

EXPROPRIATED: Residents lose property in Bangerter Highway project

By *Tori La Rue* | tori@mycityjournals.com

The 2017 Bangerter Highway project to create freeway-style interchanges at four intersections may alleviate major southwestern traffic congestion in the county, but it doesn't come without a cost.

The \$208 million project will displace 96 homeowners and two businesses as the land is used to make way for the expanded interchanges at 5400 South, 7000 South, 9000 South and 11400 South. The Utah Department of Transportation will also acquire parts of nearly 100 additional properties.

"We take property acquisitions very seriously," said UDOT spokesman John Gleason. "It is the toughest part of our job, and we do it as a last resort. With Bangerter and all the development around it, there's no other place for it to expand in these areas. These (acquisitions) were absolutely necessary to finish the project."



An empty lot sits between two houses on New Heritage Drive in West Jordan. The home that used to be there was demolished to make room for a freeway-style interchange at the nearby Bangerter Highway and 9000 South intersection. (Tori La Rue/City Journals)

The Heffron story: Moving after 30 years

Holly Heffron and her husband lived in their home at 5498 South Alveron Drive in Taylorsville for 30 years—all of their married lives—and never planned to leave, but that changed when they learned Bangerter Highway's expansion would take over their property.

"You don't think it will happen to you," said Holly Heffron whose home backed the eastern side of Bangerter's sound wall. "Even when I knew they were going to do something to Bangerter, it didn't cross my mind that my house would be affected. Then all the sudden someone was telling us 'Brace yourself; you guys are moving.'"

While waiting for the Utah Department of Transportation to appraise her home, Heffron began casually looking for homes online. She said she "accidentally" found the home of her dreams near 9000 South and 4800 West in West Jordan over Independence Day weekend and made an offer. The owners accepted her offer, but the deal was contingent on the price UDOT would pay for her home.

Heffron described the next couple months as "nerve-racking."

"UDOT representatives were great to work

with, but that may have been because I was continually bugging them and calling them for updates," she said.

The initial price tag on the Heffron home wasn't as high as Heffron thought her house could sell for on the market, but UDOT tacked a "relocation fee" onto the check, which allowed Heffron to purchase the West Jordan house. She said it worked out to where she could close on both homes on the same day.

Although overjoyed about the new house, Heffron said the switch didn't come without emotional tugging. She and her husband drove by the site of their decades-long home around Christmas time, finding window frames missing and holes in the ceiling in their old house. Her neighbor's house was completely missing.

"That was a really weird feeling, but I think I've gotten over that," Heffron said. "Moving is one of the hardest things I've ever done, but I think we are better off for it. I like my new home so much better."

The Brusch story: When UDOT won't buy a house

While things worked out well for Heffron, she acknowledged that many others didn't have a

good experience with the state's use of eminent domain. One of her friends isn't losing property, but will likely lose home value, Heffron said. The home, which used to face hers, will soon face Bangerter's sound wall.

"I think the people who have to stay have it worse off," she said.

Melissa Brusch agrees. UDOT is taking eight and a half feet of her family's backyard near the 9000 South/Bangerter Highway intersection for the project, and she said she's not happy about it.

"We wanted to be bought out, but they wouldn't let us," Brusch said. "They said they don't have the funds, but we just don't want to deal with it."

While UDOT tries to take personal interests into account when making the home purchases, the department also needs to think what will be best for the community, Gleason said, adding that there's a certain set of criteria that must usually be met before a house will be purchased.

The Brusches said they didn't mind that the home backed Bangerter Highway when they bought it seven years ago, but bringing the sound wall eight feet closer to the house could be a deal-breaker for the young family.

"I have little ones, and I want them to be able to play outside," Brusch said. "The yard will be smaller, and the on-ramp will be right in our backyard. There will be more noise and pollution, and I don't want my kids to breathe that in."

Brusch said she and her husband haven't decided whether they will put their house up for sale but are considering all options.

"UDOT said we won't be affected by the value, but if it's really going to be a freeway-style, the home won't be as desirable," Brusch said. "The house across the street took a huge hit because of the project, so I don't know if I want to get lowballed out there and lose money."

Brusch said she's still contacting UDOT to get an appraisal on her home to find out how much they'd pay for the property.

"I'm still trying," she said. "I just think everyone should have the option to get bought out."

The Erdmann Story: Expropriation—a convenient way to sell

Brusch's neighbor, Amanda Erdmann, had better luck getting UDOT to purchase her home.

Erdmann's husband had moved to Oklahoma for work, so she'd already hired a real estate agent to sell her home when UDOT notified residents they were looking to acquire homes within the neighborhood.

Erdmann immediately contacted UDOT and told them of her situation. She said she "fought hard" to be bought out, and UDOT agreed.

"We were a different situation where we lucked out," Erdmann said. "UDOT was easier than if we would have sold our house the other way. We didn't have to pay Relator fees or closing costs—they just showed up with the offer, but I know it wasn't like that for a lot of other people."

The Jensen Story: Unable to build

People started asking Kenzie Jensen when she was moving out of her home at 11163 South Tippecanoe Way. That's how she said she learned UDOT was collecting properties through

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Meet Reed, the balloon guy

By Tori La Rue | tori@mycityjournals.com

Enjoy them while they last because Sherman “Reed” Lindholm’s art creations will eventually deflate or pop.

The Utah native’s original art form was cartooning after the style of Al Capp, the drawer behind Li’l Abner, but the now-80-year-old began experimenting with his chosen medium in the late ‘40s: balloons. At the time, long, skinny balloons were not yet mainstream, and the only kinds of balloons Lindholm had to work with were over-sized balloons, 11-inch helium balloons and small balloons the size of typical water balloons today, which limited what an artist could create.

Even when “animal balloons” made an appearance in the marketplace, they were expensive and were used almost exclusively by clowns and magicians who obtained the balloons from their affiliate organizations, so it wasn’t until 30 or 40 years ago that Lindholm purchased his first pack of animal balloons from a store in Arizona, where he was traveling with his children.

“I said, ‘Let’s see if your dad can still make balloons like he used to when he was a kid,’” Lindholm said, and to his surprise, he was better at making balloon creatures than he remembered.

Since that time, he’s internalized more than 1,000 animal balloon designs, 70 percent of which are original, he said. From dragons, bunnies, tigers, octopuses and elk to dinosaurs, elephants, rhinoceroses, ants and pigs, Lindholm’s designs are inspired by the children who he makes them for.

“I take requests, and kids always try to stump me, and that’s how I come up with new things. I haven’t been stumped yet,” he said as he chuckled. “A kid asked me for a duck-billed platypus the other day, so I made a duck-billed platypus.”

The white-haired man can be seen sporting a balloon animal apron on most Friday nights, walking from table to table at the Taylorsville Applebee’s and giving out balloons to children in exchange for smiles and/or tips.

“We’ve been here a couple times when he’s been here, and it just makes the kids happy, which makes us happy,” said Keelie Sundquist, a mother of two, speaking in behalf of herself and her husband. “Reed’s just so polite and fun.”

Hannah Gardner, a hostess at the Applebee’s location, said there are a couple families who come to the restaurant looking for Lindholm.

“One family was so disappointed that he wasn’t here one night that they left,” she said.

But the Taylorsville Applebee’s isn’t the only place you’ll find Lindholm. He’s usually at Texas Roadhouse in Taylorsville on Tuesdays and Thursdays and one of the State Street IHOP locations on Saturday mornings.

These are Lindholm’s go-to restaurant places in the Salt Lake Valley, but the jolly guy has a network of eateries from Tooele to St. George. He also has designated restaurants in other states, including Wyoming, Montana and Arizona, where he’ll stop by to make balloons when he’s visiting relatives.

Lindholm’s main hub for balloon-making is in Casper, Wyoming, where he said more than a dozen restaurants welcome him into their midst. It was in Wyoming that Lindholm retired from his job as a professional in the Boy Scouts of America program, a place that he worked since 1967.

“That’s when I started my balloon career going around to different restaurants,” Lindholm said. “It is something I can do to get out of the house



Brinlee Sundquist, 5, stares at the cat balloon Sherman “Reed” Lindholm shaped for her at the Taylorsville Applebee’s. (Tori La Rue/City Journals)

instead of sitting there watching television, waiting away.”

In Casper, Lindholm also offered to entertain with balloon animal creation at private events, creating a business entity known as “Safari Balloons.” People hired Lindholm for birthday and work parties, and he’d host booths at carnivals. He loved the community and said Casper is still home, mentioning that he’s still “in the process of moving to Utah.”

Although Lindholm’s taken a step back from private events since he moved to Taylorsville, he still carries balloons around in his pocket, so he is ready to create an animal anywhere he goes.

“Sometimes when I’ll be out at Walmart, I’ll see a kid crying, and I’ll make a balloon and give it to him,” Lindholm said. “If you carry a balloon in your pocket, you don’t have to worry about paper, pencil or crayon or anything to draw pictures. You can pull a balloon out of your pocket and make something for the kid.”

