

Festival City USA This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Joe Burgess

Summer is quickly coming to an end. Cedar City has not lacked for activities, and anyone who wanted to be busy doing fun things was not disappointed, as there was plenty to do.

It is great to have you University students back in

town. You give the City a big boost with your vitality. I get a kick out of seeing new college students in the grocery stores that first few days of school, trying to figure everything out.

I do have a challenge for all of you students who are renting homes here in town: Try your best to be good neighbors by watching where you park, keeping your yards clean and weed free, and being considerate of others. We love having you here. I challenge you to be good citizens in our community.

Most of the construction being done to improve our infrastructure has been completed. The Northfield storm drain construction begins this week, so navigating the roads in that area will be a challenge for the next few months. The projects that are completed are 2400 North, the surfacing of Westview Drive, and one section of the expansion of the trail system on the southeast side of town. The upgrades to the water system are mostly finished, and the last ones should be completed by November. The sewer upgrades are being done in three sections. Two should be completed by the middle of September,

and the third bids out in September, and should be finished by the end of November. Connecting Cove Drive to Royal Hunte Drive should be completed by the first part of October. These projects have been done largely by local contractors, so they have given the local economy a boost. City crews have also been busy resurfacing one seventh of our streets. All streets in the south part of town, east of the freeway have been resurfaced. Crews are now working on extending the trail system on the southeast end of town.

Our water department, along with inspecting all of the water upgrades, is replacing water meters with electronic readout meters. Our new water well out west of town should be on line by the middle of September. Crews from the Parks and Outdoor Facilities Department are finishing the expansion of the cemetery, and will be starting soon on phase two of the Memorial Grove of Trees. Fifty more trees will be added this fall.

We are beginning the second year of our drop off recycling program. The first year was so successful that we had to add a new location and additional bins. Remember, the new location for dropping off your cardboard is 1342 West Industrial Road (The old Coke plant).

We have had a busy summer, and we appreciate your patience with the roads being torn up. Completing these improvements to our infrastructure will save the City many repairs this winter, and in the years to come.

As summer comes to an end, I encourage everyone to work on weed control, so we won't have such a problem next spring. We especially have a problem with Russian thistle right now. If you have them on your property, cut them so we won't have a worse problem next year.

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Shelle Batis selected as EOM

Office Assistant, Shelle Batis, has been selected as the Employee of the Month for September by the Cedar City Employee Advisory Board.

Shelle has worked for the Legal Department of the City since 2006. She was nominated by her supervisor, City Attorney Paul Bittmenn, who wrote, "Shelle does a great job keeping all of the legal paperwork current for the City's legal cases and also for traffic school. This can be difficult at times, because she has to coordinate with our office, different courts and sometimes multiple police agencies. Due to her excellent organizational skills and her professional demeanor, she is



able to juggle all of these entities and coordinate cases so the defendants, witnesses, and officers are all on the same page regarding court cases. She is always willing

to pitch in and help out when other office staff are not available. She is a quick learner and has developed innovative ways to help the Legal Department run more efficiently. In addition to these professional skills, Shelle has a great sense of humor and is a pleasure to work with. She is an outstanding employee and deserves to be recognized."

Shelle grew up in Layton, Utah, where she attended Layton High School and Weber State University. Prior to hiring on with Cedar City, she was a director for Pampered Chef kitchen products. She is the mother of three children and enjoys cooking, baking, watching movies, hiking, boating at Lake Powell, camping and hunting. Congratulations Shelle!

Police volunteers needed

The Cedar City Police Department is seeking volunteers to join the nine current members of the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). The VIPS Program is managed by the International Chiefs of Police, in partnership with, and on behalf of, the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps and the U.S. Department of Justice.

Mark Browne, Volunteer Coordinator for the Police Department, said the P.D. is seeking three more members. Those selected will receive special training so they can aid officers by performing clerical work, mobile patrol, traffic control, aiding in securing crime scenes, writing handicapped parking citations, fingerprinting, performing community presentations and assisting officers and other City personnel with non-hazardous calls for service.

