



PIEDMONT PUBLIC NEWS

October 2019

Piedmont
111 S. 2nd Street
PO Box 101
Piedmont, S.D. 57769
Phone (605)716-5495
Fax (605) 716-6013
Piedmont1@rushmore.com
www.piedmontsd.com
Office Hours are:
Monday-Thursday
9:00 - 5:00

Steve Heilman-Board President/Finance
Jack Parks -Board Vice President/Streets
Phil Anderson-Trustee/Library
Scott Toothman-Trustee/Planning & Zoning
Phil Aitken-Trustee/Park
Diana Evans-Finance Officer
Mary Jean Voight-Deputy Finance Officer
Megan Eggers-Library Director
Jeri Hodder-Assistant Library Director
Jeff Kottwitz-water
Kyle Bertsch – Maintenance

You are Welcome to Attend:

Regular Meetings on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each Month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall
-these are formal meetings Open to the Public and Agenda items are discussed.

Planning Meetings on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each Month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall
-these are informal meetings with open forum for discussion, questions and concerns. Possible Agenda items for Regular Meetings are discussed.

Planning & Zoning Meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each Month at 5:30 p.m.
at City Hall.

Library Board Meetings on the 4th Monday of each Month at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

Park Board Meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each Month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

***Park Board Meetings are temporarily Canceled**

Fax Services are available during City Hall Office Hours-No Charge

Notary Services are available from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays – No Charge

In Office Schedule:

Mary Jean Voight who does Water Billing and Bookkeeping is in the Office Monday thru Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Diana Evans who does Administrative (most everything else) is in the Office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thank You from Ruth Kraft



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to this whole community, relatives, neighbors, Piedmont valley Lutheran people, Post 311 & Friends. What a wonderful memorable 90th Birthday Celebration!! Also all the beautiful Birthday Cards!! Love Ruth Kraft

(There was a Birthday Celebration during the Fall Festival).

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Thank You to Bill Paris for serving the City of Piedmont as a Trustee/Code Enforcement from 2014 to 2018 and then remaining as Code Enforcement until mid-2019. You brought order to Piedmont with a Smile!! ☺

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Brick Order forms for the Park Music area can be picked up in City Hall and the next batch will be made in the Spring of 2020.

Piedmont Valley Food Pantry

Located at: Our Lady of the Black Hills Church
12365 Sturgis Rd. Piedmont SD

(Pantry is located in the basement of the Church)

Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon)

It is Very Important to be able to be found in an Emergency

Please be sure that your House has proper House numbers on it and that they are posted where Emergency vehicles can easily see them. If you are in the Cities main 16 block area and don't have your 3 digit address posted or know what it is, contact City Hall. Having the proper number posted is very important!

Introducing a Newer Board Member:

*Steve Heilman-Board President/Finance (Elected 2018)

Why do I identify with Piedmont? In 1986 my wife and I bought a home in Indian Hills and it's where we still live today. (My parents lived in Piedmont at the time.) Then In 2011, Summerset annexed two lots in Indian Hills and planned to build a commercial business. This violated the covenants and would have seriously diminished property values. I, and others, organized an effort to stop it which took us months to achieve. By annexing properties from Piedmont to Midland Heights we hoped for safety from such behaviors. Plus, Piedmont's tax base improved by approximately forty million. I served on Piedmont's planning and zoning board for a few years after the annexation. What qualifying experiences do I have to serve as a trustee/president for Piedmont? The only legal requirement is to be a certified registered voter within the city of Piedmont and be elected as a trustee. My other qualifications include; ten years teaching High School Vocational Agriculture, four years teaching at Western Dakota Tech, four years as Vocational Director and Alternative High School Principal Rapid City Public School System, six years as Assistant Principal Stevens High School Rapid City, and four years as Superintendent of the Kadoka, SD School System. My credentials include a BS in Agricultural Education, and a Masters and Doctorate degree in Public School Administration. I worked two years in Nutritional Consulting for GTA Feeds and six years as a Commercial Agricultural Banker which required many of the same skills used in schools.

