

# Providence City Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### City Council

1st & 3rd Wednesdays except July,  
November and December

*Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> is a holiday*

*Swearing in for new council members,  
January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM*

*Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00PM*

### Planning Commission

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays except July,  
November and December

*Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and*

*January 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00PM*

### Justice Court

From 4:00PM - 6:00PM

*Every Monday, except holidays*

## 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  
(Cache County non-emergency  
dispatch)

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

[johnd@providence.utah.gov](mailto:johnd@providence.utah.gov)

## The Mayor's Memo

### Winter Challenges Continue

This morning it was 6 degrees and got up to a high of 18 degrees. Before my wife left for work, I went out to apply a registration tag on her car. No go, it was so cold the adhesive didn't stick.

Now my phone tells we have a winter storm watch for tomorrow, New Year's Day with heavy snow accumulations. Fortunately, we are headed south to Arizona for a few days and will avoid the weather.

When winter weather hits, everything slows down, moves slower (or should), things break, more time is necessary to get things done. Drivers need to be more cautious, drive slower, sense what your vehicle is trying to tell you and overall allow more time to get to where you are going.

Then there are those who don't get it. I've seen more accidents in the past two weeks than any other part of the year. We had a driver last week approach the 100 North / Gateway Drive roundabout at too high a speed and failed to navigate the curve, hitting the concrete wall. Alcohol didn't help. Fortunately, we have two security cameras at that intersection that captured a video of the single-vehicle crash.

### New Year, New Challenges

The past council moved the day of council meetings to the first and third Wednesdays of each month, except July, November and December when there is only one meeting planned. Being that the first Wednesday in January is New Year's Day, we will only have one regular council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The incoming council will face new tasks and new challenges. In order to prepare the incoming council with four new members, we will be having a training session on Thursday, January 9. It will be an open meeting and all are welcome to attend and listen.

### Planning for Change

One of our senior staff members suggested we ask our outgoing council members to give advice to the new council. See Page 3 for their comments. Nothing has been edited.

When I was new to the council six years ago, I had spent the previous four years attending most council and planning meetings so I was somewhat prepared. When my term ended after four years, I looked back and realized how much I still didn't know. I now know how important it is to do our homework, get the facts and evidence, and seek advice from City staff including our City Engineer, City Attorney and other professionals.

John Drew, Providence City Mayor

## The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Cache & Rich Counties

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) of Cache & Rich Counties is part of a non-profit national service organization dedicated to improving communities through volunteer service. This broader organization, known as Senior Corps, is similar to AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, only that Senior Corps volunteers are all 55 years or older and dedicate their efforts in the communities where they live.

RSVP programs exist in nearly all counties throughout the U.S., and each one is customized to meet local needs. RSVP of Cache & Rich Counties has been designed specifically to provide support for older adults in our community. Volunteers provide two types of service:

- Companionship visits/phone calls - regular visits to isolated older adults who stand in need of social support. Visits occur wherever these individuals call home, whether in their own private home or in a long-term care facility. Support can also be extended through regular phone calls.
- Respite visits - regular visits to support community members who are caregivers for someone in their home with dementia or a dementia-related illness. Volunteers spend time with the care recipient, giving the caregiver time for a mental and emotional break.

Call Mindy, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Director at (435) 754-0206 or email, [mindy.dokos@sunshineterrace.com](mailto:mindy.dokos@sunshineterrace.com) for more information, Check out our page on Facebook for more info - <https://www.facebook.com/RSVPcacherich/>

(This program run out of Sunshine Terrace in Logan)

## City Office Administration



Skarlet Bankhead  
Administrative Services

### Business Licenses and Dog Licenses

As we welcome in 2020, please remember to renew your business and dog licenses, if you haven't already done so.

- **Business License Renewal:** 2020 business license renewals were due January 1. Renew by January 31 to avoid late penalties.
- **Dog License Renewal:** All 2019 dog licenses in Providence City expired on December 31. Late fees apply on February 1. Please renew your dog's license by January 31 to avoid the late fee. Along with your renewal, please provide a proof of rabies vaccination.

### Oath of Office for Newly Elected Council Members

You are invited to join us for the Oath of Office for the Newly Elected Council Members on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. at the Providence City Offices, 164 North Gateway Drive. The newly elected council members are Carrie Kirk, Joshua Paulsen, Jeanell S. Sealy, and Brent D. Speth.

