



North Logan City NEWS

April 2007

North Logan City
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MAYOR'S MESSAGE - FUNDING NECESSARY FOR REPLACING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE FUTURE.

In January I discussed the financial health of the city and reported that the City is in sound financial condition on a *pay as you go* basis. We had a reserve fund balance ending June 30th 2006 of 11.7%, and this year we're on target to end the year at about 12%.

In February I reported how the city is funded, its sources of revenue, and what percentage of the General Fund comes from each source. It was emphasized that Property Taxes (excluding the dedicated taxes) make up just 7% of the General Fund Revenues.

The March newsletter discussed how your property taxes are calculated. The article discussed that the city hasn't raised it's General Purpose property tax rate in 16 years, although the actual taxes paid may have gone up slightly due to increased property values. It was also pointed out that though we are doing well in meeting all current obligations and targets, the money that should be set aside for accumulated depreciation is not adequately funded in the General Fund; there is more than \$4,000,000 of unfunded depreciation. That number is growing, and additional revenue is required if the city is to close this gap and keep up with setting aside sufficient funds needed for infrastructure replacement.

What are we doing to raise more revenue? We are encouraging quality economic growth in North Logan, and I am personally involved in this process. The city is growing and sales tax revenues are increasing. The portion of total general fund revenue that comes from sales taxes is about 36% and that amount of revenue is most likely to continue to increase. But — even though revenues are up there isn't any assurance that the increases will continue as they are now. In fact, economic factors beyond our control can and will have an impact on revenues. It's comforting to have additional dollars flow into the General Fund when times are good, but it can have the opposite effect when the economy softens or business situations change. Here is one example. Wal-Mart generates over \$800,000 in sales tax revenue, and about half of that comes directly back to North Logan. (The other half of the local 1% sales tax is distributed state-wide based on a city's population, regardless of the point of sale.) Next year another Wal-Mart store will open in south Logan. When it opens, approximately 30% of the point of sale revenue from Wal-Mart will be lost from North Logan as shoppers choose to go to the south Logan store rather than North Logan's store. Over time, it should recover, but for the next few years this loss will be felt.

Why do we have over \$4,000,000 of unfunded depreciation? It's simply because the city hasn't had the money to set aside (save) for it. There is only so much money available, and it gets down to reducing spending in other areas that will impact upon the services the city provides, or finding additional revenue that can be used to fund the depreciation.

Here is what it looks like now, and what happens to this number if we don't start putting aside dollars now.

* Anticipated work to keep our roads in good shape over the next 20 years will cost about \$21 million. An average of about \$1.05 million ought to be either spent each year on roads or set aside for years when more work needs to be done. We currently do about half of that.

* We should be setting aside about \$180,000 per year for replacement of vehicles and heavy equipment which wears out. If we do that, we will be able to replace those assets with funds we have saved for that purpose rather than having to rely on leases.

* Depreciation for city facilities such as the library, city shops, and park facilities needs to be funded as well. That amount should be about \$100,000 per year.

* For the past several years we have only been able to fund about half of what we should for these "depreciation" types of needs.

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Is there still “fat” in the budget? Some cuts can be made, but I believe cuts will have an impact upon some services and programs. If we are willing to accept *pay as you go* and not start saving each year to replace infrastructure, then the next generation will have to deal with it. The question is shall we start to invest now or pay later?

Is a General Purpose Property Tax Rate increase already decided? No - We are looking at all revenues and expenses. The budget process is underway, and before the budget is approved, there will be two public workshops, and a Public Hearing. Any property tax rate increase also requires an additional public hearing just to receive input on that proposed increase.

But if there is an increase in the property tax rate, will the money just go into the General Fund without any obligation to fund the depreciation? No - any additional revenues beyond what is needed now will be restricted specifically to fund depreciation.

I have provided information on the city’s finances, and needs for the future. I hope this will stimulate further discussion and public input. If you want to talk about any element of the budget please call me. All meetings on the budget are open to the public.

Cary Watkins
760- 4615 direct line
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What’s Happening in City Council?