Browne said, "With the growth of Cedar City, the VIPS are especially important to assist the Police and Street Departments with our many festivals, parades, races and other activities. Our volunteers are also invaluable because they free up officers so they can be out on patrol solving crimes, and not in the office doing fingerprints and clerical work. Lieutenant Adams estimates that the VIPS saved the City approximately \$12,000 in overtime last year by performing non-hazardous duties, such as traffic control for parades."

Current members of the the VIPS are: Mark Browne, Volunteer Coordinator; George Harris, Assistant Coordinator; Roland Gow, Training Coordinator; Norman Meltzer; Jack Davini; Tifanny Sheffield; Tom Marten; Ron Vargas; and Kelsey Evans.

VIPS are asked to serve a minimum of 16 hours per month, must be 21 years of age, and must pass a criminal background check and drug screen before being "hired."

For more information, or to obtain an application, contact Mark Browne at (435) 586-2956.

Youth Council seeks members

The Cedar City Youth Council is now accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year. The Youth Council will be active in serving our community, and gain the opportunity to learn more about local government. The Youth Council meets twice monthly with youth in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. If you, or anyone you know, is interested please pick up an application at the Cedar City, City Offices or email youthcouncil@cedarcity.org to obtain a copy of the application.

Applications are due Friday, September 9th.



Managing blood pressure is crucial

Did you know that heart disease and stroke are the first and third-leading causes of death for Americans? According to Valley View Medical Center, a recent community needs assessment revealed that southern Utahns are less proactive about blood pressure than people in other areas of Utah. It's important to be proactive about your health and obtain blood pressure screenings on a regular basis. Prevention and early detection are the best healthcare strategies.

High blood pressure is dangerous because it makes the heart work too hard. It also makes the walls of the arteries hard. High blood pressure also increases risk for heart disease and stroke. High blood pressure, or hypertension, can also lead to other problems such as heart failure, kidney disease, and blindness.

There are some simple, yet important keys to controlling blood pressure, including reducing the amount of sodium in your diet and eating plenty of fruits and vegetables. Getting active with daily physical activity, maintaining a healthy weight, and managing stress levels are also crucial in helping to manage blood pressure.

A normal blood pressure reading is 120/80. You should have your blood pressure tested at least on an annual basis. You can get your blood pressure checked by your healthcare physician or provider, or even at a number of local pharmacies and grocery stores.

Public Works Report

We appreciate your patience with the street closures. The Mayor and City Council authorized funding for water and sewer line replacement in areas that need up-sizing or repairs. Water lines that were adequately sized forty or fifty years ago may need replacing. Older sewer lines are wearing out or are damaged. Priorities were identified and projects were awarded to local contractors. These projects have brought the City's infrastructure to a greater level of service. We hope to continue an ongoing replacement program so that these utilities are dependable for years to come.

STREET MAINTENANCE:

Annual street maintenance is now complete for the year.

RECYCLING: Beginning

September 14, both **glass and cardboard** will be accepted

at PURE Recycling, 1342 W. Industrial Road. Please break boxes down and compact all items. Bins are emptied every Tuesday. Please do not leave debris behind at the recycling sites. **WATER:** It is recommended that lawn watering for September occur every 5 days, with approximately ½" of water each time. The City has established year-round watering times - after 6 p.m. and before 8 a.m.

AIRPORT: Travelers checking baggage need to arrive at least 30 minutes before your flight. The Public Works office reminds you that any work done within the road right-of-way requires an encroachment permit, which can be acquired at our office at 716 N. Airport Rd.

We appreciate any comments or observations on any Public Works operations. Please call us at 586-2912.

Upcoming Cedar City Events

September 8 - 10 - Southwest Junior Livestock Show at the Cross Hollows Events Center. Contact the Extension Service at 435-586-8132.

September 9 - 3rd Annual Red Rock Relay. For information visit www.redrockrelay.com.

September 9 - 10 - Great American Stampede. Western themed activities. Contact 435-586-2424.

September 15 - Economic Summit held in Festival Hall. (105 N 100 E, Cedar City). Contact the Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce 435-586-4484.

