



November
2021

Great Neighborhoods Make a Great City



D. Blair Camp
Mayor

mayor@murray.utah.gov
801-264-2600

It seems like just yesterday we were experiencing a summer of extreme heat, drought, and smoke-filled air. Now leaves have changed colors and are dropping off the trees, daylight hours are much shorter, and we are dealing with the chilly fall temperatures. November ushers in the “holiday season” with winter just around the corner.

During this season, many of us will pause to reflect on the things that we are thankful for, whether it be family, friends, pets, or other prized possessions. It’s also a time when some of our neighbors may need a helping hand. Reaching out to individuals and families in our neighborhoods helps us maintain a sense of community. Assisting others in cleaning up their leaves or other yard waste, winterizing sprinkler systems and coolers, and clearing sidewalks and driveways after a snowstorm are examples of ways to network with neighbors and help build that sense of community.

Occasionally we receive complaints from residents about their neighbors who haven’t maintained their yards well or haven’t shoveled their walks after a storm. I believe that in many of these cases, a helping hand from a neighbor or neighbors will resolve the matter more beneficially and compassionately than a visit from a zoning enforcement officer, while helping to develop relationships that strengthen neighborhoods.

One issue that impacts our neighborhoods is crime. Over the past months and years, we have noted an increase in crime, especially property crime, not just in Murray but across the entire county. My office meets with the police chief every week to discuss crime trends and solutions. While there are differing opinions and perspectives on how to deal with these increases in criminal activity, I believe that prevention is a key component in combating crime, and prevention begins in our neighborhoods. I applaud those who have been active in neighborhood watch programs, active on neighborhood social media platforms, and just good old-fashioned keeping an eye open for suspicious activity. I strongly encourage all residents of our city to be actively involved in watching out for each other and our properties.

There are many online resources to find tips for making your home and neighborhood safer, such as the National Crime Prevention Council website (ncpc.org) or SafeHome.org, or you can directly contact our community outreach officer, Sgt. Roy Halford at 801-264-2673 for information about starting a neighborhood watch program in your area.



I have a friend (who lives in another city) whose home was burglarized while the neighbor across the street observed the crime in progress. The neighbor erroneously assumed that the burglars were contractors hired by the property owner. A simple phone call could have prevented the loss of property. We need to be involved in our neighborhoods and report suspicious activities if we have any hope of curtailing property crimes.

The American actor Anthony Mackie is quoted as saying "If everyone invested in the neighborhood they lived in, the United States would be a magical place." I agree! Whatever neighborhood you live in, you can do your part to make it a better place. I hope we can all be proud of our neighborhoods and take care of our neighbors who live there with us.

I wish each of you an outstanding (and safe) Thanksgiving season, and hope you find joy and happiness in the things that are important to you.