



The Official Draper City Newsletter

DRAPER FORWARD

NOV / DEC 2025
draperutah.gov

Mayor’s Message
Hope for America

Last month, I spoke with a group of Corner Canyon High School students on Constitution Day. They asked me with sincerity and concern in their eyes, “Mayor, can you give us some hope about our country?” These bright young people told me they were feeling overwhelmed by social media and knowing what or who to believe.

It was a powerful moment of contemplation I will not forget. I wanted to give them hope. Because I had just finished reading The Hymns of the Republic by S. C. Gwynn, chronicling 1864 through the end of the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln’s presidency, it was fresh on my mind.

I responded, “These are not the worst of times—not even close. We have always had media that sensationalize and stir up controversy.” I explained how the media operated in 1864, just like it does today. Every political faction of the time either hated, liked, or loved Lincoln, and the media created offensive, disrespectful, and mean cartoons about him and America. And America got

through it. A turning point in the Civil War was April 12, 1864, when the Confederacy attacked Fort Pillow. 300 free slave union soldiers were massacred in their surrender. It was a media event. Although they didn’t have TikTok, X,



Instagram, Facebook, Fox News, or CNN, they had the telegraph. The news of the massacre spread via telegraph at a rapid pace. Within six days, the story was in every major newspaper, being told all across the Northern United States. Debate and argument ensued, and the massacre profoundly affected President

Abraham Lincoln. Suddenly, the war was no longer just about succession. Eventually, America prevailed. If Abraham Lincoln had hope amidst the horrific Civil War, we can have hope in 2025 America. I think

a king, dictator, or religious leader lording over us. Rather, we are governed by the law.

- We have civil rights, including the right to keep our mouths shut, the right against unreasonable search and seizure, the right to due process, the right to equal protection, and much more.

To our youth and everyone else worried about our country, I say we are the future. Our energy, our care for each other, our desire to make a difference — that is what will continue to move America forward.

We’ve weathered far more challenging times both politically, morally, and physically, and we’ve always emerged stronger together.

I’m optimistic. Not because everything is perfect, but because I see the potential in our young people and because America isn’t just a place – it’s an idea. It’s an idea of hope, of possibility, of continuous improvement. And that idea lives in each of us, especially in the hearts of our young people.

May we speak with greater hope, kindness, and courage and stand united in supporting and upholding our Constitution.

— Mayor Troy K. Walker

DRAPER CITY MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Salt Lake County is administering the election as Vote by Mail. Ballots must be received by 8:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 for your vote to count. Please mail early or use one of the drop-off options below.

Return Your Ballot

By Mail
Mail early to ensure delivery by November 4 at 8:00 PM.

Ballot Drop Box
South parking lot at Draper City Hall (24/7 until 8:00 PM on Election Day).

In person on Election Day
Draper City Hall Vote Center, 7:00 AM–8:00 PM.

Hall Vote Center on Election Day (7:00 AM – 8:00 PM).

In the Primary Election, 121 ballots arrived too late to be counted. Please return your ballot early or use a drop box to ensure timely receipt.

Terms and Seats

Mayor (4-Year Term, 1 Seat)
Troy K. Walker
Braxten Rutherford

City Council At-Large (2-Year Term, 1 Seat)
Brad Byington
Kathryn Dahlin

City Council At-Large (4-Year Term, 2 Seats) — Uncontested
Tasha Lowery and Mike Green are elected

Didn’t receive a ballot? You may vote in person at the Draper City

Learn more about the candidates: draperutah.gov/elections

THE FUTURE OF DRAPER FORWARD
DRAPER CITY ASKS FOR YOUR HELP IN DETERMINING NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

Draper City Communications is proposing a change to the Draper Forward Newsletter for 2026. Due to increased costs for printing and mailing, and a desire to reallocate funds to other areas of need, we are seeking public feedback about transitioning the newsletter and its distribution to a primarily digital format. A small batch would be printed to offer copies at Draper Library, Draper Senior Center, and Draper City Hall, for those who would still like access to a print copy.

The digital version would continue to be posted in the News section on the City website (draperutah.gov/news) as soon as new issues became available. It would also be distributed via email/text through our Notify Draper system and shared on our Facebook and X social media accounts.

Please respond to the following brief poll regarding this proposed change by November 30, 2025.



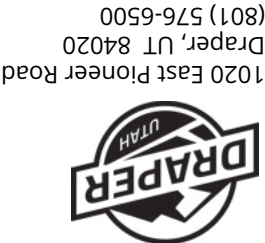
Scan the QR code above or visit bit.ly/drapernewsletter to complete the poll. While not required, we are also providing space for respondents to explain their choice for additional context and clarity.

