# Festival City USA This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH, COMMUNITY UPDATE

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2013

## A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



s most of you know, I have chosen not to seek re-election. Holding a public office is very time consuming but very rewarding. I want to thank all of those who have stepped up to do their

civic duty and are running for office. Running for Mayor are John Black, Holly Porter, and Maile Wilson. Running

for the City Council are Ron Adams, Scott Jolley, Ralph McAffee, Derek Morton, Fred Rowley, and Darin "Dutch" Workman. Let's all get involved in the political process. Get to know these candidates, so you can make an informed choice on election day. Primaries will be held on August 13th, and the general election will be on November 5th. It's not easy to put your name out there in an election, and all of these people should be commended for their willingness to become involved.

re all of you tired of torn up streets? I have to admit it has made navigating the City a little complicated these last few weeks. When the rains come this month (which I hope they do) it will be nice to not have worry about who's getting flooded. If I knew how to fix a storm drain without tearing up the streets, we would have done it. It will all be worth it when it is done.

Construction is picking up, as many of you have observed. This will do some positive things for our economy. Next month I will give you numbers on building permits and sales tax revenues. Remember every time you shop in town, you are helping Cedar City.

The Summer Games are over, and I hope everyone realizes what a blessing they are to our community.

Aside from the money they bring into our area, the Games are a great recruiting tool for SUU. Many of the students who attend SUU come here because of their association with the Summer Games. Thanks to Casey McClellen and his staff for all their hard work. And a special thanks to the sponsors who open their check books so the Games will continue.

recently had the opportunity to meet with the new interim president of SUU, Dr. Rich Kendell. Dr. Kendell is a former commissioner of the Utah System of Higher Education and has had a distinguished career in both public and higher education. He is an excellent choice to guide the University until a permanent president is selected.

And a big thank you to Michael and Debi Benson for all their service to the community while he was SUU's president. He has done so much for the University and for Cedar City, as has his wife. Their family has been a great example to the students and to our community. I wish them the best as they relocate to Eastern Kentucky. They will be missed here in Cedar City! Good luck to them.

So many good things are happening here this summer. I hope you take time to enjoy them and make it a great summer.

his month, we are spotlighting the Cedar City Fire Department. Paul K. Irons has served our City as the Fire Chief since 2002. Prior to this he served as the Department's Station Captain. Chief Irons got his start with the Cedar City Fire Department in 1978 as a volunteer and now has a total of 35 years of fire service experience. The Chief's knowledge of the fire service and his outstanding leadership abilities have earned him a great deal of respect among his peers and with the firefighters that serve under his command. The command staff consists of the Chief, Assistant Chief, and eight Battalion Chiefs.

The Cedar City Fire Department is considered a

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## Brennan Wood honored

The Cedar City Employee Advisory Committee has selected Economic Development Director Brennan Wood as Employee of the Month for July.

Brennan was nominated by City Manager Rick Holman. His nomination reads: "Brennan has been very involved with efforts leading up to the recent announcement of MSC Aerospace locating the complete assembly



operation in Cedar City. Other staff have assisted, but Brennan has been the point person from the City. He has worked well to develop productive

relationships with MSC leaders as well as with state and federal officials regarding this project. The entire process has been in the works for well over a year. Brennan was able to see the potential of this manufacturing operation and deal with the many challenges along the way. He has been professional in his approach and kept city officials informed as necessary. He has a seasoned working knowledge of what companies need when they become serious about Cedar City and Iron County and is a great ambassador for the area."

Brennan grew up in Indianapolis and attended Indiana University where he majored in marketing. Before being hired by Cedar City four and a half years ago, Brennan was the Vice President and Branch Manager of Barnes Banking Co. Brennan is married and the father of four children. His hobbies include tennis, golf, and "wrestling with my three year old son."

### Public Works

WEED ABATEMENT: THISTLE! It's not too late. Even though we are late in the season in controlling this invasive weed, it is still not too late to make efforts to keep thistle under control. It is growing at various locations around town and without a concerted effort it will continue to spread at an alarming rate. Please evaluate your property and take steps now to aid us in controlling the thistle in our area by spraying or chopping down larger stalks and treating the plant root.