### Volunteers Welcome

The City has many activities and events planned for 2020. Volunteers are welcome and sincerely appreciated in making these activities events successful. Activities and events include: youth baseball and softball, tennis, pickleball, Fun-in-the-Sun, 100-Mile Club, Exercise Club, children's kickball, adult kickball, flag football, city celebration and car show, holiday lighting contest, and the annual tree lighting. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these activities, please email us at: [volunteerprovidencecity@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerprovidencecity@gmail.com)

### Winter Parking Hours

Winter parking hours are still in effect. Vehicles or equipment cannot be parked in the City right-of-way from 12:00 AM (midnight) to 6:00 AM. If there is no curb, vehicles or equipment must be a minimum of eight-feet (8') from the asphalt.

### From the Utility Billing Department

For those of you who use our online service to pay your utility bill, please remember to update your card or bank information as needed.

If you are interested in equal pay for your utility bill, please contact our office at 435-753-0313. Equal payments are calculated the first of each year, based on your utility bills from the previous year. You may sign up for this at any time of the year.

## *Message from Public Works*

*We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year!*

Thank you all for your cooperation during the past snow storms as we have cleared the streets.

Our streets are plowed by priority. We work to clear the major streets that move the most traffic first and then move to the lesser traveled roads. Cul-de-sacs and dead end streets are the last streets that are cleared. We also wait to widen the streets until all streets have been cleared for safe travel. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 435-753-0313.

Please visit our website at [www.providencecity.com](http://www.providencecity.com) to see what priority your street is.

The 2020 recycling schedule will also be on our website.

— Rob Stapley, Public Works Director

## **Please Make Note: Winter Parking Hours are in Effect**

Winter parking hours go into effect 24 hours after the first snowstorm that requires the City to plow the streets in November; or December 1, whichever is earlier.

Vehicles or equipment cannot be parked in the City right-of-way from 12:00 AM (midnight) to 6:00 AM. If there is no curb, vehicles or equipment must be a minimum of eight-feet (8') from the asphalt.

# Outgoing City Council Members Offer Advice to Incoming Council

*We have an extraordinary event* as none of the four outgoing council members opted to run for re-election, thus we will have four new council members who will be sworn in on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Myself and councilwoman Kristina Eck have two years remaining on our terms.

The outgoing council, Kirk Allen, Roy Sneddon and Dennis Giles, having served 4 years; and Brent Fresz, 2 years, have offered to share their insights and observations from their time serving as well as offer advice to the incoming council members.

All of the outgoing council members feel they managed to accomplish a lot, especially the last two years. We intentionally tackled some tough issues; some that had been neglected for a long time. We also allowed resident input more so than ever before. In doing so, we spent a lot of time thoroughly reviewing and discussing issues before making final decisions. As a result, most council meetings that started at 6:00PM ended after 10:00PM and sometimes up to 11:00.

**Kirk Allen** - *Advise freely given to the incoming council members:*



My first bit of advice is "I wish I knew my first few months what I know now. Everything is not as black and white as it appears. Issues have many sides and if I will take the time I might better see someone else's point of view. I came to understand that on many issues there was my solution to the problem and someone else's solution to the problem and when we worked together we could possibly find even a better solution.

Compromise can be good. It is important to understand that as a council member you represent the whole city. Those on the benches, those in the apartments, those in the cluster homes, newly married in a new humble home and the elderly living on a fixed income. We all have an investment in Providence and we expect the council to manage our investments wisely and carefully, be prudent and respectful of our resources.

You are good people have who have been elected to watch over and protect the citizens of Providence. I believe that you will each be serious in decision making. Personal agendas seem to disappear as you work together for the betterment of all. You will be a great council. I wish you well and appreciate your willingness to sacrifice your time and give of your talents in service to we citizens. I look forward to your "good works".

**Roy Sneddon** - *My Why?*

Providence City citizens have recently elected a new city council. Individual voting citizens each hope that those things they care about will now be better. But, why did John Public or Alice Citizen vote the way they did? Each probably tried to protect or enhance some of the following:



1. my net worth
2. my life values and comforts
3. my preconceptions about people
4. my health and safety

The Hope: Surely the new council will write ordinances, create zoning restrictions, annex land, acquire and maintain parks and provide more

adequately for my health and safety and general welfare better than the old one.

Since John or Alice may be students, new residents, transplants or pioneer Cache Valley descendants their viewpoints may be vastly different. Therefore, it is vital to all of us that the new Providence City Council look toward the future when population in Cache Valley will double in order to make the correct decisions today about annexations, zoning, planning and city ordinances.

We should support and pray for their success!

**Brent Fresz** - *Future Council Persons,*

Remember, as a Council Person that you represent all of your constituents, the entire population of Providence, not just those who voted for you. With ~ 40% of eligible voter participation, most of your constituents didn't vote, either by choice (they didn't spend the time to mail in the ballot), or by restriction (>32% are not of age). Most of your constituents will never attend a council meeting, send you an email, or call you on the phone. One can either consider this a failure of democracy, or the signs of a functioning government.



