

# THE ROCKVILLE GLOBE

Volume 21, Issue 4

November 15, 2018

\*\*\*\*\*



## Notes from the Mayor

### MAYOR PAM LEACH

The holiday season has arrived! Rockville Daze was enjoyed by many on a spectacular fall day! Halloween ghosts and goblins had their fun and have been stowed away for another year. Fall in all its beautiful colors is all around us. The leaves are being raked up, gardens are being put to rest and warm clothing is starting to appear.

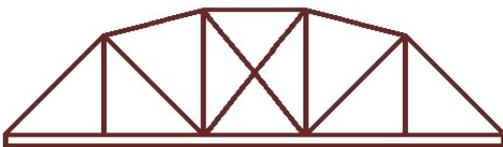
Thanksgiving is only a few days away and I look forward to gathering with family and friends over turkey and all the trimmings. Then before you know it, Christmas arrives in Rockville with Santa and the annual Christmas party. The Town rings with music and glows with festive lights.

As we celebrate the season, I want to say thank you for making Rockville the special town it is. Take the spirit of the season with you through the coming year – be good and be kind!

*Happy Holidays*

### BRIDGE REPORT

The bridge rehabilitation is progressing on schedule. Gateway Company has sandblasted, primed and painted the first part of the bridge, and Wadsworth Brothers has begun the strengthening of the bridge members. I want to thank you for abiding by the signal lights and speed limit when passing through the construction zone and keeping workers and residents safe. Only a few more months and our historic bridge will be restored to its original beauty.



### SITLA LAND SALES

On October 24th, SITLA put seventeen (17) parcels of land up for auction, three (3) of which were in Washington County near or on the Zion Canyon corridor on SR-9. The first parcel was a 40 acre parcel along Sheepbridge Road that sold for \$250,000 which was the appraised value and minimum bid. The second parcel was a 298.66 acre parcel in Rockville which sold for its appraised value of \$1,000,000. Washington County was the sole bidder on the parcel. In a meeting with County Commissioners Renstrom and Cox and Zion National Park Superintendent, Jeff Bradybaugh a few days after the auction, we were told that the County purchased the property for possible future needs for a park and ride lot to handle visitors to the Park. Concerns over uses of the property were raised by both myself and Superintendent Bradybaugh. This property has multiple utility right-of-ways crossing it, an electric power station, historic cultural areas and trail access to Huber Wash, the Petrified Log Jam and ZNP Petrified Forest trail. The Commissioners voiced assurances that they would work with Rockville and ZNP on any future development plans. The purchase was made using Washington County tourism funds. The third parcel near the Zion Helicopter property was appraised at \$1,260,000 and received no bids.

In a separate transaction, Rockville was successful in purchasing from SITLA a 1.04 acre piece of land which joins our future connector corridor to SR-9. We are still working on the surveys and legal descriptions for the balance of the corridor, which purchases we expect to complete before the end of 2018.

### Town Council Updates

#### M. HONER-ORTON

We are noticing a gradual decrease in the number of residents at our town events. We think maybe we could be more welcoming to those who move here, be they home buyers or renters. Please let us know if you agree and are willing to be on a "Welcoming Committee" to tell new residents about Rockville, the traditions we have, the opportunities for them to become active in our Town and to hear their ideas too. If you become aware of new residents in your neighborhood, go say hello and let us know. That is the quickest way we can find out who is new in town. Contact Megan 772-3393 or Vicki at 772-0992.

### BARRY SOCHAT

Community groups and housing advocates in cities across the world have begun to sound the alarm about the impact Airbnb is having on affordable housing in their communities, citing concerns about housing supply lost, racialized gentrification, and impact on residents' quality of life. Zion Canyon is not immune to this situation. In fact, it is at the very heart of our zoning future. As real estate developers force up housing prices in anticipation of increasing short term vacation rentals, so go rents and property taxes. Not to mention dwindling water resources!

The existence of a UCLA study working paper with its most striking results were reported by *The Wall Street Journal* last year (Oct. 22, 2017). After examining market data from the 100 largest metro areas in the U.S., the authors found "a 10 percent increase in Airbnb listings leads to a 0.42 percent increase in rents and a 0.76 percent increase in house prices."

While either increase cited may be good for existing homeowners, Kung told the *Journal* that the results appeared to show Airbnb was contributing to the "affordability crisis" going on across the U.S., where mortgage payments and rising rents are eating up more incomes and moving out of reach for increasing numbers in the lower and middle-income brackets. Ditto for employee housing stock for Zion Canyon employees and long time residents.

If the paper's results are correct or in the ballpark, it would seem to provide more ammo for governments looking to regulate, restrict or prohibit Airbnb rentals on the basis of affordability.

On the other hand, it could also serve as evidence that Airbnb helps neighborhoods earn more for the real estate owner wishing to supplement their income, and subsequently, the town coffers through business licenses and TRT revenues.

So, there lies the dilemma? How does Rockville accommodate the Airbnb demand without removing much needed affordable long term housing and upsetting the stable community of our existing neighborhoods?

There may be some elegant solution that neighboring towns have crafted. I welcome your input to find a solution to this housing dilemma.



### BARRY SOCHAT

Tourists are taking advantage of the free parking in Rockville. Recently a group of cyclists parked a number of cars on Highway 9 on both sides of the Bridge Road intersection, unloaded their bikes and pedaled off towards Springdale and beyond. The cars were parked very close to the Bridge Road intersection, leaving motorists with dangerously impaired visibility of the oncoming traffic onto Highway 9. If this free parking group activity gains popularity with cyclists in an effort to avoid paying for parking in Springdale, the internet and various social media groups could magnify the trend. Let's hope this does not become a problem.

