

In the Spring of 2009, the Valley Pride organization will move forward into its seventh year ! Recently, at its annual planning session, it reflected on the many changes that have occurred in our Portneuf Valley over that time and the many projects it had the privilege to lead, facilitate or participate in.

One of the first major projects Valley Pride had the pleasure to participate in was a collaborative effort among the State Highway Department, the City and citizens of our valley to plan and install several landscaped berms along highway 30. Since that beginning, Valley Pride has lead such projects as the WELCOME sign at the Clark Street exchange, several Portneuf River Clean Up projects, the annual War on Weeds and most recently the "Bring the Chief Home" community project. In addition, it has been an ongoing collaborator on many things such as the monthly Spirit of the Valley award, the Portneuf Greenway's annual River Fest, Old Town Pocatello revitalization, working with the city on code enforcement, lending a hand to neighbors in need and the Chamber of Commerce's annual spring clean-up, historically the first weekend in May.

And what about all the other positive changes that have been occurring in our area! As only an example, the new stores, shopping areas and eateries, the upgrades to Pocatello High School, a new hospital underway , the new buildings at ISU and the many new companies that have selected our area. Even more exciting, several of the new companies are in sectors that our area is proactively pursuing such as the renewable energy sector.

So what does the future hold? We all know it is impossible to say. We know we are in the midst of very difficult economic times but we also know we have positive momentum and we will be well positioned if we keep pushing forward with an eye to the future.

To that end, Valley Pride again wants to again give complement all the great people that have 'caught the spirit' and have collaborated so well together. And we encourage people to stay involved and continue to participate in the exciting future of the Portneuf Valley. An example of just one such thing that Valley Pride is particularly excited to support in 2009 is the City's introduction of curb side recycling. At \$5 / month to have the recycling container, not have to sort the recyclables, and have it picked up curb side puts Pocatello with one of the most user friendly programs we have heard of. We believe it is another one of those steps that help take our community to the next level, reduces resource consumption , is good for the environment, and hence, in the end, good for all of us. For more information or to sign up for the recycle program call 234-6192.

Stay proud Pocatello!

Sincerely,

Tim Forhan on behalf of the Valley Pride Board of Directors