



Combat Winter Blues

With the holidays finished and the rest of winter ahead, January is often a time when people can feel a little down.

The weather conditions outside, the common inversions we experience along the Wasatch Front, and even the sort of instinct we have to hibernate during this season of shorter days/longer nights may all be culprits, along with the fact that we may have already broken our New Year's Resolutions.

Feelings of depression are often times caused by a decreased level of serotonin—the happy transmitter in the brain—which is a result of fewer fresh fruits and vegetables in our diet as well as reduced exposure to natural sunlight.

So take a few healthy tips to help combat winter blues: keep active and get regular exercise. Take a walk around downtown, try a winter sport, or just take a trip up into the mountains to find the sunshine. Try something new, find a new hobby or restart an old hobby that you've enjoyed in the past. Eat foods high in energy like apples, pears, berries, whole grains, beans, and lentils; and eat foods rich in omega 3 essential fatty acids like fish, poultry, cottage cheese, and avocados. Surround yourself with happy people and do something kind for someone.

It's only a matter of time before the tulips and daffodils poke their heads through the snow looking for sunlight and spring begins again in Ogden.



726 N Taylor



727 32nd Street



218 17th Street

2008 Mayor's Holiday Awards

Each year, Ogden holds its annual Mayor's Holiday Awards to recognize the hard work and festive spirit of Ogdenites who decorate for the holidays.

Citizens nominate homes that they feel capture holiday magic through the use of lights and decorations. Sincere thanks to those who submitted nominations acknowledging the efforts of their neighbors.

Three winners were selected from the nominations, one each from the north, south, and central parts of Ogden.

Each winner received a cash prize, Christmas Village sweatshirts, and a framed photo of their lighted home.

More nominations were submitted for Jonathon Fowers' home than any other. Jonathon is a teen who has been decorating

his home using his own funds for several years now.

2008 Mayor's Holiday Awards winners are:

- Northern Ogden area:
The Miller Family
726 N Taylor
- Southern Ogden area:
The Esquivel Family
727 32nd Street
- Central Ogden area:
Jonathon Fowers
218 17th Street

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all residents who participated; your continued efforts to make Ogden beautiful, especially during the holiday season, are appreciated.

The many beautifully decorated homes throughout our city are a gift for all of us to enjoy.

Clean Audit of Ogden City's Finances

In a recent independent audit of its financial records, Ogden City's 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which includes the Ogden Redevelopment Agency and Ogden Municipal Building Authority, received an unqualified—or clean—opinion of their accounting records. What this means is Ogden City's financial policies and procedures were found to be in substantial compliance with generally accepted governmental accounting and auditing standards.

With this highest achievable rating, no significant deficiencies were identified in this year's audit of the City's financial records, reports, reporting process, or internal controls.

Governmental reporting guidelines are very strict, and achieving a high audit rating speaks volumes for the Ogden City accounting team's competency considering the complicated and diverse methods of

governmental accounting. Over the past few years, the City Comptroller Division has put together a team of professionals whose knowledge and teamwork has enabled them to accomplish the City's objectives for financial controls and reporting.

Additionally, the City's eligibility for various Federal and State grants is based upon the results of this annual audit. Achieving the high audit rating demonstrates the City's finances are managed well and indicates to Federal and State governments that they can have comfort in knowing Ogden City properly uses and tracks the grant funds it receives.

Local accounting firm Schmitt, Griffiths, Smith, & Co, was hired by the Ogden City Council to perform the independent audit. Their findings are considered public record and a copy of the final report may be viewed at the Weber County Library or at www.ogdencity.com.

OWN IN OGDEN HOME MORTGAGE PROGRAM

Ogden City offers hope for homebuyers! Even though recent economic issues have made mortgage loan qualifying and home buying more difficult, Ogden City's Own in Ogden program can help by providing \$3,000 or \$5,000 in down payment assistance loans to those buying a home in specific target neighborhoods.

The amount of down payment assistance is determined by the property's location and is a no-interest, no-payment loan that is attached to the property over a five-year residency period. Program participants must stay in the house and provide residency documentation to earn yearly credits. Ideally, at the end of the five-year period, the credits earned will bring the loan balance to zero!