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



City Council Message

Council Member
Mike Green



It is a privilege to serve on the Draper City Council. I look forward to starting a new term in January and greatly appreciate the support of our community. As I reflect on the past eight

years, I am proud of what we, as a council body, have accomplished in collaboration with the mayor, City management, and staff.

Draper City Councils have historically prioritized open space preservation, most significantly with the acquisition of Corner Canyon, which led to the development of 117 miles of trails that are widely enjoyed. During my tenure on the council, we have continued to preserve open space and develop trails as the city grows. Now, with over 5,000 acres of open space, Draper features the most trails and the largest amount of open space of any city along the Wasatch Front.

Some park projects I’m particularly fond of are the Unity Playground at Draper Park, the playing fields at Galena Hills Park, and the multi-use SunCrest Park.

Unity Playground is used year-round and offers a variety of play for all abilities. I love seeing the playground crawling with kids, their families hanging out, watching them have the time of their lives. It is an awesome



gathering place for the community.

The baseball/softball complex at Galena Hills Park and its multi-use fields have provided much-needed space for recreation programs. This park is used by tens of thousands of people each year. At 52 acres, it is Draper’s largest city park. The ball diamonds, fields, and pavilions can be reserved for private use if you are ever looking for a nice space to play.

SunCrest Park was such a beautiful addition to the many scenic and enjoyable parks in Draper. The topography provided more challenges than most park property, but it resulted in some unique features like the overlook of Utah Lake and the use of onsite boulders, creating an atmosphere that blends in nicely with the surroundings. The land was originally slated for residential development, and was later considered as a potential location for salt storage for the public works department. It is satisfying to see the space now as this wonderful amenity for SunCrest residents.

The decisions that are brought before us as a city council are not always easy or pleasant, but we work together, with mutual respect, to do our best to make good choices for our community. It is rewarding to look back and see how our actions have helped to shape Draper City into the amazing place it is today.

Councilmember
Mike Green

HOLIDAYS ALREADY?
DRAPER CITY ANIMAL SERVICES

November and December are already here. With the holidays come family gatherings and lots of good food. Draper Animal Services reminds you to keep your pets safe during all the celebrations and activities — keep all food up on counters and out of pets’ reach. Keep in mind some foods such as chocolate, grapes, onions, and garlic can be toxic, even fatal to both dogs and cats. Holiday plants can be toxic as well.

If yours is an outside pet, make sure they have a warm, safe place out of the elements. A covered dog house with insulation and a water dish that won’t freeze is ideal. If possible, it’s always best to bring your outdoor pets inside for the winter; they will appreciate a warm laundry room or garage. Snow is knocking at our doors. Be prepared for dogs jumping on snow drifts and over the fence.

The Draper Animal Shelter is always taking donations: towels and



blankets are appreciated. Check out draperutah.gov/animalservices to view the shelter’s wish list for the animal’s needs. Christmas is a fun time to spoil your pets with toys and treats. Remember to always have your dog on a leash when you’re off your property and make sure you have a current dog license with the City.

YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS HELP AT CITY EVENTS
BY APRIL JENSEN

Members of the Draper City Mayor’s Youth Council get the unique opportunity to volunteer at the annual International Arts and Crafts Festival held in September. Council members run a station with several fun activities for kids. When the kids get there, they are given a passport to fill with stickers from each activity station, including bracelet making, paper lanterns, and face painting. We help the kids work on a project, and get to know them a little bit in the process. It is really sweet to watch the kids show their crafts and new face paint to their parents with big smiles on their faces. The volunteers from the Council do a great job running the stations and pitching in to make it a great experience for everyone.

Another way the Youth Council helps the community is by volunteering at the Corner Canyon Half Marathon. They arrive at 5:45 AM to get ready for the race and spread out

at different spots along the trail. They point the runners in the right direction as they pass, and hold signs with encouraging messages on them. It makes a big difference to have someone cheering for you as you run. It is a big commitment to volunteer so early in the morning, but the Council is very willing to help out! Getting to support the runners and see their success makes it worth it.



DRAPER SNOW REMOVAL POLICIES

Winter On-Street Parking

No person shall park or leave a vehicle or trailer on any highway between the hours of midnight and 6:00 AM, or while snow is on the street, from November 1 through April 30. Vehicles or trailers parked on a highway in violation of the provisions of this section may be removed at the owner’s expense (DCMC Section 14-5-020). Report parking violations to the Draper City Police Department at (801) 840-4000. If vehicles or trailers are parked on cul-de-sacs or other streets, snow removal crews will not be able to plow such streets due to access issues.

