

Festival City USA This Month

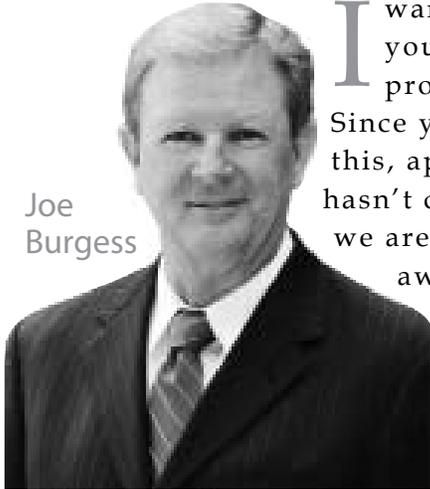
CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2013

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Joe Burgess



I want to wish all of you a happy and prosperous New Year. Since you are reading this, apparently the world hasn't come to an end, and we are all still working away and doing the best we can.

Last year was a mixed bag of economic news, but as we begin 2013, we have

some positive things going on with our local economy. Our unemployment rate is down to 6.7%, which is the lowest since 2008. There are also some good prospects for several businesses to relocate here in the near future, which could help that number go even lower.

Housing is recovering with 265 building permits (with a total building value of \$26,680,447.07) issued in 2012. This is up from the 233 issued in 2011. We are not back to where we would like to be, but we are finally heading in the right direction.

Thanks to all of you who donated and volunteered to provide Christmas for our citizens who needed a little help this year. It is you, our citizens, who make this such a great place to live.

In the newsletter this year, a city department will be spotlighted each month, so residents can learn what services our city employees provide. There are many who work behind the scenes making sure our homes have water and sewer, that activities are provided, and that we

remain safe. I think it will be very valuable for our community members to be informed on who does what in Cedar City.

Also for 2013, each month I will identify some of the non-profit organizations that add so much to our community and provide many services. We will also inform you of areas where you can volunteer to serve to make our community an even better place to live. I hope that you will find the information useful and interesting.

We will begin 2013 with information on the Police Department. Bob Allinson has been the Cedar City Police Chief for 15 years, coming to us from the Layton Police Department where he was Assistant Chief. Chief Allinson is uniquely qualified to lead our Police Department with over 35 years of law enforcement experience as well as degrees in Criminal Justice and Public Administration.

There are two divisions within the Police Department, Patrol and Operations. Lieutenant Darin Adams supervises the 22 members of the Patrol Division. Lieutenant Adams also oversees the 12 Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). Lieutenant Keith Millett is the Operations Lieutenant, and his responsibilities include supervision of investigations, school resource officers, code enforcement officers, crossing guards, animal control officers, office staff, and the sergeant assigned to the Drug Task Force.

The members of the Patrol Division are the first responders and protectors of our residents.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Public Works Report

GARBAGE PICK-UP: Please place your garbage can(s) on the asphalt in front of the curb, not in the gutter, and away from cars for pick-up. If the snow plows have been through, place the can on the street-side of the windrow so the garbage truck can pick it up easier.

LANDFILL: There are many items the City garbage trucks are not able to pick up. You may dispose of items such as carpet/padding, appliances, furniture, and residential construction materials at the landfill. Certain items require a fee before disposal. The landfill is located at 3127 N. Iron Springs Road. If you have any questions, please call the landfill at 435-865-7015.

STREETLIGHTS: If you notice streetlight outages around the City, please notify our office by emailing the street light address (and pole number if possible) and your contact information to streetlights@cedarcity.org. You may also call our office at 435-865-4510. We will follow up on the request. Some repairs require parts that may take a few weeks to receive. Please be patient.

SNOW REMOVAL: When the plows are out, the more effective plowing occurs when vehicles are parked off the street. Please keep all pedestrian walkways clear of snow. 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 435-586-2912 x-300.

Paperless is the way to go

Want to be part of the green solution? If you have already signed up for automatic payment of your water bill on Xpress Bill Pay, why not update your account to receive paperless billing? Go to www.xpressbillpay.com and update your account settings to paperless billing. It's an easy way to save paper, postage, and gasoline and helps with Cedar City's efforts toward sustainability. Call Kristin at 435-586-2951 if you have any questions.