What do I feel is a top priority for Piedmont? We will be required by law after the next census, or sooner, to change the form of government from a Trustee form to an Aldermanic form with an elected Mayor and representative (Alderman) from each Precinct like Midland Heights, Indian Hills, Stage Barn, and down town Piedmont. The goal is an elected mayor by the people and equality in citizenship and representation. Other priorities are a mix with varying degrees of potential due to affordability, need, achievability, and financing requirements (If any). Currently, priorities are set by the entire board and feedback from the public at regular board meetings. When we do identify project priorities, they are placed in our budget July, August, and September for the next year. We publicize our budget and our amendments in the Spearfish Newspaper in October. A budget (a legal requirement) limits our spending on those projects we have included. Changing a budget requires a rewrite, two public readings, and two public votes. The only exception is spending from a contingency fund requiring one vote which must not exceed 5% of the entire budget and should be reserved for emergencies near the end of the fiscal year. The notion that we can spend without a budget is false, or that if a donation for a special project is received, we should be able to skip all of these steps to contract spend is also false. This kind of spending skip required budget rewrites. The authority to spend is through a vote of the board and a public record in the minutes of our meeting. State law requires municipalities to receive an audit every year when the municipalities exceed a budget of \$600,000.00. Our basic budget is about \$700,000.00 with some basic projects. We are allowed by law to carry unlimited funds in the bank. Currently we have an approximate bank balance of \$500,000.00 before beginning next years budget. Our projected income next year for all sources is equal to our planned expenses. Unless we find a major project which merits adjusting our budget, we should have a year end bank balance of \$500,000.00 or more. Assuming anyone wants more specific numbers, it's available in the Spearfish News Paper, the Pioneer or find it at City Hall. The point being is that we are saving up for something big, which is within SD Law, but that use of funds may be used for a variety of possibilities. A few include; expansion of water and sewer services through expanded debt, paying off current debt on our water system, pick and fix any road, storage for road and park equipment (the library needs more room), buy a lot for a shop/equipment storage, build a building for equipment storage, or add more street lights to name a few. Our choices depend on individual priorities toward building a better place for children and families, improving economic development, or

working on both. When our total income from taxes is from sales tax of about \$250,000.00 and our income from real estate is closer to \$150,000.00 (with about a 2.5 mil rate), economic development seems like an attractive option to promote. Installing or expanding services for that purpose can be expensive when infrastructure investing is needed and financing is required. The burden of repayment will be on the entire community. Our current water system cost \$2,500,000.00. We have about 190 water users and about 30 customers who are hooked up but don't use water. The state wrote off \$1,500,000.00 of that debt leaving Piedmont users to pay the rest (\$1,000,000). For those who have access to an amortization calculator, figure that at 3.5% and 40 years, then divide by 210 users. That will yield how much we have to charge per customer just to pay the debt payments. All these calculations haven't included paying for any water we buy from Black Hawk Water, book keeping, maintenance, pumping, testing, or managing the system. Hooking up the same customers (just for calculating) to build a sewer system could be roughly ten times water system costs for a large scale system. The state tends to buy down larger scale projects much like they write off water projects by similar percentages. Smaller systems for a narrower set of users would be a different deal and would not be supported by the state with buy downs. Who ever needs that option would have to negotiate it with the city. It's easy to see why Eastern SD communities have opted for teaming up with other communities to pay for these services. Especially when those communities are expanding and building as fast as they are. It's like they have no choice, but to invest. Our primary motive in expanding our water system was due to to many water wells that were tainted with faulty septic systems. Water suppliers are required to send in water samples periodically to be sure of public safety. Other projects that are much less complicated include; Pick a road, any road, in Piedmont. With all the rain this year all gravel roads with any kind of slope suffered. Gravel seems to float along with the runoff in our recent downpours. The only thing that stays put is ground up old road asphalt in the deep ruts. Aside from fixing ruts, we could easily direct every dollar into curbs, gutters, and asphalt. Scott Toothman, Jack Parks, and Phil Anderson are researching a possibility of projects on Second Street and the end of Main. The park board secured contributions they used to buy the playground equipment, while the city paid for the concrete work and street lights estimated at \$60,000. When looking at the park board's good work, one does wonder how much more is there to do? Phil Aiken is the trustee in charge of the park. Sidewalks on Second and Third Streets between the elementary school and the park were installed this summer along with some drainage improvements with a grant from the SD DOT. This was a project that was postponed at least a year due to some technicalities but did get done supervised by Jack Parks, Phil Anderson, and engineers hired by the DOT. It looks good and will enhance travel between the school and park. Jack Parks is in charge of roads and streets. Scott Toothman will continue to be the trustee in charge of planning and zoning. His committee handles requests for building permits and reviews the ordinances related to zones within the city. The library seems to run flawlessly due the exceptional work of Megan and her volunteers. The library staff consistently demonstrates dedication to serving the interests and needs of Piedmont citizens, especially the little ones. Reading is the big deal at the Piedmont Library. The library deserves it's own story. Phil Anderson is the trustee in charge of the library. Currently we are completing our first audit of finances since 2014. Hopefully, this information will guide us to ensure continuing safe use of public funds. Diana Evans and Mary Jean Voigt, our business office employees, await improvements in our processes and greater confidence as a result. These are my thoughts regarding the status of things at Piedmont as a snap shot over a years time. There will be differences of opinion about any of this, but this one is mine. It is my way of painting a picture and providing impressions. Thanks.

