

# Providence City Newsletter

## Upcoming Events

### City Council

2nd & 4th Tuesdays except July,  
November and December

Tuesday, September 11 and 25 @  
6:00PM

### Planning Commission

2nd & 4th Wednesdays except July,  
November and December

Wednesday, September 12 and 26 @  
6:00PM

### Justice Court

From 4:00PM - 6:00PM

Every Monday, except holidays

### Mayor's Town Hall,

First Saturday of each month)

October 6 from 8:00AM to  
10:00AM Topic -

## Contact Information

Providence City Offices

164 North Gateway Drive

(435) 752-9441

### \*\* After-Hours Emergencies \*\*

Fire or police emergencies - 911  
Animal control 435-753-7555  
City related issues 752-9441; after  
hours message will have an on-call  
number to call a city employee who  
will respond.

### Direct line to the Mayor

(435) 760-8989 cell

[johnd@providence.utah.gov](mailto:johnd@providence.utah.gov)

## The Mayor's Memo

You've probably noticed our big streets projects are continuing in to September. The crack sealing, fog sealing and HA5 surface treatment work was contracted to Holbrook Asphalt. Holbrook has experienced problems with the sealant material they receive from their suppliers. The result has been delays in getting the large maintenance and repair projects completed so we can have the street striping done and crosswalks painted.

### Traffic citations?

We get frequent complaints from residents about speeding vehicles, people rolling through stop signs, and juveniles on ATVs and other unsafe driving. We take these complaints seriously.

Every Monday morning, I review all the citations issued from the previous week. I meet with the Star Deputy assigned to Providence once a week to discuss traffic and other concerns. I frequently call non-emergency dispatch to contact or relay a message to the deputy on duty of a particular concern that has been communicated to me.

The city also owns a pair of "radar signs" that we deploy to known areas of frequent speed violations.

You've seen these signs when they flash to indicate the speed you are traveling. We generate weekly reports from these signs that summarize by hour segment the number of vehicles, the number of speed violations, maximum speed, average speed and percent of violations. These are relocated every two weeks. The reports help us determine if enforcement and other measures have had an affect on driving habits.

### Welcome new businesses in town

Capriotti's is now open; you need to stop by and give their sandwiches and salads a try. Panda Express is open and I often see the order line going out the door. I think they should have built a building twice the size.

My wife and I saw Quick Quack Car Wash open and drove in and signed up. They offer a flat rate per month for unlimited washes. Their equipment does an exceptionally good job, especially on the hard to clean places such as the tires.

Please consider shopping, dining and having your car serviced in Providence so we can keep the sales tax dollars at home.

—John Drew, Mayor

## FIRE CONTRACT WITH LOGAN CITY

At the August 28 City Council meeting, former Logan City Fire Chief and former Providence resident Mark Meaker spoke to the council and those present. Mark covered a number of topics in much depth that went beyond previous discussions that included three fire chiefs from Logan, Smithfield and Cache County.

Chief Meaker has a bachelors degree in Journalism and a Masters in Public Administration as well as a recipient of a number of civic awards and recognition. He has served in numerous roles during his career starting with volunteer and full-time firefighter, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, assistant chief and chief (at 4 jurisdictions).

Besides being well spoken, Mark is a great source of expert information with his 47 years experience and wide range of assignments at increasing levels of responsibility. Mark spoke about volunteer fire departments, education/training/certifications of firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, OSHA requirements (personnel and equipment) for fighting fires, why fighting fires today is much more dangerous, why newer structures are likely to fail and collapse more so today, staffing needs, and why fewer people want to be firefighters today.

Chief Meaker spent some time discussing an offer he made as Logan City Fire Chief to the leadership of Providence City 10 years ago that would have locked in the current contract rate for 20 years. At the time, Logan City determined that an additional fire station was needed at the south end of the city. Chief Meaker stated that the offer was that if the City were to build a station in Providence, that the contract rate of 2% would be held unchanged. He did say that at the time, Mayor Simmons was in favor but the council was apparently not forward thinking enough to approve and in his words decided to, "Kick the can down the road."

