September 2014

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ANNUAL LAYTON FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE OCT. 1

The Layton City Fire Department will hold its annual Kendall O. Bryant Fire Prevention Awareness Day Open House on Wednesday, October 1, 2014, at Layton City Fire Station 51, 530 North 2200 West, from 5-8 p.m.
(The Fire Station is located at the southwest corner of Ellison Park.)

The annual open house is named after Firefighter Kendall O. Bryant who died in the line of duty while searching for victims in a house fire on March 31, 2000. Kendall dedicated much of his time to educating children about fire safety.

There will be many activities for families and children. These include:

• Ride on a real fire engine for a voluntary canned food donation to go to the Family Connections Center here in Layton.
• Cole, the search dog will perform his skills as part of his special training.
• Sparky the Fire Dog's Theater with kids safety videos. Free Popcorn!
• Talk to real emergency dispatchers and practice calling 911.
• Experience an earthquake with the State Fire Marshal's Office "Earthquake Trailer."
• Free Child Identification Kits by Layton Police Department.
• Firefighters show children the Thermal Imaging Camera, a great lifesaving item used in the fire service to search for them or a pet in a fire.
• Buy dinner for your family: hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, chips, nachos, drinks , provided by Layton Fire Corps. Funds are used for fire & injury prevention education.
• Your children can use a fire hose to spray and save a house from cartoon flames!

The national fire prevention focus this year is "Help us sound the alarm: Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives!" Did you know that three of every five home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, or no working smoke alarms? Smoke alarms save lives.

If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Having a working smoke alarm cuts the chances of dying in a reported fire in half.

Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Here are some other important things you should know about smoke alarms in your place of living:

1. Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
2. Test your smoke alarm every month simply by pushing the test button.
3. Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.

(Left) Spraying out a "fire" is a popular Layton City Fire Department Open House activity.

(Above) Layton City Fire Trucks are showcased at the annual open house.

(Right) Long lines formed last year to take a free ride in a fire truck at the annual Open House.

WHAT NOT TO FLUSH, OR PUT IN THE SEWER SYSTEM

Flush your toilet, or drain your sink and where does the waste and water go? For Layton residents, it goes to the North Davis Sewer District facility, located west of Syracuse.Some things should never be flushed or sent down the drain because they cause problems. Please do not use your toilet as a trash can!

According to Myron Bachman, Plant Superintendent of the North Davis Sewer District, the so-called flushable wipes are causing the biggest problem with solid waste disposal for the facility. Bachman says an entire dumpster a day full of the wipes comes through the sewer system. They'd rather these wipes be discarded in the trash instead. He said some of the wipes aren't really flushable.

The North Davis Sewer District has one entire building dedicated to handling such solid waste that ideally should not be in the sewer system to begin with. That building processes 45,000 pounds of solid waste a day, on average.

Things that should NEVER be flushed or sent down the drain, according to the North Davis Sewer District, include:

- Paints and Solvents
- Gasoline or Combustible Fuels
- Toxic Chemicals
- Antifreeze
- Medicines and Pharmaceuticals
- Fats, Oils, and Greases
- Baby Wipes
- Needles and Razor Blades
- Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers
- Poisons including Rat/Mice Bait
- Needles and Razor Blades

Other things that you should avoid sending through the sewer include:

- Large amounts of food waste through the disposal. Fats and oils aren't just bad for arteries or one's wasteline – they can clog sewers too. Never send grease, meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces and dairy products down the drain, or flush in a toilet. Put them in a trash can instead.
- Substances or objects that could plug a line and cause backups.

Also, do not flush medications down the toilet. For how to properly dispose of drugs, visit:
http://www.useonlyasdirected.org/drop-off-locator/

For more information on how to properly dispose of household products, please visit:
http://www.wef.org/AboutWater/ForThePublic/FactSheets/FactSheetDocuments/HouseholdWaste.htm

(Below) Examples of items that should not be flushed, or put in the sewer system.

(Above) More examples of things not to put into the sewer system, as part of a special display case at the North Davis Sewer Offices.

DO NOT GIVE MONEY TO PANHANDLERS

Layton City officials are strongly advising residents to avoid giving panhandlers money.

While panhandling is not against Layton City Ordinances, giving money to panhandlers is an unwise practice. Some panhandlers will just use any money received for drugs or alcohol. Others do not really need the money and make a profession out of the practice. Still others may sadly falsify stories of cancer, or veteran status, to play on emotions. Thus, residents should not confuse panhandling with homelessness, or other neediness.

Residents should also exercise caution around panhandlers who loiter at busy street corners. Handing out money to panhandlers from a vehicle window may create traffic safety issues, or congestion.

