

# Cedar City This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2014

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



*Mayor Maile Wilson*

This past month there have been a number of activities that have allowed us to reflect on our City's heritage. From pioneers, to shepherders, to iron miners, to brave soldiers, Cedar City has a varied and inspiring history. With Thanksgiving taking place this month, I want to express my appreciation for our ancestors, and how their contributions and sacrifices have helped make

Cedar City the unique and wonderful place we all enjoy.

November also provides an opportunity to honor our veterans on Veterans Day, and to celebrate the 163rd anniversary of the pioneers arriving in Cedar City. Although our Cedar City birthday is technically November 11th, we decided that instead of competing with Veterans Day, this year Cedar City's Birthday Celebration and Iron Mission Days will both be held on November 8th at the Frontier Homestead State Park. The Iron Mission Days portion will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Cedar City birthday celebration will take place at 6 p.m. Former Mayor Harold Shirley will be the speaker, and those who attend will be treated to musical numbers by In Jubilo and the Master Singers. Following this short program, dessert will be served at approximately 7 p.m. The event is free to the community, and all ages are invited to attend.

On October 24th the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs from the Republic of Korea held an appreciation luncheon here in Cedar City to honor the Korean War veterans. Director General

Jong-Wang Park, from the Veterans Policy Bureau in the Republic of Korea, along with members of the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs were all in attendance to honor our military members. It was a privilege to be able to attend, and recognize those who served all those years ago.

As many of you may remember, over 60 years ago our National Guard unit, the 213th Field Artillery Battalion, sent approximately 600 young men to South Korea to help liberate them from North Korea. These men were not experienced soldiers but were farmers, students, fathers, brothers, uncles and friends from Cedar City, Fillmore, Beaver, St. George and Richfield.

240 soldiers from Cedar City and Richfield fought approximately 4,000 Chinese soldiers near Gapyeong, South Korea, engaging them so ferociously that, after the long fire fight, the Chinese withdrew. That day many Chinese lost their lives and hundreds were captured. But, incredibly, our small group of soldiers all returned home without any loss of life. For years this marvelous story has been retold by our soldiers and their families as they relive and cherish their miracle.

The citizens of Gapyeong have expressed their gratitude for these men who risked their lives, and in September, 2009, Cedar City and Gapyeong, Korea became sister cities, further enhancing the rapport between our two cultures.

Also on October 24th we had the official ribbon cutting for the new South Interchange. Our newly retrofitted interchange will have a long-lasting impact on our community, as we continue to grow and strive to meet the demands of our future. A few of the benefits to our community include:

- This new design provides easier access for individuals getting onto the southbound and northbound I-15.
- The previous fly over bridge can now be used as a livestock and pedestrian trail. This allows the east

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## Ann Nelson selected

Library Assistant Ann Nelson has been selected as November's Employee of the Month by the Cedar City Employee Advisory Committee. Ann was nominated by fellow Library employees Lauren Zachary and Emily Larson. Ann's



nomination reads, "Ann has worked at the Library for many years. Over those years she has developed positive relationships with the public, so when a patron comes into

the Library, Ann will likely remember them and is able to give suggestions accordingly...She loves to chat with patrons, which helps them feel connected to the Library.

"Ann always arrives at work in a good mood, and successfully maintains that mood throughout the day...She helps keep the atmosphere light and uses humor to keep staff morale up, especially during stressful moments.

"Ann is famous for her annual "sheep story time," given at the beginning of every summer reading program. During this story time, she brings in a lamb from her family farm and talks about weaving. The kids love this story time, and it's one of the favorites.

"Ann is also a great asset to the Library because she is very knowledgeable about Cedar City and the surrounding area. Since the Library staff are asked a variety of questions concerning directions, or information about community programs, Ann is usually the one who is able to answer these questions."

Congratulations, Ann, on receiving this well-deserved award.

