

TWO MORE GREAT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE CHEYENNE HERALD**Idea #1 ... Asking the City of Cheyenne's building inspectors to work a FULL DAY for the money they're being paid**

There are a lot of fast-food establishments in Cheyenne. Some people think there are now way too many of them for our own good.

Over on the west side of town is the Burger Inn. Originally built as one of Cheyenne's two Griff's Burger Bars, it's located at the corner of Snyder and Pershing a few blocks from the main entrance to Warren Air Force Base.

Mondays seem to be particularly busy at the Burger Inn. Perhaps it's because of its popular "Maxi Monday" promotion where you can get a terrific deluxe hamburger for only a buck and a quarter. There seem to be many other good choices on the menu board. HERALD publisher Dave Featherly has a particular passion for the ever-popular Mushroom Burger.

The Burger Inn seems to have also become a favorite hiding-out place for a number of building inspectors who supposedly work for the City of Cheyenne. They congregate there for MORE THAN AN HOUR nearly EVERY afternoon during a normal workweek.

They start arriving in separate City vehicles about 2:30 each afternoon. By 2:45 there are usually four to seven such vehicles in the Burger Inn's parking lot. Logic says that at least some of them who had to travel from distant parts of the City or County probably quit doing any real work for the City shortly after 2:00pm in order to get to the Burger Inn at the customary loafing time.

As is their habit, the inspectors resist the temptation to actually sit together. Instead they usually each grab a separate booth so they can spread out to read one or more of the many newspapers which have been left behind by previous customers. (Interestingly, one of their favorite publications seems to be the CHEYENNE HERALD. Whether this will still be the case in the future remains to be seen.)

Almost none of the City's building inspectors are ever seen actually EATING any of the Burger Inn's food. Usually only one or two will lug in a used Pepsi cup in order to get the cheapest possible refill. Occasionally, one of them will step outside for a quick smoke.

No, these dedicated public servants aren't talking shop. They're just using the eating establishment as a place to put their feet up and get out of the weather while they run out the clock on another grueling day on behalf of Cheyenne's citizens.

Around 3:45pm, someone in the group will announce that it's time to head toward the office. They pile into their separate City vehicles and head south on Snyder. By the time they turn east on 24th or 22nd Streets for the final few blocks to City Hall, the group eerily resembles an abbreviated funeral procession, especially if the weather dictates the use of headlights.

They all park north of City Hall and slooooooowly make their way into the



Mr. Mathewson,

I'm sorry, I misunderstood the question. Several years ago, the inspectors drove to the office, picked up their inspection schedules and then got a City vehicle and proceeded to perform their inspections. We found that we were losing a lot of valuable inspection time. So we changed our procedure and now the inspectors go to work, at 8:00 am, directly from their homes. As you can imagine, this practice made us much more efficient and added to the total number of inspections that each inspector was able to perform daily.

Their lunch is from 12:00 to 1:00.

They are required to come into the office around 4:00pm each day, if they are done with their inspections, to pickup the next days schedule and at that is the only time I have an opportunity to talk with the inspectors about any issues there may be. They then leave the office in time to be home by 5:00 pm which is their quitting time. So, yes their hours are 8-5, but their time starts and stops at their homes.

I hope this answers your question and again I apologize for my misunderstanding of the question. Should you need further information, feel free to call.

Bruce L. Wilson, C.B.O.
Chief Building Official
(307) 637-6265
BWilson@cheyennecity.org
2101 O'Neil Avenue, Room 202
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

building. Another tough day almost done! Thank goodness. In a little while, they'll be able to remind their spouses, their sweethearts, or their mommies once again about how over-worked and under-paid they really are.

At first, we at THE CHEYENNE HERALD assumed that the City of Cheyenne's building inspectors must start their workday earlier than most City employees and therefor had a daily quitting time of 4:00pm. Our misconception was cleared up by a recent email from Bruce Wilson, the City's Chief Building Official.

(Mr. Wilson's email is reprinted to the left exactly as it was written)

The email we received from the building inspectors' boss certainly answered SOME questions about what's been going on in the City's Building Department, but it also caused us to come up with some new questions to which we would appreciate some feedback from Mayor Jack Spiker.

- 1) Who was the certifiable moron who came up with the idea of letting City employees start and stop their workdays at their own front doors?
- 2) Are these the only City employees who have this special advantage or are there others who're getting paid for the time they drive to and from work?
- 3) Is this indicative of other mismanagement issues at the City's Building Department or elsewhere in City Hall?
- 4) Was Bruce Wilson unaware that his inspectors have been killing several hours per week at the Burger Inn or did he know about it and sanction the waste of time?
- and 5) If there are NINE inspectors on the City's payroll now and several of them have been consistently wasting dozens of prime inspecting hours per month at the Burger Inn or other similar venues, isn't it quite possible that the City could save a LOT of money each year and still get the same amount of work done with only FIVE or SIX inspectors working for a COMPETENT manager in the Building Department? We look forward to hearing from you soon, Mr. Mayor.

