Mayor’s Message

Property Tax
I have been Mayor now for 5 years and there are some things in local government that have taken me longer to understand than others and I am pretty sure that property taxes are at the top of the list. I know I have attempted to explain a little bit about property taxes in my newsletters before so for some this might not be interesting but it does seem like there are a few who find it interesting or act surprised when I tell them how it works. So in short here it is. Each of our homes is taxed at one half the value the Davis County Assessor assigns to our property. So if your home is worth $200,000 and it is your primary residence your tax is based on $100,000. For those who have a second home you will likely pay taxes on the full value of that property. The collective property tax rate is made up of individual tax rates by each taxing entity i.e. Davis County, West Point City, and North Davis Fire District etc. Davis County collects our property taxes each year and distributes the money to these taxing entities based on the rate they set. In West Point our taxes go to Davis County, Davis School District, North Davis Fire District, West Point City, North Davis Sewer District, Mosquito Abatement District, Weber Basin Water. Each having their own rate and each taking up a piece of the overall pie. If you look at your property tax statement it will break out the percentage and dollar amount that goes to each of these taxing entity. I have said this before but West Point City receives a small overall percentage of the property taxes collected, approximately 7%. This last year, West Point City collected about $315,000 total from all the property taxes that were paid. All commercial property is taxed at one hundred percent of the assessed value.

Special Districts
Here in West Point we have a few special districts that I mentioned above. We have representatives that are appointed to serve on the North Davis Fire District, North Davis Sewer District, and Mosquito Abatement District. These special districts not only set their individual property tax rate, they also determine the user fees we pay. For example we pay property tax to the North Davis Sewer District and we also pay a monthly sewer fee. When fees and property taxes change it is not always a decision of the West Point City Council, but often it is a decision of the individual special districts board.

So why am I boring you with information about special districts? If you have not already heard the North Davis Sewer District voted in December to raise our monthly rates. The Sewer District has many needs and the Board, with all the information that they received voted to adopt a very aggressive fee increase over the next four years. At the end of the four years our fee will increase a total of $144 each year, per household. I can imagine that your reaction to this increase is similar to mine when I heard about it. I have spent considerable time investigating the fee increase and trying to find out why. In summary, the Sewer District has many needs the next 20 years and this fee increase is the only way they can generate the money they need. They have also changed their policy and would like to pay as they go rather than bond (finance) for improvements and maintenance. I trust that the current Sewer District Board made the correct decision with the information they were given. More information will be forthcoming by the Sewer District to explain to all of our residents why the increase was needed.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or concerns.

Erik Craythorne
Mayor

New City Hall Hours
Beginning, March 3rd
Mon - Thurs: 7:30-5:30
Friday: 7:30-11:30
JUST FOR SENIORS
Happy St. Patrick’s
Join us this month for senior lunch Monday March 17th @ 11:30am.
This month lunch menu is: Roast Beef Sandwiches, chips, fruit cups and ice cream.
We also have Horizon Hospice coming to play Bingo with us.
So be sure to where your four leaf clovers or bring your lucky rabbits foot.
Call by March 14th to reserve your spot 801-776-0970.

SPORTS CENTER
Spring Soccer
Draft Dates:
3rd/4th Grade-March 11th 5pm
5th/6th Grade-March 11th 6pm
Games are scheduled to begin the week of March 31st, WEATHER PERMITTING, and continue to May 2nd.
Games days are as follows but are subject to change based on registration numbers
Pre-K/K: Tues/Thurs
1st/2nd: Mon/Wed
3rd/4th: Mon/Wed
5th/6th: Tues/Thurs

YOUTH COUNCIL CORNER
“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity.”
Last month the YC begin sorting Easter Eggs. They also visited the Family Tree Assisted living to take them Valentines and Cookies!

5K Family fun Run/Walk
May 10th @ 9am
At Jensen Park in Syracuse
Silent auction, raffle, face painting, music, food and more.
This is a benefit race for Julie Davis.
If you have any questions please contact Kristine @ 801-540-9818
Or Stacy @ 801-628-7430

Make sure to mark your calendars for this years Easter Egg Hunt!!
Saturday, April 19th
@ the Loy Blake Park
The hunt will begin promptly at 10am, so be sure to be there 10-15 minutes early to find your spot.
Following the hunt the Easter Bunny will be available for a free picture.

“Take Pride in West Point”
Join us for this year 8th Annual Community Service Day.
Saturday, May 3rd
8am
Rain or Shine
Be sure to bring gloves, wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes.

Cemetery Cleaning
Thursday, May 1st
Weather Permitting
All items must be removed by April 30th

Lakeside & West Point Elementary are gathering names for the 2014-2015 Kindergarten classes. If you have a child that is or will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2014, please contact your school for further information.
Lakeside Elementary 801-402-2900
West Point Elementary 801-402-2750

GREENWASTE CANS
Just a reminder that beginning April 1st Green Waste Trash Cans may only be used for greenwaste.

Military Memorial Donations
You can now donate to the West Point Military Memorial through your utility bill payment.
See this month’s bill for more information.

USU EXTENSION PRUNING DEMO
The USU Extension will be holding a Pruning Demo
Saturday, March 22nd from 9am-11am.
112 S. 3000 W. West Point
Join other West Point Residents and 3 Horticulturists from the USU Extension.
They will be teaching how to prune trees, grapes and raspberries.
Questions: Contact Boyd Hansen @ 801-825-9200

Garbage Information:
You can access the 2014 recycling schedule online at www.westpointcity.org. Also remember garbage services will be one day late on the following weeks that a holiday falls- New Years, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving

Below is information about upcoming community workshops presented by Davis County Health Department. These workshops are free to the community.
Living Well with Diabetes– this is a 6 week workshop to help you learn to balance your meals and make healthy food choices, along with other self managing tools. Begins Tuesday March 11th at 6pm at Davis Hospital Medical Plaza
Stepping on– This is a program proven to reduce falls and build confidence in older people. You will learn to gain specific knowledge and skills to prevent fall. Workshops begin Friday, March 7th at 2:30pm at the North Davis Senior Center. For questions or to register for either class please call Jessica at 801-525-5087

Team Piggy 5K Hog Jog Fun Run/Walk for Breast Cancer
Date: Saturday, 26 April 2014
Time: 8 am - 11 pm (sign in 8-9/Event begins at 9 am)
Place: 1300 N. 3000 W. West Point
Register at http://www.teampiggyfunrun.blogspot.com