I am always inspired when I visit friends who have taken great care to create a festive home. Some families put together meaningful traditions, spending time together in fun and service. Other perfect Christmases are celebrated with family members who have been absent, or recently added!

My father was a reporter and covered the Utah State legislature when I was young. We would watch the nightly news at dinner every night, watching events unfold across the world as we ate our tuna fish casserole. It was during one of these meals that we watched Vietnamese people loading into a truck, fleeing for their lives. A mother, unable to fit in the truck, lifted up her baby begging someone to take the child to safety. My mom left the table to go to her room and weep.

My father took a new job that had us move to a new community. We got involved in school and church right away, and also became involved with helping refugees again, this time from Cambodia. One of the families I especially remember was a mother and father with four living children – Tori, Pah, Ori, and baby Diane (born after they reached the United States). They had lost three children who were shot by soldiers as they were escaping across a river.

It was Christmastime, and we were all feeling a little homesick. One of my older sisters, Sarah, was feeling particularly blue. She was ten at the time, and missed her friends and the thriving social life she had left behind. The previous year Santa had given her a Crayola sleeping bag which she proudly toted to her many sleepovers.

That was the beginning of our experience with refugees. We hosted Vietnamese and Polish refugees in our home, and continued to be involved in their lives for many years.

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What Makes A Christmas Perfect?

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MAINTAIN YOUR HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Home fires are not uncommon during the holidays, often due to holiday lights and Christmas trees. Taking a few precautionary steps can increase your safety and save money.

Inspect lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

DO NOT OVERLOAD ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires—they should not be warm to the touch.

continued page 2
This Christmas the pile under our Christmas tree was sparse.

One Saturday before Christmas, my dad went out to run errands and took Sarah with him. They decided to swing by the apartment where our friends were living to say hello. He was dismayed to find a window had been broken and was letting in the cold December air. The landlord had not bothered to come fix it. He also discovered that the entire family had just one blanket and one bed. The refrigerator had green onions, soy sauce, and not much else. Yet, this family was in good spirits, happy to be together and safe.

After talking to the landlord, he and my sister came home on a mission. We went through the linen closet and brought out unused blankets, found canned food, and selected a few gently used toys to share with our friends. My mom made them some rice krispie treats, which were a favorite dessert. Sarah went into our room, looked in the closet, and brought down her Crayola sleeping bag to give to Tori.

Our family’s gifts were not much, just enough to make their lives a little more comfortable. The impact their family had on ours, however, was immense. Their contentedness and gratitude – even in humble circumstances – was contagious. Both of our families were safe, we were together, and we were free. True bliss!

If you are able to make someone’s life a little more comfortable, please consider participating in KAYSVILLE GIVES and Fill the Fire Truck this Christmas season. Look for information at kaysvillecity.com. Thanks to our community members helping in this effort: Wasatch Soccer Facility, Smith’s, Bowman’s, and VASA Fitness.

Winter officially begins December 22nd
A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Winter in Northern Utah usually brings snow. To help make winter weather a better experience for all Kaysville residents, public works issues the following reminders about snow removal:

Street parking is prohibited between the hours of 12:00 and 6:00am beginning November 1st through the last day of February. This ordinance allows plows greater ability to clear the roads edge to edge, and also reduces the risk of damage to vehicles and equipment. When cars park on the roads during this time, plows leave piles of snow along the shoulder. These piles are dangerous, especially when they freeze solid, creating a significant risk to traffic and requiring crews to come back out and later remove with special equipment.

Trees, plants and other items that hang out into the public street also force plows to leave piles of snow along the shoulder. Traffic flows and safety are reduced, and garbage trucks and mail carriers are unable to reach the curb. City ordinance requires a vertical clearance of 14 feet at the edge of the road, and 8 feet along the edges of sidewalks. Sidewalks are required to be cleared of snow within 24 hours of the end of snowfall.

Residents often ask if plow drivers can keep snow out of their driveways, and while we aren’t trying to put it in driveways or on sidewalks, it is difficult to keep snow from doing so as the plows move down the street. The graphic to the right shows how residents can help reduce the amount of snow that ends up in driveways.

City ordinance also prohibits pushing, blowing or otherwise depositing snow, leaves or other debris in the street. This is problematic, especially when a street has already been cleared, as this snow is easily frozen, reducing traction and becoming a striking hazard in the road. This can be a headache for city crews, but it also affects you and your neighbors as well.

As plow drivers have continued to make changes to their routes and processes, snow removal is still a long and difficult task.
Welcome NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sincere thanks to all candidates who entered the race for Kaysville City Council. Kaysville citizens selected the following individuals to represent them beginning in January 2020.

Tamara Tran
I'm feeling overwhelmed with gratitude and the desire to express my appreciation to each of you for your encouragement, support and your votes in the primary and general election.

