

# Cedar City This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2017

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



*Mayor Maile Wilson*

**I**t is finally beginning to feel like spring and with the warmer weather comes the many “Festival City” events and the influx of visitors the summer always brings. Since it’s always a good idea to put your best foot forward when guests visit, please take advantage of our annual City Spring clean-up. (The schedule is on the inside pages of the newsletter and the City website.) This is a great

opportunity to have our City crews haul away the debris from the long winter. As a City we are also going to focus on beautification and making sure our City areas are being well-maintained, so we can all continue to be proud to call Cedar City home.

**I**n March, City Manager Paul Bittmenn and I joined Cameron Christensen from our Economic Development Department to visit Genpak’s recently opened east facility. Skip Sasser, Richard Dawson, and Carl Franke of Genpak showed us around the new plant and explained how the company continues to grow and thrive in Cedar City. In 2011, the company was reaching capacity at its west plant, so they purchased the Goer Manufacturing building to the east for expansion. Genpak has been a member of our community since 1996, and is currently Cedar City’s largest manufacturer with more than 370 employees. Genpak is a nationwide leader in disposable food packaging containers and its Cedar City location serves the western United States. This company

has been an important part of Cedar City’s economy for 20 years, creating hundreds of solid jobs. Thanks Genpak for the great tour!

In other business news, our Economic Development Director introduced Taylor Ehrhart of Tae’s Tea Café at a City Council meeting in March. Tae’s Tea Café opened in February at 96 North Main Street, next to Festival Hall and Cedar Sports. Tae’s Tea features hundreds of iced and hot teas – including herbal and non-caffeinated teas, as well as smoothies and drip coffee. Also available are fresh locally-made pastries and salads, sandwiches, and grab-and-go snacks. This little shop is an excellent addition to Cedar City’s downtown. Welcome!

**T**he groundbreaking ceremony for SUU’s new 42,000 square foot Business Building will be on Thursday, April 27th at 11 a.m. The ceremony will consist of a short program followed by the first shovel in the ground and refreshments. This is another great milestone for Cedar City and everyone in the community is invited and encouraged to attend.

**I**n an effort to keep everyone informed (as I have at the end of the legislative session in previous years) I’ve asked our local legislators, Senator Vickers and Representative Westwood, to provide a recap of some of major issues from this session. We appreciate all that they do to advocate for Cedar City and southern Utah.

### **SENATOR EVAN VICKERS**

The 2017 legislative session is finished. The process of presenting policy changes, balancing the budget, and everything else that goes into a 45-day session is once again complete. The only thing left now is for the Governor to review the 400 plus bills passed by the Legislature. Each year there are a few that he will choose to

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## Greg Orloski honored

Firefighter Greg Orloski has been selected as the Employee of the Month of April by the Cedar City Employee Advisory Committee. Greg was nominated by Fire Marshal Mike Shurtz who wrote: "Greg has been involved with the Fire Department since 2002 when he started as a volunteer.



Greg became part of the full-time crew in 2008.

"Greg is a great asset to the department. He is very punctual, always arriving early to make sure he is prepared for his shift before it starts. When given a task or a project, he is

always ready and willing to get right on it. He is very resourceful and ensures completeness of the project....Greg puts in a lot of his own time on many Fire Department projects just to ensure the exactness of the project. We know that we can always count on Greg to see a project through even when the going gets tough.

"Greg is responsible for scheduling and preparing for the annual 'Life House Safety Week' field trip for all the 2nd graders in Iron County. He does a great job communicating with the schools, teachers, bus garage, and other public safety entities that participate each year. This is big task which begins months in advance and takes a lot of effort to make happen each year. This program is a huge benefit to our community and impacts hundreds of kids each year....

"Greg is married and has a daughter. They enjoy camping and exploring the great outdoors together as a family. Greg likes anything and everything 'Fire Department,' as well as fast cars, old trucks, and a good action or comedy movie. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends as well as helping or 'mentoring' others. Greg has established and nourished great friendships with many of the newer firefighters as they join the ranks and is always willing to help train and fellowship the new people on the department. Thanks, Greg, for all that you do for this great City and for the Fire Department. Keep up the good work!"

## Public Works

**WATER:** Outside culinary watering restrictions will go into effect on April 1st, 2017. Per City Ordinance 37-7-1, it is a violation to use culinary water for outside irrigation between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Our Water Division is in the process of flushing fire hydrants and checking them to make sure they are working properly. Also, the Fire Department will be conducting pressure tests on random hydrants throughout the City during April and May. Consequently, you may see water running down the gutter from a hydrant. Also, if you experience a change in your water quality, open an outside tap and let it run a few minutes to clear your line. If you have questions as to whether a hydrant is leaking, and you don't see the Water Division crews or the Fire Department in the area, please call (435) 586-2912 to report any problems or concerns.