There will only be one City Council meeting for the month, on April 19th. During that meeting the majority of the time will be spent working on the city’s fiscal year 2008 municipal budget. The council will be considering some of the following issues in the budget process. Possible road projects may include repairing 200 East between 1500 and 1800 North, widening/repairing 1600 East from 2700 to 3100 North, widening 1800 North between 600 and 800 East, and repairing 2500 North between 200 and 400 West. Budget considerations will also include possible increases in personnel including a deputy fire chief/fire marshal to help make fire inspections on a more regular basis and an engineering technician/GIS specialist to help with designing projects and maintaining engineering and planning records for the city. The council will also consider projects to: continue to improve our parks and trails, replace worn-out vehicles, and make design plans for a new municipal office and police building sometime in the future.

Also during this April 19th meeting the council will be receiving a report from the city’s cemetery committee on the long range financial plan for the cemetery. The bridge and road to the cemetery are under construction and an irrigation system with trees and grass being planted is on schedule for accomplishment this summer. Once this initial work on the cemetery is completed and the area is looking presentable, the City Council will determine when the cemetery will be open for business.

Look for the official council agendas as they are posted at the city offices and the library. The Herald Journal is given a copy of the official agenda as well and they normally print it in the newspaper a day or two before the meeting.



WANTED, City Council Member

The City of North Logan will soon be needing a replacement for one of the members of the City Council.

Mark Williams is leaving this summer for a job in California and has submitted his resignation as a member of the council effective April 20th. The City Council will be "electing" Mark's replacement during their regular council meeting on May 3rd. Anyone interested in serving as a member of the City Council for the remaining part of Mark's term (through December 2007), must notify the City Recorder by filling out an application available at the City Offices. The completed application, along with any supporting documents, must be given to the City Recorder prior to close of business **April 27th, 2007**.



From the Fire Department

If you are interested in burning yard waste Monday through Friday, you must call our office at **752-1310** after 9:00 a.m. on the day you want to burn. We will issue you a *Burn Permit* good for that day only.

For weekend burning you must call the Cache County Fire Department at **755-1670** for a permit. The air quality must be checked before issuing permits. You may burn branches, leaves etc. No construction materials may be burned. You must be at least 18 years old, the fire must be at least 50 feet from any structure, you must have water nearby, the fire must be out before dark, and you cannot burn tires, oil, fuel, gases, plastic, or other hazardous materials.

And from the Streets Department

This is the time of year when everyone likes to clean up their yard, garages and sidewalks. The city has a nice street sweeper that will be coming to your neighborhood in the coming weeks to clean up the roads also. It will help if garbage cans & cars are not left on the road so their job can be done in a timely manner and we can all take pride in our city.

Commercial Building Permits

Anytime Fitness
Cartridge World
Chrysalis

Home Businesses

ADNT LLC - Alarm Installation & Service
Equity Labs LLC - Retail Sales
Hartnell Inspection Services - Home Inspections
On the Spot Carpet Cleaning - Cleaning Services

Commercial Businesses

Anytime Fitness - Health & Fitness
Cartridge World of Logan -Computer Sales/Services

Comparison to previous year:

Permit Type	2007 to date	2006 to date
Single Family Residence	12	5
Multi-Family (Apt.)	0	1
New Commercial (Retail)	2	7
Office	1	3
Remodel (Existing Comm.)	0	0

**GROWTH
CORNER**

Greetings from the Utility Billing department. It is Spring! We hope you're refreshed from the long winter and ready for a little spring clean-up in preparation for a great summer ahead.

Water - It is that time of the year when we start reading water meters each month. We begin reading meters on April 13th and we will read each month until November. Each year our meter readers encounter difficult situations. Many residents try to camouflage their meter lid with different items, while other lids get covered up by mistake or overgrowth.

Please make sure your meter lid is uncovered and free from any of the following: railroad ties, flower boxes, sprinkler boxes, dirt, bushes and grass. Trim back all bushes and plants around the meter. Our meter readers are trying to get an accurate reading, and they are also looking for any problems in the meter barrel. When they have easy access to the meters, it makes it possible for them to do their job. This saves you money as well. The majority of North Logan property owners are always so willing to do their part to help us out. Thank you so much for your support!

