

Providence City Newsletter

Upcoming Events

City Council

2nd & 4th Tuesdays except **July**,
November and December
*Tuesday, September 9 (date change) and
24 @ 6:00PM*

Planning Commission

2nd & 4th Wednesdays except **July**,
November and December
*Wednesday, September 11 and 25 @
6:00PM*

Justice Court

From 4:00PM - 6:00PM
Every Monday, except holidays

Mayor's Town Hall,

Depending on issue and level of
citizen interest is held on the first
Saturday of the month, and will
be announced in the previous
months newsletter

Contact Information

Providence City Offices
164 North Gateway Drive
(435) 752-9441

** After-Hours Emergencies **

Fire or police emergencies - 911
Animal control 435-753-7555
City related issues 752-9441; after
hours message will have an on-call
number to call a city employee who
will respond.

Direct line to the Mayor

(435) 760-8989 cell
johnmd@providence.utah.gov

The Mayor's Memo

This past week amongst our staff we were discussing some of the things Providence City is "best at" based on public comments we have received.

Park and Recreation Facilities

We host a lot of sports teams that use our ball fields and facilities; soccer, baseball, softball, kickball. There are city sponsored teams, sports leagues and tournaments that use our fields. We have received numerous compliments from visitors that we have the best maintained ball fields and the best staff to work with in Cache Valley.

City Cemetery

Providence City operates and maintains a city cemetery on the north side of town which is actually surrounded by the city of River Heights (long story). We have received many compliments that we have the best maintained cemetery grounds in Cache Valley and that our city staff have always been professional, courteous and respectful to families and visitors.

Snow Removal

The challenging job of snow removal is an all-hands-on-deck effort by our public works staff. It means watching the weather forecast, well maintained equipment, early hours and being available on short notice. The UPS and FedEx drivers in particular have said we have the best plowed and maintained roads during the winter

season and we are on top of the challenge better than any other Cache Valley city. They should know.

We are working on being the "best of" in other areas as well. Some of these require years of planning and effort to accomplish, but nevertheless our goals.

City Streets

This is one of those multi-year efforts necessary to achieve our goal. Rob, our public works director and I sat down yesterday and discussed our long term, 5-year plan for city streets. The contractors have finished year 2 of the plan and we were looking forward to what we will accomplish the next few years. Year 3 will involve less chip and seal on the heavily traveled streets and more work on the residential collector roads.

We did agree that after we've completed the 5th year of the plan, we will be looking back at how much has been accomplished. We believe our residents will be pleased at what this long term project has managed to accomplish.

City Staff

We should thank the dedication, hard work and commitment to service on the part of Providence City employees and appointed and elected officials for earning these compliments. It is the spirit and culture of our city government to continually improve our service and strive to be the best at what we do. For that, the City staff gets my personal "thank you for what you do" from the mayor.

—John Drew, Providence City Mayor

Is our City Fiscally Sound?

By what measure, using what standards should we follow?

If the City has \$\$\$ millions in the bank, do we have plenty in reserve and don't have to worry, or ?? We have an annual audit, doesn't that tell us? What about the State Auditor? Should extra cash be used to forgo a tax increase? How long would it last if we did? Does the City have a policy it follows? What is a prudent policy? What do other Utah cities do, what policies do they follow? Are there adequate funds to replace aging infrastructure? Do we have an operating reserve? What about emergencies?

Over the next couple of months, the Providence City council will be discussing this issue at my urging. Here are some answers to the above questions.

- Nothing in the State Code provides guidance on maintaining adequate enterprise reserves.
- The annual audit only says that the financial statement balances are correct and properly classified.
- The State Auditor does not review for adequacy of enterprise fund reserve balances.
- Our city does not have a policy on maintaining adequate cash reserves. All of the sewer lines were put in place about 34 years ago. When will their time be due, and how many years before replacement?

Why an issue? Having prudent financial operating policies in place are a hallmark of sound management. Otherwise, a misinformed council could perceive that we have undesignated "slush funds" available for expensive pet projects, leaving the City unable to address emergencies or capital replacements.

—John Drew, Mayor

City Office Administration

Elections

The following council candidates will be on the November 5 ballot:

4-Year Term - Brent Speth, Jon Mock, Frank Montoya, Carrie Kirk, Joshua Paulsen, Ralph Daniels

2-Year Term - Don Calderwood, Jeanell Sealy

This will be a by-mail election. The ballots will be mailed between October 15 and 22.

Providence City Youth Council

We are now accepting applications for the 2019/2020 Youth Council. This is an opportunity for youth in the 8th to 12th grades to acquire a greater knowledge of the community through active participation in community affairs. Applications available on the City website: <http://www.providencecity.com/youth-council.htm>

The Family Place

Mark your calendars for the most “Marvelous” day of the year! The Family Place will hold its annual “Marvelous Adventure” on September 28th at The Jump Zone! Sign up your little superheroes (ages 3-11) to jump and practice their superpowers with Spider-man, Wonder Woman, Captain America, and more! Get your tickets today at <https://Marvelous.givesmart.com>

Save the Date for Oktoberkraut 2019

Oktoberkraut 2019 will be held Saturday, October 12. Please join us for the Sweet Rides and Sauerkraut Car Show, live music, mechanical bull and cowboy corner, pickleball tournament, food, friends, and fun!