PIEDMONT AMBULANCE DISTRICT BOARD

NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

If you live between Exit 48 and Exit 40,

We need your expertise

The Board Meets Quarterly

Meetings last 2 Hours (max)

Contact:


Tom Bass: 605-787-6410

Tom Hook: 605-415-6482



PIEDMONT VALLEY LIBRARY

Books • Audio Books • Movies • Computers • WiFi

 Like Us on Facebook!

111 Second Street, Piedmont
605-718-3663

piedmont.library@hotmail.com


www.piedmontlibrary.net

Hours: Tues 9-7, W-F 9-5, Sat 9-1

"Library Doors are a Gateway to Anywhere." - Anonymous



A Homeschool Program for ages 6-14
2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 PM



Teen Anime/Trivia Night!
Bring Your Friends to the Library every 3rd Friday at 6:00 PM for Trivia, Snacks, and a fun showing of a popular Anime!!

Middle School Book Club
We will be continuing with *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle on 2nd and 4th Fridays at 1 PM!
Join us for snacks, crafts, and activities based on this popular book!



Yoga Classes
Our Monthly Yoga Classes are on 2nd and 4th Saturdays @ 10 AM!
The Grace United Methodist Church is kindly allowing us to use their space for this program!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Our special Christmas Storytime with Mrs. Claus will be held on December 19th at 10 AM!

Christmas Children's Book Giveaway

Stop by the Library the week before Christmas for a free Children's book. Available while supplies last.

Christmas Hours

The Library will be closed December 24th through January 1st to allow staff to be with family and friends over the holidays!



Genealogy
Every 2nd Monday @ 10 AM

Check out our website and Facebook Page for Staff Reading Recommendations and Program Updates!!

Story Time
for preschoolers



Join us Every Thursday at 10 AM for Preschool Story Time

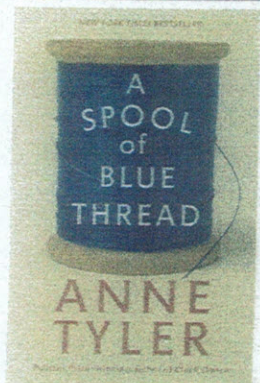
The Bluestockings Book Club Title for November is...

A Spool of Blue Thread

By Anne Tyler

"It was a beautiful, breezy, yellow-and-green afternoon. . . ." This is how Abby Whitshank always describes the day she fell in love with Red in July 1959. The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate an indefinable kind of specialness, but like all families, their stories reveal only part of the picture: Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets. From Red's parents, newly arrived in Baltimore in the 1920s, to the grandchildren carrying the Whitshank legacy boisterously into the twenty-first century, here are four generations of lives unfolding in and around the sprawling, lovingly worn house that has always been their anchor.

The Discussion Meeting will be held on November 21st at 7 PM



Park News



Are you interested in planning & helping create spaces that the future of Piedmont will enjoy?

The City is looking to form a new Park Board.

The Park Board consists of 7 members from Piedmont and the surrounding area. Meetings in the past have been held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Piedmont City Hall, but a new meeting date can be determined by a new Board.

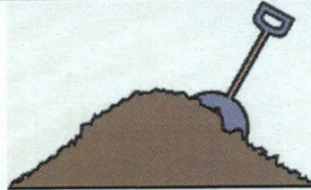
Let City Hall know if you are interested. Thanks!

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FOR SALE

The City of Piedmont has declared Fill Dirt from the Main Street Project as Excess and can now sell it.

Fill Dirt will be sold in 10 yard minimums at \$3.00 a yard.



Dirt will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.
Please contact City Hall at 716-5495 or come in at 111 2nd Street

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Open Burn Permits

The City of Piedmont allows Open Burning within the Municipality provided a permit is obtained. To obtain a permit contact the South Dakota Division of Wildland Fire Suppression for a Class A permit (wood materials only).

Permits can be obtained by going to:

<http://apps.sd.gov/applications/ag73burnpermit/login.aspx>

With Internet access you can obtain a permit anytime that they are being issued, even during holidays, weekends or after hours. Or you can call 800-275-4955 from Monday-Friday 8am to 4:30pm.

**Look for the next Newsletter in January 2020!
Thanks for being a part of our beautiful little community!!**