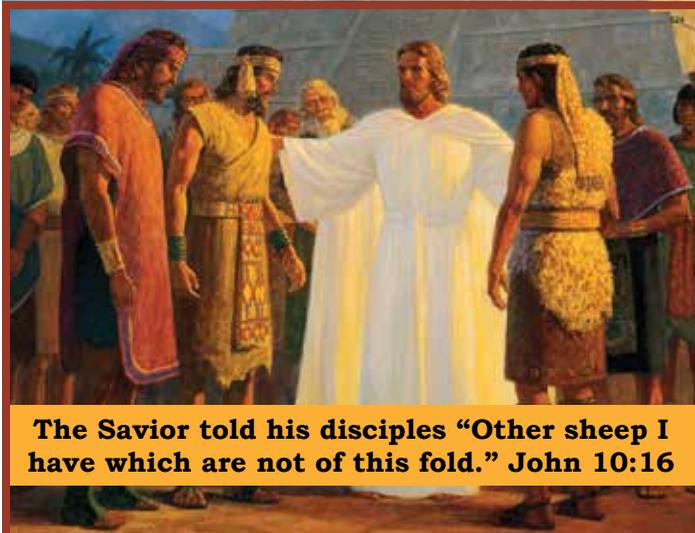
One of Lindholm’s favorite memories of giving away balloons spontaneously occurred while he was visiting Paris. He didn’t speak the language, but he sat on a park bench, giving away balloon animals to children while telling their parents possibly the only French word he knew, “gratuit,” meaning “no charge.”

Macular degeneration is taking away Lindholm’s eyesight, he said, and he thinks he will eventually become blind. Until then, the balloon animal-maker extraordinaire said he’ll continue to create balloon designs for children anywhere and everywhere.

“It’s just fun to make people happy and smile,” he said. “The world’s a bad enough place to live in as it is. There’s got to be something right, and that’s what I’m trying to give.” +

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Taylorsville City Green Committee finalizing plans for annual Earth Day recycling event

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

The Taylorsville City Green Committee is putting the finishing touches on its plans for the city's annual Earth Day Collection Event, at the city offices (2600 West 5400 South).

"This is our fourth annual collection event, and it grows every year," said committee Chairman Jeffrey Summerhays. "A few years ago there were 220 pounds of outdated prescription drugs alone dropped off by area residents for safe disposal."

Summerhays is the sustainability coordinator for Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling. He oversees marketing, education and other programs that serve more than 81,000 Salt Lake County homes.

"We pick up household garbage in many places: Taylorsville, Holladay, Millcreek, Herriman, parts of Murray and unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County like Magna and Kearns," Summerhays said. "We have a very good idea of how quickly our landfill space is filling up. One of our primary goals is to extend the life of those areas by teaching residents about all the things that should go elsewhere."

Green Committee City Council Adviser Ernest Burgess was among those who originally came up with the collection event idea. "That first year it was a rainy day, but people still came out in droves," he said. "Many residents use this day to prompt themselves to clear away garbage from around their yards. And police say this has led to fewer complaint calls from neighbors."

This year's collection event will be held on the 48th Annual Earth Day, April 22, from 8 a.m. to noon. Organizers advise people to show up early because the collection line does have to be cut off at noon.

"Last year we had cars and trucks lined up well before 8



City Councilman Ernest Burgess (right) and others fold cardboard for recycling. (Taylorsville City)

a.m.," Summerhays said. "I think they're learning to get moving early, or risk being stuck in longer lines."

City Councilman Dan Armstrong said area Boy Scouts and their leaders will again be out in force.

"They plan to have an overnight campout at Labrum Park (1900 West 6000 South) the night before," he said. "Then the Scouts will assist at the collection event by directing traffic and helping to remove items from cars and trucks."

A 30-year scout leader himself, Armstrong said the boys provide so much assistance, most donors don't even have to get

out of their cars or trucks.

"Some of our Scouts and leaders have even gone out into neighborhoods to pick up things for people who don't have their own way to deliver it," Armstrong said.

"That morning, we'll collect household hazardous waste—like paint and pesticides—along with broken electronics (cell phones, computer equipment, televisions and similar materials), glass products, yard waste and many other things," Summerhays said.

Since the event is just a few days after federal taxes are due, volunteers will also provide free shredding of confidential papers.

"One of our primary goals is to educate people about all the different materials that should be saved and reused," Summerhays added.

As the collection event approaches, Green Committee members are lining up vendors to attend and haul material away.

"We had eight different groups collecting materials last year," Summerhays said. "We're hoping for even more this time around."

Burgess added, "We simply couldn't do this without the vendors. We want them to know how grateful we are for the time and service they provide."

As for the gathering and disposal of outdated prescription drugs, Summerhays says that's left up to law enforcement because there are "simply too many legal and ethical issues" surrounding drug collection.

"This (collection event) has really taken off," Summerhays added. "It falls right in line with one of our primary committee goals, to provide leadership and practical solutions to ensure a prosperous community that will sustain healthy lives and have a positive impact upon the environment." ✦

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EXPROPRIATED:

Residents lose property in Bangerter Highway project

...continued from front cover

eminent domain.

"I was just shocked," she said. "I was never contacted. I had to be the one to contact UDOT myself."

An appraiser came to look at Jensen's home and told her how much they'd pay her to leave her home. Jensen said it's hard to leave because she loves the area but said she's mostly frustrated because she wasn't given a definite timeline.

"I would have liked to build my own home, but they took so long to give me a timeline that I had to buy a home that was already built," Jensen said.

Jensen's house, along with many in her neighborhood, was only seven years old. She and her neighbors voiced concerns that UDOT should have known about the acquisition process long before their homes were built and stopped development from occurring.

Future Acquisitions

While UDOT does have a long-range transportation plan that extends until 2040, Gleason said the department doesn't always know which homes will be affected.

"We do our best to preserve right of way, but without environmental study process, we don't know where the improvements will go

or where alignments will be," he said. "For the four new interchanges we started that process on December 2015, and we worked with the cities to prevent additional development or construction at that time, but until the environment process is complete, we don't know where the improvements will go."

Gleason suggests homebuyers check UDOT's long-term plan before making a home purchase to discover if there's a chance that their home could be acquired in a similar process. The long-term plan is found on the department's website in map form separated by region.

Because housing developments and businesses are sprouting along the sides of the Mountain View Corridor, many residents affected by the Bangerter project have expressed concerns that a similar acquisition process will need to occur when that road expands.

Joe Kammerer, project director for the Mountain View Corridor, said it's not likely that eminent domain will be utilized to the same extent along the new western highway. Mountain View Corridor was built with the outside lanes first to preserve the right of way, he said. When that road expands, it will fill in inside lanes using the right of way they've already acquired, he said. ✦



CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MARCH 14
Town Hall Meeting
Kearns High School

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
PTA Battle of the Bands
Olympus High School
6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
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Spring Recess
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The Board of Education has hosted several community meetings to discuss long-term capital planning. If you haven't attended a meeting, please follow the link (above) to watch the video.



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Water conservation grant will assist Taylorsville in completing park facelift

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com



From the 1960s through 2013, the Cabana Club swim park was a popular neighborhood hangout. (Taylorsville City)

Once-thriving neighborhood swim park will soon receive a complete transformation, thanks to \$200,000 from the Taylorsville City Council, along with just more than \$14,000 through a first-of-its-kind grant from the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District.

Back in the early 1960s, neighborhood developers built the Cabana Club swim park as an amenity to entice homebuyers. A few years later, those homeowners, near 1560 West 4600 South, formed their own association to maintain and operate the park.

The site hosted countless birthday parties and barbecues for more than a half century. But as the neighborhood aged—and demand for the swimming pool dropped—it became more and more difficult for the association to continue funding pool maintenance.

When the Cabana Club pool closed in the fall of 2013, it never reopened. Taylorsville officials purchased the property two years later.

“Last year, we demolished the building and pool, while also removing several dying trees,” said City Community Development Director Mark McGrath.

“Now, over the next several months, we plan to complete the improvement project, to create a new neighborhood park.”

While putting together plans to rebuild the park, city officials also became aware of something new from the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District.

“To encourage water conservation, we developed a fund called the ‘Landscape Leadership Grant Program,’ and Taylorsville City was the first to jump on it,” said conservation district Programs Manager Courtney Brown. “Now the city has been approved for our very first grant award.”

Using a water conservation and cost-effectiveness model to come up with a figure, the grant amount was set at \$14,048.57.

“Our calculations show, the city’s plan for the park should save 392,900 gallons of water each year,” Brown added. “Several groups have

begun the application process to receive grant funding. But Taylorsville City is the first to complete all the paperwork.”

At just more than half an acre, the refurbished park will feature playground equipment, built-in barbecues, open space, walking trails and a 20-by-20-by-30-foot pavilion with picnic tables.

“Shortly after the city purchased the property, a steering committee was established to make decisions about the new park,” said McGrath. “The committee—made up of area residents and elected officials—offered several great suggestions.”

Among their many goals, the committee sought to create a community gathering place, while also paying homage to the Cabana Club’s rich history.

To help accomplish the latter, city officials have designed several interpretive signs explaining what had been on the site for 50-plus years.

Additionally, a semi-circle of benches will be installed in the same area where parents once sat to watch their children in a wading pool.

“This was an important place to a lot of people for a long time,” McGrath added. “We want to help them remember the old club, while also creating a park that’s attractive to younger families.”

The rebuilt park will no longer include a swimming pool. Instead, several features will help the city conserve water.

