

# The Official Draper City Newsletter

# DRAPER FORWARD

MAY / JUN 2026  
draperutah.gov

## Mayor's Message

### Wildfire Risk and Defense in Draper



Wildfires are growing more frequent and intense across our region, making community preparedness more important than ever. Draper City includes significant Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas where homes meet open land and vegetation. By working together, we can protect lives, property, and our community's insurability.

Recent changes from Utah House Bill 48 (2025) establish a statewide WUI framework. Key elements include mapping high-risk areas, adopting wildfire-resistant building and landscaping standards, and creating a mitigation fee structure. These changes primarily affect new construction and major remodels, with requirements for fire-resistant roofing, siding, ember-resistant vents, and strategic vegetation management.

Starting in 2027, an annual assessment (estimated \$20-\$100) may apply to homes in Zone 8, as identified on the Utah State High Risk Map, published by the Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands. This assessment would be a state program, and Draper City will not be involved in assessing or collecting any potential fees. More information about the process is to be determined by the state. You can view the map at [wildfirerisk.utah.gov](http://wildfirerisk.utah.gov).

In 2026, Utah will adopt the 2024 International Wildland Urban Interface

Code, setting clear standards for safer building in wildfire-prone areas. Core elements of a wildfire-prepared community include:

- Creating defensible space around homes (Immediate Zone 0-5 ft, Intermediate 5-30 ft, Extended 30-100 ft)
- Home hardening to resist ember ignition
- Clear access and evacuation routes
- Strong community communications and alerts

Wildfire preparedness is a shared responsibility. The State provides risk mapping and standards, Draper City adopts and enforces codes, and residents maintain defensible space, follow building requirements, and support neighborhood efforts. One neglected property can affect an entire area — let's hold each other accountable.

The Draper City Fire Department stands ready to support you with education, resources, and events like Chipper Days. Small actions today create safer neighborhoods tomorrow.

For more information, visit [wildfirerisk.utah.gov](http://wildfirerisk.utah.gov), [wildfireprepared.org](http://wildfireprepared.org), or [firewise.org](http://firewise.org). A video of the presentation by the fire department on April 15 is available on the City's YouTube channel, [youtube.com/@drapercitygov](http://youtube.com/@drapercitygov). Residents are also encouraged to sign up for local alerts through Notify Draper ([draperutah.gov/notify](http://draperutah.gov/notify)).

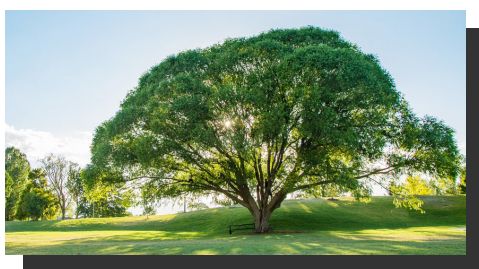
As you know, we just had the driest winter in recorded history. We are headed into what is likely to be a serious wildfire season. Please be vigilant, safe and prepared.

*Mayor Troy K. Walker*

## TREES DON'T JUST NEED RAIN, THEY MAKE IT!

In the midst of our mild winter, you may have thought about spring planting season. If you are considering adding a tree (or three) to your landscape, here are seven amazing reasons that support your decision to plant:

1. Trees both filter and freshen the air you breathe.
2. Trees make rain through a process called evapotranspiration. Trees take rainwater in and release moisture back into the atmosphere, contributing to up to 40% of our precipitation here in Draper.
3. Trees support local wildlife, providing food and shelter for beneficial critters.
4. Trees provide shade that cools the soil and your home and helps retain water, saving you money on water and energy bills.
5. Cool shade from trees helps you get more enjoyment out of your landscape on hot summer days.
6. Trees absorb storm water, preventing erosion and costly runoff.
7. Trees are beautiful.



Increases in curb appeal add value to your landscape and home.

