Utah’s First Conservation Garden
Red Hills Desert Garden Now Open

Making Every Drop Count
Water Conservation & Resource Development

Fourth of July Celebration
Come Join the Fun!

On the Horizon:
Traffic & Transportation
2015 Transportation Project Updates
Inside St. George / SUMMER 2015

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MAYOR PIKE’S MESSAGE

By: Mayor Jon Pike

Another school year has come and gone, and summer is upon us. We had a wonderful May, with lower temperatures and around 400% of normal rainfall. Of course, that’s not saying much when we typically get almost no rainfall in May! But the moisture has definitely helped our water situation – mostly because we didn’t need to water as much this spring. This is good, since our winter snowfall was far below average, similar to the last few years. Now, as we get into triple digit temperatures, I hope we will all take care to use our water wisely.

Most cities in southwest Utah have or will soon put in force seasonal watering restrictions. We need to make sure we’re only watering between 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM. We should also check our sprinklers and timers frequently to make sure the watering time is appropriate and that sprinklers are functioning correctly. We don’t want to be watering paved surfaces or having geysers!

Something to note: The City of St. George utilizes some irrigation and some re-use water (water that has been used once, treated, and is now available to be used again for landscape purposes only). We water many of the parks, our two cemeteries, golf courses, and sports fields with these non-drinkable water sources. Because of the volume, we don’t have enough storage capacity to allow us to do all this watering from 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM. That’s why you will sometimes see these facilities being watered during the day. We do our best to avoid the hottest parts of the day, but I want to help people understand this is not drinking water, and we’re doing all we can to use all water sources wisely. Occasionally we all see sprinklers malfunctioning. If you see any of ours doing so, please call the city or email me and let us know! If we see sprinklers malfunctioning, we inform property owners and request that they be repaired or re-directed. We don’t currently have any fines established for those not watering during specified hours or for otherwise wasting water. We’re considering whether to implement something along those lines. Many years ago, St. George had a fine established for wasting water. I’d be interested to know what people think about doing so again. We will also consider water rates more in the future and how much water each property should be expected to use versus what they actually use. These efforts will take time, effort and money, but I believe will be necessary for our long-term sustainability as a city and region. I encourage every citizen to carefully review their water use and see what they can do (inside and out) to use less of this precious resource. There are many resources available through the city, the Washington County Water Conservancy District, and other online sites to help us in our efforts to conserve water. Over the past decade, we’ve reduced our water use by 26%, which is better than the state average reduction. I’d like to see us continue and improve upon these efforts.

If you have an opportunity this summer, I hope you’ll visit the new Red Cliffs Desert Garden. There you will find a beautiful garden/park to enjoy with your family and friends. It is immediately adjacent to the very popular Pioneer Park on the north end of town on what we call the Red Hill. Besides the peace and beauty, you’ll be able to see what kinds of plants, shrubs and trees do well in our environment. Soon, there will be signs with QR codes so your smartphones can bring up helpful information on each plant to help you decide what will work in your yard. Let’s each do our best to learn about and conserve water in our own homes and yards. Have a wonderful and safe summer!
By: Jimmie Hughes, City Council

The heat is on here in St. George and summer is well under way. The kids are out of school and enjoying their summer break. My daughter McKinley reminded me anxiously that summer is almost half over and we have not taken any family vacation! As I try to dispute my daughters claim, I realize summer break is really half over and reminded again how time does go sailing by when we are busily engaged in life’s many activities.

The passage of time is just one of those things that happen even if we are not paying attention. It has also been said that time can dim the memory of things past.

As we approach the big summer holiday of the 4th of July my mind reflects on both the passage of time and the patriotism that surrounds the celebration of the birth of our great nation. That passage of time is very evident when you meet and talk with the aging veterans who served our country during World War II.

Over the past several years I have had the privilege to help many families celebrate the lives of their family members who served in World War II as they have passed on. Their stories are varied and their backgrounds and family dynamics are all very different. It has been a great blessing to me to hear their stories, reflect on their lives and the troubled time they lived in.

This group of the “greatest generation” is shrinking rapidly each and every week and in the not so distant future these men and women who served in this war and lived in that time period will all be gone. There are fewer and fewer of them left to remind us of the lessons learned. There are and will be fewer and fewer of them to thank for their service. To remind us of the blessing it is to live in this great country and to not let our memories fade with the passage of time.

One of the greatest things that came about during World War II, and I am not the first to say this, is the sense of unity and duty. Young men from all over the country signed up and volunteered to serve their country and go off across the world to put their life on the line. There are even many stories of young men under the age to sign up “fabricating” their age to join. They were united with a sincere desire to serve, a real sense of duty, of a common purpose to defend their country, families and way of life. They had a common goal of doing what had to be done, hard things, to win. There was no other option.

They succeeded and returned home with that same united can do spirit to resume their life. They built homes, families, and businesses and in turn raised the country another notch to the very top. The “go to” country if you will. These men and women are truly the greatest generation. My few words seem to do little justice for the deep respect and appreciation I have for these veterans who so selflessly served. This appreciation was instilled in me at a young age but has increased with passage of time and the hearing of their experiences and meeting their families and associating with them personally.

