



North Logan City NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2008

North Logan City
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North Logan, UT 84341
435-752-1310

www.ci.north-logan.ut.us

North Park Police Tip Line - 787-7475

MAYOR'S MESSAGE: **GRAFFITI - IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Last year Chief Kim Hawkes invited the Logan Police Gang Unit to give a talk on the emergence of rural teen street gangs in Cache Valley. Although it was widely advertised just ten citizens showed up at the North Logan Library to hear about something seemingly foreign to our community. This is contrasted by the same presentation that took place at the Greenville Elementary School on July 31st of this year. Over one hundred citizens, teachers, and teens attended. Why the difference? It's because we are now seeing evidence of street gang activity and they are making their presence known through graffiti and criminal conduct. Logan has been dealing with active teen gangs for the past several years and until recently the activity was centered there. This is no longer true and it's now spreading into our city and others in Cache Valley. Our citizens are now seeing the visible signs associated with teen gangs in their neighborhoods.

One of the first indications of possible teen gang activity is "graffiti". When I was elected three years ago there was *one* incident of graffiti reported. It was in the area just south of 2500 North and west of 400 East in the trailer park area near Greenville Elementary School. Our police monitored the area and had some evidence that a teen gang member lived in that neighborhood. The graffiti was removed and none reappeared.

That was three years ago. Last month the Ice Arena was tagged. Within a week, the equestrian sign on the north end of Meadowview Park was spray painted with the symbol "BP". *The North Park Police have documented 31 graffiti "tagging" incidents within the last 12 months.* If you see a sign or surface spray painted with letters and or numbers, it means something. Here are a few examples that could appear here:

"BP" (Brown Pride)

"FL" (Familia Locos)

"M13" (Malan Drines) translated: (Trouble Makers)

"Sur 13" (Surenos)

How does graffiti/tagging translate to gang activity?

There isn't a simple explanation, but before tagging can occur a group of kids just "hang out" together. One of the kids usually has some tie to either family or other friends who are involved in gang activity. In most cases this is innocent and harmless, but it can evolve into forming a "crew or gang". Once a crew/gang is formed, a name is created, and then tagging begins. It normally starts on school premises in bathroom stalls. After the crew is formed and tagging starts, kids who want to join must be "Jumped In". This is engaging in fights with each other exchanging punches below the neckline. Over a short period of time several students will take pride and brag about taking part in this aggressive activity. Students adopt monikers and use permanent markers such as "sharpies" to perfect their art on school notebooks and folders. Most parents and teachers fail to notice the symbols and drawings, or if they do, it is considered innocent adolescent expression or pass it off as a form of art. The faculty at Cedar Ridge Middle School received training this last year to help them better identify gang related art work so that they can understand what is occurring.

Other than this being a nuisance and defacing property, how can this become a serious problem to our community?

Students who become intimidated by the aggressive behavior and bullying are apt to create a second crew to neutralize the first group. It is here that the rural teen gang starts to form. The school is considered neutral territory and in a rural area such as our community, the only time that these students are all together amongst the rival crew is at school. As these crews form they develop a strong dislike for each other and it's just a matter of time before fighting starts. Ultimately school officials step in and in some cases the kids are expelled or sent to alternative schooling. The problem doesn't go away; it merely shifts to another

(cont. from page 1) **What can we do to prevent rural teen gangs from developing in our community?**

First, we must recognize the signs. When you see graffiti, it means that the development of a teen gang may be underway. **If you see any graffiti, you must report it to the police immediately.** If graffiti shows up on your fence or the side of a structure, it must be removed quickly. The removal of the paint discourages more tagging by rival crews but is only symptomatic of the bigger problem.

Our police and school officials must constantly share information and keep detailed files of all graffiti symbols, and notebook/folder magic marker “art” work. It is very important that teachers and school administrators understand that this is a warning sign. We are making a concerted effort to do this and have educational programs such as the one recently held at Greenville to inform the public.

Parents must be vigilant and attentive to the behavior of their children. It is critical that parents stay involved with their children and look for signs that show a change in behavior, lack of interest in completing school work, and change in friendships they have established earlier. There are many things that can be red flags in behavior - the clothing worn, use of bandannas and dark colored neck scarves, permanent tattoos just to mention a few.

Graffiti is an element of blight. It is a public nuisance and must be eliminated by means of prevention, education, and abatement to avoid the detrimental impact on the City and its residents.