Yes, some panhandlers may have a legitimate need for charity. However, since it is difficult to truly know a panhandler's economic situation, it is wisest to simply give funds directly to reputable local charity organizations in Layton, like the Family Connection Center. That way, it is a guarantee that needy individuals and families will be helped by your donation.

Non-perishable food items can also be donated to the Connection Center, which partners with Safe Harbor, the Utah Food Bank, the United Way and other organizations.

The goal of the Family Connection Center is not to supplant individual responsibility, but to provide supportive programs designed to strengthen families and promote self-sufficiency among the most vulnerable families in the community. The Family Connection Center is located at 875 East Highway 193, Layton.

For more information, call 801-771-4642, or go to: http://www.utahfcc.org/

KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM MAIL TRUCKS AND OTHER ADVICE FROM THE LAYTON POSTMASTER

It is easy to take the U.S. Postal Service for granted. But, what can the public do to better assist mail delivery?

According to Shane Stricklan, Layton Postmaster, childhood safety is one of his biggest concerns. "I don't want kids around the mail trucks," he said. So parents and guardians should not send their children out to the street to receive mail directly from the truck.

"My carriers try to avoid hand delivery," he said. Better to let children only get the mail from the box, after the truck has departed, is Stricklan's advice for better safety.

Regarding dogs, he said homeowners need to restrain their canines whenever a door delivery of a package, or a registered letter, is necessary. This will reduce the chance of a dog bite, or attack for a mail carrier.

On the subject of package delivery – a postal carrier has to come to the doorstep whenever a package will not fit inside a mailbox. Then, Stricklan said a mail carrier will do their best to make a package on the step as less noticeable as possible.

"We try not to leave it visible," he said.

So, anyone not home during the day and expecting a large package should thoroughly inspect the front door area before panicking and contacting the Post Office. And keep obstructions away from your mailbox year-round. Your carrier may not deliver your mail if there's a car, shrub, or unfriendly dog in front of it.

Cars should be parked about 15 feet away from either side of a mailbox.

During the winter season, Stricklan said keeping the mailbox clear and accessible for the delivery truck is the best thing residents can do to assist postal carriers. This means that the street in front of the mailbox is clear enough of snow that the truck can readily pull up and drive away.

If a postal carrier has to get in and out of the truck to deliver mail often, they can't complete the route on time.

New subdivisions have group mail delivery locations, but if a single mailbox at an existing home, needs replacement, here's the Postal Service's advice:

- If you're buying a new mailbox, look for the Postmaster General's seal of approval; every new mailbox design is reviewed and approved before it goes to market.
- The house or apartment number should be clearly displayed on your mailbox. And, if your mailbox is on a different street than your house, the street name should appear on it, too.
- Put a roadside mailbox where a carrier can safely reach inside without leaving the truck. That means positioning it about 42 to 46 inches off the ground and flush with the curb.
- (In the absence of a raised curb, contact the Layton Post Office for guidance.)

Don't use potentially dangerous supports, such as: heavy metal pipes, concrete posts, farm equipment, such as milk cans filled with concrete. Mailboxes also need some occasional maintenance too:

- Replace missing or faded house numbers.
- Replace loose hinges on the door.
- Repaint rusty or peeling parts.
- Remount the post, if it's loose.

SEPTEMBER: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH "BE DISASTER AWARE, TAKE ACTION TO PREPARE"

The month of September marks the 11th annual National Preparedness Month.

Why should citizens prepare?

During routine emergencies, we have become accustomed to thinking of public safety response times in terms of minutes.

However, when a major disaster strikes, like a serious earthquake, response times will extend to at least several days. It is critical that Layton citizens be prepared to be on their own for at least 3 -5 days.

This is because in a major disaster, the City's emergency services will be overwhelmed and responses will be prioritized, and it will likely take much longer before emergency services are available to everyone.

Therefore it is very important that all citizens prepare in advance to take care of themselves, their families and their businesses for such an occurrence.

What should citizens prepare for?

Because of its varying climate and terrain, Utah can experience a variety of disasters. Layton City has identified some of the potential hazards at http://www.laytoncity.org/public/EmergencyManagement/hazardsInLayton.aspx that either have occurred, or could likely occur in the Layton area.

This can serve as a useful guide as citizens develop individual, family and business preparedness plans. There are actions that should be taken before, during and after an event that are unique to each hazard. For more information, visit: http://beready.utah.gov/beready/family/be-informed.html

How will citizens be notified about a disaster? Warnings may be given to the public using an alert and notification system, AM/FM radio, television, public address systems and mobile sirens via police or fire vehicles.

