

Cedar City This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY, 2019

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Maile Wilson-Edwards

WOW! I can't believe how quickly the time has flown this past year. It seems like it was only yesterday that I was planning my wedding and preparing to get sworn in for my second term of office and now it's 2019!

These last five years serving as your Mayor have been some of the best years of my life!

I want to thank each

one of you for the support you have shown me and our community. This has been an amazing experience so far, and one that I would not change for the world, largely because I have the privilege of serving in the most amazing City! We have had some unforgettable (mostly good) experiences together and I know that I am a better person today because of the residents of this community.

As we enter this new year, I thought in my quest to be transparent, I would let you all know of a few of the items that will become, or will continue to be, a major focus for me during 2019. These priorities include the following: (1) Preparing for future water needs here in Cedar City by exploring new conservation and recharge efforts; working with the State Water Engineer on the Groundwater Management Plan for our Valley; and looking for other alternatives to secure water going forward. (2) Addressing the need for a new animal shelter here in Cedar City to replace the current undersized, outdated, and inadequate facility. (3) Beautification of our community

and also ensuring that there is adequate signage. (4) Continuing to advocate on behalf of Cedar City with our State and national elected officials, businesses, site selectors, etc. (5) Working with our youth. (5) Continuing to meet with our current and future business community to provide support and to address any concerns. While this list includes just a few items, hopefully it will provide some insight into my priorities this upcoming year.

If you happen to see any of our City employees out snow plowing our streets, gathering up all the extra Christmas aftermath, or any of the other responsibilities they are tending to – don't forget to say thank you! I know as I drive up and down Main Street I smile because of the beautiful Christmas lights, so thank you to the Parks staff for their work in making our City look like "Festival City, USA." Another HUGE thank you to all of the City employees for all of the time you sacrifice away from your families to serve our community, making Cedar City the best place on earth to live!!!! I hope that everyone has a wonderful New Year and that 2019 brings happiness to all!

Winter time is upon us again, and although there hasn't been much snow accumulation yet, there will be! Please remember when it's snowy that there are many people in our community who walk or run on the sidewalks, even in the winter time. There are also people who have limited mobility or rely on a wheel chair to get around town. With that in mind, please remember to be sure and clear the sidewalks in front of your property as soon as you can when it snows. It is up to each individual and business to keep the sidewalks in front of their property clear so we can all navigate our community safely during winter conditions.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

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Liz Okeson honored

Aquatic Center Front End Manager Liz Okeson has been selected as January's Employee of the Month by the Cedar City Employee Advisory Committee. She was nominated by Leisure Services Director Ken Nielson, who wrote:

"Liz oversees the Aquatic Center front desk and concessions staff, along with assisting in all aspects of managing the facility. Some of



her duties include scheduling hourly staff, daily deposits, updating website information, software information, and daily relations with patrons. An aspect

that is not overlooked is her tremendous ability to solve all the daily issues that arise and retaining a great attitude while doing it. Liz is always willing to find solutions to problems and go the extra mile in accomplishing a positive outcome. She is willing to help out other employees when asked. She takes pride in her job and deals with varying issues with professionalism. The Halloween "Spooktacular" is her event and she has great response from the community. This event takes countless hours to set up, along with coordinating all the activities and having it all run smoothly. In the summer months she helps deal with the vast amount of reservations for City facilities. The Aquatic Center front desk staff is friendly and well-trained and they continue to receive compliments from patrons. That is due in part to Liz's supervision and direction. Liz is a great asset to the Leisure Services Department and to the City."

Congratulations Liz!

Intergenerational Poverty Initiative

In previous newsletters I have briefly discussed the Intergenerational Poverty Initiative and the active role we are taking here in Iron County to try to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty (IGP). It's important to note the difference between situational poverty and true intergenerational poverty. Intergenerational poverty is defined as "poverty in which two or more successive generations of a family continue in the cycle of poverty and government dependence." Utah's measure of intergenerational poverty is based on public assistance enrollment in four public assistance programs: 1) Food Stamps (SNAP), 2) Child Care Subsidies, 3) Cash Assistance Programs, and 4) Medicaid and/or CHIP.

