

Cedar City This Month

CEDAR CITY, UTAH COMMUNITY UPDATE



FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Mayor Maile Wilson-Edwards

As I sit down to write this newsletter, I am still in utter disbelief at the flooding that has recently occurred in our community. In the best tradition of Cedar City, our neighbors helped each other. Many neighbors helped those that experienced significant damage. There were also dozens of citizens helping to fill sandbags, and private corporations assisted those

that were hit hardest by the flooding. This volunteer spirit is one of the best things about Cedar City. Our people's willingness to help each other in times of need is truly special. Thank you to everyone that has and continues to lend a hand to your neighbors and our greater community that was devastated by this flooding.

As you know, on Monday July 26, 2021, parts of our city experienced severe flooding due to two inches of rainfall that occurred in a 45-minute period. This rainfall is equivalent to a 600-year storm, and I declared a State of Emergency for Cedar City. I knew that there was additional rain forecasted for the rest of the week and took immediate action.

The rain overwhelmed flooding mitigation measures and caused damage to public infrastructure, private residential homes and apartments, businesses, and churches. Over the course of the week, with the numerous storms, multiple different areas of our City experienced some level of flooding.

Since the initial flooding, I, along with our City, have been in constant communication with both Iron County and Southern Utah University to coordinate efforts, along with the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Commissioner of Public Safety and members of our Congressional delegation. City crews have worked extremely

hard to assess damage, clear debris out of roadways, pump water out of buildings, assess detention and retention basins, clean storm drains, and assist our residents in need. I also worked with multiple cities throughout the state to secure much needed resources including pumps to clear out flood water and additional sandbags.

I would also like to thank the multiple jurisdictions and private businesses that sent resources to assist our City in this time of need. Know that at this time the City will continue to be working along-side our residents and businesses to provide needed assistance and support one another through this heartbreaking and difficult time.

With the extensive flooding that has occurred over the past week, I have had individuals ask me about financial donations. There are many individuals that have Venmo or go-fund-me accounts for their damage. If you are personally able to donate to one of the individuals, please do so.

In addition to those accounts, there is a regional fundraising effort through the "Givebutter" platform given the immense need of many community members. The Dixie and Anne Leavit Family Foundation (DALFF), Leavitt Group Enterprises (LGE), the Cedar Area Interfaith Alliance, and the Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce are joining together to organize a fundraising effort. DALFF, LGE and its employees have already committed \$300,000 to this effort. It is our hope that an additional \$100,000 can be raised through additional avenues. 100% of the funds raised will be distributed to families and individuals through the faith communities in Iron County.

To learn more or to donate, please visit the Givebutter campaign at: <https://givebutter.com/cedarcityfloodrelief>. Southern Utah University (SUU) has launched a campaign to directly support those students who have been impacted by the floods. If you would like to help the SUU students, please visit suu.edu/tbirdstrong to donate. Any contribution is greatly appreciated.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

WATER:

Even with all the rain we have received, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we are still in the "Extreme Drought" category. Even though we have seen some improvement, according to the USDA: "We still have a very serious drought situation in the long-term and that includes groundwater reserves and low reservoir levels. The drought is not going to be cured by a couple of weeks of heavy rain." Please remember that voluntary watering restrictions – even numbered addresses watering on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; odd numbered addresses watering on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday with no watering on Sunday – are still in place along with the City Ordinance #37-7-1 which restricts watering between the hours of 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM. The city ordinance runs from April 1 – October 31 annually. Please remember to be water conscious. Check out the following websites: www.conservewater.utah.gov; www.slowtheflow.org; or www.waterwiseutah.org for information on water conservation.

SOLID WASTE:

There are many items that the city garbage trucks are not able to pick up, such as furniture, televisions, appliances, carpet, construction materials like brick, lumber, fencing, etc., tires, toilets, lawn mowers, rocks, metal poles, trampolines, etc. If you fill your can with dirt, it may be too heavy for the truck to pick it up. We are equipped to pick up residential household trash. Other materials can damage the trucks. You can dispose of these types of items at the Iron County Landfill. The landfill is located at 3127 North Iron Springs Road. If you have any questions about hours of operation, fees or anything else related to the landfill, please call them at 435-865-7015.

Please have your cans out by 7:00 AM on your pick-up day, and make sure there is at least 3-feet between cans and other objects, such as vehicles, trailers, other cans, etc..