I hope that as I serve I can remember the unity, duty and the can do spirit that they served with and hope we will all unite just a little more, and perform our duties just a little better in the common purpose of keeping this the greatest country, the greatest state and the greatest city on earth.

Take time to thank a veteran, to hear their stories and contemplate the great things we enjoy today because of their service. Reflect on the lessons learned. Do it before it is too late. Time passes quickly!

To all of you who have served our country, thank you a thousand times over.

The Honor of Serving

The Honor of Serving/City Voices

Honor of Serving

We are halfway through 2015 and there are a number of transportation related projects coming up in St. George.

Traffic Signals - Construction crews will begin work on three new traffic signals which should start in July. One at River Road and St. James Place, River Road and Brigham Road and Mall Drive and 3000 East. Construction should be completed by the end of Fall 2015.

River Road - Construction on the River Road Bridge at the Fort Pearce Wash will begin as early as this fall. Work will be located between 2450 South and Brigham Road including roadway widening to 5 lanes, additional curbing and sidewalk along one side of River Road, and a traffic signal at Horseman Park Drive.

Canyon View Drive - Canyon View Drive is being realigned to remove the sharp corner mid-way up the hill. Roadwork will begin late summer.

Indian Hills Drive - Indian Hills Drive construction between Valley View Drive and Hilton Drive will be finished in the month of July. Additional roadway width and shoulders have been improved for safety.

Bluff and Sunset - UDOT is in the planning and design stages at the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Bluff Street. The design will address the needs of many users including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists that travel in the western side of St. George. More information can be found on the UDOT Map Center found here http://maps.udot.utah.gov. Included in the design is a pedestrian and bicycle tunnel under Bluff Street that will provide safety and accessibility to the trail and sidewalk system.

Active Transportation Planning - The City has begun the process of developing a Comprehensive Active Transportation Plan. It will focus on strategies to develop a high level of bicycle and pedestrian ‘friendliness,’ and making connections between popular routes, destinations and trail connections in St. George and the surrounding communities.

The Plan will address active transportation needs, obstacles and opportunities for making biking and walking inviting, and viable alternatives to vehicle use creating a true multi-modal transportation system.

The Plan will identify needed retrofits to existing transportation infrastructure as well as future community needs and will address maintenance and operational budgets. It will also include goals, objectives, policies, maps, and approaches for implementation. The end product should be a planning tool to guide upcoming projects and activities and will be easily integrated into the existing City of St. George Transportation Master Plan.

Inside St. George / City Voices / SUMMER 2015

Inside St. George
The City of St. George provides drinking water to its residents from both groundwater and surface water sources. The majority (about 85%) of the drinking water is supplied by the Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant (QCWTP). This water is diverted from the Virgin River and stored in the Quail Creek and Sand Hollow Reservoirs. It is then treated to safe drinking water standards at the QCWTP and delivered regionally to Washington, St. George, Ivins, and Santa Clara. The additional drinking water is supplied by various springs and groundwater wells that are owned and operated by the City.

In order to ensure that water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prescribed certain safe drinking water standards. These safe drinking water standards are regulated by the Utah Division of Drinking Water. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA has established the allowable limits of these contaminants, and has determined that water is safe at these levels.

One of the EPA regulated contaminants that is commonly found in drinking water is arsenic. Arsenic is a natural occurring element that is commonly found in drinking water. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA has established the allowable limits of these contaminants, and has determined that water is safe at these levels.

arsenic treatment in the Gunlock well field to meet the new safe drinking water standards. At that time, a feasibility study was conducted and a preliminary design initiated for a water treatment plant that would remove arsenic from the well water. The preliminary cost of the arsenic treatment plant indicated that the cost of the plant would exceed $10 million. Other options were evaluated and the officials ultimately decided to pursue an option that would delay the need for the plant. They took advantage of a newly expanded Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant and delayed pursuing the Gunlock arsenic treatment plant, keeping the cost of water relatively low for residents.

Over the past decade, there have been great improvements and new technologies that have reduced the cost of arsenic removal from drinking water. Within the last year, the City Water Services Department, in partnership with the Washington County Water Conservancy District, has commissioned a feasibility study to look at new arsenic treatment options for the Gunlock well field.

Over the next year, City staff will be working closely with consulting engineers, water quality experts, the Division of Drinking Water, and Bureau of Land Management to finalize a working strategic plan, conduct a treatment plant pilot study, and work on a final design for an arsenic treatment plant for the Gunlock well field. This arsenic treatment plant will give the City the ability to supplement its current drinking water supply and provide a redundant source of water to the community.

In 2003, City officials looked at several options of arsenic treatment in the Gunlock well field to meet the new safe drinking water standards. At that time, a feasibility study was conducted and a preliminary design initiated for a water treatment plant that would remove arsenic from the well water. The preliminary cost of the arsenic treatment plant indicated that the cost of the plant would exceed $10 million. Other options were evaluated and the officials ultimately decided to pursue an option that would delay the need for the plant. They took advantage of a newly expanded Quail Creek Water Treatment Plant and delayed pursuing the Gunlock arsenic treatment plant, keeping the cost of water relatively low for residents.
Conservation and new water development are top priorities for Washington County Water Conservancy District given its charge to secure, develop and store adequate water resources for the county and one of the nation’s fastest growing cities – St. George.

