



# CITYSCAPES

St. George City Newsletter

www.sgcity.org

## Parks & Trails Development Continues at a Rapid Pace



**Blake Memorial Park**

**T**he Leisure Services Department continues to be progressive in order to keep up with the tremendous growth in the City of St. George. A new Design and Development Division has been created to keep pace with the increasing number of new parks and trails in the City of St. George. This division is dedicated to the design and implementation of new city parks, trails, landscapes and outdoor public facilities. The three landscape architects on staff manage these projects through all phases of development from concept to construction. The following is a snapshot of happenings in the Design and Development Division with some highlights of projects in each stage of development.

Two significant projects have been successfully completed this year. Early in the year was the completion of the **Virgin River Trail Phase III**. This addition to the trail system provides an extension along the scenic Virgin River east to Washington City.

**Blake Memorial Park** was recently completed in September. This neighborhood park located on 1360 West behind the Pinebrook subdivision is a great place for family and group outings. It is located along the Santa Clara River and provides barbecues, a playground,

shade structures, picnic areas and restrooms. In addition to serving as a neighborhood park, Blake Park provides a stopping point along the new Santa Clara River Trail currently under construction.

**The Santa Clara River Trail** adds another 2.9 miles to the city's current trail system. This new stretch of trail will connect Mathis Park on Dixie Drive, the newly constructed Blake Memorial Park, Tonaquint Park, and Southgate Golf Course. Located along the Santa Clara River, the trail will cross the river with pedestrian bridges in several locations and is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

**The St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm** is currently under construction. A unique structural steel and glass building will house the original dinosaur tracks and provide visitors with an informative tour of these incredible findings, their origin and recent discoveries on the Johnson Farm. As one of the rare sites in the world with remarkably well-preserved fossilized impressions, this project will provide a tremendous facility to learn about this unique find. The projected opening is slated for November of this year.

Landscape improvements at two **I-15 interchanges** are currently being implemented in coordination with the Utah Department of



Transportation. The on-ramps at Bluff Street and St. George Boulevard will be landscaped using a combination of St. George City and State of Utah matching grant funds. This project is currently in the bidding process and will be under construction soon.

**Slick Rock Park** is a new 6-acre park located on the north side of Riverside Drive near the Slick Rock residential development. This park takes advantage of a unique natural water feature and preserves the surrounding native environment. Approximately one-half of the park will remain in its natural state while the other half will be developed with turf play areas, a pavilion, climbing boulders, and restrooms. This park is in the bidding process and will begin construction later this year.

**Bloomington Park** on East Man-O-War will be undergoing a major renovation this winter. Improvements include complete upgrade of the ball fields including new turf, irrigation system, fencing, lighting, and bleachers. A large sand volleyball tournament area with a pavilion along the Virgin River, expanded parking facilities, and a trail are other highlights of the park renovation. This project is currently in the bidding process and is expected to be ready for use next spring.

Several other projects are in the design phase. City design staff and consultants are preparing design and construction documents for several new parks, trails, landscapes, and downtown improvements. Multiple factors are considered and incorporated during the design process. Property acquisition, natural features, coordination with adjoining development, identifying physical constraints and opportu-

nities are all considered in determining the best design to meet the needs of the city and its residents.

A new sports complex is in the design phase. The 54-acre **Fields at Little Valley** complex located north of Horseman Park Road near the Knolls subdivision will include four competition softball fields and a soccer complex capable of hosting eight full-size soccer fields. The facility will also include a neighborhood park with playgrounds, turf, picnic areas, and restrooms as well as walking trails throughout the park.

The downtown area will be undergoing some streetscape improvements. New landscape medians in the historic portion of St. George Boulevard are in the design process and the city is working with UDOT and the downtown businesses to improve the attractiveness of the downtown.

The city has yet another extension to its trail system in the design stage. Design and construction documents are currently being prepared for the **Middleton Wash Trail**. This trail will begin at the Virgin River Phase III Trail, continue north where it will cross under the Riverside Drive bridge and continue up the Middleton Wash. The trail will connect into the street system at 1680 East near the Sterling Court residences.

