

Cedar City This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Maile Wilson-Edwards

I don't know about the rest of you, but the version of 2021 that I had built up in my head, is not the version that I have experienced so far this year. It's seemed as though many of the events that I look forward to participating in each year to recognize our residents and great community have either been cancelled or taken place virtually. However, the work of the City has continued to move forward, and our community remains busy.

This month I would like to highlight a few of our accomplishment

from the past year and also inform you of some of my goals this upcoming year. Although a number of these items have been discussed in previous newsletters, I thought it would be fun to reflect on some of the things that make Cedar so great. Coming into office I felt that in addition to all of the other responsibilities, two key aspects of a Mayor are having a strategic vision and plan for the community and advocating on behalf of Cedar City at the State Legislature.

- Early last year we arranged a planning retreat including the City Council, Department Heads, and myself, where among other things, we revised the Cedar City Strategic Plan and set numerous goals for the future. Apparently, none of us had a glass ball because we didn't predict that Covid-19 would happen or the many other challenges that came along with 2020.
- We have updated our Impact Fee Facility Plan and Impact Fee Analysis. In addition, the City Council adopted new impact fee rates.
- We are continuing with the update of our Transportation Master Plan and the Cedar City General Plan update and invite you to provide your feedback.
- With the COVID-19 funding the City received from the State, we were able to set up a Small Business Grant Program and help numerous businesses in our community.
- Last summer when the Utah Summer Games and the Utah Shakespeare Festival both made the decision to cancel their season, the City realized that it would be critical for our business community to continue to have outside revenue coming from tourists. We collaborated and realized that hosting baseball and softball tournaments would be a safe way to bring outside revenue into our community, allow children to get outside, all while utilizing our existing beautiful facilities. When sports teams heard that our fields were open for business last spring/summer, they came from surrounding states and almost every weekend was booked. It was a huge success and at 12:01 a.m. on New Years

Day the tournament hosts again booked the fields for almost every weekend this upcoming year. These should again bring a boost in outside tourism revenue for our business community while providing great competition for our local youth. Even with these additional weekends booked for out-of-town tournaments, we still have the fields reserved for our local events and the Utah Summer Games.

- Although adaptations had to be made, a number of community events still took place including the Half Marathon, the All is Bright Christmas Lighting Celebration, the Belgian Waffle Ride cycling race, the Fire Road cycling race, the Lantern Festival and Wreaths Across America, just to name a few.
- Finally, we are getting ready to start working on our Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget. As I have mentioned before, our budget process will begin in the coming week and go until a final budget is adopted in June. As we progress through this process, I will give you some additional information including when the public hearing will be held.

Even though 2020 wasn't what any of us planned for, I believe we tried to make the best of the challenges and opportunities that were presented. I am sure 2021 will again be an unprecedented year but we have all started making plans on how to make this year just as successful as the past 169 years. (Fun Fact, Cedar City turns 170 this year!) Over the course of the next eleven months I am going to do more to support and learn about the challenges facing our local business industry. As part of this commitment, Danny Stewart, our Economic Development Director, Paul Bittmenn our City Manager and I want to get out and visit local businesses. If you are interested in having us come to your business contact Megan Anderson the Economic Development Executive Assistant at cmegan@cedarcity.org or 586-2770.

Great News!! Effective April 1st, 2021, the City will be moving away from Xpressbillpay.com, and introducing a new way to pay with Invoice Cloud. They have so many new ways to pay including Apple Pay, Google Pay, and Pay by Text. Please make note of this upcoming change. You will need to create a new account and also set up a new autopay if interested. For more information, contact the Utilities Department at (435)586-2950.

Many residents of Cedar City have been affected in some way as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Iron County Care and Share offers assistance to those that have faced financial burdens during this unprecedented time. If you are in jeopardy of losing your home or have lost your job due to COVID-19, the Care and Share offers services at no cost to all low-income individuals and families in Iron County. There is limited assistance available for rent, utilities, health and mortgage. If you would like to make an appointment to meet with a Case Manager and discuss your options, call 435-586-4962 or visit www.careandshare-ut.org.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



PUBLIC WORKS NEWS ARTICLE FOR FEBRUARY, 2021

It's all about snow removal! We would like to remind all residents not to push their snow into the street. Your snow is your responsibility. Our crews are working hard to keep the traffic lanes clear and residents that push the snow into the roadways cause safety problems for traffic. If we are out plowing and find that snow has been pushed out into the street, we will push it back and it could block your driveway. The Street Division would also like to remind those commercial snow movers that during the winter months the responsibility of the City snowplows are to keep the roadways clear for traffic to be able to run smoothly. If you push snow out on to the streets from commercial property and driveways, it will be pushed back into the properties to ensure the roadways are clear. Also, the Water Division is asking those people who are pushing snow onto the sidewalks from residential driveways to make sure they are not covering the water meters. The City's water meters are radio read and several feet of snow on top of the meter lid stops the signal from reaching the computer. It necessitates the readers to dig the ice and snow from on top of the meter lid, which, in turn, can cause the readings to be turned in late for billing. Also, if there is an emergency situation with a water leak, this makes the meter inaccessible for the water crew. While we appreciate those who try to help their neighbors, please be wise on where you put the snow. Please don't block water meters, mailboxes, stop signs, or in any way obstruct traffic from flowing safely, or hinder the meter readers and water workers in doing their job.