“The general watering strategy is to provide traditional spray irrigation only to the turf area (just over a quarter of the site), McGrath said. “Drip irrigation will be utilized for the parkstrip, with all other planted areas dedicated to drought tolerant shrubbery, grasses and trees.”

Additionally, the park will feature a 6-foot wall on the north and west sides to create a buffer for adjacent homeowners.

The city will unveil the new park with a grand opening celebration later this year.

“We’re excited to move forward,” McGrath said. “It’s also nice to be recognized (with the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District grant) for the effort we’re making to save water.” ✦

Talorsville Youth Council visits Utah's Capitol Hill

By Carl Fauver | carlf@mycityjournals.com

Talorsville City was well represented at this year's annual Local Officials Day at the Legislature, Jan. 25, sponsored by the Utah League of Cities and Towns. In addition to an array of the city's office holders, members of the Talorsville Youth Council also visited to observe how things work at the legislature and to hear from a pair of world-renowned guest speakers.

"I love learning about government," said sophomore Aaron Tibbitts. "That's my favorite part of youth council, so getting to visit the capitol was great."

The youth council is comprised of 16 students. All but one attended Local Officials Day, which began bright and early with a mock debate. The most experienced member of the council—Talorsville High School senior Cole Arnold—presented a bill advocating mandatory drug testing for all high schoolers involved in extracurricular activities.

"There were hundreds of students and adult advisers at the mock debate," Cole said. "A few years ago, I would have been too nervous to talk, but youth council has helped me come out of my shell. I now feel much more comfortable talking to people."

This was Cole's fourth trip to the annual Day at the Legislature.

Talorsville City Council Coordinator Kris Heineman serves as the youth council adviser. She says there are about 75 similar councils across the state, each made up of high school students.

"These kids represent the best part of being a teenager," Heineman said. "They are the cream of the crop, excel in serving the community and are awesome to watch."

After the mock debate and a tour of the state capitol, the Talorsville students heard from guest speaker Derreck Kayongo.



Fifteen members of the Talorsville Youth Council visited the state capitol for Local Officials Day at the Legislature. (Talorsville City)

Born in Uganda—and later becoming a refugee in Kenya—Kayongo established the "Global Soap Project" in 2009. On his first day in America, Kayongo awoke in a hotel room to see "more soaps than I had ever seen for one person: hand soap, face soap, body soap, shampoo and others."

After learning all the partially used soap was simply thrown away, Kayongo and his wife established their charity project to collect and repurpose soap, for donation to countries in need.

"His (Kayongo's) message was, 'We can all make a positive change with one good idea,'" said Talorsville Youth Council Chair Shelby Handy. "He was very inspiring."

A Talorsville High School senior, Shelby says she wishes

she had joined the youth council earlier, and now plans to study political science in college.

After hearing from Kayongo, youth council members traveled to the Salt Palace Convention Center, where lunch and another guest speaker awaited them.

A huge audience of youth council members from across the state was greeted by Gov. Gary Herbert at the luncheon. Later, they heard from Aron Ralston, the man who became trapped in Canyonlands National Park in 2003 and had to sever his own arm with a pocket knife after it became pinned under a fallen boulder. His harrowing experience was made famous in the movie "127 Hours."

"His message was to never give up—never lose hope," youth council member Angelique Canepari said. "It was moving and motivating."

Angelique, a THS junior, said her membership on the youth council has helped her develop more leadership skills and stronger trust in others.

The students also met with Talorsville State Rep. Jim Dunnigan and Sen. Wayne Harper.

"I loved seeing how government works for the people," sophomore Lucas Carpenter said. "It was cool to see how they address so many different issues."

The Talorsville Youth Council performs several community service projects throughout the year. They were also in charge of decorating the oversized Christmas tree at the city office. In addition to Heineman, City Councilwoman Kristie Overson also helps coordinate their many activities. From March 9 to 11, they will participate in a leadership conference at Utah State University. †

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Talorsville, UT



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Students perform Chinese New Year Lion Dance for first time

By Jet Burnham | jburnham@mcityjournals.com

To celebrate Chinese New Year, Calvin S. Smith Elementary hosted a colorful festival on Jan. 26.

Brandy Seaman, PTA board member in charge of the evening, said the whole community was invited, not just families involved in the school's Chinese Immersion Program.

Immersion students prepared for the event by making decorations and learning about the holiday's customs. Rachel Kimball, a member of the PTA committee for the event, said her three kids learned a variety of cultural dances in their immersion classes.

On the night of the festival, dance groups were invited to perform traditional dances. But for the first time in the five years Calvin S. Smith Elementary has hosted a Chinese New Year celebration, the school's own students performed the Lion Dance.

The Lion Dance is performed at Chinese New Year's celebrations for good luck. In the performance, three lions dance to the beat of percussion instruments. Each lion is made of a 7-foot-long costume with one student in the head piece and one in the tail. Another performer portrays Buddha with a mask and fan, and interacts with the lions. Then the lions weave their way through the audience with Buddha wordlessly guiding them to children and parents who have envelopes of money to "feed" into the lions' mouths.

Fifth-grade teacher Michael Marcrum taught the dance and music to a group of 16 fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders.

Fourth-graders Jocelyn and Jackelyn Abad preferred working in the head of the lion.

"Being the tail is a pain in the back," said Jackelyn. Students under the tail end had to be crouched over to make the back end lower than the head.



Students perform the traditional Lion Dance. (Jet Burnham/City Journals)

The students spent two months practicing the movements and learning about the dance. Jocelyn said they practiced moving and thinking like a cat, so once inside the costume, their movement would show the lion's character. During the dance, none of the performers' faces can be seen and no one speaks. At times in the dance, the lions are angry, and during other parts they move playfully.

Sixth-grader Jaci Huo explained how she learned to control the moving features on the lion head of the costume.

"There was a string attached to the eyes and ears," she said. "When you tug the string, [the lion] blinks and moves its ears." These movements made the lions more expressive when interacting with Buddha and with the audience.

"We always took into account the traditions involved in the lion dance and took it very seriously, as we did not want to offend anyone deeply familiar with the culture," said Marcrum, who consulted Damian Snyder, his Kung Fu Sifu (leader) on aspects of the dance. "We did simplify some of the routines to help make it more friendly to elementary students."

The initial funding for the supplies came through the Confucius Grant given to the school by the Confucius Institute of China through the University of Utah, said Principal Cindy Dunn.

"The school purchased the drum, cymbals, gong, three lions of differing sizes, and the Buddha outfit with the mask and fan," Marcrum said. "Together it costs thousands of dollars. Luckily, the Confucius Grant has allowed us to make these purchases, and we can continue to use the equipment for many years."

Near the end of the performance, the Buddha character feeds lettuce to the lion. The lion then spits it out, and anyone who catches a piece will have good luck. Marcrum said either cabbage or lettuce can be used. The students tried several varieties before determining romaine lettuce worked best.

"Romaine is easier to tear," said Maryn Seaman, a sixth-grader who had to quickly tear the lettuce and throw it through the lion's mouth during the performance.

Marcrum hopes to train students in using a Chinese parade dragon next year.

"I am very proud of the students who put so much work into learning the dance and performed at their best," Marcrum said. "I feel that it was their performance, not mine, and they deserve all of the credit." +

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STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor Larry Johnson



April 26, 2017
6:00 PM
Taylorsville City Hall

Please join Mayor Johnson as he reflects on the past three years, celebrates Taylorsville's successes and outlines what is ahead as we move forward in 2017 and beyond.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Mayor
Larry Johnson

Spring is here; everything seems to be waking up, trees, flowers, and birds, everything that makes us smile. I know it does me. The beauty is beginning to reappear, it takes a lot of work, preparation, and clean up for a great spring and summer. Trimming and hauling branches, bagging leaves, preparing for gardens and gathering everything around the yard that has gathered up during the winter months. Just a couple reminders:

Wasatch Front Waste and Recycling District Fee Waiver Vouchers are now available to Taylorsville residents (2-vouchers per household annually).

The Annual Earth Day Collection Event is Saturday, April 22, 2017, at Taylorsville City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 12-noon. This annual event organized by the Taylorsville Green Committee. All those items that are not recyclable and or require

special disposal are collected. There will be stations set up to collect: Household Hazardous Waste, Prescription Medication, Confidential Document Shredding, Glass Recycling, Bulk Waste, Green Waste, Electronic Waste, and Clothing/Furniture Donation.

Spring brings outdoor activities; I think that is something we all enjoy. What comes to mind is golf, fishing, tennis, walking, running, games and barbecues with family, friends, neighbors, children, and grandchildren.

Thank you to each one of you for all that you do and your support. Let's have a great spring!

—Mayor Johnson

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MAYOR'S CHOICE

RESTAURANT

Siragusa's Italian Cuisine

4115 South Redwood Road • Taylorsville, Utah 84129

Phone: (801) 268-1520 • www.siragusas.com

Favorite Appetizer – Garlic Cheese Bread

Favorite Entree – Fettuccine Alfredo

Favorite Dessert – Chocolate Mousse

Monday - Friday: 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Saturday: 12-Noon - 9:00 PM • Sunday: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM



BUSINESS

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Taylorsville, Utah 84123

Phone: (801) 849-8858

www.woodcreationscrafts.com

Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Saturday - 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM • Closed Sunday

COUNCIL CORNER

In the last several elections, Salt Lake County and many states across the nation have been experimenting with vote-by-mail in various forms. We know from our most recent election in November 2016 that we had far more people voting on Election Day than was planned for, resulting in long lines and extremely late hours for poll workers, and even more important were voters who may have given up and not voted on Election Day at all.