## Coming up in Cedar City...

- **Iron Mission Days Celebration** - November 8 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Frontier Homestead State Park. Pioneer activities, crafts, etc. \$5 per family or \$1.50 per person. For info call (435) 586-9290. From 6 to 7 p.m., also at the Homestead, Cedar City's 163rd birthday party will be celebrated with a short program and inspiring songs by In Jubilo and the Master Singers, followed by birthday cake. All are welcome to attend. This activity is free!
- **Story Book Cavalcade** - November 8 - 2 p.m. Parade begins at 400 South Main and is great fun for children of every age. Free!
- **Veterans Day Activities on Tuesday, November 11**
  - Free Benefit Breakfast** - 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at SUU Alumni House (300 E. University Blvd.). Enjoy a complimentary breakfast. Donations are encouraged, and all donations will go back to local veterans and their families who are in need. For information call Eric (435) 586-7868.
  - Flag Raising Ceremony** - 10 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. at Veterans Park. Speaker will be Senator Evan Vickers.
  - Veterans Service** - 11 a.m. at the Randall Jones Theatre. A luncheon for veterans will be provided after the service at the Elks Lodge at 111 East 200 North. For more information on Veterans Day activities call (435) 865-8100.
- **Red Rock Film Festival** - November 12 - 15 at the Heritage Theatre. Ticket packages start at \$5. For tickets and movie schedule call (435) 705-5555.
- **Orchestra of Southern Utah presents "American Composers Without Borders"** - November 13 - 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Theatre. Go to [www.orchestraofsouthernutah.org](http://www.orchestraofsouthernutah.org) for more info or call Emily at (435) 319-0692.
- **Happy Factory Fundraising Gala** - November 13 - 6 p.m. at the Sharwan Smith Ballroom. Call (435) 586-8352 for info and to purchase tickets.
- **National Family Volunteer Day** - November 21 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Aquatic Center. There will be a blood drive as well as a family-oriented project. For info call (435) 867-8384.
- **Festival of Trees** - November 28 - noon to 9 p.m. and November 29 - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Stonehaven Events Center (647 S. Cross Hollow Rd.). For information call Sharon Wasden (435) 531-0339.
- **Thanksgiving Pow-Wow** - November 29 - 7 p.m. and November 30 - noon. in the Paiute Gym (600 N.100 E.). Admission is Free! For more info call (435) 586-9433.
- **Cedar City Music Arts Christmas Concert featuring Jenny Oaks Baker** - December 1 - 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Theatre. Go to [www.cedarcitymusicarts.org](http://www.cedarcitymusicarts.org) for more info.
- **Merry Tuba Christmas** - December 6 - 2 p.m. at the Heritage Center Outdoor Stage. For info call Bob Gordon (435) 865-7668.

Be sure to also mark your calendars for these upcoming free holiday events occurring later in December: Handel's *Messiah*, December 14-15; Community Creche Festival, December 14; and the Christmas Concert featuring the Master Singers, In Jubilo, the Bell Choir and the Elementary Student Choir, December 21. More information on these events will be included in the December newsletter.



## *Dispose of old medicines safely*

Did you know that teenagers now abuse prescription drugs more than any other illegal drug except for marijuana? The majority of teens who abuse these drugs get them for free, usually from friends and relatives, and often without their knowledge. Another sad fact is that unintentional prescription pain medicine overdose is the number one cause of injury deaths in Utah, even more than motor vehicle crashes. It is simply not safe to keep old, unneeded medicines in your home.

Unused medicine that is flushed or rinsed down the sink can hurt the environment. Drugs are not always removed by sewage treatment facilities and septic tank systems, and can enter the water supply and soil. Research studies show that exposure to drugs found in our water is having a serious effect on fish and animals. Drugs can be taken out of trash cans and used, or illegally sold, so...

The Cedar City Police Department, located at 10 North Main Street, has a prescription drug disposal bin in the lobby. This option is available for safe disposal of old medications from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If this disposal option is not feasible, medicines can be disposed of safely by first removing all personal identification from prescriptions bottles; then mixing unused pills with water, wet coffee grounds, kitty litter or other undesirable substances; and/or mixing liquid medicines with flour and placing the mixture in a sealable plastic container. Place this in the trash ON THE DAY OF PICK UP.

Safely disposing of old medications will help reduce drug abuse, drug poisonings and also help keep our environment safe and clean. Let's all do our part.

## Public Works

**SOLID WASTE** - As the holidays approach, please remember the trash pickup schedule for November. For Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11th – trash will be picked up on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10th. For Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27th, and the day after Thanksgiving (which is also a holiday for the City) Friday, November 28th, trash will be picked up on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26th.

Just a reminder, there are some items that can't be picked up with your normal household trash: carpet/padding, appliances, furniture and residential construction materials like brick and lumber. Also, we can't accept any aluminum or steel poles, bed frames, mattresses or car parts, such as engines or transmissions. Please check with the County landfill at (435) 865-7015 to see what items you may dispose of there. Used oil can be disposed of at any of the auto parts stores.

