

PROVIDENCE CITY NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

City Council

3rd Wednesday
November 18th @ 6:00PM

Planning Commission

2nd Wednesday
November 11 @ 6:00PM

Justice Court

From 4:00PM - 6:00PM
Every Monday, except holidays

Open court hearings have been suspended until further notice. Check with the court clerk for questions.

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
(Cache County non-emergency dispatch)
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

www.providencecity.com

The Mayor's Memo

Community Connect

Last month, Logan City Fire Chief Brad Hannig addressed the city council and announced that a new program had been developed to serve the community. This program is designed to provide information to First Responders about the call they are responding to, BEFORE they arrive.

The intent is for Fire/EMS crews to arrive on site better prepared to respond effectively and efficiently. In an emergency, seconds count. Response time to the site is important as is rapidly assessing the extent of the emergency after arrival.

See the Community Connect article on page 4.

<https://www.communityconnect.io/info/ut-logan>.

General Election

Elections have consequences as they say. Many are saying that this year will be the most consequential in our lifetime.

Why consequential? In my mind its a choice between more and ever growing government involvement and intrusion in to our daily lives while maintaining limits on government intrusiveness and keeping our freedoms.

Preview of Next Year's Municipal Election

Next year we have municipal elections with 3 council seats including the mayor on the ballot. What do council members do? What are the job requirements? Simply put, there are none. The job is what you make of it.

After 7 years serving Providence City on the

council, I know some members put an enormous amount of effort in to being well informed and prepared. Others show up to read the agenda package 15 minutes before. We will see who steps up to the challenge.

Referendum

We've had a number of people who have asked about the referendum they expected to see on their ballot. There have also been some misunderstanding about the delay in appearing on the ballot. Here is some background.

In March of 2019, a group of residents filed a petition for a referendum to challenge a council decision made that month. The petitioners obtained enough signatures to qualify the referendum for the ballot.

The State Code states that if a referendum qualifies after January 30 of a municipal election year, then it will appear on the ballot the following municipal election (2 years later). It also says the council can approve a special election. Both the 2019 council and 2020 council declined to add the referendum to the ballot.

The State Code at the time of the petition filing did not allow city government to comment on the merits of the approved legislative (council) decision, or the petitioners' referendum. The Code has since been amended to require petitioners to present a pamphlet explaining both party's positions to a prospective referendum signer. However since the petition qualified before the legislation was signed by the governor, there will be nothing from the city countering the arguments of proponents of the referendum.

John Drew, Providence City Mayor

Home Prices Continue to Skyrocket

At home we receive regular updates by postcard from several local real estate agents, some of the top producers in Cache Valley. For the past 8 years or so, we have seen these notices report 8% to 10% price increases regularly. At that rate over 8 years, prices double.

In Providence, recent prices have increased even more than the countywide numbers:*

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Single Family Homes # Sold	74	79	88	82
Single Family Median Price	\$286,250	\$319,900	\$329,500	\$384,000
Townhouses # Sold	6	5	15	29
Townhouses Median Price	\$131,650	\$175,000	\$207,500	\$224,500

*Cache Valley Association of Realtors

City Office Administration

Thank You Volunteers!

Providence City had some great events this year, such as baseball, softball, kickball, flag football, and pickleball. We had more than 90 super volunteers that helped make our events successful. We have also had some very capable folks work with us on steering and celebration committees. Our Appeal Authority and Historic Preservation Commission members also volunteer their time. We would like to give a huge “Shout-Out” and “Thank You” to all!

Business License Renewal

2020 business license renewals are due January 1. Renew by December 31 and receive a 10% discount.

Dog License Renewal

All dog licenses in Providence City expire on December 31. Renewal opens December 1. Along with your renewal, please provide proof of rabies vaccination.

Youth Council Advisor

We are looking for **youth council advisors**. Generally, the youth council meets twice a month at the Providence City Offices; one meeting is a planning meeting and the other is an activity or guest speaker. In the past, youth council activities have included: visit with the Easter Bunny, storm water education day, city celebration, city tree lighting and visit with Santa. If you enjoy working with youth and serving the community, please contact Council Member Carrie Kirk, 435-757-1444, ckirk@providence.utah.gov; or email providencecityyc@gmail.com

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa

You are invited to join us for our Visit with Santa and 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 3 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the 100 North Roundabout. The tree lights will be turned on at 7:30 p.m. Ornaments will be available for a donation (recommended donation is \$15, but all donations will be accepted) at the city office beginning November 16. Proceeds from the ornament sales will go to The Family Place. The Youth Council will also be collecting donations for the Cache Food Pantry. You can drop your items off at the City Office or bring them to the tree lighting.

Holiday Lighting Contest

If you would like your residence considered for the Holiday Lighting Contest, please visit www.providencecity.com, print and complete the entry form and return it to the City. Judging will take place December 7 - 12.

As you visit our recreation facilities and participate in our programs, please remember to practice the appropriate social distancing guidelines. Also, please help us keep our parks clean and user friendly by putting your trash in the trash cans.