— Skarlet Bankhead, Administrative Services Administrator



Skarlet Bankhead
Administrative Services Director



Sheyler Gunnell
City Recreation Director

Recreation

Recreation department sets new records for participation

See the table on the right side. We see increasing interest in recreational programs from our city residents, and use of our park facilities.

This past year, there were over 100 volunteers helping out as coaches; we employed 8 umpires and 5 scorekeepers.

Besides the city sponsored sports, over 300 soccer players aged 6 to 14 participated in approximately 20 games a week. Also, competitive baseball teams of 7 to 18 year olds played an average of 40 games a week; 5 games, 2 teams each on 4 fields.

Number of Participants	2018	2019
Baseball	260	277
Softball	77	96
Football	117	142
Kickball	58	71

Interfaith Humanitarian Event

Date & Time: Saturday, November 9, 2019, 9 am-12 pm

Location: River Heights Stake Center Church Building; 800 S 600 East, River Heights

Invited to Attend: Women and Girls, ages 8 and up

Description of Activity:

On Saturday, November 9, 2019, all women and girls (ages 8 and up) in the community are invited to attend an Interfaith Humanitarian Event. It will be a wonderful opportunity to work together to complete humanitarian projects. A light breakfast will be served.

Committees made up of members of the community, of all faiths, will work to plan the interfaith humanitarian service event. If you are interested in being on a committee, please contact Jennifer Jergensen at 435-512-4141, Allison Jossie at 435-512-0465, or Toni Rees at 512-470-5880.

Streets, Roads and Chip n Seal

Providence City streets and roads are by far the biggest and most expensive assets the city owns, and is responsible for maintenance, repair and eventual replacement. Because most residents travel our streets every day and see and experience the varying conditions, we get more comments and questions on this topic than any other.

At today's costs, the value of our city streets network is about \$120,000,000; yes, that's millions. To put it in perspective, our general fund budget for all city activities (except water, sewer and storm water utilities) is about \$4 million. A bit less than 25% of that goes to streets maintenance, repair and replacement.

What is our plan to fix our streets?

When we have 40 miles of city streets and approximately 330 blocks, which ones do we choose to maintain, repair and replace? It used to be the city council picked the streets to be "fixed" and we spent big chunks of taxpayer funds to get not a lot accomplished. In 2017, 3 blocks of 400 South from 100 East to 200 West were replaced at a cost of approximately \$250,000 a block. Do the math; 330 blocks with 3 a year. Using that rate of "fix" meant a City street gets replaced once every 100 years or so; not a good plan (330 streets 3 a year). I thought there must be a better plan than council members "picking" which streets to fix. That's pure politics.

How about science rather than politics?

In the summer of 2017 we engaged Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Department, USU School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science, to survey Providence City streets. Their report, titled "Analysis and Recommendations for Streets Network" dated October of that year, included an evaluation of every Providence City block. The LTAP crew used the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP), "Distress Identification Manual for the Long-Term Pavement Performance Project" as a guide for Providence Streets Evaluation.

We are in the second year of having followed the recommendations of a 5-year plan from our streets engineers, and have gotten most of the chip and seal on the busiest streets completed. There is still much more to do and we will be tackling more of the minor collector streets over the next few years. We do believe when we

have followed the 5 year plan, City residents will notice an overall dramatic difference.

You can find a copy of the LTAP report and PowerPoint presentation at www.providencecity.com/public-works

Don't like the roadwork with all those chips on the streets?

Chip and seal is applied on the collector roads that handle the most traffic. Residential streets are mostly treated with HA5, a surface treatment after crack seal. According to the LTAP Director, Nick Jones, "Chip and seal is by far the most cost-effective pavement treatment to extend the life of city streets and roads."

According to Rob Stapley, our Public Works Director, "The HA5 and Chip and Seal treatments we use extend the life of the road at a fraction of the rebuild cost."

We've seen the end of the contracted roads projects for this year, and what remains are patching and other projects City public works staff has the equipment and skill to take on. Each year, our public works department employs contractors that have the equipment and staff skills to do extensive streets maintenance including crack seal, chip and seal and HA5.

City Streets Staff

Our current streets staff is 3 people including one recent new hire that service those 39 miles of City streets. Jason Hamblin is the streets supervisor, along with Trent Petersen and Jacob George.

Curbs, Gutters and Sidewalks

We have had concern expressed over crumbling concrete curbs, gutters and sidewalks, especially in older parts of Providence.

Our City staff does not have the time, skillset or equipment to do concrete work. We contract this work out. The work involves spot repairs on a piecemeal basis. It is a very expensive endeavor. Rob our public works director, has struggled to find reliable/cost efficient contractors that are able and willing to commit to get the work done.