September 17 - Cedar Canyon Half Marathon. Contact Byron 435-865-5108 or visit www.cedarcityevents.org.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

September 13 - Primary

November 8 - General

Polls are open from 7 am - 8 pm

Honor a veteran

The Cedar City Rotary Club is now taking orders for pavers for the Rotary Centennial Veterans Park in Cedar City. Pavers are added annually for the Veteran's Day Holiday. The deadline for this year is September 30, 2011. Pavers are \$150 for 3 lines or 5 lines for \$200 (available for Vietnam only). Forms are available at the City Hall, or you may call Betty Jones (435) 865-7637 for more information. (Pavers are not available for the Iraqi Freedom Memorial).



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So far as our economy goes, the bright spot is our tourism. Shakespeare's 50th anniversary brought many here to Cedar. This, along with all of the other festivals, tournaments and races, has helped keep our hotels full and our restaurants and convenience stores busy. September brings more activities, with the Red Rock Relay and the Cedar City Half Marathon.

Last month the City signed an incentive agreement with GenPac to expand jobs here in their Cedar City plant. They have purchased the old Gore building, and they plan on expanding their operation into that building, adding 125 jobs over the next three to five years. Year to date sales tax revenue is up just over 4% for the first 5 months of 2011, as compared to the same time period in 2010.

We are not without problems, but it has been a good, productive summer for Cedar City.

Janet and Keith Seegmiller share an interesting facet of pioneer history with us this month:

Every pioneer family needed to have a cow. In southern Utah, if a family did not bring a cow with them, buying or acquiring one was one of their first priorities. According to Cedar City historian, Gladys McConnell, the basic diet of most families was milk and mush, supplemented by vegetables, meat and extra grain when possible. She wrote that in the natural division of work, dairying fell to the women and children. Children fed and milked the cows and women made butter and cheese.

While home dairying was pretty

much the same in all communities, it had a particularly interesting pattern in Cedar City.

Cedar City cattle were first grazed in a common herd around the original fort, and later by permit in nearby pastures where young boys kept them from straying. Over the years, as the number of animals increased and the public domain was grazed off, the herd had to be driven farther afield to find pasturage. People established claims by squatter's rights to land at Iron Springs, Quichapa Creek, and Shurtz Canyon.

The need for feed finally drove the pioneers to conquer their fear of the Indians and venture into the high mountains east and south of Cedar City. Eliza McConnell was the first to take her dairy cows into the mountains in 1869. Her granddaughter wrote that she felt she'd found a "sylvan paradise." Everywhere grass, browse and vivid wild flowers grew knee deep. Compared to the arid valley below, such untouched beauty and bounteous feed were overwhelming. When news of this bonanza spread, half the townspeople sought to acquire a share of this mountain paradise. They built log houses on their holdings, and in summer moved their families and their dairy operations into the mountains. There they developed a fascinating manner of living that endured for almost half a century.

The move to the mountains each year took place in late May, as soon as the roads were passable, and the season often lasted until mid-October. The cattle were driven up first, to be followed by the wagons conveying the family

and household supplies.

After getting the family established for the summer's work, the father would return to town to care for his farm, thereafter making only occasional trips up with needed supplies.

Their simple log houses were built near a spring or creek and consisted of three rooms: a family room with a stone fireplace and a loft for sleeping, a breezeway, and the dairy room or milk house, where the cheese and butter were made. The cheeses were stored on swinging shelves suspended by wires from the rafters to protect them from the ubiquitous squirrels.

The average dairy milked from 15 to 25 cows twice daily, although some of the big dairies milked 50. The young cowboys rounded them up each afternoon, bringing them to the corral to be milked after sundown. Then, they were milked again the next morning before sunrise, and turned loose again to graze.

The rewards for working so hard all summer might be sixty or more cheeses, and a large quantity of butter. The cheeses and butter were often sold to passing travelers or in the Nevada or Silver Reef mining camps. It was the only source of cash for some families. Eventually, a dairy plant with cheese-making machinery was established in Parowan, which purchased milk from the home dairies. Many still remember its Paradale-brand cheeses which were shipped throughout the United States.

This information comes from Gladys McConnell's paper "Pioneer Dairying," Special Collections, Sherratt Library, Southern Utah University.