After that interesting comment Mark remarked that as a Providence resident for 9 years he noted that on a number of critical issues councils at the time chose to, "Kick the can down the road." Indeed. Roads, impact fees, parks, secondary water, sewer, culinary water.

When one of our council members asked if he did consulting work, Mark stated that he would gladly offer any advice and review any emergency services proposal for us without charge.

John Drew, Providence City Mayor



Rob Stapley  
Public Works Director

### Public Works Department

Thank you for your patience through the construction season so far this year. We know that some of our road projects have been an inconvenience but they have been necessary projects to improve our City.

We would like to remind you that if you are in the area of any projects, please use caution and please respect the road closed signs. The signs are placed to protect you as our citizens, those working in the area and the project.

Thank you again for your patience.

—Rob Stapley, Public Works Director

### City Office Administration

#### It's Oktoberkraut in September!

It is time to Celebrate Providence with Sweet Rides and Sauerkraut. Our Celebration will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 27, 28 & 29.

Oktoberkraut City Celebration will begin with a Fun Run and Movie in the Park Friday evening, September 28. Festivities continue on Saturday, September 29 with the parade, Mechanical Bull & Cowboy Corner, Sweet Rides and Sauerkraut Car Show, kids' games, inflatable slides, vendors, live music, great food, fun, and friends.

To make this event even better, we need your help. If you would like to volunteer to help with the activities or participate in the event, please call the City Office for more information.

**Miss Providence Pageant and Little Darlings** will be held September 27. Applications for Miss Providence and Little Darlings are available at the City Office and on the City website.

**Youth Council** - Now accepting applications for the 2018/2019 year. This is an opportunity for youth in the 8th – 12th grades to acquire a greater knowledge of the community through active participation in community affairs. Applications available on the City website: <http://www.providencecity.com/youth-council.htm>

#### Did you know . . .

When riding OHV/ATVs on Providence City streets, make sure you follow City Code and State Code.

- Operators age 16 and older must have in their possession a valid state driver's license/learner's permit OR Utah OHV Education Certificate for the OHV type they are operating.
- All persons under the age of 18 must properly wear protective headgear.
- Operators under the age of 16 must have in their possession a Utah OHV Education Certificate for the OHV type they are operating AND is under direct adult visual supervision.
- Direct visual supervision is oversight at a distance of no more than 300 feet; and within which visual contact is maintained; and advice and assistance can be given and received.

For more information see Providence City Code Title 5, Chapter 9, "Off Highway Vehicles" on our website <http://www.providencecity.com/city-code.htm>

— Skarlet Bankhead, Admin Services Director

### Sister City News - Millville Will Have a Sewer System

A couple weeks ago I received a phone call from Millville Mayor David Hair. He told me that Millville City had just been notified that State Water Quality would be requiring them to come up with a plan to replace their septic tank system with a city-wide sewer system.

Millville residents have had the question of paying to have sewer piping installed put on the ballot a number of times. Each time the vote was overwhelmingly against.

State water quality engineers closely monitor test results of culinary water wells of all cities. Of particular interest is not only culinary wells in cities with septic tank systems, but neighboring cities as well. With growing populations of Millville and neighboring cities, maintaining water quality has been a big concern.

Mayor Hair stated that the state is willing to provide some grant money for the city to develop the plans, engineer the project and install the underground piping. That's the good news. The bad news is that Millville residents will be hit with a triple whammy; the grant money will not cover all the piping costs, homeowners will have to pay to hook up to the new sewer lines, and Millville City will have to send the wastewater off and have to pay for it to be treated.

Millville has the lowest property tax rates of any city in Cache Valley. No doubt that will change.

— John Drew, Mayor



Skarlet Bankhead  
Administrative Services Director



David Hair  
Millville City Mayor

# Is Providence a Rural City?

I recently attended a conference put on by the Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) titled, “Rural Mayors Summit.” Mayors from Utah, Wyoming and Idaho were invited. At the kick-off dinner, Lieutenant Governor Spencer Cox was the featured speaker and talked about growing up and living in Fairview. He talked about his rural roots there in Sanpete County. The Lt. Governor is always an entertaining speaker.