As you can see, the Design and Development Division is very busy in keeping all of these projects on track to provide enjoyable public spaces and trails for the growing community as well as maintaining St. George's reputation as a leader in recreational facilities.

Residents may obtain information on existing Leisure Services Department facilities and events at [sgcity.org/leisure/](http://sgcity.org/leisure/)

**HUNTSMAN WORLD SENIOR GAMES** The City of St. George welcomes the 10,000 athletes and guests participating in the Huntsman World Senior Games  
October 4-16, 2004



# Replacement Airport Environmental Impact Study Continues

**T**he replacement airport environmental impact statement continues to move forward on schedule. Currently, preliminary computer modeling of aircraft noise in the region is underway, using the radar and aircraft flight track information that has been gathered over the past several months. By using this radar and aircraft information, which includes aircraft type, altitude, speed and route, the highly sophisticated computer model calculates noise impacts at various locations. Once this preliminary modeling is complete, areas that show a potential need for additional noise evaluation will be analyzed and possibly studied in more detail.

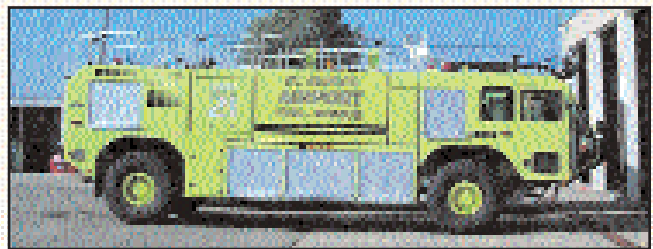
Concurrent with noise modeling tasks, work continues on other aspects of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) such as potential impacts to biotic, water and air quality resources. At present, a public information meeting about the initial information gathered during the EIS process is expected to take place in November. A draft version of the full EIS document is expected to be complete in late spring 2005.

A major determinant of the replacement airport's impact on the surrounding community will be the land uses in place around the airport. To that end, one of the critical components of the replacement airport EIS is the preparation of a comprehensive airport vicinity land use plan, which is designed to accomplish three primary goals:

- Provide for long-term protection of the airport.
- Provide for long-term protection of current and future residents from adverse airport impacts.
- Capitalize on airport-related opportunities for economic development.

Preparation of the land use plan is being led by EIS consultant Landrum and Brown, and will be a collaborative effort between the City of St. George, Washington City, Washington County and Mohave County, Arizona, as well as area landowners and planning agencies. This process will take place parallel to the EIS, using data collected during the EIS process, and is expected to be complete concurrent with the final EIS in the fall of 2005.

In early September, the St. George Airport took delivery of a brand new, \$565,000 Oshkosh Stryker 1500 aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle. This tremendously capable piece of safety equipment will allow the airport to meet stringent new Federal Aviation Administration safety regulations well in advance of next year's deadline, and significantly increase the level of emergency response to air carrier and general aviation aircraft incidents. The vehicle will be staffed from 6:00 a.m. to midnight seven days each week by airport operations employees specially trained in aircraft rescue and firefighting. The Federal Aviation Administration funded 91% of the cost of the vehicle, and airport passenger facility charges funded the balance.



MAKE PLANS NOW TO BE AT

# FIRST NIGHT 2005

Downtown St. George • Celebration begins at 7:30 pm • December 31st



# Mayor & City Council Capitalize On New Open Space Opportunity



One thing that we all treasure about our community is the open space along our hillsides and river ways. While a lot of attention has been placed on regulation of hillside development, the open space along river ways is quietly being gobbled up by an insidious tree commonly known as tamarisk.

In the 1930s, tamarisk was planted along the Virgin River by the Civilian Conservation Corps for bank stabilization. However, experience has proven that tamarisk does not control erosion. Although they serve a limited use as wildlife habitat, other native plants, such as willow and cottonwood are pre-

ferred. Tamarisk often doubles as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects and is usually too dense to enter without a chainsaw.

