

# WEST JORDAN GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

*Paid for by the City of West Jordan*

FEBRUARY 2021



## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

We've officially made it one month into the new year! February is a month that many associate with love because of Valentine's Day. But there are many other recognizable holidays and observances that fall within its short 28-day duration.

Since 1976, every United States President has officially designated February as Black History Month. Last year, your West Jordan City leaders signed Joint Resolution 20-01, which created a commission on diversity in our city. The commission will include input and recommendations from a variety of communities, to the City Council. We are always pushing to move our city forward, as the fourth largest in the state our residents have many different ethnicities and backgrounds, and that is what makes our city wonderful.

If you'd like to be a part of this commission, contact us for an application: 801-269-5100 or [keenan.price@westjordan.utah.gov](mailto:keenan.price@westjordan.utah.gov).

Boy Scouts of America, one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, turns 111 this month. I continue to enjoy being a part of BSA for over 25 years.

While President's Day and Groundhog Day are some of the more noteworthy events that fall in February, I consider the 17th another important day of the month. That's because it's Random Acts of Kindness Day.

This day doesn't have greeting cards, it doesn't mean banks are closed, but what it stands for may be much more meaningful. A random act of kindness is a non-premediated action designed to offer kindness toward the outside world. It's an act that maybe you hadn't planned to do just moments before you did it.

West Jordan is home of the good neighbor, I know that acts of kindness are being done in our city daily. Although this specific day is dedicated to spreading kindness only, we don't need to limit our frequency of doing good. I ask that you think of this event everyday by offering a helping hand to a neighbor on your block or maybe a complete stranger at the store. After all, just one small act of kindness can make someone's day.

Sincerely,

Mayor Dirk Burton

## City of West Jordan Teaming up with American Red Cross for Quarterly Blood Drives

There's a critical need for blood. Those are the first words you read on the website for the American Red Cross. On average, the Red Cross holds 16,426 blood drives each month. All donations are tested for COVID-19 antibodies.

"We can then not only inform that donor of the testing results that we've identified COVID-19 antibodies in their blood, but also use that product as convalescent plasma to help patients who are ill with COVID-19 in the hospital," said Dr. Pampee Young, Chief Medical Officer at the American Red Cross.

This year, the City of West Jordan will be hosting four blood drives with the American Red Cross on the following dates:

- Monday, March 8, 2021 | 12 PM – 6 PM
- Monday, June 14, 2021 | 12 PM – 6 PM
- Monday, September 13, 2021 | 12 PM – 6 PM
- Monday, December 6, 2021 | 12 PM – 6 PM

All blood drives listed above will be held in the community room inside West Jordan City Hall:

Community Room  
8000 South Redwood Road  
West Jordan, UT 84088

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: West Jordan City to schedule an appointment or contact the West Jordan City Events Division at 801-569-5160. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility to donate blood, please call 1-866-236-3276.

You can start the donation process by completing an online pre-donation health history questionnaire on the day of your appointment, please log in to [www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass](http://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass).

WE'RE ALL  
IN THIS  
*Together*



## Three Ways to Avoid Covid-19 Vaccine Scams

### SALT LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WARNS UTAHNS ABOUT NEW SCAMS

The Covid-19 vaccine is being distributed in Utah – as that rollout continues, so do the potential scams. While vaccination details are getting worked out, here's what you can be sure of:

- You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine. **That's a scam.**
- You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine. **That's a scam.**
- Nobody legit will call about the vaccine and ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number. **That's a scam.**

Ignore any vaccine offers that say differently, or ask for personal or financial information. Don't become a victim – learn more at: [ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams](http://ftc.gov/coronavirus/scams)



## Boy Scouts of America Celebrates 111 Years, Urges West Jordan Youth to Join

Did you know there are currently 193 youth and 47 adults registered in Scouts in West Jordan? Despite the organization going through many changes in just the past few years, it has been able to keep up on participation in our city.

The Boy Scouts of America organization has been around for more than a century. In that time, it's taught millions of American children life-saving lessons, and self-growth guidance. In its more than 100 years, it's also made a lot of changes. In just the past few years the BSA has had to re-identify itself, take a look at its past and plan for the future.

Robert Pieper is currently serving as the district chairman for the Oquirrh Mountains District, which includes all of the troops and packs in West Jordan. Pieper has tried to keep a foot in scouting since he was a young boy. When he had kids, he knew he wanted to bring scouting into their lives as well.

"I saw the writing on the wall, I thought I better find a way to spend some good quality time with them," said Pieper. "Scouting is a great way for parents to spend time doing meaningful things with their children."

West Jordan Mayor Dirk Burton was also a Boy Scout, and still supports the organization today. Mayor Burton explained that children gain experiences they can't gain anywhere else. For him, one of the more memorable things he learned in scouts actually ended up saving his own son's life.



