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Development Projects in Murray

As I talk with Murray residents throughout the city, I am almost always asked about the status of development projects. While 2020 has been a tough year in many ways, Murray has demonstrated its resilience and there have been some positive happenings and developments. In my message published in January of this year, prior to the outbreak of the terrible pandemic, I mentioned a few projects that we were looking forward to as a city. Some have been moving forward while others have not. The new fire headquarters fire station was substantially completed in March, without fanfare due to the pandemic. We look forward to the day that we can invite the public in to tour that outstanding facility.

The new city hall project directly east of the fire station was scheduled to start in the spring, but only got underway last month due to delays relating to the relocation of the cell tower on the site. We are looking forward to that facility being open to serve the public in fall of 2022, with new city offices and a new police department.

The renovation of the Murray Theater has become a casualty of COVID-19. The \$3.6 million in matching funds from Salt Lake County was cut after the TRCC (Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, and Convention) tax money dried up as a result of the pandemic. That project is now on hold indefinitely until another funding source can be identified.

On the positive side, the old Firestone site at 900 East and 6600 South has been transformed into an attractive office building. The Shake Shack at 6100 South State has finally opened after being delayed as a result of the pandemic. The new EOS Fitness store at 5600 South 900 East recently opened its doors for business, but unfortunately, a stone-throw away, the 24-hour Fitness facility has permanently closed. A new AutoZone store is now open next to the EOS Fitness. Also, after being shut down for many weeks, Fashion Place Mall is busy once again and in the midst of what we all hope will be a very successful holiday shopping season.

Here are some other developments that I often get asked about. The old Firestone Store at 6100 South State has been demolished, but there have been no plans submitted for a new building on that site. Across the street, the Tom Nox Men's Shop is open for business in the former Cotton Shop building.



Many have mourned the loss of the Taco Bell at that corner, but a site plan has been submitted for a new Taco Bell at 6001 South State at the site of the former Café Trang. Unfortunately, there is not yet a new tenant for the former Shopko location, however the plans for a new mixed use development are moving forward at the old K-Mart site on Van Winkle and 900 East, and we hope to see that project begin in early 2021. Also, the Redevelopment Agency of Murray City (RDA) is in negotiations with a developer regarding the RDA owned property at 4800 South State Street. It is exciting to note that we are making progress toward a planned project that will rejuvenate that block in the near future.

There are many and various projects going on in Murray. I invite any interested citizens to follow the planning commission agendas to track what is happening in our city. The agendas and attachments for the planning commission can be found at <https://www.murray.utah.gov/163/Planning-Commission>.

While many of our businesses continue to do well, many of our small businesses are hurting as a result of the pandemic of 2020. I encourage all of you to support our local businesses, especially small business by shopping and dining local whenever possible.

This has been a very challenging year! Even our tradition of Santa visiting the children at City Hall was cancelled this year. But amidst the challenges, I encourage all to stay positive and look towards a brighter future! I wish each of you a very happy and prosperous holiday season!