MAYORS MESSAGE

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and New Year. 2015 was a very busy year in our city and I don’t think 2016 will be any different. With growth comes challenges and we are always trying to do our best to plan for the future. The West Point I grew up in has changed and will continue to change as we see our city grow. As I start my eighth year as mayor, planning for the future is one thing I feel is the most important role of city government. I have said this publicly a few times but I don’t want the Mayor of West Point 20 years from now saying man that Mayor Craythorne sure screwed things up. Through working with our professional staff and planning commission the decisions we make today will shape who we will be in the future and it is a responsibility we all take very seriously. Everyone knows growth is going to come, it’s happening all along the Wasatch Front. We live in a great place with great jobs and a strong local economy that supports growth, and more importantly, gives jobs to our children and their families. When you have a strong local economy jobs are created, people move here into the state and add to our natural growth here in Utah and we all know what will happen and that is that we could triple or even quadruple in size. Countless hours go into planning for roads, utilities and schools to accommodate this growth. So what are we doing as a city to plan for the future?

In 2016 the city will open up our “General Plan” for the city. What is the General Plan? A General Plan for the city is a zoning roadmap for the city. It specifies where future commercial areas will be, where and what size lots will be developed in the city and most importantly plans for parks and open space. Stay tuned for more information about opening up our general plan. There will be plenty of opportunities for public comment and involvement and we would love to hear your ideas. It is important for a city to review their general plan every five or six years to adjust for change. What we think we will need in ten years will be a lot clearer in five years. We have a very experienced staff, planning commission and city council that will do their very best to make the decisions that are appropriate for our ever changing city.

Along with our General Plan we also have what we call a capital projects plan. This plan takes all the projects we know we need to complete and spreads them out over many years so we can set money aside to make sure we stay on top of all our needs. Every year as part of our budget process we take a look at our capital projects plan and make the needed correction and changes to keep it as up to date as possible. With all the many miles of roads and underground utilities it is vitally important to set money aside today for what we will need tomorrow.

In conjunction with our budget process we have a few public hearings to hear from all of you and get your feedback. I will be completely honest, we don’t get too many people that show up and participate at our public hearings during the budget process, or any public hearing for that matter. If you are interested in learning more come attend our planning commission or city council meetings. Planning commission meets the second and fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm and the city council meets the first and third Tuesday at 7:00 pm. Both meetings typically have a work session at 6:00pm that is also open to the public. Attending our meetings and participating in the public hearings is key to letting us know how you would like us to plan for the future. I encourage all of you who are interested to come and attend our meetings especially during the budget process and when we open up our General Plan this year.

I mentioned earlier that I am going into my eighth year as mayor. It has been an honor and privilege representing such a fine city. I get asked all the time if I like it and my answer is. “I love it”. To be honest I don’t love all the meetings but what I do love is meeting so many fine people in this city and throughout the county that I would not have met otherwise. I also like being part of the process that shapes the city I grew up in. If any of you have any questions comments or concerns about the direction of our great city please contact me or come see us at one of our city council meetings.

Erik Craythorne
West Point City Mayor
Last month, the West Point Youth Council helped out with the City Hall Lighting Ceremony. They sang countless Christmas songs, helped children with coloring activities, gave out hot chocolate, and provided background music on the piano. The Christmas spirit was overflowing and it was a great experience for all who attended. They also participated in a night of neighborhood caroling and helped fill bags and light candles at the City Cemetery Luminary.

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others.”  
–Bob Hope

**Senior Lunch**

Each month West Point City holds a lunch for Seniors 55 and older. The cost is $2.00 per person and both resident and non-resident are welcome! This month lunch will be held Monday, January 11th.

This month’s menu is: Soup, French Bread and Cake. You must RSVP to reserve a spot, please call by January 8th 801-776-0970.