Over the years, the tamarisk has spread throughout the community and overtaken an estimated 1,500 acres that could otherwise be enjoyed for open space uses such as trails, parks, and soccer fields. At a time when water has become such a precious commodity, it is alarming to realize that tamarisk consumes millions of gallons of water every year.

*Reclamation of tamarisk-infested flood plains will reduce flood damage, save water, improve habitat and open significant opportunities for beneficial use of new open space for the community.*

City Street Superintendent, Randy Halverson, is charged with maintenance of the flood ways of the city.

After years of frustrating effort to control the tamarisk, Halverson took on the challenge to find a solution. The result was a five-year program approved by the mayor and city council to eradicate all tamarisk in the city. Authorized under this program was the purchase of a Timber Ax. This innovative unit, mounted

on an all-terrain vehicle, grinds up the tamarisk in place and spreads it on the ground as mulch. This efficient operation followed by an herbicide application has proven successful in Colorado and will undoubtedly prove beneficial for the City of St. George.

St. George Musical Theater

37 South 100 West • St. George, UT 84770  
435-628-8755 • [www.sgmt.org](http://www.sgmt.org)

*Annie, September 23 - October 18, 2004 • Hasty Heart, November 4 - 22, 2004  
Annie & the Night Visitors, December 2-20, 2004 • South Pacific, January 13 - February 7, 2005  
Mousetrap, February 24 - March 14, 2005 • Scarlet Pimpernel, March 31 - April 25, 2005*



# Boulevard Reconstruction Project to Commence Late Spring 2005



Engineers, an engineering firm retained by UDOT to design the reconstruction, has been working feverishly to define the scope of work and refine the specification, in order to bid the project by the end of 2004. City landscape architects are also involved designing landscape elements to be included in the project. In addition to a new roadway surface and sidewalks, the project will include upgraded utilities, historic streetlights, trees along sidewalks, landscaped medians, special concrete treatments on sidewalks and crosswalks, left-turn lights and pedestrian countdown timers at signalized intersections.

*As work on the 18-month project commences in late spring 2005, UDOT anticipates only a few blocks at a time being impacted. The City of St. George, UDOT*

**D**uring the course of a day in St. George, running errands and going to and from work, it is almost inevitable that you will drive on a portion of St. George Boulevard as part of your east-west commute. Add up the number of city residents and visitors doing the same thing on any given day and you end up with more than 40,000 vehicles per day on the boulevard. This traffic count makes the boulevard one of the most popular roads in Southern Utah.

For a number of years, the City of St. George and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) have been working together on a plan to improve safety, move motorists more efficiently, and provide a roadway that is more inviting for shoppers and pedestrians along St. George Boulevard. After a number of public hearings, committee meetings with businesses and residents, and discussions between engineers, local and state officials, the St. George Boulevard reconstruction project is beginning to take shape.

Given the complexity of the boulevard, Horrocks

*and the St. George Area Chamber of Commerce continue to meet monthly with St. George Boulevard business representatives to address ways of minimizing impacts to businesses and motorists during construction.* The city is also working with a number of business and property owners to allow for cross easements, and / or shared parking agreements and secondary access to businesses. As part of the project, UDOT will hire a full-time information manager to communicate to businesses and the public all pertinent information relative to construction.

Even though UDOT is responsible for the boulevard reconstruction project, city officials view this as a one time opportunity to make needed improvements to the utilities under the roadway while enhancing the aesthetics along the downtown business district. For more information on this project contact Myron Lee, UDOT Public Involvement Coordinator (435) 893-4702, or Marc Mortensen, City of St. George Assistant to the City Manager (435) 674-4267.

## DISCOUNTED AFTERNOON GOLF RATES AVAILABLE

Sun.-Thur. after 1 p.m.

