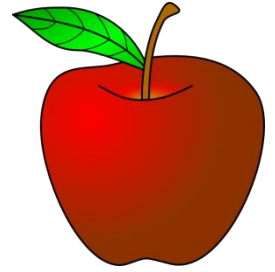




HEBER CITY NEWS

September 2013



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

by Mayor Dave Phillips

School is back in session, but let's not call Summer "over" yet! I like to think it's summer until the snow flies. We've got what



is called the "final weekend of summer" coming up this next week (Labor Day) and we salute the hard working men, women, and youth in our community. Some years ago, I shared a short article written by a Medal of Honor

recipient (Leo Thorsness) which I've been asked to share again.

Mike's Flag

Condensed from a speech by Leo. K. Thorsness
Recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor

"You've probably seen the bumper sticker somewhere along the road. It depicts an American flag, accompanied by the words "These colors don't run." I'm always glad to see this, because it reminds me of an incident from my confinement in North Vietnam at the Hao Lo POW Camp, or the "Hanoi Hilton," as it became known. Then a Major in the US Air Force, I had been captured and imprisoned from 1967-1973. Our treatment had been frequently brutal.

After three years, however, the beatings and torture became less frequent. During the last year, we were allowed outside most days for a couple of minutes to bathe. We showered by drawing water from a concrete tank with a homemade bucket.

One day as we all stood by the tank, stripped of our clothes, a young Naval pilot named Mike Christian found the remnants of a handkerchief in a gutter that ran under the prison wall. Mike managed to sneak the grimy rag into our cell and began fashioning it into a flag.

Over time we all loaned him a little soap, and he spent days cleaning the material. We helped by scrounging

and stealing bits and pieces of anything he could use. At night, under his mosquito net, Mike worked on the flag. He made red and blue from ground-up roof tiles and tiny amounts of ink and painted the colors onto the cloth with watery rice glue. Using thread from his own blanket and a bamboo needle, he sewed on stars.

Early in the morning a few days later, when the guards were not alert, he whispered loudly from the back of our cell, "Hey gang, look here." He proudly held up this tattered piece of cloth, waving it as if in a breeze. If you used your imagination, you could tell it was supposed to be an American flag.

When he raised that smudgy fabric, we automatically stood straight and saluted, our chest puffing out, and more than a few eyes had tears. About once a week the guards would strip us, run us outside and go through our clothing. During one of those shakedowns, they found Mike's flag. We all knew what would happen.

That night they came for him. Night interrogations were always the worst. They opened the cell door and pulled



Mike out. We could hear the beginning of the torture before they even had him in the torture cell. They beat him most of the night. About daylight they pushed what was left of him back through the cell door. He was badly broken, even his voice was gone.

Within two weeks, despite the danger, Mike scrounged another piece of cloth and began another flag. The Stars and Stripes, our national symbol, was worth the sacrifice to him. Now, whenever I see the flag, I think of Mike and the morning he first waved that tattered emblem of a nation. It was then, thousands of miles from home in a lonely prison cell, that he showed us what it is to be truly free."

I hope everyone has had a nice summer. We can start watching the leaves change now as the season winds down and we prepare for the next one. It's not over until the snow flies!

2nd ANNUAL HEBER VALLEY TRAIN PULL

Round up your family, friends, and co-workers for the 2nd Annual Heber Valley Train Pull benefiting the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics



Utah. Come down to the Heber Valley Railroad (450 South 600 West Heber City, Utah) Saturday September 21, 2013. Team Check in starts at 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. \$10.00 entry fee per person (15 members per team). Contact Jim Moore or

Wendy McKnight at (435) 654-3040 or e-mail jmoore@ci.heber.ut.us or wmcknight@ci.heber.ut.us if you have questions.

WHY WORRY ABOUT THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY?

Heber City is engaged in many services that involve the use of the city and county right-of-way. In order to facilitate these services it is vital that the right-of-way remain clear. Free traffic flow, garbage collection, delivery services, and snow removal are examples of uses of the right-of-way. Anytime we as citizens misuse or obstruct the right of way, we reduce the effectiveness of these operations.

Some of the more common obstructions are; improperly parked vehicles, trailers, RVs, boats, landscaping materials, dirt, sand, gravel, fencing materials, improper signs, basketball hoops, makeshift bike and skateboard ramps, weeds, yard waste and tree trimmings.

Improperly parked vehicles are problematic year round. During the summer months, the street is not to be used as a storage facility for campers, trailers, boats and other RVs. Leaving them in the street for extended periods of time decreases the effectiveness of traffic flow and obstructs the visibility of drivers. It can also hinder safe ingress and egress from adjacent driveways. During the winter months, snow plowing operations are significantly reduced when the trucks have to “plow around” improperly parked vehicles, leaving portions of the street covered in snow and ice.

Landscape materials, such as topsoil, sand, and gravel, that are dumped into any portion of the street, not only poses a traffic hazard, but has a tendency to get carried by wind, rain, and other means into the storm drain system. Cleaning of the storm drain systems is very time consuming and costly. Please have landscaping materials placed or

dumped entirely on your yard or lot. Yard waste that is allowed to accumulate on the sidewalk or gutter is also carried into the storm drain systems in a partially decomposed state. Low growing limbs of trees in the park strip can obstruct stop signs and pose a hazard to delivery trucks and snow plows.

Basketball hoops, makeshift bike and skateboard ramps pose hazards to garbage trucks, mail, delivery services, and snow plows. Not only do they divert these drivers from a direct and efficient path, but nails, screws, backboards, hoops and other parts can damage tires, windshields and other truck parts. Basketball hoops and ramps must not be placed in the street, in the park strip, or on the sidewalk.

State law prohibits attaching homemade signs to stop signs, traffic information signs, and utility poles. The right to use these structures for efficient traffic flow and information is reserved for governmental entities. Placing of yard sale, political, or other informational signs is expressly prohibited. It causes distraction and obstruction of view to the motoring public. It is also damaging and unsightly. Any such signs should only be placed on private property with permission of the owner.

Our city becomes more attractive and efficient when we all do our part. Your cooperation is appreciated. It reduces operational costs and increases effective service.

NEW CREDIT CARD PAYMENT POLICY

Heber City adopted the following policy allowing the payment of City fees and fines by credit card, pursuant to the following conditions:

1. City fees and criminal fines may be paid by credit card, except that non-criminal, city fees exceeding \$1,000.00 shall not be allowed to be paid by credit card. Any such fee exceeding \$1,000.00 shall be paid by cash, money order or check. Credit card payments for any such fees that exceed \$1,000.00 shall not be an option.

2. Any payments for Heber City Justice Court criminal fines paid by credit card may exceed \$1,000.00 and may be paid in installments for fines above and beyond \$1,000.00. Such fine payments shall be charged a three (3%) service fee.

