



Newsletter

110 S Center Santaquin, UT 84655
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Holiday Office Closure

The city offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2026 for Presidents' Day and will reopen on Tuesday, February 17th at 9 am.



Garbage & Recycling Info.

President's Day will not affect the regularly scheduled garbage day on the 16th. Please make sure cans are curbside before 7:00 am on pick up days.

You can find and print the garbage and recycling schedule here: <https://bit.ly/43E7wYa>.

Cemetery Clean Up Notification

Public Works will be cleaning fall, Christmas, and Valentine items off from the graves at the cemetery the second week of March. If there are items on your loved ones graves that you would like to keep, make sure to remove them prior to clean up.

Group Fitness Classes

Santaquin City offers a fun and energizing variety of group fitness classes for all fitness levels! Classes are held at two convenient locations—City Hall (110 S. Center Street) and the Recreation Activity Building (190 S. 400 W.). Whether you're looking to move more, build strength, or connect with your community, there's something for everyone. To explore class options and get started, visit <https://santaquin.activityreg.com/fitness>.

Help Shape myHometown Classes!

Term two is off to a great start, and we're already planning classes for our next term! myHometown is all about creating programs that matter to our community—and we need your input.

We're launching a short survey to learn what kinds of classes you'd like to see offered at our Community Resource Center. From skill-building and educational classes to tutoring and opportunities to explore creative interests, your ideas will help shape future myHometown programming. Whether you want to learn something new or share a skill, this is your chance to help decide what's offered next.

The survey is quick, easy, and open to all residents. Take a few minutes to share your thoughts and help us build classes that reflect our community's interests and needs. While you're getting involved, watch for upcoming community service opportunities through our Days of Service.

February Meeting Schedule

02/03	City Council Work Session 5:30 pm
02/03	City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
02/10	Development Review Committee 10:00 am
02/10	Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm
02/17	City Council Work Session 5:30 pm
02/17	City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 pm
02/24	Development Review Committee 10:00 am
02/24	Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 pm
03/03	City Council Work Session 5:30 pm
03/03	City Council Regular Meeting 7:00 pm

Santaquin City public meeting agendas are posted on our website and on Facebook:

<https://www.santaquin.gov/meetings>

<https://www.facebook.com/santaquinicitygovernment>

Santaquin City Council, PC, and DRC meetings are streamed LIVE on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@santaquinicity>

All of these meetings are now held in the new Santaquin City Hall building located at 110 S Center Street.

Save the Date for Spring Clean Up

The Spring Clean Up dates for 2026 will be from April 11th thru April 18th. Hours will be from 8 am to 4 pm, closed on Sunday. More details will be coming next month.



Scan to take the survey

Photo Contest Winner



The winner of the December 2025 "What Do You Love About Santaquin?" Photo Contest is Tyrel Steele.

Along with his submission, he said: "I took this photo of the Chieftain Museum lit up in the evening twilight tonight. With a little help from my kids holding some lights on darker areas. Seeing the old school lit up in lights has always been a favorite of mine during the holidays."

Congratulations, Tyrel and thank you for sharing this beautiful picture!

For information on entering the monthly contest you can visit: <https://bit.ly/3NBNjum>. We always look forward to seeing what you love about Santaquin!

Overall 2025 "What Do You Love About Santaquin?" Photo Contest Winner

The 2025 Overall Winning Image for our "What Do You LOVE About Santaquin?" Photo Contest was taken by Henrik Patterson of Cherry Blossoms on April 11th by Oak Summit Drive. Congratulations Henrik!



Hidden Picture Contest

If you spot the hidden Presidents' Day patriotic hat like the one on the right in this newsletter, email: kmortensen@santaquin.gov or bshupe@santaquin.gov with the location and your contact information by February 28th.



Congratulations to Helen Kester for winning December's Hidden Picture Contest!

February 2026 Volunteer of the Month – Kirk Hunsaker



Our February 2026 Volunteer of the Month is Kirk Hunsaker. Known to many as former Mayor Hunsaker, Kirk has devoted many years to serving the citizens of Santaquin in both official and informal capacities.

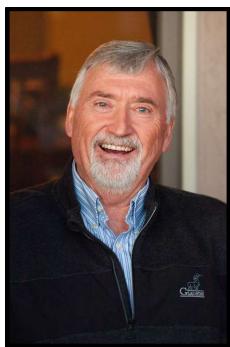
Most recently, Kirk noticed that the fire hydrant near his home was chipped and showing signs of wear. After checking with the Public Works Department to see if he could repaint it, they gladly provided him with a gallon of paint and encouraged him to use as much as needed. What began with one hydrant quickly grew into a neighborhood effort. After repainting his own hydrant and those near his in-laws' home, Kirk recognized that many more in the Summit Ridge neighborhood needed attention. He got to work, and 35 hydrants later, he finally set down his brush. His thoughtful service did not go unnoticed by city staff or residents. In fact,

as he painted one hydrant, he noticed a hissing sound which was a telltale sign that the hydrant had a leak. The Public Works Department is grateful the leak was caught in a timely manner.

Kirk's commitment to service spans a lifetime. He served as Santaquin's mayor for eight years, spent approximately a year and a half on the City Council, and currently serves on the Friends of Santaquin Committee. He has also been deeply involved in his church throughout his life, including about 15 years with the Boy Scouts of America and seven years as a member of a stake presidency.

