

# Cedar City This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2014

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



*Mayor Maile Wilson*

From participating in the “Chilly Dip,” (also known as jumping into the freezing cold water of the outdoor pool at the Aquatic Center in support of our local recreational scholarship fund) to promoting Cedar City at the

State Legislature, and many things in between, it has been a busy but amazing few weeks. A few highlights from the past month include the first City Council Meeting of the new year; presenting at the “What’s Up Down South” economic summit event, where I showcased Cedar City in front of over 1,000 people; addressing and installing the 2014 Home Builder’s Association President, Officers, and Directors; attending various community events; and meeting with countless citizens of this great city. However, in my opinion, two other important roles I have as Mayor are having a strategic vision and plan for Cedar City and advocating on behalf of our community at the State Legislature. Below, I will explain why I feel these two items are critical to the continued growth and success of our community.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

As we continue to look toward the future of Cedar City, one of my goals for this year is to provide a more transparent and accountable government. Based on this concept,

we began crafting a Strategic Plan for Cedar City. Similar to other types of strategic plans, the Cedar City Strategic Plan will assist us in the vision, planning, and growth of our community. This will be a rather lengthy process as it will go through a number of revisions incorporating comments and inviting concerns and input from the community, city council, and city staff.

Our process began during our City Council’s Strategic Planning Retreat where we spent the day discussing the future and growth of Cedar City. This involved, among other things, reviewing and drafting revisions to the City’s Mission, Vision, and Values. In order to make this process as applicable as possible for our residents we want to make sure we address our current needs as well as those of future generations.

Additionally, based on this forward thinking approach, we also began identifying broad categories that are important for our community. These categories include fiscal responsibility; tourism; encouraging well managed growth and economic development; and wise use of resources, especially water. We also discussed the need to be innovative, efficient, courteous, prepared, and have economic opportunities available for our residents. As our strategic planning process continues I will keep you up to date and provide additional information on how to become involved in its progression. It is my desire that our strategic plan be a roadmap for our future and fueled by citizen input.

### STATE LEGISLATURE

The 2014 Legislative Session began on January 27th and will continue through March 13th. During “Local Official Day” at the Utah State Legislature on January 29th, our

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## Frank Samhammer recognized

The Cedar City Employee Advisory has selected Equipment Operation Frank Samhammer as this month's Employee of the Month. Frank was nominated by Police Lieutenant Keith Millett who wrote, "Frank Samhammer identified a theft suspect who had been stealing fuel from vehicles at the City shed just hours after the suspect had been photographed. Frank followed the suspect to his destination, wrote down his license plate number and turned it in to the Police detectives. This broke the case and resulted in the suspect's arrest. We want to show our appreciation to Frank for his efforts. His vigilance saved the Police Department numerous hours of work and has saved the City from more fuel costs.



Congratulations Frank on paying attention to detail. We really appreciate it."

Frank has been with Cedar City Corporation for seven years. He was born in Cherry Point, North Carolina, but has made Cedar City his home for nine years. Frank has been married for 24 years and is the father of three children. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, and all sports.

Frank said that the best part of his job is cleaning Cedar City's streets. He said this makes him feel part of the community and gives him a feeling of accomplishment by helping keep the City looking clean and beautiful. Congratulations Frank!

## Attention Veterans

It is very important to have your Honorable Discharge paper or DD-214 in your possession prior to your demise to assist your loved ones in preparing for your final resting place. Call Betty (Adjutant, MCL Detachment 1315 of Cedar City, UT) at (435) 586-9790 for information on how to acquire a copy of a lost DD-214.

## Public Works

Beginning March 1st, 2014, Cedar City Wastewater Treatment Facility is giving away Biosolids at no cost; however, there is a limited supply available. Due to the high nitrogen and phosphorus content, Biosolids are great for lawns, gardens, and flower beds.

Biosolids applied to the lawns, gardens, flower beds etc, can serve as the source of organic material that improves soil tilth, water holding capacity, structure development and stability, air and water transport, and can ultimately decrease soil erosion, and can reduce the amount of fertilizer needed. (*Soil, Biosolids, Recycling*, Number 547, Colorado State University, Cooperative Extension).

