



Santaquin City, Utah ☎ 275 W Main ☎ 801-754-3211 ☎ www.santaquin.org

October 2020

### City Office Closure

The City Offices will be **closed on Monday, October 12th for Columbus Day.**

### Shut Off Date for Pressurized Irrigation

The pressurized irrigation system will be turned off for the winter this month. The Public Works Department estimates it will be shut off on or around October 15th depending on the weather.



### Photo Contest Winner

Bryan Mecham is the winner of August's 'What Do You Love About Santaquin?' Photo Contest. Bryan's photo is of the recreation office at dusk, with the baseball lights on, and a Santaquin sunset in the background. Congratulations Bryan! Enter this month's contest by submitting your photos to [photocontest@santaquin.org](mailto:photocontest@santaquin.org)



CERT will begin again this fall. If you have an interest in or want to be a part of the CERT TEAM you can contact **Chris Lindquist at 801-319-6439.**



### Calendar of Meetings

10/06	City Council Meeting 7:00 pm	10/27	DRC Meeting 10:00 am
10/12	Recreation Board Meeting 7:00 pm	10/27	Museum Board Meeting 4:00 pm
10/13	DRC Meeting 10:00 am	10/27	Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm
10/14	Library Board Meeting 6:00 pm	11/03	City Council Meeting 7:00 pm
10/20	City Council Meeting 7:00 pm		

*\*Santaquin City public meetings will be held online in response to the COVID-19 public gathering restrictions:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTzZT\\_yW2H2Hd-58M2\\_ddSw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTzZT_yW2H2Hd-58M2_ddSw)*

Did you know that Santaquin City public meeting agendas are posted on our website and on Facebook?  
<https://www.santaquin.org> ~ Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/santaquincitygovernment>



## Hidden Picture Contest Winner

Jody Mitchell is August's Hidden Picture Contest winner. Her name was randomly drawn from all of the entrants. Congratulations Jody, we hope you enjoy your prize!

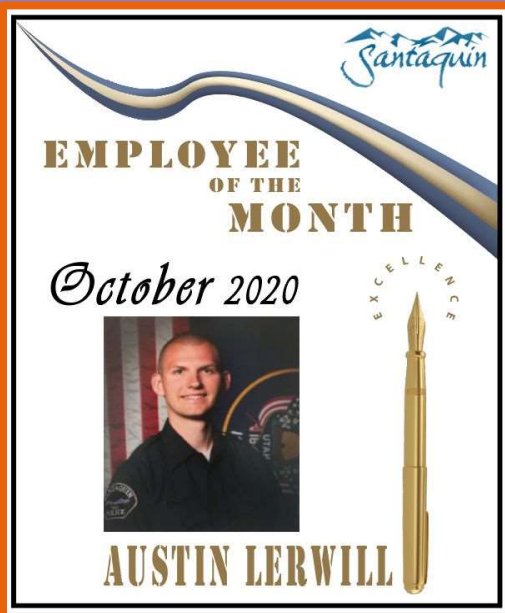
## Hidden Picture Contest

There is a hidden picture like the one on the right in this issue of the newsletter. If you spot it, email: kmortensen@santaquin.org or bshupe@santaquin.org by October 31st with the location and your contact information to be entered in a random drawing for a fun prize.



## Santaquin Emergency Radio Communication (ERC) Net

We invite all ham Radio Operators in the Santaquin Area to join us every Tuesday at 8:30 pm for the Santaquin ERC Net on 446.500 MHz (FM Simplex). For more information visit our Facebook page: Santaquin ERC or email us at ERCnet@gmail.com.



Officer Austin Lerwill is being recognized as our October 2020 Employee of the Month. In the words of a member of the police department, "He is probably one of the most genuine and kind people you'll meet." Family is extremely important to him, and he is very devoted to them, as well as his job. He and his wife, Talyr, have been married for four years. They adopted a little girl from the Marshall Islands a couple years ago and now are expecting a baby boy any day.

From his early childhood, Austin wanted to be a police officer, however, it was in high school when he knew it was his career path. He participated in the departments high school internship, which at the time consisted of ride alongs with officers one or two times a week throughout the school term. He set his sights specifically on Santaquin City's police department and then worked to make it happen. Jenna, who works in the police

department said about Austin, "In dealing with the public, no matter how difficult or stressful the situation may be, Austin is always calm, patient and respectful to all parties involved. He is very proactive, goal oriented and has a great work ethic. He is overall just an amazing person and is very deserving of this award."

When asked what the best part of his job is, Austin says it's when he can help a person or family without it involving an arrest or jail time. Those are the experiences that make this very difficult job worth it. He also stated that he appreciates serving in a great community who support the local police.

Some of you may have seen an image of Officer Lerwill recently on Facebook. An employee of the city caught him helping a little girl who has Down's Syndrome. She does not speak well and Spanish is her first language; therefore, learning her name and where she lived was difficult. On this morning, she woke up with a little cold but didn't want to stay home from school. Her mom insisted she stay home but she slipped away without her mom knowing and ended up at the Holiday Gas Station. Officer Lerwill stayed with her and gave her some treats until it was figured out where she belonged and safely returned her to her mom.



Thank you Officer Lerwill for your dedicated service to Santaquin City and our citizens!

On a rotating basis, one of our council members will be sharing their own personal thoughts on issues, concerns, or topics they choose. This month, we are honored to hear from Council Member Montoya.



## In My Own Words...

As an educator, I look forward to September every year. Welcoming students back to my classroom is a joy and a delight! I also find comfort in the elements of the fall season- apples, cider, sweaters, leaves changing, cooler temperatures, making comfort foods in my oven. This year I am even more grateful that I can welcome students back!