**CITY CALENDAR**

January 2016

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Honeybees

West Point City now allows the keeping of honeybees in most residential backyards. Those wishing to keep honeybees must obtain the necessary permit and follow all restriction set forth in the City Code. To help protect the residents, city ordinance outlines specific requirements pertaining to care, number of hives and the placement of the hive on your property. Honeybee applications are FREE and can be found on the city website or obtained at the West Point City offices.

HOME BUSINESSES

This is a reminder that all Home Occupations Licenses will expire on December 31, 2015. Your current license can be renewed by paying the application fee for 2016. The fee must be paid no later than January 31, 2016 to avoid a penalty and the possible revocation of your license.

West Point City Code 17.50 states, “The purpose of these provisions is to ensure that the home occupations remain incidental and accessory uses within the dwelling or on the dwelling site. Home occupations are a temporary privilege that can be revoked if disruption of the residential neighborhood occurs.”

If you are currently conducting an unlicensed business in your home, please visit the City office and obtain a Home Occupation License Application. Failure to properly license your business can have serious legal and financial consequences.

Please contact Bruce Dopp, code Enforcement Officer or Michelle Bailey at 801-776-0970 if you have any questions.

Garbage Information:

Remember garbage services for 2016 will be one day late on the following weeks that a holiday falls—New Years, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Attention Seniors 55 and older!!

Davis Co. RSVP is Making a Difference – Come join us!

Put your wisdom and years of experience to work serving your neighbors here in Davis County. Davis RSVP has numerous volunteer opportunities for those ages 55+, including:

- Become an Elementary School Reading Mentor and help children improve their reading & comprehension skills
- Deliver hot meals and smiles to homebound seniors through Davis County’s Meals on Wheels Program
- Help sort, organize and distribute food donations to needy families through the Bountiful Community Food Pantry.

Your service helps your community, but you also benefit by enjoying a renewed sense of purpose, having a reason to get up and out of the house each day, and making new friendships.

RSVP volunteers receive reimbursement for mileage and supplemental insurance benefits too. Let us find the perfect opportunity for you! Contact Davis County Retired & Senior Volunteer Program – 801-525-5052 or www.daviscountyutah.gov/rsvp

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make $54,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. For more information or to find a designated VITA site visit one of the following web pages…

http://utahtaxhelp.org/
RECREATION

Recreation sign-ups can be done online at www.westpointcity.org or stop by City Hall to fill out a registration form. Contact Kelly Ross @ 801-776-0970 for more information on recreation activities and sign ups.

Jr. Jazz-
Games are set to begin the week of January 4th so be sure to check your schedule. This year’s Jazz game will be April 1st against the Minnesota Timberwolves. Each Jr Jazz participant will receive 2 tickets to the game.

Spring Soccer-
Registration for spring soccer will begin February 1st and run till February 29th. Registration is for Pre-K thru 6th grade, boys and girls. Registration cost is $40.00

West Point Military Memorial

Donations are still needed in order to complete the memorial, if you are interested in donating to the West Point Military Memorial or to purchase a brick for the memorial please contact a member of the committee...
Cindy 801-825-9886
Marv 801-825-5321
Royce 801-825-1426
Howard 801-695-2637
You can also send in a donation with your City bill.
View the Memorial Site on the City Website @ www.westpointcity.org

Community classes presented by Davis County Health Department.
These classes are free to the community...

*Put Life Back in Your Life! Call now to sign-up for a Living Well with Chronic Conditions workshop, designed for adults who want to take charge of their ongoing health problems and get relief from their pain, fatigue and other symptoms. A six-week workshop will be offered at Davis Hospital (1580 W Antelope Dr.) on Tuesday, February 9th at 2:30pm.

*Don’t let the fear of falling keep you from living. Stepping On is a program proven to reduce falls and build confidence in older people. Presenters such as a physical therapist, pharmacists and vision experts help you gain specific knowledge and skills to prevent falls. The next workshop begins Thursday, February 25th at 2:00pm at Davis Hospital (1580 W Antelope Dr.).

To register or to find out more information on these classes visit livingwell.utah.gov or call 801-525-5087.

Both workshops are sponsored by Davis County Health Department.