St. George boasts more than 80,000 residents, a $4-plus billion economy, more than 55,000 jobs and has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. All economic indicators predict continued growth requiring the district to collaborate with state and municipal water managers to meet increased demand.

Ongoing conservation efforts top the list of activities with the district and city investing millions annually into conservation efforts that include infrastructure projects (piping open canals, replacing leaking pipes etc.), dozens of rebate programs, implementing time of day watering and landscape ordinances, hosting free community water wise landscape workshops and more.

“Conservation of water resources is an essential and primary component of district operations,” said Ron Thompson, general manager for the district. “We’re leading the state in terms of conservation accomplishments – we’ve achieved a 26 percent reduction in one decade. That’s impressive. We’ve made great strides in conservation and we’re committed to doing more.”

The district has also been working with the state and local municipalities to develop additional infrastructure that will increase water availability and reliability given conservation alone is not sufficient to meet projected demand. Current projects include the Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline, Toquer Reservoir and Ash Creek Pipeline, Warner Valley Reservoir and Lake Powell Pipeline.

**Sand Hollow Regional Pipeline**

The district plans to install an 11.5-mile culinary water transmission line to serve the southern areas of Hurricane, Washington and St. George. The approximately $14 million project, expected to commence in 2016, will supplement water supplies from Sand Hollow’s aquifer when surface sources are low during times of drought. In addition, a concrete water storage tank will be constructed as part of this project to allow for fluctuations in pumping capacity and area demand.

**Toquer Reservoir and Ash Creek Pipeline**

The Toquer Reservoir and Ash Creek Pipeline project is expected to increase water availability by approximately 3,000 acre feet annually through collecting and storing water that is currently lost through ditch and reservoir seepage. The estimated $27 million project consists of 17 miles of pipeline and a 3,840-acre-foot reservoir. Construction is scheduled to commence as soon as all necessary permits are obtained and all plans are finalized, which is expected to be in 2016.

**Warner Valley Reservoir**

Upon completion, Warner Valley would be the largest reservoir in Washington County currently planned to store up to 55,000 acre feet at full capacity. The reservoir will increase water availability by allowing the district to capture and store its Virgin River water rights in addition to water from the St. George water reuse plant and Santa Clara project. The approximately $80 million project includes a reservoir, approximately 7,000 feet of pipeline, a five-acre regulating pond, settling pond and pumping station. Construction would commence after necessary permits are obtained and all plans are finalized, which is expected to occur in 2020.

**Lake Powell Pipeline**

The Lake Powell Pipeline is a state project that will allow Utah to further develop its allocation of Colorado River water in addition to diversifying water resources in Washington and Kane counties. Water from the Colorado River at Lake Powell will be delivered to Sand Hollow Reservoir through a 139-mile, 69-inch buried pipeline. The project also includes pumping facilities and hydropower generation facilities that will generate power to offset pumping costs. The pipeline will deliver 82,249 acre feet of water at full capacity: 82,249 acre feet to Washington County and 4,000 acre feet to Kane County. The Utah Division of Water Resources estimates the project will cost $1 billion. Construction will commence upon completion of federally-mandated environmental studies and an approved final design, anticipated for 2020.

Additional information on the district and its current projects is available online at www.wcwcd.org.

Above: All of Washington County’s water comes from the Virgin River basin. Below: St. George is one of the fastest growing cities in America.
SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVE WATER

- Periodically check to make sure sprinklers are watering the landscape and not the driveway or street.
- Check drip emitters to make sure they are not plugged and are providing the correct amount of water to the root zone of the plant.
- Sweep your driveway and patio rather than using a hose to clean those areas.
- Use a hose with a shut off valve if you’re washing your car at home so the water doesn’t run while you’re scrubbing your car. If you go to a commercial car wash, choose one that recycles water.
- Wash full loads of clothes and dishes.
- Check for and repair leaking pipes and dripping faucets.
- Use mulch around trees and shrubs to hold moisture in the soil longer.
- Check for and repair leaking pipes and dripping faucets.
- Turn the water off while you brush your teeth. This can save 1 – 2 gallons each time you and every member of your family brushes.
- Take a shorter shower, saving water and the energy used to heat the water.
- If you’re replacing toilets, purchase one that is WaterSense labeled. It will use 1.28 gallons of water or less per flush. The City offers rebates for toilet replacement for those that qualify.
- Use a hose with a shut off valve if you’re washing your car at home so the water doesn’t run while you’re scrubbing your car. If you go to a commercial car wash, choose one that recycles water.

You can check for unseen leaks by turning off all the water using appliances in your home and checking the meter. If it is running, there is a leak. Some common things to check:

- Toilets – they can lose up to 100 gallons a day
- Pipes under sinks
- Dripping faucets
- Dripping spigots
- Irrigation leaks – is an area soggy even when the irrigation system isn’t running?

In the summer of 2010 Mayor McArthur expressed interest in creating a specific space for cremains at the Tonaquint Cemetery. This expressed interest was in response to many citizens voicing their concern in regards to having additional options of burial. Within the past decade the city of St. George has experienced dramatic growth and with that growth, comes multi cultural diversification. Providing for the needs of our community as a whole is one of the main objectives of our City. With that said, management began to inquire if this type of facility would benefit the public at large, and if the use of the facility would pay for the cost of construction. Research found that the percentage of cremations were on the rise nationally and locally. Studies say that by 2020, 60-70% of deaths will be cremated. The need was identified and concepts were drafted. With limited knowledge of cremations and the options available for memorializing, the city hired EDA Landscape Architects to Master Plan a “Cremation Garden”. A Garden like feel to meditate and reflect of loved ones laid to rest.

