



CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS

An Official Publication of the "City of Saratoga Springs" – MAY 2005

IMPORTANT FLOODING INFORMATION

On the back of this month's newsletter is important information regarding flood hazards in the City. Please take a moment to review this information and specifically evaluate your potential risk for property damage.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP

The City will be sponsoring a neighborhood clean up program this year. BFI, our solid waste service provider, will deliver dumpsters to the south end of the City on Friday, May 13. The dumpsters will be delivered to the following locations and will remain until Friday, May 20:

The City Marina (2 dumpsters)
The Fire Station/Public Works Building (2 dumpsters)
South side of Grandview Blvd between Parkside Drive and Lukas Lane

The City will have dumpsters delivered to the north end of the City on Friday, May 20. The dumpsters will be delivered to the following locations and will remain until Friday, May 27:

Loch Lomond: near the pond in Phase 1.
Sunrise Meadows: west side of 800 West next to the Park.
Harvest Hills (2 dumpsters): First, the roundabout at Providence Drive and Harvest Moon Drive. Second, the east side of Berry Patch Way (south of the Daybreak Condominiums)
Saratoga Springs Development: at Eagle Park.

CHANGE IN GARBAGE PICKUP DAY

Starting June 30 the weekly garbage pickup day will change from Friday to Thursday. Recycled pickup will remain on Fridays. On weeks where a public holiday occurs on or before the Thursday pickup, the pickup day will be moved to Friday. As usual, please make sure that your cans are out by 7:00 AM as some pickup times that you may be accustomed to will change during the day. If BFI misses your can, you should contact them directly at 785-5935.

ONLINE SERVICES

Just a small reminder that the City launched its website last month – www.saratoga-spring.net. You can review public meeting agendas, minutes, calendar items and even pay your utility bills online. Take a minute to look at the site and let us know how we can better serve you in this way.

SARATOGA SPLASH 2005!

Our annual city celebration is coming in June. Come join your neighbors in lots of fun events for the whole family! We need many volunteers to help with the events, so call and join our great team! Registration forms will be available on the city website May 24th. Golf and vendor spaces are limited so don't wait! For questions call Mandi 766-9550.

Thursday, June 16th
10:00 a.m. Baby Contest
6:30 p.m. Children's Parade and flag ceremony

Friday, June 17th
8:00 a.m. Saratoga Classic Golf Championship at TalonsCove Golf Course
Dark Mega Screen Movie

Saturday, June 18th
8:00 a.m. Sprint, Stroll, or Stagger 5K and Kids 1 mile Race
8:00 a.m. Fireman's Breakfast
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Carnival at Saratoga Shores Elementary
Dusk Fireworks and Music

CITY BUDGET ADOPTION

Each year prior to July 1st, the City adopts its annual budget. This process is an exercise by City staff and the City Council in evaluating and projecting existing and future revenues and expenditures. Put simply, the City Council adopts a fiscal plan that says how they are going to collect and spend public funds in the next 12 months. If you are interested in this process or would like to be more informed regarding the City's financial status and proposed budget, you are invited to be part of several City Council meetings that are coming up in May and June.

May 10 - Tentative or draft budget adopted and available to the public.
May 17 - City Council work meeting on the tentative budget.
May 31 - City Council public hearing on tentative budget.
June 7 - City Council working meeting on proposed budget.
June 14 - City Council adoption of final budget.

**Important Information Concerning Flooding
in the
City of Saratoga Springs**

Unlike other communities along the east side of the Wasatch Front, we are not susceptible to flooding problems due to melting snow. There are some exceptions such as dramatic rises in Utah Lake or water that may come from West Canyon through the Tickville Wash, but these events are rare and we frequently have plenty of advance notice of rapid snowmelt.

Far more common and hazardous to our City are the cloudburst-type thunderstorms that occur. The purpose of this information is to alert you to the possibilities of flooding, suggest preventative ways to avoid flooding and to let you know what the City is doing to reduce the risk of flooding to each of you.

The Lake Mountain & Cedar Pass regions of northern Utah County are susceptible to heavy thunderstorms that sometimes occur with little warning and can deposit a large amount of water in a very short time. These events cause torrential downpours that fill channels and low spots throughout the City in a "flash flood" manner. You may notice as you travel throughout the City, particularly east of Lake Mountain, that there are many channels and streams that have been cut into the ground. These channels are normally dry except during storms and occasional spring runoff. The only way to prevent property damage or loss of life when floodwaters fill these areas is to prepare ahead of time.

What can I do to prevent flooding?

During and after all major storms, City personnel, including the City Engineer, inspects all areas that experience flood damage and heavy water flow. We notice that in every case of flooding, that there are also very site-specific contributing factors common in these instances.

First, flooding occurs mostly in cases where yards (front, sides, and rear) have not yet been finished. Also, in neighborhoods where grass and finished yards are installed, there is little or no flooding. Installing your grass and completing any other planting that you are going to do will greatly increase your soil's capacity to retain water and reduce your risk of flooding from surface waters.

Second, we notice that most homes that received damage to basement areas have not completed proper grading away from the house or have soils that have collapsed creating low spots near homes. Upon completion of any new house, grading away from the structure should be completed at a 5% grade or more. The City inspects this grade at the time any home is completed and a certificate of occupancy is issued; however, the City has no control over activities that property owners engage in that might alter this grade after occupying their homes. We also do not inspect or test for soils compaction around homes. It's essential that if your soils have settled since you moved in, then you should make repairs or add materials that once again achieve the proper grading away from your home.

Third, there are many new homes located within active construction sites where surface water may tend to impact homes and property more than in finished neighborhoods. If you live in one of these areas, please review your surroundings and take measures that may assist in diverting water away from your home even if those measures are temporary until other homes and yards are completed.

Finally, many residents, especially in hillside areas, have graded their properties in such a way that their runoff is accumulating on adjacent properties. You should be aware

that common law dictates that each property owner is responsible for their own storm water runoff. You should not be allowing runoff from your property to cause damage to neighbors' property. We encourage you to be courteous and aware of how your property slopes and of how it may impact others, particularly adjacent properties.

What is the City doing to prevent flooding?

The City is also taking steps to prevent flooding. We recently completed a storm drainage study of the entire geographic area of the City. This study indicates areas more susceptible to flood damage and makes recommendations concerning the correct locations of detention ponds, storm channels and culvert facilities. The City will be installing these improvements over the next 10 years, as needed, to accommodate growth in existing and future neighborhoods. The City has also had the practice of trying to raise awareness of issues like flooding so that you can take whatever steps you need to ensure maximum protection.

The City has already made or required developers to make improvements to install storm drain ponds, underground drain systems, and open storm channels leading to Utah Lake. The City also has several regional park facilities planned of over twenty (20) acres in size that will collect storm water during large storms. These facilities are all designed to divert and collect water away from residential areas.

The City also participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. This allows us to stay current with federal programs and technical assistance and helps obtain reduced insurance rates for all residents who purchase flood insurance.

If you have any concerns or questions you may contact the City at 766-9793 or the City Engineer at (801) 571-9414.