Professionally, Kirk worked as a Superintendent, Foreman and Operator with VanCon, Inc. for 31 years. Many of Santaquin City's water system improvements were shaped in some way by Kirk and the equipment he operated or the men he supervised.

Kirk and his wife, Kim, have lived in Santaquin for the past 16 years. They have raised five wonderful children and are now proud grandparents to 22. They feel truly blessed to call Santaquin home and look forward to many more opportunities to serve and connect with the remarkable people of this community.



I would like to share some thoughts and comparisons on the data center.

A portion of the Stone Hollow at Summit Ridge Subdivision located at the northeast corner of Summit Ridge, minus the LDS church property, equals approximately 31 acres. I offer this for comparative purposes in this article, as the data center property equals about 32 acres.

In that 31-acre subdivision, there are 116 single family homes. Each home pays an average total property tax of \$2,750 per home (estimated) per year. Nebo School district gets the majority (72%). Santaquin City gets about \$410 from each property in this subdivision per year to go toward City services, recreation, roads, police, fire, EMS, library, and staff, per Utah tax law. Currently, property taxes in all of Santaquin City (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) would fund City operations for only about seven to eight weeks in a typical year.

Annually the data center will use about the same amount of water as 22 single family homes in Santaquin. Within one year, the 31-acre portion of the Stone Hollow subdivision alone would use 5.27 times more water than the data center as estimated. As with all Santaquin City water connections, the data center water usage will be metered and monitored by City staff.

The data center is not connected to the power grid and uses no grid power. It will use a series of smaller engines to generate power using natural gas, with emissions contained to its 32-acre site, as required by the EPA and State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality. All emissions are regulated and verified by the federal government via the EPA. Note: the company owns its own natural gas which it will convey through dedicated pipelines to this facility.

One fact not often compared but should be noted is very minimal sewer use. The data center sewer is limited to only the employees' toilets, drinking fountains, break room, etc. This amounts to far less sewer usage than 22 residential homes. The data center's minimal sewer usage is not an issue and will not significantly impact Santaquin's Water Reclamation Facility. There are no toxins that can be released from the facility into the City's sewer system.

Nearly all the data center site outside open space will be xeriscape with a few trees and shrubs. For comparative purposes, in the heat of the summer, the whole of Santaquin City uses more than 7 million gallons of water per day for outdoor watering needs.

One of the concerns brought up was the possible noise generated from the facility. With the project using the most advanced technology and building practices, this ensures the noise emission from the facility at approximately 65 db (decibels). 65 db is generally the amount of noise generated within a typical working office environment. Noise from the data center will not be an issue.

Santaquin will receive its normal portion of the property tax for the facility. The developer will be investing over one billion dollars to build the facility. They maintain many servers and computers and replace roughly one-fifth of them each year. All sales tax for those computer and server replacements will be paid to the State of Utah with the data center using a Santaquin City address, which further benefits the City.

The State of Utah has a code that requires a 6% Municipal Energy Tax (MET) be paid to municipalities. This MET tax will provide significant funding to Santaquin City each year going forward. All revenues generated by the facility will provide funding to the City for staffing, recreation, parks, fire, EMS, police, library, and many other services as the council directs.

Property taxes, sales taxes, associated Municipal Energy Taxes for purchase of natural gas for the facility can all equate to more than \$3 million paid to the City per year once the data center is constructed and operating.

For those wondering, all fiber communications for the facility travel through dedicated fiber lines already in place and will not interfere with local business or residential fiber services.

Please note that this project was originally not likely to be approved as we were worried about the significant power requirements, the water required, and other concerns. These concerns were all addressed showing minimal impact due to the new technology as is demonstrated by the developer using on-site power with no grid connection and very low water usage.

The zoning of the property was approved several years ago with the benefits outweighing our concerns. Some issues continue to be stated by those who use outdated sources of information regarding previous generations of data center construction and operation. See Governor Cox's Salt Lake Tribune article on low water use and onsite power making these new generation data centers viable for our area if used in the design methods now being implemented.

The developer has stated that there will be approximately 100 six-figure jobs associated with this data center that will benefit many because of these high paying jobs. Outside of some construction jobs while the center is being constructed, there will be other support jobs that will be a part of the project for years to come.

There have been 11 publicly noticed and video recorded meetings regarding the property and the data center. All are available to the public to view on the City's website. All of these open public meetings were properly noticed and held per Utah State law.

Here are some of the benefits of the data center to the City;

Minimal traffic impact after construction.

Provides approximately 100 high paying jobs.

Low water and sewer use.

No grid power connection.

EPA standards will be met, protecting our soil and air.

The data center will work with the City and wants the residents to benefit from having this industry here on the south end of the Wasatch Front.

The data center will be a catalyst to bring in other commercial uses such as restaurants, shopping, and more.

The data center will be built in an old gravel pit and will be neighbors to the present gravel pit that will likely be in operation for years to come.

After careful evaluation, including presentations from engineers and a review of the most up-to-date technology, this data center will create jobs while placing minimal demand on City resources. It will expand our ability to serve residents and enhance City services without requiring additional taxes or bonding, benefiting families, seniors, and youth throughout the community.

This decision was never taken lightly or without discussion with our great City Council and staff.

I hope many of you took the time to listen to the developer in the January 6th council meeting and at the open meeting held on January 29th.

Thanks,

Mayor Dan Olson