

NEWSLETTER



March / April 2023

community! Everything matters as we vision, plan and guide growth for Parowan together in the coming years for the best possible outcome now and for the future of our cherished Mothertown.

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Message from the Mayor

Here we grow! As we welcome spring to the Parowan valley, there is activity and vibrancy all around town giving an extra skip to our steps. We are still anticipating cold weather and additional snowfall, but one can't ignore the signs of the changing seasons. This newsletter, along with our Parowan.org website, will keep you up to date on the exciting things that are happening in the community. With so much going on, you can stay informed on events, meeting schedules, Parowan City recreation, Parowan Library and Parowan City Arts Third Thursday program along with special spotlights and updates from our Parowan City departments. If you ever have a question, concern, or just want to get general information, always feel free to stop by our City Offices/Town Hall at 35 East 100 North, or call 435-477-3331. We are fully staffed and ready to serve you Monday-Thursday, 9am-4:30pm and Friday 9am-noon.

As a city, we continue to work on large scale city infrastructure planning projects and engineering with many of those studies nearing completion. Significant projects on the horizon include water recharge, sewer expansion/upgrades, transportation planning and road improvements. Our Parowan City Active Transportation Plan from Bike Utah is complete and will be integrated into our Parowan City General Plan in the coming months as a guiding document for the future of our sidewalks and trails. Stay tuned for updates on our Main Street Bridge planning, sewer expansion plan and our Parowan Industrial Park Plan, all in process. Our Parowan Bike Park and Parowan Pickleball Parks at Valentine Peak Sports Complex are set for construction for summer of 2024 which will add even more to the quality of life and outdoor recreation opportunities for our active

Parowan Citizen of the Year 2023

Sandra Decker Benson



Sandra Decker Benson was born, June 29, 1945, the 3rd child of Woodrow Decker and Vera Dalton Decker.

Sandra is a direct descendant of 2 grandfathers who arrived with the first Mormon settlers to this valley on January 13th 1851, both of which were in the Mormon Battalion.

She spent her early years living in Parowan Valley on what was then the Scott Day farm, where her father, Woodrow, was the farm manager. Later the family moved into town to care for her widowed grandmother. From that point on Sandra lived in the home built by her Grandpa Dalton.

Sandra attended Parowan Elementary and then Parowan High School, where she graduated with Honors in 1963.

The summer after graduating high school she began dating Lloyd Benson while working at Cedar Breaks. He was working for Dixie National Forest, staying at Duck Creek. They continued dating while they attended SUSC, now SUU, in Cedar City.

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Parowan City Office—35 East 100 North—PO Box 576—435-477-3331

Parowan Visitors Center—5 South Main—PO Box 1165—435-477-8190—parowanvisitorscenter@gmail.com

*Parowan Citizen of the Year 2024
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Sandra was always an avid Political Science/History buff, and has a vivid memory of walking out of the Old Main building on campus and being met by Lloyd and told that Kennedy had just been shot.

Lloyd and Sandra Married June 1964 and for the next 7 years one or both were taking classes at SUSC. While attending there, they had their first two children, Brad in 1966 and Tawnya in 1969.

Sandra knew she wanted to be a school teacher and live in Parowan. In 1970 she finished student teaching in November and was given a teaching position at Parowan High School to finish the year. She graduated with the Class of '71 and received the Outstanding Social Science Student award.

Lloyd and Sandra moved from Cedar back to Parowan in the fall of 1970 and built the house they still live in.

From 1971 to 1976 Sandra taught part-time, was the Home-Bound teacher and was raising her young family that now included Tim and Dan.

In 1976 she accepted a full-time one-year teaching contract at Cedar High school. In 1977 she was back full-time at her beloved Parowan High School where she taught for another 30 years.

During her teaching career Sandra received numerous accolades and awards including Utah State Legislature/Iron County Educator of the Year – presented on the floor of the State House of Representatives, and Outstanding Utah Rural Schools' Teacher of the year. The last 6 years of her teaching career Sandra was the Social Studies Specialist, representing Iron County Schools on the Utah State Education Committee.

Over the years she, with fellow teachers, Leilani Bentley and Gail

Harris, were asked on 6 different occasions to present and publish the Humanities program as an integrated curriculum at National Conferences.

In 1983 Sandra began the History Advanced Placement classes at Parowan High School, teaching European and U.S. History. She then moved these courses into the Southern Utah University Concurrent program as an Adjunct Professor.

