

# The Official Draper City Newsletter

# DRAPER FORWARD

JAN / FEB 2026  
[draperutah.gov](http://draperutah.gov)

## Mayor's Message

### Year in Review



2025 was a great year for Draper City. We have the best-managed city in Utah. Our staff continues to exceed expectations in serving our community. As we turn the page into 2026, I'd like to take a moment and review some accomplishments from the last year.

We had another year of outstanding community events, including a fantastic Draper Days celebration in July. Many of our events had record-breaking turnouts, and continue to be successful because of the great planning and preparation of our Community Events team, and our wonderful residents who turn out in support. We look forward to another great year of gathering as a community, with nearly two dozen events planned over the next twelve months.

In November, Kathryn Dahlin was elected to the Draper City Council, and Mike Green and Tasha Lowery were re-elected. We're pleased to welcome Kathryn as she is sworn in and gets to work for the community starting in January. We believe she will be a great addition to the council.

The following are additional highlights of some of the City's accomplishments this past year.

#### Legal Services

- Transitioned from outsourced legal prosecution to an in-house model with the hiring of Jennie Jonsson as City Prosecutor. The new in-house prosecutor

brings over 15 years of legal experience and has strengthened the City's commitment to consistent prosecution, particularly in DUI and domestic violence cases.

#### Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

- Constructed a new pickleball and basketball court at Bubbling Brook Park.
- Completed Phase II of Jenson Farm Park, expanding recreational opportunities for residents.
- Achieved focused growth in girls' high school-age basketball participation.
- Completed the Dobbins Way Trail and opened it to the public.
- Constructed four new bridge crossings along the South Maple Hollow trail system.
- Added new outdoor sport lighting to two baseball/softball fields at Southfork Park.
- Completed a new Trails and Open Space garage and storage yard to support parks and trails operations.

#### Planning, Development, and Land Use

- Adopted the Utah State-required Station Area Plans for all four transit stations within the City, supporting coordinated growth and transit-oriented development.
- Updated the City's General Plan to include a Water Use and Preservation Element, reinforcing the City's commitment to long-term water sustainability.
- Issued 1,325 building permits, including new commercial buildings, single-family homes, townhomes, remodels, additions, signs, and solar panel systems.
- Reviewed 327 planning applications, including site plans, subdivisions, and zoning map amendments.
- Processed 2,784 business licenses, including renewals and 573 new businesses, reflecting continued economic vitality.
- Processed 3,456 code enforcement complaints, helping maintain community standards and quality of life.

#### Public Safety - Fire and EMS

- Procured and placed a replacement Type 1/3 fire engine into service at Station 23 in the SunCrest community.
- Received and placed into service a replacement Horton ambulance at Station 22 in South Mountain.
- Deployed fire personnel on four in-state and two out-of-state wildland fire assignments.
- Responded to more than

4,600 fire and EMS incidents and transported over 1,700 patients.

- The Fuel Crew Supervisor received the Utah State Fuels Mitigation Award in recognition of outstanding service.

#### Public Safety - Police and Animal Services

- Promoted nine veteran officers to Master Officer following completion of advanced leadership training.
- Strengthened the Detective Division with the addition of a detective assigned to the Special Victims Unit.
- Achieved full staffing within the Police Department, which is not common currently.
- Partnered with First-Watch to enhance mental health support services for officers and staff.
- Responded to over 29,700 calls for service.
- Conducted 19,000 additional patrols of parks, trailheads, and businesses, contributing to the lowest number of vehicle burglaries on record and notable reductions in vandalism and drug offenses.
- Investigated 226 injury accidents and made 68 DUI arrests through traffic enforcement efforts.
- Animal Services responded to 1,159 animal-related calls for service.

#### Roads, Sidewalks, and Storm Drains

- Scheduled, annual residential

street pavement maintenance completed

- 700 East and Willow Springs storm drainage improvements
- 13800 South road-widening and reconstruction, and storm drain improvements
- Installed SunCrest concrete guardrail barrier
- Built a sidewalk connection on Highland Dr. between Traverse Ridge Rd. and 65 East
- Improvements to 700 West storm drain to address flooding

#### Water Conservation and Sustainability

- Hired a landscape inspector to ensure compliance with water-wise landscaping standards, supporting responsible water use citywide.

These are just some of the achievements that reflect our city's dedication to keeping Draper one of the most enjoyable, safest, and best-managed cities in Utah.

In closing, I'd like to invite you to our State of the City presentation on January 21. It will be held at City Hall from 6:00 - 7:00 PM, and will allow me to share more of what's been happening in the city and what is on the horizon. I hope to see you there.

