

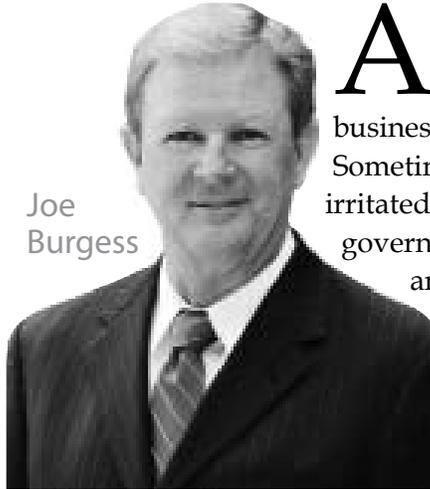
Festival City USA This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2011

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Joe Burgess

At least once a week, I have people approach me about getting new businesses to come here. Sometimes they are a little irritated, thinking that our city government needs to step in and make sure we get these stores in Cedar City. They want a Target or a Kohl's, or a this or a that. I, too, would be delighted

to have these types of businesses locate here, but unfortunately, neither the Mayor nor the City Council makes these decisions. If a business has a desire to open in Cedar City, their representatives come find a property with the correct zoning; make an offer on an existing building or build a building that suits their needs; and then they open their business. In this, "the land of the free," people open businesses at their pleasure, not the government's, no matter how much we elected officials want a particular business in our city. We can offer some incentives and continue to make our city attractive to entice new businesses here, but ultimately it is up to each business to decide to relocate to our community, no matter what the people, or their elected officials want. Although this may be frustrating, it is one aspect of the free market system that has made America great.

Our economy has been stabilizing these last few months and unemployment has been dropping with it. It was 8.8% for October, the lowest it has been since September, 2009. The sales tax revenue year to date through September is up 5.18% for a total net income to the city of \$ 3,408,798; an increase of \$167,980 over the same period in 2010. More great

news is that year to date through October, Iron County notice of default filings were 484 compared to 697 last year. One way we can all help make sure the City has the revenue we need is to do as much of our Christmas shopping locally as possible.

Let me wish all of you a Merry Christmas and express my thanks to each of you for making Cedar City such a wonderful place to live. Also, at this holiday time I encourage each of you to think of those who are less fortunate and do what you can to help your friends and neighbors who are struggling. I know the Care and Share would appreciate whatever donations you are able to give. The "Angel Tree" is up at the City Office, and there are many other organizations that are trying to make a difference in the lives of some of our citizens. I urge each of you to do what you can to help fulfill the needs of those who are experiencing hard times.

I also hope you take advantage of all the activities that our different community organizations have to offer during the holidays. The hospital had their Holiday Jubilee the week before Thanksgiving to kick things off. Next comes the Storybook Cavalcade (which will have been enjoyed by all before you receive this newsletter!) The David Archuleta concert is on December 10th; the Messiah presentation on the 11th and 12th; the Great Russian Nutcracker Ballet on the 13th; and the Master Singers Christmas Concert on December 18, to name but a few.

Many thanks to Janet and Keith Seegmiller for the time they spent this past year bringing a part of our history to life each month in the newsletter. I enjoyed reading each month what they had prepared. I also appreciate the hospital taking the time to give us tips on maintaining our health. We will continue hearing from VVMC this upcoming year. We also have a new

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Barry Pearson is recognized

Cedar City employee of the month for December is Lead Parks Maintenance Worker, Barry Pearson. Barry has worked for the Parks and Outdoor Facilities Department since August 2010.

In nominating Barry, Parks Director Wally Davis wrote, "Barry is a great City worker. He works well with others and is a good supervisor. He takes personal initiative to complete tasks quickly, error-free, and with high quality. He is always looking out for the City and is a good representative of the City." Wally also said "Barry has a great sense of humor, is dedicated and easy-going."



Barry was born in Nebraska, but has spent most of his life in Cedar City. He graduated from Canyon View High School and attended Southern Utah University.

Barry is well qualified for his position. Before being hired by Cedar City, he owned Cascade Falls Landscaping Company.

Barry is married and he and his wife, Cherie, just celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary.

Barry enjoys working, camping, fishing, hunting and all other outdoor activities. He enjoys the fact that his job gives him the opportunity to work outside. He also gains satisfaction from landscaping the parks and making them more beautiful. His sense of humor is evident when he says that he also "enjoys shoveling snow."

Congratulations, Barry!

Public Works Report

SNOW REMOVAL: When snow plows are out, more effective plowing occurs when vehicles are parked off the street. Please keep all pedestrian walkways clear of snow. Don't force folks to walk in the street.