The Cremation Garden will have locations for individuals ranging from granite tablet memorial locations to Tree Estates and Family Columbarium locations.

The Garden will be lush with mass plantings with benches along paths to sit and reflect. This project will be constructed in different phases depending upon the success of phase one. We have great expectations for this project and hope the public will come and visit this sacred resting place for loved ones. The new fee schedule has been adopted and the facility will be open on July 1st. For more information call the Tonaquint Cemetery at 435-627-4728.

There is a tremendous amount of activity and enthusiasm as the construction and renovation of the Electric Theater draws to a close. City Staff anticipate completion of the project to be approximately July 15, 2015. According to Leisure Services Director, Kent Perkins, the City will use the next 2-3 months as a “shakedown cruise” to ensure that all staff are able to become familiar with all systems and technical aspects of the theater that calendars are created, partnerships are forged and future occupants are given time to move into available spaces. The City plans to have a spectacular grand opening in the early fall, featuring a great variety of performances and visual arts exhibits. The 18,000 square foot “Arts Center” will serve as an activity hub for the downtown art district. Many of the classes, programs and performances that will take place in the facility will draw the public to the downtown area into the evening hours, thus strengthening our downtown economy. The Electric Theater has undergone a beautiful restoration and we have created an intimate theater of 316 seats. The carpets, wall treatments, curtains, chairs and colors are reminiscent of the look and feel of the early 1900’s.

Construction of the new buildings, adjacent to the theater, will provide 7 classroom areas including a dance studio with sprung wood floor, bars and mirrors. Additionally, studio, office, gallery, meeting, and rehearsal space will be available to the public to rent. “We are excited to see the building finished and to take its place as one of the great buildings in downtown St. George,” says Perkins.

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Utah’s First Desert Conservation Garden

Utah’s first desert conservation garden, Red Hills Desert Garden, 375 N. Red Hills Parkway in St. George recently opened to the public. The nearly 5-acre, approximately $3 million project underscores Washington County Water Conservancy District’s ongoing commitment to water conservation and education.

More than 170 low water use plants boast color, texture and dimension to create a picturesque garden showcasing the beauty of desert landscapes that use an average of 77 percent less water than a traditional landscape every year. And with Washington County residents currently using 61 percent of its water outdoors, the water savings potential of desert landscapes could be tremendous.

“Making small changes in our landscapes will make big differences in our water use and we need to make big changes,” said Ron Thompson, General Manager of Washington County Water Conservancy District. “We live in one of the nation’s fastest growing and most arid cities; we need to be wise with how our water is used. Incorporating water efficient landscapes will extend our existing water supplies without sacrificing the beauty of our community. Desert landscapes can be lush, green and beautiful, as demonstrated in this garden.”

The garden features native and nonnative vegetation that thrives in our climate. Plants are organized in various zones: yucca, agave, flower, cactus, etc. All plants will be labeled, information on water use, size, growing habit and more will be available on a website the district is creating exclusively for the garden. In addition, the website will offer tips on designing, planting and maintaining desert landscapes. The website is expected to launch this fall prior to the garden’s dedication.

Central to the garden is a 1,150-foot meandering stream that will be stocked with native and endangered fish species. The garden also features a fish viewing area located in a replica slot canyon, a prominent feature in the garden that pays tribute to Southern Utah’s natural landscape.

“The stream and fish viewing area allows visitors to see some of the rare fish species on earth in a stream designed to mirror the Virgin River,” said Steve Meismer, local coordinator for the Virgin River Program. “The stream features deep pools as well as shallow, moving riffles to accommodate the different habitats preferred by the fish.”

Water for the stream is pumped from the neighboring pond and is filtered through the garden prior to use by the City of St. George in its secondary water system.

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The garden also features a variety of unique fossil tracks made by dinosaurs of all sizes as they walked in the mud or swam in shallow streams that existed here approximately 200 million years ago. Tracks for megapnosaurus, scutellosaurus and dilophosaurus are located throughout the garden.

Immediately adjacent to the garden is the 62,000-acre Red Cliffs Desert Reserve established in 1996 for the protection of the Mojave Desert Tortoise and other rare plants and animals. The reserve offers hikers, cyclists and outdoor enthusiasts dozens of trail options that connect to Red Hills Desert Garden allowing for an even greater outdoor experience.

“Red Hills Desert Garden enhances the educational, recreational and social amenities available to Washington County residents and visitors,” said Jon Pike, mayor of St. George. “We’re pleased to have this resource in our community and are proud to house the state’s first desert conservation garden.”

Red Hills Desert Garden was a collaborative project of Washington County Water Conservancy District, City of St. George and Virgin River Program.
Visitors to St. George and residents too will meet Brigham Young, Erastus Snow, Orson Pratt, Jacob Hamblin, Judge John Menzies Macfarlane and a woman pioneer this summer as part of the Historic St. George LIVE! tours. Beginning June 3 and ending August 30, 2015 (no tours on July 4 or 24), guests will meet the pioneer settlers in historic buildings around town. Five days a week, Tuesdays through Saturdays, at 10 a.m., the tours will begin at the Art Museum at the Pioneer Center for the Arts, 47 E. 200 N. across the street from the St. George Post Office.