Not sure what type of trees to plant in your yard? Here are some resources to help you select trees that will thrive in your specific situation:

- City of Draper Tree Guide
- Visit the Conservation Garden Park to see and learn about a variety of species
- Localscapes.com offers free designs and species recommendations for Utah landscapes

We also recommend taking a class. If you missed our recent Localscapes landscaping class, watch the recording on the City of Draper's Landscaping page at [draperutah.gov/landscaping](http://draperutah.gov/landscaping). When available, you can register for one of our free classes at the same link. Space is limited, so register early.

## HELP SAVE WATER THIS SUMMER

Did you know Utah is the second driest state in the union? Low precipitation, warm weather, and population growth makes saving water more important than ever.

These tips can help save water in your landscape this summer:

1. Add 2 - 4" of mulch to perennials, shrubs, and trees to keep roots cooler and retain water for healthier plants. Organic mulch, such as shredded bark or compost, stays cooler than inorganic mulch, like gravel.
2. The Division of Water Resources advises residents in most areas of Utah to wait until May 15 to start watering, exceptions for trees, new plants, and new sod. Kentucky Bluegrass goes dormant when it turns brown, and greens up again once irrigation is introduced. Spring and fall is where we can see a big benefit with conservation efforts.
3. Install a smart controller. WaterSense estimates that replacing your existing sprinkler controller with a smart controller saves up to 15,000 gallons of water per year. Get paid up to \$100 when you purchase and install a WaterSense-labeled smart controller that adjusts water amounts automatically based on local weather and conditions. Learn how at [utahwatersavers.com](http://utahwatersavers.com).
4. Amend soil with organic matter to retain more water; for example, you can leave grass clippings in place rather than bagging them.
5. Ward off soil compaction by aerating in the spring.
6. Plant trees to shade and cool the soil and retain water.

## LEASH REMINDER

Please remember that dogs are required to be on a leash in all Draper City parks and on all trails and public spaces.

**Off-Leash Areas**  
Dayland Dog Park Galena Hills Dog Park  
Deer Ridge Off-Leash Trailhead



## DRAPER CITY AFTER-HOURS CONTACTS

Parks Department: (801) 831-7194  
Water Department: (801) 831-7212

Streets Department: (801) 831-7195  
Non-emergency Fire/Police: (801) 840-4000

Standard Rate  
U.S. Postage  
paid by  
Draper City  
Permit No. 6

Postal Patron  
Draper, UT 84020

1020 East Pioneer Road  
Draper, UT 84020  
(801) 576-6500



### City Council Message

Council Member  
Kathryn Dahlin



As a newly elected member of the City Council, I have had the privilege of getting to know Draper in a different way. I have learned more about our resources, businesses, and residents, and have been impressed with our experienced city leadership, especially our department directors and public safety leaders. I appreciate the efforts of many in the community to maintain our safe, successful, and sought-after city.

While campaigning last year, I knocked on thousands of doors and visited every corner of Draper. I learned a lot about the strengths and weaknesses of our city. One recurring theme was that people want to know more about what the government is doing for them. Individuals across the political spectrum agree that the government should prioritize transparency, accountability, and

direct communication.

Draper's "Notify Draper" tool is a valuable resource for staying connected. Sign up at [draperutah.gov/notify](http://draperutah.gov/notify) for text or email alerts tailored to your needs, including severe weather warnings, traffic notices, city news, meetings and recreational opportunities. We also have an active social media presence—follow Draper City on Facebook or Instagram. Each Sunday, a "This Week In Draper" post highlights official meetings, citizen committee meetings, and special events.



Following council meetings is another great way to stay informed. The City Council is currently considering the 2027 budget. City staff present a draft budget each May that is discussed in public meetings and a final budget must be passed by the council before the new fiscal year begins on July 1. Come join a meeting or reach out! While disagreements may arise and compromise is needed, the process and our city are better because of the input of many.