AIRPORT: Thanks for flying out of Cedar City. In December, flights on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday will depart earlier than normal at 4:25 a.m. For info on flight times, please visit the www.skywest.com website. We would like to remind travelers who are checking baggage to arrive at least 30 minutes before your flight in order to allow proper baggage screening to take place.

GARBAGE PICK-UP: Please place your garbage can(s) on the asphalt in front of the curb, not in the gutter, and away from cars for pick-up. If the snow plows have been through, place the can on the street-side of the windrow so the garbage truck can pick it up easier.

REMINDER - The City will celebrate Christmas and New Year's day on the Monday after the holiday (December 26 and January 2). Garbage for those Mondays will be picked up on Wednesday, December 28 and Wednesday, January 4.

STREETLIGHTS: If you notice streetlight outages around the city, please notify our office by emailing the street light address (and pole number if possible) and your contact information to streetlights@cedarcity.org. You may also call our office at 865-4510. We will follow up on the request.

THANKS FOR RECYCLING. For the 2011 calendar year (through Oct.) you have kept over 464,500 pounds of material out of the landfill. **Glass and cardboard** are accepted at SURE Recycling at 1342 W. Industrial Road (the old Coke plant). Please break boxes down and compact all items before disposing. Bins are emptied every Tues. Please do not leave debris behind at the recycling sites.

Remember, any work done within the road right-of-way requires an encroachment permit, which can be acquired at our office at 716 N. Airport Rd. We appreciate any comments or observations on any Public Works operations. Please call us at 586-2912.

Jet Service is coming

Beginning on January 4, 2012, Delta Airlines (through its Delta Connection partner, Skywest Airlines) will be switching their service over to Regional Jets. These modern 50 seat passenger airplanes offer comfort and quicker flights to Salt Lake City.

With free airport parking, short security screening lines, a 40 minute flight and SUU student discounts; traveling in and out of Cedar City is greatly improved.

The City is excited about our new Jet Service. Regional jet service is just one more good reason to fly Cedar City.



Help prevent auto burglaries

Recently there has been a large increase in the number of vehicle burglaries in Cedar City. Due to manpower and time constraints, officers are only able to patrol problem areas in an attempt to catch people who may be committing a crime. Since officers are unable to maintain a watch over the entire city at all times, they turn to the people in the community to take part in preventing crimes. Most vehicle burglaries are preventable if citizens would practice T-L-C: Take out valuables, Lock your vehicle, and Close doors and windows.

Take Out Valuables - Your vehicle is not a safe. It is not an ideal location to store your valuables or medications. If you can leave your valuables at home, do so. If not, then do not leave valuables or accessories in plain sight in your vehicle.

Lock Your Vehicle - This is the simplest way to prevent theft. Verify your vehicle is securely locked before leaving the area. Remember that keyless or remote locking systems can malfunction from a low battery, leaving your vehicle unlocked.

Close Doors and Windows - An open door or window allows a thief a quick and quiet way to steal your property. Even a crack in the window makes a thief's job that much easier. Take the time to close all windows and lock the doors when you leave your vehicle unattended.

If you do become a victim of vehicle burglary, the police will do what they can to locate a suspect and recover any items that may have been stolen. Providing the stolen item's make, model and serial number to the police will increase the chances of your items being recovered.

Remember that auto burglary is a crime of opportunity. If the opportunity is presented to a thief, you risk being a victim. Report any vehicle burglary, so the police can know where to focus their efforts in searching for suspects.

Stay safe and remember to take a couple of minutes when exiting your vehicle to practice T-L-C.

Aquatic Center

Want to do something unique for your Christmas or New Year's Party this year? How about holding it at the Aquatic Center? Rooms are still available, but are going fast. Call 865-9223 for more info.

3rd Annual Polar Plunge - Saturday, January 21

12:00 Noon at the outside pool

If you chickened out last year, now is your chance to show your stuff and benefit the Special Olympics of Utah.

Cost is \$25 for students with I.D. and \$50 for adults.

Registration is on-line at <http://www.sout.org/events/polar-plunge-cedar-city>, or call (435) 865-9223 for more information.

Sponsors needed

Help to strengthen the youth of Iron County with a donation to Leaders 4 Life, a conference designed to help students develop leadership and self-improvement skills. The annual conference takes place over a two-and-a-half day period, and is for invited students in the 8th to 12th grade. Your contribution will help in efforts to reduce drug abuse and provide anti-violence, anti-bullying and suicide prevention programs.