My vision for Kaysville is: An inclusive and connected, multi-generational, hometown community that values families, friendship, and traditions by planning infrastructure, encouraging economic opportunities, maintaining parks and trails and providing community events and activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve Kaysville. I take the responsibility very seriously and will work smart to collaborate with our community, the city and our city council to make decisions that are right for Kaysville. Please reach out and share your suggestions.

We live in a great community. My family and I are grateful to be a part of it and look forward to the next 4 years.

John Adams
The gratitude I feel for this city is overwhelming. I want to publicly say how much I respect and admire Tami Tran, Mike Blackham, Brett Tarbox, Tim Hodges, Stroh DeCaire, Andre Lortz, and Zane Larsen. I'm happy to call them friends.

I wish to thank my wife Sarah, my amazing children Steven, Stacy, and Katie. Thank you to the friends and family who supported me with their time and donations. Thank you to my campaign manager, Matt Hill, who worked hours on the campaign.

Kaysville citizens, thank you for this amazing opportunity and responsibility. I won't let you down!

Andre Lortz
I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Kaysville City Council. I will pledge to listen to all points of view from residents. I will research and gather facts about each issue to try and make decisions that are in the best interest of the city. While these decisions may not always be in agreement with some in the community, I will try to share my logic and reasoning for making decisions. I will give my best during my term and serve with integrity and courage because Kaysville is my hometown.

City council meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month. Agendas and minutes are posted on kaysvillecity.com. Meetings are also broadcast live. Find a link on the website.

Mike Blackham
I would like to thank the citizens of Kaysville for their vote and their support in giving me the opportunity to become a council member for Kaysville City. I am really looking forward to working with the city staff to help facilitate their needs to keep up with the challenges of a growing city. I am glad the election is over and I am ready to go to work. I look forward to hearing what you have to say and your opinions. Let’s always have a positive attitude. I am excited to work with the good people in this new council. I believe we can do what is best for Kaysville City.

Thank you!
Let it Snow

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH
11:00 AM — 2:00 PM

Join in FILLING THE FIRE TRUCK at the Kaysville City Fire Station (124 South Main Street) on December 7, 2019.

Drop by while running errands and donate a gift or make a cash, check, or credit card donation. If you prefer to donate a specific gift, take a tag from the tree or select a tag online at kaysvillegives.com.

You don’t even need to get out of your car!

Warning! Participating might bring joy.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS INCLUDE:
◆ new, unwrapped children’s toys
◆ clothing for men, women and children
◆ coats and jackets for men, women and children
◆ throw blankets
◆ pillows
◆ gift cards

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO THE CITY WEBSITE, KAYSVILLECITY.COM OR CONTACT MEDSTROM@KAYSVILLECITY.COM
For the last three winters, each year has seen a decrease in the time required to clear city streets, from eighteen hours to thirteen hours, and most recently to nine to ten hours after snow has stopped accumulating. Sometimes, though, limiting factors like equipment condition, storm intensity and staff health/sleep result in less than ideal response times or road conditions. Thank you for your patience and help with this work.

The Kaysville City website contains information to help citizens in a multitude of ways. City administrators strive to communicate with residents in methods that are convenient to a variety of preferences: the website, the newsletter, mailers, social media, digital signs . . .

Do you take advantage of available information? Just for fun, take the quiz below to determine how familiar you are with a sampling of topic categories available on the city website. Read the questions in the left column and look to the right for answers. If you are reading this electronically, click on the answer to go directly to the website page that contains the answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>ANSWER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You can participate in youth sports and programs online.</td>
<td>False, but you can register for them online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents can pay their utility bill online or sign up for a direct deposit payment plan.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You must receive prior approval from the city before selling merchandise or conducting business where there is amplified sound or the setup of automobiles, blow-up toys, dunking booths or other structures; however there are exceptions to this rule.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City council meetings are broadcast live on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter, trash, junk or debris should not be stored in an enclosed structure.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any calls regarding garbage collection should go directly to your neighbor to the east.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>During a major snow event, residents can access a live snow plow map.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality reports from the year 1999 can be found on the website.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of the 29 families who arrived in Kaysville before 1852, 19 families came from Canada, 3 from Vermont, and 1 from Kentucky.</td>
<td>False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools located in Kaysville are listed on the website, including photos and addresses.</td>
<td>True</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

kaysvillecity.com

Discarded, natural Christmas trees will be collected by Robinson Waste Services on Thursday, January 9th and Friday January 10th. Residents interested in this service should place trees on the curb by 6:00 am on the 9th. Trees taller than 8 feet must be cut in half. Make sure trees are accessible and that tree stands have been removed.

When more people are out shopping, the opportunity for theft increases. Keep purses and bags closed and hold onto them. Thieves are watching for an opportunity to take what’s yours.
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