If you have any questions about trash pickup for holidays or are new to the area and have questions about your trash pickup, please call us at 435-586-2912.



American Red Cross

The American Red Cross has been an integral part of the relief and recovery process from this natural disaster. Not only by providing shelter to those residents whose homes became uninhabitable by flood water, but providing necessities and resources to help them get back on their feet. It may be overwhelming for most people to see the damage that was caused and feeling like you don't know where to begin. Luckily, there are steps you can take to begin the process. Here are some tips from the Red Cross that you can use to help the process run smoothly.

Water damage is not just unsightly and unsanitary – it can also be dangerous. From wallboards to rugs, items that are not thoroughly dried can sprout mold and mildew.

* Your first task in addressing water damage is to remove any water that remains. That means pumping out standing water and drying out waterlogged surfaces.

- * Pump out flooded basements gradually to avoid structural damage. If the water is pumped out completely in a short period of time, pressure from water-saturated soil on the outside could cause basement walls to collapse.
- * Bring all soft items outside if possible – sunlight and wind will help them dry faster.
- * Throw out items that have absorbed water and cannot be cleaned or disinfected. This includes mattresses, carpeting, cosmetics, stuffed animals and baby toys.
- * Remove all drywall and insulation that has been in contact with flood waters.
- * Consider removing vinyl floor coverings and tile to allow the substructures beneath or behind them to dry.
- * Keep the windows open and run fans – or keep them shut and run dehumidifiers – to pull moisture out of wood floors and subfloors, beams, doors, etc.
- * Be patient. Depending on the level of water damage incurred, it can take weeks or months for your home's structural elements to be thoroughly dried. Only then should you replace drywall, carpets and other floorcoverings.

For more information, contact the American Red Cross at (801)323-7013 or vis them online at www.redcross.org



The 16th Anniversary Cedar Livestock & Heritage Festival will be held on October 29th and 30th at the Cross Hollow Event Center, located at 11 N. Cross Hollow Rd, Cedar City. There will be Tractor Pulls, Antique Cars, Draft Horse Pulls, Lamb Burgers, Ranch Rodeo, Quilt Show, and more! You will not want to miss the memorable Sheep Parade on Saturday, October 30th!

Be sure to check www.cedarlivestockfest.com for updates and a list of daily events and times.

One of the Livestock's biggest fund raisers are the wooden sheep you see decorated around town. They are \$300 to purchase. If you would like one for your business or residence, you can contact Diane Janes at (435)590-2067 or by email at dianemjanes@gmail.com. **ORDERS ARE DUE SEPT. 1ST!!** Supplies are limited, so get your order in quick before they're gone!



IRON County Fair

The Iron County Fair is back again this year and will be held during Labor Day weekend, September 2nd – 6th. Each year, the Fair has a theme and this year it is very befitting for a year that has strengthened us in so many ways, “Tough Enough....”. I think we all have proven just how tough we really are and were made to be. “Tough Enough” to persevere during a time of ever-changing regulations; “Tough Enough” to stay tightly bonded during a time we felt most weakened; “Tough Enough” to become a stronger community than when we began. You, the residents of Iron County, are what makes Cedar City the best place to live, work and play.

The Iron County Fair is a long-lasting tradition that has been bringing families, friends and neighbors together for nearly 150 years. This year, the Iron County Fair have many events planned that will appeal to all ages, which include horse races, equestrian events, rodeo, carnival, exhibits, car show, live entertainment, Miss Iron County Fair pageant, and Labor Day parade. Come enjoy amazing exhibits made by some very talented residents of Iron County, and plenty of delicious carnival and fair food to satisfy your appetite. All events are held at the County Fair Grounds in Parowan. Admission to the fair is FREE; however, events in the Grand Stands such as the rodeo, mud bog, demolition derby, etc...do have an admission fee. You can reserve a seat to each event for \$20, or purchase advanced tickets at a reduced price. For more information or for a daily schedule, contact the Iron County Fair at (435) 477-8380 or visit www.IronCountyFair.net.

CEDAR CITY LANTERN FESTIVAL

SATURDAY
AUG 14th
8:30 pm
THE LAKE ON THE HILL

OUTDOOR MOVIE
Disney
RAYA
AND
THE LAST DRAGON
BRING CHAIRS & BLANKETS

TICKETS \$3 @ CEDARCITY.ORG/LANTERNFEST



SO..... NOW WHAT???