The City is asking for more polling locations than in November 2016 and is now finalizing our contract with Salt Lake County. As a Council, we will be voting to decide how our City wide elections should be conducted in 2017. We have two options:

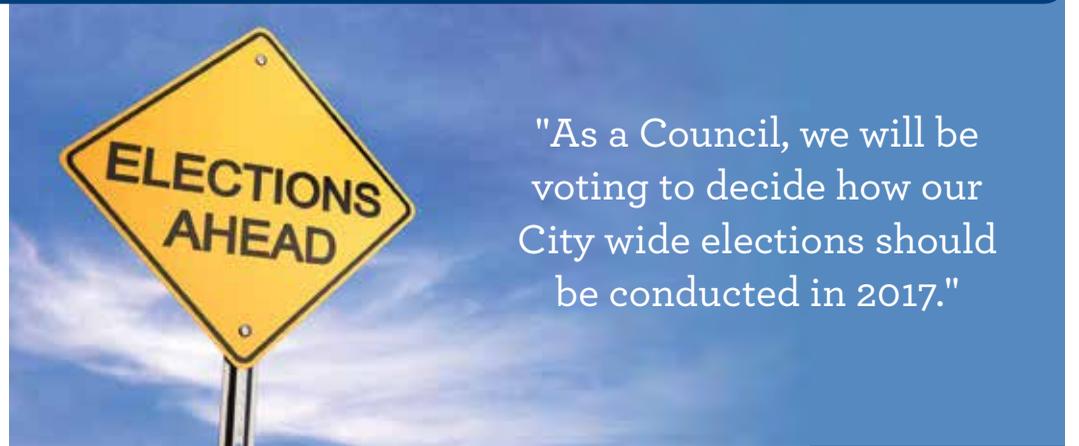
OPTION 1

1. All registered voters receive a ballot in the mail
2. 3 polling locations in the City
3. Early voting two weeks before Election Day.
4. \$16,000.00 lower cost of the election services from Salt Lake County.

OPTION 2

1. Only registered voters that opted in will receive ballots in the mail
2. 3 polling locations in the City
3. Registered Voters who have not opted in to vote by mail will receive a voter information pamphlet.
4. Early voting two weeks before Election Day.

We'd like to hear from you on this matter. Please contact your Council Representative and let them know which option you'd prefer. Phone numbers and email addresses are available at the City's website: <http://www.taylorsvilleut.gov/government/elected/council/>



"As a Council, we will be voting to decide how our City wide elections should be conducted in 2017."



Council Chairman Brad Christopherson – District #3 bchristopherson@taylorsvilleut.gov	Council Member Dama Barbour – District #4 dbarbour@taylorsvilleut.gov	Council Member Ernest Burgess – District #1 eburgess@taylorsvilleut.gov	Council Member Kristie Overson – District #2 koverson@taylorsvilleut.gov	Council Vice-Chair Dan Armstrong – District #5 darmstrong@taylorsvilleut.gov
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Welcome to Taylorsville, Chopfuku (pronounced chop-foo-koo)!



Ribbon Cutting - January 26, 2017

City Officials and Community Members participated in a Ribbon Cutting to welcome Chopfuku to Taylorsville and celebrate their Grand Opening! Chopfuku (pronounced chop-foo-koo) is a modern Asian cuisine restaurant located at 4546 S. Atherton Drive (815 West) Suite 107 in Taylorsville.

Their hours are Monday - Thursday from 10:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday 10:30 a.m., and Sunday from 12:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Check out their menu at chopfuku.com

Thinking about Spring?

Landfill Vouchers are now available!



Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling District is offering all Taylorsville Residents (2) Fee Waiver Vouchers annually for Loads taken to the Salt Lake Valley Landfill. The Vouchers can be picked up at Taylorsville City Hall, 2nd floor reception area.

*The Salt Lake Valley Landfill is located at 6030 W California Avenue (1400 South)
Open for residential waste disposal Monday - Saturday 7am - 5pm
Vouchers valid thru end of 2017*



Save the Date!



**Annual Earth Day
Collection Event
Saturday - April 22, 2017
Taylorsville City Hall
8:00 a.m. to 12-noon**

You can celebrate Earth Day by saving money and saving the planet! Many items used at home are not recyclable nor are allowed in your black garbage can. This event is for all those items that require special disposal, because not everything fits in the can.

We will be collecting the following items:

Household Hazardous Waste, Prescription Medication (please no needles or glass), Confidential Document Shredding, Glass Recycling, Bulk Waste, Green Waste, Electronic Waste, Clothing & Furniture Donation



Organized by the Taylorsville Green Committee



Youth Theatre Auditions Youth Ages 6-18 years old

Taylorsville Youth Theatre is holding auditions for
Seussical the Musical Jr. at Taylorsville City Hall

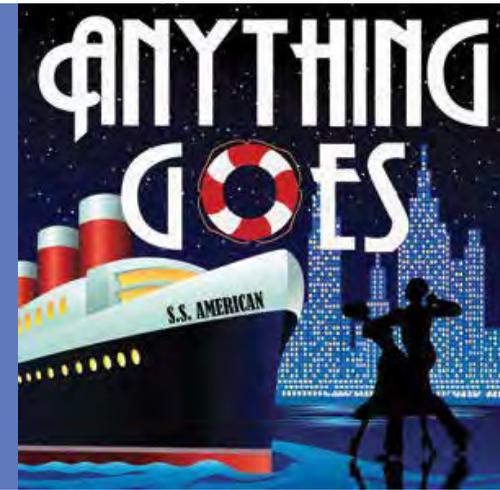
Thursday, March 2nd 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. &

Friday, March 3rd 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Call backs will be on Saturday, March 4th at 9:00 a.m.

Auditions held at Taylorsville City Hall

*Seussical the Musical Jr. runs June 9th, 10th & 12th
at the SLCC Alder Amphitheater*



Taylorsville Arts Council will be holding:

AUDITIONS

March 9th & 10th 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM

at Taylorsville City Hall

Open to Ages 13 & up

Call backs on Saturday, March 11th at 9 AM

Anything Goes runs July 12,13,14,15, and 17 at the SLCC Alder Amphitheater



Taylorsville Bennion Heritage Remembrances

Owen Frame

This piece was written by Owen Frame as one of his not so pleasant memories of Taylorsville.

By the fall of 1918, the flu epidemic was getting worse, and Dave Frame and I (his brother Owen Frame) continued digging graves. When people were gathered around in groups, we all would wear gauze masks over our noses and mouths to prevent spreading the disease. We began holding graveside funerals. More and more people were dying, so to speed things up, and to make it easier on the mourners, we would have several extra shovels for the fellows who would help fill in the graves.

As the weather became colder and colder, near zero, we had to dig with pick and shovel through as much as 18 inches of the frozen ground. Cold weather lasted all through the winter.

The epidemic affected many people; even whole families were sick in bed at the same time. Some of the relatives or neighbors had to take the chance of catching the flu and go into their homes to keep the fires going and coal buckets full. In some cases, they prepared food ready for use.

I had been working on the farm with Leonard Mackay, so while he was sick in bed, I did the outside chores. Then when they were all bedfast, I went into the kitchen at least once a day for about three days and washed up their dishes and straightened up the room. I wore a mask while in their house. Thank goodness I didn't catch the flu that winter and all of the family lived through it.

This was a very cruel disease, and many families were not so lucky. One of our neighbor ladies died leaving five young children under 12 years old, and there were many, many cases like this during this epidemic.



Community Greenhouse & Gardens

Greenhouse openings for seed starting begins 1st week of March \$25
Community Garden plots available 1st weekend of April \$25



**For additional information please contact:
Toni Lenning at 801-265-1328 or 801-414-4192**



UFA Safety Message

by Jay Ziolkowski



Each year, UFA responds to approximately 35,000 fire and medical calls. Here are some important ways in which everyone can assist in the event of an emergency:

Only Call 911 to Report

- A fire
- A serious crime
- Any serious medical condition
- Any situation requiring immediate response of police, fire or emergency medical personnel.

What the 911 Operator Will Need to Know

- Address of the emergency
- The phone number you are calling from
- Nature of the emergency

Remember to stay calm and speak clearly. Be prepared to answer questions, receive instructions and stay on the phone until you are told to hang up.

Emergency Vehicles and You

When an emergency vehicle has its red and white lights on and the siren activated, the personnel are responding to an emergency.

- Please remember that the law requires everyone to:
- Pull to the right side of the road and STOP until the emergency vehicle has passed
 - Give all emergency vehicles the right-of-way
 - Keep back at least 500 feet from an emergency vehicle

If approaching or at the emergency scene:

- Do not drive over fire hoses
- Drive slowly and carefully
- Have someone wait at the street to direct the fire and police departments
- If you are a witness to the emergency, stay at the scene to provide personnel with information
- If you are asked to move or leave the area, please do so immediately - as things can become very hectic, and the public's safety is paramount

Some Other Tips

- Make sure your address is visible from the street
- Keep areas around fire hydrants clear of parked cars, fences, bushes, tall weeds and debris
- Keep bushes, trees, grass and weeds cut or trimmed to avoid the chance of brush fires
- If you have security bars on your windows, make sure they are fitted with inside quick releases



Are you looking for an opportunity to get participate, and get involved? Do you want to share your time and talents to build our community?