This product meets ALL State and Federal requirements for Class A Biosolids also known as Exceptional Quality (EQ) Biosolids. Biosolids are produced at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. During the process bacteria break down and stabilize the organic material. Biosolids are dried and tested to ensure they pass regulatory requirements.

Biosolids shall be hauled by pickup truck or trailer only. All hauled Biosolids shall not exceed a maximum of 1 metric ton (2200 lbs) per visit. However, you can make as many trips as you like (no dump trucks). Hours of pickup are Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information contact:

**Cedar City Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility**

7218 N. 2300 W.

Cedar City, UT 84721

(435) 867-9426

## At the Library...

**For Adults:** Please join us for a great new program series – Passport to Science. The Passport series is planned to be an ongoing event designed to complement the children's and young adult summer reading program theme. Each year there will be a monthly, themed presentation to catch the interest of participants. In future years the Passport will be to other areas. For example, if the summer reading theme is insects or literature or poetry, the annual Passport theme will be Passport to Insects, Passport to Literature, or Passport to Poetry. The Passport events will be the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. and will be in the meeting room at the north end of the Library. The most current information about upcoming Passport events may be found at [cedarcitylibrary.org](http://cedarcitylibrary.org) under the Programs & Events tab.

**Children's Corner:** Did you know that in one second a hummingbird beats its wings 50 times, a rattlesnake shakes its tail 60 times, a peregrine falcon in a dive plunges more than 300 feet, and a cheetah sprinting flat out can travel 100 feet? These facts are from a children's nonfiction book called, "*Just A Second*," by Steve Jenkins. It has been nominated for a Beehive Book Award this year and is on display in the Cedar City Public Library with other books in five categories including Picture books, Fiction, Informational, Poetry, and Young Adults. We hope you will come check them out and vote for your favorite!



## *Police recruitment is painstaking process*

Every man or woman who dons a police uniform is someone's child, perhaps a parent themselves, a brother or sister, a neighbor, and a citizen of the community they serve. All of their life's experiences, education, and outside influences have made them the individual they are. How do we ensure this "individual" is someone who will fairly and competently enforce our laws, investigate our crimes, respond to emergencies, and serve us professionally and empathetically?

First, we advertise throughout the state. For someone to qualify as an applicant they must have completed the first block of the police academy, or they must have completed two years of college. Those who qualify are invited to participate in a series of tests which help to give them an initial score and rating. They take a written test, a report-writing test, and a physical fitness test. The applicants receiving the top ratings from these tests are invited back before an oral interview board.

Upon completion of the oral interviews, the top-rated individuals are then invited to participate in the next level which consists of three parts: a psychological test by a police psychologist; a polygraph to disclose possible misrepresented information about their past; and an extensive background investigation. If they emerge from these tests successfully they are then sent for medical and drug tests. On average about 50% of candidates are disqualified during this phase.

The last step is a personal interview with myself and the Lieutenants to discuss our expectations of them, and what they can expect from the police department before they are offered a position.

Once accepted the prospective officer is sent to the State Police Academy for 13 weeks of training. Upon successful completion they begin a formal field training program (FTO) with our department for 12 weeks. During this time they are assigned to an experienced officer who rides with them and gives them daily instruction and evaluation. If they successfully complete this program they are assigned to the patrol division and begin their probationary period. Throughout the officers' career, they are required to attend a minimum of 40 hours a year of current in-service training.

This is the best process I have found to identify and train the right "individual" for the job. However law enforcement is a complex and stressful profession that can become very taxing. Too often the police officer's day is spent with the negative, depressing, and often cruel side of society. At the same time, most citizen contacts with police are due to the citizen being the victim of a crime, or being on the receiving end of a traffic citation, both of which are generally unpleasant experiences. Even though the police department goes to great lengths to identify and train officers to properly serve the community, the nature of the job and citizen contacts can become adversarial with an "us against them" attitude. This attitude can soon deteriorate relationships between citizens and police, which may then affect the service the citizens receive and the impression the public and tourists have of our community.