Intergenerational poverty is a real problem here in Iron County, as we have an alarming poverty rate of 18.4%! With over 9,000 students in our school district this means we have over 1800 children attending school who live in poverty. 350-400 of these students are classified as homeless by the school district. The definition of homeless is that the student doesn't know where they are going to sleep each night.

In an attempt to address this tragic situation, over the last year the Iron County Intergenerational Poverty Committee was formed. It is comprised of over twenty dedicated agency partners including elected officials, community leaders, education providers, advocates, and service providers. All of these individuals and agencies have come together with the purpose of creating and implementing a plan geared towards addressing the IGP issue within our County.

After completing a comprehensive resources/needs assessment, the Iron County IGP Committee decided that we could have the greatest impact by targeting our efforts on middle school-aged children. While all IGP children are important, we felt that middle school-aged children are at a critical juncture in their long-term development.

The Committee identified goals we believe can be successful in assisting the middle school-aged IGP students break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, which are: 1) helping IGP middle school students obtain and develop life skills to be able to meet basic needs while working to become stable and self-sufficient adults, and 2) working with IGP middle school students to shift their thinking toward successful high school graduation and being post-high school and career ready. The strategies for implementing these goals include: a) Trauma and Mental Health Counseling and Behavioral Support, and b) 4-H Tutoring, Mentoring, and Enrichment Programs.

I am thrilled to announce that through the hard work and dedication of the Iron County IGP Committee this fall we were awarded a grant through the State Department of Workforce Services for the implementation of the above described goals and strategies. I will provide updates as the Iron County IGP Committee continues to work towards implementing the grant and breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. For more information on intergenerational poverty, listen to KSUB 590 every Tuesday morning at 6:30 a.m. or watch for updates in this newsletter.



Public Works

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL:

There are 4 locations for you to dispose of your live trees:

- 100 East & College Avenue
- 100 West & Coal Creek
- North of Cedar Middle School
- 638 East Canyon Center Drive (Fiddlers)

ALL BINS ARE MARKED FOR TREES ONLY. Please do not put anything but live trees in these bins, and please do not put your live Christmas tree in our regular trash bins. **The tree bins will be out until January 11th, 2019.**

SOLID WASTE: For any residents who may have missed the 2019 garbage pick-up holiday schedule, a copy is shown below. It is also posted on the City website at www.cedarcity.org. As a reminder, trash cans should be out by 7 a.m. on your assigned day. Please make sure your cans are not blocked by vehicles or other obstacles, and that the cans are out on the street, not on the sidewalk.

Please remember that there are many items that the City garbage trucks are not able to pick up, such as carpet/padding, appliances, furniture, televisions, electronics, metal poles, construction materials, tires, car engines and transmissions, and toilets, etc. You may dispose of these items at the Iron County Landfill. Certain items may require a fee before disposal. If you have any questions, please call the Iron County Landfill at (435) 865-7015. If you have any questions about your pick-up day, or what items can't be placed in your residential trash can, please call the Public Works Department at (435) 586-2912.

2019 HOLIDAY GARBAGE PICK-UP	
CEDAR CITY PUBLIC WORKS	
IF YOUR REGULAR GARBAGE DAY FALLS ON ANY OF THESE HOLIDAYS -	YOUR GARBAGE WILL BE PICKED UP ON -
New Year's Day - Tuesday, January 1st	Wednesday, January 2nd
Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Monday, January 21st	Wednesday, January 23rd
Presidents' Day - Monday, February 18th	Wednesday, February 20th
Memorial Day - Monday, May 27th	Wednesday, May 29th
Independence Day - Thursday, July 4th	Friday, July 5th
Pioneer Day - Wednesday, July 24th	Thursday, July 25th
Labor Day - Monday, September 2nd	Wednesday, September 4th
Veterans Day - Monday, November 11th	Wednesday, November 13th
Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 28th	Wednesday, November 27th
Day after Thanksgiving Day - Friday, November 29th	Monday, December 2nd
Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25th	Thursday, December 26th



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It is hard to believe, but the Utah State legislative session is right around the corner! Therefore, as in previous newsletters, I have asked our State legislators to give us some information on what they will be addressing in the legislature this year.

