MESSAGE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

As a Smithfield City Council member I am asked questions almost everywhere I go. Here is a list of some of the questions I get asked most and a short response.

Why does the city raise property taxes every year?
I had a neighbor ask me this recently. I told him the city doesn’t raise property taxes every year, and he said “my taxes go up every year”. I went to Cache County offices and pulled his property taxes for several years. Here is what I found: 2013 his total tax $875.32, Smithfield portion $135.34 or 15% of the total tax, 2014 total tax $948.11, Smithfield portion $132.09 or 14% of the total tax, 2015 total tax $1,059.95, Smithfield portion $136.48 or 13% of the total tax, 2016 total tax $1,048.72, Smithfield portion $130.00 or 12% of the total tax and last year 2017 total tax $1,030.65, Smithfield portion $123.08 or 12% of the total tax. The growth in new housing and commercial buildings, have helped keep the city portion of our property taxes down.

Why don’t we require more lots that are an acre or more?
Most of the original city blocks in Cache County are 10 acres, divided into 8 lots of 1.25 acres each. Smithfield was set up a little different. Smithfield has the same 10 acre blocks, but they were set up with 10 lots, one acre each. If the city was set up that way has it not been followed? The block I live on and the one east of me is an example. Only the South half of the block I live on has homes. The North half is pasture. There are 17 homes on this half of a city block. The block east has 32 homes and a duplex. If these 51 residences were required to be on one acre lots, instead of a block and a half of houses, they would be spread out to five plus blocks. Another way to look at it is, if a hundred homes and roads were built with 10,000 square feet lots, it would take 28.46 acres, 20,000 square feet lots, 52.8 acres, one acre lots 108.95 acres. The number of units started in Smithfield during the last five years: 2013 – 92, 2014 – 53, 2015 – 97, 2016 – 117 and 2017 – 158. That would be an average five city blocks being added every year. Other cities in the valley are experiencing this same pattern of growth. Another two reasons for the smaller lots is most people cannot afford or don’t want to take care of the larger lots.

Why does the city keep approving more subdivisions?
The answer is simple, growth. But more complex is where the growth is coming from. Residents have told me for years, we need to stop allowing people to move here. I attended a meeting for the city a few years ago and the state talked about growth. They listed where growth was coming from in each county. Cache County they said had over 97% of its growth from births. A little over a year ago I was under the impression that our growth was still our kids. An article in the Deseret News showed the largest area of growth in Utah now, is the 55 plus age group. The article went on to say men are living an average of seven years longer and women five years. People are living longer, and young families are putting pressure on the housing market. Talking to Realtors, I was told the demand for housing now is so high, that if a house goes on the market and does not have an offer in 30 days, the price is either too high or there is something wrong with the house.

Do we have enough water?
Smithfield is in good shape for water now and has good plans for our water future. The city over the years has planned very carefully for future water needs. We do need to be careful and wise with our water use. We are lucky to have good secondary water systems in the area. For those residents living along the canals, water has been turned in and here are a few reminders. It is illegal to dump grass clippings and tree branches into the canal. This can result in a citation and could cause flooding. The canal companies by state statue have right of ways along the west bank. This gives them the right to take equipment down the bank to service and maintain the canal, and the area should be left open for their access.

What can I do to help the community?
There are many chances to serve in the community. The Comcast Cares Day a short time ago, Health Days, our library, and the recreation center are just a few ideas. There are also many groups in the community who provide service; the Smithfield Chamber of Commerce and the Smithfield Lions are two. Find a group and help give back to this great community. Thank you to the residents of this great city for all you do to make this a great place to live.

-Deon Hunsaker

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Smithfield Library will be holding a book sale on Monday, June 4th during normal operating hours. Please come by and browse our selection to add to your collection. While you are at it, please sign up for the Adult Summer Reading Program or the reading program for Children and Teens. We are excited to offer the reading program again this year! We look forward to seeing you.
Smithfield RECREATION

2018 Summer Camps + Classes

Registration starts April 30th

- Dodgeball camps
- Volleyball training camps
- Tennis camps
- Play With Me Music
- Musical Theatre Camp
- Creative craft classes
- Basketball skills camp
- Sports + Wellness camps
- Jr chef classes
- British soccer camp

Summer Membership Special

Sign up for a 3 month membership and enjoy all the Rec. Center has to offer this Summer!

*For more information, contact the Rec. Center

Next Level Basketball Camp
Registration: April 20- May 17
Camp Dates: May 17-19
Cost: $70 (T-shirt included)

Health Days Fun Run
10K, 5K & Mayor’s Mile
May 12, 2018 @ 7:30am
James Mack Memorial Park, Smithfield

16 Crossings Trail Run
11.5 M, 10K
June 9, 2018 @ 6:30am
James Mack Memorial Park, Smithfield

www.smithfieldrecreation.com  435-563-0048  315 E. 600 S. Smithfield
2018 Schedule of Events
May 7-12

Monday, May 7:
7:00 pm: Stratford Loosle Young Musicians Cup
Sky View High School Auditorium

Tuesday, May 8:
6:00 pm: Health Days Family Bike Ride
Mack Park, Canyon Road in Smithfield

Wednesday, May 9:
7:00 am: Greater Smithfield Chamber of Commerce
Charity Golf Tournament
Birch Creek Golf Course (Sign up by April 25th)

Friday, May 11:
7:00 pm: Smithfield Youth Theatre Presents: Cindy Goes To The Sock Hop
Sky View High School Auditorium (Free to the public!)

Saturday, May 12
6:30 - 9:30 am
Pancake Breakfast

7:30 am
Health Days Fun Run

8:00 am
Flag Ceremony

10:00 am
Health Days Parade

11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Booth and Park Activities

12:00 pm
Arbor Day Celebration

12:00 - 3:00 pm
Horse Pulls

12:00 - 3:00 pm
Bubble Ball Soccer & Gaga Ball (Free)

12:30 - 1:00 pm
Outdoor Zumba (Free, Kids Welcome)

1:00 pm
Spike Ball Tournament (Free)

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Blue Sox Double Header

7:00 pm
Cindy Goes To The Sock Hop

After Dark
Fireworks Forrester Acres

Smithfield Fire Station
Smithfield Mack Park
Smithfield Fire Station
Main Street, 300 S. - 300 N.
Smithfield Forrester Acres
Smithfield Heritage Park
Forrester Acres Horse Arena
Forrester Acres Booth Area
Forrester Acres Booth Area
Forrester Acres Booth Area
Forrester Acres Blue Sox Field
SVHS Auditorium
Forrester Acres Blue Sox Field

See Smithfieldrecreation.com for more information