



Syracuse City Newsletter



August 2007

Mayor's Message

I encourage you to come to the City Council meeting on August 14th. Our three County Commissioners, Louenda Downs, Bret Millburn, and Alan Hansen have asked to be on our agenda so they can make a short presentation to our city. They have also agreed to come early to discuss issues with citizens. They will be available from 5:00-6:00 p.m. to answer questions on transportation, taxes, the conference center, and any other topics you may want them to address. This is a wonderful opportunity to have an open dialogue with our county commissioners.

It is my sad duty to report that Councilman Wally Petersen has decided not to seek re-election. Councilman Petersen has served our community for four years and has distinguished himself as a thoughtful, sensible, and courageous representative of the citizens of Syracuse. Time after time his common sense approach to issues has benefited our community. I will miss his wise council and plan to take full advantage of his wisdom until his last day in office. He will be missed.

Eleven residents have thrown their hats into the ring for 3 council seats. It is exciting to see so many interested in serving our community. We will be using electronic voting machines and are planning on having all voting done at our community center.

New businesses keep popping up in our town center with an increasing number of goods and services available. In our town center we can now purchase automotive supplies, Mexican food, pizza, ice cream, cell phones, home décor, insurance, salon services, and much more. It is important to support our local businesses. They bring services, jobs, and increase our tax base. Try to shop in Syracuse whenever you can.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about our community. I'm the only Panucci in the phone book.

~ Fred ~

Underpass On 1700 South

UDOT and Syracuse City are currently reviewing submitted construction bids for the trail underpass project. UDOT and the selected contractor have discussed starting this project this summer or possibly next spring.

Public Hearings

PROPERTY TAX INCREASE / BUDGET HEARING

There are two monumental budget items the City Council is proposing in the 2007-08 budget. These items will be the major part of the property tax increase / budget public hearing scheduled for Tuesday August 14, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at City Hall, 1787 S. 2000 W. Please take time to communicate your opinion on these matters to members of the City Council:

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council has proposed a property tax increase. The City portion on the average home value will increase from \$108.77 to \$161.70 or \$52.93 per year. The Council is asking for another \$4.41 per month (average) per household.

The current property tax rate is .001009 and the proposed rate is .001500. This is a 48.7% increase on the city rate, but still a significant bargain when comparing to our neighboring cities (Layton .002047, West Point .002234, Clearfield .002980). The affect of this proposed tax increase on your specific property is illustrated on the "Davis County Property Valuation Notice" that was mailed to each property owner on July 23, 2007. Please review that document.

The needed property tax increase is requested to fund additional public safety employees, the rampant increase in construction and fuel prices, and the implementation of a proposed pay structure and other inflationary demands upon the City. The proposed pay plan is designed to bring employee compensation in line with other comparable Utah communities. The City's most urgent challenge is adequate compensation to recruit and retain dedicated and trained staff. Syracuse will continue to make the best use of your tax dollars to provide top quality services.

A required newspaper advertisement will be published on Sunday August 5th and 12th to notify everyone of this proposed tax increase. This required advertisement format may appear somewhat misleading and inflammatory if not read carefully.

UTILITY CUSTOMER NOTICE

Part of the proposed funding of the 2007-08 budget is to give \$1,000,000 of utility fund retained earning to the City Capital Projects Fund. The utility fund borrowed the \$1 million to the Capital Projects Fund in 2006 when the Community Center was completed. It has been the intent of the City Council to have the loan repaid over three years by future Capital Projects revenues.

With the many capital needs of our growing community, the City Council has proposed to make the Utility Fund loan a permanent transfer, thus allowing the City to continue meeting those needs without a three year delay. This will result in revenues collected for monthly utilities over the years actually being used for general city buildings and equipment needs.

LAND USE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Tuesday, August 21, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. to consider Amendments to the Land Use Ordinance.

All public hearings are held in City Hall at 1787 South 2000 West.



SYRACUSE CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE



Congratulations to the following citizens who have filed for the elective offices in Syracuse City:

Three Councilmember Seats – Four Year Term:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Alan L. Clark | Kerry J. Logan | Larry Shingleton |
| Daniel L. Hammon | Daniel J. Merkle Jr | Dean Steel |
| Doug Hammond | Cory K. McKinlay | Carl M. Thompson |
| Byron Hellewell | Douglas Peterson | |

A "Meet the Candidates" has been tentatively scheduled for August 22, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Bluff Ridge Elementary, 2680 South Bluff Ridge Drive. This event will give citizens an opportunity to get acquainted with each candidate. If you have questions you would like to ask the candidates please forward them to the City Recorder at cbrown@syracuseut.com or call 614-9633.

