

Cedar City This Month



CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE

FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2014

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Maile Wilson

As flowers begin to bloom here in Cedar City, March is shaping up to be a busy and beautiful month.

A few weeks ago I learned that March 2nd is “National Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss Day,” which emphasizes

the importance of reading. To celebrate I had the opportunity to speak with students at various elementary schools about the impact and importance of reading in my life, and also had the opportunity to read them my favorite Dr. Seuss book “*Oh, The Places You’ll Go!*”

As a fun way to cap off National Read Across America Day the back of this month’s newsletter includes a children’s author word search created by our Library. Enjoy!

Answers to word search on page 4

BEATRIXPOTTER	SHELSILVERSTEIN
RICKRIORDAN	JANBRETT
DRSEUSS	JONSCIESZKA
MOWILLEMS	AUDREYWOOD
CRESSIDACOWELL	KEVINHENKES
ROALDDAHL	BILLMARTIN
JEFFKINNEY	DAVIDSHANNON

There are a number of new construction projects in the area that will impact everyone and cause a few “growing pains” until their completion. Please be patient as the

final product will greatly enhance our community as a whole!

I’m sure you have seen the signs around the South Interchange announcing the beginning of the interchange construction. The construction period begins on March 3rd and continues through the expected completion date of October. The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) mailed out an informational sheet explaining the new Diverging Diamond Interchange design and their construction process, so be on the lookout for this information.

Also, I want you to be aware that UDOT has a number of ways for each of us to stay up-to-date. These options are 1)Subscribe to UDOT’S weekly email updates by sending your email address to southcedar@utah.gov 2)Check their website at www.udot.utah.gov/go/southcedar, and 3)Call their hotline at (855)415-3923.

After years of dreaming and planning, the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts will finally break ground. This long awaited event will coincide with SUU’S Founder’s Day on March 27th, and will be held at 3 p.m. on the grounds of the Randall L. Jones Theater. The Arts complex will include the new Shakespeare and small Studio theaters, the Southern Utah Museum of Art, and various administrative areas.

Recently I spoke to USF Founder Fred Adams and Executive Director Scott Phillips after a long day of meetings with the building’s architectural team. They expressed that things were progressing well, with just a few minor issues left to work out. Both concurred that overall, “the Center will be wonderful! It has been a long time coming, but it is very exciting

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Mike Bleak Selected

Cedar City Police Department Detective Mike Bleak has been chosen as the Cedar City Employee Advisory Committee's March Employee of the Month.

Mike has been employed by the Police Department for 16 years. He started his career as a Patrol Officer and is currently serving as a Detective in Investigations. He is one of the Department's medical examiners, and serves the Department in many other capacities. Mike is involved with the Children's Justice Center and Leaders for Life program for youth. He teaches CPR and has lectured on several topics including the "Choking Game." He is a former EMT with a decade of service to the Iron County Ambulance. He is detail oriented and has put in many hours of overtime doing his job. He is often called out from home to respond to tragedies that occur



in our community, is always willing to respond, and does so with a positive attitude. Mike has a great sense of humor and is fun to work with. He has a love of music, and sings and plays the guitar. His music can often be heard throughout the office when he is working. He is married to Amy and they have three children. Congrats Mike!

Equal-pay plan available

Cedar City Corporation recently instituted an equal-pay program for water billing. This is an optional payment program that allows you to pay the same amount each month for water service. The equal-pay program takes the guess-work out of paying bills by dividing your estimated annual billing amount into 12 equal payments.

You can make bill paying even simpler when you sign up for auto pay. Auto pay allows you to have your equal-pay amount withdrawn automatically each month from your bank account. To sign up, or for more information, please call the City Office at (435) 586-2950.

Mental health crisis response

Interaction between police officers and the public can be uncomfortable and anxiety-producing at times. It is the goal of the Cedar City Police Department to develop rapport, trust, and an open dialogue of communication with community members. This often proves difficult when interacting with those with mental health issues and individuals in crisis situations.

