



# POINT OF VIEW

## JEROME'S NEWSLETTER

January-February 2026

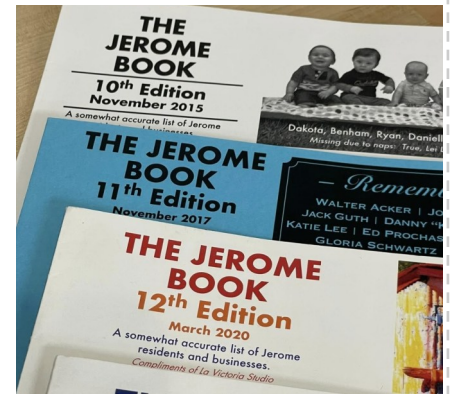
### **Happy New Year!** **2025 Town of Jerome List of Accomplishments**

- Secured an award for grant funding with no local match of over \$3M for Deception Water Line; Mescal Canyon Siphon Line; Verde Central Siphon Line; and School Street Regulator improvements;
- Completed the fully grant funded design and engineering phase for Verde Avenue;
- Received a grant award of \$40,000 for a new Fire Command Vehicle;
- Received grant funding for a landscape design manual and zoning code update / re-write;
- Received a \$200,000 grant award for total replacement of the Town's water meters;
- Executed an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service for a term of 30-years for water transmission line access;
- Completed a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan;
- Completed a commercial parking inventory;
- Issued a RFP and executed an agreement for legal services with Gust Rosenfeld;
- Made a promotion to the position of Deputy Fire Chief;
- Hired a Deputy Police Chief;
- Hired a municipal Court Administrator / Clerk;
- Completed the requirements for a certified election official;
- Completed Gulch Drainage improvements design and engineering work and secured funding for the construction of the improvements;
- Completed the Main / Hull Drainage improvements;
- Completed pavement improvements for the lower portion of County Road to State Highway 89A;
- Completed repairs on 621 Main St. for employee housing;
- Updated an enhanced the Town's Special Event Policy;
- Enhanced the Town's shuttle service and completed a policy for said shuttle services in Town;
- Started a pilot program for a Police Department Auxiliary unit;
- Send multiple crews out for wildland fire assistance

### **Attention Jerome Residents:**

It's that time again; the Jerome Book is being updated for a new edition!

The Jerome Book is a comprehensive list of the phone numbers and mailing address (P.O. Boxes) of the people who live in town.



A valuable resource for locals, this publication is updated every few years and available to local residents.

If you would like to confirm, update, or add your information, there is an email address you can use:

**[thejeromebook@gmail.com](mailto:thejeromebook@gmail.com)**

To be included in the Jerome Book, you must be a Jerome resident OF have a Jerome P.O. Box, and you must be 18 years of age or older.

Please send your information to the email address above. Please include your P.O. Box and phone number if you would like it listed. (If you don't want your number on the list, it can be designated as "maybe" available).

We are currently working through the old list and reaching out by phone to confirm everyone's current information.

We will post updates as we make progress and move closer to a print date.

**Thank you everyone!**

### **Scheduled Meeting Dates for January to March 2026\***

*All of the regularly scheduled meetings will take place on Tuesdays; Council on the 2nd, P&Z on the 3rd, & DRB on the 4th.*

#### **Regular Council Meeting**

Tuesday, January 13th at 7pm

#### **Regular Council Meeting**

Tuesday, February 10th at 7 pm

#### **Regular Council Meeting**

Tuesday, March 10th at 7 pm

#### **Planning & Zoning**

Tuesday, January 20th at 6pm

#### **Planning & Zoning**

Tuesday, February 17th at 6 pm

#### **Planning & Zoning**

Tuesday, March 17th at 6 pm

#### **Design Review Board**

Tuesday, January 27th at 6pm

#### **Design Review Board**

Tuesday, February 24th at 6 pm

#### **Design Review Board**

Tuesday, March 24th at 6 pm

*\* Dates may be subject to date/time change due to holidays*

# The Search for Hope



By Devon Kunde

It all started on a recent Thursday afternoon. A little brown dog (dubbed LBD) was running loose on 89A by Lozano Lane. LBD ran all the way up 89A, through town and then dashed down the Gulch. Many people stopped to catch her but she was fast and eluded everyone. The next day my husband, Mike, and I walked down Gulch Road and on up to Allen Springs looking for her. Concerned Gulch neighbors joined in, including; Wendy, Shiloe, and Erik. We contacted the Jerome Humane Society (JHS) and they connected us with Kara Frank of the Central Arizona Animal Search and Rescue (CAASR) – and a dog whisperer of untold talent with a palpable bit of magic about her.