- St. George Golf Club and Southgate
- Sunbrook

\$30<sup>00</sup>  
\$40<sup>00</sup>

**PRICE INCLUDES  
18 HOLES AND  
GOLF CART RENTAL**

SUNBROOK 634-5866



SOUTHGATE 628-0000



RED HILLS 634-5852



ST. GEORGE GOLF CLUB 634-5854



# Hot Softball Program Creates Cold, Hard Cash for Our Economy

**I**t is estimated that the 30 annual softball tournaments organized by the City of St. George's Leisure Services Department and conducted at the nationally-recognized Canyons Softball Complex generate approximately \$80,000,000 for our local economy. Ninety percent of the teams participating in these tournaments travel from outside the area. All fifty states in the U.S. and many foreign countries have sent softball teams to St. George. These players and their guests stay in our hotels, eat in our restaurants, fill up at our convenience stores, and frequent a broad range of retail stores while staying in St. George.

Concerning the reputation of St. George softball, Josh Olmstead, St. George City's softball program coordinator said, "We offer a complete spectrum of tournaments. From men's, women's, and senior slow pitch to junior, high school, and college fast pitch, softball is an incredibly popular sports tourism vehicle for St. George. We host the



six largest softball tournaments in the state including our Heat Stroker event which is the number one event in Utah. Over the past two years, we have conducted seven national championships, and we are excited to announce that we have been awarded one of the country's largest events, the 2005 National Softball Association's Girls' Fast Pitch National Championship featuring 250 teams."

The Canyons Softball Complex is primarily utilized Mondays through Thursdays March through October for local league play. St. George City's local softball leagues are filled to capacity with 260 teams. Then, on the weekends, the focus shifts to tournament action.

Many of these tournaments are held during times of the year when our tourism industry needs a boost. During each of the last two years, big tournaments have been held seven out of eight weekends in July and August. In analyzing the potential of adding tournaments to the annual softball calendar, scheduling events in our tourism industry's traditional "off season" is a top priority.

The nearly 1000 annual softball teams (each with 12 to 15 players) traveling to St. George for tournament play bring a significant number of additional visitors with them. Adult tournaments average one additional visitor per player. Youth events average four additional visitors per player, and these people have plenty of time during their stay to shift from being spectators to consumers. These people fall in love with the beauty and friendliness of our community. As a result, they return to St. George time and time again for softball tournaments and non-softball activities. This all adds up to the economic equivalent of a grand slam for St. George and the surrounding area.



## Service that Shines.

Now offering service Saturdays from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

SUNTRAN offers three convenient routes to serve you, for more information call 673-TRAN



# St. George Marathon Celebrates 28th Anniversary

**T**he St. George Marathon celebrated its 28th birthday on Saturday, October 2, 2004. From its first running with 46 finishers, the event has grown to be the 16th largest marathon in the United States. Over 4500 runners toe the line for the 6:45 a.m. start in Central, Utah, along Highway 18. A projected 98% of those runners are expected to arrive at the finish line in Worthen Park in St. George 26.2 miles later.

The St. George Marathon is internationally recognized for its beautiful course, supportive community and high-quality experience. *Runner's World* has described the race as, among other things, "The Fastest Fall Marathon," "One of the Ten Most Scenic Marathons," and "One of the Four Best Marathons in the World to Plan a Vacation

Around." In spite of all the notoriety, race officials pride themselves on providing a special experience for each runner in the race. In order to do so, the marathon has had a registration cap for several years. The cap (6400 this year) makes it possible to house and transport to the start everyone accepted into the race. This year, runners will come from 48 states and 7 countries.

The St. George Marathon has enjoyed tremendous support from local and state-wide businesses and agencies as well as the communities, residents and volunteers throughout Washington County. Approximately 1700 volunteers assist with the mammoth event each year.

A special feature of the marathon is the Ten-Year Club. Each year, runners who have participated for ten years are inducted into this

prestigious group. It is expected 99 runners will complete their 10th St. George Marathon this year. Following induction at the annual Ten-Year Club/Sponsor Recognition Dinner, the club size will swell to nearly 625 members. Of that number, 54 runners will have completed 20 St. George Marathons.