The target neighborhoods within Ogden City that qualify for the Own in Ogden program are

centrally located residential areas. Home prices in Ogden are still considered to be extremely affordable, and for persons needing to commute, there are many transportation options. These target neighborhoods are also in close proximity to new Ogden City Central Business District developments that offer a variety of entertainment and recreational opportunities.

Qualifying for the Own in Ogden program is based on HUD household income guidelines, which includes combined gross income for all household members over the age of 18. For example, a household of four cannot exceed a combined gross income of \$52,000 per year. Participants must also attend a HUD approved Homebuyer Class.

Call Ogden City Community Development at 801-629-8906 for more info.

Police Department's Crime Reduction Squad First Year Statistics Prove Positive Impact on the Community

A newly implemented Crime Reduction Squad within Ogden City's police force has made a huge improvement to city neighborhoods. In the first annual report analyzing the effectiveness of this team, all crime categories showed reduced incidences while the number of arrests along with street checks, traffic stops and other proactive officer-initiated events had significantly increased.

The Crime Reduction Squad was put into service on 3 November 2007, with the mission to reduce Part 1 crimes in the area of 20th Street to 30th Street between Washington Boulevard and Harrison Boulevard.

In the six years reported before the squad was activated, 24 percent of all reported offenses in Ogden occurred within this defined area.

Some of the goals and objectives of this squad from its inception have been to identify illegal activity early in the criminal event and be able to apprehend offenders sooner in the act in the hopes of eliminating further

	Crimes reported before Crime Reduction Squad was put into service Nov 3, 2006 to Nov 3, 2007	Crimes reported with Crime Reduction Squad activated Nov 3, 2007 to Nov 3, 2008	
Crimes			Decrease in Crime Committed
Robbery	51	42	down 18%
Aggravated Assault	84	61	down 27%
Domestic Violence	269	235	down 13%
Burglary	246	174	down 29%
Vehicle Burglary	174	132	down 24%
All Theft	659	515	down 22%
Auto Theft	139	90	down 35%
Drug Offenses	453	400	down 12%
Police Intervention			Increase in Police Intervention
Arrests	1,432	1,801	up 26%
On View Incidents	7,028	10,756	up 53%
Traffic Stops	4,766	7,011	up 47%
Street Checks	2,441	3,897	up 60%

crimes from the offender.

Criminals need both a target and the opportunity to commit a crime; the Crime Reduction Squad eliminates the opportunity-part of that equation by having officers visible and available in the area who can do street checks and investigate suspicious activity.

The Crime Reduction Squad works in conjunction with the ongoing police efforts in the targeted area. The squad offers more officers and more resources focused on this specific area.

Of all arrests made in the target area within the first year the Crime Reduction Squad was activated, 558 (or 31%) were made by Crime Reduction Squad officers. Of the 400 drug offenses, 100 (or 25%)

were Crime Reduction Squad cases. Additionally, thirty-two percent of On View incidents (3,461) and 34% of Street Checks (1,329)—both officer initiated activities—are credited to the Crime Reduction Squad.

When the police department and city administration proposed the idea of a Crime Reduction Squad, the City Council responded favorably and approved new equipment and new positions for the squad. These new positions were meant to work in tandem with other teams and programs.

Officers share information and work with other bureaus to focus resources on reducing long-term spikes in criminal activity.

Keep Fire Hydrants Cleared of Snow

The Ogden City Fire Department has a very important safety reminder for us: please be aware if you have a fire hydrant in front of your home and clear an access way to it when you are out cleaning your driveways and sidewalks.

It is the responsibility of homeowners to clear sidewalks and fire hydrants located in front of their property (2006 International Fire Code section 508.5.5).

If you are unable to clear the snow away from your fire hydrant, you may request assistance by calling 801-629-8074.

CITIZEN SURVEY:

Community Development Programs

Ogden City offers its citizens several community development programs designed to improve neighborhoods and maintain good property values. Some of these programs include Home Sweet Ogden, Own in Ogden, Public Improvements, and Emergency Home Repairs. We are asking for comments and ideas to improve the programs and services. Please send your written suggestions to Ogden City Community Development at 2549 Washington Blvd Ste 120, Ogden Utah 84401 or comdevprograms@ogdencity.com.

Trash Collection

• January:

Human Rights Day – Monday, January 19, no delay.

• February:

Presidents Day – Monday, February 16, no delay.