**300 WEST PROJECT UPDATE:** Many around town have noticed the construction taking place along 300 West. This project is a storm drain installation project and will help to eliminate much of the water that currently floods some neighborhoods during the monsoon season. The project is split up into the following three sections:

- Phase 1 is from 200 North to Coal Creek. The contractor is Interstate Rock out of Hurricane. The completion date is July 27th.
- Phase 2 is from 200 North to 400 South. The contractor is also Interstate Rock. The completion date is July 1.
- Phase 3 is from 400 South to the south end of 300 West on Main Street, then along Main Street to 800 South. The contractor is Schmidt Construction, and its completion date is July 22.

**WWTP:** Please remember to keep fats, oils, and grease out of sinks. Even when using soap and hot water, grease will stick to the pipes and can cause clogs. Garbage disposals should only be used to dispose of small amounts of food waste. To prevent costly blockages in the sewer lines and in your own sewer lateral, follow a few simple tips:

- Don't pour fats, oils, and grease from cooking down the drain.
- Don't put fatty food scraps down the garbage disposal.
- Don't put grocery store produce stickers down the sink.
- Don't pour leftover pharmaceuticals, pills, and individual wrappers down the garbage disposal.
- Do collect fats, oil, and grease into a can or suitable container and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Do dry-wipe pots and pans containing grease with paper towels before placing in the dishwasher or the sink for hand washing.
- Do scrape food scraps into the garbage can.

# SUU search committee seeks input

The search committee to select the 16th president of Southern Utah University will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, July 17, at 5:30 p.m. at the Heritage Center, located at 105 North 100 East.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Cedar City community to offer input on the key attributes and experience to consider as the committee screens candidates. Previous public meetings held in May of this year with SUU faculty, staff, students, and the community aided in drafting the presidential position announcement.

Additional information about the search can be found at the SUU Presidential Search website: http://www.suu.edu/presidentialsearch/index.html.



## Neil Simon Festival opens

The Neil Simon Festival 2013 opens its 11th season on July 10. The Festival runs through August 10 at the Heritage Theater. Tickets are available online at www.simonfest.org or by calling (435) 267-0194 or (866) 357-4666.

The 2013 shows include: *The Sunshine Boys, 45 Seconds from Broadway, Lost in Yonkers,* and *Song-Poems Wanted.* Celebrity guest stars include Clarence Gilyard, Jr. from TV's *Matlock* and *Walker, Texas Ranger* and Eddie Mekka from the *La Verne and Shirley Show.* 

Neil Simon has received more Oscar and Tony nominations than any other writer. In 1965 he won the Tony Award for Best Playwright (*The Odd Couple*), and in 1975 was awarded a special Tony Award for his overall contribution to the American theater. For *Brighton Beach Memoirs* he was given the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, followed by another Tony Award for Best Play of 1985, *Biloxi Blues*. In 1991 he won the Pulitzer Prize, along with the Tony Award, for *Lost in Yonkers*.

If you haven't taken the opportunity to visit the Neil Simon Festival, this is the year to come and enjoy a good belly laugh, and begin a family tradition that will add to your summer fun for years to come.

## Summer fire safety reminders

#### **FIREWORKS**

- Observe all laws and ordinances. Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Keep a bucket of water handy in case of a malfunction or fire.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities and never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from dry leaves and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned. Douse and soak them with water and throw them away.
- Keep unused fireworks away from firing areas and never carry fireworks in a pocket.

#### **GRILLING**

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors and should be positioned at least 10 feet away from siding and deck railing, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep matches, lighters, and starter fluid in a locked drawer or cabinet out of the reach of children.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill, so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.

#### HOUSEHOLD

- Keep at least one fire extinguisher in your home and one in the garage.
- Do not overload electrical circuits.
- Do not refuel power equipment, lawn mowers, etc. while hot.

## Coming up...

**July 10 -** Neil Simon Festival opening at the Heritage Theater. For tickets and/or info go to www. simonfest.org.

July 10 - 13 - Utah Mid-Summer Renaissance Faire at Main Street Park. For info go to www.umrf.net. July 12 - 14 - Lil' Britches Rodeo

- Iron Rangers Jr. Rodeo at Cross Hollow Event Center - 5 to 7 p.m. For info call (435) 586-9015.

**July 13 -** July Jamboree on Main Street - 4 to 11 p.m. For info call (435) 586-3121 or go to www. julyjamboreecc.com.

**July 24** - Pioneer Day - Go to www. cedarcity.org for a complete list of community activities.

**July 31 - October 17 -** Downtown Farmer's Market in the parking area behind Bulloch Drug - Every Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m.

August 2 - 3 - Cedar City Artisan Fair at Main Street Park - 10 a.m. For more info see the Cedar City Artisan Fair page on Facebook.