In addition, the Layton Citizen Corps Council has established a localized community system whereby the City provides notification through District Coordinators as a vital means for disseminating warnings. If the internet is operational, Layton will provide information via the city website: www.laytoncity.org, as well as on Twitter @LaytonFYI or @Layton Emergency, and on Layton City's Facebook page.

At the present time, there are four (4) established systems to give broad scale warnings to citizens.

They are:

1. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) – KSL is the Local Primary broadcast station for the Wasatch Front.
2. Layton's Emergency Notification System (Geocast Web). Requires registration. To learn more, go to:
   http://www.laytoncity.org/public/Depts/Police/Communications/ens.aspx?
3. Davis County Sheriff's Alert and Notification System
4. Calling tree through the Neighborhood Network (Districts – Areas – Blocks). Learn more at:
   http://www.laytoncity.org/public/EmergencyManagement/CommunityOrganization.aspx

Get an emergency supply kit.

An emergency supply kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency.

You may need to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster.

Additionally basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week or longer.

Your supply kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages. Additional information is available at http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit and http://www.utah.gov/beready/family/get-a-kit.html.

Make a family emergency plan.

Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: How will you get to a safe place? How will you contact each other? What will you do in different situations?

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services, like water, gas, electricity, and telephones were interrupted? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but cannot reach everyone right away.

Families can cope with a major disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Preparing in advance and knowing what to do when an emergency strikes is each family's best protection and each family's responsibility.

Additional information is available at http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan and http://www.utah.gov/beready/family/make-a-plan.html.

Get Involved.

Layton residents are encouraged to become part of their organized neighborhood network, under the direction of the appointed volunteer Block Captain.

See the Mayor's letter encouraging citizen participation www.laytoncity.org/downloads/LCCC/MayorLetter.pdf. One of the best ways to prepare to care for your family and to help your neighbors when professional emergency services are unavailable is to take a CERT class. For more information see http://www.laytoncity.org/public/EmergencyManagement/CERT.aspx?x=0 . Additional information is available at http://www.utah.gov/beready/family/get-involved.html.

For additional information, contact Jim Mason, Assistant City Manager, at 801-336-3820.

PREPARING FOR POTENTIAL FLOODING – USE OF SANDBAGS

Layton City requires the installation of storm water collection systems in city streets to meet specific engineering standards, but Mother Nature can occasionally serve up an unusually intense storm that exceeds system capacity and flooding may occur.

Homeowners in vulnerable areas should consider obtaining flood insurance and, when heavy rains are forecast, are encouraged to acquire sandbags to protect their homes from potential flood damage.

It is the homeowner's responsibility to prepare in advance for such emergencies. Layton City Public Works maintains a supply of sand and empty sandbags that residents can fill themselves and transport to their homes to prepare for potential flooding. Public Works also maintains a limited supply of pre-filled sandbags on pallets that may be delivered, if available, at the public roadside abutting affected private property once flooding is occurring. There is no guarantee that sufficient pre-filled sandbags will be available, so it is best to fill and transport sandbags you will need ahead of time.

Residents placing sandbags to protect against storm water flooding should direct flood water towards the street, and must be careful not to direct water onto private property. Affected residents should notify Layton City Public Works at 801-336-3720 if they are aware of flooding issues so city engineers can evaluate them for future planning.

Flooding can also be caused when streams and water channels rise due to heavy storms and/or the melting of above average snowpack as the weather warms in the spring.

Davis County is responsible to maintain streams and water channels, and to work with property owners to identify potential problems and remove debris. They also provide guidance and direction to the public regarding the acquisition and placing of sandbags. Anyone aware of or concerned about potential problems with streams and water channels in Layton should contact Davis County Flood Control for guidance.

Layton City Public Works stands ready to support and assist Davis County Flood Control in this important effort. To contact Davis County Flood Control, call 801-444-2230 or after hours contact the Davis County Sheriff's Office at 801-451-4150.

To gain access to sandbags and sand from Layton City, contact the Public Works department during working hours at 801-336-3720, or after working hours contact Layton Police at the non-emergency number 801-497-8300. For emergencies, call 911.

IS THERE A 'LAYTON' MOUNTAIN PEAK?

The tallest mountain peak east of Layton City is Thurston Peak, at 9,706 feet above sea level. (Thurston is also the highest peak in Davis County) However, some residents and hikers have nicknamed the next tallest peak found east of Layton City, "Layton Peak."

This prominent peak is currently officially unnamed on U.S. Forest and other government maps. It is hiking references on the Web that most often refer to this summit as "Layton Peak."