As a Council Person, I encourage you to not get lost in the day to day management of the City. That is the role of the city staff, and the Mayor. Yours is an oversight position to create policy and set direction.

Your focus should be on the future; the 10, & 20 years out future. That being said, the citizens have trusted you with their money, you should at least review the monthly expense report.

Do your homework on the issues that come before you. Understand what you are voting on. What effect will it have on the future. Council votes are for communicating policy, not last minute working sessions. Knowing your vote prior to the meeting implies that you have researched the issue, talked it over with the staff and confidants, weighted the pros and cons, and that you are prepared. If new relevant information is brought to the discussion last minute, then do not be afraid to continue the item to allow for further evaluation. The outcome should be the best decision, not just a decision. And know the impact of your votes, both the positive and the negative (they will always have both). Do what you think is right, even if it results in a 4 to 1 vote.

There is a lot of training available to you, take advantage of it. There are laws that apply to government officials (that's now you), as a Council Person you should understand them. As a new Council Person, there is a lot that you haven't been exposed to, seek out knowledge and training to fill in the gaps. Attend the League of Cities and Towns conventions; both the annual in Salt Lake City, and the spring in St George. The training and insights I have had from attending these events has been invaluable.

**Dennis Giles**

Use common sense. It is necessary to be well informed of all the facts to make a decision. Work as a team. Often when my first impression was no, it changed once I got further in to understanding the issue.



—John Drew, Mayor

## Stormwater Pollution During Winter Months

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns. As it flows, stormwater runoff collects and transports animal waste, litter, salt, pesticides, fertilizers, oil & grease, soil and other potential pollutants.

*A sanitary sewer system and a storm water system are not the same.* Water that goes down a sink or other inside drain flows to either a wastewater treatment plant or to a septic system for treatment. Storm sewer flows are not treated. Water that flows down driveways, streets, and outside areas into a storm sewer or ditch flows directly to nearby creeks, fish and wildlife habitats, downstream recreational areas, and drinking water supplies.

There are simple practices you can do during winter weather to help prevent storm water pollution.

- Shovel snow first to remove it from driveways and sidewalks before applying deicing products
- Pile shoveled snow downslope of paved surfaces to prevent icy and slippery conditions as snow melts
- Shovel snow onto lawn and vegetated areas where melting snow can soak into the ground
- Sweep up after snowmelt. Sweep and dispose of residual sand, grit, and litter to help prevent accumulation in streets and roadside ditches; clogged storm drains and culverts; and sediment pollution in streams.
- Keep gutters and drainage pathways clear and free of debris to prevent snowmelt from backing up and forming ice in places where you want runoff to flow freely, and to prevent flooding from happening.

To report an illicit discharge into the system call the City Offices, 435-752-9441 or 435-753-0313.

— April S. Fredrickson

## Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires

When temperatures begin to drop in the winter months, the risk of fire greatly increases. Heating a home, although necessary, can also lead to fire risks if you are not minding safety first.

Heating is the second leading cause of home fires after cooking. Heating – related home fires most often occur in January between 5 and 9 p.m. Some of the top sources of heating fires are caused by space heaters, fireplaces and wood stoves. Here are some tips to help keep you safe this winter.

- Keep anything that can burn, such as bedding, clothing and curtains at least three feet away from a space heater.
- If you are using a space heater, make sure that it has an automatic shut-off, so that it turns off if it tips over
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fire place that will prevent embers or sparks from jumping out.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace. • When using a fireplace or wood stove, always put the fire out before you go to sleep or leave your home. • Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually by a professional.

—Esther Cowley, Office Specialist

## \*\*\* Christmas Tree Drop-off \*\*\*

There is a collection center at Zollinger Park if you need to dispose of your Christmas Tree. It is on 200 West next to the tennis courts. Logan City Environmental Department is operating the collection effort until January 13. `

**Now enrolling all grades K-8 for 2020-2021**

Some seats still open for 2019-2020. **Enroll today!**

Your family is invited to the **Kindergarten Preview Night** Thomas Edison Charter School

Wednesday  
**JANUARY 29**

 **6:30-7:30 PM**

**1275 W 2350 S**  
in NIBLEY 



Come meet our kindergarten teachers from both campuses and learn how our unique curriculum can prepare your child for college and their future.

For more info, call  
**435-752-0123**  
thomased.org



New addition to  
our program!

**Built-in  
Homework  
Time**

Establish good habits  
and still have free time.