One thing that has been on my mind this month is that September is Suicide Prevention Month. There are many children who are bullied in school and need even one person to be their friend. As I have gained more experience in life, I have come to learn that there are bullies in the grown-up world, too. There are bullies in the workplace, in church, on social media and in our community. I am not naïve enough to believe that I can change the bullies, but I can

hope to encourage others to stand up, speak up and not sit by while some in our community are harassed, bullied and even threatened. This is true for children, youth and adults alike.

I have three brothers, two of whom are living. One of my brothers was teased and tormented in school because he was different. His mind was wired differently than others and he paid the price for it. Later in life, his mental health was also impacted, and he took his own life- in September of 2014. What I remember most about my brother is that he was truly gifted musically. He had a bass voice that was just like butter- so smooth. I miss him and I wish he had felt that he had someone to talk to; that he could have seen a way out other than taking his own life. Those of you who have been impacted by a loved one or friend taking their own life can understand what I mean.

I invite each in our community to think carefully about the consequences of how we treat each other, even on Facebook. Are we looking to gain influence from love or from fear? Do we want our community to be a safe place for all? Everyone adds to the sum of our community and the whole ends up being greater than the sum of its parts. I have had the privilege of meeting many of our residents through service and I do not agree with every person or expect them to agree with me, because each of us adds to the diversity of our community and brings value.

So, in what ways do you want to contribute to the whole of our community? There are many ways to serve and get involved. One way is to take responsibility for our own words and actions. Another way our youth are getting involved is to serve on the Youth City Council. This group is amazing and last year they performed over 200 collective hours of service in our city. They support and encourage one another- they are a prime example of anti-bullying.

There are so many more good things happening in our city! We just received a "AA" bond rating for the strength and stability of our finances. All our books and financial records were very carefully reviewed, and we were found to be in truly superior shape! Every officer on our police force has completed the critical incident training. Very few departments around Utah can say the same. Nine million dollars in grants have been secured for the city this year for projects. My thanks go to all those who make Santaquin what it is and those who are supporting local businesses through our CARES Act support small business program.

I look forward to meeting more of our amazing residents! I make myself available for conversations in person or over the phone. If you have a question, concern or would like to visit, please contact me:

[bmontoya@santaquin.org](mailto:bmontoya@santaquin.org) or 385-314-9481

I also encourage you to be aware and mindful of those who are struggling or may be considering suicide. Reach out, be kind, create goodness. There is a suicide hotline if you or someone you know needs to talk: 800-273-8255. There is also an app: Safe UT - This is for youth and adults and you can chat, talk on the phone if you are struggling, or submit a tip for another who needs help.

Sincerely,  
Council Member Betsy Montoya







## Dear Santaquin Residents and Friends,

As I reflect each month on topics for my monthly newsletter, I often want to share about the many accomplishments our community has completed as well as our goals for the future. However, many times those words about our accomplishment and goals are lost when communication efforts fail to inform. Although we try very hard to involve every member of our city by reaching out on as many platforms as possible, there are times when we need to do better and find new and innovative ways to communicate. This was the main topic of our city council work meeting on September 15, 2020 and I want to invite each and every one of you to watch that meeting by searching on [YouTube](#) for “[Santaquin City Work Meeting 9/15/20](#)” to learn more about our **Community Engagement** efforts. It is the duty of every citizen to participate in the democratic process by staying informed about the issues affecting our community and by getting involved, by participating, by volunteering, and by letting your voice be heard.

Once again, this November, we have the opportunity and privilege to vote in a national election. Regardless of your political affiliation, I want to encourage you to learn all you can about each of the candidates and issues that are coming before you on the ballot. One of those issues facing **Utah County is Proposition-9**, which will decide the future of Utah County governance. I had the pleasure of participating with a number of business and educational leaders, and local government officials from throughout Utah County on a “Good Governance” Committee tasked with studying the issue and developing recommendations and a path forward. I would like to share some of the findings from this effort:

“Governor Herbert recently called Utah County the “epicenter of dysfunction.” That dysfunction has been driven in part by Utah County’s outmoded, unresponsive, and unrepresentative form of government. Prop 9 provides a better form of government for Utah County – one that provides better representation and greater accountability.

Our current form of government consists of three full-time commissioners who hold both executive and legislative powers and who are elected at-large. While this may function for rural areas, Utah County would be better served by a government that includes a separation of powers for checks and balances and regional representation.

The proposed form of government includes five part-time council members representing geographical areas and one full-time mayor. Utah County is the second largest county in the state and studies indicate we will have 1.6 million residents by 2065.

Our government must be accountable to citizens. Having three CEOs doesn’t work for business and it doesn’t work for government. Separating the legislative and executive branches means that the county council has legislative authority to set policy and control the budget while the executive is tasked with implementing that policy and advocating for the county. Responsibility is divided between the two branches and there is a built-in system of checks and balances similar to our national, state, and city governments. Knowing who is responsible for what improves accountability.

This is not an expansion of government. It does not create new powers, new departments, or new levels of bureaucracy. Nor does it require a tax increase as the legislative branch would consist of part-time council members. The funding currently allocated to the three full-time county commissioners and staff would be distributed among the staffing needs for a full-time executive and part-time council. The time to change is now.”

Once again, I encourage you to learn more, study out the issues and the candidate’s position and to let your voice be heard at the ballot box. On a final note this month, I want to extend my appreciation to the many firefighter and police officers who have served us so very well this past month. With two major fires threatening our community, it gives me personal reassurance to know that our highly trained and professional first responders stand ready at a moment’s notice. We should all be grateful for these exceptional men and women and never take them for granted. Until next month, best wishes to you and your family during the beautiful fall days ahead.

**Mayor Kirk F. Hunsaker**