2013 Holiday Garbage Pick Up Schedule

Holiday	Garbage Pick Up Date
New Year's Day, Tues. Jan. 1	Mon. Dec. 31
Civil Rights Day, Mon. Jan. 21	Wed. Jan. 23
President's Day, Mon. Feb. 18	Wed. Feb. 20
Memorial Day, Mon. May 27	Wed. May 29
Independence Day, Thurs. Jul. 4	Wed. Jul. 3
Pioneer Day, Wed. Jul. 24	Mon. Jul. 22
Labor Day, Mon. Sept. 2	Wed. Sept. 4
Veterans Day, Mon. Nov. 11	Wed. Nov. 13
Thanksgiving Day, Thurs. Nov. 28	Wed. Nov. 27
Day after Thanksgiving Day, Fri. Nov. 29	Mon. Dec. 2
Christmas Day, Wed. Dec. 25	Mon. Dec. 23

Please detach and save for future reference

Easy tips to become more active

From Valley View Medical Center: People who are physically active, on average, outlive those who are sedentary. We should do everything we can to get moving.

The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommends that adults aged 18-65 should participate in moderate intensity aerobic activity (such as a brisk walk) for a minimum of 150 minutes a week. In addition, adults should perform activities using large muscle groups of the body to maintain or increase muscular strength and endurance at least twice a week.

Intense or vigorous effort is not required. Normal activities like raking leaves, house cleaning, or gardening all count. The physical activity doesn't have to be done in one continuous session. You can accumulate short spurts of activity in the day so that it adds up to the recommended 30 minutes.

How can you get moving?

- Start small. Walk for a few minutes at a time. Take a break every hour and do a stretch or walk around the hall.
- Do something you enjoy. A lunch time walk with a friend or going swimming with your kids may be the perfect choice.
- Get an activity buddy who can motivate you when you don't feel like exercising.
- Take opportunities to move. Park a little farther from your workplace. Walk the dog yourself. Take the stairs for one flight instead of the elevator.
- Notice the small, immediate benefits of activity. Typically, your energy improves along with your mood and your clarity of thinking. In the long run, you will increase your cardiovascular capacity and improve your health.



Utility rate changes go into effect in February

Beginning with your next City utility bill in February changes will go into effect for the City's utility rates. Last summer studies were done to assess the current utility rates and to determine whether the rates for water, sewer, and storm drain needed to be adjusted. Each study focused on the following items: meeting on-going expenses for operation and maintenance, covering the cost of debt payments, paying for replacement of worn-out equipment and infrastructure, and providing funds for future capital projects. It was found that both the water and storm drain utilities were lacking in necessary funds to keep up with these expenses. The sewer fund was found to be in good financial shape, so no changes were made to the sewer rates, other than a slight decrease for some industrial users. The following is a description of why and how your water and storm drain rate will be adjusted.

The existing rates for Cedar City's water system were established eleven years ago and there have been no significant change in the rates since that time. However, during those years the water system has seen continual increases in costs related to higher power and fuel prices; tighter regulations; declining groundwater levels; and increased maintenance of aging waterlines, tanks, and wells. The need to replace infrastructure that is undersized and worn out, combined with the need to construct new improvements that are not related to City growth, has added to the cost burden on the system. The new water rates include the proper funding necessary to keep up with the costs related to operation and maintenance, as well as paying for the new construction projects for the water system that are not related to growth.

One of the main purposes of the new water rates is to promote water conservation. The issue of conservation is relevant because our community is located in such a dry climate and in a valley that is continuing to see declines in the water table. As the water level in the valley aquifer continues to drop, this adds more expenses due to increased power to pump the water from a greater depth, and costs to rehabilitate and deepen the pumps in the underground wells. By conserving water, the quality of life can be preserved in Cedar City, not only for current residents, but for future generations. In addition, large-scale water delivery projects may be able to be postponed thereby saving money in the future.

The new water rates include an increase in the base fee from \$13 to \$17. Similar to the existing water rates, but to a greater extent, the new water rates will encourage water conservation through an inclining, tiered rate structure. In this type of rate structure, the cost for water goes up with higher usage in order to discourage wasteful water use. Based on the new rates, the average residential customer could see an overall increase in their bill of about \$11 per month if water usage stays the same. However, with a 12% decrease in usage, the monthly increase would only be about \$8 per month. All residents and businesses are encouraged to take a close look at their water use to see if there are ways in which consumption could be reduced. The City will also be looking closely at ways to provide residents and businesses with more information that will be helpful in conserving water.

Over the past few years, and especially this last summer, Cedar City has seen an increasing need to install additional storm drain pipes to prevent property damage caused by flooding. A major component of the new storm drain rates deals with the construction of new facilities. These improvements will provide a means of protecting property from flood water. Specifically, the 300 West storm drain project has been identified as a needed improvement for many years. It is anticipated that this project will be constructed this spring and summer. The new rates will not only provide funds for operation and maintenance of the storm drain system, but will allow the City to construct storm water improvements as flooding problems are identified in the future.