(Officially naming a peak is a long and complicated process through the federal government. However, Thurston Peak itself was not named until 1993.)

This "Layton Peak" is the first peak to the left, or north of Thurston Peak and is 9,571 feet above sea level. This peak is also tied with another unnamed one to the north as the second-tallest summit in Davis County.

(The fourth-highest peak in Davis County is Francis Peak, east of Fruit Heights at 9,547 feet and containing two radar domes.)

"Layton Peak" is 0.7 of a mile north of Thurston Peak and lines up with Antelope Drive. Like most tall peaks in Davis County, the "Layton" summit also straddles the Davis County-Morgan County line.

"Layton Peak," Ridge to the left, is opposite Thurston Peak, center.

The "Layton" Peak rises approximately one vertical mile away the valley floor.

Over time, popular usage of such geographical nicknames often become the standard, official titles of unnamed features.

LAYTON CITY HAS 6 MAJOR STREAMS; THREE LARGE RESERVOIRS

Within Layton City are six major streams that flow out of the Wasatch Mountains.
Going from north to south, the steams are:

- The North Fork of Kays Creek, coming out of Hobbs Canyon.
- The Middle Fork of Kays Creek, originating from a small canyon with the same title.
- The South Fork of Kays Creek, starting from what is nicknamed as "Crooked Canyon." (This canyon is the first canyon north of Snow Canyon.)
- Snow Creek, beginning in Snow Canyon.
- The North Fork of Holmes Creek, coming out of Adams Canyon.
- The South Fork of Holmes Creek, flowing out of Webb Canyon in Fruit Heights, with branches that reach portions of Layton.
- Note that some of these streams branch out in the valley, into various smaller streams.
- There are also smaller, seasonal streams/drainages within the city's limits.

Layton City also contains three major water reservoirs within its borders. There are:

- Adams Reservoir
- Holmes Reservoir
- Hobbs Reservoir

Layton also has quite an elevation drop to help gravity keep its streams flowing. The elevation on the east bench of Layton, near Fernwood Picnic area, for example, is 5,218 feet above sea level.

Layton City's Municipal Center sits at an elevation of approximately 4,400 feet, while the west side of Layton dips to 4,350 feet at West Gentile. The average elevation of the Great Salt Lake is 4,200 feet and is the place where drainages and streams along the Wasatch Front end up.
SOURCE: USGS maps.

The waterfall in Adams Canyon comes off the North Fork of Holmes Creek, that eventually empties into Layton.

'QUIET HOURS' IN LAYTON: 10:30 P.M. - 7:00 A.M.

With fireworks season over, what are the standard "quiet hours" in Layton City, when residents need to refrain from noisy activities/behavior?
The quiet hours are between 10:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., according to city ordinances.

What activities are unlawful during the quiet hours?

According to Layton City's ordinance, it is unlawful for any person to disturb the peace and the good order of the City, or any lawful assembly by clamor or noise during that 8.5-hour span.
This would include any loud machinery (lawn mower, trimmer, edger, etc.).

It is also unlawful for any person to use or operate, or permit the use or operation of any radio receiver, disc player, television, musical instrument, or other machine, instrument, or device for the production or reproduction of sound in a way that is plainly audible at the immediate property boundary or the exterior wall or structure which constitutes the boundary of a premises.

How does a person know if they are being too loud?

If someone is playing loud music, they can walk outside, to the edge of their property, or space and listen to see if the sound is going beyond their borders. "Quiet hours" are primarily about courtesy, common sense and being aware of how noises a person may produce can affect their neighbors and area.

How should offenses against the quiet hours ordinance be reported?

Call the non-emergency line of the Layton Police Department, 801-497-8300.

DO NOT DRIVE THROUGH STANDING WATER

Standing water can be a serious hazard to motorists and can occur anywhere – even in desert states, like Utah.

For example, during the late afternoon of July 29 in Layton, a brief, but heavy downpour temporarily flooded the low lying area of 1100 North Main Street, near Shopko, with nearly a foot or so of water in all four lanes of traffic.

A key concern was some motorists did not slow down enough and the large water splashes blinding drivers in the adjacent lane.

The AAA advises motorists to never drive through standing water, since water depth is difficult to judge until a vehicle is in the water.

AAA's best and safest advice is to turn the car around and find a safe, alternate route.

AAA also stresses any depth of water can also do serious and costly damage to a vehicle.

If a vehicle drives through standing water, a driver risks flooding the engine, damaging brake rotors, experiencing a loss of power steering, or even a short in the electrical system of the vehicle.

