



Volume 7, Issue 8, August 2009

Washington City News

As you are all aware this country is experiencing the toughest economic times since the great depression. Even though we are a small town and at times free of the worries that impact the rest of the nation, this time Washington City has not been immune to the effects of the recession. We have gone from all time highs in the construction of homes to all time lows. We have seen sales tax dollars steadily decline. Foreclosures and unemployment have touched many of us.

Despite all that we face, thanks to prudent planning and responsible financial management practices, the Council was able to adopt a balanced budget for the new fiscal year that began July 1st without an increase in property tax revenues. Please keep in mind that the following information only pertains to the tax rate imposed by the City of Washington. Residents of Washington City are also subject to property tax imposed by the County, State and Local School Funds, Water Conservancy District, and Coral Canyon Special Service District if you live in Coral Canyon. Here are a few facts you may find interesting regarding Washington City's property tax levels.

*Washington City has only increased property taxes once in the past 20 years.

*The rate Washington City has imposed is the lowest property tax rate among our surrounding cities and ranks 7th overall among the 15 cities and towns that impose a property tax in our county with only Virgin, Toquerville, Springdale, Rockdale, Leeds and New Harmony with lower rates.

*According to the County Assessors office, the average home valuation in Washington City is around \$278,500. If this is your primary residence then you are taxed at 55% of the assessed market value. Washington City's tax rate is currently .001393. The following shows the tax calculation: $\$278,500 \times 55\% = \$153,388.37 \times .001393 = \213.37

For \$213.37 a year your family gets to enjoy the benefits of 25 miles of walking trails, 73.66 acres of developed parks, police services, fire services, usage of 123 miles of roadway. Community activities such as Cotton Days, Independence Day, Veterans Day, and the Christmas In Dixie celebration and many other services that help make Washington City the great community that it is. This amount is far less than most of us pay in a given year for basic phone service or cable television but that doesn't mean you don't feel the added financial pressures that taxes can sometimes bring.

Many of our citizens have felt the effects of the recession upon our local economy. As Mayor this is something that always sits in the back of my mind. I would like to reassure all of you that Washington City is vigilantly pursuing all that it can to maintain the quality of life and service that we all enjoy without increasing the financial burden of our citizens. Like many of the hardships faced by the early pioneers, I am certain that Washington City will persevere and continue to be the Heart of Utah's Dixie.


Mayor



2009 CANDIDATES

Washington City will be holding a Primary Election on Tuesday, September 15th to narrow down the candidates running for the positions of Mayor and two Council Members, who will run in the General Election on Tuesday, November 3rd. Those individuals who have applied for candidacy are as follows:

Council Member Candidates

- * Jean Arbuckle
- * Lou Balioni
- * Michael D. Breck
- * Alan V. Gren
- * Bill Hudson
- * Mel Jensen
- * Ronald W. Mayfield
- * Thad D. Seegmiller
- * Joshua D. Tampa
- * Steven A. VanDerHeyden

Mayor Candidates

- * Terrill Clove
- * Micheal Heaton
- * Kenneth "Kenny" Neilson
- * Ronald Wayne Truman



We encourage all citizens that are qualified to vote to come and show support for their community at the Primary and General Elections. Any persons who have not yet registered to vote may do so the Washington County Clerk Office located at 197 E. Tabernacle St., St. George, Utah or by phone at (435) 634-5712 for information. If you need any information concerning our local election, please contact the City Recorder at (435) 656-6308.



YARD SALE SIGNS

Yard Sales are part of our culture. Our community's climate makes it ideal for citizens to sell their gently used treasures without concern of inclement weather. Unfortunately some put their desire to advertise their yard sale above the need to keep our community attractive and litter free.

While an occasional yard sale does not violate City Ordinances, the posting of signs on public property does. Ordinance 9-18-14-J specifically prohibits attaching signs to public property such as light and power poles, connection boxes, sidewalks, stop signs or other traffic signs, or any other public property.

Signs found to be in violation of this ordinance are impounded and the person responsible for the sign subject to a citation for a class C misdemeanor.

Citizens wishing to advertise a yard sale should post their signs on private property with the permission of the owner, and then remove the sign as soon as the yard sale ends. There are several free or low cost avenues to advertise a yard sale on the Internet and in print.

To view the sign ordinance in its entirety please log on at www.washingtoncity.org/government and follow the links to the ordinance.

We encourage you to continue the traditions in our community. However, do it with accountability and responsibility. Please help us maintain the quality of life that we all currently enjoy.



MERIT BADGE POW WOW

Registration will open Jan. 1st 2009 Deadline Aug. 1st, 2009
Registration will be capped at 200
Scouts must be signed up with Troop

HONOR
DUTY
BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA



**LUNCH
PROVIDED**

Merit badges include Life Saving, First Aid, Swimming, Citizenship in the World, Climbing, Sports, Photography, Fingerprinting, or Wilderness Survival! Scouts can earn up to 2 merit badges in one day!