Winter Parking Hours are in Effect

- Winter parking hours go into effect 24 hours after the first snowstorm that requires the City to plow the streets in November; or December 1, whichever is earlier.
- Vehicles or equipment cannot be parked in the City right-of-way from 12:00 AM (midnight) to 6:00 AM. If there is no curb, vehicles or equipment must be a minimum of eight-feet (8') from the asphalt.

- The City will not be liable for any damage occurring to any vehicle or equipment parked on any street or right-of-way, during street and right-of-way maintenance.
- For complete ordinance, see Providence City Code [6-2-8:A Winter Regulations: Night Parking](#).

Parking citations will be issued for violation of this ordinance. Overnight parking citation fee is \$25. The fee reduces to \$20 if paid within the first five days. You must bring the citation with you to the city office if paying within the first five days.

— Skarlet Bankhead, Administrative Services Director

Public Works

The Public Works Department is beginning our annual leaf pick up. Please make sure that all leaves are bagged and placed on the curb/edge of property (not in the gutter) for pick up. For those who have curb and gutter in front of your home, please bag your leaves rather than rake them into the gutter.

As the Public Works Department begins leaf cleanup, we will be cleaning leaves from the gutters to prevent storm drains and waterways from clogging and flooding. This program is **NOT** designed for homeowners to rake their entire yard into the gutter for the City to clean up. We appreciate your help in making this program a success.

We've had quite a few calls concerning park strip trees and responsibility of maintenance. Here is a portion of our city code that should answer some questions and concerns:

D. Trees: Trees may be used in park strips greater than four feet (4') in width subject to the following limitations:

1. No tree shall be planted in a park strip without first obtaining a permit from the City.
2. Tree species must be listed on the City's Park Strip Tree List.
3. Trees within overhead utility easement shall be of a species that customarily grows to a height not exceeding fifteen feet (15').
4. Tree size shall be a minimum of two-inch (2") caliper (measured at a point six inches (6") above the soil line) at the time of planting,
5. Maintenance (pruning, removal, etc.) of trees is the responsibility of the abutting property owner. Except in the case of an emergency, a permit from the City is required before removing a park strip tree. The bottom of the canopy should be maintained to 14' over the roadway and 8' over the sidewalk.
6. Trees are not allowed in park strips four (4) feet wide or less.

E. Notwithstanding anything in this chapter, the city retains the right to maintain, remove, or alter the park strip landscaping as the city deems necessary.

The entire city code on this topic can be found on the website in section 7-1-8, “Park Strips.”

Winterize your sprinklers

As temperatures are dropping we would like to remind you to winterize your sprinkler systems. This will help prevent your sprinkler lines from freezing and breaking.

The **last curbside leaf pickup** will be Wednesday, November 18th.

— Rob Stapley, Public Works Director

City Streets Update / City Manager Update

City Streets - The City's Largest Investment

Once a year I write an article to give our residents an update on our city streets. Streets and roads are our largest investment of all city owned assets combined. Roads are worth \$3 million per mile. With 42 miles of roads, the capital value is \$126 million. To put this in perspective, our total general fund budget is just under \$5 million.

When I began serving on the Providence City Council in 2014, the biggest complaint we received was about the condition of city streets. We had over 300 city blocks and we were rebuilding 2 – 3 a year. That put us on a trajectory of replacing a city street once every 100-plus years. The choice of which streets to fix was voted on by the city council; a political rather than engineering decision.

After a survey of city streets conducted in 2017 by USU LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program) and accompanying report, the city council adopted a 5-year maintenance, repair and replacement plan. The following year in 2018, we commenced work on our 5-year plan. This year, we have completed year 3 of our plan. See the original LTAP report here: www.providencecity.com/public-works and click on "Reports."

The essence of the street engineers' recommendation is that an investment in extending the life of existing good roads is the best use of taxpayer money; and to let failing roads fail. A new road will last approximately 20 years. Good maintenance practices will extend the life to 60 years or more. A road that appears rough on the surface does not mean the road is in failing structural condition.

What did we accomplish this past year?

- Crack & joint seal – 40 blocks (city streets staff)
- Chip & seal – 10 blocks, 77,500 sq ft (Staker Parson)
- Ha5 surface treatment - 95 blocks, 727,000 sq ft, (Holbrook)
- Rotomill (remove asphalt and replace) – 2 blocks (Staker Parson)

There were no complete street rebuilds this past year. We gained almost 2 miles of city streets in the past 2 years due to new development. We now have about 42 miles and 350 city blocks to maintain, repair and eventually replace.

Being considered for next year

- 100 West from 500 South to 100 North, 6 blocks (rotomill only)
- 200 South from 100 East to 200 West (complete rebuild to include new water lines)
- 100 East from Center to 100 North complete rebuild (next to Providence Elementary)
- 100 South from 200 West to 400 West new road (COG grant funds applied for)

Best use of streets department resources

Our streets staff are all certified in road maintenance, repair and replacement. They receive professional certifications and annual training. During winter months when not pushing snow, our staff are doing vehicle and equipment maintenance in preparation for the upcoming season. Early attention in the spring to the effects of winter damage to roads pay dividends in doing repairs before more extensive damage occurs.