Councilmember  
Kathryn Dahlin

### 2026 EASTER EGG HUNT BY PARKER VAN DR GRAAFF

Draper Youth Council Members had a great time volunteering at the 2026 Draper City Easter Egg Hunt. Members enjoyed bagels and fruit before being assigned to guard egg sites until it was time for the kids in attendance to gather their candy-filled eggs and toys. More youth members volunteered their time painting faces of guests in the park pavilion. Other youth members spent time dressed in holiday costumes and posing for pictures. The event was a fun way to get to know the community and serve the city. Thanks to everyone who made the event a great one for Draper City!



**Draper Amphitheater | 944 Vestry Road**  
get tickets now  
[draperutah.gov/amphitheater](http://draperutah.gov/amphitheater)

### UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE BY MAREN CROSBY

From March 5 - 7, seven members of the Draper City Mayor's Youth Council traveled to Utah State University for an annual leadership conference. With peers from across the state, we spent three days immersed in the theme: "United We Stand." This conference is a council tradition, and this year's focus felt especially relevant. In a world that often feels divided, the workshops provided the tools to bridge gaps within our community and foster a sense of belonging.

The curriculum focused on the mechanics of effective leadership through the lenses of collaboration

and communication, exploring how to balance diverse opinions to reach a common goal, and practiced moving past "polite talk" to engage in impactful conversations with those we serve. One of the most impactful sessions required examining a range of core values, prompting us to define which were most important to us. We discussed these beliefs with others, finding common ground even when priorities differed. These exercises provided practical strategies for maintaining integrity while working toward a collective vision.

As a senior in my fourth year on the council, this was my third time attending the USU leadership conference, and the growth I witnessed was inspiring. These experiences consistently transform our group. We return with improved leadership skills, and come back as a more cohesive, motivated team ready to serve. Whether meeting with city officials or preparing for Draper Days in July, the lessons learned will be at the forefront of our work. We are excited to apply this training to make local events more inclusive, and to serve the citizens of Draper with dedication.

### NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Thursday, May 21  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Draper City Park  
12500 South 1300 East

Join us for this fun, free event! Staff will be available to explain the duties of Public Works, and what each piece of equipment is used for.

- Snow Plow • Garbage Truck
- Hydro-Excavator
- Tractor Loader • Service Truck
- "Big Yellow" Snow Blower
- Street Sweeper



### HADESTOWN TEEN EDITION

July 31  
August 1, 3, 6, 7, 8

Draper Amphitheater  
944 Vestry Road

Gates: 7:00 PM  
Show: 7:30 PM

This folk opera follows two love stories on a journey to the underworld and back. Based on Anais Mitchell's *Hadestown*, this production is modified for teen actors family audiences.

get tickets now  
[draperutah.gov/amphitheater](http://draperutah.gov/amphitheater)



### Youth Musical Theater Workshop

June 22 - July 2  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

American Preparatory Academy, Campus #2

Registration Required  
Limited to 60 Participants

Ages 6 - 7: \$90  
Ages 8 - 14: \$180

learn more and register at  
[draperutah.gov/artscouncil](http://draperutah.gov/artscouncil)



### Auditions May 15 & 16

Performances September 11, 12, and 14  
Gates: 7:00 PM | Music: 7:30 PM | Show: 8:00 PM

Draper Amphitheater  
944 Vestry Road

Join us for an entertaining evening for the family!

register for auditions & get tickets at  
[draperutah.gov/amphitheater](http://draperutah.gov/amphitheater)



# JULY 10 - 18

## A WEEK OF FAMILY FUN

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • FREE ACTIVITIES • FOOD

Draper Days returns with live concerts, parades, fireworks, and more this summer. With events and activities new to 2026, this will be a Draper Days like you've never experienced before!



### HOCKEY CLINIC

Street Hockey is played in tennis shoes and can be played on a basketball court, tennis court, asphalt, cement, or any open space. We'll bring the rink and everything you'll need to play. Come and have fun learning hockey and joining the Mammoth community!