FEES
\$20/SCOUT
\$12/LEADER
WHEN
FRIDAY &
SATURDAY
August
21st and 22nd
WHERE
WASHINGTON
CITY COMMUNITY
CENTER

Join us this for the annual Washington City Community Center overnight Merit Badge Pow-Wow. Earn merit badges, and get leadership training opportunities. Come scout with us!

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Youth Flag Football League registration is now open at the Washington City Community Center or online at www.washingtoncity.org/communitycenter. This league is for girls and boys grades 1-6. The cost is \$25 for Washington City residents and \$30 for non-residents. Deadline for registration is August 28, 2009. Games will begin on September 19 and be played on Saturdays at Veterans Park, 111 N 100 E, Washington. Come join the fun. For more information contact Kole Staheli at 435-656-6355.



**THIS IS YOUR
SATURDAY MORNING
WAKE UP CALL...**
*You know you love it! Now you can love it more often.
By popular demand, ZUMBA will be offered Saturday
mornings at 9:00 AM beginning August 1st.
Bring a friend. We hope to see you there.*

BATTER UP!



Team registration for Adult Coed Softball is now being accepted at the Washington City Community Center. Men and women, ages 18 and older are eligible to participate. Registration will be accepted until August 14, 2009 at the cost of \$250 per team. Games begin August 19 and continue until September 20, 2009. For more information contact Kole Staheli, Recreation Manager, 435-656-6355.

PLAY BALL!

FAST TRACK



Washington City officially launched its Fast Track Program for new commercial and industrial development after presenting it to the City Council on July 21, 2009. This program formalizes the City's long-held policy to be business-friendly and to move commercial and industrial projects through the permitting process as quickly as possible.

Through the program, the City commits to streamline and simplify its development permitting processes by assigning a staff professional to each project as a single contact person. This contact person will meet with the applicant and their development team to develop a checklist of submittal items and a customized timeline for project review, and will coordinate the project review with each of the City's development departments.

Detailed information about the Fast Track Program can be viewed on the City's web site at <http://washingtoncity.org/fasttrack>. If you have additional questions about the program, you may contact Jim McGuire, the City's Economic Development Director, at 435-656-6323, or at jmcguire@washingtoncity.org.



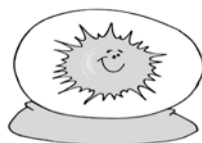
Public Works Project Update

Water Project/Phase 5: This phase will consist of Telegraph from 200 West to 300 East and 300 East from Telegraph to 200 South. It consists of replacing sections of existing pipe with approximately 3,900 feet of 8", 12", & 16" PVC pipe with associated valves, fittings, meters, and hydrants, as required. Also included in the project is patching of approximately 17,300 square feet of roadway. Bid opening is scheduled for 10:00 am on August 4, 2009.

North Frontage Road: The North Frontage Road will be the extension of Buena Vista Blvd from Graham Manor Rd to Washington Parkway at Exit 13. This project is currently out for bid with bid opening scheduled for August 18, 2009.

Tamarisk Beetles: For information on the Tamarisk and the Leaf Beetle, go to our website www.washingtoncity.org

Sun Tran: Washington City has met with Sun Tran to discuss bringing this service into our city, but at this time the cost vs. the interest in ridership does not support implementing this service in the near future. Discussions will continue.



AUGUST CALENDAR

- Aug 5 Planning Commission Meeting
City Council Room 5:30 PM
- Aug 10 Washington City Night
Roadrunner's Baseball Game
- Aug 11 City Council Workshop
City Council Room 5:30 PM
- Aug 12 City Council
City Council Room 5:30 PM
- Aug 13 School Starts!
- Aug 19 Planning Commission
City Council Room 5:30 PM
- Aug 25 City Council Workshop
City Hall Council Room 5:30 P.M
- Aug 26 City Council
City Hall Council Room 5:30 P.M

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

Washington City residents have the highest power consumption during the summer months. Here are some tips to save energy that don't take a lot of effort and can give you real savings on your energy bills.

- 1- Turn lights, appliances and electronics off when they are not in use. Unplug them if possible.
- 2- Replace at least five incandescent light bulbs with high efficiency compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's).
- 3- Install a programmable thermostat.
- 4- Regularly change of clean filters in heating and cooling equipment.
- 5- Use fans.
- 6- Limit direct sunlight through windows.
- 7- Perform basic weatherization.
- 8- Try washing most clothes in cold water and always rinse in cold.
- 9- Don't over dry your clothes.
- 10- If you have an old refrigerator or freezer that you barely use. Unplug and retire it.



For questions or more information, contact Alysha Byington at 435-656-6329.

TAKE YOUR FAMILY OUT TO THE BALLGAME!



Monday, August 10, 2009 is Washington City Night at the St George Road Runners baseball game!

You can purchase tickets for \$3 each, instead of the usual \$7, at the front desk at the Washington City Community Center. The fun starts at 7:05 PM. Our City Royalty, Mayor Clove and the City Council will be at the game participating in the Star Spangled Banner and first pitch. Come for a fun-filled evening for the whole family.



For more information call 435-656-6360.