The Primary Election will be held September 11 with six candidates advancing to the General Election, which will be held November 6. All registered voters may vote early at the City Offices during regular office hours starting August 28. The early voting period ends September 7 at 5:00 p.m. On Election Day all registered voters will vote at the Syracuse City Community Center, 1912 W. 1900 S.

If you are not already registered, you can obtain a mail-in registration form from the City Office or download the form from <http://www.daviscountyutah.gov/clerk/auditor/elections/registration.cfm>. You must have been a resident of Syracuse City for at least 30 days to be able to participate in the primary election.

Museum Tidbits

Hours of Operation:

Tuesdays-Thursdays 2-5 p.m.
and Fridays 1-4 p.m.
Call 825-3633 to schedule an appointment for other times, or for more information.

Farmer's Market

Farmer's Market begins the end of July and runs thru the end of September. Call now to sign up and be part of our own Farmer's Market!

The staff and volunteers at the museum hope that you are having a great summer! We have been busy making new displays so if you haven't been here lately, or at all, make your plans to come and visit us. If you like the artwork that is on display at the Community Center and would like to purchase some, the Syracuse Guild for Visual Arts will be selling their art at our Farmer's Market. If you missed our American Flag display, plan on coming in next year, June 14-July 24 and learn about our flag.

Syracuse On Broadway!

Enjoy an evening of Broadway favorites performed by the talented members of the Syracuse Theater Company.

When: August 10-11 & 17-18

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Place: Centennial Park (behind City Hall)

Performances are free!!!

Water Facts

Utah's per capita water use is 269 gallons per day (gpd) compared to the Mountain States average of 241 gpd and the national average of 179 gpd. Only Nevada uses more water per capita.

- ⚠ Approximately 61% of Utah's Residential water is used for outdoor landscapes
- ⚠ A properly designed landscape that includes low water plants and trees can be more water and energy efficient.
- ⚠ Continuing growth and development will place increasing demands on our current water supply.
- ⚠ Even with reservoirs and other storage facilities, our summertime use is straining our current water supply
- ⚠ New water resources and infrastructure will cost millions of dollars in increased rates
- ⚠ New sources of water will require more treatment to meet water quality standards
- ⚠ Environmental impacts and government regulations place increasing limitations on future water supplies
- ⚠ As a desert state we have an obligation to effectively manage our limited water resources
- ⚠ And just as importantly, conservation is usually the least-cost alternative to a new water supply

⚠ Most of the "excess" residential water used during summer is used outdoors—for gardens and lawns, to wash cars, to hose down driveways, and even to cool off the kids or the dog. We often double or even triple daily consumption. By watering "right," you can maintain a healthy, beautiful landscape that invites butterflies, birds, and creates a "backyard habitat."

Utilities

The Syracuse City Utilities Department offers the option of your utility payment being taken directly out of your bank account. No more writing checks, mailing your payments, or driving to City Hall. Simply fill out the Electronic Funds Transfer Agreement Form and attach a voided check. The form is available online at www.syracuseut.com. Your payment will be automatically withdrawn from your bank account. Call the Utilities Department at 825-1477 for more information.

| Water Loss in Gallons at 60 p.s.i. | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Leak this Size | Loss per Month |
| ○ 1/32" | 6,000 |
| ○ 1/16" | 25,000 |
| ○ 1/8" | 100,000 |
| ○ 1/4" | 400,000 |

Fire Department

MOVE RIGHT FOR SIRENS AND LIGHTS

If you or someone you love is in need of emergency assistance, you want help to get there right away. There's one thing everyone can do to help the firefighters provide this emergency assistance as quickly as possible. It's as simple as Moving to the Right for Sirens and Lights!

Every year in the U.S. there are almost 16,000 collisions involving fire department emergency vehicles while responding to or returning from incidents. These collisions result in over 1,000 firefighter injuries and almost fifty deaths.