There are many reasons that compel a person to display atypical behavior. Such adverse behavior may be the result of a valid mental health disorder, or a temporary alteration of thinking that presents during a crisis situation. The police calls for service for such crisis situations are growing. For example, our community has experienced an increase in suicides and attempted suicides through the years. In 2006 there were five suicide attempts and 10 completed suicides. In 2007 there were 20 suicide attempts and 20 completed suicides. In 2008 we experienced 39 suicide attempts and five completed suicides. In 2009 there were 43 suicide attempts and two completed suicides. We experienced a drastic increase in 2010 with 61 suicide attempts and 18 completed suicides. The last two years revealed an increase in suicide attempts; however, the rates of completed suicides are declining.

The Police Department works very closely with our local mental health authority with the intention of reducing these numbers. It is also our intention to develop strategies to more effectively deal with those individuals in acute crisis situations, and provide direction toward the appropriate resources. One way we accomplish this goal is to train our officers, emergency medical personnel, and dispatchers in appropriate crisis intervention techniques. Annually, a class is held locally to equip public safety professionals with such skills. The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training is a 40-hour block of lecture and practical application instruction designed to prepare local and state public safety professionals. A variety of topics are covered including: clinical disorders, personality disorders, substance abuse disorders, developmental disorders, civil laws & liability, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicide assessment, non-psychiatric behavior, family and consumer perspective, and intervention strategies. This training course is primarily instructed by members of Southwest Behavioral Health Center with instructional support from members of the Cedar City Police Department. We just concluded our annual training during the last week of February with 29 participants in the class. This is an area of public safety that is concerning to us and our mental health partners, and it is an area that we desire to improve upon.

LIEUTENANT DARIN ADAMS



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and should impact the City's economy both during construction and after its completion."

Having this new Center for the Arts also has the potential to significantly boost our retail and hospitality business. Although the ground-breaking is scheduled for March 27th, fundraising efforts continue with the goal of having the entire center and grounds completed at the same time. For more information visit the Utah Shakespeare Festival's website www.bard.org

CEDAR CITY CITIZEN COMMITTEES/ BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS

The Board of Adjustments is comprised of seven members, who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. One member of the Board is also a member of the Planning Commission to ensure unity and communication among these essential committees. Board members serve four-year terms.

The Board hears and decides appeals from administrative decisions applying the zoning ordinance (i.e. building permit denials or decisions relating to subdivision plats); grants special exceptions and/or variances from the

terms of the zoning ordinance; and hears appeals from decisions approving or denying a conditional use permit. Citizens of Cedar City who wish to conduct a business out of their residence need to receive the Board of Adjustments approval prior to conducting the business.

Current Board members include: Zurl Thornock, Chair; Kristie McMullin (Planning Commission Representative); Doug Christian; Danna Esplin; Jeff Cowan; Ann Powell; and Steve Dodds.

The Board of Adjustments meets the first Monday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 10 North Main.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Adjustments when a position becomes available, 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 can bring to the position. Desirable qualifications for a Board of Adjustments member include a land use background and the ability to think analytically, etc.

Kid's Korner - Children's Author Word Search

A	R	I	C	K	R	I	O	R	D	A	N	V	T	L
S	H	E	L	S	I	L	V	E	R	S	T	E	I	N
B	I	L	L	M	A	R	T	I	N	C	R	F	C	H
U	U	S	Z	U	J	A	N	B	R	E	T	T	W	O
C	R	E	S	S	I	D	A	C	O	W	E	L	L	Z
H	B	E	A	T	R	I	X	P	O	T	T	E	R	J
H	N	M	O	W	I	L	L	E	M	S	N	B	F	F
U	R	O	A	L	D	D	A	H	L	T	K	X	Q	P
J	E	F	F	K	I	N	N	E	Y	K	H	I	F	O
K	A	U	D	R	E	Y	W	O	O	D	Z	X	P	N
J	S	O	Q	K	E	V	I	N	H	E	N	K	E	S
B	L	D	A	V	I	D	S	H	A	N	N	O	N	E
L	N	D	R	S	E	U	S	S	H	C	B	O	U	P
J	O	N	S	C	I	E	S	Z	K	A	L	A	X	W
G	K	M	O	R	S	Y	I	W	U	K	D	V	U	J