Sandra was Chairman of the Parowan High School Humanities Department for 19 years. She introduced the Close-Up Program to Parowan High School and was able to take students to Washington DC on several occasions. Past students will also remember her taking them to Model UN conferences and State History Fair competitions. During her tenure at Parowan High School, students took her US Constitution class that concluded with a difficult final test, not unlike a citizenship test.

Students still talk about how Sandra loved to teach. It showed how she treated her students and how excited she was about the subjects she taught.

But Sandra's love for History and her belief that her civic duty extended beyond the classroom shows in her accomplishments in this community.

Sandra served 2 terms on the Parowan Library Board. She was a co-founder of the Parowan Historic Commission. She served 6 years as a salary negotiator for the Iron County Educators Association. She served 2 terms (8 years) on the Iron Arbitration Board.

In the 1990's Sandra was part of a local committee that was organized after some vandalism occurred at the Parowan cemetery. The committee felt that vandalism could be curtailed if they valued their community, and the historic sites therein. If the younger gener-

ation became more involved and gained a better knowledge, things would change. The Humanities Department added a local or personal history project for all students, and developed a walking tour that included downtown's historic district and the cemetery.

In the '90's, the Humanities Department introduced the annual Veterans Day assembly, honoring all residents who served their country.

In 2006, Sandra retired from the job she loved, and in 2007, being true to her faith, she and Lloyd served an LDS Mission at Fort Gordon Georgia. While there, they served as Military Liaisons under the post Chaplain. They loved the call, and loved the servicemen.

Sandra has been a member of the DUP, Daughters of the Utah Pioneers, for 50 years.

Since it's opening, she has been a tour guide at the Jesse N. Smith home. She has several walking tour versions of the Parowan Cemetery.

In 2012 Sandra began writing *Tattles and Tales*, stories about Parowan's history, published in the bi-monthly Parowan City newsletter.

Sandra has long been the unofficial Parowan History expert, writing dozens of articles and papers about the people and events of Parowan.

Sandra's rich Parowan history goes back to the very first day of Parowan. Her family not only settled Parowan but they stayed here. She has passed that love down to her children, all of whom still live here.

Sandra not only lives in Parowan, but she is Parowan.





EASTER EGG HUNT



March 30th • 10 am
Valentine Peak Soccer Fields

Sponsored by
The Little Salt Lake Service Club



We want to thank everyone for making Parowan's Birthday celebration a success this year. It certainly was amazing to see this program come together in the middle of the school year. There were so many people behind the scenes that worked together to make this celebration a success, and we would like to thank them for their efforts. We also would like to highlight our students both at Parowan Elementary and Parowan High School for making this celebration occur annually.

We are now nearing the end of our winter sports season. We have several students and teams that represented our school well at the state level. Here is a shout-out to them:

- This year our Girls' Cheer team participated in the UHSAA state competition. They placed 3rd overall. Awesome job girls!!
- Our Girls' Drill also competed at state. The team took 5th overall in Military Dance.
- In wrestling, we had two 4th place finishers in both Boys' and Girls Wrestling.
- Finally, we had a swimmer from Parowan place 3rd in the Fly, and she placed 3rd in the 200-yard race.

Again, great job student athletes. Ultimately, we want to take a moment to thank all of the coaches and fans for the time and dedication they have given to our students and athletes. We appreciate all you do for our school.

Lifeguards Needed



The Parowan Swimming Pool will be hiring lifeguards for the 2024 Summer Season. Watch the city website, parowan.org, for more details. Certification classes will begin in April.

Spring Soccer Time is Here!

Parowan City Soccer registration starts **February 15th and runs through March 10th.**

Standard fees per child:
\$30 with your own jersey
\$35 to include a jersey

Late registration will be from **March 11th through March 15th.**

Late Fees per child:
\$50 with your own jersey
\$55 to include a jersey

Games will be on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting April 17th.

If you are able to coach, volunteer, or be a team parent please let us know. Your participation is appreciated.

Online Registration Now Available!

Go to parowan.org, Soccer Sign-Up and complete the forms and payment. Sign up forms are available at the Visitor's Center, 5 South Main, open Monday-Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm.

Come One, Come All Pickleballers

You can now pay all dues and sign player waiver online at parowan.org. There is also a QR code you can scan at the fairgrounds building to pay all fees.