SENATOR EVAN VICKERS

Each year we commence our General Legislative Session on the fourth Monday in January and adjourn sine die 45 days later. This year's legislature will look very different than last year. The Senate alone will have 7 new senators, out of a total of 29 senators. The House of Representatives will have 19 new members in its chamber. That is nearly a 25% turnover! Most of the changes come from legislators retiring, or running for a new office, and a couple come from incumbents who lost their races.

In addition to new members in each chamber, we also have new legislative leadership teams. Every two years, both the Utah House of Representatives and the Utah Senate hold leadership elections, but during the last four years the elected leadership in the Senate has not changed. This year's election, however, leaves us with an almost entirely new team. Starting in January, Senator Stuart Adams (Layton) will be the Senate President, I will be the Senate Majority Leader, Senator Daniel Hemmert (Orem) will be the Senate Majority Whip, Senator Ann Millner (Ogden) will be the Senate Majority Assistant Whip, Senator Jerry Stevenson (Layton) will be the Chairman of Executive Appropriations, and Senator Don Ipson (St. George) will be the Vice Chair of Executive Appropriations. I am excited for this new opportunity to serve as Senate Majority Leader for the next two years.

One of our top priorities each year is passing a balanced budget. There have been many reports about our State budget lately, as we are seeing tremendous revenue increases this year. While we are excited to see such growth, it is eerily similar to the budget in 2006 and 2007, just before the recession. For this reason, our plan is to move ahead cautiously. We will appropriate most funds this year as one-time money, instead of on-going money, so as to not overcommit our budget if it declines in the coming years. We will continue to fund the big items like education and transportation, but we will also focus on rainy-day funds.

We will be grappling with some big policy decisions in the upcoming session and during the interim. Topics like Medicaid expansion, redistricting, the initiative process, tax reform, alcohol reform, land use planning, affordable

housing, water development, etc. These are all challenging issues and many good legislators from both the House and Senate will be working on them this year.

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to represent you in the State Senate. I look forward to having involvement from our local elected officials as well as our citizens during the legislative session. Please feel free to reach out to me at evickers@le.utah.gov.

REPRESENTATIVE REX SHIPP

As the newly elected Republican Representative to the Utah State House I look forward to serving the people of our State and those of District 72 in particular. I care deeply for this District and its citizens, so before putting my name on the ballot, I pondered seriously the question asked by many dedicated members of the legislative community: "How Can I Help?" One approach I took to analyze this question was to apply a method I use as part of my training at my present job as a financial advisor. I went through a lengthy and well-thought-out exercise to identify my individual strengths and knowledge, and how I could use them to contribute to my State and District. The Iron County residents who know me are acquainted with my drive, passion, and the energy that I give to all the community efforts I become involved in. I have many ideas, but what I hope my constituents appreciate most in me is my integrity and my enthusiasm for execution. That is what I promise to bring to the Utah Legislature. I am truly humbled that so many gave their trust and support to elect me, and I am honored to join the other accomplished leaders in the new legislative session.

I have been assigned to the Health and Human Services Committee where we will discuss agenda items concerning mental health, cannabis, and the opioid crisis that has touched many of our families and friends. I will also be part of the Revenue and Taxation Committee which deals with tax codes, tax amendments, and property taxes. In addition, I will also be working on the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee which reviews and discusses budgetary issues as they relate to public, post-secondary education. These budget issues often provide the framework for policy decisions to improve the delivery of higher education to the citizens of Utah.

I look forward to working with every citizen in District 72. I will strive to keep my lines of communication open and available. If you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone at (435) 590-1073 or via email at rshipp@le.utah.gov.