We have our city engineer and public works staff working on developing a multi-year plan to address the concrete issues. This will include sending out a Request For Proposal (RFP) to attract contractors who are interested in committing to a long-term arrangement.

"The HA5 and Chip and Seal treatments we use extend the life of the road at a fraction of the rebuild cost."

—Rob Stapley, Public Works Director

Key points from LTAP Report

- The appearance of the road is NOT an indication of the Remaining Service Life (RSL) of a road
- A road may be rough on the surface, have bumps and cracks, but does not necessarily mean the road is in poor structural condition
- Improving the appearance of the road does not necessarily add to the life of the road
- The RSL is based on the structural integrity of the road
- Years of pavement condition data show it is more economical to preserve roads than to delay repairs and reconstruct (replace) roads
- Studies show as traffic levels increase, the costs of delaying repair work increase significantly
- Keep good roads good, leave worst roads until reaching ZERO remaining serviced life before replacement
- ZERO percent of the paved street network in Providence is considered to be in a FAILED condition

Roads are worth \$3 million per mile; with more than 40 miles of roads, the capital value is \$120 million. City roads are worth more than all other city assets combined. *Are we running this like a \$120 million businesses?*

Condition Rating of Providence Street Network

	Failed	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Remaining Service Life (RSL)	0	4 to 6	7 to 9	10 to 12	13 - 15	19 or more
% of Streets	0.0%	4.1%	14.3%	39.6%	28.7%	13.3%

Public Works - Water Department

"Our water department takes great pride in what we do in providing the best water anywhere"

Water quality testing

There are several types of water tests that are required by the state of Utah. As you have seen in our consumer confidence report, the City takes great pride in our water system and excellent test results. The majority of the samples are taken by city employees and then shipped to a testing facility in the Salt Lake area. Bear River Health Department also takes monthly samples and runs the lab tests at their office in Logan.

Culinary system

The City maintains 4 reservoirs, 3 wells and about 50 miles of trunk lines. Measuring usage is done by over 2200 meters which are read and maintained by the staff. The point of separation between the homeowner's responsibility and the city's is at the meter. The City is responsible for the service from meter to main line and the homeowner is responsible for everything from meter to home.

Water production

For calendar year 2018 the city produced approximately 853,321,000 gallons and the metered usage was 729,311,000. Our percentage of unbilled water is at about 14.5 % and that is due to leaks throughout the year, flushing of hydrants and testing of new lines.

System controls

Our water system can be controlled both manually and remotely. Remote controlling allows us to see up-to-the minute information on computers rather than being present at the site. Changes can also be made within the system from the computer rather than having to manually turn valves and flip switches. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes when it comes to maintaining reservoir levels, keeping pressures in check, and making sure the wells are pumping correctly.

Our water staff

We have 5 certified water operators; Public Works Director Rob Stapley, Public Works Office Specialist Tara Bankhead, Crew Chief Jeff Myers and Operators Dan Wiser and Jason Hamblin. Gerald Taft is also a member of this department and takes care of the city's blue-staking and system mapping. Staff certifications are maintained by attending required conferences and training sessions. Jeff, Dan and Gerald are responsible for the majority of the outside work in the water department. Record keeping and paperwork are handled by Rob and Tara. Jason is a certified operator, but spends the majority of his time as the Streets Crew Chief.

Daily routine

Day to day work consists of flushing fire hydrants, exercising valves, fixing water leaks and overall system maintenance. Jeff Myers also takes care of inspecting both new water lines or lines being replaced. You will see both Dan and Gerald reading water meters monthly. We are about 95% radio read meters; the last 5% are touch read meters, which means someone is still walking up to read the meter with a probe and handheld unit. Our goal is to have the City at 100% radio read meters within the next few years.

This year's construction project

This year's project is the second phase of 500 South/Baur Avenue. A new main line and services lines to each residence will be installed as part of the project, as well as new asphalt. This will be an upgrade from 4" to 8" lines allowing more water pressure to meet code requirements for fire hydrants.

As always if you ever have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at 435-753-0313.

—Rob Stapley, Public Works Director

Center Street Archway in Historic Downtown Logan

Providence Company Baer Welding is Lead Fabricator and Major Financial Contributor

As you probably know, Logan City is currently rebuilding a one block stretch of historic Center Street from Main to 100 East. The street will have new pedestrian friendly sidewalks, benches, tables and chairs, bike racks, and new landscaping.

The centerpiece of the renovation will be an archway across the middle of Center Street. The design of the arch is by Center Street Architects who occupy an office on Center Street. Construction of the metal arch frame is being done by Providence based Baer Welding.

Brian Baer the owner, says he grew up near Center Street in Logan and takes great pride in being part of the archway project.

Logan City Mayor Holly Daines estimates the cost of the archway will be about \$100,000 with the fabrication and installation cost being covered by private donors.

Center Street project completion is planned for November 15.

—John Drew, Mayor