All sponsors will be listed in local newspapers and in the program brochure. Donations are due by December 16th. Make checks payable to Cedar City Police/Safety Solutions Coalition. For more information, call Safety Solutions Coalition Director, Helen Rosso at 865-2894 or email at safetysolutions@cedarcity.org.

'Angel Tree' up at City Offices

For the tenth straight year, the Iron County Volunteer Center has set up a "Community Angel Tree" in the City Offices at 10 North Main. Iron County Holiday Assistance is asking that the angels be returned by Friday, December 16th at the latest (earlier donations would be greatly appreciated). The "Angel Tree" makes it easy to donate. Just select an angel from the tree and follow the instructions on the back. Each angel will have information regarding what to donate and a child's gender and age. Perishable food items should be taken directly to the Care and Share Food Bank at 222 West 900 North.

Cash donations and gifts can also be taken to the Iron County Care and Share at 222 W 900 N or the SUU Service and Learning Center at 185 S 300 W. For more information on the Angel Tree or volunteering during the holidays, contact the Volunteer Center at 867-8384.



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segment that will be added about places to visit in our area. I am looking forward to those articles, which will be written by Steven Heath.

Last, but not least, I want to thank Steve Wood, Georgia Beth Thompson and John Westwood for their service. They will be missed on the council. They were always prepared and took the time out of their personal schedules to support the activities that were going on at the City. They have made many contributions to making Cedar City a great place to live. More than their service on the council, I count them as friends and value their friendship.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

For their last column, Janet and Keith Seegmiller share some stories of Cedar City's Christmas past:

In the 1850s, Cedar City pioneers celebrated Christmas with public programs and dances. On December 25, 1852, Parowan resident James Martineau recorded in his journal, "Had a party tonight." The same night in Cedar City, Henry Lunt wrote "Meeting at one o'clock p.m. I spoke some little on the birthday of Christ and the life he led. . . About six o'clock the meeting house was crowded with brethren and sisters ready for dancing." Unfortunately, so many had crowded in that no one could dance, so they had some more speeches. Eventually some went home to bed, and the rest got to dance.

The next year, the communities were busy "forting up" to protect themselves from Ute raiding

parties. Everyone was building adobe fort walls nine feet tall. The young people were told there would be no dancing until the fort was completed, so they increased their efforts to finish the fort and everyone finally got to dance on New Year's Day, 1854.

Presents were not the most important part of these early Christmases, as the decorating the tree, hanging stockings, and getting fruit and special treats are foremost in the favorite memories:

Clemont Adams said, "I can remember we could depend on two things...an orange and an apple in that sock every time... There was usually some little thing. My first pocket knife came in [a Christmas] stocking...and one time I got a harmonica."

Mary Macdonald remembers placing the wax candles on their tree and lighting them very carefully. "Christmas was very special. We always had a pinyon pine," she said. "We would always go out and cut it and decorate it on Christmas Eve. Our tradition was having one of those clear candy animals at the top of our stocking each year. That is what I remember most."

Those animal candies must have been something special. Evelyn Jones also remembered this treat, "You got those wonderful sugar candies, animal candy." They undoubtedly came from the Startup Candy Company of Provo, started by Mormon pioneers in 1874 and still operated by the Startup family today.

Evelyn's husband, York, recalled how difficult the years were during the Depression. "I can remember distinctly when I was 6 or 8 years old that Christmas.

I had a little yellow teddy bear and ...had requested a new teddy bear because apparently it was quite frazzled. Well, Christmas morning I had a new red ribbon on my old bear and that was it! We were lucky, we lived on a ranch. We provided our own food...but money, there was zero. Christmas was Christmas, but you didn't buy presents."

In a December 1929 *Iron County Record*, there is a story about the first Cedar City community tree celebration. A large pine tree was placed on the Tabernacle grounds and "beautifully decorated and brilliantly lighted with colored electric lights." The grounds were "jammed with happy parents and children, the crowd being estimated at near 1300."

The college held a tree lighting ceremony each December from the 1950s to the 1990s, and in 1961, the CSU Drama Club began sponsoring "The Hall of Enchanted Trees" as a gift to the community. These were not traditional trees, but "enchanted trees" each surrounded by its own fantasy. From 1983 to 1999, a similar event was "Fantasy in Frost," put on by the Faculty Staff Associated Women with trees decorated by local businesses and schools. The "Festival of Trees" was a highlight of the past decade, along with the "Story Book Cavalcade," "Christmas at the Homestead" and the TubaChristmas Concert which will delight Cedar residents, young and old this year.

Sources are "I Remember When - Growing Up in Cedar City" oral history project at the Sherratt Library Special Collections, and articles in the *Iron County Record* and *Thunderbird Newspaper*, 1965.