or copy and paste) and it should direct you to the website.

<http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/deerfences.html>

<http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.2193/0091-7648%282006%2934%5B191%3AFADMAR%5D2.0.CO%3B2?journalCode=wbul>

<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/wildlife/deercont.PDF>

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/publications/living/deer.pdf



IS IT OK TO FEED DEER?



Idaho Fish and Game discourage the feeding of deer for several reasons. Studies have shown that deer that are artificially fed lose their natural wildness and become use to human habitats. This usually results in the deer becoming a nuisance and destroying your gardens and shrubbery. Quite often, people become somewhat possessive of "their" deer. This can lead to conflicts. Artificial feeding is expensive and if begun, must be maintained. A deer's digestive

system is extremely sensitive to sudden changes in diet. If you choose to feed deer, you should use commercially blended foods especially for deer and you must provide food for the entire four-month wintering period. This will generally cost about \$55 per deer. But, because one deer always leads to many more, you can potentially spend hundreds of dollars each month on commercial feed.

Never feed deer bread or other food humans eat. Eating this type of food can be very harmful to deer. Additionally, bread, corn and table foods attract other animals to the feeding site. Raccoons and skunks are both carriers of rabies, and domestic dogs can attack deer.

Competition for food around artificial feeding sites can be fierce. The smallest and weakest deer, usually fawns, get pushed to the end of the feeding line. Wild deer that are dispersed in their habitat rarely exhibit this behavior, allowing the younger deer an opportunity to eat.

Deer concentrated at feeding sites are more likely to contract diseases such as tuberculosis, salmonella, and brucellosis. Because of the prevalence of saliva and nose-to-nose contact at these locations, these deadly diseases are easily passed from one deer to another.

As deer concentrate around artificial feeding sites, they become increasingly vulnerable to attack by domestic dogs. Their loss of wildness aids in this vulnerability. Wild predators, such as coyotes, are often drawn to the feedings sites, as well.

The City is considering a ban on large game wildlife feeding.

HELPFUL WEBSITES ABOUT GARDENING AND DEER RESISTANT PLANTS

Here are some helpful websites about plants that may survive a "deer attack".

Here are some University of Idaho websites

<http://www.uidaho.edu/extension/kootenai/horticulturegardening>

<http://extension.ag.uidaho.edu/nursery/Extension%20Publications/Controlling%20Deer%20Damage%20in%20Idaho%20Horticultural%20Crops%20and%20Gardens.pdf>

Here is a site from Washington State University

<http://www.spokane-county.wsu.edu/spokane/eastside/Fact%20Sheets/C063%20Deer%20Resistant%20Plants.pdf>

Here is a website from the State of Washington Fish and Wildlife

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/deer.html>

Here is the website to the Idaho Fish and Game

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/search/?search=deer&searchUsing=Google+Web+Search>

Here is a website for the Idaho Native Plant Society CdA office

<http://idahonativeplants.org/inps/Chapter.aspx?ChapterId=1>




DALTON GARDENS

We are here on the web!

<http://www.daltongardens.com/>

Council Meetings: First Thursday of Month 6:00 p.m.
P&Z Meetings Second Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

DEER VEHICLE COLLISIONS DRIVE SAFELY

Drive defensively, especially in the fall. Fall is the mating season for deer, commonly called the "rut" by deer hunters, and the time of year when deer are the most active. Approximately one-half or more of all deer-vehicle collisions generally occur during the three months of October, November, and December. Below are a series of suggestions that will help minimize your chances of hitting a deer.

Be especially careful when driving at dawn and at dusk. This time of day is when deer are most active. Unfortunately, after the fall time change, these are also the times of day that most people commute to and from work.

If you see a deer crossing the road up ahead, slow down immediately and continue to drive slowly until you are past the point where the deer crossed. Female deer frequently travel in groups and more deer may be about to cross.

Deer habitually use particular areas to cross roads, usually crossing between areas of cover. Drivers should slow down when driving through these areas, particularly at dawn and dusk in the fall. If you see a VDOT deer crossing warning sign, slow down and be more attentive. It is there for a reason.

Do not swerve to miss a deer. You should brake and stay in your lane. Losing control of your vehicle, crossing into another lane, hitting an oncoming vehicle, or leaving the road and hitting a tree will almost always result in a more serious accident than hitting a deer.

Any person who is involved in a motor vehicle collision that kills a deer or bear is required by law to immediately report the accident to a law enforcement officer in the county where the accident occurred. The City, County or State do not pay for damages incurred from collisions with wildlife. Consult your insurance company.



Did you know?

White tail deer have several natural adaptations that help them survive the winter. These include a thick winter coat of hollow hairs and the storage of fat in fall for later use during winter.

Adult deer lose up to 20 percent of their body weight during winter, regardless of the amount or quality of food present. Adult deer get as much as 40 percent of their daily energy during winter from their fat tissue. During winter, cover — not forage — becomes the key to survival. Deer seek softwood cover (deer yards) to avoid deep snow, high winds and extreme cold. Deer move little in these areas and use a network of trails collectively created. Travel is easier, as is escape from predators. Wintering deer tend to disperse over an area large enough to reduce competition for food and risk of predation.

Despite these adaptations, some deer will die in winter. This occurs more commonly in older or smaller deer, especially among those with fewer fat reserves. If winter ends before the fat reserves are expended, the deer survives. If fat reserves are gone before winter ends, the deer dies. Therefore, any activity that increases energy use can lead to the death of individual deer and reduce the population.