Don’t Abandon Stuck Vehicles

Do not abandon stuck or stalled vehicles on City streets. It is preferred that you stay with your vehicle until a snow plow has arrived to clear a path to get the vehicle out, or if you must leave, push the vehicle out of the middle of the street and to the edge so that snow plows can clear the street.

Snow Blowing

Blowing, throwing or pushing snow from driveways and walkways into the street creates a traffic hazard and is a Draper City Code violation. Removed snow should be placed onto landscaped areas in the yard (DCMC Section 7-13-030).

Inner Subdivision, Cul-de-sacs & Dead End Streets

During ongoing, severe storms, Draper City’s main streets will take precedence for safety reasons. Inner subdivision, cul-de-sacs and dead-end streets have the lowest priority of snow removal and will be cleared last due to low traffic volume on these roads. Once the storm begins to subside, crews will move on to inner subdivision streets and cul-de-sacs. These could take up to 48 hours after a major storm ends before they are cleared.

Sidewalks

Snow plows try to avoid placing snow on sidewalks, but in some instances is impossible. The adjacent property owner is responsible to keep sidewalks

clear (DCMC Section 7-13-030). Adjacent property owners shall remove snow from the sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours after snow has ceased falling. For snow removal concerns regarding sidewalks abutting City property, contact the Parks Department at (801) 576-6571. For snow removal concerns regarding sidewalks abutting private property, contact Draper City Code Enforcement at draperutah.gov/codeenforcement.

Fire Hydrants & Mailboxes

It is the resident’s responsibility to maintain a minimum clear space of three feet (3’) around the circumference of fire hydrants adjacent to their property, including the removal of snow (DCMC Section 7-13-030). While snow plows try to avoid placing snow in front of mailboxes as much as possible, it is the resident’s responsibility to clear snow and ice from in front of their mailbox, providing clear access to the USPS.

Residential Driveways/Snow Windrow

As snow plows travel along streets, snow accumulated on the plow blade has no place to go but into driveways. This is called the snow windrow. The more snow that has fallen, the greater the snow windrow. The snow windrow is the resident’s responsibility to clear. Pile shoveled snow on the left side of the driveway facing your home, rather than on both sides. This helps plows to avoid carrying piles from the “upstream” side back across driveways.

Give Snow Removal Equipment Space

Plow trucks are very large, carrying up to ten (10) tons of salt and hundreds of gallons of brine while moving a large amount of snow. Give them space; don’t crowd or attempt to pass them. Brine trucks travel at a speeds less than the posted speed limit. Stay back at least 100 feet from all snow removal equipment and give them room.

FIRE STATION 23

Station 23 is the home of Engine 23. We will have a new apparatus on the streets by the end of October 2025 in the district. The unit will be a fantastic upgrade from the engine previously assigned to the area. The station also has an ambulance, mountain bikes – trail rescue, and a side-by-side. The station’s response district is the SunCrest area and access routes to the top.

Crews at Station 23 spend



countless hours training on the numerous types of calls they could be dispatched to. Crews train for trail rescues, vehicle fires, brush fires, medical, fire alarms, etc., and back District 22 for call coverage when needed.

The station is generally staffed with three firefighters: the Captain, Engineer, and a Firefighter, with a minimum of one Paramedic on duty each day.

POLICE DESK
PROTECT YOURSELF FROM PORCH PIRATES

The holiday season is here! As more of us do our shopping online, more packages will be left on porches before they’re wrapped and gifted to their intended recipients.

With surges of deliveries on the horizon, the risk of porch piracy — the theft of delivered packages from a porch, doorstep, or entryway — also increases. To keep your gifts safe, consider the following this holiday season:

Delivery Management
Whenever possible, schedule your packages for delivery when you'll be home, or require a signature for delivery. If that’s not possible, sign up for text or email alerts so you know when packages are delivered. If you'll be unable to get your packages in a reasonable amount of time, select delivery for in-store pickup or delivery to secure lockers.

Home Setup
Visible cameras can deter thieves and help identify suspects. Visible security or doorbell cameras can assist in this. Motion-activated lights can scare off thieves trying to operate under the cover of darkness. If possible, you can also leave delivery instructions

for drivers to put packages behind planters or bushes, or securely out of sight behind a side gate.

