



## CITY NEWSLETTER

March 5, 2015

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### ARSON UPDATE

As many of you know, there have been two developments in Orem that have been victim to arson fires over the last few months.

The City continues to strategically deploy additional patrol to help prevent something like this from happening in the future. Meetings have been held with all developers in the community to discuss additional safety measures that they can take at their construction site.

The Police Department continues to follow up on all leads. We believe that someone knows who is responsible. There is currently a \$13,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the individual or individuals responsible for this crime. Anyone with information is encouraged to call 801-229-7070.

Together we can keep Orem Safe!



### CITIZEN RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY

Recently the City of Orem contracted with a research firm to find out how citizens would like the City to prioritize the recreational needs in the City. The City will receive approximately \$900K each year of CARE tax which will be dedicated to recreational amenities/facilities around the community. Here are the takeaways from the citizen survey.



**1) A super-majority of Orem residents approve of the CARE tax that was renewed in the 2013 election.**

**2) Residents strongly lean toward using the CARE recreation money to pay for upgrades to existing facilities rather than purchasing new ones.**

**3) The most popular upgrades focus on improving the playgrounds, the city fitness center, and adding bike lanes.**

**4) If the city decides to invest in new facilities, public sentiment leans away from large projects and instead prefers smaller investments - again - focused on playgrounds and other facilities for children.**

[Click Here](#) for the full results.

The deliberations on how to use these funds will take place during the May 12th City Council pre-meeting at 3:00 PM in the Public Safety Building. All are welcome to attend!

## GLASS RECYCLING AND GREEN WASTE PICKUP

Waste Management recently delivered a glass recycling bin to the City. The drop off is located at the public works building at 1450 W 550 N.



Also as a reminder, March is the month that we begin collecting green waste again!

See our [website](#) for all things related to garbage and recycling!

## ROGER CLEMENS - OREM OWLZ

On June 20th 7-time Cy Young winner Roger Clemens "The Rocket" will be throwing out the first pitch to kick off the 2015 Orem Owlz home season.



[Click here](#) for a full press release.

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

Orem Community Hospital (OCH) will be the site of Orem's first community garden. On March 17th @ 5:30 the CEO of Orem Community Hospital will meet with interested citizens to share their plan! They are looking for interested volunteers to help with the garden. If you are interested in attending the meeting and/or keeping up with the community garden happenings, please provide us your email address by clicking [here](#).



## FREE FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR FOR FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

UVU is hosting a free financial seminar to discuss legal and financial steps caregivers can take in providing for those with disabilities. The event is being held on campus on March 25th at 6:30 and is free to the public.



This seminar is 100% education. No product or company will be promoted at the event. However, registration is required.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The State of Utah Legislature held their first day of general session on January 26, 2015 this year and will hold their final day on March 12, 2015.

As I write this article there is little over a week left of time to finish up this years legislation.

One of the areas that is most pressing is a comprehensive transportation bill to address the ongoing need to fund our state and city road maintenance and construction.



Senate Bill 160 is proposing a 10 cent increase in the motor fuel tax. Another approach is proposing to combine a 5 cent increase in the motor fuel tax together with a formula to allow tax revenues to increase as fuel prices rise. The deal also would allow counties to ask voters to approve a quarter cent per per dollar sales tax hike to pay for local roads and mass transit.

All of these proposals are on the table and it is yet undetermined as to which approach the combined House and Senate will take towards passage of an increase in revenues for transportation for the State of Utah.

This legislation is being considered as there is a \$11.3 billion (Billion) dollar shortfall to cover priority road and transit projects through 2040.

According to the Utah Foundation, the population of Utah is set to nearly double by the year 2050. At the same time our motor fuel tax was last raised by 5.5 cents in 1997. Since that time it has lost about half of its purchasing power or 12.5 cents of the total tax due to inflation.

So we will have almost double the amount of demand on our roads in the coming 35 years, but with today's road revenues we have about half the purchasing power as in the past to deal with it.

Our roads and transportation system are of paramount importance for our citizens and businesses to move around. If we neglect this system it will cost us much more in the future. Smart Growth America estimates that for every \$1 spent now for maintenance, we save \$6 to \$14 dollars later in new construction.

While I am in favor of low taxes, it has been 18 years since we have last addressed this problem. The legislature should pass a transportation package this year to deal with this issue.

There are 12 states that are considering raising the motor fuel tax to pay for their roads. Utah is one of those states.

I believe it is time to invest in our roads, keep our maintenance up to date, look at new locations for additional roads, and move forward to provide for the future of our cities and state transportation needs.

I appreciate our legislators who are grappling with this problem. I also appreciate those who moved forward in the past to build and maintain our transportation system.

It is vital that we keep what we have in good condition and plan for the future for our transportation needs.

Mayor Brunst

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