

Cedar City This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Maile Wilson

This year provided us with an unexpected surprise on Mother's Day. Mother Nature wanted to make sure that we didn't forget about her this year – and I'm sure we won't as we awoke to approximately nine inches of snow. I think that she got her point across!

With that said, although this storm caused

significant hardship to many of our residents from the major broken tree branches and debris in their yards, to the streets which were difficult (if not impossible) to drive down because of the extensive debris that had fallen, our community rallied together!

I am convinced that we live in one of the best places on earth. Realizing that there was no way the City Street Department could get the mess cleaned up alone without it taking a substantial amount of time, especially since we just finished spring cleanup, everyone united together. The debris from our Mother's Day storm was about 10 times more extensive than our regularly scheduled spring clean up, so the City needed the help of the residents of our community.

Within hours of the storm ending, neighbors were helping neighbors, friends were helping friends, and community members were just helping wherever they saw a need.

A special thank you to M & C Sanitation and Rocky Ridge Rolloffs for going above and beyond over the past few weeks to assist in the storm cleanup efforts.

Both of these companies donated not only their time

but also their manpower and resources to get areas cleaned up as quickly as possible. In addition they also provided dumpsters for individuals to dump their debris.

As many of you have likely noticed, the beautiful tree lights that line our Main Street were also affected during this storm. We have decided that we are going to take the lights down for a short period of time so they can be evaluated. While the lights are down the City staff will trim these trees to remove any potential problems caused by the storm. After everything is repaired the lights will be replaced and once again our Main Street will sparkle!

With the summer now in full swing, it is always difficult to keep up with all the numerous events and adventures our community has to offer. A few of these activities, which is by no means a complete list, includes:

- The Utah Summer Games begin on June 6th, and by the time you receive this newsletter many of you may have already participated in some of the events. But I want to include a reminder that the always fantastic Opening Ceremonies will be held on Thursday, June 12th at the Eccles Coliseum at SUU. This year will be great, as usual, with sports celebrities, Hall of Fame inductions, and live entertainment featuring the Beatles tribute band, "The RETURN," as well as the best fireworks show anywhere. The Opening Ceremonies begin at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (435) 865-8421 or visit www.utahsummergames.org.
- The Cedar City PRCA Rodeo will be held at the Cross Hollows Event Center on June 13 and 14th.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



Steve Decker Selected

Library Director Steve Decker has been selected as June Employee of the Month by the Cedar City Employee Advisory Committee.

Steve's nomination was submitted by Luene Byers, the Assistant Library Director, who wrote, "Steve takes time



to LISTEN, even stopping a project he's doing to listen to any staff member, or patron!

"He really does take time to consider suggestions from the staff and if the answer

is no he will tell us why.

"He's willing to do ANYTHING that needs doing here, from changing the flag out front, shoveling snow, helping at the front desk, helping patrons find things, or learn where to get what they want, plunging toilets, cleaning up flooding, making sure all the staff feels safe, etc.

"He effectively handles conflict among the staff and patrons with understanding and patience. He also makes sure the staff is able to attend training and library conferences when possible. Steve is compassionate whenever staff have a family or personal crisis to deal with.

"He makes it clear what is acceptable and what is not, which makes it easier to be on his staff.

"He says Thank You to his staff!"

Steve has worked for Cedar City for over 15 years. He graduated from SUU with his Bachelor's in Political Science and received his Master of Library Science from Emporia State University. Prior to being hired by Cedar City, Steve managed State Bank's Parowan office. His hobbies include reading, hunting, fishing, hiking, writing, and teaching.

The things about his job that Steve most enjoys are "working with good people and finding answers to the broad spectrum of questions that come to librarians." Congratulations Steve!

Public Works

WATERING RESTRICTIONS: We appreciate the community's adherence to the revised water ordinance. The Water Department has not yet had to issue any 2nd violation notices for watering. As the weather heats up, however, citizens need to remember that the ordinance restricts the use of outside culinary water between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. every day.

TREE LIMBS: Thanks to everyone who helped clean up Cedar City after the Mother's Day storm. Community residents and City crews worked very hard to clean up damaged trees. The Street Department must move on to other projects. It is now the homeowner's responsibility to remove tree debris from the street in front of your residence. Please take these to the Iron County Landfill located at 3127 North Iron Springs Road.