Fireblight bacteria that causes sudden dead, brown limbs on your fruit trees made a recent outbreak because of the warm rains in October. The disease is spread by birds, insects and wind and rain. Please make an effort to remove any dead, brown limbs from your fruit trees to keep this condition from spreading to your neighbor's orchards.

### JEFF BALLARD

There was a memorial dedication to Steven W. Cox at Riverwood Park in LaVerkin. Steve's son-in-law and grandchildren attended. The park is located near the boundary with Toquerville. Steve was a dedicated, contributing member of Rockville. He continues to be missed by this community.



HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING



**NOTES FROM THE CLERK'S DESK**

**Vicki S. Bell**

The Rockville Community Center (\$50-\$100), Park and Pavilion (\$25-\$50) are available for rent. If you have a family gathering or special event coming up and you need more space than your home can provide, please contact the Town at (435) 772-0992.



**Join Us for the  
Rockville Christmas Party**

**Friday, December  
7th from 6 to 8pm**

**Rockville  
Community Center**

**Bring a dessert  
to share!**



A fun community gathering featuring Santa and Mrs. Claus, where we will sing Christmas carols and share desserts. The Desert Strings Community Orchestra will be joining us again this year.

**PARK RESTROOMS**

Please be advised the Town Park restrooms have been winterized and locked for the winter.

**RENEW YOUR DOG LICENSE**

Dog licenses for 2019 are due December 31, 2018. An application is included in your newsletter. Please remember that **PROOF OF A CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION IS REQUIRED.**

**SAVE THE DATES**

- Nov 23-24 Zion Canyon Arts & Crafts Fair
- Dec 6 Z-Arts Gala
- Dec 7 Rockville Christmas Party
- Dec 8 Light Parade & Sweets Social
- Dec 31 New Years Eve Fireworks

**ROCKVILLE CLEANUP DAYS**

**November 16—18**

Washington County Solid Waste will provide roll-off dumpsters to assist Rockville residents in disposing of yard debris and other unused items that would normally go to the landfill, but do not necessarily fit into your residential garbage can.

The dumpsters will be located on Center Street from Friday afternoon thru Sunday evening.

This service is provided as a courtesy to the Town as an option to hauling items to the landfill for disposal. We encourage all Town residents to take advantage of this service.

Please **DO NOT** put the following in the dumpsters:

- \* Oil
- \* Batteries
- \* Paint
- \* Tires
- \* Concrete
- \* Dirt
- \* Asphalt
- \* Construction or building materials

Please **DO NOT** leave large items that **YOU** cannot put **INTO** the dumpster outside the dumpster for others to try to put inside.

The ends of the dumpsters are removable for large items—Please move all your trash to the front of the bins, and compact as much as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Joyce Hartless, Vice-Chair**

The Planning Commission has appointed a committee to prepare questions for the 2019 Rockville Town Survey. This survey is used to gauge the community's position on various planning issues. If you would like to provide input or make suggestions, please contact me.

The Town of Rockville has been awarded a grant from the Community Impact Board to hire professional consultants to assist with reviewing our Land Use Code and Ordinances to ensure they are in compliance with State and Federal Laws and Regulations. The Town of Rockville has formed a task force to assist the consultants in gathering data and crafting our goals. They expect to have suggestions ready for the public's consideration by the summer of 2019. And of course, any changes will be brought to a public hearing before taking effect. If you have any suggestions about this subject, again, feel free to contact me.

I can be reached at the Town Office Monday, Wednesday or Friday between 8am and 1pm at (435) 772-0992 or email [joyce@rockvilleutah.org](mailto:joyce@rockvilleutah.org).

**TOWN OF ROCKVILLE  
NOTICE**

Pursuant to Section 52-4-202, Utah Code Annotated 1953, the Town of Rockville hereby gives notice of the 2019 Meeting Schedules for the Rockville Planning Commission and Town Council. The Planning Commission and Town Council will meet as scheduled below at the designated time and place unless otherwise posted.

The Planning Commission usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Rockville Town Hall, 43 E. Main, Rockville, Utah.

The Town Council usually meets on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Rockville Town Hall, 43 E. Main, Rockville, Utah.

PLANNING COMMISSION	TOWN COUNCIL	PLACE	TIME
January 8	January 9	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
February 12	February 13	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
March 12	March 13	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
April 9	April 10	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
May 14	May 15	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
June 11	June 12	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
July 9	July 10	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
August 13	August 14	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
September 10	September 11	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
October 8	October 9	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
November 12	November 13	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.
No Meeting	December 11	Rockville Town Hall	6:00 p.m.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL TOWN MEETINGS. If you need a special accommodation to participate in Town Meetings, please call the Town Clerk, Vicki S. Bell, at 772-0992 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting time.

**WANT TO CONTACT YOUR TOWN OFFICIALS?**

You are welcome to contact your Town officials at the following email addresses:

**Rockville Town Council**

Mayor Pam Leach      pam@rockvilleutah.org  
M. Honer-Orton      meg-n-bo@infowest.com  
Jeff Ballard          rockvillejeff@infowest.com  
V. Terry Bell        terry@rockvilleutah.org  
Barry Sochat         rubrpoet@infowest.com

**Rockville Planning Commission**

Chair Jane Brennan jane@rockvilleutah.org  
Joyce Hartless      joycehartless@gmail.com  
Linda Brinkley      zionfox@infowest.com  
Cheryl McGovern    cheryl@rockvilleutah.org  
Bergen Meyer        bergen@rockvilleutah.org

Town Clerk, Vicki S. Bell      rockville@rockvilleutah.org  
Deputy Town Clerk, Joyce Hartless      joyce@rockvilleutah.org



Town of Rockville  
43 E Main PO Box 630206  
Rockville, UT 84763

(435) 772-0992  
Website: rockvilleutah.org  
Editor: Joyce Hartless