The State of Emergency declaration allows the City to petition the state and federal government for financial assistance. I would love to tell you and everyone else what we can expect in the way of financial assistance, but at this point we don't have a clear answer from the State or FEMA. The City has been in constant contact with State representatives from the division of emergency management since the initial flooding. Each conversation we gain a little more information, but as of when I am writing this, we have yet to receive a direct answer on what type or if there is a potential for financial assistance. Please know that we are pursuing every available alternative. The best we can do for the short run is to document the damage, clean up, and repair to both public and private infrastructure. Overall, as a City, we continue to gather as much information as possible on both public and private infrastructure and will continue to work with both the State and FEMA.

Our crews are continuing to clean up roads and storm drain facilities throughout town. In addition, they continue to assess damage and are working to get to our infrastructure repaired, especially roadways. As I continue to receive additional information, I will keep our residents updated through our social media channels, City website, and other avenues.

There are many students and families throughout our community that will have a difficult time trying to prepare for the upcoming school year, such as obtaining supplies needed for classes. That is why the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Organizations Group is inviting you to join them for a Back to School Bash to help them "Stuff the Bus" with supplies to benefit local students. The Back to School Bash is scheduled for Saturday, August 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Cedar City Main Street Park. Come enjoy a fun afternoon with FREE lunch and cotton candy, school supplies, carnival games, bounce houses, live music and more! If you would like to donate school supplies, contact Canyon Creek Services, Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce, or any of the organizations that are hosting the event. To contact Canyon Creek Services, call (435)233-5732 or the Chamber at (435)586-4484. Help us ensure that every child in our community has what they need to succeed!

We received some very good news to help the recovery effort for those affected by the flooding. If you or anyone you know has had property damage that's affecting your property value, you can get some relief on this year's property taxes. Unfortunately, this can't be done using a community wide approach for 2021. The State Code does allow for an adjustment due to a natural disaster, but each property owner is required to file an appeal at the County's Board of Equalization through the County Auditor.

You will need to provide evidence of damage for the hearing officer to consider. Pictures of the damage, contractor bids, or even just a list of the damages can be considered in the appeal process. Next year (2022), the Assessor's Office will be able to consider a community wide approach to property values in the affected areas.

Call (435)477-8333 and speak to Carrie Christensen, the Deputy County Auditor. She will get you an appeal packet and help you through the process; she is great to work with. However, we can't help if people don't apply. The deadline to apply is September 15th, which is a date set by Utah Statute.

Additionally, if you were affected by the storms, please report any damage you received to the City. You can report this by going to the City website at www.cedarcity.org and click on the banner at the top of the page to submit your information. This information will assist us in knowing areas where we need to focus and do additional assessments on infrastructure.

On a very personal note, I would like to thank each and every one of you that gave selflessly, whether it was volunteering to fill sand bags, shoveling mud, bringing food or water to those helping, or just being there for emotional support. It was a humbling experience to see how much devastation a lot of our residents were having to deal with. Seeing our community rally and come together to help one another was truly a moment that I will never forget. We were united, not just by family and friends, but residents, businesses and our City crews were all coming together to help each other during this time. Our volunteering spirit is one of the hallmarks of Cedar City and I am proud to be your Mayor and a resident of this great community.

Cedar has long been known as a volunteer city. Our community would not be the amazing place it is today if it were not for all of those willing to generously volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of our City. Cedar City has several volunteer-staffed committees that are critical to the health and operation of our community. These committees provide input as well as an additional way to hold each elected official more accountable as they make recommendations to the City Council.

One of my responsibilities as Mayor is to appoint people to serve on these various committees which include: the Active Transportation Committee, the Airport Board, the Board of Adjustments, Cedar Area Transit Service (CATS), Cedar Disability Awareness/Action Team, Cedar City Downtown Parking Authority, Historic Downtown Economic Committee, Library Board, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Planning Commission, RAP Tax Arts Committee, and RAP Tax Parks and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

I would like to form and maintain a list of citizens interested in filling committee vacancies when they arise. To serve on one of these committees, you must be a resident of Cedar City. If you would like to be considered, please email my Executive Assistant, Oni Pittser at Onjuleep@cedarcity.org with your name, contact information, and a short bio including how long you have been a resident of Cedar City, which committee(s) interest you, and what you can bring to the position. For more information call (435) 586-2953. Thank you in advance for your interest and willingness to serve!