The first person re-enactment is in its eighteenth year of entertaining and informing guests about early St. George history. In period costumes, the actors, tour guides, bus drivers and day captains take visitors back to 1870 with historic facts and artifacts such as a replicate odometer which pioneers used to count the miles on the wheels of their wagons. At the Pioneer Courthouse, visitors will witness a trial for someone misusing a water turn, showing the importance of irrigation. The St. George Tabernacle, Pioneer Opera House, Brigham Young’s Winter Home and the DUP Museum are all included on the tour. Buses are provided between sites.

Tickets can be purchased at the St. George Art Museum. They are $3 for ages 12 and up, children are free with an adult. The ticket also admits one person to the Town Square Carousel for one free ride this year. For more information, contact Angie at 435.627.4010 ext. 112 or Carolyn at 435.703.9924. In past years the tours have proven worthwhile for family and class reunions, youth and Scout troops, neighborhoods, churches, civic clubs, businesses, bus tours and others wishing to enjoy the pioneer spirit during the summer. Newcomers and old-timers alike will enjoy stepping back in time 140 years.

For more information, contact Angie at 435.627.4510 ext. 112 or Carolyn at 435.703.9924. In past years the tours have proven worthwhile for family and class reunions, youth and Scout troops, neighborhoods, churches, civic clubs, businesses, bus tours and others wishing to enjoy the pioneer spirit during the summer. Newcomers and old-timers alike will enjoy stepping back in time 140 years.
The Many Facets of the West

Gig Your Spurs & Come On In to the St. George Art Museum. The West is a fascinating concept. There are so many Wests: geographical, geological, literary, cinematic, old, and new with such ethnic diversity.

The exhibited works span a range of 100 years from 1915 to 2015, a few yet with the aura of aromatic oil paint. A fine collector from New York has amassed jewels of two dimensional art in the Main Gallery in his A Feeling of Humanity: Western Art from the Ken Ratner Collection. His collection is complemented by many sculptures from our own permanent collection.

Ride On In in the Mezzanine Gallery was inspired and curated to accompany the Ken Ratner Collection. In the Legacy Gallery, we feature famous artist, Minerva Teichert. To round out the show, a collector loaned us a finished oil of a date from 1915-1920 (she lived at that time on a ranch in Idaho.)

In the Legacy Gallery, we feature famous artist, Minerva Teichert with our 23 fabulous sketches of life on the ranch ranging in date from 1915-1920 (she lived at that time on a ranch in Idaho.) To round out the show, a collector loaned us a finished oil of a magical starry night scene that is a fascinating contrast with her evocative and rapid fire sketches.

I’d like to briefly expand upon how I gravitated toward Western art. After focusing much of my collecting for over 20 years on the Ashcan School artists, and I felt the need to support the artists of today, and started collecting pictures by fine contemporary city painters. Then, I believe it was in 2006, or so, I attended a Sotheby’s preview of important American paintings. There I came across two paintings by Gary Ernst Smith of western agrarian scenes that moved me. The depth of feeling in his work was deeply moving. When I later learned of Smith’s comment that ‘art is a way of addressing humanity,’ it heightened my interest in learning more about the artist, as well as other western painters, who also had a humane response to their environment. Instead of concentrating on Sloan, Bellowes, Myers, and other New York Realists, I began to study and appreciate Western masters, such as Dixon, Blumenschein, Couse and Sharp. A few years later, I discovered the work of Phil Epp, and found him, like Smith, a true master drawn to humanity. I always try to remain focused in my collecting, and I made a conscientious effort to collect contemporary western artists whose work evoked a strong emotional response in me. Sometimes this is by a bold statement (Utah Farmer by Smith), other times a feeling of tranquility (Clouds, Shadows and Mesa by Logan Hagege), or works having a minimalist but direct quality, often a feeling of humanity (The New Blanket by Tony Eubanks). Always enjoying scenes of ordinary Americans, I began to look for this motif in my collecting, and I found them in the work of contemporary Western artists. I also found the contemporary western art market exciting having a number of exceptional artists. Having lived in California and Texas for over 20 years, you might say that I was returning to a part of my life that meant so much to me.