After the dinner speech extolling the virtues of rural life, I turned to Logan Mayor Holly Daines and asked, “Are we rural?” It didn’t take more than a couple seconds for her to answer “No.” About 5 minutes later, I asked Millville Mayor David Hair the same question. He said, “Yes, we are rural.”

## *How do you define rural?*

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines rural as, “Of or relating to the country, country people or life, or agriculture.” When agriculture is mentioned, we assume it refers to people making a living, supporting their family by farming or ranching. Do our residents think we are a rural city?

It depends on who you ask. For some, rural is a subjective state of mind. For others, rural is an objective quantitative measure. I do know there are residents in parts of the city that have cows and horses, so some residents call us rural.

## *Rural Providence*

Providence was founded in 1859 as a farming community. In 1864 the town was laid out into square 8-acre (32,000 m<sup>2</sup>) blocks, each divided into six lots of approximately one and one-third acres. East of Main Street the lots face north-south; they face east-west on the western side of town.

For more than a hundred years, the major activity of most of the people of Providence was farming. Irrigation canals were dug from the Spring Creek and from the Blacksmith Fork and Logan rivers. The livestock industry included the raising of beef cattle (1859), honey bees (1866), horses (1870), dairy cattle (1874), poultry (1918), and foxes (1928). The horticulture industry included growing grain and alfalfa; apple, cherry, pear, and prune orchards; and peas, beans, and sugar beets.

Beginning in 1886 Joseph Alastor Smith established Edgewood Hall (now 200 East, 300 South) as a nursery and dairy operation on the bench overlooking Providence. After its 28-room manor burned to the ground on Labor Day of 1935, the 140-acre (0.57 km<sup>2</sup>) estate was acquired by Wall Street financier and Logan native L. Boyd Hatch. An elegant formal estate was created by Hatch, but he sold out in 1953 to cattleman Theron Bringham.

You can see the grid pattern of the original Providence City block of 8 acres on a map ([cachecounty.org/gis](http://cachecounty.org/gis)), with the 1 1/3 acre parcels which sustained an entire family. We don’t find anyone trying to do that in Providence any more. Millville has two dairy farms and few small farms and ranches.

## *Planning for Future Growth*

In years past, a previous mayor stated that he would never allow homes to be built on the benches above Edgewood Hall (above the downtown area). Another mayor said that there would never be commercial or retail business along Highway 165 as this was reserved for farms and ranches.

Twenty years ago in 1998, Providence had 1170 housing units and a population of 4331. Today there are about 2200 residences and a population of 7411.

The last City General Plan governing principles from 2000 included:

- Continue the community’s rural character
- Preserve valued historic community assets
- Create civic spaces and safe, pedestrian-friendly streets
- Develop schools, city center, parks, as centers of community activity
- Encourage preservation and management of open spaces.
- Continue domestic animal privileges under appropriate controls
- Develop mixed-use neighborhoods (retail, commercial, and a full range of housing opportunities)

Over the past 18 years, has city leadership adhered to and accomplished the above? If so, how? And if not, in what way? Where are we now?

## *Today’s Growth Challenges*

Today’s challenges to Utah cities are daunting. To put things in perspective, the Housing Gap Coalition formed by the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce has recently stated that Utah has 250,000 more households than there are housing units.

According to Envision Utah CEO, Robert Grow, 80% of the population growth in Utah has been from within the state. Utah is one of the top 3 fastest growing states since 2010, the last census along with Nevada and Idaho.

How does a rural city adapt to a changing Utah? Do we build on some of that green rural land? Do we infill larger lots in existing parts of the city? Do we prohibit anything other than single family homes? How affordable are single family homes today?

## *What is our city’s role?*

The state legislature is watching the housing shortage issue with growing concern. The State of Utah requires every city to file a bi-annual Moderate Income Housing Plan (UCA 10-9a-401(3)(b)). Moderate income housing is not low-income housing. From state code, “Moderate income housing means housing occupied or reserved for occupancy by households with a gross household income equal to or less than 80% of the median gross income for households of the same size in the county in which the city is located.”