The Taylorsville Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks (L.A.R.P) Committee is seeking new members at this time. We are looking for volunteers to meet monthly and participate in our planned activities that include:

- Beautification awards for the best-kept yards/landscaping, Halloween Outdoor Décor, Holiday Outdoor Décor.
- The Remember Me Rose Garden
- A Fall Festival that we are planning for October 14, 2017, at Taylorsville Park located at 4751 South Plymouth View Drive

The activities we are planning for our Fall Festival include a Halloween Costume Parade for children, adults, and dogs. In addition to music, a movie in the park (Halloween Theme), share the harvest, and a pumpkin carving contest.

Residents interested in serving on the Taylorsville Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks (L.A.R.P) Committee are invited to submit a volunteer application located on the City of Taylorsville website at <http://www.taylorsvilleut.gov> or call the City Offices for additional information at (801) 963-5400.



FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

The Taylorsville Leisure Activities Recreation & Parks (L.A.R.P) Committee is planning a Fall Festival on October 14, 2017 at Taylorsville Park, 4751 South Plymouth View Dr.

They are seeking beverage vendors to serve warm beverages (coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and apple cider) and cold sodas. They are also seeking food vendors to serve veggies on a stick, hot dogs, caramel popcorn and caramel apples and other fall food type items. Vendors interested can contact the LARP Committee at larp@taylorsvilleut.gov

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Taylorsville Exchange Club is sponsoring a Pinwheel Garden for Child Abuse Prevention Month.



Please come and plant pinwheels with us at
Taylorsville City Hall on Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.



GREEN WASTE PROGRAM

The Green Waste Collection Program will resume beginning Thursday, March 23 for Taylorsville residents. Taylorsville currently has 549 subscribers. This is a subscription program that helps divert green waste from the landfill to be processed into mulch that can be purchased for use from the Salt Lake Valley and Trans-Jordan Landfills. For more information on this program, please visit our website at: <http://wasatchfrontwaste.org/green-waste>.



ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-WASTE)

Due to limited funding, the Salt Lake Valley Health Department will no longer be accepting E-waste at the WFWRD Offices after Friday, February 24th. E-waste can be dropped off at the Salt Lake Valley Landfill, Trans-Jordan Landfill, or the Sandy ABOP Center. For more information, visit our website at: <http://wasatchfrontwaste.org/recycling>.



REUSABLE GROCERY BAG CAMPAIGN

WFWRD has a new campaign to encourage the use of reusable grocery bags. The campaign is using the slogan "BYOB: Bring Your Own Bag." Plastic grocery bags, and other similar stretch plastic materials, create challenges for the recycling facilities and clog up the machinery. This creates down-time and increased expense in processing other recyclable materials. We ask that all residents consider reusable grocery bags, or ask for paper bags when shopping to reduce the use of plastic grocery bags. Most grocery stores have receptacles in their entrance or customer service areas for customers to dispose of their plastic bags for proper recycling.



COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS (CNG) FLEET

WFWRD completed the transition to a full CNG residential fleet in August, 2016. CNG fuel is less expensive than diesel, and emits 20%-29% fewer greenhouse gases. With serving over 82,000 homes each week, and driving over 1.3 million miles each year, this saves around 4,000 tons of carbon dioxide pollution annually. It has also saved approximately \$780,000 in fuels costs since the transition started in 2011. As a result, it is helping WFWRD accomplish environmental and financial stewardship goals to better serve our customers and the community.

Pets and Music

by David Moss, Animal Services Director

Taylorsville – When you come to visit the West Valley City/Taylorsville Animal Shelter next time, you will notice that we are playing classical music in the dog kennels. Why? Research has shown that dogs respond to music.

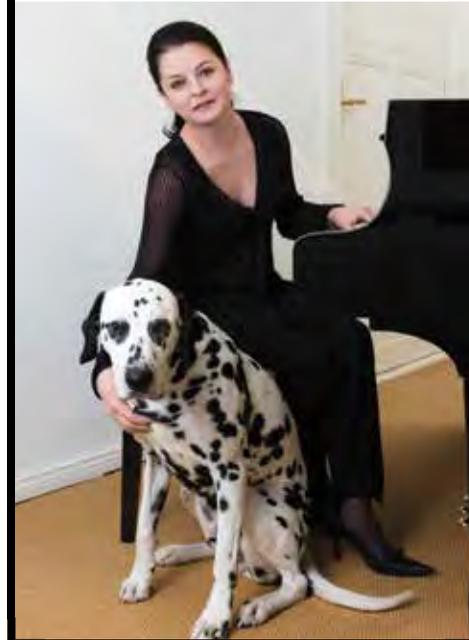
This can be either a positive response or a negative response depending on the music. In helping dogs with behavior, the research shows that classical music is beneficial while music such as heavy metal is associated with aggressive behavior.

Many pet owners are convinced that their pet likes the same type of music they do. The rationale behind this is that the animal is exposed to and becomes accustomed to what the pet owner plays. However, research has found that music seems to be species specific. In other words, the music that works for dogs might not work for cats or other pets. The findings of Charles T. Snowden, a University of Wisconsin researcher and animal psychologist, show that pets follow their own species' taste or preference and not that of their owner. Much like us humans who tend to like music that falls within our own acoustic and vocal range and at a tempo that are similar to that of our heartbeat, animals are no different.

While dogs might respond well to classical music, this doesn't mean cats will. David Teie, a cellist and composer, has come up with music in the frequency range for cat vocalizations and he has used their resting heart rate, which is faster than a human's, as a basis for the music he is creating for cats. His preliminary research shows positive results.

In the scientific community there is always more to discover. All of the research for the last 15-20 years on this subject has focused on behavior with music vs. no music or the type of music. Recently a study was published in which the researchers looked at the difference between music and audiobooks. What they found was pretty neat: Dogs spent more time resting and less time in vigilant behaviors when listening to audiobooks instead of music, including classical music.

More study and progress in this area of research is needed. There is nothing wrong with doing your own research and finding what seems to work best for your pet. This way, the next time you leave your pet home you can turn on some music which you have found to work well with your pet to keep them company and help them relax while you are gone. And just maybe the next time you visit the dogs we have at the Animal Shelter you will be listening to a story on audiobook instead of classical music.



Typically, less than 3% of the treated drinking water produced is actually consumed by people. Most goes for lawns, showers and tubs, toilets, etc. One way to help water be available is reducing the amount of outdoor usage. The Conservation Garden Park has been developed by Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District to inspire, educate, and empower our communities to be waterwise. Located on ten acres in West Jordan, Utah and is easily accessible from all Wasatch Front communities. The Garden began with six examples of waterwise landscaping in a mock residential setting. It has since expanded to include interactive exhibits for educating the public on waterwise design, planting, and irrigation. It has become one of Utah's premier water conservation teaching and demonstration gardens. Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District, as a Member Agency, continues to promote this valuable resource to our customers. Conservation Garden Park's 2017 class schedule can be found at www.conservationgardenpark.org.

If you have any questions regarding this article please contact Dan McDougal, Communications Manager, at Taylorsville-Bennion Improvement District: 801-968-9081 / danmcdougal@tbid.org or visit our website at www.tbid.org



TAYLORSVILLE CITY CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE

*Special
Pricing*
for Taylorsville Residents

Please Contact:
Lee Bennion - 801.834.4325



Unified Police Department Taylorsville Precinct Officers visited Taylorville High School and did a NO TEXTING WHILE DRIVING Campaign. Students and teachers were asked to pledge by signing their signature that they would not text and drive. The signatures on purple and yellow paper were strung together in the hallway as a reminder of their pledge.

Taylorsville Dayzz

June 22, 23 & 24
 Gary C. Swenson Valley Regional Park
 5100 South 2700 West

2017 Performance, Food Booth, Exhibitor, and Parade Applications
 Available at <http://www.taylorsvilleut.gov/>



Pets and Music

by David Moss, Animal Services Director

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Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee (LARP)

Remember Me Rose Garden

4743 South Plymouth View Drive
 Taylorsville, Utah

The Remember Me Rose Garden has been created to be a place of contemplation and respect where deceased individuals who have contributed to the quality of life in the Bension and Taylorsville communities can be memorialized with a living tribute - a rose bush - and a plaque containing their name and area of service to our community. A completed application along with the fee to cover the cost of the rose bush and plaque (\$300) should be submitted to the City of Taylorsville and LARP Committee for review and approval.

Applications are available on the City of Taylorsville website at <http://www.taylorsvilleut.gov/> Due to limited space, applications will be limited to the first 40 applicants.



**CITY OF TAYLORSVILLE
NOTICE OF 2017 MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

The City of Taylorsville will hold a Municipal Election on November 7, 2017 to elect a Mayor and two City Council Members (one from Council District 4 and one from Council District 5) to serve four-year terms.

The filing period will run from Thursday, June 1, 2017 through Wednesday, June 7, 2017 during regular City Hall hours (Weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Candidates must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" form in person with the Taylorsville City Recorder, at Taylorsville City Hall, 2600 West Taylorsville Blvd., Taylorsville, Utah, during the filing period. Declaration of Candidacy forms will be available in the Recorder's Office or on the City website at www.taylorsvilleut.gov.