Many people panic or simply don't adhere to the rules of the road for approaching emergency vehicles. The law is very specific; drivers must yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle, and failure to do so can cause serious accidents or delays in ambulances, fire engines and fire trucks arriving at the scene of an emergency. Firefighters are careful to avoid vehicle collisions by driving slowly when traveling against traffic, or coming to a complete stop at intersections. However, the cooperation of ALL vehicles on the roadway is essential.

There are some simple do's and don'ts to follow when you're on the road and encounter an emergency vehicle:

DO:

- Stay calm.
- Pull to the right and come to a complete stop.
- If you're traveling on a high-speed road or if there is not room to stop, slow down as much as possible.
- If you are in the left lane, pull over into the right lane as traffic in the lane to your right moves over.
- If you cannot move to the right because of another vehicle or obstacle, slow down then stop. Your action will let the driver of the emergency vehicle know what you are doing, allowing the driver to anticipate where to drive.
- When an emergency vehicle approaches you from behind while you are stopped at an inter-section, stay where you are unless you can pull to the right.
- On a 4-lane highway or street without barriers, both sides of traffic should pull to the right.
- Be careful when driving by or around a motor vehicle accident or

- any situation where emergency vehicles are parked and the fire fighters are working.
- Drivers should stay at least 500 feet behind emergency vehicles.

DON'T:

- Don't panic.
- Don't play your radio so loudly that you are unable to hear sirens.
- Don't stop in the middle lane when there is room to pull to the right.
- Don't pull to the left in the center lane or left turn lane.
- Don't race ahead to make the green light or turn before the emergency vehicle gets there.
- Don't turn quickly to the left onto a street or driveway.
- Don't disregard the presence of the emergency vehicle by continuing to drive.
- Don't drive through a red light or stop sign when an emergency vehicle approaches from behind.
- If the emergency vehicle is traveling in the opposite direction of a divided highway or street, you do not need to pull over.

This month I want to address an issue that is not covered in the Building Code but does affect each home and property if not done correctly. **"Landscaping."** The initial grade for your home established by the builder is regulated for only ten feet from the foundation. Thereafter it is the responsibility of the property owner. Landscaping your yard may be a great thing for you as a property owner in beautification, and providing a sanctuary from a busy world. But we need to be mindful of several things; drainage away from homes, drainage onto adjoining lots, water conservation, nuisance plants, tree selection, and so on. Several of these things we may not personally see the effects of, but our neighbors may have issues with. Things we need to watch for in planning our landscaping are:

1) Sloping soil away from the foundation and directing rain gutters to appropriate locations. Building up flower beds around the foundation is good only if a positive slope is maintained away from the home. Placing landscaping curb off time creates an artificial dam at or near our foundation. With the addition of rain gutters, dumping behind these may cause flooding of your window wells. Direct them beyond the curbing and also provide a breach through the curbing to prevent unnecessary water build up in these areas. Always provide at least 6 inches of exposed foundation. This is a requirement in the Building Code and will prevent excess moisture from being drawn into the base of the walls, which causes mold to develop.

2) Maintain drainage easements. These easements are established for the purpose of allowing lots to drain to the public streets. This allows storm water and excess irrigation water to be disposed of properly. If these easements are disrupted and or ignored, lots upstream will collect water causing nuisances and or destruction of property. As a property owner you are responsible for your own storm and irrigation water. Drainage easements that become blocked by someone building up their lot will affect everybody. Standing water allows wasps, mosquitoes, and other nuisances to thrive.

3) Choose plants and trees that will be maintainable and controllable. Many plants that are chosen quickly outgrow the space that was intended or spread into areas that are not desired. If you are having problems with controlling certain plants, more often than not your neighbors are dealing with them as well. Planting trees next to a property line is not a great idea, particularly fruit trees. Bigger trees also may have root systems that may effect neighbors and cause damage. Strong winds may also cause branches to damage adjoining properties.

The bottom line is to be mindful of how we design our yards. Be conscientious of where your water is going off your lot and how landscaping effects your home as well as your neighbors. A little bit of careful planning can solve many problems before they become big issues.

Police Department

Round-a-bout

You should have noticed the city lowered the "posted speed" of the roundabout to 15 miles per hour. It used to be an "advisory" speed of 15 miles per hour. There are several reasons for the change. One reason is pedestrians were having a difficult time crossing the intersection. Another reason is an increase in traffic accidents in the intersection. If cars would just slow down we could avoid these problems and make it safer for pedestrians on the trail or sidewalk.