We met early that Saturday morning armed with a humane trap borrowed from Kara, dog treats and a bowl of water. That, along with Kara's expertise on setting up the trap and Shiloe and Eric's trail camera, we were ready to go. The trail cam showed visits from javelina, a cat - soon adopted by a neighbor, skunks, and birds, but no LBD. We received lots of sightings from Facebook - she was definitely a spunky gal but it was unclear what was behind all that running! Searching went on for a month and a half and every time we lost hope, thinking, "How could she survive this long without food and water?"

Hope  
"How could she survive this  
long without food and water?"  
Hope

Then a Clarkdale resident reached out on FB and said the dog had been visiting her home at night and she was feeding it. Now the mystery about how she was surviving was solved and hope was buoyed again. Tragically, the next morning, she was hit by a car and did not survive. Game and Fish Officer, Tom Bagley, took the time to bring her to us so that we could confirm this was the same dog. We realized she'd had puppies at some point and maybe that was behind all her running.

We were, and still are, devastated. And though it wasn't the ending anyone wanted, it was an incredible experience to work with neighbors who all came together. We decided to name her "Hope" (thanks Shiloe!) because we believe she spent a lot of time near Hopewell Road. JHS had her cremated at our request so we can spread her ashes in the Gulch.

The beautiful outcome of this story is that EVERYONE came together to help this little lost girl. We developed various and creative trap tactics and remained in constant communication. And we met Kara Frank, now an honorary Gulch member. She provided advice and hope and got us through the tough times. JHS now has their own humane dog trap and a trail camera for future rescues. Our Gulch neighbors are committed to come together if this were to happen again.

**If you see a loose/lost dog, please say something – reach out to JHS, post on FB on the Jerome Lowdown and alert your friends and neighbors. Let's not let the next one down.**

## Blessings from Haven,

As we look forward to what 2026 will bring us, we are not looking forward to our wonderful Karen Sakala moving down to the valley. She has been such a support to me in worship and to the whole town on Wednesdays! Please take time over the next few months to let her know how much she will be missed.

Karen will not only leave a void in our hearts she will leave a void in the food pantry. Haven will need a town volunteer to fill her seat at the sign-in table 8 am.-12 pm each Wednesday. If you are willing to serve the community in this capacity, please contact Anu or Ann and Liz Rees.

We hope the poem offered here will bless you as you start 2026 with boundless love and joy.

Peace be with you all, Pastor Vicki and Haven UMC

## A Happy New Year!

A bright, shiny new year,  
Empty, neat, pristine,  
Waiting, ready  
For us to get it right.  
Another chance  
To love and forgive.  
Another chance  
To make a real effort  
To give more than we get.  
Another chance  
To make a difference.  
A good new year.  
[A Happy New Year!](#)

([www.iphone2lovely.com](http://www.iphone2lovely.com))



**JEROME FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
P.O. BOX 1025 \* JEROME AZ 86331  
(928) 649-3034 [blair@jeromefire.us](mailto:blair@jeromefire.us)

## January 2026 Newsletter

Jerome Fire Department would like to wish all of you a Happy New Year!

Your Fire Department experienced a busy year in 2025, with many changes. It started with the retirement of Assistant Chief Allen Muma and ended with the retirement of Chief Rusty Blair.

With these changes, we'd like to assure you that the Fire Department is still here and ready to serve the community.

Chief Rusty Blair had been with the fire department for 27 years and took the Fire Department from being an all-volunteer department to a combination paid department. He helped unify the Police and Fire Departments and assisted Public Works taking on needed projects around the town. Doing so gave the public works crew time to work on other needed projects that would have been difficult to accomplish without the help of the Fire Department. Chief Blair gained Firewise recognition for the town and is responsible for creating lasting relationships with all the surrounding fire agencies and the forest service. Chief Blair's passion for this community and everything that he was involved with is more than a full-time commitment. We at the Fire Department would like to thank Chief Blair for his dedication.

With Chief Blair's retirement, Assistant Chief Carl Whiting is stepping up as the interim Chief until July, or until such a time that The Town Council has appointed a new Chief. Until that time, Chief Whiting will continue with the same dedication and quality of service Chief Blair gave to the community,

Jerome Fire is consistently working on Hazardous fuel mitigation. Reducing hazardous fuel loads throughout the town of Jerome helps protect the town from the potential of wildland fire. We appreciate all the help we received last year from residents; by keeping your yard free and clear of unnecessary vegetation we can maintain our national certification as a Firewise community. Please remember not to throw your unwanted fuel onto someone else's property; we have the burn pile available to residents on UVX Rd. and Beale Street. If you need assistance with fuel removal, or access to the burn pile, please contact the Jerome Fire Department at: 928-649-3034.

This last year was a slow year for the Wildland Fire Crew. They were able to make it out on two assignments. The Wildland assignments take them all over the country and bring in additional money to the town. This has enabled the town to be reimbursed \$68,000 in employee wages and the wildland truck itself, netting approximately \$55,000 in the first half of our fiscal wildland fire year.