Who: Youth grades 2 -3 & 4 -6  
Where: American Preparatory Academy Campus #2 (11938 Lone Peak Pkwy)  
When: June 15 - 16, 10:00 - 11:30 AM (2 - 3 grade), 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (4 - 5 grade)  
Cost: \$35 per participant

Register for these programs and more at [draperutah.gov/recreation](http://draperutah.gov/recreation)

### YOGA

Improve your physical health, emotional well-being, and focus while reducing stress and anxiety with these classes taught by our certified Yoga Alliance instructor

Who: Anyone age 12+  
Where: Peak View Trailhead, concrete pad  
When: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM (June - August); Saturdays, 8:30 - 9:30 AM (June only)  
Cost: \$40 per person, per four week session



### JULY 16 Car Show & CHILDREN'S BIKE PARADE

Children's Activities  
Live Entertainment  
Stunt Shows



### JULY 17 GROOVE MERCHANTS

with Redwood Revival and the winners of Draper Idol followed by a drone show



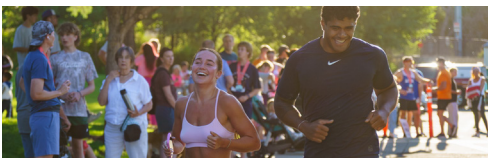
### JULY 18 The Tribute to Alabama ROLL ON with the Gina Marie Osmond Band followed by fireworks



### Pickleball Tournament

July 10 & 11 | Southfork Park

Space is limited for this men's, women's, and coed tournament! Register for \$40/team.



### 5K Fun Run

July 11 | 7:00 AM | Day Barn

Runners, walkers, and even dogs on leashes are welcome. Register now for \$27/participant.



### Strider Bike Race

July 11 | 9:00 AM | Ballard Arena

This exciting race is geared directly to kids ages 3 - 5. Register now for \$30/participant.



### Draper Idol & Movie Night

July 15 | 7:15 PM | Draper Amphitheater

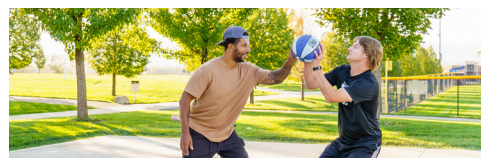
Watch local singers compete for their chance to be named Draper Idol, and catch Zootopia 2 under the stars.



### Parade

July 18 | 9:00 AM | Fort Street

Join us for this family-favorite event, running 1.5 miles on Fort Street between Stokes Ave. and Pioneer Rd.



### 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

July 18 | APA Campus #3

Test your skills and teamwork in an intense battle on the court! Register now for \$70/team.

Get full details at [draperutah.gov/draperdays](http://draperutah.gov/draperdays)

### HONORING DRAPER'S BLACK PIONEERS ON JUNETEETH

BY WENDY REX ATZET, DRAPER HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

In 1848, 24-year-old Nancy and her two young children crossed the plains in a pioneer wagon company bound for the Salt Lake Valley. They were among nine enslaved Black people brought to Utah by brothers George W. and John H. Bankhead.

Southerners who joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints brought enslaved people to Utah with them. Brigham Young's vanguard party included three enslaved men in 1847. By 1861, more than 70 enslaved Black pioneers lived in Utah. Because their enslavers settled between Logan and Spanish Fork, these small Black communities were geographically isolated from one another.

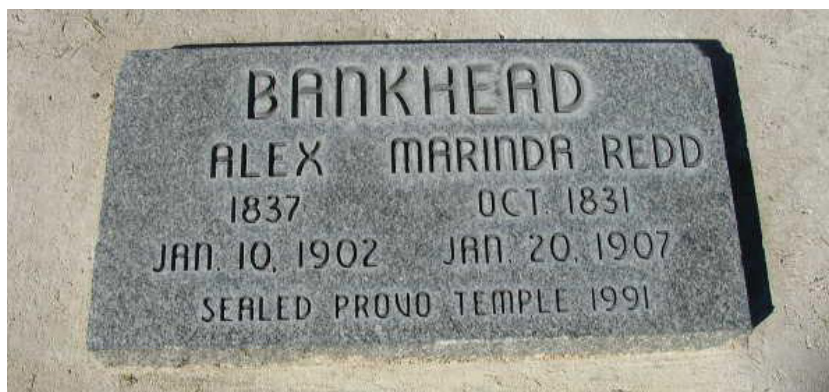
Nancy had been forced to leave her first husband when the Bankhead brothers migrated west. In Salt Lake City, she married Hark Wales, and their son Howard was born in 1850. When Hark's enslavers planned to move to California, Nancy faced another separation.