Conserving Water Tip:

Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end.

**The Big Fix on Tour
Mobile Spay/Neuter Clinic**

Friday, August 17, 2007
1726 Heritage lane
(Syracuse Museum Parking Lot)
8:00 a.m. until full
For more information on prices and
Pre-operative procedures, call
1-866-PETS FIX

Concerts in the Park!

August 3rd at 7p.m.:
"The Sensations" (R&B / Classic Rock)
August 31st at 7p.m.:
"Branded Soul" (Country / Bluegrass)

**Both Concerts will be
held at Founders Park.**

Community Center/Recreation

**Daily meals are served in the
Community Center at 12:30 p.m.
Mondays - Fridays (except holidays)
PLEASE JOIN US!**

For a complete list of senior activities, call
Tiffany Vigil at 614-9658

Healthy Pregnancy Classes

This FREE class is offered every fourth
Saturday, 10 a.m.-Noon, at the Community
Center, and registration is not required. For
questions, please call Amy Ihrig at 773-
2503.

Aerobic/Fitness Classes Starting!

They are finally here! Aerobic classes will
be starting August 6th at the Community
Center. Classes will be taught by Cathy
Moon, 779-0096 and Laurie Taylor, 825-
6026. There will be a variety of step, kick-
boxing, and yoga classes for adults.
Classes for children are also available.
Some adult morning classes will provide
child care. Sign up now at the Community
Center. For more information, call the Com-
munity Center at 614-9660

Youth Karate

Cost is \$30. For registration information,
call Johnny Aranda, at 544-7037.

Flag Football

Boys and girls can come out and play non-
contact football. This is a great way to
have fun and learn how to play the game.
The program is for youth ages 6-14.

We will combine with other cities, so travel
will be involved.

Registration is August 1-18 at the Com-
munity Center and cost is \$35 for residents
and \$45 for non-residents.

Syracuse welcomes the following new businesses:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Storage..... | Gateway Storage |
| Computer Repair & Updating..... | Cybercuse |
| Retail - Snow & Skate..... | Happy Rabbit Snow & Skate |
| Consulting - Equipment & Property..... | Jexco |
| Excavating..... | MLS Excavating Inc. |
| Auto Service..... | Larkin Auto Services |
| Sales - Storage Containers & Trailers..... | Destination on Time |
| Epoxy Garage Flooring..... | Base Epoxy Flooring |
| Janitorial Cleaning..... | Royal Cleaning Services |
| Software Contracting & Consulting..... | Blackbox Software Inc. |
| Restaurant - Fast Food..... | Taco Del Mar |
| Tractor/Hauling..... | Bobcat Steve Tractor/Hauling Services |
| Financial..... | Gemini Financial |
| Web Design/Video Editing..... | A Nevermind Production |
| Handyman/Lawn Care/Cleaning..... | Joatmon LLC |
| Lawn Care..... | DN Lawn Care |
| Sales - Home Décor..... | Artichoke Fields |
| Installation - Glass..... | Straight Cut Glass |

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August 2007

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Concert in the Park 7:00 p.m. @ Founders Park | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Court @ 2:00 p.m. | 7 Planning Commission @ 6:00 p.m. | 8 | 9 Traffic School @ 6:00 p.m. | 10 Syracuse on Broadway 8:00 p.m. @ Centennial Park | 11 |
| 12 | 13 Court @ 2:00 p.m. | 14 City Council @ 7:00 p.m. Public Hearing @ 8:00 p.m. | 15 | 16 | 17 The Big Fix 8:00 a.m. Syracuse on Broadway 8:00 p.m. @ Centennial Park | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Court @ 2:00 p.m. | 21 Planning Commission @ 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing @ 6:30 p.m. | 22 "Meet the Candidates" 7:00 @ Bluff Ridge Elementary | 23 | 24 | 25 Utility Payments Due Healthy Pregnancy Class @ 10:00 a.m. |
| 26 | 27 Court @ 2:00 p.m. | 28 Early Voting Begins City Council @ 7:00 p.m. | 29 | 30 | 31 Concert in the Park 7:00 p.m. @ Founders Park | |