TREE MAINTENANCE: All residents/businesses should keep trees and shrubs from blocking sidewalks, including keeping branches pruned no lower than seven feet. Also, trees and shrubs should not block any traffic control devices (stop signs, etc.) or street signs. Corner lots need to keep shrubs cut to a maximum thirty inches (30") high to allow proper sight clearance for vehicular traffic. Additionally, please keep trees trimmed away from power lines.

New emergency notification system

For years Iron County Emergency Management has used a system (Reverse 911) that allows messages to be sent to residents/businesses via telephone. The intent has been to use this system to notify residents and businesses of an emergency and to give appropriate instructions. The system has been difficult, at best, to use. Over the years the cities and towns in Iron County have been sharing the cost of this system.

The County Emergency Management staff has researched and found a more reliable and user friendly system they would like to implement – the Everbridge Mass Notification System. The change will be a great enhancement to emergency management for all County entities. This will not only be useful for large-scale disasters, but will provide a more effective notification of road closures, power outages, service disruptions, etc. Each entity will be able to use the system for their specific needs. This system would have been very useful to disseminate information during last month's spring storm! The Everbridge System allows for customized notification either geographically, to work groups, or to specific customers. The new system will cost less as well.

With the current Reverse 911 system all landline telephone numbers are accessible. Many cell phone customers have registered their cell numbers for emergency notification with Reverse 911. All landline and those cell numbers already entered into the current system will be transferred to the new Everbridge System. Once the Everbridge is functioning (after July 1) the City hopes non-landline citizens allow their cell numbers to be added to the System for notification. This would be voluntary. Citizens will eventually be able to prioritize their desired method of notification (text, phone call, email, etc). The new system will provide better communication and real-time information for our residents.



Police Department overview

The Cedar City Police Department serves a population of approximately 29,000 residents. Cedar City is recognized nationally as a micropolitan area, serving a population of over 47,000 residents (population of Iron County). It is also a regional shopping area, serving a population of over 80,000 from surrounding counties and eastern Nevada. This greatly increases the daytime and evening population, affecting traffic flow issues (violations, accidents, driving under the influence, etc.), property crimes (thefts, shoplifting, car burglaries, etc.), and crimes against persons (assaults, disorderly conduct, robberies, etc.). This influx results in a greater demand for police service. We are impacted more and more by the growing number of university students, tourists, and visitors who participate in the increasing number of events in "Festival City, USA."

The average number of officers per thousand for cities in the mountain states is 1.6 officers for cities with a population between 25,000 to 49,000. The average for the State of Utah is 1.5 per thousand. Using a population base for Cedar City of 29,000 residents and 34 officers we have 1.2 officers per thousand residents.

It is important that our residents, tourists, and other visitors feel safe so they will continue to visit, shop, and play in our community. Our calls for service have become more challenging, and the types of crimes such as cybercrime involving frauds, identity theft, child pornography, etc. are more frequent, complex, and take much longer to investigate. This last year we have seen an 11% increase in our more serious (violent) crimes including two homicides (one a double homicide) in 2013, and a 38% increase in reported rapes which take longer to investigate, solve, and prepare for prosecution and court. This growth and the complexity of the demands for service affects response time and the ability to accomplish directed patrol activities such as traffic enforcement, crime suppression, and problem solving interaction with the public.

Even with these challenges Cedar City residents continue to enjoy a low crime rate per capita in comparison to other communities. When comparing Part 1 crimes (homicide, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, robbery, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson) reported in 2013 to 2012, the community experienced a slight decrease in the total number of crimes, with fewer property crimes being recorded. The community experienced 32.11 Part 1 crimes per 1,000 population in 2013 compared to 33.14 in 2012. Of all Part 1 crimes experienced by the community in 2013, 96 % were related to the theft of personal property.

During 2013 there were 24,041 officer responses to calls for service from residents. This averages to over 66 police responses a day (this does not include traffic stops). Of these 24,041 responses, 4,617 resulted in a written investigative case report. In 2013, officers made 1,386 arrests for crimes committed in Cedar City and conducted 4,320 traffic stops. During these traffic stops officers gave written citations to 871 drivers for traffic violations. Officers gave written warnings for 890 violations and 2,559 verbal warnings to drivers. A motorist stopped for a traffic violation is receiving a written citation for the violation 40% of the time. An officer can issue a verbal warning much quicker than a written warning or written citation. Enforcement of traffic rules and regulations for the safety of the public is, and will continue to be, a main priority of the police department. However, because of time constraints and workload challenges (for efficiency only) more verbal warnings are being issued. We will continue to monitor complaints and traffic accidents to see if this is an effective method of enforcement.

