



CEDAR HILLS

OUR HOME TOWN

City Newsletter • July 2015

Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs: 8 to 5
Fri: 8 to 4
801-785-9668
www.cedarhills.org



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Upcoming Events

City Council Meetings 7:00 p.m.	July 7 & 21
Planning Commission Meeting - 7:00 p.m.	July 28
Concert in the Park 7:00 p.m.	July 18
City Council Meetings 7:00 p.m.	Aug 4 & 18
Primary Election Day Vote by Mail	Aug 11

City Phone Numbers:

Dial 801-785-9668 then extension:
Front Desk, 100
City Recorder, 503
Zoning & Code Enforcement, 500
Business Licensing, 400
Building Department, 200
Public Works, 200
Utility Billing, 400
Recreation, 302 or 601
Vista Room, 300

Other Phone Numbers (801):

Public Works After Hours, 420-2243
Golf Pro Shop, 796-1705
Animal Control, 763-3020
Police, 763-3020

Upcoming City Council Election

Daniel Zappala, City Council Member



Daniel Zappala

This year the city council has three seats open for election—those held by council members Augustus, Geddes, and Rees. Each seat is for four years. Currently there are nine candidates for these seats: Brian Miller, Angela C.C. Johnson, Paul Sorensen, Jenney Rees, Craig M. Clement, Curt Crosby, Chris Fowler, Mike Geddes, and Ben Bailey.

A primary election will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, with the top six candidates advancing to the general election, which will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. A meet-the-candidates night is being organized by residents and will be held on July 14 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Lincoln Academy, 1582 West 3300 North in Pleasant Grove.

Please remember that both elections will be held using a vote-by-mail system, which the council recently established at the recommendation of our city recorder, Colleen Mulvey. With this new system, every voter uses absentee ballots, and voters are validated by their signatures on an affidavit. Details on this process can be found on the city's website.

There has been some concern expressed regarding why the meet-the-candidates event could not be held in the Vista Room at the Community Recreation Center. The council solicited a complete evaluation of this issue from the city attorney, David Shaw, from Kirton McConkie. He reported that State law regarding elections says that "Unless specifically required by law...a public entity may not make an expenditure from public funds for political purposes" (20A-11-1203). Because of this provision, the city cannot provide the community center free of charge for the event. This restriction is unique to elections and does not apply to other circumstances. State law also states that our city recorder, as the elections officer, is responsible for decisions concerning the election (20A-1-402). Mr. Shaw has indicated that the city council may not overturn her decisions.

A resident may rent the Vista Room for an evening at its discounted resident rate or a lower hourly rate and legally hold this type of event in the building, because public funds would not be expended. Likewise, the city can continue to hold events that are not related to elections in the community center, such as regular council meetings, the pancake breakfast, and the Santa party. The council, mayor, and staff are all committed to holding numerous community events in the center and we hope this is a space that all residents can enjoy.

All Vote-by-Mail 2015 Elections

Cedar Hills will conduct an all vote-by-mail system with the upcoming 2015 elections. Ballots for the Primary Election will be mailed out to registered voters by Tuesday, July 14, and for the General Election by Tuesday, October 6. Completed ballots must be returned by mail and clearly postmarked before Election Day, August 11, 2015, or placed in the ballot box at the Cedar Hills city office building by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Questions may be directed to the city recorder, Colleen Mulvey, at: cmulvey@cedarhills.org or 801-785-9668, ext. 503. More election information is available on the city's website.



Yards of the Month

Each month during the summer the Beautification Committee gives awards to residents in recognition of their efforts to beautify the city. Photos of June's Yards of the Month winners are available for viewing on the city's website: *Residents > News and Events > Yards of the Month*. Those who have been recognized in June are: the Barlows on Spyglass, the Buckners on Mesquite Way, the Beardalls on Honeycut Circle, and the Dillenbecks on Mulberry Drive. The city has been divided into areas by voting precincts, and one winner from each area is selected each month, June through September.



Mayor's Minute

On July the Fourth, 239 years ago, the US declared its independence from Britain for many reasons, but primary of those were the rights they believed came from their creator, not the state. The Declaration of Independence later led to the Federalist Papers, the Constitutional Convention, and our current Constitution, save for a few amendments. This document has created the most successful country on earth and has lasted longer than any other country's constitution. I will end my missive with why this is important.