THE DO'S AND DON'TS AROUND ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER TRANSFORMER BOXES

Do you have a green/grey transformer box in your yard?
These installations enclose vital neighborhood distribution transformers, or other equipment used to provide service to homes by Rocky Mountain Power.

Rather than being mounted on a pole – the green or grey canisters you often see – the equipment is enclosed in a metal vault and placed on a concrete pad. (Linemen refer to these boxes as pad-mount transformers.)

These essential neighborhood transformers convert higher voltage from the distribution system to lower voltage for use in homes. While these underground systems are designed to be very safe, Rocky Mountain Power advises customers not to paint or alter in any way the vaults enclosing this equipment.

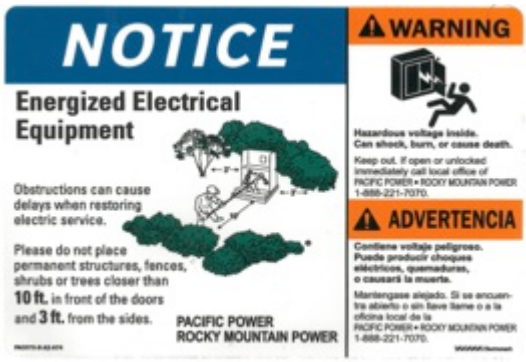
The voltage inside from the distribution system, at 7,200 volts, presents a clear hazard and safety of our customers is our first concern.

As well, safety and clarity for our line crews is also vital, so a standard appearance is best. Further, we advise customers to keep any landscaping, so that the box can be readily accessed at any time. This could be particularly important during a storm-related outage.

There have been cases in which these pad-mounted vaults have been totally obscured, or in some cases, completely covered by landscaping. This had to be removed before repairs could be made, which increased the restoration time.

Also, don't allow children to play on the boxes.
Plus, do not sit on the boxes, nor dig near the boxes either.

Note too, that if strangely one day your hair dryer doesn't work, but many other electrical things in your home do work – DO NOT call an electrician. Call Rocky Mountain Power first, as the likely problem may be with a shorted underground electric cable coming from the transformer box in your yard to your home. (Hair dryers require a lot of power.)



If you do call an electrician first, they will likely come out and charge you a service charge and then contact Rocky Mountain Power anyway.

If you find a transformer box that has been unlocked, or damaged, please call Rocky Mountain Power immediately at 1-888-221-7070.

NEW BUSINESS LIST

Dartside
606 North Marshall Drive, No. 101

Fix My Cell
1596 North Hill Field Road, No. E

Just Dance
1330 East Highway 193, C-1

Lil Kidz Closet
1201 North Hill Field Road (Layton Hills Mall)

Little Fort Spay & Neuter Clinic
166 South Fort Lane

Mountain Tech Motorsport
1370 West Gentile Street

Pick Your Plum
421 Marshall Way, No. 4

The Wood Connection
2672 N Hill Field Road, Suite No. 7

Valentine CPA
944 East Gordon Avenue

Z-Burgers & BBQ
1201 North Hill Field Road (Layton Hills Mall)

Looking for a new business in Layton City?
Visit laytoncity.org to find a "Business browser" – a complete list of all the current business licenses in Layton City, or contact Layton business licensing at 437 N. Wasatch Drive, (801) 336-3788.

SEPTEMBER IS HEALTHY FAMILY MEALS MONTH

Utah Governor Gary Herbert has signed a declaration promoting the importance and benefits of family meals, and is inviting Utahns to eat together as a family at least once a week during this month.

"The Governor has the right idea," says Tania Charette, Health Program Specialist, Utah Department of Health. "Children who are engaged with their parents through supportive activities like frequent family meals are less likely to use harmful substances, more likely to be successful in school, and have higher self-esteem and lower obesity rates."

Studies show having meals together also helps children's mental and behavioral health, communication skills, and leads them down a path to a lifetime of healthier eating habits.

To celebrate the declaration, the Utah Department of Health, Utah's Local Health Departments, and other community partners like Intermountain LiVe Well, support the new www.utahfamilymeals.org/ website.

The site features healthful recipes and opportunities to win prizes.

For information on family meals visit: http://www.choosehealth.utah.gov/your-health/healthy-eating/family-meals.php and http://utahfamilymeals.org/ To read the Governor's declaration go to, http://www.choosehealth.utah.gov/documents/pdfs/nutrition/DeclarationHeathy%20familymeals.pdf

IRRIGATION SHUTOFF PLANNED EARLY THIS YEAR: OCT. 1

Due to another drought year all irrigation deliveries will be shut off October 1 instead of October 15. This is due to below average water levels. Weber Basin will begin draining their irrigation system starting Oct. 1.