In Cache Valley, that calculates to an annual household income level of about \$43,000, just under \$1,000 a month total mortgage payment and a maximum home price of \$175,000 at today’s interest rates. As of this writing, I find two duplexes for sale in Providence at \$185,000 and nothing less than that available.

Much of the language in the State Code (UCA 10-9a-103) uses coercive terms such as “shall” such as, “The report *shall* include a description of efforts made by the municipality to reduce, mitigate, or eliminate local regulatory barriers to moderate income housing.” You can view the report requirements here:

<https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/affordable/moderate/index.html#biennialreporting>

With the price of property doubling in many parts of the city over the past 12 - 15 years, many Providence residents could not afford to purchase the home they live in today.

Email me at [johnmd@providence.utah.gov](mailto:johnmd@providence.utah.gov). I would appreciate your comments.

—John Drew, Mayor

## Suicide Awareness/Mental Health Training

Wednesday, September 19, 2018 7-8:30 pm

### *Mount Logan Middle School Auditorium*

Bear River Health Department's BreeAnn Silcox and Phil Collins will present QPR gatekeeper training to our community to educate us on adult and teen suicide risk.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer. Just like CPR (anyone can become trained in it to potentially save a life), learning QPR can save a life from mental health struggles.

In this training, you will learn about common myths and facts of suicide, how to recognize warning signs and clues that someone may be considering suicide, the fundamentals of asking the 'question,' how to 'persuade' someone to live, and how and where to 'refer' them to get the help and care they truly need.

You'll have the opportunity to engage in role-play and practice what it means to be a gatekeeper- one who can save a life using the skills learned in this training.

- Submitted by Karina Brown, Candidate for Utah House District 5

## Share the Road Safely - School has Begun

The School year has begun, and it is crucial that motorists understand how to safely share the roads with school buses, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

### **Walking/Biking To School Safety**

- Obey all traffic signals.
- Walk or bike with a friend.
- Go directly to school and directly home afterwards.
- Do not play in vacant fields or lots.
- Stay on the sidewalk or bike path.
- If someone approaches you or makes you feel uncomfortable, do not talk to them and keep walking or riding.

### **Bus Stop Safety**

- Know your bus number.
- Do not play in the street.
- Stay on the sidewalk or grass.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Stay seated while on the bus.

### **For Parents: Vehicle Traffic Safety**

- Slow down. Be alert in school zones and residential neighborhoods.
- Enter and exit driveways carefully.
- Reduce distractions in your car: texting, eating, etc.

### **Reminders for your kids**

- Never run out into the street or cross in between parked cars.
- Walk in front of the bus where the driver can see them

—Beth Munson, Treasurer, Court Clerk and Crossing Guard Supervisor

## Providence Cemetery

Amid the grass and evergreen trees in a plot of ground is the oldest grave in the cemetery dating back to 1861. In that historic year, Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and The Civil War began at Fort Sumter near Charleston South Carolina. The first person to be buried was Magdalene Theuer, who died the day of her birth Dec 23.1861.

The Providence City Cemetery is located at 925 River Heights Blvd, on Providence City owned property in Cache County surrounded by River Heights. Shane Hansen has been the City's sexton for more than thirteen years. Shane and his co-worker Austin Reed schedule burials in the eighteen-acre cemetery winter, spring, summer and fall.

The Providence City Cemetery is a significant cultural and historical resource that needs to be maintained with the utmost respect. Providence City Cemetery is a place for the living to honor their past today.

### Gentle Reminders:

Floral pieces and containers will be removed without notice when they become unsightly. Lot owners desiring to retain floral pieces must remove those within seven (7) days after the interment. Floral pieces will be removed and disposed of seven (7) days following Memorial Day.

Holiday decorations will be removed seven (7) days following the holiday.

Only one monument is allowed per space. No burials are done on Sunday or holidays. All burials are required to be placed in a vault.

Two cremations may be placed in a single space.

No person may erect or maintain any fence, corner post, coping or boundary of any kind, plant any vegetation upon any lot or lots, street, alley or walk in the cemetery, or grade the ground or land.

Esther Cowley - Office Services Specialist