Understandably, crimes of violence garner the most attention by the community, but the fact remains the quality of life for the greatest number of Cedar City residents is most impacted by property crimes. As a community we must remain focused on preventing all crime, especially property crimes which again represented 96% of all reported Part 1 crimes during 2013. Many property crimes can be avoided and/or prevented by the community working collaboratively through crime prevention programs such as Neighborhood Watch, as well as a myriad of other crime prevention services provided by the Police Department. It is the opinion of the Police Department that collectively we can reduce the number of property crimes, by working together, while we remain resolute to pursue each and every crime.

CHIEF ROBERT D. ALLINSON



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

For those who don't know rodeo lingo, that means a professional bull riding competition! For more information, call Steve or Cyndi Gilbert (435) 635-7628.

- The 33rd Anniversary Paiute Restoration Gathering and Pow-Wow, June 13-14. This is a truly unique event and the festivities include a parade down Main Street at 10 a.m. on Saturday which will end at the City Library, just in time for the dedication of the Paiute Tribe's new monument in front of the Library. Everyone is invited to participate! For more information, call the Tribe at (435) 586-1112.
- The Master Singers Father's Day Concert will be on June 15th at the Heritage Center at 7 p.m. The performances of this all-male choir are always a treat, but are even more special and inspiring when we are honoring the fathers in our lives. This event is free to the public.
- 12th annual Groovefest American Music and Art Festival will run from June 24th through the 30th this year. Activities include an Art Festival, live concert events at area venues including the Heritage Theater, Cedar Canyon Nature Park, Main Street Books, The Grind Coffee House, and Mike's Tavern. It also includes two full days of free concerts on Friday and Saturday at Main Street Park, as well as workshops and other activities. For information call (435) 867-9800 or visit www.groovefestutah.com.
- The 53rd annual Utah Shakespeare Festival runs from June 23 through October 18. Plays featured this season are: *The Comedy of Errors*, *Henry IV Part One*, *Measure for Measure*, *Twelfth Night*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Into the Woods*. For tickets and information call 1 (800) PLAYTIX. The nightly Greenshow begins at 7 p.m. and is free! The USF is one of the cultural treasures that make Cedar City such an exceptional community.
- There will be a Fourth of July parade and activities at Main Street Park. The parade begins at 10 a.m. and will be followed by games, food, entertainment, and bounce houses at the City Park.
- The Fire Road Cycling Event will be on July 5th. The race begins at 8 a.m. at Main Street Park. This race is open to every level of off-road cycling enthusiast. If you can ride a bike, you can ride in Fire Road. For more information call (435) 463-1694.

And for those of you who like to plan ahead, mark your

calendars for the following dates:

- July 9 - August 9th - The Neil Simon Festival kicks off on the 9th with a Preview Night Benefit with all proceeds going to local charities. The performance begins at 8 p.m. at the Heritage Center Theater. Plays this season include *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Greater Tuna*, *Nunsense*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. The Festival is also offering a one-night performance of *Driving Miss Daisy* on Friday, August 1st at 8 p.m. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.simonfest.org.
- July 9 - 12th - Utah Midsummer Renaissance Faire at the Main Street Park.
- July 12 - July Jamboree and Cruise In on Cedar City's Main Street.

There is always plenty to do in Cedar City, especially in the summer. I hope to see many of you out at these activities, and enjoying the beautiful weather in the prettiest town anywhere.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES/CEDAR DISABILITY AWARENESS/ACTION TEAM

The Cedar Disability Awareness/Action Team (CDA/AT) advises and makes recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, and Staff regarding the needs and concerns of the physically or mentally challenged residents of Cedar City. A member of the Committee attends the Project Review meeting to ensure that new developments are handicapped accessible. CDA/AT is committed to making Cedar City a fully accessible community for residents and visitors through ongoing improvements in public access. CDA/AT also encourages understanding of the physically and mentally challenged community through its ongoing education programs. CDA/AT meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. at the City Offices at 10 North Main. If you are interested in becoming a member of CDA/AT, please email Barbara at 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. The public is always welcome to attend CDA/AT meetings.