"I lived in Missouri for 11 years and we lived by a lake. My son decided he wanted to swim across that lake, about halfway through he got tired and couldn't make it any further," said Mayor Burton. "I had to use those life-saving CPR skills I learned years ago in scouts to rescue my son."

While children are taught very important survival skills, it doesn't end there. Scouts are also taught how to work in a team and set goals in their lives. Pieper said he still uses the social skills he learned and applies them to his professional career nearly every day.

"In all of our learning and teaching opportunities we have to follow a set of principles to understand or teach a concept; we explain, demonstrate, guide and empower," explained Pieper.

BSA is always looking for new members to join. You can visit: <https://beascout.scouting.org/> to find troops or packs near you.

For any West Jordan residents getting their eagle award, Mayor Burton said he'd love to be a guest at their court of honor. Reach out to [mayor@westjordan.utah.gov](mailto:mayor@westjordan.utah.gov) or call 801-569-5100.

## Technology Upgrades in West Jordan Council Chambers



The City Council is introducing some new technology enhancements in the Council Chambers this year. The new tech will provide residents a new, improved, and modern system when participating during an electronic meeting.

COVID-19 forced many organizations and groups to move their business online, and it's no different for the city. Using Federal money allocated to municipalities from the CARES act, the city was able to add some technology enhancements to the Council Chambers.

While the Council Chambers are not currently open for in-person attendance, the public can still participate and provide comments during the meetings in one of the following ways:

- Join the Zoom webinar and make a public comment by clicking on the link found on the posted agendas (<http://westjordan.utah.gov/agendas>)
- Watch the meeting on YouTube live at <https://bit.ly/WestJordan> (case sensitive)

## Social Security Scam Alert

Another scam is making the rounds targeting innocent Utahns. If you've recently received a phone call from the "Social Security Administration" asking you to verify your Social Security Number, do NOT give them information. Hang up, call police because it's a scam. If something seems fishy, go with your gut, it's probably a scam. The Federal Trade Commission adds:

- Your Social Security Number is not about to be suspended. You don't have to verify your number to anyone who calls out of the blue.
- SSA will NEVER call to threaten your benefits or ask you to wire money, send cash, or purchase gift cards.
- The real SSA phone number is 800-772-1213, remember, scammers are putting that number in their caller ID. If you are worried about what the caller says, hang up and call 800-772-1213 to speak to the REAL SSA.
- NEVER give any part of your social security number, bank account information, or credit card number to anyone who contacts you.
- If you wish to report a Social Security scam, visit [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).



HAVE A SAY IN THE FUTURE OF WEST JORDAN!

## THE GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Learn more & take the survey at

[westjordan.utah.gov/westjordangrowth](http://westjordan.utah.gov/westjordangrowth)



Lid Closed!

Recycling 101

## Keep your recyclables dry!

Make sure the lid on your bin is completely closed! Flatten and cut down any boxes that may cause the lid to not close all the way!

## COUNCIL CORNER

At the beginning of each year, the West Jordan City Council elects new leadership. The leadership helps set the agenda for each council meeting, runs the city council meeting, and frequently attend additional meetings as well.

The Council would like to thank Council Member Chris McConnehey who led as Council Chair in 2020. He made significant changes to our meeting structure in order to accommodate alterations brought about by COVID-19. The council was quickly able to move to online Zoom Webinar meetings, provide a 24-hour comment line, and an email address to allow the public to remain engaged with their elected officials. West Jordan led the way in allowing public participation using the Webinar features of Zoom as early as April of 2020.

The Council would like to welcome Council Member Zach Jacob as the Council Chair and Council Member Kelvin Green who will be continuing as Vice-Chair for 2021. Council Chair Jacob stated, "I look forward to serving our City and serving my colleagues as Council Chair this coming year. Several of us on the Council have a desire to return to Council Chambers as soon as realistically possible and interface with our citizens in person again when it is safe to do so." Council Member Green said, "I am excited to support Zach Jacob as the new Chair this year and continuing supporting the Council in my role as Vice Chair and help move the City forward."

Council meetings are still generally held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. The Work Session begins at 5:30 pm and the regular session begins at 7:00 pm. Citizens may comment during the regular session by using the Zoom app on your cell phone or through a computer connection, or by calling in on your telephone. The Zoom Webinar information can be found on each City Council agenda posted on the website. To see what changes have been made to accommodate our citizens, (please see the new council upgrades article.)

If you prefer to just listen or view the proceedings of our City Council meetings, please be aware that City Council meetings are streamed live on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/WestJordan>.



## New Feature Film Written, Directed, Produced by West Jordan Resident

### LUCY SHIMMERS AND THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Sometimes hope comes in small packages. Those are the words that help sum up the story of a new tear-jerking film, Lucy Shimmers and The Prince of Peace. The story surrounds an unlikely connection between a young girl and various other adults, but the most notable being a hardened criminal.

West Jordan resident, Rob Diamond, wrote, produced, and directed the film. He explained what inspired this story, and how it almost didn't come to be.