*Mayor Troy K. Walker*

## STATE OF THE CITY PRESENTATION with Mayor Troy K. Walker

Draper City Hall  
1020 East Pioneer Road

January 21  
6:00 - 7:00 PM

Public Welcome



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

Postal Patron  
Draper, UT 84020

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

## 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

## City Council Message

Council Member  
Tasha Lowery



Winter is always a time for reflection for me, once we get past the hustle and bustle of the holidays and everyone is back to their normal routines. The daylight hours are short and the nights are long, and we all settle in for a few months of cold and snow. I find Draper to be lovely in all the seasons, but there is something about the quiet loneliness and stark beauty of the winter months that resonates deep in my soul. It is a time when the trails are quiet, and you can often be the first one to walk on crisp frost in the early mornings. The silence you can find up in the canyon is a

peace all of its own.

Winter in Draper is about Junior Jazz, snowshoeing classes, and the daddy-daughter dance. We say goodbye to former Councilmember Vawdry and welcome Councilmember Dahlin. We hear from our mayor on the state of the city and what the new year will bring.

It has been my great honor to serve you in this office. It's hard to find adequate words to express my gratitude for the trust you have

placed in me and the support you have offered me. Representing this community that I love so dearly is truly a privilege and a solemn responsibility. Please know that my door is always open to you as we continue to work together for this beautiful and special place, which we are all so blessed to call home.

**Councilmember  
Tasha Lowery**

## CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT

BIG BEGINNINGS START SMALL: LEARN ABOUT PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Families with young children are invited to explore Canyons School District's high-quality preschool and kindergarten programs at a series of early-learning open houses this January. Now in its second year, the District's open house series has quickly become a trusted resource for parents preparing their 3- to 5-year-olds for school. January is the ideal time for families to consider learning options for the 2026-2027 school year. Canyons District will accept applications for full- and half-day kindergarten and tuition-based preschool Jan. 14 through Feb. 27, 2026. To support families in navigating their choices, Canyons is hosting six open houses across the community (see schedule below). Come with questions, and leave with a free pencil case and coloring book! Learn more at [canyonsdistrict.org](http://canyonsdistrict.org).



**Take the Leap, Make a Splash**  
Enrolling for Preschool, Kindergarten, 2026-2027  
Jan. 14 - Feb. 27



CANYONS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCAN



## Christmas Tree Disposal

Christmas trees will be accepted for wood chipping until January 24.

Valley drop offs may be delivered next to **Draper Public Works (72 E. Sivogah Court)**.

SunCrest drop offs may be delivered to **Longbranch Trailhead (1689 Deer Ridge Drive)**.

All decorations must be removed.



## DRAPER CITY ADOPTS NEW WATER USE & PRESERVATION ELEMENT

On December 2, 2025, Draper City adopted a new Water Use & Preservation Element as part of the City's General Plan, in compliance with statewide requirements. The new element is available within the General Plan on the City's Master Plans webpage.

With increasing pressures on water resources from population growth and drought, the state established the framework for this new element to help municipalities analyze how future growth will affect long-term water availability.

Draper City is served by two water systems: Draper City and WaterPro. The new element reviews water use, demand, and supply data for both systems. Overall water use is shown to be decreasing on a per-person basis in both systems. This is due to residents and businesses conserving



more water, as well as the reduction of lot sizes as infill development continues in older parts of the City. In light of continued growth, the new element also projects future water supply needs.

At the end of the new element, there are a series of goals and strategies that residential users, nonresidential users, and the City itself can implement to further reduce water use. Please note that some recommended strategies, such as a time-of-day watering ordinance and a water shortage plan, would require additional development and public outreach by the City before being considered by the City Council for potential future adoption.

We would like to thank the residents and businesses of the City for their continued conservation efforts and responsible stewardship of our limited water resources.

## TREE LIGHTING BY PAYTON JOHNSON

Crowds of people join with warm cups of hot chocolate and cookies in hand. The countdown starts, and everyone waits in anticipation. More than three million lights turn on and illuminate the park at the annual tree-lighting ceremony at Draper City Park. But there are many volunteers behind the scenes who help make this event come to life. Draper's youth council members volunteer every year to help with costumes, Santa's meet and greet, roasting marshmallows, and handing out cookies and hot chocolate. Members really love this event as they get to volunteer in the community while also being able to actively participate in the event's fun activities.



## DCMYC FOOD DRIVE BY JACK ROMASANTA

The Draper City Mayor's Youth Council (DCMYC) hosted its annual Christmas Party and Food Bank Drive at the Draper Day Barn earlier this month, bringing together members for an evening of crafts, games, and holiday activities while also supporting the Utah Food Bank. Council executives and advisors organized and staffed the event, guiding members through the stations and coordinating the collection and sorting of donated canned goods and other nonperishables. City officials praised the effort, noting that DCMYC continues to demonstrate leadership and community service during one of the busiest times of the year.