- Ken Ratner

Ken Ratner, a private collector based in New York City, has a fascinating back story. A man of modest resources, Ken recently startled his third important art collection. After quietly building a fine collection of Ashcan and Regionalist American art in the 1980’s and 1990’s, and also forming a collection of European prints by late 19th and early 20th century masters, Ken started collecting contemporary Western art in 2011. Through careful purchases, Ken’s collection currently stands more than 60 paintings, drawings, and prints. Along with the contemporary pieces, Ken has also collected a few choice historic Western and Regionalist works that compliment, and contrast, his contemporary works. While there are some larger masterworks included, Ken’s collection is so fascinating precisely because he tends to collect paintings richest in both size and price. Despite their size, the overall impact of the collection is impressive. Ken’s collection underlines the democratic nature of art and collecting, spotlights the great American West, and celebrates America’s common humanity. In a recent conversation, Ken explained, “The Western artists whose works I collect and display . . . seek out what is vital, what is real, they look for truth, they seek out inherent beauty in the commonplace. These artists have a humane quality in their work, and a deep abiding respect for both people and place.” Ken’s collecting is all the more impressive because he approaches it in such a purposeful way: “Always trying to remain focused in my collecting, I made a conscientious effort to collect contemporary western artists whose work evoked a strong emotional response in me. Sometimes this is by a bold statement (Utah Farmer by Smith), other times a feeling of tranquility (Clouds, Shadows and Mesa by Logan Hagege), or works having a minimalist but direct quality, often a feeling of humanity (The New Blanket by Tony Eubanks). Always enjoying scenes of everyday life-the here and now-I began to look for this motif in my collecting, and I found them in the work of contemporary Western artists. I also found the contemporary western art market exciting having a number of exceptional artists. Having lived in California and Texas for over 20 years, you might say that I was returning to a part of my life that meant so much to me.”

- Ken Ratner Collector’s Statements

You’ll notice that the pictures in my western art collection parallel those in my Ashcan School collection, in that I am seeking out the here and now, the present, not scenes that occurred in the 19th century, as so many contemporary Western artists are painting scenes that happened in the 19th century, as so many contemporary Western artists are painting scenes that happened in the 19th century. I look for the ordinary, and with the skill of the artists whom I’ve chosen to collect, they turn that into the extraordinary.

A love messa, a weathered grain elevator on the plains, a farmer who pauses for a moment’s rest, as Whitman said, “celebrating the lives of ordinary Americans.” As Henri, Sloan and their circle did, in the early twentieth century, the Western artists, whose work I collect, and display, so that others may also enjoy and learn from, seek out what is vital, what is real, they look for truth, they seek out inherent beauty in the commonplace. These artists have a humane quality in their work, and a deep abiding respect for both people and place. That is why I admire Gary Ernst Smith, Phil Epp, Tony Eubanks, Caroline Norton, and other artists who are drawn to humanity. “Western art” lives on in their work. A few thoughts on “Ashcan Western” art.

- Ken Ratner, August 24, 2012

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Admission Fees:

Adults ............................................. $3
Ages 3-11 ............................................. $1
Under 3 ............................................. Free

Exhibits: May 24th - August 29th
A Feeling of Humanity: Western Art from the Ken Ratner Collection
Ride On In: Cowboys in the St. George Art Museum
Minerva Teichert On the Ranch from the Permanent Collection
September 12th - December 31st
Studio Art Quilt Association’s Silver Weaving a Revolution: A Celebration of Contemporary Navajo Baskets
A Bright Swirling of Bugs, an Installation by Kay Minor

A FEELING OF HUMANITY: THE KEN RATNER COLLECTION

Sawtooth, Winter Sunrise
Louis McElwain, Phil Epp, Tony Eubanks, Caroline Norton, and other artists who are drawn to humanity. Among these artists are Don Dugger, a fascinating back story. A man of modest resources, Ken recently startled his third important art collection. After quietly building a fine collection of Ashcan and Regionalist American art in the 1980’s and 1990’s, and also forming a collection of European prints by late 19th and early 20th century masters, Ken started collecting contemporary Western art in 2011. Through careful purchases, Ken’s collection currently stands more than 60 paintings, drawings, and prints. Along with the contemporary pieces, Ken has also collected a few choice historic Western and Regionalist works that compliment, and contrast, his contemporary works. While there are some larger masterworks included, Ken’s collection is so fascinating precisely because he tends to collect paintings richest in both size and price. Despite their size, the overall impact of the collection is impressive. Ken’s collection underlines the democratic nature of art and collecting, spotlights the great American West, and celebrates America’s common humanity. In a recent conversation, Ken explained, “The Western artists whose works I collect and display . . . seek out what is vital, what is real, they look for truth, they seek out inherent beauty in the commonplace. These artists have a humane quality in their work, and a deep abiding respect for both people and place.” Ken’s collecting is all the more impressive because he approaches it in such a purposeful way: “Always trying to remain focused in my collecting, I made a conscientious effort to collect contemporary western artists whose work evoked a strong emotional response in me. Sometimes this is by a bold statement (Utah Farmer by Smith), other times a feeling of tranquility (Clouds, Shadows and Mesa by Logan Hagege), or works having a minimalist but direct quality, often a feeling of humanity (The New Blanket by Tony Eubanks). Always enjoying scenes of everyday life-the here and now-I began to look for this motif in my collecting, and I found them in the work of contemporary Western artists. I also found the contemporary western art market exciting having a number of exceptional artists. Having lived in California and Texas for over 20 years, you might say that I was returning to a part of my life that meant so much to me.”

- Ken Ratner Collector’s Statements

You’ll notice that the pictures in my western art collection parallel those in my Ashcan School collection, in that I am seeking out the here and now, the present, not scenes that occurred in the 19th century, as so many contemporary Western artists are painting scenes that happened in the 19th century. I look for the ordinary, and with the skill of the artists whom I’ve chosen to collect, they turn that into the extraordinary.