"This film has elements of forgiveness, of second chances, but mostly it's about giving," said Diamond. "I had been searching for a story and last year, I woke up in the middle of the night after having a dream about it. I took some time and wrote the script, and it came together really quickly. I just kept feeling a sense of urgency. We got everything together, filmed, and we wrapped, and the next day the world shut down. Before March, I don't think the film would have ever been made."

Diamond's movie finished filming the day before the Coronavirus forced Utah lawmakers to temporarily shut down businesses and restaurants to the public. Being an acting teacher, Diamond was able to quickly nail down the actors he wanted to fill the roles – including the star of the show. Diamond's 5-year-old granddaughter, who plays the lead role of Lucy in the film.

"Scarlett was four when she did the film, she carries probably 90 percent of the movie. She had seen my movies on TV and told me

she wanted to be in one. So, I started writing scenes for her, just out of sheer fun and I noticed she had an incredible natural instinct," said Diamond.

This movie is Scarlett's first big break as a lead actor, but this wasn't Diamond's first rodeo. Having directed many other films before, he knew exactly who he wanted for his movie. Today, Diamond said all the actors' true identities were able to shine through on screen.

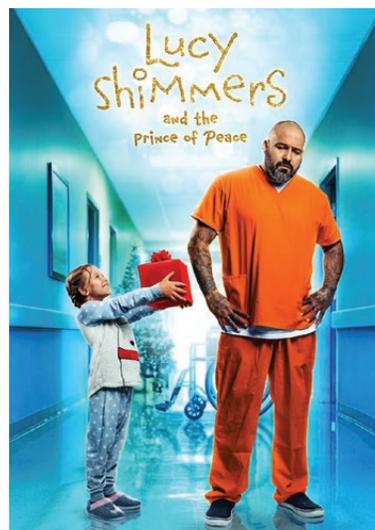
"Vince is this really rugged, tough, handsome military guy but he scratched the surface," explained Diamond. "Scarlet and him just instantly gravitated toward each other and that connection really came across on film."

When asked what Diamond wanted viewers to take away from his movie, his answer was simple: hope.

"Through life's journeys, the ups and downs, life is about giving, hope, and forgiveness," said Diamond. "It's a movie that people are watching again and again because it's so timely with what the world is going through. There are so many different underlining messages, but the most important one is just hope. That it's all going to be OK."

Diamond has been a resident of West Jordan for about 15 years. Originally from California, movie making is what brought him to the beehive state, and it is part of what keeps him here today. You can watch most of his films online, some even for free, including Lucy Shimmers and the Prince of Peace.

Diamond is also a long-time acting teacher. If you're interested in taking a class, Diamond said he'd be happy to take on new students. You can reach him by email: [robdiamondfilms@gmail.com](mailto:robdiamondfilms@gmail.com)





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

2

**GROUNDHOG DAY**



FEBRUARY

2

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Join virtually on YouTube  
6 p.m.

FEBRUARY

6

**DOCUMENT SHRED AND E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT**

City Hall West Parking Lot  
8000 S 1825 W  
10 a.m. – Noon

FEBRUARY

10

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Join virtually on YouTube  
5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

14

**VALENTINE'S DAY**

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY

15

**PRESIDENT'S DAY**

**CITY OFFICES CLOSED**

FEBRUARY

16

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

Join virtually on YouTube  
6 p.m.

FEBRUARY

24

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Join virtually on YouTube  
5:30 p.m.

## An Update on the Jordan River Trail Construction in West Jordan

Crews are working to make the Jordan River Trail safer for families, pets. Crews have installed a new box culvert near 7360 South. They will remove the old bridge and create an asphalt walkway over the new box culvert. The only portion of the trail seeing closures near this area is the trailhead at 1087 West Primavera Way (7190 South). Users can still access the trail by the trailheads at either 7000 South or 7800 South.



Crews will then move over to 7900 South, 1100 West, where they will remove the existing bridge and replace it with a new pedestrian bridge. The project is expected to be complete Spring of 2021. Some closures will be in place due to deep excavations, moving equipment, staged materials, and construction activity.



For your and your family's safety, please follow the guidelines indicated on project signs along the trail.

## E-Waste & Document Shredding Event

February 6, 2021 | 10 AM - 12 PM

Documents will be shredded onsite in the west parking lot behind City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Road

[westjordan.utah.gov/garbageandrecycling](http://westjordan.utah.gov/garbageandrecycling)



**The City of West Jordan**  
8000 S. Redwood Rd.,  
West Jordan, UT 84088  
(801) 569-5100  
[www.wjordan.com](http://www.wjordan.com)



**facebook.**  
Join the conversation!  
West Jordan – City Hall

**West Jordan Police Dept.**  
8040 S. Redwood Rd.  
West Jordan, Utah 84088  
801-256-2000  
801-840-4000 Dispatch