A candidate must have been a resident of the City of Taylorsville for at least 12 consecutive months (365 days) immediately prior to the date of the General Election. A candidate must also be a registered voter. A candidate running for a Council District Seat must be a resident of that district. A filing fee of \$100.00 must be paid at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy. The filing fee will be reduced to \$50 for candidates who submit a nomination petition containing 25 signatures of residents of the city who are at least 18 years old. For additional information, please visit the City's website at www.taylorsvilleut.gov or contact City Recorder Cheryl Peacock Cottle at 801-963-5400.



Save, Time and Energy– Thinking Green

by Marsha Mauchley, Taylorsville Green Committee

Saving time and energy when you plan your day and life! How can one save time and energy? It's easy and simple. You can create new habits that will last a lifetime.

So, today you are going to the grocery store. You have made a list. The list is like a check list. It's important, because it saves time and energy. It keeps us focus on what to buy without wasting money as well.

You planned the meals for the entire week. By choosing to cook and eat at home, you have saved time, energy, gasoline, tips and calories. You saved money two ways in a few minutes. You saved gasoline for your car and you have money in your wallet.

Secondly, when you are casually shopping around town for clothes or home items, remember to pack a lunch. I can't emphasis enough the savings you will experience. A healthy lunch of salad, vegetables and bottled water. Then, in turn, you may recycle your bottles of water and reuse the vegetable bags you acquired at the grocery store.

It's a great habit to achieve.

In my personal life I reuse plastic bags. It just makes sense. With no pun intended. My daughter-in-law reuses, paper cups. It's a great idea. Good habits are being established! Let's get excited to recycle and about thinking green.

We must save the planet from the "throw away" mentality.

If you are a homeowner, you have a need to supply your heating and air with proper filters fir ventilation of the furnace. Here are a few ideas to keep one up to speed with saving time and money.

They are as follows:

- When purchasing your furnace filters keep in mind that these items cost less at your local grocer. Once again, you will save time because you may already, because you researched the cost and fine the best price for your budget.
- With heating and air companies they have their sales portion they are required to roll out or add to the service of your heating needs. The plans are astronomical for a monthly payment.
- Remembering to turn the light off when leaving a room.

There we have it... THINK GREEN! You might just save the planet.



The City of Taylorsville and UtahSAG are proud to host W5YI Amateur Radio license exam sessions. Anyone interested in testing to receive or upgrade their ham radio license is welcome to attend. The sessions will be held on the last Monday of most months from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM at Taylorsville City Hall

The scheduled testing sessions for 2017 are:

- April 24
- May 22
- June 26
- July 31
- August 28
- September 25
- October 30
- November 27

Please register online at www.hamstudy.org

Note: This is NOT a course that will prepare you take the license exams. Studying ahead of time is highly recommended. If you have any questions, contact Taylorsville Emergency Management at 801-963-5400.

Parental involvement No. 1 factor in children's education, presenters say

By Jet Burnham | j.burnham@mycityjournal.com



Tami Pyfer shares tips and anecdotes with parents at the Parent Leadership & Empowerment Conference. (Jet Burnham/City Journals)

Tami Pyfer, education adviser to Gov. Gary Herbert, was the keynote speaker for parents attending Granite School District's Parent Leadership & Empowerment Conference on Jan. 21. She spoke on ways parents can be involved in their children's education.

"Being involved is not just important; it's imperative," she said.

Kris Dennison and Kimberly Swensen of Utah's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) leadership also addressed this topic in their breakout sessions. They explained that parent involvement is the No. 1 factor in student achievement—even more than school choice or socio-economic status.

Parents can get involved early in their child's learning by reading with them, said Swensen. As they get older, parents can organize a workspace for homework, away from distractions and equipped with needed supplies. Dennison suggested keeping a clipboard and pencil box in the car for times when homework is done during a commute.

Dennison encouraged parents to talk with kids about school and listen without judgment when they express frustration.

"You don't have to protect kids from failure or make their decisions for them," Swensen said. "Just be there for them."

Parents need to be positive about school, making it obvious they value education, said Pyfer. They can demonstrate high aspirations and expectations for their children by using encouraging phrases such as, "You can do this" when kids are struggling and encourage setting educational goals by asking questions such as, "What are you going to be when you grow up?"

Presenters suggested celebrating academic achievements to encourage students to continue their progress.

"Kids love to be praised," said Dennison.

Parents can be involved with what their child is learning by looking over their homework, said Dennison. They may find opportunities to supplement learning with outings and vacations related to subjects their child is studying.

Families can also share their own examples of academic success. Pyfer suggested parents talk about their jobs and educational experiences. She believes it's important to link book-learning to real life. Parents can talk with their children about how they solve problems at work. They can share how they learned self-discipline and persistence from taking music lessons. They can tell how they learned to consider another's perspective because of an instructor they didn't agree with.

Denison agrees that parents should talk to their child about everyday happenings; discussing current events or participating

in community events are part of a child's education. Her opinion is that families will find time to have these discussions if they make dinnertime a family activity and limit screen time. She also said driving in the car is a great time for parents to have one-on-one discussions with their child to get an idea of how things are going.

Presenters emphasized the importance of having a good relationship with teachers and schools by communicating often with teachers and knowing the secretaries in the front office.

"Teachers can be your strongest ally," Pyfer said. She suggested sending thank-you notes or gifts to teachers to let them know they are appreciated.

When a child complains about a teacher, Pyfer reminded parents to consider that they are only hearing one side of the story. She warned parents not to talk negatively about teachers.

"It affects the child's ability to learn from that teacher," she said.

Dennison told parents that the decision to come to the parenting conference shows they are willing to be more involved. She assured the fathers, who were in the minority of those in attendance, that they could fill a unique niche in the schools.

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) has been implemented in 15 district elementary schools. The program encourages dads to be involved in their child's school. Positive male adult role models have been highly successful, said Swensen.

"Kids are just drawn to dads," she said. "Male engagement is crucial." She cited that fewer instances of bullying occur when dads had a presence at the schools. More info is available at www.fathers.com/watchdogs.

As PTA representatives, Dennison and Swensen encouraged parents to join their local PTA organizations. Besides being informed of what is going on in their schools, members receive benefits. For example, information about discounts for local arts and sporting events can be found at utahpta.org/come-play-events.

The PTA website at utahpta.org, has more ideas of how parents can be involved with their child's education. There are also resources at www.parenttoolkit.com, including information to track and support a child's academic and personal growth. Here, parents learn what is normal social and emotional behavior for each stage of a child's development.

Presenters assured parents that it is never too late to get involved.

"Don't ever underestimate the influence you have on your child's success," said Pyfer. ✦

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School attendance: Does it matter?

By Jet Burnham | jburnham@mcityjournals.com

Presenter Tracy Hansen impressed upon parents the importance of school attendance for their students. Her goal in presenting at the Granite Parent Leadership & Empowerment Conference on Jan. 21 was to motivate parents to get their kids to school each day.

“What might seem to be only a few absences a month is actually chronic absenteeism,” said Hansen.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, in a school year, she said.

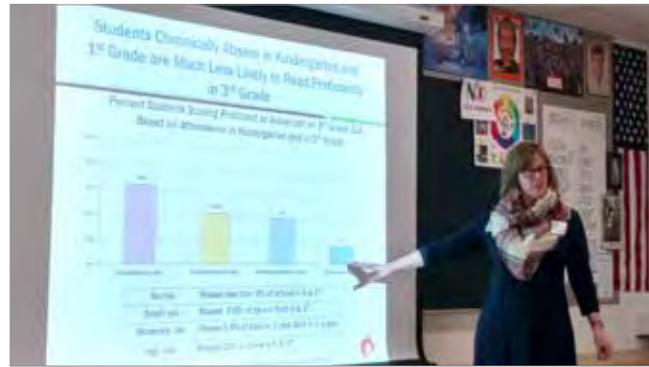
The habit of chronic absences is compounding. Hansen, who is a coach for MTSS (Multi-tiered System of Support for Student Interventions) at the district, showed studies illustrating how excessive absences in kindergarten are still affecting student performance three years later.

“Statistics show that when children are chronically absent, there are many serious implications, such as lower academic performance in math and reading, as well as lower graduation rates,” Hansen said.

Parents may not realize their actions are sending negative messages about attendance to their children. When parents schedule dentist appointments and vacations that take their children out of school, the kids may assume attendance is flexible. But time away from school has the same negative effects, no matter the reason, Hansen said.

A parent herself, Hansen understands it can be a struggle to get kids out of bed and to school on time. She also taught junior high for 25 years and said, “It’s worth the fight.”

Common obstacles to regular attendance were discussed in Hansen’s workshop. Parents agreed that morning chaos is a problem. They brainstormed ideas to make mornings run more



Tracy Hansen shows parents how important attendance is for students as young as kindergarteners. (Jet Burnham/City Journals)

smoothly—like having homework in the child’s school bag, lunches packed and clothes set out the night before. Children thrive with consistency, said Hansen, so she recommended routine bedtimes and waking times.

Hansen suggested parents find support systems. Parents can reach out to family members and neighbors to arrange backup options if transportation is a problem. There is also help through the school system.