**Submit your video audition online
at cedarcity.org/starsearch from
Jan 19 - Feb 14**

There are over 5 million people in America that are living with Alzheimers and more than 16 million families and friends that provide care for their loved ones. It's estimated that 10% of people 65 and older are impacted by cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease in Utah. That would be nearly 700 people just in Iron County, and of course, their caregivers. It's difficult for caregivers to find local resources that can provide support to help make, at times, difficult decisions. But you are not alone.

The Alzheimer's Group of Cedar City is offering an online caregiver support group meeting in Cedar City the second Friday and fourth Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. They also offer resources and consultations. To RSVP for a meeting, or set up a consultation, contact them at alzgroupccity@gmail.com, mjmiller@alz.org, or call (435) 238-4998, x8773.*



*As a side note, the Alzheimer's Group of Cedar City is planning to host a Walk to End Alzheimer's this fall. The event is scheduled to take place Saturday, September 25th, 2021. If you would like to register to participate in the walk or donate to this much needed cause, you can also get in touch with Mike Miller by contacting him by phone at (435)238-4998 or email at mjmiller@alz.org.



CEDAR CITY 2021 EVENTS



@cedarcityevents



MARCH 19TH

Do you have a talent that you're itching to share with Cedar City? Show us what you've got at the Cedar City Star Search Talent Competition!



SEPTEMBER 11TH

In its 12th year, this popular, closed-canyon half marathon takes runners down the breathtaking Cedar Canyon. The 13.1-mile course is one of the nation's fastest, with runners descending from 8,400 feet to 5,600 feet at the finish line.



MAY 7TH

Kick off the summer with the Slow Roll community bike ride! Join the Cedar City Active Transportation Committee for a family-friendly-block-party experience, with bands, food trucks, popsicles, and—weather permitting—the fire department hose to keep you cool!



SEPTEMBER 25TH

Back for another year, the Utah edition of the Belgian Waffle Ride promises unparalleled punishment for entrants, with a new course, more teeth-rattling gravel, and the vistas only southern Utah can provide.



JUNE 25TH

If you like to run at night or howl at the moon, come out for the Moonwalk and 5k Run along the Cedar City Trail System.



NOVEMBER 11TH - 13TH

Join the Historic Preservation Committee for Cedar City's 170th birthday. The three-day celebration will commemorate the history, struggles and accomplishments of Cedar City's residents and include food, music, guest lectures, entertainment, and special arts and crafts vendors.



JULY 31ST

Born in Cedar City, Utah, the Fire Road bike race climbs over 7500 ft to vistas overlooking Zion National Park. About 85% gravel and 15% pavement offers entrants a challenging ride juxtaposed by incredible views of Cedar City's backcountry.



NOVEMBER 27TH

Usher in the Christmas season at our All Is Bright Downtown Lighting Ceremony. Join us as we turn on the lights in Historic Downtown with a holiday feast for the senses of music, hot chocolate and a surprise visit from the Jolly Old Elf himself.



AUGUST 14TH

Come out for a family-friendly night at the Lake at the Hills, with floating lanterns, coloring activities, and an outdoor movie.



DECEMBER 31ST

In its inaugural year, the Cedar City Finale New Year's Festival is one event that you don't want to miss! Kick off the year, 80s style, at the Heritage Theater with a black light dance party, kids activities, and more. When the clock strikes midnight, join us outside for a spectacular fireworks show.



Normally, in this newsletter, I discuss that buzzing of the 45-day legislative session. However, as it seems like with everything, the start to this year's legislative session has been unprecedented, and not in a good way. The 2021 Legislative Session began on January 19th and will conclude at midnight on March 5th. I was very disheartened when the first week of the Session began and the State Capitol was closed to the public. Although there was information on how to participate virtually, I don't believe, we the people, can be adequately represented and be part of the legislative process with all public participation being done online. Each legislative session there are hundreds of bills that are considered during the 45-day window, many of which have intended or unintended consequences for our community and being able to travel to the Capitol to speak with legislatures about our concerns is fundamental to our system of government. After the first week, the decision was made to reopen the Capitol, although in a still limited capacity. As items continue to progress through the Session that will impact our City, I am grateful that I will have the ability to not only virtually meet with our representatives but also meet with them in person when necessary. As part of my commitment to try to ensure everyone is as informed as possible, I asked both Representative Shipp and Senator Vickers to provide us with some information about what to expect with this year's Legislative Session. Also, you can visit <https://le.utah.gov/> to read different pieces of legislation or make your voice heard on a particular item.