A love messa, a weathered grain elevator on the plains, a farmer who pauses for a moment’s rest, as Whitman said, “celebrating the lives of ordinary Americans.” As Henri, Sloan and their circle did, in the early twentieth century, the Western artists, whose work I collect, and display, so that others may also enjoy and learn from, seek out what is vital, what is real, they look for truth, they seek out inherent beauty in the commonplace. These artists have a humane quality in their work, and a deep abiding respect for both people and place. That is why I admire Gary Ernst Smith, Phil Epp, Tony Eubanks, Caroline Norton, and other artists who are drawn to humanity. “Western art” lives on in their work. A few thoughts on “Ashcan Western” art.

- Ken Ratner, August 24, 2012
**SUMMER 2015 / Programs & Classes / Inside St. George**

**RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES**

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**JULY EVENTS**

- **Tonoqua Nature Center**
  - **Day Camp - Twenty Birds**
    - **Date:** Session I: July 6-8; Session II: July 13-15 (Monday-Thursday)
    - **Time:** 9:00 a.m.
    - **Fee:** $30/adult; $35/child
    - **Location:** Tonoqua Nature Center, 1851 S. Dixie Drive
    - **Registration:** Contact 627-4500 or On-line at www.sgcyr.org
    - **Contact:** 627-4500

- **Curiosity Club for KIDS**
  - **Date:** Tuesdays - July 7, July 14, July 21
  - **Time:** 2:30 p.m.
  - **Location:** Tonoqua Nature Center, 1851 S. Dixie Drive
  - **Description:** Local scouts can earn credit for the insect study merit badge while attending this class. Each scout is required to bring his merit badge book and notebook.
  - **Registration:** Contact 627-4500 or On-line at www.sgcyr.org
  - **Contact:** 627-4500

- **Boy Scout Merit Badge Class - Insect Study**
  - **Date:** Tuesday, July 7
  - **Time:** 2:30 p.m.
  - **Location:** Tonoqua Nature Center, 1851 S. Dixie Drive
  - **Description:** Local scouts can earn credit for the Insect Study merit badge while attending this class. Each scout is required to bring his merit badge book and notebook.
  - **Registration:** Contact 627-4500 or On-line at www.sgcyr.org
  - **Contact:** 627-4500

- **Adventures in the Park**
  - **Location:** St George Recreation Center, 285 S. 400 E.
  - **Time:** On-line at www.sgcityrec.org
  - **Contact:** 627-4500

- **Clay Creations - Session 2**
  - **Time:** 11:00 a.m.- Noontime
  - **Date:** Tuesday, July 7 (Tuesdays & Thursday; 3-wks)
  - **Fee:** $45/person
  - **Age:** 3-4 years
  - **Location:** St. George Recreation Center, 285 S. 400 E.
  - **Description:** This program is for beginners and consists of 3-4 hour sessions meeting once per week. This program is designed to learn how to center and will make a mug, bowl, plate and more. Students will be given instruction on basic pottery making techniques. Registration deadline is the Thursday prior to the first day of each session.
  - **Registration:** Contact 627-4500 or On-line at www.sgcyr.org
  - **Contact:** 627-4500

- **City of St. George Programs**
  - **Location:** St George Recreation Center, 285 S. 400 E.
  - **Hours:** Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m., Sat. 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

- **Golf Programs**
  - **Location:** St George Recreation Center, 285 S. 400 E.
  - **Hours:** Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m., Sat. 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

- **Kids Hand-Building**
  - **Location:** St George Recreation Center, 285 S. 400 E.
  - **Hours:** Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m., Sat. 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
  - **Description:** Description: This class is designed for the beginner and consists of 3-4 hour sessions meeting once per week. Students will be given instruction on basic pottery making techniques. Registration deadline is the Thursday prior to the first day of each session.
  - **Registration:** Contact 627-4500 or On-line at www.sgcyr.org
  - **Contact:** 627-4500
**September Events**

- **Adult Co-Ed Ultimate Frisbee**
  - League Info: Registration is now open for Fall Ultimate Frisbee. The league season is September 7 – November 2 on weekdays with 2 games played on Sundays. Teams are created through a draft system. Location: TBA
  - Fee: $200/team

- **Adult Men’s & Women’s Basketball**
  - League Info: Registration is now open for Fall Basketball. The basketball season is September 7 – November 16, with 2 games played on Mondays evenings. Location: TBA
  - Fee: $200/team

- **Adult Men’s & Women’s Outdoor Volleyball League**
  - League Info: Registration is now open for Fall Outdoor Volleyball League. The volleyball season is September 8 – October 27, 2015 with games played on Tuesdays evenings. Location: TBA
  - Fee: $50/team

- **Youth Girls Volleyball League Registration**
  - Age: 3rd-6th grade
  - League Info: The volleyball season is September 24th – November 19th, 2015. Rules will be adapted for each age group. Individuals will be put on teams in their respective geographical side of town and play in 8 league games. Location: St George Commons, 220 N 200 E On-line at www.sgcityrec.org
  - Fee: $320

- **Registration is now open for Fall Outdoor Football. The football season goes from September 8th – October 10th on Saturdays.**
  - Fee: $250 per child + parent
  - Age: 3-5 years old & Parent League Info: The league is for 3-5 year olds to learn the fundamentals of football while interacting with their parents. The 8-week program teaches skills in a non-threatening environment. Classes are held on Saturdays and parental participation is required. Register: St George Commons, 220 N 200 E On-line at www.sgcityrec.org Contact: 627-4500