To ensure this does not happen, there are measures the officers and citizens can take. As officers we need to take off our sunglasses, get out of our patrol cars, and talk with you to give you a chance to see us as a neighbor, a brother or sister, a parent, and fellow citizen. We need to talk with you about what you perceive as problems in the community. Then together we can take ownership of these problems and find solutions before they escalate to a more serious, negative level. As citizens, we ask that you will support us in these efforts. Please be open and willing to address your concerns with the officers when you are contacted and, more importantly, be willing to accept some ownership in working with the officers to solve problems. Please take an active interest in the welfare of your neighbors and work with them, with our assistance, to make your neighborhood safe.

Policing a community and keeping it a desirable place to live takes the involvement of all of us. We will continue to hire the best officers available for our community. Like you, they too are citizens and have a vested interest in serving you and joining you in partnership to keep Cedar City a safe place to raise families.

**CHIEF BOB ALLINSON**



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City Manager Rick Holman and I were able to go up to Capitol Hill and meet with Senator Evan Vickers and Representative John Westwood about legislation that is relevant to our community. With their assistance we were also able to meet with a number of the “ranking members” from both the Senate and House of Representatives to further promote Cedar City.

One of the items that we continually discussed with the legislative leadership was requesting their support for a new \$19.2 million building for the Southwest Applied Technology College (SWATC). If funded, this building would meet the growing demand for the SWATC programs, as well as alleviate the overcrowding in our current facility. A new building would also bring more educational opportunities to our area and provide additional jobs for our residents. By the time you are reading this newsletter, we will have made another trip to the Legislature to present information before the Infrastructure Subcommittee about the pressing need for this SWATC building. I will continue to keep you informed on our progress and I hope you will join me in supporting a successful outcome for the SWATC building.

During our time at Capitol Hill, the legislators repeatedly mentioned the necessity of local leadership, and community representation, being involved in the legislative process, and making an effort to be at the Capitol. Through our initial trip to meet with our legislators I quickly realized the direct correlation between fostering relationships with the legislative bodies and their support for our community funding requests and upcoming events. Therefore, based on the importance of building these relationships, the staff and I will continue to advocate during this, and the future legislative sessions, on behalf of Cedar City.

#### UPCOMING

In March there will be a groundbreaking for both the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Center for the Performing Arts and the I-15 South Interchange Project. More information about both of these projects will be discussed in next month’s newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions or

concerns about our city, please don’t hesitate to contact me anytime. I am honored to be able to represent you and promote our great community to so many different and diverse groups!

Last month I mentioned that each month the newsletter would include an article dedicated to the Police Department. For February Chief Bob Allinson has written about the complex and lengthy officer recruitment process (please see page 3). Although this article is quite long, I believe it is important for our community understand the painstaking process that the City goes through to ensure that we hire the best qualified candidates available.

#### CEDAR CITY CITIZEN COMMITTEES/ AIRPORT BOARD

The Airport Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:15 a.m. in the conference room at the Cedar City Airport. There are eight board members, including a City Council and County Commission representative. Board Members serve four year terms. The duty of the Airport Board is to make recommendations to the City Council regarding all matters of Airport development and to make recommendations establishing policy for the use and operation of the Airport. As with all Mayor-appointed positions, the Airport Board, as a recommending body, has no authority to appropriate and/or expend public funds. However, the input of the Airport Board is crucial to the efficient operation of the Cedar City Airport. Current board members include: Don Marchant (Chair, and Council representative); Jyl Schuler; Dale Brinkerhoff (Iron County Commission Representative); Ken Beazer; Scott Jolley; Boyd Hall; Karl Hugh; and Jeff Middleton. Desirable qualifications for an Airport Board member would include knowledge of airport operations or aviation experience, or a background operating a business, etc.

Anyone interested in serving on the Airport Board should email Barbara at [barbarab@cedarcity.org](mailto:barbarab@cedarcity.org) with your name, contact information, and a short bio including how long you have been a resident of Cedar City and what you would bring to the position.