Residents are reminded to open valves following October 1 to allow proper drainage of their systems. Due to the large size of our system, it takes several days for it to completely shut down.

After the several days, it is suggested that residents close their valves after the system has been shut-down to prevent any damage during the winter months.

For a full class schedule and other water conservation information go to www.weberbasin.com/conservation

Water/Planting Tips:

- September temperatures are cooling and things are beginning to revive from the summer heat.
- Residents can water less frequently to keep plants healthy and promote deep rooting as plants store energy for next year's growth.
- If you plan on planting, or even transplanting/dividing September is a great time to plant trees, shrubs and perennials.

REMEMBER TO WINTERIZE YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM

With the fall season arriving, it is important for residents to make sure that all outdoor irrigation systems are winterized before the end of October to prevent freezing within the system.

Frozen lines can be costly and difficult to repair; they also can flood homes and property.

A few simple tips to avoid damage are to close the mainline shutoff valve, make sure that all drain off valves are open and use an air compressor to blow out any remaining water from the lines.

Residents may want to consider hiring a professional to properly complete this task. Be sure to disconnect all outside hose spigots that are connected to the home. It's also important that residents that use secondary water still winterize their systems' to avoid these types of problems.

For more information, call Layton City Public Works at 801-336-3720.

NEW 'WALKING SCHOOL BUS' APP FROM UDOT

There's safety in numbers and for those parents who have students who will be walking, bicycling, or skating to elementary school, the Utah Department of Transportation has created a new smart phone app.

UDOT's "Walking School Bus" app is a forward thinking tool that allows parents to create and plan walks to and from school.

It allows parents to search by elementary school for existing walking groups; create walking groups and invite neighbors to join; plan walks to and from school; assign parent leaders to walk with students; group text within the app; and greatest of all -- alerts parents when students have arrived safely at school.

"Walking School Bus" is a universal term used to describe an organized group of children walking to and from school with one or more adults. It's like a carpool — without the car — and with the added benefits of exercise and the company of friends and neighbors.

Additionally, by automatically calculating the distance of each student's home to their school, the Walking School Bus app also tracks:

- Total number of miles walked by parents and students statewide.
- Estimated total of calories burned.
- Estimated air pollution savings.

The Walking School Bus app is sponsored by the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) SNAP program.

The UDOT Student Neighborhood Access Program ("SNAP") is a fun and comprehensive program for walking and biking safely to school that engages and educates students, parents, school administrators, crossing guards and communities.

There's also a video on YouTube that UDOT has posted on the app at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3t0HY7N3aw&feature=youtu.be

The proper way to discard excess cement is to put it on a parkway, where it can be chipped out and hauled away after it dries.

Cement, if properly used, can enhance a yard and save on maintenance and upkeep.

However, some homeowners may get carried away with the use of concrete and not consider future underground access.

For example, a few years ago a Layton homeowner was asked by Century Link if he would allow another customer's telephone line to be buried along his side of the fence line, since one of the neighbors had cemented widely all along their side of the fence line and also in a wide section of their front yard, ignoring possible future utility line access.

It is wise to check easements and with Layton City before considering any cement work.

Here's a question and answer section on cement use in Layton City:

Q: Do I need a permit to do cement work on my property?

A: Most flatwork projects do not require a permit. However, it is strongly recommended that you contact a Building Inspector in the Community and Economic Development Department.

Keeping gutters free from debris is very important.

Q: Is it wise to cement all of my park strip area, between my sidewalk and the curb? What are the pros and cons of such action?

A: While it may be permissible to do, it is not recommended. One of the primary purposes of the park strip is to house utility lines. If the utility company needs to repair those lines, the concrete will be removed and any repair or replacement will be the homeowner's responsibility. Further, this is a snow storage area and if the surface is concrete, the snow melt will come back across the sidewalk, freezing at night and causing a problem for pedestrians. With the snow being stored on the concrete throughout the winter, the life of the concrete will likely be shortened as the freeze/thaw cycle will directly affect the concrete. Cement should also not be placed in a park strip with existing trees, or near the lid/cover of the water meter box. Contact Layton City if you have questions.

Q: Do I need to be aware of any utility lines, or future access thereof, as I pour cement on my property?

A: Yes. As has been mentioned, you need to ensure you do not interfere with access to utilities or interfere with the purpose of any utility easements, which often include drainage. Identifying all utility easements prior to starting any project will help avoid future problems.

Q: Since excavation is typically involved for cement work, what about contacting Blue Stakes too?