Save those audition dates and tune up your audition skills by attending the free Audition Masterclass!

February 20 | 6:30 - 9:00 PM  
American Preparatory Academy, Campus #3  
Free event — registration required

Learn more & register at [draperutah.gov/arts council](http://draperutah.gov/arts council)



## SNOW REMOVAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Draper City's snow removal crews remove snow from our roads every winter season. As plows make their way through our streets, there are a number of policies and procedures to be aware of that make it easier for crews to clear roads,

keep sidewalks and driveways navigable, and preserve access to emergency services.

For a complete list of snow removal policies and procedures, please visit [draperutah.gov/snowremoval](http://draperutah.gov/snowremoval)



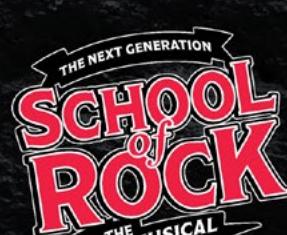
## NOTIFY DRAPER

Stay in the loop. Sign up for Notify Draper. [draperutah.gov/notify](http://draperutah.gov/notify)



## 2026 SEASON

Join us for another great season at the Draper Amphitheater!



June 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20  
Virtual Auditions: Due by March 3  
Live Auditions: March 4  
Callbacks: March 7

Learn more & get tickets at [draperutah.gov/amphitheater](http://draperutah.gov/amphitheater)

## YOUTH MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

June 22 - July 3 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
American Preparatory Academy, Campus #2

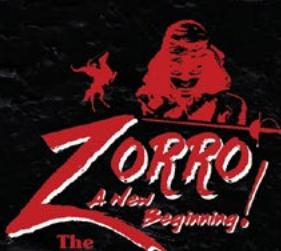
Registration Required | Opens in May  
Limited to 60 participants

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

## HADESTOWN TEEN EDITION

July 31, August 1, 3, 6, 7, 8 | 8:00 PM  
Auditions April 24 & 25  
Callbacks May 2

Learn more & get tickets at [draperutah.gov/arts council](http://draperutah.gov/arts council)



September 11, 12, 14 | 8:00 PM  
Auditions May 22 & 23

Learn more & get tickets at [draperutah.gov/amphitheater](http://draperutah.gov/amphitheater)

## DRAPER CITY TREE COMMITTEE CARING FOR YOUR TREES & SHRUBS IN WINTERTIME

After a dry fall, consider these tips to protect your yard's valuable assets. Deciduous trees and shrubs go dormant during winter and may need little (but not zero) water until spring. Evergreens respire all year long; when cold, dry winds pull moisture from their needles, and roots look for water from the soil to replenish it.

### When to Water

Winter watering is recommended when the ground is dry (but not frozen), there has been no precipitation for multiple weeks, and daytime temps are above 40 degrees. If a plant starts the winter months with moisture in and around its roots, it will come back stronger in the spring. Plants that begin the winter season with dry, frozen ground at their roots may not come back at all.

### How to Water

Hand water around trees and shrubs, prioritizing any planted within the past two years and all evergreens in your landscape. Another method is to drill holes in the bottom of five gallon buckets (to help you measure the amount you are watering and prevent losing water to runoff). The amount to water depends on the size of the tree, but 5 - 10 gallons per inch of trunk diameter is recommended (10 - 20 for newly planted trees). Apply water evenly to roots at a low flow rate until soil is thoroughly damp, but not drowning.

### Mulch

To retain moisture and regulate temperature in the soil around tree roots, apply organic mulch such as wood chips or shredded bark. Mulch 2 - 4" deep and extend 3 - 5' around the

tree. It should be in an even flat layer, not piled up around the tree. No mulch should touch the trunk.

### Wrap Young Trunks

Tree trunks can be damaged by winter sun. Protect young tree trunks by wrapping them with white tree wrap available at any local nursery or garden center. The wrap helps reflect the sun from the tender trunks. Apply wrap in late fall before the risk of freezing temperatures and remove in spring after the risk has passed. Tree wrap left on into spring may harbor damaging pests during the growing season. Use tree wrap for a minimum of two winters after planting. Wrapping becomes less necessary as trees mature.

### Upcoming Classes

Back by popular demand! The Tree Committee will host landscaping learning opportunities in the spring: another Tree Talk with a certified arborist at the Library (date TBA) and an encore of "Localscapes: Creating Your Ideal Draper Yard." Whether you're planning a spruce-up or a complete landscaping overhaul, don't miss this opportunity to learn design basics and if your water-wise landscaping project qualifies for rebates.