### **Annual Fire Extinguisher Service**



The Jerome Fire Department in conjunction with Life & Property Safety are again offering an inexpensive option for your annual fire extinguisher service. For a nominal fee of \$5.00 per fire extinguisher, a business or Jerome resident can have their fire extinguisher serviced.

The service will be offered at the Jerome Fire Department on **February 12th, and 13th 2026,** beginning at 9am until 5 pm.

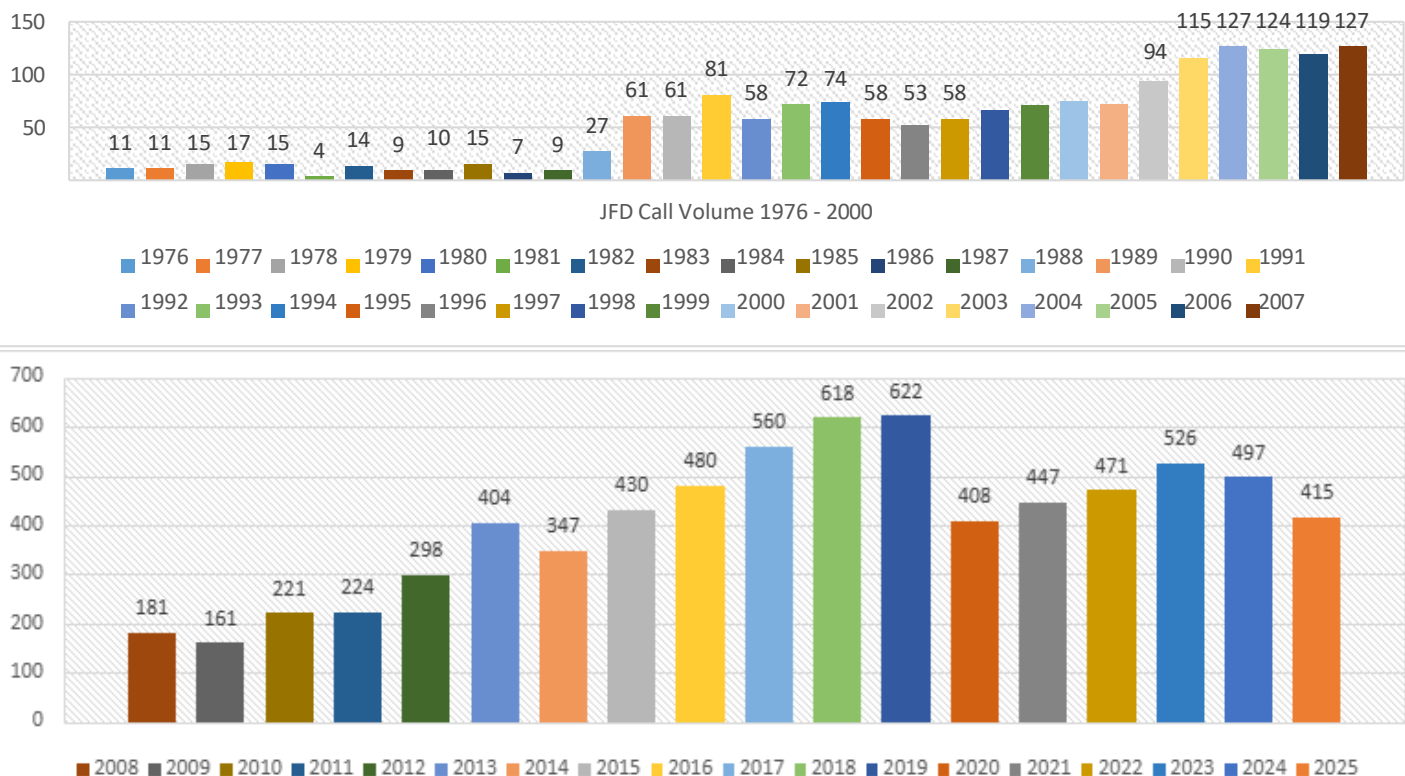
For businesses, please be aware that you now need to bring your fire extinguishers up to the fire station. Otherwise, there will be an additional cost per fire extinguisher if the company comes to you.

**Please remember that if you need assistance with Firewise activities on your property, you must fill out a Firewise application and submit it to the Fire Department before work can be approved and completed.**

**Applications can be obtained at Town Hall or the Jerome Fire Department.**

Jerome Fire Department reached 415 calls as of December 31, 2025, and about 88 other events such as Meetings, Trainings, Rope Rescue Trainings and Work Sessions. The Jerome Fire Department has progressively become busier each year, demanding more from its personnel. Some of these calls can be very stressful and dangerous for personnel. We would like to take this time to thank all the Jerome Fire Department's personnel, who have taken the time out of their lives, to go to College for EMT, Firefighter certifications and those who attended other trainings such as Rope Rescue, Wildland and many more trainings, so they can help people on their worst day. We would also like to thank all those who show up for our regular training and those who respond to calls day or night 24/7.