There has been much excitement recently regarding American Fork Canyon and a preliminary plan by Snowbird resort for the land it owns in the canyon. They are discussing a land swap with the Forest Service. A group called Save Our Canyons also has a plan that involves turning all the land between the Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons and Provo Canyon into a national monument. I have been very involved in this process for about two years, and much misinformation is being circulated, so I want to clear up as much as I can.

When I was first appointed Mayor in 2012, I was told to go speak to Snowbird, because they had some ideas that could affect our city. I spoke with the folks at Snowbird and realized immediately what they wanted to do and recognized that some people would love the idea and some would hate it. We, with the county, UTA, UDOT, the Forest Service, Park Service, Snowbird, Save Our Canyons, and Sundance, decided to make our loosely formed group formal by forming a steering committee to study these plans for recreation and transportation in the canyon.

I approached the State Legislature for funding for the steering committee, and they gave us \$100,000. Snowbird gave us \$50,000, and the Forest Service is contributing labor worth about \$50,000. We hired a facilitator and a USU professor to conduct year-round surveys in the canyon, to be completed in February 2016.

Our committee is not an advocate for Snowbird or Save Our Canyons and cannot make a deal for either group. We can only make recommendations to the Forest Service, Utah County, and the two groups that have plans, as they go through the normal approval NEPA process, if they choose to go down that road. Recently, a similar group to ours on the Salt Lake County side, called Mountain Accord (MA), announced that they are working with the Forest Service and Snowbird on a land swap plan, which includes land in the American Fork Canyon area. Elected officials in Utah County and our steering committee were not told of this plan until it was announced. MA cannot make a deal with the Forest Service and Snowbird either, but they should have apprised us of their plans. That was a mistake.

I am committed to the process of allowing all parties with a legitimate interest to voice their concerns; hence, the beginning of my minute about rights. When you live in a free society, people and corporations have rights—first amendment rights and property rights are two of them. I believe both Snowbird and Save Our Canyons should have the right to explain their plans in full and fair discussions. If we do that, then we as residents of Cedar Hills and Utah County can come to a better conclusion.

There are some who want to stop the discussion before it is complete and before the steering committee's work is done. This is wrong; we should all stand on the side of protecting the rights of others. If any of us owned land in Cedar Hills for investment purposes, we would expect the right to explain our ideas to the Planning Commission and City Council. Likewise, if we owned land in American Fork Canyon, we would want the right to explain our ideas to the county and the Forest Service. Please talk to me about this, so you can get the most accurate and up-to-date information.



Mayor Gary Gygi

City Implements Outdoor Water Restrictions

On May 5, 2015, the City Council implemented outdoor water conservation measures for all pressurized irrigation water users.

Commercial properties, churches, schools, parks, golf course, and HOAs are required to submit watering schedules to the city for approval.

For residents: All addresses ending in an odd number will be allowed to water Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. All addresses ending in an even number will be allowed to water Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Spot watering with secondary water from a hose is allowed on Sundays.

Reminder: During the hottest period of the season, there is a greater chance for moss and debris to clog your pressurized irrigation filter. It's a good idea to clean your filter monthly.

Reminder: Access to utilities should be unobstructed for servicing. It is prohibited to bury utility access lids, water meters, irrigation connections, power boxes, etc. with landscape material. According to city code, it is also unlawful for any person to "destroy, deface, injure, or interfere with the operation of any part or appurtenance of the water or sewer system (Ord. 3-3-88A, 3-3-1988).

STORM WATER TIP OF THE MONTH

We Can Make a Difference! Did you know....

- Every unnecessary irrigation cycle that can be eliminated will save enough water for about 104 showers, 52 baths, 52 loads of laundry, or 312 toilet flushes?
- The State's recommended irrigation schedule for the summer months in Northern Utah is once every three days. However, precipitation and cool periods may allow postponing or skipping an irrigation cycle.
- Completing a visual inspection of your sprinkler system once a month during daylight hours is recommended to look for tilted, clogged, or broken heads.
- The Division of Water Resources found that residents with automatic sprinkler systems in Utah typically water 44% more than the lawn needs. Make sure you use your timer wisely!
- When irrigation water or rainwater runs over landscaping, turf, and driveways it picks up fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, grass clippings and petroleum products. Some of that water and pollution percolates into the ground and ends up in our aquifer. Excess water runs off into storm drains that may lead to ponds and wetlands (conservewater.utah.gov).