I am putting together a working group to draft a graffiti abatement ordinance for consideration by the council. The intent of the ordinance is to prohibit the application of graffiti on any public or private property and treat it as a crime against the city.

If you have questions or want a presentation on this issue at a neighborhood meeting, please give me a call on my direct line at 760-4615. Sincerely, Cary Watkins

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN CITY COUNCIL?

The only City Council meeting for the month of September will be on the 3rd. **No meeting will be held September 17th.** During the September 3rd meeting the council will consider a proposed new ordinance that will require new roads that are constructed as part of development to have funds set aside to accomplish the initial chip sealing of those roads. If adopted, this ordinance would require that this initial chip seal be at the expense of the developer rather than the city.

The council should also consider approval of the complete development plan plus the final plat for the first phase of the Canyon Gates subdivision. The developers have been working for several months on the details of this subdivision of about 146 acres into 262 lots south of the cemetery and near the mouth of Green Canyon. If they complete their work on their subdivision plan, the council should be considering it for approval during their September 3rd meeting.

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.

Election Corner

The November election is getting close. To make sure your vote is counted, here is the voters’ tip of the month:

Vote by absentee ballot if you will not be able to go to the polls on Election Day.

Voting by absentee ballot is easy. Absentee ballots are for those who will be out of town on election day, persons in the military who still want to vote in their home district, hospitalized or home-bound people, or others who for some other reason are not able to go to the polls on Election Day. To vote absentee the voter must obtain an absent-vote ballot application from the county clerk or the city offices, fill it out, and mail the application to the county clerk’s office. The mailed-in application must be received by the county clerk by **October 15th** if the ballot needs to be mailed to someone outside the United States; or by **October 31st** if the person is within the United States. The county clerk will then mail the ballot to absentee voters as soon as they are available.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Labor Day - Office Closed
- 3 - City Council - 6:00 p.m.
- 4 - Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.
- 8 - Senior Citizens Luncheon - 12:00 p.m.
- 9 - Friends of the Library - 6:30 p.m.
- 13 - Cemetery Dedication - see below**
- 17 - City Council is cancelled**
- 18 - Planning Commission - 7:00 p.m.**

To see the complete calendar of events visit our web site at: <http://www.ci.north-logan.ut.us/calendar>



JUST A REMINDER - THE BLUE RECYCLING CANS WILL BE PICKED UP ON SEPT 4TH, 18TH & OCT 2ND



Commercial Building Permits

Home Businesses

Commercial Businesses

Comparison to previous year:

Permit Type	2008 to date	2007 to date
Single Family Residence	19	41
Multi-Family (Apt)	0	0
New Commercial (Retail)	0	10
Office	1	8
Remodel (Existing Comm)	0	0
Industrial	0	3

GROWTH CORNER

FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK I thought it would be good to remind us of some driving rules that will help us be prepared for more pedestrians and bicyclists on the roadway and sidewalks. **Schools are now in session.** We have crossing guards at the location of 2500 N and 800 E, two at 2500 N 400 E, two at 2600 N 200 E and one at 2900 N 800 E. We encourage all children and adults escorting children to school to use the crosswalks manned by our crossing guards. Drivers, be aware that when a crossing guard is positioned in the middle of a crosswalk the entire crosswalk is activated and vehicles cannot pass through the crosswalk. Crossing guards are trained and required to stand in the middle of the crosswalk and wait till the children are up on the curb they are crossing to before they can turn and walk back to their starting position. One of the most common violations that we see from drivers is when they make a right hand turn through a cross walk that still has the crossing guard in the middle of the crosswalk. Be patient and take your time when driving so that everyone can get where they are going safely.

FROM THE UTILITY DEPARTMENT

The City Office has new doors. In came the new and out went the old, including the payment drop box in the front door. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may have caused you. We are in the process of getting a new drive-up payment drop box. We hope to have it in place by the time you make your payment in September.

Many of you have signed-up for Direct Payment. We hope this makes paying your City bill easier and worry free. If you haven't signed up and would like to, please stop by our office. All we need is a voided check and a signature verifying your permission. You can call us at any time at 435-752-1310 extension 10 if you have questions.



CEMETERY DEDICATION

The North Logan City cemetery committee announces that the dedication of the cemetery will be held September 13, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.. The address is 2500 N. 2200 E. at the entrance of the new city cemetery. There will be a short program with a speaker, choir and bagpipe player. We hope that you will come and enjoy this wonderful event that has been 10 years in the making.



SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON

The North Logan Senior Citizens will hold their monthly luncheon at 12:00 noon on Monday, **September 8th** 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 - 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, September 5th.

LIBRARY NEWS

We've had a great summer at the library with our highest EVER circulation at just over 30,000 items circulated in July!! If you don't have a library card September is Library Card Sign-up Month so come in today to get a card or use the one you already have.

Library Closure:

The library will be closed Monday, September 1st to celebrate Labor Day.

Library Book Club

Marilyn Puffer will be hosting our discussion about *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. The library's book group will discuss this book on Thursday, September 11th at 9:00 am in the library. Copies are available at the circulation desk and all are welcome!

Storytime

Storytimes are Tuesdays at 10:10 for Toddler Time (2 years and under) and at 11:00 for Story Time (3-5 year olds).

Spanish Heritage Month is Sept. 15th – Oct. 15th

Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read is Sept. 27th - Oct. 4th.

BOOK SALE

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Friends of the North Logan Library will be having their Fall Book Sale on Friday & Saturday, September 12th & 13th on the lawn in front of Wal-Mart. All funds raised will go to purchase new books for our library, over and above the city's budget for new books. If you have any books to **DONATE**, please drop them off at the Library before September 12th.

The "Friends" have now got the funds to have the "Flights of Learning" statue made. It should be completed by April of 2009. Thank you to all who have so generously donated.

SUBSTITUTE CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED!

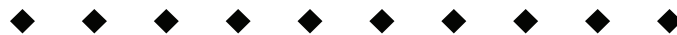
North Park Police are accepting applications for substitute crossing guards. If you are interested, please contact the North Park Police at 753-7600.



InTech Collegiate High School, the Charter High School located on the Innovation Campus, is now enrolling for the 2008-2009 school year. If you want to *Enter College* while still *In High School*, have a *Passion for Science, Technology, Engineering or Math*, and would like to go to school with a *Smaller Learning Community* (200 - 300 students) and smaller class sizes (below 25), then InTech might be the perfect school for your. **As a public school, InTech does not charge tuition or have GPA requirements.** To find out more call 753-7377 or attend one of our Enrollment Information Session held every Tuesday night from 6-7 p.m., at 1787 N. Research Parkway, North Logan.

Did you know that North Logan City has a curfew??? Yes, it is a county-wide curfew.

All minors (under 18), Sunday through Thursday, must be home by 10:30 p.m.. Friday and Saturday, minors must be home by 12:00 p.m.. The curfew extends until 5:00 a.m. on all days.



Did you know that no signs may be placed on city "right-of-way" including utility poles? Handbills may be handed directly to occupants or secured at peoples' homes so there is no chance of the handbill blowing away. Handbills may not be placed in mailboxes or on vehicles.



It's Almost time for the Pumpkin Walk!

The theme this year is "Calling All Heroes"

The dates will be Thursday, October 23rd through Tuesday, October 28th (not open on Sunday) from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. at Elk Ridge Park.

Volunteers are needed for: Pumpkin Carving; Lighting Pumpkins; A Costumed Witch; Passing out Cookies; Kitchen Management; Setup; Scene Recruiting; Publicity; Typing; Parking; Greeting Busloads of Children; Handymen to help with Setup....

There are some great opportunities for Eagle Scout Projects!

If you, your family, club, church group, business group, etc. would like to create a scene - call Marlyn McKinley at 753-2559. If you would like to volunteer - call GayLynn Daniels at 755-7147. And for general information call Dedee Dalebout at 770-7194.

Animal Identity Chip Clinic

Officer Rocky Taylor has organized an Animal Identity Chip clinic to be held the last part of September or the first part of October. These chips will be at a greatly reduced cost and will provide an excellent way to identify your pet if lost. The clinic will be held in conjunction with the Cache Humane Society's Grand Opening of its new shelter. A date has not yet been set but if you would like personal notification of the date and details, please call the North Park Police Department and ask for Officer Rocky Taylor, 435-753-7600 ext 29.

The Northern Utah Immunization Coalition encourages you to get protected by getting immunized against diseases you may be at risk for. For more information contact: The Bear River Health Department at 655 East 1300 North, Logan, UT 84341 435-792-6500 or www.brhd.org

Get vaccinated, it's your best shot! *Don't forget your flu shot this fall*