

# Cedar City This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2015

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



*Mayor Maile Wilson*

It has been another exciting month here in Cedar City. The end of March brought the Travel Channel's hit series "Hotel Impossible" to town where they spent the week filming an episode of the show featuring a make-over of the Stratford Court Hotel. As usual, all the visitors were impressed with the spirit of volunteerism in our community, and how friendly everyone was.

With the arrival of spring the City begins to come alive with a wide variety of diverse activities. One of these, unique to Cedar City, is the community premier of SUU's docudrama "Back Up the Mountain" to be held on Thursday, April 23rd at the SUU Centrum at 7 p.m. The video details the heroic story of the founding of Southern Utah University, and the sacrifices made by the people of Cedar City to establish the University here. This event is free and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!

It is also that time of year when students start to think about summer vacation and graduation. The last day of school for the Iron County School District is May 22nd and SUU's graduation is on May 1st at the SUU Centrum.

As the weather warms up, please keep in mind that we are still in a drought. This year the snow pack is approximately 50% of normal. The City currently has a water restriction in place; no outside watering is permitted from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. Please help us conserve water by being more conscious of your water usage and watering only during the designated hours.

The 2015 Utah legislative session recently wrapped up, and I asked our local legislators for a recap of some of the issues that were discussed. We appreciate all that Evan and John do to advocate for Cedar City and Southern Utah.

### SENATOR EVAN VICKERS

The 2015 Utah legislative session is in the books and there were a number of big issues decided and some that are not yet determined. HB 348, billed as the criminal justice reform bill, did pass the Legislature. This bill will change the way some sentences are handed down, especially with first-time drug offenders. It is intended to slow down the growth in the prison population and, over time, save the state a significant amount of money. Many drug offenders will get drug treatment instead of jail or prison time.

One of the big topics was what to do about future transportation funding. The gas tax had not been raised in Utah since 1997. Of particular concern was the inability of counties, cities and towns to take care of their local roads. HB 332 was passed which will raise the gas tax five cents per gallon. It also allows for the counties to put a provision on the ballot to let their own citizens decide if they want to approve an increase in the sales tax of 0.25%, which would go completely for transportation funding.

Another big, and at times, very controversial topic discussed was anti-discrimination. This started out as SB 100 which would have given protection only to the LGBT community. The LDS church weighed in heavily on this issue, and made it clear that it would only support the bill if it included provisions that would protect religious freedoms in our state. Senator Urquhart, Senator Adams and Representative Brad Dee worked tirelessly with all the stake holders to change SB 100 into SB 296 that accomplished the tasks that all the stake holders agreed upon. This bill was passed overwhelmingly by both legislative bodies and was

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## Public Works

**WATER DIVISION:** Water Restrictions - Restrictions for using culinary water to irrigate your lawn and yard begin April 1st. City Ordinance 37-7-1 restricts irrigation with culinary water between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. This restriction continues through October 31st. The first violation results in a warning. A second violation results in your water being shut off and a \$25 reconnect fee. Subsequent violations result in your water being shut off, a \$100 penalty and a \$25 reconnect fee. Please be conscious of water conservation. For detailed information on proper lawn watering you can check the website [www.conservewater.utah.gov](http://www.conservewater.utah.gov).

**STREET DIVISION:** Spring Clean-Up - Just a reminder that the annual Spring Clean-Up begins April 15th with the area east of I-15 and north of Center Street. The area west of I-15 starts April 20th and the final area, east of I-15 and south of Center Street on April 27th. Debris must be in front of the curb in the street. We will take brush, branches, clippings, leaves, grass, untreated wood, asphalt, dirt, rocks and concrete. We will also take tires with four or less per pile and NO RIMS. We cannot take furniture, appliances, water heaters or electronic devices like televisions, computers, etc. If you have any questions, please check the Spring Clean-Up map on the City's web site ([www.cedarcity.org](http://www.cedarcity.org)) or call the Public Works Department at (435) 586-2912.

## *Safely heating outdoor animal enclosures*

The Cedar City Fire Department urges you to be extremely cautious when heating an outdoor shelter. We have responded to a dozen fires over the last few years that resulted from chicken coops and animal shelters being heated. Some of these fires displaced families due to the coop/shelter being adjacent to a family dwelling.