- **Fall Into Veggie Gardening**
  - Date: Saturday, August 8
  - Time: 10:00-11:00 am
  - Fee: FREE
  - Location: Tonaquint Nature Center, 1851 S Dixie Drive
  - Description: One of the benefits of living in Southern Utah is the long growing season. Learn how to make this climate work for you and your vegetables. This free one-day workshop repeats on Saturday, August 22. Sponsored by the Washington County Water Conservation District.
  - Contact: Julie B. at 673-3617

- **Art Museum Art Conversation**
  - Date: Thursday, August 27th
  - Time: 7:00pm
  - Fee: FREE
  - Location: Art Museum, 47 East 200 North
  - Description: This St. George museum will present “The Ranching Way” with Larry Gardner
  - Contact: 627-8323

- **Youth Girls Volleyball League Registration**
  - Age: 3rd-6th grade
  - League Info: The volleyball season is September 24th – November 19th, 2015. Rules will be adapted for each age group. Individuals will be put on teams in their respective geographical side of town and play in 8 league games. Location: St George Commons, 220 N 200 E On-line at www.sgcityrec.org
  - Fee: $320

- **Start Smart Flag Football**
  - Sign-up: Registration is now open for Fall Start Smart Flag Football. The sign-up goes from September 8th – October 10th on Saturdays. Fee: $250 per child + parent
  - Age: 3-5 years old & Parent League Info: A program for 3-5 year olds to learn the fundamentals of football while interacting with their parents. The 8-week program teaches skills in a non-threatening environment. Classes are held on Saturdays and parental participation is required. Register: St George Commons, 220 N 200 E On-line at www.sgcityrec.org Contact: 627-4500

- **Ceramic Clay Wind Chimes Art Class**
  - Date: Tuesdays, September 1 & 8
  - Time: 3:30-4:30 pm
  - Fee: $20/person
  - Age: 9 years old & Parent Location: St George Recreation Center, 285 S E 400 Street
  - Description: Students of all ages can make wonderful handmade wind chimes. Students will pick an idea or subject and bring it to life. Students will glaze them to their desired colors and learn how to assemble them.
  - Contact: 627-4500

- **Curiosity Club for KIDS**
  - Date: Tuesday, September 8 (4-wks)
  - Time: 10:30 am OR 1:30 pm
  - Fee: $20/youth
  - Location: Tonaquint Nature Center, 1851 S Dixie Drive
  - Description: Kids ages 3-6 years old can become members of this fun club held at the Tonaquint Nature Center! During each of the 4-hour long club meetings, kids will be introduced to activities related to Emigration Forest, Creative Artists, Great Inventions, Nursery Rhymes.
  - Contact: 627-4500

- **Summer Send Off Girls’ Fastpitch Tournament**
  - Date: Friday-Saturday, September 25-26
  - Fee: $150/team
  - Location: Canyons Complex, 1890 W. 2000 N.
  - Description: This is designed to be a fun softball tournament. Each team is required to bring their own dugout and score keeping. Scores will be kept, but the focus is on fun. Rules will be adapted for each age group.
  - Contact: 627-4502

- **Fall is for Planting and Planning**
  - Date: Saturday, September 26
  - Time: 10:00 am
  - Fee: FREE
  - Location: Tonaquint Nature Center, 1851 S Dixie Drive
  - Description: Give color and fun designs in your landscape even during the colder months. Plan your masterpiece this fall! Sponsored by the Washington County Water Conservation District.
  - Contact: Julie B. at 673-3617

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**City of St. George/ Contact Information**

- **Contact Information**
  - City Manager
    - Gary S. Espin
    - gary.espin@sgcity.org

- **City Services**
  - Administration
    - 627-4000
  - Airport
    - 627-4080
  - Animal Shelter
    - 627-4350
  - Building
    - 627-4100
  - Business Licenses
    - 627-4740
  - City Pool (700 So.)
    - 627-4584
  - Community Arts
    - 627-4325
  - Community Development
    - 627-4206
  - Engineering
    - 627-4150
  - Fire
    - 627-4000
  - Leisure Services
    - 627-4500
  - Parks
    - 627-4301
  - Police
    - 627-4000
  - Public Information
    - 627-4005
  - Public Works
    - 627-4050
  - Recorder
    - 627-4150
  - Recreation Center/ Programs
    - 627-4560
  - Sand Hollow Aquatic Center
    - 627-4585
  - Streets
    - 627-4020
  - Suntran.
    - 673-8726
  - Utilities
    - 627-4700
  - Water/Energy Emergencies
    - 627-4835
  - Water/Energy Conservation
    - 627-4848

- **For emergencies please call 911**

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**City Council**

Regularly scheduled city council meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays each month starting at 4:00pm 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 5:00pm at the City Office Building unless otherwise noticed.

For more information on city services, contact information, and events please visit the website at www.sgcity.org.
Looking for something to do with your Friday nights? St. George Town Square becomes an outdoor movie theatre for the third annual summer movie series on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Classic movies for adults and children will be shown on the big screen under the stars. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and goodies to enjoy the evening and movie as it begins at dusk.

FOR DATES, TIMES & MOVIES GO TO WWW.SGCITY.ORG AND CLICK ON SUNSET ON THE SQUARE