In 1989, the marathon established an exchange relationship with the Ibigawa Marathon in Japan. The winners of each event receive an all-expense paid trip to participate in the other race. This year a delegation of 14 Japanese guests will join us in St. George. Participants in this exchange often refer to this as an "experience of a lifetime."

The Annual Mayor's Walk also adds to the flavor of the weekend as hundreds of walkers complete the last 1.2 miles of the course in time to cheer on marathon runners.

The spectacle of the largest single-day event in Southern Utah brings out the best in our wonderful community.



**Departing from the St. George Musical Theater  
Every 15 Minutes Between 7-9 pm  
October 19-23  
Call 823-8755 for prices and reservations.**



# Message from Mayor Dan McArthur

**A**s the summer months come to an end and the cooler weather starts to prevail, we are reminded why we chose to live in St. George. *Recently, the city council removed watering restrictions and we thank all of you for helping us make it through another summer.*



*The city is able to treat a little over 40 million gallons of water a day. We approach this amount of usage only during the summer months, which requires watering restrictions in order to get us through the peak season.* During the remainder of the year, we use about one-third of this amount, making water restrictions unnecessary. The new regional pipeline which was completed this year from the Sand Hollow

Reservoir to Ivins will help deliver the much needed water to the west side of the city over the next several years.

Many citizens have either called or written me concerning the city's practice of paving roadways with chip and seal. The city has approximately 265 miles of roadway to maintain and chip and seal is by far the most cost-effective method of maintaining our roads. The city inventories and ranks these roads and maintains them depending on their condition. I know that the gravel and dust inconvenience many people for the few days it takes to complete each project, but after the crews have swept the loose rocks, the road surface is more durable and longer lasting than any other method.

Many citizens also ask me about the Red Hills Parkway (Turtle Road) project. This road is a work in progress and when federal funds become available, the city will expand the road to four lanes with a center turn lane.

There is one more thing that I would like to address. Every day I see one or two vehicles running red traffic lights. I have asked the Police Department to step up their enforcement of this problem. Please abide by traffic laws and rest assured that the city is committed to providing the very best in public safety.

Thank you very much for making St. George the very best place to live and raise a family.

## Contact Information

### Mayor and City Council

Daniel D. McArthur	mcarthur@infowest.com
Rod Orton	rodorton@infowest.com
Suzanne B. Allen	sallen@infowest.com
Larry H. Gardner	jmilarry@infowest.com
Gail Bunker	gbunker@dixie.edu
Robert Whatcott	whatcott@infowest.com

### City Manager

Gary S. Esplin	gesplin@infowest.com
----------------	----------------------

### City Services

Administration	634-5800
Airport	634-5822
Animal Shelter	634-5829
Building/Planning	674-4206
Business Licenses	674-4240
Community Arts	634-5942
Economic Development	674-4418
Engineering	674-4287
Fire	634-5844
Leisure Services	634-5850
Parks	634-5869
Police	634-5001
Public Information	674-4267
Public Works	674-4287
Recorder	674-4203
Recreation Center/Programs	634-5860
Sand Hollow Aquatic Center	634-5938
Streets	634-5825
Suntran	673-8726
Utilities	634-5800
Water/Energy Emergencies	634-5835
Water/Energy Conservation	674-4213

**For emergencies please call 911**

### City Meetings

#### City Council

Regularly scheduled city council meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays each month starting at 4:00 pm at the City Office Building (175 East 200 North) unless otherwise noticed. Work meeting sessions are held on the second, fourth, and fifth Thursdays at the same location.

#### Planning Commission

Regularly scheduled planning commission meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month starting at 5:00 pm at the City Office Building unless otherwise noticed.

For more information on city services, contact information, and events please visit the city website at

**[www.sgcity.org](http://www.sgcity.org)**