A MESSAGE FROM SENATOR EVAN VICKERS

We are already one week into the 2021 General Legislative Session. As I'm sure you can imagine, with COVID-19, our procedures have changed. For those participating at the Capitol, masks are required and additional measures have been taken to provide for physically distanced seating in committee meetings. We have also expanded opportunities for online participation this session. I believe these changes will make the session more accessible to citizens throughout the state. This year citizens can join committee meetings virtually or attend in person. There are also options to provide public comment virtually, just as there is for in-person comments. As always, you can also watch the live stream of our floor debate on le.utah.gov.

This year I have been tasked, along with a few of my colleagues, with spearheading the Senate's efforts to reform our Emergency Management Act. This pandemic highlighted a few of the flaws in the Emergency Management Act that was passed in 1953. As it currently stands, the Emergency Management Act is not well suited to address long-term, statewide emergencies, like pandemics. We will consider legislation this session that will update this act to better handle these types of emergencies in our state.

Our Utah Constitution requires that we pass a balanced budget by the end of the Legislative session. Utah currently has one of the best economic outlooks in the nation coming out of the first year of this pandemic. As the Senate President announced in his opening remarks, we plan to consider multiple options for tax cuts this year. Our final action will be determined by the latest budget revenue numbers that will be released during the session. Options we are considering include reducing or removing the tax on Military Retirement and SSI, expanding the dependent tax credit for families who lost this federal credit, or adjusting the state income tax rate temporarily. It is not likely we will be able to accomplish each of these this year, but we do intend to pass some form of tax cut this year.

A final legislative effort I'd like to highlight is removing the requirement to have a permit to conceal carry a firearm. I am supportive of

constitutional carry. It is important to clarify that this bill does not remove the permitting process. It is important that we still provide a permitting option so that those of us who concealed carry can continue to do so as we visit other states. As a Legislature, we have passed similar legislation in previous years that was vetoed by the governor. The current Governor has shared that he would sign a constitutional carry bill, should the Legislature pass one.

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 the citizens during the legislative session. Please feel free to reach out to me at evickers@le.utah.gov.

A MESSAGE FROM HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE REX SHIPP

To my constituents and friends,

It's an honor to represent you in our state's seat of government at the Utah Legislature. The 2021 Legislative Session is now well underway and it feels like unlike any other. I miss having so many constituents at the capitol. But despite the challenges of meeting in-person and frequent COVID-19 testing, we have a lot of work to do to ensure our state recovers from the pandemic and continues to prosper. As I've met with my colleagues throughout the state, several important policy priorities have emerged. They include the following:

- Broaden Economic Success & Protect Taxpayer Dollars - 2020 brought a host of economic challenges, but Utah was well prepared to meet them. Allocating taxpayer funds in a way that maximizes each dollar, prepares us for the next crisis, and broadens economic success to each corner of the state will be critical to Utah's continuing economic rebound and future prosperity.
- Support Rural Utah by Building a Connected Future - Continued investment in transportation, recreation, and technology infrastructure projects will provide the foundation for Utah's long-term prosperity and quality of life.
- Extend Opportunity to All - Efforts to improve access to healthcare, housing, and education will open the door of opportunity to everyone in the state. Utah can only reach its full potential when all Utahns can make the most of their individual talents.
- Balance Emergency Power - Finally, after facing a global pandemic for almost a year, it is apparent that we must reassess how we respond to emergencies to allow for swift action, but never at the expense of the will of the people.

In addition to working towards these overall policy goals, I always work hard to address the needs of my own community. One bill that I'm currently working on is H.B. 157, which addresses price gouging to protect consumers during a pandemic. This bill does accomplish this by:

- Amending the definition of "excessive price."
- Permitting the Division of Consumer Protection to issue a subpoena for certain documents under certain conditions.

To read more about this bill, visit <https://le.utah.gov/~2021/bills/static/HB0157.html>. To see what other bills I am working on this session, go to <https://le.utah.gov/asp/billsintro/RepResults.asp?Listbox3=SHIPPRP>. As I close this letter, it's important for me to say that the work of government isn't always glamorous. It's public service. (And that's how it should be!) If you ever have a question, or if I can ever be helpful as your elected member to the Utah House, please reach out. I stand ready and willing to help. You can reach me at (435) 590-1073.

Thank you, Representative Rex Shipp, House District 72