**What:** Localscapes for Draper Residents

**Where:** Draper City Council Chambers (in person)

**When:** March 18, 7 - 8 PM

Registration opens soon! Get the link at [draperutah.gov/landscaping](http://draperutah.gov/landscaping)

## RECREATION PROGRAMS

### YOUTH SOCCER

*Youth grades Pre-K - 7*

Learn and build perseverance, teamwork skills, and make new friends.

**Where:** Galena Hills Park

**When:** 8 weeks, beginning April 13

**Cost:** Varies per league

**Registration:** January 1 - March 2

### JUNIOR PICKLEBALL

*Youth ages 8 - 18*

This non-instructional program is for players with basic pickleball knowledge.

**Where:** Southfork Park

**When:** June 1 - 24

**Cost:** \$50 per participant

**Registration:** March 2 - May 25

### ADULT PICKLEBALL

*Anyone age 18+*

This league is a fun chance to play against players at your same skill level.

**Where:** Southfork Park

**When:** 7 weeks, beginning April 13

**Cost:** \$30 per participant

**Registration:** January 19 - April 6

### SOFTBALL

*Anyone age 16+*

Get your team together and register early — this program fills up fast!

**Where:** Galena Hills Park

**When:** Games begin April 6

**Cost:** \$650 per team

**Registration:** January 1 - March 31

### GIRLS SOFTBALL

*Girls grades 3 - 9*

Learn the basic skills of softball while having fun and building friendships.

**Where:** Southfork Park

**When:** 7 weeks, beginning April 27

**Cost:** \$65

**Registration:** January 1 - March 31

### BASEBALL

*Youth grades Pre-K - 2*

Learn the fundamentals of baseball with T-Ball, Machine and Coach Pitch.

**Where:** Varies per league

**When:** 8 weeks, beginning June 1

**Cost:** Varies per league

**Registration:** January 19 - April 27

### KICKBALL

*Anyone age 16+*

A great low-stress/high-activity game to recreate and have fun.

**Where:** Galena Hills Park

**When:** Beginning April 15

**Cost:** \$285 per team

**Registration:** January 1 - March 31

### SNOWSHOEING

*Anyone age 16+*

Escape the inversion on a winter hike!

**Where:** Location varies

**When:** 4 weeks, beginning January 6

**Cost:** \$25 per participant

**Registration:** Closes one week prior to each session

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

# DRAPER FORWARD

## 2026 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Draper's events are a staple of the community, bringing people together to connect, foster a sense of belonging, and strengthen our associations with one another. They benefit the local economy, support small businesses, and bring in people from neighboring communities

and around the state.

The community events in 2025 were incredible successes. Draper Park was once again a packed house the final day of Draper Days. Farmers Markets at Smith Fields Park were combined with Food Truck Nights, and were a

popular event throughout the season.

We're pleased that all of last year's events will return for 2026. Draper City will once again be host to a diverse collection of activities that offer residents of all ages and abilities the opportunity

to enjoy our city facilities and amenities while making or fostering connections with families, neighbors, and friends.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year.



**Daddy Daughter Dance**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
February 20



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
10:00 AM  
April 4



**Arbor Day**  
10:00 AM  
April 24



**Cinco de Mayo**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
May 5



**Mayor's Bike Ride**  
10:00 AM  
May 9



**Memorial Day Ceremony**  
3:00 PM  
May 25



**Concerts in the Park**  
7:00 PM  
June 3, 10, 17, 24



**Tiny Tot Triathlon**  
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
June 13



**Farmers Market**  
5:00 - 9:00 PM  
July - October



**Draper Days**  
Times Vary  
July 10 - 18



**Safety Day**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
August 4



**Monster Trucks!**  
7:30 PM  
August 14 - 15



**Bark in the Park**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
August 26



**Int. Arts & Crafts Festival**  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
September 12



**Corner Canyon Half Marathon**  
7:00 AM  
September 19



**Fire Prevention Night**  
5:00 - 8:00 PM  
October 5



**Haunted Trail**  
4:30 - 10:00 PM  
October 15 - 17



**Veterans Day Ceremony**  
11:00 AM  
November 11



**Tree Lighting Ceremony**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM  
November 30



**Holiday Market**  
December 4 - 5



**Candy Cane Hunt**  
4:00 PM  
December 7

All dates and times are subject to change — for full event details, including dates, times, locations, and vendor application information (if applicable), visit [draperutah.gov/events](http://draperutah.gov/events)



## 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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