City Council Corner

Jenny Rees, City Council Member

The Very Short Story on Property Taxes

First, you should know that only approximately 23% of the property tax you pay each year goes to the city. The city has no control over the remaining majority of what you pay to other entities such as Alpine School District, which collects the largest portion.



Jenny Rees

When it comes to the city's portion, there are generally two approaches cities use to determine how much tax you will pay each year. The first and most common approach is for the tax rate (or percentage) to adjust each year as property values change, so that the total tax collected by the city is approximately the same every year. Each year the county re-estimates property values and then calculates what this tax rate should be, so that the revenue collected by the city remains constant. The benefit of this approach for residents is that you will pay about the same amount of city property tax every year, regardless of the value of your property. The benefit to the city is that revenues stay consistent, whether home values go up or down.

The second approach is for the tax rate to stay the same regardless of changes in property values. This means when your property values go up you pay more in taxes, and if your property values go down you pay less in taxes. One of the problems with this approach is that if property values go up significantly during a bubble, the city can receive much more revenue, leading some to worry that government could needlessly expand during these times. In addition, the constant fluctuation of tax revenue makes it difficult for the city to budget each year for its services, causing some services to be cut if revenues go down.

A particularly difficult problem for some cities occurs when they reduce rates if property values go up (to avoid expanding government), but then hold those rates low when property values go back down. This has caused some cities to fall many years behind in basic services such as road maintenance, causing them to have to propose steep rate hikes to make up the shortfall.

The City Council has chosen to adopt the county's calculated tax rate so that revenues to the city stay constant. This means the portion of your property tax to the city should be approximately the same as it was for the past fiscal year. Overall, property values have increased, which means the tax rate will go down from .002410 to .002315.

More detailed information will be coming out in our annual State of the City report. In the meantime, feel free to contact any member of the City Council with questions.

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Open Fire and Firework Restrictions

The current restrictions prohibit any aerial fireworks or open fires east of Canyon Road. The use of other fireworks and covered fires (i.e. screen covers on fire pits) are allowed. There are currently no other restrictions for the rest of the city; however, the city will continue to discuss potential concerns with the fire chief as the season progresses. Residents are invited to light aerial fireworks at Mesquite Soccer Park on July 4 and July 24, where fire safety personnel will be on site.

City Is Going Paperless in August

Beginning August 1, the city will transition to paperless billing. If you have an Internet connection and an email address, you can view current and past statements online at XpressBillPay.com. Once the account is established on Xpress Bill Pay, **select the paperless billing option**. Those who do not opt out of paper billing or wish to continue receiving paper statements will receive a monthly fee of \$1.35 for the pass-through cost of printing and mailing the bill.

While on Xpress Bill Pay, we encourage everyone to setup automatic payments, using one of the auto-pay options. This service has been offered for several years as an option and is well established. Payments will continue to be received in the 24/7 drop box in the fire station parking lot on Cedar Hills Drive or at the city's front desk during regular business hours.

View the **step-by-step instructions** on the city's website to set up paperless billing and/or online automatic payments. Do it now, so your account is ready by the end of July for the August billing cycle.

2015 Family Festival Was a Great Success!

Blessed with good weather, the turnout for all activities was significantly higher than in prior years. Our new events were particularly successful. We had 70 entries in the car show and several hundred teens at Festi-Frenzy. We are excited to include these events in our lineup for years to come.

A shout of thanks goes out to the festival committee, chaired by Keith Irwin and Jerianne Conroy, and the many volunteers from our community who served as parade leaders, ran the children's games, helped with the dinner, cleaned up the trash, and supported all of the other events during the week. Likewise, much of our success is due in part to the great financial support received from the community and our corporate and private sponsors. The festival committee is already planning for next year's event, so stay tuned!

Water Rates Adjusted Effective July 1

	Old Rate	Effective July 1
Water base rate per household	\$6.80	\$7.21
Water usage per 1K gallons	\$1.49	\$1.59
Sewer usage per 1K gallons	\$3.43	\$3.74
Storm drain per household	\$8.71	\$9.27

To continue the level of service and to help keep the infrastructure maintained, the city increased some of its rates effective July 1, 2015.

Cedar Hills Summer Concert Series

The Cedar Hills Summer Concert Series continues on July 18 with some amazing local talent. The free concert will feature local bands, along with artists Ally Anderson and Chuch Nichols, two local teens taking over the music scene and climbing the charts! Come and enjoy the sights, sounds, and relaxing atmosphere at the Cedar Hills Heritage Park amphitheater. The music begins at 7:00 p.m. The next concert in the series is August 8.