Church president Brigham Young intervened, urging Hark's owners to purchase Nancy from George Bankhead. They could not reach an agreement. Nancy, pregnant at the time, and her sons, remained with the Bankheads in Utah. She later married again.

In 1852, newly widowed George Bankhead settled in Draper. Census records show he brought six enslaved people with him: Alex, 24; Nancy, 28; and Nancy's sons Sam, 8; Walter, 5; Howard, 2; and Henry, an infant. They lived in a small cabin behind the house.

Memoirs describe the social distance kept between Nancy's boys and the other Draper children. Local youth once attempted to hang

one of Nancy's sons from Henry Day's front gate. Day rushed out and stopped them, furious at the attempted lynching. Another account recalls when 12-year-old Henry attended a school dance. Dressed in his best clothes, he asked girl after girl to dance; only one accepted.



Gravestone of Alex and Marinda Bankhead

Interracial marriage was prohibited, leaving young people in Utah's enslaved communities with few chances to find marriage partners. Alex was enslaved in Draper for about ten years, then moved to Provo to work for A.O. Smoot

as slavery ended. Around age 40, Alex married Marinda Redd, who had been enslaved by the Redd family. The couple built a home on a 20-acre farm in Spanish Fork and stayed active members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

In an 1899 interview with the Broad Ax newspaper, Alex shared his memories of those early years in Salt Lake City: "[The] slaves always congregated... opposite the city and county building. There they would discuss their condition, and gaze in wonderment at the lofty mountains, which reared their snowy peaks heavenward, and completely forbade them from ascertaining how they could make their escape back to the South, or to more congenial climes... [For] their lives in the then new wilderness, [were] far from being happy, and many of them were subjected to the same treatment that was accorded the plantation negroes of the South."

# DRAPER FORWARD

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

### SUMMER BASEBALL

Youth Ages 6 - 8

A great COED program that lets players learn baseball and softball fundamentals with teamwork, fun, and learning. Coach Pitch and Machine Pitch are available.

Where: Draper City Park, Smith Fields Park, and Southfork Park  
Length: 8 weeks, beginning June 3  
Cost: \$45 (Coach Pitch), \$52 (Machine Pitch)

### TENNIS

Youth ages 4 - 18, adults age 18+

Taught by USPTA/USPTR certified professionals, classes focus on building fundamentals for all levels.

Where: Smith Fields & Southfork Park  
When: June - August (youth), May - September (adults)  
Cost: \$48, \$58, or \$80 (youth), or \$22, \$88, \$160, or \$190 (adult) depending on class per participant

### MOUNTAIN BIKING

Youth ages 10 - 14, Adults Age 15+

Taught by SimplyMTB coaches, clinics teach bike safety and rules on Corner Canyon trails.

Where: Ballard Arena / Cycle Park  
Length: July - August (youth), May (adults)  
Cost: \$170 per participant (youth) or \$50 per 90-minute clinic (adults)

### EVIL SCIENTIST SUMMER CAMP

Youth ages 5 - 12

Our certified "Evil Scientist" instructor has fun things to teach kids during this summer. Four-day camps teach various elements of science with lots of cool tests, experiments, and explosions!

Where: Day Barn  
When: 4-day sessions beginning June 10  
Cost: \$130 per session

Register online at [draperutah.gov/programs](http://draperutah.gov/programs)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



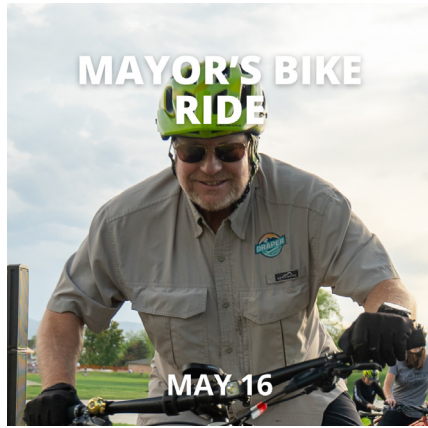
### CINCO DE MAYO

MAY 5

6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Draper City Park  
12500 South 1300 East

Come celebrate Cinco De Mayo with Draper City! This free festival has lots of activities and will be fun for the whole family.