**SPRING CLEAN UP:** The Street Division will begin Spring Clean-Up this month (see map on the opposite page for locations and dates). Crews will begin collection in each area on a Monday. Crews will NOT come on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, or return to streets that have been completed. Please have your debris out on the curb by 7 a.m. the Monday your area is scheduled for clean-up to begin, and do not put debris out more than one week before your scheduled clean-up dates. Debris must be placed in front of the curb in the street. City crews will not load debris if it is piled on private property. Crews will pick up brush, branches, clippings, leaves, grass, untreated wood (including pallets and crates), asphalt, dirt, rocks, and concrete. Tires – 4 or less per pile (No rims).

**We will NOT pick up furniture or appliances.**

**All unacceptable piles will not be picked up and must be removed from the street.**

Please call (435) 586-2912 if you need more information.

## Cemetery clean up

City crews will begin performing the annual spring clean up at the Cemetery in the next few weeks. Any flowers or decorations still left on graves from the holidays need to be picked up by April 10th or they will be discarded. For those who wish to put remembrances on graves for Memorial Day, the Parks staff requests that items not be placed on graves prior to May 26th. Please remove your Memorial Day items by June 5th if you would like to keep them. We appreciate your help in keeping the Cemetery neat and clean.





veto and occasionally the Legislature chooses to override his veto. That is all part of the healthy check-and-balance system.

As is done every year the Utah state budget is balanced. Some of the big picture budget highlights are: 1) 2% salary increase for state and higher education employees; 2) 4% increase in the WPU, the basic funding mechanism for public education; 3) \$64 million in funding to cover new students in Public Education; 4) \$7.2 million in funding for student growth in higher education; 5) money to be used by both USHE (universities and colleges) and UCAT (technical schools, i.e. Southwest Applied Technology College and Dixie Applied Technology College) to be used to better meet the needs of high demand business sectors in our state, i.e. high technology, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, critical thinking business graduates, etc.; and 6) funding to assist with the homeless population in Salt Lake County. There were specific needs in Southern Utah that our legislators argued for and were successful in obtaining funding for: 1) Dixie State University Human Performance Center construction; 2) Utah Shakespeare Festival; 3) Tuacahn; 4) funding to finish the preservation of the Rockville historic bridge; and the 5) Utah Summer Games. These funding pieces are always critical in helping sustain the growth and viability of our southern Utah communities.

There was a lot of talk about a major tax overhaul. The item that got closest to becoming reality was an effort to put the state sales tax back on non-prepared food. It was determined that it was not appropriate this year to deal with the sales tax on food, so that issue will not go forward this session.

Alcohol reform was a big topic this year, and major reforms were accomplished in HB 442. The highest-profile aspect is the opportunity for a restaurant or bar to do away with the "Zion's Curtain." This is a barrier that prevents children from seeing alcoholic drinks prepared. In its place a restaurant could have a buffer area of ten feet surrounding the drink-preparation area where children are not allowed to enter. Significant resources will also be put into youth education and improved training requirements for new licensees. Some modifications to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Advisory Board were also made. A final high-profile item was the passage of HB 155, which lowered the level for driving under the influence of alcohol from .08% to .05% blood alcohol content (BAC). Utah was the first state to go from 0.10% to .08% BAC and now is the first state in the nation to go to .05% BAC.

## REPRESENTATIVE JOHN WESTWOOD

The 2017 session is now history and ended at midnight on March 9. The session started on January 23 and lasted for 45 days. It is a beehive of activity for the small session and a lot of work is performed. We always start the session in appropriation committees for the first three weeks where budgets are examined closely and department fiscal reports are heard. \$80 million in cost savings and unused balances were re-purposed from these meetings and moved to higher priorities. \$382 million in new revenues were received with 60%, or \$230 million, given to public education. Education was given a 4% increase in the weighted pupil unit and those monies will allow for greater flexibility and local control. Money was also allocated toward educator licensing fees and teacher supplies and materials. Education continues to be a high priority for the Legislature. It must be a high priority as we have 664,476 students of a 3.05 million estimated state population with an estimated 1.57% increase in students projected for 2017.

Funding was also received for the Utah Shakespeare Festival and for the Utah Summer Games. STEM monies were received for SUU and DSU. Funds were also allocated to the new Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiative and the prior implemented Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Transportation revenue bonding of \$1 billion was approved for UDOT-prioritized projects which will be disbursed at an average of \$250 million per year for four years.

Utah remains as one of only nine states that maintains a AAA bond rating. Our General Obligation debt is \$2.2 billion and this new bonding will not change the current debt level, as our debt is short-term and paid back quickly at approximately \$300 million per year.

I realize these are a lot of financial figures, but that is my background, so I like to see the financials!

Many officials visited us during the session and helped testify before the committees. Mayor Wilson, City Manager Paul Bittmenn, Economic Development Danny Stewart, Police Chief Adams, Fire Chief Phillips, Commissioners Bleak and Brinkerhoff, Youth Representatives, Cedar City Realtors, Iron County School Teachers, Superintendent Dulaney, President Wyatt, SUU's Donna Law, and many others. It takes many people working together to accomplish good work, and I am very proud of our area and the Southern Utah Legislators and how we pull together. Thanks for allowing me the privilege of representing our great area.