The verdict is still out on whether or not to heat your chicken coop during winter months and freezing temperatures. Some say that the birds are genetically equipped with down feathers and other defense mechanisms to handle the colder temperatures. Still others insist that birds can freeze and do not produce during freezing temperatures. While doing research for this article, I have found many arguments that support both schools of thought. Most contend that sealing out a draft, having adequate ventilation and frequent water changes provides a safer environment for the birds.

Here are a few tips should you decide to heat your chicken coop or animal shelter.

**Heat Lamps** - If you use heat lamps, make sure that they are properly designed and rated for such a purpose. The proper housing is important as well as the size or wattage of the bulb. A brooder lamp is one example of a light designed for this specific purpose. Make sure the lamp & housing are secured! Do not trust a clamp, they can slip off easily and the lamp may fall to the ground and catch bedding materials (e.g. wood shavings, sawdust, hay, newspaper, or straw) on fire. Make sure that the lamps are not too close to combustibles. A distance of 24 inches minimum is the recommended clearance. Exposure to heat over time causes the properties of combustibles like wood and bedding materials to break down and eventually ignite. Plywood can also combust when heated beyond 400°F. A heat lamp bulb's temperature can reach over 480°F. You may also consider using a timer so the lamps are not on continuously.

**Extension Cords** – DO NOT use them if you can help it! If you use cords, make sure that they are a heavy gauge (12/3 size), properly grounded and rated outdoor use. If the sheathing is worn or cut on ANY cord, replace it.

**Electrical Hazards** - Ideally, the lamps should be on a dedicated circuit with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Make sure not to overload a circuit. If you are unsure, consult an electrician to insure proper installation. Using multi-outlet adapters can also cause a circuit to become overloaded.

**Space Heaters** – The simple answer is NO. A combination of space heaters and extension cords creates a recipe for electrical fires caused by resistance heating and thermal breakdown of wiring. Older space heaters without tip-over safety features and exposed heating elements have also been known to cause fires.



## City Manager's Corner

**THUNDERBIRD GARDENS:** Most of our residents are aware of the Thunderbird Gardens area, at the mouth of Stephens Canyon in the area east of Hole #3 on the Cedar Ridge Golf Course. This area includes flood control basins, a good portion of Thunderbird Gardens and some recreation/trails area. It is a great place for hiking, ATV riding and picnicking. Recently, Dave Jacobson, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the BLM, presented a plan to provide some improvements to the Thunderbird Gardens area. These improvements will include the construction a Thunderbird Gardens Trailhead, a Red Hill Trailhead and improved and maintained trails as part of the Hurricane Cliffs trail system. Eventually there will be picnic sites (with shaded structures and tables), a restroom facility and drinking water access. The City Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage these improvements for the benefit of residents and visitors to the area. Part of the City's responsibility is to help change some of the "traditional" but unauthorized uses of this area. Specifically, many have gone to this area to shoot firearms, dump trash or have bonfires. For safety reasons none of these activities (especially shooting) will be allowed in the flood control basins or in the Thunderbird Gardens area. This will be enforced by local law enforcement. Unfortunately, some have dumped trash and old furniture in this area. We ask that there be no dumping in this area, and such items can be taken to the Iron County Landfill. Please encourage the proper use of this area so that it may be enjoyed by all.

**RESTROOM MAINTENANCE:** The City is doing some maintenance on some of the parks restrooms this month. Park Discovery's restrooms will be closed April 6-8, and the Main Street Park restrooms will be closed April 13-15. Sorry for any inconvenience!

**CALLING THE CITY OFFICE:** It has become necessary for the City Office to start using a recorded answering greeting. We know that this takes away a little of the "personal touch" when calling the City, but we feel it will get you to your desired department more quickly. There will be five options to choose from if you call the main City number at 586-2950: Utility Billing/Finance, Legal/Administration, Engineering/Building, Economic Development and Other (reaching a real person). We are still committed to providing quick and helpful service to those who call. You may still call directly to these offices by using the numbers listed below:

<b>Administration/ Legal – 586-2953</b>	<b>Engineering – 586-2963</b>	<b>Building Inspection -865-4519</b>
<b>Utility Billing – 586-2951</b>	<b>Economic Dev – 586-2770</b>	<b>Human Resources – 865-2880</b>
	<b>Police – 586-2956</b>	

**Rick Holman, Cedar City Manager**

## Keep fats, oils and grease out of sinks!

Even if you use soap and hot water, grease will stick to your pipes and can cause clogs. When the grease cools, it sticks to the pipes much like it does to your pan. Garbage disposals should only be used to dispose of small amounts of food waste.