A: Contacting Blue Stakes is the law and a wise regulation too. If you damage any underground utility, you may have to pay the repair costs for that damage. It is not uncommon to find utility lines at very shallow depths, particularly phone, TV, and cable lines.

Q: Where can I, or cement companies, drain and clean out their excess cement at the end of a pouring session?

A: No one should dump excess cement into the gutter. This practice is illegal and will stain the curb at the least and could leave very difficult to remove pieces of cement on top of the gutter. Not only does this stain the curb, but the slurry material from the concrete can enter the storm drain system and potentially clog, or create a backup in the line. Please contact the City immediately and please take note of the company doing so. The fresher the cement, the easier it is to get it cleaned up. The City will then contact that company and take the necessary actions. A better location for dumping/cleaning is along the park strip. Then, after the material/debris dries, it can chipped out and hauled away.

Q: Should I cement fence posts and also pour a strip of cement along the fence line, to inhibit weed/grass growth?

A: Yes, but realize that if years later a fence post breaks, or when the fence may be replaced, it will be significant work to remove the old cement. In some cases, the ground may be hard enough that cement is overkill around fence posts.

Q: I've heard you can't legally park a vehicle or trailer on dirt or grass in Layton City, is that true?

A: Yes. A hard surface is required for all vehicles and/or recreational vehicles. The reason is that otherwise when moved the vehicle will create ruts in the ground and when wet conditions exist, will track mud and dirt onto the sidewalk and roadway, creating a nuisance.

Layton City's Code essentially says that if any part of a property is being used to park vehicles, it must be properly graded for drainage, surfaced with concrete, asphalt, road base, or gravel and maintained in good condition. Also, no portion of a front yard, other than approved driveways, can be used for parking vehicles.

By state law, "vehicles" includes, but is not limited to, a motor vehicle, trailer, semi trailer, off highway vehicle, manufactured or mobile home. "Off highway vehicle" includes, but is not limited to, motorcycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, and personal watercraft.

ELIMINATE THE PUNCTUREVINE WEED

A puncturevine weed, shown closeup as it spreads across a sidewalk.

One of the peskiest weeds in the Layton area is the puncturevine weed. Unlike most weeds, this nuisance does not grow upward, but fans out along the ground like a spider web.

If not eliminated, this noxious weed, will stretch across and cover a sidewalk and/or clog a gutter. According to the Utah State University extension Service in Farmington, this notorious weed can be a real nuisance.

This weed also has a nickname – goatheads - for its thorny seeds, which can puncture bicycle tires and on occasion, even some vehicle tires. These thorns can also end up on the bottom of shoes and will then be a nuisance indoors, as the thorns are carried into homes. Dogs too, are plagued by the thorns in their footpads, as they walk along puncturevine weed infested sidewalks.

This weed is at its peak in mid to late summer and thrives in hot, dry weather - especially at the edge of unhealthy lawns.

Puncturevines dry up in early fall and then they drop their seeds. These are thorny pods, carrying four to five seeds each. Every plant can produce hundreds of seeds. In the summer growing season, this weed can go from germination to flower in just three weeks.

Residents need to dig up the weeds, spray them with weed killer, or at the least cut them off the sidewalks. If not controlled, the puncturevine thorns will exist well into winter and will then produce new weeds next year.

Puncturevine seeds can remain dormant for up to five years. Besides regular weed control each growing season, the seeds need to be collected. Some people use an old piece of carpet, slid along the ground, to help pick up the thorny seeds. Others just use a broom, or a wet/dry vacuum.

Layton City's ordinances call for control of noxious weeds and puncturevine.

STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Any water in Layton City and Davis County that enters our storm drain system from rain storms, snow melt, irrigation, etc., travels over the ground picking up pollutants.

This water discharges into our creeks, enters our wetlands, and eventually into the Great Salt Lake. This water is never treated. It is important that everyone does their part in limiting these pollutants.

Recycle your used oil, properly dispose of any unused chemicals, keep grass and yard clippings away from the gutters, store any materials like dirt, rock or landscaping mulch away from the street.

Help keep any storm grates near your home clean to avoid any blockage. Because storm water drainage systems provide no treatment, preventing contamination of storm water is crucial to ensure that pollutants do not enter water ways.

Improperly managed storm water runoff is a leading cause of flooding, which can lead to property damage, cause road safety hazards, and clog catch basins and culverts with sediments and debris.

For more information regarding storm water please call Layton City Public Works at 801-336-3700.

'NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE'

Heartbreaking and tragic stories are continually in the news involving domestic violence. Murder-suicides, death of whole families, assaults on girlfriends and the list could go on and on.