E-MAIL ... CHEYENNEHERALD@BRESNAN.NET

Needed: Some intelligent adults. Backbone required. Knowledge of long division a definite plus.

One Citizen's Opinion

Dave Featherly is the publisher/editor of this free publication. He works extremely hard to get it done. I'm just an occasional contributor to **THE HERALD**. Nothing more. Sometimes Dave is pleasantly surprised by what I contribute. Sometimes he's just plain shocked that I get it to him on time. He's right to be nervous about that. I hate deadlines.

I also hate being conned or lied to by public officials or public employees. It always reminds me of what my father said one time when a merchant tried to cheat him. "It irritates me," he said, "that the guy tried to cheat me, but it makes me even more irritated that he thought I was too stupid to know that he was trying to cheat me."

People often ask me and Dave Featherly if we ever worry about someday running out of things to write about here in Cheyenne. We usually laugh and respond that as long as we stay semi-conscious with at least one working eyeball and one working ear between us, there's no chance that the City of Cheyenne will ever NOT provide us with a motherlode of issues or incidents to explore further. It's like shooting fish in a barrel some months!

We're also quick to point out when we can that we're not the least bit concerned about MOST of the City of Cheyenne's employees. We have a good

relationship with most of them and are sincerely grateful for the good work they do day in and day out. Indeed, there are some VERY well run departments and offices at the City of Cheyenne. Not nearly enough, mind you, but quite a few.

The local daily newspaper ... *The Wyoming Tribune-Eagle* ... has already started its periodic harangue about the need for more "progressive" people to run for public office in and around Cheyenne.

Make no mistake about it, when the WT-E says we need more "progressive" officials it means that they want more people who're willing to agree with the paper on almost all parts of its published and unpublished "agenda". Anyone who departs from their agenda runs the risk of being vilified by the WT-E on a regular basis.

Those of us associated with **THE CHEYENNE HERALD** have no pre-packaged "agenda" which we expect people to adopt in order to stay on our good side. Our only objective is to promote GOOD GOVERNMENT whenever possible and we've found that one way to do that is to expose BAD GOVERNMENT whenever we find it. If it means embarrassing some public official or employee, well that's sometimes the only way to get things changed or improved around here it seems. Sad but true.

Take the two other items on this page and the facing page. Some people may think that I've gone

overboard in making certain individuals look bad. Obviously, I don't agree because I've found during the past few years that doing so will often cause them AND OTHERS to change the way they conduct the public's business.

For example, the weeds pictured below were cut ONLY after someone in a City vehicle saw me taking a picture of them a few weeks ago,

And is there any doubt that there will be fewer non-paying building inspectors lounging in booths during the middle of most afternoons at the Burger Inn or elsewhere after today's issue hits the street? Maybe ... just maybe ... those building inspectors who've been killing time at the Burger Inn will actually go out and do a few more inspections between 2:00 and 4:00 most afternoons. After all, isn't that what they're being paid for?

No, we don't need more people running for office who want to be known as "progressive". We need more people in elected and appointed offices who can THINK for themselves and who then have the guts to do what's right when the time comes.

Being able to take out a pencil and piece of paper to figure out when the proposed numbers for a new can't-miss project just don't make sense would also seem to be a positive (but rare) attribute for would-be candidates or public employees

Jim Mathewson

Jim Mathewson is just a poor dumb citizen of Cheyenne. His email address is jmat44691@yahoo.com

Idea #2 ... Actually enforcing the City Transit Department's contract with one of its favorite out-of-state vendors

In previous issues of **THE CHEYENNE HERALD**, we've taken note of the tacky appearance of some parts of Cheyenne during the time of year when the majority of tourists or other visitors come to or through the City. We even suggested one time that the self-congratulatory signs erected beside the various roads leading into the City might be changed from "TREE CITY U.S.A." to "WEED CITY U.S.A."

Last summer, Joe Dougherty was asked why so many of the sites where Transit Shelters are located around Cheyenne are weed-infested for several weeks during the summer and fall. Mr. Dougherty is the Transit Manager for the City of Cheyenne and is responsible for all aspects of the City's bus program, including the Transit Shelters.

Mr. Dougherty responded that the job of keeping the Transit Shelters and the areas around them clean is the responsibility of the vendor who sells the advertising on them. "It's right there in the contract," Dougherty advised.

And sure enough it was ... at least it was in the only such contract the City Clerk's office could find from way back in 2002. That contract says:

f. Maintenance and Repair

(1) The company agrees to maintain the shelters/benches and advertising in an attractive, clean, and safe condition

Look at the pictures below. Do the words "attractive", "clean" or "safe" jump to mind when you examine them? Do you think this season-long growth of weeds around a shelter makes people MORE or LESS likely to think the City's Transit System is a well-run organization? Does it make you wonder why Joe Dougherty or some other well-paid public official at the City of Cheyenne can't pick up the phone, call the vendor in Ft. Collins, and tell him that the weeds need to be cut NOW or the contract is going to go bye-bye?

That's what we wonder every summer when the weeds reappear and grow to become an embarrassment to all of us ... except Mr. Dougherty apparently.