August 5 - 6 - Tour of Utah international bicycle race - on Main Street with road closure for the Vendor Village - For info call (435) 865-5108 or visit www.tourofutah. com.

## I-15 traffic delays

The Arizona Department of Transportation is refurbishing a bridge spanning the Virgin River Gorge along I-15, between milepost 12.6 and milepost 14.9. This project is expected to last around three months. Flaggers will be on-site to direct traffic, but motorists should expect traffic delays and slower speeds throughout the project area during construction. If you are planning on driving south to Las Vegas, please plan accordingly.

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combination department, with a mix of full-time staff (12) and volunteers (48). The volunteer staff brings a great deal of pride and diversity and provides the Department with professional experience in engineering, carpentry, welding, heavy equipment operation, business management, finance, and many more. The Department currently operates three fire stations, with station one operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for all 365 days of the year. The other two are satellite stations, manned by the volunteer staff, and help to greatly reduce emergency response times.

The equipment inventory of CCFD consists of four engines, two ladder companies, one heavy rescue, five brush trucks, one aircraft rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) vehicle, one quick response vehicle, and one 4,000 gallon water tender.

The training program at CCFD rivals that of any department in the nation. Each firefighter, before being allowed to respond on an emergency, is required to pass four state certification examinations to the level of Structural and Wild land Fire Fighter 2. This entails countless hours of classroom study and hands on training which takes place over a 16 month period.

In 2012 the Cedar City Fire Department responded to 588 emergency calls which included structure fires, motor vehicle fires, motor vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, wild-land fires, trash/rubbish fires, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, etc.

In addition to providing emergency services, the Fire Department has a world class fire prevention program. Its purpose is to reduce the loss of life and property through public education. A key feature of this program is the Life Safety House where safety in the home is taught to audiences of varying ages. Each spring the Fire Department hosts a program called Life Safety Week, where all 2nd grade classes are invited to the station to spend a two hour block with emergency service providers in our community. The highlight of this program is a trip through the Life Safety House, where the students are taught the ins and outs of various life safety concerns, including how to react in the event of a fire in the home. One room provides a realistic simulation of a fire in the home, as it is designed to be filled with a non-toxic smoke and also includes heated doors. The students are taught to crawl low, feel the door, and how to exit through a window and are provided instruction from an emergency dispatcher on how to properly call 911.

The Fire Department is accountable to provide quality service at the highest possible level to the residents of Cedar City. If a member of our community is interested in setting up an appointment for a station or Life Safety House tour, the CCFD can be reached at (435) 586-2964.

his month's non-profit organization information is for the Happy Factory, which was selected as the Utah Non-Profit Volunteer Program of the year in 2012.

When Charles and Donna Cooley retired from Southern Utah University in 1995, they began producing and giving away small animal cut-outs. Children found them so appealing that the Cooleys began regular deliveries to Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City. A free pickup truck load of hardwood strips inspired Charles to design and make small cars and trucks, painted by Donna, which were warmly welcomed in Salt Lake City as well at Shriner's Hospital and the Humanitarian Center, a charitable arm of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints where the Cooleys learned there were 500 million children in the world without toys.

That changed the Cooley's hobby into a full-time labor of love and inspired a motto: "We may not be able to make a toy for every child in the world who needs one, but we're going to try."

Soon volunteer helpers signed on, production increased, and Happy Factory toys began winning smiles from thousands more needy children all over the world and in the US, in hospitals, family shelters, churches, schools, Native American organizations, foundations, medical clinics, crisis centers, Head Start branches, orphanages, and from the often forgotten young victims of natural disasters. Many individuals have even hand-carried toys to places all around the world.

When toy steam shovels (on which a child can sit and manipulate the bucket) were added to production, seriously disabled children were stimulated to do all sorts of things previously thought to be beyond their capability. So far, over 2,269 have been delivered to children all over the world, and in many cases and places "steam shovel therapy" is the only kind available.

The impact of steam shovels and simple little toys on children who never had one has frequently been startling, as if a light had suddenly turned on in little heads. To their delight, the Cooleys discovered their toys were often tools that helped rejuvenate minds.

To date, over 1,140,000 Happy Factory toys have been given to more than 600 different organizations, groups, and countless people in 180 countries. No Happy Factory worker makes a dime, and the gifting is still gathering momentum.

You can make a child's life brighter in many ways by donating to, or volunteering at, the Happy Factory. They can be contacted at (435) 586-8352; or go to their website at www.happyfactory.org for more information.