To prevent costly blockages in the sewer lines and your own sewer lateral, follow a few simple tips:

- Don't pour fats, oils and grease from cooking down the drain
- Don't put fatty food scraps down the garbage disposal
- Don't put grocery store produce stickers down the sink
- Don't pour leftover pharmaceuticals, pills, and individual wrappers down the garbage disposal
- Do collect fats, oil and grease into a can or suitable container and dispose of it in the garbage
- Do dry-wipe pots and pans containing grease with paper towels before placing in the dishwasher or the sink for hand washing
- Do scrape food scraps into the garbage can



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signed by the Governor on the last night of the session.

However, some big decisions were not solved, primarily what to do about Medicaid expansion. Progress was made on where to build the new state prison, but no clear decision was found. Five final sites are now being considered.

Another bill that got a lot of attention was SB 259 which would have allowed medical marijuana to be sold in the state. Many members of the Legislature, including me, feel that there is some potential good that could come from this, but the methods and tools used to provide this in SB 259 were just not acceptable. This topic will be discussed by many during the interim, and I am sure that it will be back next year. As co-chairman of the interim Health and Human Services committee, I am sure that we will be heavily involved in this discussion.

Funding-wise Southern Utah did pretty well. The Utah Summer Games will receive \$50,000, and the SUU Business Development Center will receive an additional \$25,000 to assist in their budget. SB 230, which I sponsored, was passed giving the Division of Natural Resources \$400,000 to administer the recently developed Utah Prairie Dog Management plan. All in all it was a very successful legislative session.

### **REPRESENTATIVE JOHN WESTWOOD**

The session is over and the largest issue is the budget which was again balanced in 45 days and money was set aside to restore the savings account. Money is tight and surplus funds go fast.

This year was the largest funding for Southwest Utah that I have seen during my term. Public education was supported very well with a funding increase of 4%. Over \$170 million was budgeted for new buildings and maintenance for higher education.

528 bills were passed this year with many issues attached. Large issues that will be looked upon as defining bills of the session include: Anti-discrimination, Medicaid negotiations, transportation funding and changes in the Criminal Justice System. Anti-discrimination bills include protection for the LGBT community in both housing and employment, and also a protection of freedoms of religion. No consensus was reached on the Medicaid issues before the state. Costs of Medicaid keep increasing and are projected to represent 30% of the total budget in 2020. The House, Senate, and the Governor each put forth bills, with no one bill being passed, but a resolution was also passed stating that a decision will be made by the end of July.

Changes in the Criminal Justice System were also passed

where millions of dollars will be reinvested in the criminal justice system by changing the way we sentence and treat offenders. Integral to this reform is the relocation of the Utah State Prison and the building of a new state-of-the-art facility capable of accommodating the types of treatment and rehabilitation programs proven to reduce recidivism and return offenders to society better prepared for reintegration.

The process in the House saw some changes this session as legislators were given more time in committees to dive more deeply into the issues before them. This also sped up the floor process, as House members were able to debate bills more confidently, knowing bills had been already well vetted in committees by their colleagues.

### **CEDAR CITY POLICE/VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT**

The Cedar City Police Department is asking residents to bolster the number of volunteers for a group that assists officers in various duties throughout the year. Now in its ninth year, the Cedar City Police Department's Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program currently boasts 12 members, yet there are hopes to raise that number to 15.

The VIPS volunteers assist with activities such as traffic control and security, especially during City events. Tasked with helping the police, code enforcement officials, and animal control personnel, the volunteers provide more than 2,900 hours of volunteer service a year.

Although the VIPS are mainly made up of senior citizens, anyone over the age of 18 is eligible and encouraged to apply. The VIPS have two members under 40 years old, and currently there are three female members.

The group's responsibilities include fingerprinting, traffic control, issuing handicapped parking tickets, delivering notices of false alarms, setting out the speed radar warning trailer and acting as school crossing guards.

The program requires a commitment of 16 hours a month and volunteers are asked to sign on for a minimum of one year. The Department typically asks for a one-year commitment in order to cover the cost of uniforms and training.

Applications can be picked up at the Cedar City Police Department. Applicants are required to have an interview, pass a background check and submit to a drug test. Please consider volunteering. It's a very rewarding job with the opportunity to give back to the community. Call Sergeant Jerry Womack at (435) 865-5128 if you have additional questions about the program.