Community Awareness
Work with your neighbors to keep an eye on each other's property. Make arrangements to pick up packages for each other while away from home. If you see something suspicious, report it immediately.

After Delivery
Bring packages in as soon as possible. Do not let packages sit out overnight. If it is an option, consider a lockbox that will allow couriers to securely deliver parcels when you’re not home. Also, consider insurance or threat protection; many credit cards and retailers offer this for online orders.

Have a safe and fun holiday season!



CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT
DUAL IMMERSION: A PATHWAY TO MORE LEARNING, CAREER PROSPECTS, AND FUN

Dual-Language Immersion is a great way to learn another language. More than that, it’s a proven path to academic success and wide range of career prospects. Canyons School District has some of the most extensive language immersion offerings in Utah. Twenty-one elementary and secondary schools offer dual immersion programs in Spanish, French, or Chinese — and the time to consider applying is now. Applications for the 2026-2027 school year close Friday, Dec. 19, 2025. Any kindergarten-aged student who will be starting the first grade in fall 2026 may apply. Students in DLI spend half their day learning in English and the other half learning in a world language. The programs continue through high school where students can work to pass the



Advanced Placement exam in the 9th or 10th grades and take college-level courses for early college credit. The result? Higher academic achievement on end-of-year tests and bilingual skills that open up job opportunities for students and give them a competitive advantage when applying for college. Learn more at canyonsdistrict.org.

TAXES VS. FEES
UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TAXES AND FEES IN DRAPER CITY

Draper City relies on two primary revenue sources: **taxes** and **user fees**. While both contribute to funding City services, there are differences. Taxes broadly support general City operations for all residents, whereas user fees target specific services and are paid only by those who directly use or benefit from them.

Taxes are compulsory contributions from all residents and businesses to fund general city-wide operations. They are not tied to individual usage.

- **Property tax:** Assessed on a home’s value.
- **Sales tax:** Assessed on each purchase; Draper receives ½ of a percent for local purchases, plus additional shares based on total state sales and population.
- **Other taxes:** Assessed on energy consumption and franchise agreements.

User Fees are charges to directly offset the cost of a specific service or activity. Users pay only if they receive the service.

- **Fee Examples:** permits, recreation programs, business

licenses, animal services, garbage service, water and storm drain service.

Taxes are always directed to the City's general fund, supporting shared public services that benefit everyone, like public safety, street maintenance, and parks. Most user fees are allocated to separate, dedicated funds to track costs precisely for that service, except for some, like building permits, which go into the general fund.

Tax rates are set by the relevant governing body (e.g., the City for property taxes) based on the overall cost of general operations. User Fee rates are set by the City to match the cost of providing the specific service. The City tracks costs for each fee-based service. If costs rise, fees are increased to fully cover them, ensuring no burden on general taxpayers.

By separating taxes from user fees, Draper City ensures fairness: General taxpayers aren’t subsidizing specific users, and those benefiting from services pay their fair share. This transparent system promotes efficient, accountable governance.

GALENA SOO’NKAHNI PRESERVE
PRESERVING LAND AND ARCHEOLOGY, RECOGNIZING UTAH’S INDIGENOUS TRIBES

Resting between 12300 South and 14600 South on the Jordan River, the Galena Soo’nkahni preserve is a 250-acre site home to archeological remains, natural land preservation, and the Soo’nkahni Monument — a sundial structure dedicated in 2014 honoring Utah’s Native tribes and the land’s deep history.

The Galena Soo’nkahni name comes from the Shoshone word for “many homes” or “many dwellings”. The sundial

structure has eight posts, one for each of Utah’s Indigenous tribes: Skull Valley Band of Goshute, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, Ute Indian Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Paiute Indian Tribe, and Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation. Each post sits in the direction best matching the tribe’s location in the state, and has information about each tribe.



The monument is a wonderful place to stop, rest, and learn about Indigenous tribes while traveling the Jordan River trail. Take the opportunity to learn of the site’s heritage and history, while enjoying the nature and serenity that permeates the site. When you visit, be respectful as the Galena Soo’nkahni site is sacred and carries importance for living peoples today.

Photo courtesy of the Division of Indian Affairs

RECREATION PROGRAMS

JR. JAZZ
Youth grades K - 12

Jr. Jazz emphasizes the development of teamwork and fundamental basketball skills.

