



### Mayor's Message



For several months, we have been working on the City budget. Since this is not the first budget discussion this year, I wanted to give you a brief overview of what has happened during the City budget process.

The City of West Jordan is a fast growing community. Over the past 40 years, we have grown by more than 100,000 residents, with 35,000 of that increase coming in the last 10 years. As a city, we face challenges that come with growth, and one of the biggest challenges is providing the level of service expected by the people who live in our community.

Residents expect the city to provide clean water, reliable sanitary sewer, paved roads that are regularly maintained and kept free of debris and snow, well-kept public parks and trails, and police and fire departments that respond quickly to any emergency. These essential services make West Jordan a great place to live and raise a family.

There is, however, a small problem. The cost of providing services keeps increasing, but the money the city collects from sales tax has decreased significantly over the past few years. The economic recession caused a drop of over \$3 million in tax revenue. We responded by scaling back on employees and tightening our belt, but the city keeps growing and the demand for services keeps increasing.

We are now faced with a decision of whether to increase property taxes or make further cuts to the city budget. I want to be very clear; we do not NEED a tax increase IF we continue to cut services. We can always cut the budget to match any level of revenue. **What we cannot do is provide the same level of service without a tax increase.**

I think it is important for you to know how the city spends your money and what additional benefit you will receive if the tax increase passes. You may already be aware of the increase in criminal activity in our city. Although still well below the national average, reports of both property crime and violent crime are increasing. We have fewer officers patrolling our streets and responding to calls for service than any other city of our size in the state. Since public safety is so important, we are planning to use the additional funds from a tax increase to hire 7 new police officers and 2 civilian support positions for the police department. We also plan to increase code enforcement and graffiti removal in an effort to stop the encroachment of gangs and reduce their presence in our city.

We will be purchasing new computer software to help us better use the advances in technology and be more efficient. The remainder of the increase in revenue will fund the vehicle replacement program so we will have money available to replace snowplows, police cars, and all the other vehicles we need to keep providing service to our community.

We continue to solicit public input on the budget. A Special City Council meeting will be held Aug. 4 at 7 p.m. at Fire Station #53, 7602 S. Jordan Landing Blvd. I invite you to attend and share your opinion.

Mayor Melissa K. Johnson

### Public Hearing Set for Proposed Tax Increase

A public hearing for a proposed property tax increase will be held Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Rd. If the tax increase passes, the additional revenue will be used primarily to fund additional law enforcement, modernize the city's information technology infrastructure, fund the vehicle replacement program and repair aging physical infrastructure.

As a resident of West Jordan, the portion of your property tax passing to the City falls into two categories: General Purpose, which is used for general government operations, and General Obligation Bonds (approved by citizens in a general election). The second category can only be used to make debt payments on the General Obligation Bond. In fiscal year 2013, the General Obligation Bond payment portion will increase approximately 4.8 percent.

If the proposed budget is approved, the City would increase its property tax budgeted revenue by an additional 17 percent for a total increase of 21.82 percent above last year's property tax budgeted revenue excluding new growth. (This total includes the proposed 17 percent increase as well as general obligation debt and new growth.)

If the tax is passed:

- City tax on a \$189,501 residence would increase from \$241.28 to \$278.70, or \$37.42 per year.
- City tax on a \$189,501 business would increase from \$438.69 to \$506.73, or \$68.04 per year.

*Please visit [WJordan.com](http://WJordan.com) for more information.*

Jordan Valley MEDICAL CENTER Presents: **Merrill Osmonds**

**YOUTH PIONEER PAGEANT**  
WEST JORDAN ARENA  
JULY 21, 23 & 24  
PURCHASE TICKETS AT: **Smith's tix**  
FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION VISIT:  
**PIONEERPAGEANT.COM**

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT BENEFITS: Olive Osmond Hearing Fund  
"Bringing Music to Your Ears"

BUY FRESH ... BUY LOCAL

# Farmers Market

Tuesdays, August - October  
3-7 p.m.

7975 S. Redwood Rd.  
[WJordan.com](http://WJordan.com)

Join the conversation!  
Follow West Jordan on Facebook

# Good Neighbor News

WEST JORDAN'S CITY NEWSLETTER



More information on proposed tax increase at [WJordan.com](http://WJordan.com)

*Jo Dee Messina*  
**AUGUST 11, 2012**

West Jordan Arena

Show Time: 8pm  
Ticket Prices: \$10 - \$20

Purchase Tickets at:

**Smith's tix**

[WJconcerts.com](http://WJconcerts.com)



Join the conversation!  
Follow West Jordan on Facebook

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

### JULY

- 20 . . . . Free Movie Friday, "National Treasure," Veterans Memorial Park 9 p.m.
- 21 . . . . Child Abuse Prevention Field, Veterans Memorial Park, 10 a.m.
- 21,23,24. Youth Pioneer Pageant, West Jordan Arena, 8035 S. 2200 West
- 24 . . . . Pioneer Day – City offices closed
- 25 . . . . City Council Meeting, City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Rd., 6 p.m.

### AUGUST

- 2-13. . . Youth Theatre's production of "Narnia"
- 7 . . . . Farmers Market 3-7 p.m. 7975 S. Redwood Rd. (runs Tuesdays through October)
- 7 . . . . Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Rd., 6 p.m.
- 7 . . . . Night Out Against Crime – Neighborhood parties
- 8 . . . . City Council Meeting, City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Rd., 6 p.m.
- 11 . . . . JoDee Messina Concert
- 17 . . . . Free Movie Friday, "Lorax" Veterans Memorial Park, 1985 W. 7800 South
- 21 . . . . Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Rd., 6 p.m.
- 22 . . . . City Council Meeting, City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Rd., 6 p.m.
- 27 . . . . Schorr Gallery Reception featuring "Grandpa & Me," 7-8 p.m., City Hall, 8000 S. Redwood Rd. (Show runs thru October 12)

For more information, visit [WJordan.com](http://WJordan.com) or call 801-569-5100.



**CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS FIELD — JULY 21<sup>st</sup> 10 a.m.**  
**VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, 1985 W. 7800 S.**



**Giving Crime a  
Going-Away Party  
at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Night Out  
Against Crime  
August 7**

Each year citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide hold block parties, ice cream socials, barbecues and more in an effort to:

- heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs
- strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Find out how you can participate by calling 801-256-2032 or emailing [christie@wjordan.com](mailto:christie@wjordan.com)