**RECYCLING** – The recycle bins that were located on Main Street across from Frontier Homestead State Park, adjacent to Southwest Plumbing, have been moved to the soccer field parking lot on 685 North. This is west of the cemetery. Other recycle bin locations are: Smith's parking lot, Home Depot parking lot, Cedar Middle School, Canyon View High School parking lot, and SUU near the tennis courts on 200 South. We can accept paper, plastic and metal in the bins. Unfortunately, there is no recycling method currently in Cedar City for cardboard or glass.

## Keep sidewalks clear

Cedar City has had its first taste of snow already, and as the dead of winter approaches the Cedar City Disability Awareness/Action Team would like to remind community members that City Ordinance states that the owners of homes/businesses have the responsibility to remove snow from the sidewalks in front of their building(s) within 24 hours.

Keeping up with snow removal can become challenging during repeated snow storms, but it's common courtesy to not force pedestrians to walk in the street. This becomes even more of a problem for those in our community who are disabled. Please do your part as a good citizen, and help our community run smoothly during the winter season by making sure your sidewalks are kept clear of snow.



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- and west sides of our master planned trial system to connect.
- There is an improved flow of traffic.
- This new design will allow for the development of some of the adjacent commercial property (unusable with the old interchange design) providing additional economic development opportunities for Cedar City.

Once we all get used to the design, I hope we can fully realize the ways that the new South Interchange will benefit Cedar for the years and decades to come.

It is our duty as your Mayor and City Council to plan for Cedar City's future. To that end, we have been working on the City's strategic plan. I asked our City Manager, Rick Holman, to write a few words explaining the process:

Cedar City Corporation exists to serve the needs of our citizens. This requires services such as public safety (police, fire, building inspection), public works (water, wastewater, street maintenance), leisure opportunities and various support functions. In order to meet these needs planning, particularly longer term strategic planning, is essential.

Strategic Planning is an organizational management activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment. Strategic planning is an effort that produces fundamental decisions and action that shape and guide what an organization is, who it serves, what it does, and why, with a focus on the future. Effective strategic planning articulates not only where an organization is going and the actions needed to make progress, but provides a measurement for success. A strategic plan is a document used to communicate with the organization, and its stakeholders, the goals and actions needed to achieve those goals.

While the City Council and staff have been working on our strategic plan for months, we are interested in knowing what our citizens believe is most important for our community. There will be two opportunities for citizens to provide input into the City's strategic plan. On November 20th and December 2nd, the public is invited to share their thoughts on topics such as Economic Growth, Quality of Life, Public Infrastructure, Financial Security, among others. Both public meetings will be held in the City Council Chambers and will begin at 6 p.m.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT/CODE ENFORCEMENT AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

Last month we talked about some of the different civic and community programs involving the officers of the Neighborhood Preservation Division. This division is comprised of the School Resource Officers, Code Enforcement, School Crossing Guards and Animal Control. This month we will talk about the duties of the School Resource Officers and Code Enforcement Officers.

The School Resource Officers (SRO) work through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Iron County School District. One SRO is assigned to each of the high schools, and they cover the middle schools and grade schools as needed. SRO's are positive role models for many students who may not be exposed to such role models in today's society. Their presence in the schools sends a strong message that violence and criminal activity is not acceptable. In 2013 the SRO's responded to 172 incidents in which a case was written, with drug violations being the most frequent, followed by theft and assault. There were hundreds of other contacts and investigations in which cases were not written, as they were minor in nature. The SRO's also teach a Criminal Justice class in each of the high schools. The schools recognize the value of having officers assigned to their schools, and these officers are called upon frequently.

Code Enforcement Officers (CEO) are tasked to identify and solve a variety of quality of life issues of a community concern. They respond to, and seek solutions for, nuisance complaints in violation of the City's nuisance ordinance through abatement or other appropriate action. Examples of violations of the City Nuisance Ordinance (Chapter 25) that CEO's investigate are: drug and/or party houses, fire hazards, noxious emanations, noxious weeds, stagnant water, accumulation of junk, overgrown vegetation, improper storage, graffiti and improper parking. They also perform parking enforcement duties. They investigate minor crimes and other calls for service, direct traffic at times of emergency or congestion, assist in crossing guard duties and serve all court summons and subpoenas. In 2013, the CEO's investigated 257 incidents in which a written case was generated. Complaints of abandoned vehicles were the most frequent calls, followed by nuisance calls, paper service, found property and then parking problems. Many of the code enforcement calls are minor in nature, completed at the time of the call, and do not generate a case.

**CHIEF ROBERT D. ALLINSON**