Where: Varies based on league. See website for details.
Length: 8 weeks; all groups start in December except 2nd Grade, which begins in January
Cost: \$84 (K - 2), \$87 (3 - 4), \$91 (5 - 8), \$95 (9 - 12)

EVIL SCIENTIST ACADEMY
Youth grades 1 - 5

Get excited about science! Have fun with hands-on experience through positive, motivating, and inspiring interactions.

Where: Draper Parks and Recreation Office
When: January 12, 26, February 2, 9, 29, March 2; or November 16, 23, 30, April 13, 20, 27
Cost: \$99 for six classes

Register online at draperutah.gov/programs

PARK RESTROOM WINTER HOURS

Nov. 1 - Mar. 15
Open 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Bellevue Park, Rotary Park, Smith Fields Park, Sorensen Home, Andy Ballard Arena, Peak View Trailhead, Deer Ridge Trailhead, Orson Smith Trailhead, Coyote Hollow Trailhead, Draper Amphitheater.

Nov. 1 - Mar. 15
Closed*

Steep Mountain Park, Southfork Park, Galena Hills Park, Jensen Farm Park, SunCrest Park, Brookside Trailhead, Silver Flower Trailhead, Potato Hill Trailhead

DRAPER PARK
Nov. 1 - Jan. 2 (Holiday Lights)
Open 6:00 AM - 10:00 PM
East and West Restrooms

Jan. 3 - Mar. 15
Open 7:00 AM - 6:00 PM
East and West Restrooms

Nov. 1 - Mar. 15
Closed*
South Restrooms

*Dates dependent on weather conditions

COMMUNITY EVENTS



11:00 - 11:30 AM
Draper City Park
12500 South 1300 East

Our annual Veterans Day Ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Learn more at draperutah.gov/veteransday



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

Kick off the holiday season with Draper City's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Bundle up and share in the Holiday Cheer!

Learn more at draperutah.gov/treelighting



5:00 - 8:00 PM (December 5)
12:00 - 8:00 PM (December 6)
Draper City Park
12500 South 1300 East

Come out for great shopping with vendors offering unique holiday gifts, and visit Santa & Mrs. Claus.

Learn more at draperutah.gov/holidaymarket



10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Draper City Park (New Location)
12500 South 1300 East

Thousands of candy canes are scattered throughout the park in this fun, free event for children 6 years of age and younger.

Learn more at draperutah.gov/candycane

Learn more at draperutah.gov/events

2026 SEASON

AUDITION MASTERCLASS

Free Event | Registration Required

YOUTH MUSICAL THEATER WORKSHOP

Summer | Registration Required

ZORRO

The Musical

Fall

THE NEXT GENERATION

SCHOOL OF ROCK

THE MUSICAL

Spring

HADESTOWN

TEEN EDITION

Summer

Learn more about the 2026 Arts Council season, auditions, and get tickets at draperutah.gov/artsCouncil

ANNUAL BAGGED LEAF COLLECTION

The annual bagged leaf collection dumpster will be available this fall at the Draper Public Works Building. Only bagged leaves will be accepted, not other yard or household waste.

When
Through December 19*

Where
72 E. Sivogah Ct. (West Side)

*weather permitting

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Draper residents may drop off live Christmas trees for wood chipping until January 31. Trees must be stripped of all decorations.

Draper Public Works
72 E. Sivogah Ct.

SunCrest
Longbranch Trailhead
1689 Deer Ridge Dr.

No drop-offs accepted after January 31.

CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAVE THE DATE: SCHOOL CHOICE OPEN ENROLLMENT STARTS NOVEMBER 15

In Canyons District, school choice means parents have options — and the comfort of knowing that whichever option you choose, it will be the right choice for your child. In Utah, parents can apply to have their students attend a school outside their neighborhood boundaries by submitting a School Choice/Open Enrollment request. The application window for the 2026-2027 school year opens

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025 at 10 a.m. and closes at midnight on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026. Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis when space is available. As always, families may submit more than one application. Parents will rank their preferred schools, and CSD's enrollment team will work to place students wherever space and eligibility allow. All transfer requests will be

processed after the application window closes on Feb. 6, 2026. Administrators will work with families to find a spot for students who meet transfer requirements. Learn more at canyonsdistrict.org.

CITY INFORMATION

MAYOR Troy K. Walker	CITY MANAGER Mike Barker
CITY COUNCIL Mike Green Bryn Heather Johnson Tasha Lowery Fred Lowry Marsha Vawdrey	CONTACT (801) 576-6500 draperutah.gov @drapercity @drapercityutah @drapercity @drapercitygov
Email/Text Notifications: draperutah.gov/notify	