Soccer League for Kids K thru Second Grade

The city offers leagues for co-ed Kindergarten and first and second grade boys and girls teams. The fall session runs August through September, with registration now available on the city's website until August 2. Separate registrations are now required for the fall and spring sessions. The cost is \$30 for each session.

A reversible, reusable jersey is required for \$5. The jersey will be used for all Cedar Hills recreation programs. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning August 22.

Tot Soccer Registration Is OPEN thru August 8

Tot Soccer is a fun, six-week soccer league for children ages three and four. Games will be played on Tuesday evenings at Mesquite Park starting August 22. Parents are encouraged to coach. Online registration is open until August 2 at cedarhills.org.

Sangaku-kan West Karate Classes

Karate classes for children ages 6-12 are offered at the Cedar Hills Recreation Center. The one-hour classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays for different levels. The next session begins August 24, with registration now available online at cedarhills.org. The registration fee is \$50 for the five-week session. Questions? Please contact the recreation department at recreation@cedarhills.org.

Pickleball Equipment Rentals

Pickleball is a cross between ping pong and tennis, and it's the fastest growing sport in the country! The city now has two pickleball courts, located in the basketball courts at Heritage Park and Timpanogos Cove Park. Call the city office to reserve the equipment (net, four paddles, and four balls), along with a printed set of rules on how to play the game. The equipment rental rates are \$15/day, which includes two hours of court time, and \$20/weekend, which includes four hours of court time. Information on how to reserve the equipment is located at cedarhills.org on the recreation page.

Flag Football Registration Is Open

Cedar Hills offers youth flag football for boys and girls in grades 2 through 9. Registration is available online at cedarhills.org through August 15, with late registration available as space permits. The games run from the end of August through early October.

Teen Flag Football

Cedar Hills is excited to announce the start of a new flag football league for teens in grades 10-12. Sign up as a team or as an individual at cedarhills.org through the end of August. Games begin in September and will be played on weeknights.

Cedar Hills Youth Theater Presents: Disney's *Mulan Jr. — The Musical*

Hey, kids! Interested in musical theater? On Tuesday evenings starting August 25, the city offers theater classes for kids ages 8-18. Exceptions can be made for seven year olds on a case-by-case basis. During this twelve-week course students will learn the basics and finer points of musical theater, while rehearsing and performing Disney's *Mulan Jr.* Each student in the class will have a role in the production, which will be performed three times in November. The three-month class fee is \$35 per month or \$95 if paid in advance. Registration includes lessons by a certified theater instructor and tickets to see other productions in the community. Classes will be held at the Cedar Hills Recreation Center, 10640 N Clubhouse Drive. Please sign up online at: cedarhills.sportsites.com. For more information, email Nicole at nallen@cedarhills.org.

Bookmobile Summer Schedule

The Utah County Bookmobile comes to town every other Monday (July 13 & 27) from 1:00 to 3:00 (extended summer hours) and will be parked at the LDS church located at the roundabout behind Walmart. You may obtain a library card directly from the bookmobile when it is in Cedar Hills. For more information, including updates, cancelations or delays, visit bookmobiles.utah.gov/utah.

Yard Waste Disposal

This is a reminder for all residents to dispose of all solid waste properly. We have had several reports of residents dumping grass clippings and yard waste onto city property and/or empty lots within the city. It is unlawful to dump or otherwise dispose of any solid waste material on any property within the city. Let's keep the city looking beautiful by properly disposing of yard waste and other solid materials.

Alpine Theater Presents *Mary Poppins*

Alpine Community Theater brings the high-flying adventures of *Mary Poppins* to the stage July 24 through August 15. The musical will be presented at the Covey Center for the Arts in Provo nightly at 7:30. Tickets may be purchased online at tickets.covey.center. Tickets will also be available at the door. For more information, call Laura Snyder at 801-404-0736 or visit the ACT website.

Free Classes at Cedar Hills Community Center

Series of Monthly Plants and Soils Classes: These are not your typical gardening classes; they're the advanced edition! Dr. Dianne Farrer gives the scientific background needed to understand soil and water relationships, botany, ecology, and more. Field trips and invited speakers. **Classes continue July 15**, and every **THIRD** Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. No registration required.

Educational Workshops: IFA-sponsored classes will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates: July 1, Pest & Weed Control; August 5, Food Preservation; September 2, TBD; October 7, Winterizing.