“Don’t be afraid to bring the school in and develop supports,” Hansen said. “Teachers are willing to reach out and help when they know the situation.”

Parents may not understand what the problem is when kids say they don’t want to go to school, they don’t like school or that they don’t feel well enough to go to school. Parents and

teachers can work together to find the reasons for these excuses. Hansen suggested working with schools to create solutions and incentives such as lunchtime clubs and interest-based activities that give these children something to look forward to at school. Hansen has had success asking a teacher or counselor to connect with a struggling child every day.

“Schools are starting to recognize that piece,” Hansen said. “That someone needs to take notice that [the student] is there.”

One school employee said she was amazed by how many students need to have someone notice them to feel valued. She said that school is often their “safe place.”

For children who struggle with social skills, facing a day of feeling left out can be discouraging, Hansen said. Her solution is for parents to reach out to teachers, who understand developmental stages and who may be able to pair a child with a peer who knows how to befriend them.

Hansen reminded parents that their kids should be involved in the efforts and decisions for regular school attendance. She suggested they talk with their children about how their habits now can affect their future.

“The conversation is the change,” she said to parents looking for solutions.

She recommended parents use positive motivation, involving kids in the discussion of what extrinsic rewards they earn for good attendance for a period of time. Incentives can be a special outing with a parent, a treat or extra media time.

“You need to be consistent and reward efforts along the way,” Hansen said.

More information and tips for parents can be found at www.attendanceworks.org. †

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Speakers · Breakout Sessions · Lunch

Pat Jones, CEO, Women’s Leadership Institute –
“Women, the Untapped Gold Mine”

Jack Elkins, CEO, JW Edwards Group –
“Building Your Business with Social Media”

Dona Bilyeu-Dittman, Operations Manager at Salt Lake Community College – “How to Dress for any Profession”

Senator Ann Millner, Utah State Senate –
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Amber Savage, American Red Cross Disaster Executive – “Responding in Emergency Situations”

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Locals race at King of Hammers

By Greg James | gregj@mycityjournals.com

The largest Ultra4 race in the country has several competitors from right here in Salt Lake City. The King of Hammers off-road race was held on public lands in Johnson Valley, California, Feb. 4-10. The event includes motocross, UTV, every man's challenge and professional division races.

"I have been down to help other drivers and watch several times," said Matt Murphy, better known as 'Murf Dog' by his friends and competitors. "This will be my first time as a driver. I do not have any experience as a driver."

Murf Dog is from West Jordan and races his brand-new, custom-built Jeep in the 4800 class of the Ultra4 racing series. The King of Hammers is the opening race of the season held each year in the California desert. It is considered the Super Bowl of off-road racing.

Murf Dog qualified eighth-fastest in his class. He finished in 9 hours and 41 minutes. His race was marred by a flat tire right at the beginning that he never recovered from.

Robby Flandro, or Captain Rob as he is known to his friends, finished just 16 minutes past his cut off time, but officials are reviewing his placement because he stopped to help a driver with an emergency fuel leak. Flandro is from West Valley and competes in the 4800 class.

"(King of Hammers) was awesome to see. We wandered around and watched the races all week. I can't wait to go again next year," Taylorsville residents Louie Herold and Ed Rappleye said almost simultaneously, talking about their trip to the race. "We just acted like we knew what was going on and had lots of fun."



Matt Murphy from West Jordan finished the King of Hammers off-road race in 9 hours and 41 minutes. (Louie Herold/Murf Dog Racing)

The race began in 2007 as a dream by its founders Jeff Knoll and Dave Cole. The competitors start side by side, two vehicles every 30 seconds. Each team must pass through several checkpoints and can never stray more than 100 feet of centerline on the race course. The driver with the fastest elapsed time is declared the winner.

The race attracts tens of thousands of fans, racers and sponsors to the two-week-long event. The dry lake bed becomes a thriving city. Mechanics, racers and fans roam from car hauler to temporary garage. Each one preparing his car for the 100-mile

grueling off road desert race. The event is broadcast over a live internet feed to more than a half a million viewers each year.

The course is outlined for competitors through GPS coordinates. It combines stretches of dry lake bed. The cars can reach speeds of 100 mph. It also includes rock climbing through mountainous terrain.

"Each racer has a time limit to complete the course," Murphy said. "I think the rocks are going to be the hardest part. I just hope I can finish. I figure I have about \$120,000 into my car."

The race has evolved from 12 cars racing for bragging rights to more than 300 teams registered for the event this year. Cars from around the world have been shipped in to participate. It has become the largest off-road race in North America.

"This is my first time driving King of Hammers," said Taylorsville resident Rawlin McGhie. "I have worked two other times as a pit crew. I am just going to try to keep the car together and finish. I have so many sponsors and friends that take time off work to come and help me."

McGhie was the 2016 Dirt Riot National Series point champion. He raced in the 4400 class. He did not finish the event after he lost power steering. He drove the car nearly 26 miles using his winch to steer the car but was unable to make the repairs to resume the race.

"It was not the race we had envisioned," McGhie said. "We will be back next year better prepared for sure."

Shannon Campbell from Gilbert, Arizona, was the overall winner. He finished the course in 6 hours 46 minutes. ↗



Meet DIY Network Star Jason Cameron

Ohio native and star of DIY Network's *Desperate Landscapes*, *Man Caves*, and *Sledgehammer*, is a jack of all trades. When he's not getting his hands dirty outside in the yard, he can be found tearing down walls to create unique and over-the-top spaces to match anyone's personality.

Catch Jason Cameron on the Garden Stage on Fri., March 10 at 7 pm; Sat., March 11 at 1 pm and 6:30 pm; and Sun., March at 12 pm and 1 pm.

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- March 9 Leadership Institute
- March 14 WIB Spring into Success Conference
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- March 23 Multi Chamber Lunch Series

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Warriors wind down basketball season

By Greg James | gregj@mycityjournals.com



The 2017 Taylorsville girls basketball team captured third place in Region 3. (Jodi Lee/Taylorsville basketball)

Taylorsville Warriors girls basketball head coach Jodi Lee has the team focused on taking it one game at a time. The team has responded by tightening its grip on its Region 3 opponents.

“I feel really good about this team,” Lee said. “We had a few bumps along the way, but where this team is at now I could not be happier with.”

The team’s chemistry has helped them stay focused on its goals in what could be the toughest region in Class 5A. The Warriors have a firm hold on third place behind Bingham and Copper Hills.

“These girls have begun to believe that they can win,” Lee said. “I think that is the biggest difference from when I started here. This is a tough region, and some nights it can be brutal. This season has been about taking it one game at a time.”

A sophomore and junior lead the team in scoring, but Lee said the mixture of senior leadership is what keeps this team focused.

Seniors Zae Patane, Maizy Burbank, Katie Burgess and Mari Hasebi led a blowout victory over Jordan on senior night on Feb. 7, 52-21. The seniors closed out their careers by capturing a must-win to retain a hold on third place in Region 3. They never trailed; they scored the game’s first nine points and finished the first half on a 14-1 run.

“I think our team bond is great,” Finau Tonga, a sophomore on the team, said after the Jordan victory. “We have grown together and learned to play together. I am humbled, but there is always room for me to improve. I want to go to state and get as far as we can. That is our goal.”

Morgan Toluono has averaged 12.7 points per game this season. The junior has shot 29 percent from behind the three-point line. She scored a career high 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds against Olympus earlier this season.

“She (Toluono) is an all-around player,” Lee said. “The last two years, I have asked her to play point guard, and I do not think that is her natural position. She slashes to the hoop well and shoots from the wing. Her stats could get even better.”

Tonga is the team’s second-leading scorer. At 6-foot-2, she towers over many of her teammates. She has snagged eight double-doubles (double figures in two statistical categories). She had 22 rebounds against Murray in non-league play earlier this season.

“She (Tonga) has the ability to go places,” Lee said. “She has been working hard and is finding that other teams focus on her. It is not just about being bigger anymore. I think she has potential to be a division one player.”

The 5A girls state basketball tournament is scheduled to begin Feb. 20 (after press deadline) at Salt Lake Community College. The Warriors could face Fremont or Northridge in the first round of the tournament.

“This year the team has been a joy,” Lee said. “They have been a dream. Our seniors have played hard, and that trickles down. I do not think we are the most talented team in the state, but we play hard enough that teams are not going to want to play us. We will give it a battle. The heart and effort is great with these girls.”

Hasebi was named to the Deseret News Academic All-State team. The award is to recognize those seniors who have excelled in the classroom as well as in athletic competition. With more than 85,000 students competing in athletics, the Utah High School Activities Association considers this a prestigious award.

Lee is in her third year as head coach at Taylorsville. The Warriors have qualified for the state tournament all three seasons but have never advanced past the first round. They are focused on taking it one game at a time this time around. ✦

Salt Lake County Council
MESSAGE**Canyons planning becomes council priority**

Aimee Winder Newton, County Council District 3

The canyons are some of our greatest resources here in Salt Lake County. We are inspired by the breathtaking views as we enjoy sports such as hiking, skiing, mountain biking, and rappelling. There are also watershed areas that provide drinking water for some residents in the valley. Because the majority of the canyons are still part of unincorporated Salt Lake County, we have planning and zoning jurisdiction over them.