The new storm drain rates include an increase in the residential rate from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per month. However, the rate for commercial properties, industries, and apartments with more than three units will be calculated differently. These entities will start paying a storm drain fee based on the amount of hard surface (buildings, asphalt, and concrete) that is on their property. This is the method that other cities in Utah have adopted for their storm drain fee because it is the most equitable method. Under this rate structure, all property owners pay according to how much storm water they are contributing to the City's drainage system. This new rate is based on an "equivalent residential unit," or ERU. One ERU is equivalent to the amount of hard surface on a typical single-family home which is 3,600 square feet. The monthly storm drain fee for businesses, industries, and apartments will include the base rate of \$3.50 per month plus a charge of \$2.59 per ERU.

Overall, the new rates should benefit the community in several ways. First, the investment in the City's infrastructure will be preserved through proper operation, maintenance, and replacement of the utility systems; second, water conservation should become more prevalent thereby helping to preserve the water table in the valley aquifer; and third, funds will be available to perform construction projects that will not only improve the infrastructure, but also benefit the local economy. The full versions of the water, sewer, and storm drain rate studies are available for review on the Cedar City website. If you have specific questions about the new rates, please call the Cedar City Engineering Department at 586-2963.



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Once these officers have responded to an incident, the case is referred to members of the Operations Division (investigations, narcotics, etc.) for follow-up if needed.

In 2011 the police department responded to 25,342 calls for service. This averages 69 police responses a day, not including traffic stops. Calls for the more serious crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, car theft, and arson) increased from 940 in 2010 to 1,136 in 2011. Officers conducted 5,576 traffic stops in 2011, giving 1,421 citations. The Animal Control Division impounded 940 animals in 2011.

The Department is committed to providing a safe community for residents and visitors. This involves enforcing city and state statutes and protecting our constitutional freedoms, but we are also involved in many educational and prevention programs in our schools and with civic groups, church groups, and other organizations. Some of these programs include:

- The Annual Polar Plunge which raises funds for the Utah Special Olympics.
- Red Ribbon Week at all elementary schools.
- Challenge Day at Cedar High to educate and discuss ways to stop bullying.
- Leadership for Life youth conference to educate youth about substance abuse, self-esteem, leadership, peer influence, and anti-bullying.
- Tip a Cop which raises funds for the Shop with a Cop program.
- DARE classes to over 500 fifth grade and 270 middle school students.
- Law Enforcement Torch Run, raising funds for our local Special Olympic athletes.
- The Eliminate Alcohol Sales to Youth (EASY) Program educating those who sell alcohol on how to avoid selling to minors.
- The VIPS program which utilizes community members as volunteers to assist officers.

The Police Department is accountable to our residents to provide professional law enforcement. If a citizen is concerned or has a complaint about our service, you are invited to contact Lt. Keith Millett, or any on-duty supervisor, at 586-2956. We also welcome any compliments of our officers at this same number.

For more information, visit our website at cedarpd.org.

In August 2010 Cedar City Corporation began a community-wide Drop-Off Recycling Program in cooperation with Washington County Solid Waste District and (then) PURE Recycling. However, recycling was happening long before the city officially became involved. PURE Recycling had been collecting, sorting, and selling recyclable materials years before. Southern Utah University was also encouraging recycling around campus. Robinson Recycling has been recycling metals for over six years. These and other entities and individuals are all members of the Southern Utah Recycling Coalition (SURC).

Established in 2004, SURC is focused on building recycling resources for Beaver, Garfield, Kane, Iron, and Washington Counties. Its mission is to model good recycling behavior, to promote conservation ethics, to provide opportunities for others to recycle, to research recycling needs and attitudes, and to educate others about the full range of recycling benefits. SURC has an active Board of Directors dedicated to making southern Utah a better place to live and a cleaner place to pass on to the next generation.

Some of SURC's accomplishments include:

- Assisting in establishing a recycling pick-up program in Cedar Breaks National Monument, Brian Head, Parowan, Washington County, Bryce Canyon, Springdale, and Cedar City.
- Hosting annual statewide recycling summits in the southern Utah area.
- Holding annual America Recycle Day events where many southern Utah residents have been able to recycle electronic scrap/waste at no charge.
- Continuing to develop programs to educate people and businesses about recycling opportunities, including an educational curriculum for elementary schools.

For more information about SURC, go to southernutahrecycling.org. Cedar City is a proud member of SURC and encourages residences and businesses to recycle and be part of the positive change.