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# PROVIDENCE CITY NEWS

February 2005

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## From the Desk of Mayor Alma Leonhardt



In a previous newsletter, I asked for your questions on some of the most important concerns citizens have for our city. There were six questions that were predominant:

1. **Growth**, the City's biggest challenge, was the main concern brought to my attention. When I was born, there were a few asphalt roads, a few waterlines, and only a few citizens in Providence. Since that time, we have grown to well over 5,800 citizens. All of us that were born here would like to have Providence as rural as it once was, but, unfortunately, that's not the way it works. Almost 80% of the new homes being built in the city are for our own children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Most of the property being built on has been for future development and sale by family members to supplement their income and the incomes of their families. Property owners have the right to use their property the way they want, as long as it meets current City ordinances or meets ordinances acted upon or changed by Planning Commission recommendation and City Council approval.

2. **Water and Water Conservation**. We will always encourage water conservation with our citizens and look for new ways the City can save water. The main issue that would slow or stop growth is lack of water. At the present time, we have a good supply of water and a state award-winning water system. We have a good source from the canyon and five excellent wells with five million gallons of storage—more than any city, except Logan, in the Valley. This summer, for the first time, 90% of the water used at the cemetery will come from a well we purchased, located near the cemetery. This will relieve a large draw on our culinary system. As mentioned in recent newspaper articles, we are now requiring water or water shares for annexed property. The City also requires water before the first home is built in medium or large developments. Also, every new home that is built in Providence pays a substantial impact fee so that when the day comes that we need a new well, the new growth pays for it, and the water shares fill it.

3. **Speeding on City streets and Use of Off-road Vehicles on City Streets**. Speeding is a constant problem in Providence and in all other cities. We have an officer here most of every day, but the officer can't be everywhere at once. This places the responsibility of obeying City laws upon citizens'. Those who don't obey the laws and get stopped receive steep fines.

Another problem we face is off-road vehicles being used on the streets. Off-road vehicles are not allowed on City streets. If picked up, the vehicle is impounded, and it is usually hundreds of dollars to recover.

4. **Parks**. Parks are a great addition to our City, and they are well used. Where better to have our children play than in our neighborhood parks. Here again, we have impact fees on all new building permits that pay for the new parks. We have a new park started in the northwest area of the city that will be completed this spring. It will, at completion, cost about

\$80,000 to \$100,000—all paid for by impact fees and a \$20,000 playground equipment grant. There will be an area for children to play and parents to lay out a blanket for a picnic. This gives Providence open green space that will never be built on.

5. **Roads**. We are spending a large portion of our budget on road improvement and new roads. Roads are expensive. One block (660 feet) of new road is between \$22,000 and \$26,000. Just to resurface one block of road is between \$9,000 and \$11,000.

6. **Utility Bills**. Keeping utility bills as low as possible and still covering all City expenses is a big concern for the City Council. We conducted a study that included seven cities in Cache Valley nearest Providence in size and services and found that Providence was fourth lowest of the eight cities. One utility that keeps us from being one of the lowest is the sewer. We have about five years of payment left on the debt and hope to see a decrease in citizens' monthly sewer utility bills.

Some information that those of you who haven't built a home or business in Providence in the past 8-10 years aren't aware of is we have four impact fees for each new home or business building permit and are assessed: water, \$2,084.00; sewer, \$1,266.00; parks, \$687.00; roads, \$500.00.

Thank you for the questions and for your interest in how your City operates. You help make Providence a better place for all of us.

## Congratulations, Lex Baer

Lex Baer will be honored with a Distinguished Service Award on February 9<sup>th</sup> at the South Towne Exhibition Center in Sandy. He will be honored as one of Utah's distinguished athletic boosters for his tireless devotion to sports in the Cache Valley area. Baer, a member of the Utah Softball Hall of Fame, is credited with helping to expand Utah State's Romney Stadium and with coaching and sponsoring youth teams in Cache Valley. Lex and Peggy have been a great support for Providence recreation and sports programs for many years.

## Providence Night with the Aggies

Providence City is offering \$6.00 tickets for the Utah State University basketball game against Long Beach State on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Come in to the City Office to purchase your tickets. Hurry; they're going fast!

## Winter Parking Hours

Effective November 1, 2004 until April 1, 2005: on-street parking is not permitted from 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m. This will assist snowplow drivers in getting snow cleared from the streets. This includes all vehicles, trailers and equipment.

## Business Licenses Due

Those who have current business licenses should have received an invoice for the 2005 business license renewal fee. Business licenses expired on December 31, 2004. Please return payment as soon as possible to assure continuous license coverage. **Late fees are added to those licenses renewed after January 31, 2005.** A new license for 2005 will be mailed to you upon receipt of your payment.

## 2005 Dog Licenses Available

All dogs over two months old must be licensed. A recent change in Providence City Ordinance implemented a late fee for dogs that were not licensed before January 31st. The fee is now as follows (late fee included in price): an unaltered dog, \$30.00; a spayed or neutered dog, \$20.00. If you have a service dog (guide dog, hearing/signal dog, etc.), the dog must be licensed, but Providence City will waive the fee. If you have a new dog, or if your dog's rabies shot has expired, a proof of rabies certificate is required to receive a 2005 license.

## Water Shares Wanted

Providence City is interested in purchasing water shares from the Providence Blacksmith Fork Irrigation Company and the Spring Creek Irrigation Company. If you're interested in selling your shares, please contact Brenda Nelson at the City Office at 752-9441.

## Hard-to-Reach Mailboxes

During this snowy season, the Post Office has asked that those residents who do not have easy access to their mailboxes put out a temporary, makeshift box near the road (not on the road) for the mailman. An example of a makeshift mailbox is a pole with a bucket or a box on the top. It is advised that the box be taken inside at night so it isn't stolen or knocked out of the way by snowplows or passing cars.

## Courtesy in Snow Removal

The Public Works department would like to remind citizens that it is unlawful to place snow or ice on the street or sidewalk. Place snow into landscaped areas or parkway strips. Also, please keep your fire hydrants clear from snow and ice in case of an emergency.

## Library News

- Preschool story time will be held Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, for Presidents' Day.
- Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> is *Read To Your Child Day*.

*"In the highest civilization, the book is still the highest delight. He who has once known its satisfaction is provided with a resource against calamity."* Ralph Waldo Emerson

### CALENDAR

Feb 8: City Council  
Feb 14: Valentine's Day  
Feb 15: Planning Commission  
Feb 21: City Offices, Library, and Justice Court closed for Presidents' Day  
Feb 22: City Council

## Snow Removal Thanks

The City would like to thank those residents who have been prompt in shoveling their sidewalks in the mornings. This has been a great help to the children walking to school in Providence.

We would also like to thank those citizens who exercised patience in the snow removal situation during the January snow storm. Because the number of snow plows we have is limited, it often takes longer to plow the roads than we would like. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during inclement weather.