The biggest operating cost of running a streets department (not including contracted projects) is labor. Equipment owned by the city

is acquired for the purpose of making our city staff most productive. Large projects are bid out to contractors with specialized equipment and skilled laborers.

Next year we will have an updated streets survey done by streets engineers, with an accompanying report on block-by-block conditions and accompanying recommendations. After that report has been received, we will update our 5-year plan as needed. Science not politics.

—John Drew, Mayor

City Manager

As we continue to work to manage the city, the administration and I have been working on a number of items. Over the past few months we have applied for several grants including to develop a Fiber Master Plan, to install sidewalks near some of our schools, and to widen a section of road way. All of these amount to over a million dollars in grant applications. While we don't receive every grant we apply for, our chances of getting grant funding exponentially increases when we do apply.

Master Plans

We continue to make significant progress in our Master Planning efforts. A draft of the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master plan was presented to City Council at its last meeting. If you missed the presentation its worth watching on the City's YouTube channel. We are also reviewing a draft of the Transportation Master plan. We have completed much of the data collection for the Sewer Master Plan. Other planning efforts will be forth coming.

Spring Creek Water Company

Providence City and Spring Creek Water company representatives, including Council Members Sealy and Kirk, Board Members Daniels and Kowallis, and myself have been meeting regularly for the past 7 months to come to an agreement that benefits both Spring Creek Water Company and Providence City. That agreement has now been approved unanimously by both Providence City Council and Spring Creek Water Company board. This is a great move to building a long term partnership and cooperative relationship between both entities into the future.

Fiber Network

We continue the discussion with Strata Networks and our citizen lead Fiber Technical Advisory committee to investigate the possibility of providing Providence City Residents with fast reliable fiber infrastructure. If you have interest in this please see our website for details.

Sidewalks

Over time sidewalks can sink or heave causing possible hazards. As a step towards fixing these possible hazards we have identified hazards in the downtown area, and have contracted with Precision Concrete Cutting to fix the worst identified hazards. We hope this will help move pedestrian traffic back to our sidewalks.

As always the Council and Staff welcome feedback or input from you on items we are working on.

— Ryan Snow, City Manager

Community Connect

Provide Vital Information with First Responders
In Advance of an Emergency

As you know, the Logan City Fire Department provides our Fire and Emergency Services for our city. Chief Brad Hannig spoke to the city council to announce a new program has been added that allows the residents in Providence to share valuable life safety information with First Responders.

Residents provide details about their home, family, children, pets, medical/functional needs and other vital information, so that when First Responders are dispatched to an emergency at that residence, they have information before arriving on scene.

In the event of an emergency, residents that have shared their specific needs and information will enable First Responders to be most effective when arriving on the scene of an emergency call.

You can find more information about Community Connect and post your information here: <https://www.communityconnect.io/info/ut-logan>. Entering the information is simple and straightforward and can be done in less than 15 minutes.

This is an extremely useful addition to the Fire and Emergency Services provided by Logan City for Providence and is at no additional cost to our city. I included pictures and information on our pets, utility shutoffs and vital medical information for my wife and I.

You can reach out to Craig Humphreys, Fire Marshal, if you have any questions or concerns or need further information. Craig can be reached via phone at 435-716-9515 or email at craig.humphreys@loganutah.org.

— John Drew, Mayor



Business Licenses Coming Due

Please remember to renew your business license!

Anyone operating a business in their home, in a separate building, or an Internet business where the office is out of the residence needs a business license. Each license is good from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. New licenses are due on Jan. 1 with a late fee added February 1, and a second penalty added on March 1.

There are two types of business licenses:

- Home business – located in the home
- Commercial business – located in a commercial zone

The license fee for commercial businesses is \$50.00/year. The license fee for home businesses is \$25.00/year.

Annual business License fees are due January 1, 2021, and become delinquent if not paid prior to February 1 of each year. If the annual fee is paid prior to the expiration (December 31), the fee will be reduced by 10%.

Invoices for business licenses will be sent out the first week in November.

—Esther Cowley, Office Specialist

** TOY DRIVE **

Little Lambs will be hosting the 5th annual Foster Families Christmas Party (Drive thru Event) the 1st week in December! We are collecting new unwrapped toys & pajamas. If you would like to sponsor a child and help make this night magical for the kids, we will be collecting toys until December 1st. We are trying to keep all the toys in the price range of \$10-\$15 each.

If your business, church or organization would like to contribute please contact us at 435-764-4439. You can choose a child's tag from one of our giving trees at Anderson Seed & Garden, Harris Research or The Sports Academy! If you would like to donate to help sponsor this event for the kids, please visit Littlelambsofutah.org/donate or by Venmo @littlelambsofutah

Thank you for helping us make magical memories for children in foster care. Little Lambs will continue our Holiday Toy drive for the children's comfort kits through December!