Because of this planning authority, much time has been spent exploring various ordinances for the canyons. In fact, many commissions have spent the past few years reviewing zoning ordinances and giving input on this area. Over the past few months the County Council has reviewed recommendations by several planning commissions on two different ordinances: the Foothill Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ) and the Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ).

FCOZ is a set of already existing ordinances that govern the canyons, while MRZ is a new proposed set of ordinances that would be specific to the resorts in the canyons.

I've received a lot of information recently, both from county planning staff as well as engaged constituents. There

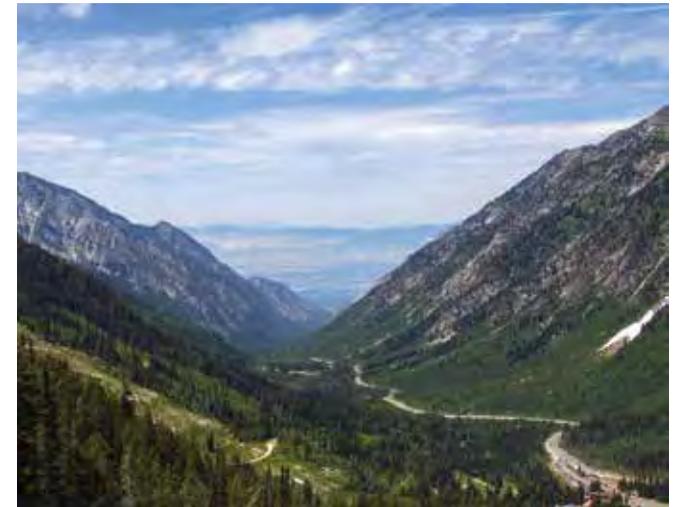
are a number of issues that are generating some controversy, and I have deeply appreciated the outreach from residents of the canyons.

Stream setback is one issue residents are passionate about. The current debate is whether structures should have to be set 100 feet back or 50 feet back from the stream. I've also heard controversy around the definition of a "significant tree" in county ordinance. Current code defines a tree at a "six-inch caliper or greater," and there is a proposal to change that to 4 inches. This affects the type of tree property owners have to replace if they remove for development. Details on resorts zones are also being discussed.

In general, property owners have felt concern that their voices and views won't be incorporated as part of the new ordinances. As for me, it is vital that any ordinance changes strike a thoughtful and appropriate balance between the various interests in the canyons: private property owners, recreation and visitors, ski resorts, and preservation of this wonderful resource for generations to come.

Salt Lake County has been managing these canyons well for many years. I'm confident that throughout this process

and moving forward, we'll continue to work with all the interested parties to continue that prudent management for the benefit of all county residents. ✦



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by
JOANI TAYLOR

Jump into Spring Organization - Is there an App for That?

A common question I'm often asked is, "how do you get so much done in a day?" After all, in addition to running a busy Coupons4Utah.com, I also own a travel blog, 50Roads.com and contribute to a grocery website Crazy4Smiths.com. I have a segment on KUTV, write this article monthly and still find the time to hang out with my out-of-state grandkids.

Initially, this tough question left me struggling for an answer. After a little thought I realized my most productive days come down to one handy tool. No, it's not mood-altering drugs (good guess though). The answer is my phone. Now, if you're like me in the 50-something age range, I know what you're thinking, "Get a grip, we don't need no stinkin' phones!" And admittedly, I did just write an article about the importance of writing down your goals.

So, let me be clear, I ALWAYS put my phone away during meals and it NEVER goes to bed with me (two habits I highly recommend for everyone). I'm of the mentality that I own my phone, it doesn't own me. And while some days it proves to be more of a distraction, this one tool can keep me productive all day. Here are a few apps I use that you could find useful too.

Grocery: ListEase is a free grocery app for your phone and even works with an Apple Watch. After a brief learning curve and initial set up, I found it easy to use for not only groceries, but for to-do lists to. There's even links to coupons. If you're a Smith's or Macey's shopper they both have great grocery list apps with coupons too.

Photos and Kids' Art: Keepy is a new free app that allows you to organize kids' artwork and allows the user the ability to share it with family members who live far away. The app also allows you to record voice-over stories about your photos.

Google Photos: There are tons of apps out there with cloud storage, but my personal favorite is Google Photos. It's easy to use, free and offers editing options.

Calendar: Yes folks, if you aren't already, you need to learn to use your calendar. I

sync my calendar to all my devices and put everything on. I even use it to block out times to take a moment and breath, to go to the gym, read a book, and even plan a vacation. Keeping to a schedule is my No. 1 tip for staying organized. If you're an iPhone user check out Awesome Note 2 app. It brings together to-do lists, notes and your calendar.

These are just a few ideas that will help you organize your time. You can find more apps we've shared on Coupons4Utah.com/get-app. The next time you feel overwhelmed with a task, you might just look to see if there's an app for that. And remember to always check the privacy terms before registering. ✦




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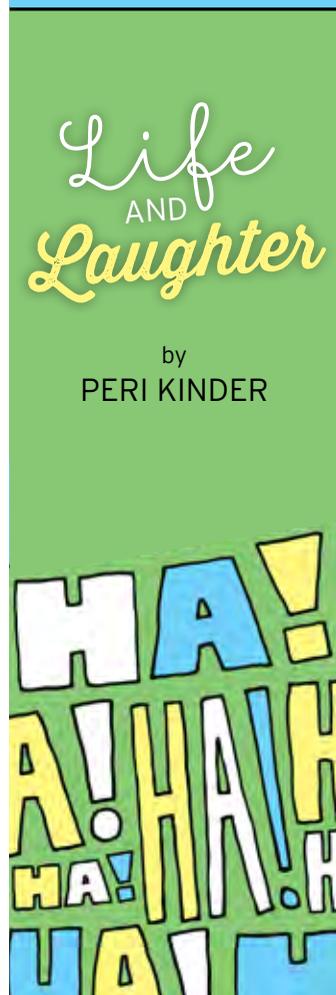
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Equal to the Task

After God created Adam and Eve, he plunked them down in the middle of a garden and told them to start naming dinosaurs.

Adam dove headfirst into the task and went to work giving names to the millions of creatures walking around his backyard. They lived together in ignorance and innocence, walking around naked and coming up with funny names like “chicken turtle” and “spiny lumpsucker.”

After a time, Eve thought there had to be more to life than mind-numbing sameness every. single. day.

She’d walk to the forbidden Tree of Knowledge and stare into its branches, wondering how bad knowledge could be. Then along came a snake and blah, blah, blah—knowledge entered the Garden of Eden.

Adam came home from work that afternoon to find Eve wearing fashionable fig leaves. Before he could comment, Eve enthusiastically told him all the amazing things she had learned. Knowledge was awesome!!

Adam was furious. He didn’t need no smart woman telling him what to do. He turned to reprimand Eve, but she was writing poetry, doing math and creating crafts to put on her Pinterest board.

Not to be upstaged by a lowly rib-woman, Adam stormed off through the jungle, getting his

nether-regions caught on brambles, until he came to the Tree of Knowledge. And the rest is history.

Or is it?

Fast forward to 2017 and male/female relationships haven’t improved much. It wasn’t until the last 100 years that women decided things had to change. They ate from their own trees of knowledge and became proactive in voicing opinions.

What was the overall reaction from men? “These women are crazy. To the institutions!” “Why can’t women just be happy?” “Don’t they know they have inferior minds?” “Where’s my dinner?!?”

Nevertheless, we persisted.

Our mothers and grandmothers and great-grandmothers fought against the stereotypical bra burning, hairy armpitted, unsmiling, Birkenstock-wearing feminists. They tussled with men who found them shrill, incompetent and wholly ungrateful; men who were possibly afraid of what a smart woman could do.

We’ve quietly listened to blonde jokes, put up with mansplaining bosses and held our tongues for hundreds of sexist and/or patronizing comments.

But maybe we can find common ground.

I’m sure many young men feel the pressure to become muscular like Thor, brave like a Navy Seal and wealthy like that Monopoly guy. I’m sure men battle with confidence issues, body image concerns and are always trying to look smarter than the

women in the room. So, see! Common ground.

Feminism is the promotion of women’s rights based on equality, meaning anyone who believes women are (at least) equal to men is a feminist. And, come on, really? We’re at least equal to men.

Here’s my vision for the next 100 years (assuming we survive the next four).

- Women take an equal role in leadership, possibly creating an effective education system.
- Men embrace a woman’s ability to communicate with emotion and passion as a strength, not a weakness.
- Girls around the world are educated, respected and live in peace.
- Someone creates a gluten-free cinnamon roll recipe that doesn’t taste like cinnamon-flavored concrete.

(Okay, that last one has nothing to do with equal rights. But still. Get on that, Pillsbury.)

Smart women shouldn’t be scary to men. We still do the majority of child-rearing and you don’t want a stupid person raising the next generation. Maybe in 200 years, this could be a headline: “Is America Prepared for a Male President?”

Maybe, like Adam and Eve, we can work together to create a new world. ✦

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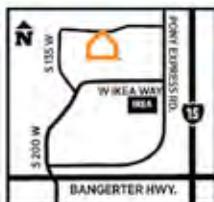
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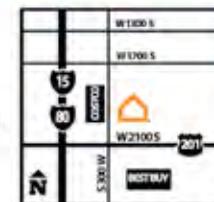
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