

The Garden Spot

Providence City Newsletter



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From the Mayor: Randy Simmons

I have always liked winter. During snow storms in the early 1960s, my friends and I would sleigh ride down 400 South. When the roads were snow packed my Dad would pull us around town on an upside down car hood behind his truck. Do not try that today as it violates all kinds of laws as well as common sense. But my favorite winter activity has always been wrapping myself up in a warm blanket and reading a book. Let me suggest a few that I have been reading:

- *The Price of Government: Getting the results we need in an age of permanent fiscal crisis* by David Osborne and Peter Hutchinson. This book is recommended by Al Gore and Rudolph Giuliani, two people miles apart ideologically. It explains how to buy results for citizens rather than cutting or adding to last year's spending programs. It is a practical guide to comparing the price of government with what we want from government.
- *The Undercover Economist: Exposing why the rich are rich, the poor are poor—and why you can never buy a decent used car!* by Tim Harford. This is a better introduction to economic reasoning than the better known Freakonomics. Harford explains traffic jams, love, war, and poker from an economic perspective. I love this book because it teaches me things and makes me laugh.
- *Going Postal* by Terry Pratchett. I break out laughing whenever I read a Terry Pratchett book. Imagine J.K. Rowling (Harry Potter), Douglas Adams (Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy), and J. R. R. Tolkien (The Lord of the Rings) rolled into one person who writes comedy, satire, and parody. Appreciating him does require an appreciation of the British sense of humor.
- *Sarah* by Orson Scott Card. I like Card's books because of his keen insights into human nature. This book is his attempt to explore what kind of woman might have been a powerful companion to Abraham at a time when women had little formal power.

So why am I suggesting books? Because they are better than television. Because they help us understand processes and people around us. Because they make us think. Each of these books makes me think about what it means to be a neighbor, citizen and elected official. They make me think about the uses and abuses of power. They remind me I have a lot to learn. And they provide me great entertainment now that I cannot go "hooding" behind Dad's truck.

Share your book suggestions with your neighbors by sending them and other newsletter suggestions to heidi.beck@usu.edu.

City Council Update

Welcome to the new Council members: Kathy Baker and Trent Rasmussen (terms expire 2010) and two new Planning Commission members: Bill Bagley (term expires 2008) and Lance Campbell (alternate member, term expires 2008).

A letter from Trent Rasmussen:

I just wanted to take a moment and express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity you as a community have provided me to serve on the council. I am excited about the challenges that inevitably lay before us. I will work diligently to address your concerns and resolve issues. In order to make our community great we must work together. I don't have all the answers but with your input and assistance we can make a difference. I encourage any thoughts or concerns you may have to be brought to my attention via email at trent_rasmussen@comcast.net; I can also be reached from Monday through Friday 10am-2pm at 764-3182.

Again, thank you very much. I am looking forward to serving the citizens of Providence.

Sincerely,
Trent Rasmussen

City Calendar

February 14 City Council
February 20 City Offices Closed for
President's Day
February 21 Planning Commission
February 28 City Council

2006 Dog Licensing Due

2006 Dog licenses are now past due. The fee for an unaltered dog is \$30.00, and for a spayed or neutered dog, \$20.00. All dogs over 8 weeks old need to be licensed. 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 2006 license. Please come in to the City office now and renew your dog's license.

Business Licenses Overdue

Those who have current business licenses should have received an invoice for the 2006 business license renewal fee. Business licenses expired on January 1, 2006. If you haven't already, please return payment for the license to ensure continual coverage. A new license for 2006 will be mailed to you upon receipt of your payment. The fee for business license renewals doubles every 30 days after February 1, 2006. Business licenses that have not been renewed by April 1, 2006 will be revoked.



Curbside Recycling

Interested in a more convenient recycling program? Contact Logan City Environmental Dept. to sign up for curbside recycling. The fee for this service is \$6 per month. Call 716-9753 for more information.

Check out the City Website at:

www.providencecity.org

Stormwater Information

The goals of Providence City Stormwater Programs are to:

- * Slow down water, decreasing its ability to cause erosion and carry pollutants.
- * Reduce the amount of runoff by encouraging water to sink into the ground.
- * Prevent pollution by reducing the use of toxic chemicals, controlling erosion, and covering outdoor storage piles.
- * Remove pollutants by routing runoff into or through settling ponds, grass filter strips, or other treatment systems.

WE CAN ALL HELP

The amount of pollution you stop may seem small, but it all adds up to cleaner water for everyone to enjoy.



Library News

- Preschool story time is held Thursdays, Feb. 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd at 10:30am and 2:00pm.
- The library will be closed Monday, Feb. 20th for Presidents' Day

In celebration of PIONEER, Utah's Online Library, the UEN is sponsoring a contest to raise awareness. Prizes will be awarded for the best entries and a grand prizewinner will be selected at a ceremony in SLC on April 10th. Grand prize – an ipod nano! Come in for details.

The library proposes to begin a Chapter One Club for young adult readers. If interested, contact Marsha at the circulation desk for more information.

Giants Found in Providence

Providence has at least seven giants that we know of. They have been discovered lurking in front yards, back yards, and a few out of the way places. We think there may be more out there and it is up to you to find them. The giants we are talking about are trees--the largest of their kind in the state of Utah. No other city in the state has more champion trees per capita than Providence (see www.utahurbanforest.org). These trees are a monument to visionary people who properly planted the right tree in the right place and did not abuse them through neglect, mal pruning or construction damage. We have a great tree heritage to preserve and enhance through proper tree care and new plantings. Providence has an excellent street tree list at the City Office. A few things to consider when planting trees: Select an appropriate tree for your planting site. Consider soil, exposure, and how much room the tree has to grow. Purchase high quality trees from reputable suppliers. Junky trees are not a bargain in the long run. Plant properly, maintain through proper watering, proper pruning (very important when young) and use 2-4" of organic mulch around the trees.

If you do it right the first time you will not only have to purchase and plant the tree once but you and future generations will be able to enjoy its shade and beauty. Make a New Year's resolution to plant a few trees to beautify our homes and neighborhoods.

Mark Malmstrom,
Certified Arborist