As each new story breaks, the comments are frequently the same: Why does she stay? … she should just leave … it must not be so bad because she keeps going back to him, etc.

To understand domestic violence, you must understand this: it doesn't make sense and it's killing those we love.

Know the characteristics of an abusive personality: Domestic violence is not a new problem. Sadly it has been occurring for centuries and spans across all cultures, genders, age groups, income levels, and sexual orientations.

Over half of all criminal prosecutions in Layton City last year involved domestic violence crimes. There are many characteristics of an abusive personality. These include, but are not limited to: jealousy, controlling and possessive behaviors, isolation of victim from friends and family, blaming others for problems, threats to kill partner, kids, pets or even self, throwing objects or breaking items, easily insulted, overly critical, name calling, rigid gender expectations in both daily roles as well as intimacy, and abusive to past partners.

Understand what the cycle of violence looks like: The cycle of violence is often recognizable and cyclic. It begins in the relationship with kind acts and loving displays of devotion, but over time tension starts to build and the victim cannot do enough to please the abuser. Eventually the abuser explodes in either (or both) an emotional or physical assault on the victim. Following the eruption the abuser then expresses sorrow and makes promises of things improving; gifts may be given or engages in other acts to convince the victim they should stay in the relationship.

These acts and displays of renewed devotion continue until, over time, tension starts to build again, and so forth as the cycle picks up speed again.

Identify what help is available: The Layton City Attorney's Office has a victim advocate to help provide resources and act as a liaison between the victims, the prosecutor and the court.

This victim assistance is provided at no charge to the victim and is a great starting point for connecting with other valuable resources pertaining to financial assistance, housing, counseling resources, etc. Protective Orders and Stalking Injunctions may be obtained through this program as well.

Make a safety plan: Safety plans may look different, depending on the issues within the abusive relationship. Some things to consider in developing a safety plan for yourself or someone you care about include: identifying an escape route from locations where abuse frequently occurs, keep money and an extra set of keys available somewhere safe and accessible, avoid fighting in the bathroom, kitchen, garage or other areas with hard surfaces or potential weapons, know where the women's shelter is located, inform neighbors of abuse so they can help call police or provide protection, talk to someone about the emotional 'hooks' that contribute to being trapped in abuse, and attend a workshop or support group.

The fight against domestic violence is not that of an individual. Changes will have to be made within families, churches, cultures, news media, government, etc.

There is no excuse for abuse and unless we raise our children to understand that truth, domestic violence will continue to evolve from generation to generation. Know the characteristics and know the resources.

For more information call Layton Victim Services at 801-336-3599 or Safe Harbor Crisis Center at 801-444-3191.

LAYTON VICTIM SERVICES	SAFE HARBOR CRISIS CENTER
801-336-3599	801-444-3191

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Layton City Quick Facts:

Form of Government - Council/Manager

Incorporated - May 24, 1920

Population - 71,000

Square Miles - 22.18

Miles of City Streets - 291.3

Total Property Tax Rate - 1.4814% (2013)

City Property Tax Rate - .2046% (2013)

Total Assessed Value - $3,359,990,392 (2013 est.)

Total G.F. Budget - $28,717,216 (2013-2014)

Total Full-Time Employees - 294

LAYTON CITY EVENTS

City Council Meetings:
1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission Meetings:
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Layton Sports Registration for:
Itty Bitty Jr. Jazz Basketball
Girls Jr. Jazz Basketball
Boys Competition Team Basketball
Youth Volleyball
Youth Wrestling
Through Sept. 22

Layton Marathon
Saturday, Sept. 27
Ellison Park, 700 North 2200 West
Marathon, Half Marathon, 10K, 5K
Cost: $35-$120
Go to: www.laytonmarathon.com

Layton Fire Department Open House
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 5-8 p.m.
530 North 2200 West, Layton
Admission: Free.

Halloween Bash 2014
Friday, Oct. 24, 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Central Davis Junior High School Gymnasium
663 North Church Street
Admission: free
Carnival, games, cake walk, costume contest, music and refreshments.

Boys Jr. Jazz Registration
Nov. 3-24
For boys, fourth through twelfth grades.
Call 801-336-3900 for more details.

Veteran's Day Program
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.
Central Davis Junior High School Gymnasium
663 North Church Street
Guest speakers, music and refreshments

Turkey Bowl 2014
Saturday, Nov. 22.
Davis Lanes Bowling Alley
1396 North Main Street
Cost: $3.50 per game
Advance registration required.

Holiday Lighting Ceremony
Monday, Nov. 24
Program at 6 p.m. in Layton High Auditorium, across from Commons Park
Lights go on at about 7 p.m.
Admission: Free