Learn more at [draperutah.gov/cinco](http://draperutah.gov/cinco)



### MAYOR'S BIKE RIDE

MAY 16

11:00 AM  
Rotary Park  
958 West 12300 South

Join Mayor Walker on this fun, family-friendly bike ride. Enjoy complimentary coffee, juice, and snacks to fuel your ride.

Learn more at [draperutah.gov/bikeride](http://draperutah.gov/bikeride)



### MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 25

3:00 - 3:30 PM  
Gold Star Families Memorial  
Draper City Park  
12500 South 1300 East

Join us at our Memorial Day Ceremony as we remember and honor those who have died in military service to the United States.

Learn more at [draperutah.gov/memorialday](http://draperutah.gov/memorialday)



### TINY TOT TRIATHLON

JUNE 13

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Galena Hills Park  
12500 South 550 West

Children ages 2 - 9 years old will bike, run, and go down an inflatable water slide on their way to the finish line in this recreational event.

Learn more at [draperutah.gov/tinytot](http://draperutah.gov/tinytot)

Learn more at [draperutah.gov/events](http://draperutah.gov/events)

**BILLY BOB THORNTON & THE BOXMASTERS**

**2026 MORRO ROCK TOUR**  
Thursday, June 25  
8:00 PM  
Draper Amphitheater  
944 Vestry Rd., Draper, UT

get tickets now at [draperutah.gov/amphitheater](http://draperutah.gov/amphitheater)

DRAPER AMPHITHEATER WWW.THEBOXMASTERS.COM

Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>  
DRAPER, UT

DRAPER AMPHITHEATER

**TAYLORVILLE**  
AN UNOFFICIAL LIVE TRIBUTE BAND

ready for it?

Get tickets at [draperutah.gov/taylorville](http://draperutah.gov/taylorville)



**September 19**  
7:00 - 11:00 AM  
Ballard Arena

Half Marathon: \$60  
10K: \$35  
5K: \$30

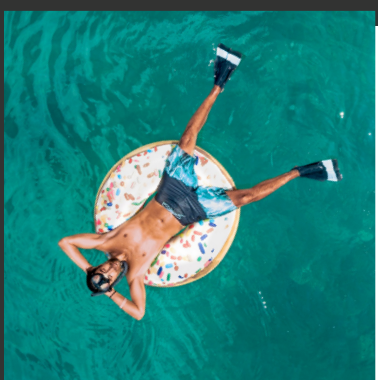
Register at [draperutah.gov/half](http://draperutah.gov/half)

The race is in September.  
Training starts today.

## DID YOU KNOW? DRAPER CITY OFFERS PASSPORT SERVICES

Planning a trip abroad? Draper City makes it easy to apply for your passport close to home. Our Passport Office, located at City Hall (1020 E. Pioneer Road), accepts applications by appointment and can even take your passport photo on site.

Whether it's your first passport or a renewal for a minor, our staff is here to help guide you through



the process. Be sure to complete your application ahead of time and bring the required documents and a check for payment to your appointment. Schedule your visit today at [draperutah.gov/passport](http://draperutah.gov/passport).

Questions may be directed to: [passports@draperutah.gov](mailto:passports@draperutah.gov) or 801-576-6548.

## CITY INFORMATION

### MAYOR

Troy K. Walker

### CITY COUNCIL

Kathryn Dahlin

Mike Green

Bryn Heather Johnson

Tasha Lowery

Fred Lowry

### CITY MANAGER

Mike Barker

### CONTACT

(801) 576-6500

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