A Message from the City Council

A lot of excitement has happened this last year and it’s great to see some big announcements take place. Sometimes what is not seen are the activities and efforts that go into making things happen. We look back at 2014 as a year of stabilization combined with the positive effects of an improving economy and a city organization that is coming together and gaining momentum.

Not long ago, Orem was dealing with significant challenges. Our experienced City Manager, Jim Reams, passed away, as did our highly respected Mayor Washburn. The economy was putting strains on the budget and UTOPIA was asking for more money from the cities. We lost several experienced employees to retirement and hadn’t given employees raises for several years. Things seemed down without much to celebrate.

However, Orem has come roaring back! In this edition of the newsletter you will see a page titled “It Happened in Orem” which lays out what citizens have suggested are Orem’s biggest stories of the year. Future exciting developments include continued growth at UVU that will provide wonderful educational opportunities, Bus Rapid Transit that will be an additional public transportation option and improve air quality, and a wonderful new park for our citizens to enjoy.

The city continues to improve its public communication with greater use of social media, monthly electronic newsletter, and quarterly newsletters that are mailed to every residence in Orem. The city is also the online tool, MindMixer, to get critical feedback from citizens on important issues. Volunteers, citizen advisory commissions, and Neighborhood in Action have been invaluable in maximizing city services.

The arts are flourishing as we’ve seen great productions from SCERA, Hale Center Theater, and Utah Regional Ballet. We also celebrated the 25th annual Timpanogos Storytelling Festival. The library offered nearly 1,000 free programs or activities last year.

We have challenges to meet in 2015, especially with UTOPIA. We want all of our citizens to have the opportunity to access the fiber optic network and for it to become a success. By working cooperatively as a community, much can and will be achieved.

Here’s to a great 2014 and an even better 2015! Let’s build a better Orem.

-Orem Mayor and City Council
It Happened in Orem - 2014

MIDTOWN VILLAGE

After many years of blight, Midtown Village, now Midtown 360, has found new life. The Ritchie Group has purchased the project and plans to complete the two buildings within the next 18 months. Midtown 360 will include retail, residential, and office space. This is great news for the entire community as Orem’s infamous eyesore transforms into a city jewel.

UNIVERSITY PLACE CDA

Woodbury Corporation has committed to invest more than $500 million into the University Mall area to create University Place. This new development will include class A office space and will house more than 2,500 jobs, an upscale hotel, a community park, more restaurants and retail, an expanded movie theater, new housing, and much more. The City of Orem, along with the other taxing entities, have agreed to rebate some of the new property tax for a period of time to ensure this investment happens in Orem.

STATE STREET

Orem has partnered with UDOT, UTA, Provo City, the community, and others to help shape the future of State Street. A study will be conducted to address issues like transportation, land use, economic development, and beautification. The city also released vintage footage of State Street from 1947 and 1956 which has been viewed over 25,000 times on YouTube.

FITNESS CENTER ADDITION

During the Summer, the Fitness Center completed construction on the indoor leisure pool complete with waterslides, a lazy river, a water playground, and more. The project was completely paid for using CARE funds. The new leisure pool is just another reason Orem is your place to play.

UTOPIA INTERNET NETWORK

In July, the Orem City Council decided not to continue to explore a public-private partnership with Macquarie Capital, an Australian-based investment firm. The plan would have connected every home and business to the fiber network and transformed Orem into a city jewel. The City of Orem, along with the other taxing entities, have agreed to rebate some of the new property tax for a period of time to ensure this investment happens in Orem.

NEW BUSINESSES

Over the last year, many companies have announced that they will make Orem their home. These include: Chipotle, Culver’s, Wayfair.com, Nordstrom Rack, Zaxby’s, Vivint Solar, Tropical Smokey Cafe, Fairfield Inn, Dairy Queen, Ashley Furniture Home Store and more. Business is booming in Orem!

AT THE LIBRARY

FEB 2 - Drum Talk Tales - 7pm - Storytelling Wing

Drum Talk Tales is a collection of rhythmic folktale stories and stories from all over the world. Get ready to jump in as this dynamic family concert is too much fun to just sit there and watch.

FEB 23 - Author Event with Peggy Eddleman - 7pm - Storytelling Wing

Join the Children’s Literature Association of Utah and Peggy Eddleman, author of the Sky Jumpers adventure books for middle grade readers, for a fun night of reading, book signing, and art projects and activities.

MAR 10 - Wycliffe Gordon & BYU Dixieland Band - 7pm - Fireplace

Musical ambassador and interpreter of America’s music, Wycliffe Gordon experiences an impressive career touring the world performing hard-swinging, straight-ahead jazz receiving great acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

MAR 30 - Utah Lyrica Opera Easter Messiah Sing-Along - 7pm - Fireplace

Back by popular demand, author Tim Slover will provide narration about Handel and the creation of his famous oratorio Messiah as Utah Lyrica Opera soloists and chamber orchestra perform highlights appropriate to the Easter season.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

State Street Master Plan - FEB 19 5:30pm - SCERA

Hundreds of Orem residents have shared their opinions on the future of State Street! Our next public open house is Feb 19, 2015 at the SCERA. This meeting will focus on land-use.

City Council Meetings - 6pm - City Center (56 N State)

The Orem City Council will meet the following days this quarter: Jan 27th, Feb 10th & 24th, and Mar 10th & 24th. For agendas and more information, please visit www.orem.org or call 801-229-7035.

Orem Neighborhood Plans Meetings - TBA

City planners will be working with each neighborhood to create individual plans. Plans will address land use, transportation, and other items pertaining to each neighborhood. Work has already begun with Cascade, Orchard, and the Canyon View neighborhoods.

Running for City Office

In 2015, you’ll be voting on THREE city council seats. Local elections are where the “rubber meets the road,” and residents have the power to make a real difference. While local elections don’t receive the press coverage that federal races do, the results will impact your daily life in very real ways. Orem doesn’t just need informed and engaged voters, Orem needs dedicated residents willing to serve. What are the requirements to run for city office?

Must be registered as an Orem voter

Have lived in Orem or a recent annexation area for 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of the election

Any mentally incompetent person, any person convicted of a felony, or any person convicted of treason or a crime against the elective franchise may not hold office in this state until the right to vote or hold elective office is restored as provided by statute (see sections 20A-2-101.3 or 20A-2-101.5)

2015 ELECTION DATES

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<tr>
<th>Filing Period</th>
<th>Primary (if needed)</th>
<th>General Election</th>
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<td>Monday, June 8</td>
<td>Tuesday, Aug 11</td>
<td>Tuesday, Nov 3</td>
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Visit elections.orem.org for more information.

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