### December 2025 Calls Call Volume from 1976 to 2025



#### Public Service & Public Works

With snowy season upon us please remember that it is your responsibility to clear the snow from the sidewalk in front of your residence or business.

Please help the Public Works and the Fire Department; we are limited on manpower and can use all the help we can get.

Please remember if you have a water or sewer leak, contact Public Works at **928-634-7943**

or if you have a traffic related event, please call Jerome Police Department at **928-634-8992**.

For all other matters, contact us at the Jerome Fire Department **928-649-3034**



The Fire Department is always looking for new members for Fire, EMS, Wildland.

We meet at 5 PM, every Thursday. Come down and see what we do. Everybody is welcome.

If you aren't interested in fire and EMS, the Jerome Fire Department Auxiliary is always welcoming new members as well. The Fire Auxiliary is a great way to help the fire department. They help organize the annual Halloween Dance, and other events. We are always looking for ideas to bring to the community. Come join us!!

Thank you for your continued support.  
Assistant Fire Chief, Carl Whiting





*The Jerome Historical Society wishes all of you a  
HAPPY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!*



JHS just installed a new historical exhibit on the right side window of Spook Hall. It's titled "Help Wanted" and lists all the employment opportunities required for the copper mining operation in the late 19th century, along with their average wages.

The exhibit starts with below ground positions all the way through the smelting operation, highlighting heap roasting, which began a decline in the early 20th century. Check it out.



### SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES!!!

2026 is a significant milestone for our country, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In addition, 2026 is also a milestone occasion for our own town. We will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of Jerome. A committee has been working on plans for a Founders Day celebration on Memorial Day weekend. The Historical Society will be hosting a potluck for our community on Friday night, May 22nd. Then on Saturday, May 23rd there will be public activities going on throughout our Town. One of the ideas we want to encourage for Saturday is that period clothing be worn by business staff and residents who are in town on Saturday to enjoy the activities. This gives you plenty of time to plan your period couture. (Period outfits from the 1800's are often available locally on Facebook marketplace, due to reenactment groups in Prescott.) Stay tuned as we finalize and reveal the program of activities that will be taking place throughout our Town.

**[www.jeromehistoricalsociety.com](http://www.jeromehistoricalsociety.com)**  
**928-634-1066**

## Jerome Library Community Art Workshops

**Happy Holidays to all from the Jerome  
Library Staff!**

**Stop by the Library when you have a  
chance and check out our Little Library  
Shop Fundraiser**

**We have hand crafted items made by  
students and staff of the Jerome  
Community Art Workshop**

For info, contact Kathleen at the library at  
928-639-0574 or e-mail

**[jeromeartworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:jeromeartworkshop@gmail.com)**





# Jerome Chamber of Commerce

Thank you to the Jerome Historical Society for hosting and sponsoring our holiday celebration, with support from **VinoZona**. We're grateful to everyone who joined us, shared delicious food, and helped create such a festive atmosphere. Special thanks to **The Invincible Grins** for the great music that made the event truly memorable.



We're excited to announce a revitalization of the Jerome Visitor Center, bringing a refreshed and updated experience. This update is brought to us with the support of the **Jerome Historical Society** and **Firebrick Studio**. The renovation is expected to be complete by spring. To support this effort, please contact Firebrick Studio.

Looking forward to 2026 expect to see a new design of town maps in the Spring. The new iteration is being thoughtfully created in collaboration with local artists to capture the charm of Jerome while highlighting historical markers, points of interest, and chamber businesses.



For chamber inquiries or volunteer opportunities please reach out to:  
**Angie.jeromechamber@gmail.com**  
**Ani.jeromechamber@gmail.com**

## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

**New Year's Day**  
 Thursday, January 1st  
 (Town Hall Closed)

**\*Martin Luther King Day**  
 Monday, January 19th  
 (Town Hall Closed)

**Groundhog's Day**  
 Monday, February 2nd

**Valentine's Day**  
 Saturday, February 14th

**\*President's Day**  
 Monday, February 16th  
 (Town Hall Closed)

**St. Patrick's Day**  
 Tuesday, March 17th

Note: for National Holidays falling on a MONDAY (asterisks), Cardboard, Dumpsters & trash on Main street will be collected that day. All other trash on the regular Monday route will be picked up on Tuesday.

## Jerome Chamber of Commerce

Special Event celebrating  
 local businesses



Join us every  
**FIRST SATURDAY**  
 of the Month  
 from 5 to 8 PM

Town of Jerome  
 P.O. Box 335  
 Jerome, AZ 86331

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