Greenwaste - There is a greenwaste dumpster west of Elk Ridge Park. It is there from April through November. It is to be used for grass, leaves, branches, etc. Do not put anything larger than 10 feet long or 12" in diameter. Just take the road west of the canal at about 1100 East and 2500 North.

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The city's website has a new, improved, updated look with drop-down menus & pictures. It's a great place to explore for information about the city's programs, calendar of events, agendas, newsletters, staff, development, ordinances and much more.

News For Families

LIBRARY INFORMATION

April 15th through 21st

National Library Week – Come Together @ Your Library

Help celebrate National Library Week with lots of fun and informative programs for all ages! Special book-marks will be distributed.

Gardening Series for April

An array of informative gardening classes is slated for April! These wonderful programs will be taught by agents of USU Extension's Horticulture program in the Library's Meeting Room.

FREE & NO REGISTRATION!

Get a dose of spring fever at the North Logan City Library!

April 4th - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Plants for Utah Landscapes

Learn which annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees thrive best in Utah's arid climate and alkaline soils.

April 11th - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fruit Trees and Small Fruits for Cache Valley

Cache Valley is the ideal place to grow some fruit producing plants. Learn the how and why some do well and others just won't survive or produce fruit.

April 18th - 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Vegetable Gardening in Cache Valley

Discover ways to extend the growing season, when to plant which vegetables and garden in a small area.

April 25th - 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Propagation

Start your own flowers and vegetables from seed or cuttings, learning few tricks of the trade for success.

Book Discussion Group

Thursday, April 12th at 9:00 a.m.

This month's reading selection is the novel entitled "The Covenant (Abrams Daughters)" by Beverly Lewis.

*"... Beverly Lewis's explosive (new) novel, The Covenant, unveils the layers of deeply rooted Amish tradition as seen through the eyes of Leah and Sadie Ebersol, two courting-age sisters. The Amish community of Gobbler's Knob holds everything Leah has ever desired until a pact with her older sister, lured by the outside world, leaves her clinging to God's promises." **Booklist***

Copies of this book are available in the Library in the Young Adult section.

All are welcome to attend this intriguing literary program!

Children's Story/Puppet Programs

Toddler Time on Tuesdays - 10:10 to 10:30 a.m.

Quacker Time on Thursdays & Fridays - 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Quacker Fans: Please note these fun-filled story programs will take place during the last three weeks of April. There will be no story programs on April 3rd, 5th & 6th.

For more information about the above programs, please call the Library at 755-7169 or log on to the Library's web site at: www.northloganlibrary.org.

Attention Boys & Girls! Quackers' joke of the month is:

When is the best time to buy chicks?

A! When they are going cheap!





CELEBRATE TREES!

Come Celebrate Trees at North Logan's week-long Arbor Day celebration at the North Logan public library. Starting Monday, April 2 and continuing through the 7th, the celebration will include hands-on adventure stations where kids can explore the insides of a tree, leaf layers, tree cookies, a tree's heartbeat, and construct a tree lovers canopy of leaves. Everyone will also have the opportunity to draw and write about their favorite tree on a page to be assembled into a community tree book for the library. The week will culminate in a tree planting ceremony on the library lawn. Come join us!

Friday, April 6 11:00am - 3:00pm **Celebrate Trees, all day at the library!** There will be a story-time for preschool ages at 11:00, 12:00, 12:30. 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30. Guided activities for grade school children will be ongoing from 11:00am - 3:00pm. Then a tree planting ceremony for all ages at **11:45am** on the library lawn. *weather permitting, dress accordingly - planting help is encouraged!

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Spring is on the way and it is time to sort through your books, videos, DVDs and recycle them through the library. Those that cannot be added to the collection are then added to the "Friends of the Library" used bookstore.

Our annual "Friends" **book sale** will be held on April 20th & 21st, Friday and Saturday. We have requested Wal-Mart's permission to hold the sale on the west lawn of the store.

Thank you for your continued donations toward the **Flights of Learning** sculpture. Money collected is deposited monthly in a CD. We are nearly halfway in raising the \$20,000. Please continue to bring in your spare change.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



APRIL

- * 2 - 7 Arbor Day Activities (no Quackers programs this week)
- * 9 - Senior Citizens luncheon
- * 12 - Planning Commission
- * 17 - Baseball/Softball signups
- * 19 - City Council
- * 21 - Baseball/Softball signups
- * 26 - Planning Commission
- * 28 - Broadway on Ice show

MAY * 3 - City Council

Gardening class at the library every Wed. in April. Please find more information about these activities in the newsletter articles or call the city offices.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IS COMING UP ON SATURDAY, JUNE 2ND

THIS IS A DAY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TRAILS AND WE ARE HOPING YOU WILL WANT TO BE INVOLVED. THIS IS A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS INCLUDING SCOUT GROUPS, CHURCH GROUPS, INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES. IN NORTH LOGAN THE KICKOFF WILL BE AT 8:30 AM. MEET AT THE FIRST RESTROOM IN GREEN CANYON. COME IN YOUR WORK CLOTHES AND BRING GLOVES, SHOVELS, AND RAKES.

SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON

The North Logan Senior Citizens will hold their monthly luncheon at 12:00 noon on Monday, April 9th at the Golden Corral at 2044 North Main in North Logan. The cost is \$3.50 per person and all senior citizens are invited to attend.

Please **RSVP** to Savannah Baker at (753-0287), Lila Eddington (753-0203), Eva Fay Anderson (753-0340), Eileen Stocking (752-1217) or Alva Johnson (753-3070) by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 6th.**



***North Logan Little League
Baseball & Softball Sign-ups!***

Dates:

Tuesday, April 17th
Saturday, April 21st

Times:

5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

Place:

North Logan Library
North Logan Library

Leagues

T-ball League (ages 5-6)
Coach Pitch League (ages 7-8)
Girl's Softball (ages 9-12)
Minor League (ages 9-10)
Major League (ages 11-12)
**Pony League (ages 13-14)

Fees:

\$25.00
\$25.00
\$25.00
\$40.00
\$40.00
\$50.00

** In the Pony League (ages 13-14) the first 14 players that sign up will be assured a place on the team. After that, we will have a waiting list to see if we can field two teams.

Non-NLC Residents \$5.00 (additional)

Note: Baseball age is determined by your age on July 31st of this year.

Broadway on Ice - 4th Annual Spring Ice Show

The Cache Valley Figure Skating Club invites you to their 4th annual show—Broadway on Ice. Joining our award-winning skaters including guest skater Angela Wang, Junior Nationals competitor; Learn-to-Skate skaters; USU skaters; and the Hot Chocolate Skating Club.

There will be five Broadway productions all in one night: Annie, Cats, Grease, The Sound of Music and Thoroughly Modern Millie.



For family fun come to the Eccles Ice Center, 2825 N. 200 E., North Logan, Saturday, April 28th, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm. For information call Shana 792-4691 or visit the website ecclesice.com.

Admission: \$5 for adults through 12 years old
\$3 for 11 years and younger and USU students

Tickets available at: Eccles Ice Center, Macey's, Lee's Marketplace (in North Logan & Smithfield)
\$8 for Reserved Seating: Tickets available only at the Eccles Ice Center

JAPANESE YOUTH EXCHANGE

Host families interested in participating in a summer exchange with youth from Japan who will be visiting Utah as part of an exchange program are encouraged to apply this month. Ages of those visiting from Japan range from 11 years old to age 16. Families interested in **hosting from July 25 - August 19** should contact Kerry Bringhurst as soon as possible to meet deadline requirements. Her phone number is 757-9989 or by email bbringhurst@xmission.com.

High school students from Japan interested in attending Skyview High School are available for a school year exchange. Host families who participate in the high school exchange have the option of a scholarship to help cover the cost of a family member interested in participating in a month long exchange to Japan. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the culture of Japan and to share with them our unique family life.