Vendor Applications

Vendor applications are available for the March Swap Meet, June 8th Fun Run Car Show, and the 4th of July in the park. You can get an application at the Parowan Visitors Center or parowan.org/events.

Winner Winner Chicken Dinner Parowan Half Marathon

Registration is open for the Half Marathon, 5K, and Yankee Doodle Dash. Race date is August 3, 2024.

The Parowan Interfaith Council Presents "The Promise of Easter"

This will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints chapel at 90 S. Main, on March 31st at 7:00 am. This is the "sunrise" service to welcome Easter morning.

All local congregations are participating with music, and thoughts of hope, joy, love, and peace.

Everyone is invited to join together to celebrate "The Promise of Easter."

Swap Meet

Friday, March 22nd
Saturday, March 23rd
9:00 am to 6:00 pm

At the Iron County Fair Building

Antiques, metal art, clothing, food, yard sale items, coins, knives and much more!

If you are interested in being a vendor, applications are available at the Parowan Visitors Center at 5 South Main.

For more information call 435-477-8190. There will be something for everyone! Come out and enjoy the day!

Intermountain Garfield Memorial Hospital
3D DIGITAL MOBILE MAMMOGRAPHY UNIT
coming to your area
March 26th—28th
Call 435-676-1267 or 435-676-1547 to schedule an appointment.
FREE mammograms available to those who qualify. Provided by UCCP - Utah Cancer Control Program

Pioneer Homes: By-Gone Treasurers

By: Sandra Benson

Having been raised in old homes, first a wood framed farm house still standing (sort of) on what was Days' Farm (now the Roy Adams' Farm), then in a lovely home in town built in 1915, I grew up knowing that homes have a "spirit." They tell tales of life, struggles, and comfort. In their way, they are beautiful recalls of history.

Without a doubt, the local Jesse N. Smith home is a fine example of life in by-gone days. When the Smith family left to settle Snowflake, Arizona (1880), they took all of their belongings but after them the Bentley, Alger, and Bess families did little to alter the home and what may have been changed has been pretty much restored. So, let's take a peek.

The 1858 Jesse Smith's home was made of adobe bricks; in reality, it's a dirt home. It's extremely heavy. The outside walls are 18 inches deep, the inside walls 14 inches deep. In an adobe home, once it's heated, it stays warm and comfortable for a good long time and in the summer the rooms stay cool and pleasant. At first, these walls were exposed adobe, not plastered until the south addition was built a decade later.

Stepping into the home, the floors are original wood. Lumber from the newly established lumber mills was put to good use. The sawn planks were planed, sanded and eventually stained. The floors are still beautiful; the workmanship is amazing. Today, rag-rugs still cover the floors. These rugs were made from strips of cloth, at least 2 inches wide, folded, folded again with the raw edges in the center, and then bound together on a

loom.

The original home contained only four rooms, two ground level front rooms, two bedrooms directly above, and a fine root cellar below. In the southeast corner of the east room there were stairs... steep, narrow, dangerous stairs if one should mis-step. These stairs went to the second floor and into the cellar. There were fireplaces on both the east and west interior walls on the ground floor and upstairs as well. While the Smith's lived in the home there was never a stove in it. All cooking was done over an open fire.

Today, of particular interest to many who tour the house, is the exposed rock foundation, now visible along the stairwell to the cellar where the home's addition was placed. Huge boulders were meshed together providing a firm foundation for the entire structure. They are a testament to pioneer industry and skill. This dirt home does not move! Yes, when the spring thaw comes, there may be some rivulets of water running into the cellar from the southwest side of the home, but this home never moves!

In the home are tables with drop-leaves wherein occupants could raise the leaves for family eating, schooling etc. and drop them for floor space. There are no closets; pegs were sufficient for all the clothes they had. Upstairs is a rope spring bed. It brings to mind

the saying, "Good night, sleep tight (keep the ropes tight), don't let the bedbugs bite." I often heard that saying from my grandmother. Herein is also found a "feather tic" which is a portable, soft mattress made of feathers. When guests came it made a soft bed on the floor, perhaps near the fireplace.

On the second level, back addition, there are exposed logs/trusses and a small west room with a window and a loom, treadle sewing machine and spinning wheel. Pioneer women used these south and west windows to capture the final light of day where women relaxed, mended, made quilts and niceties. Afterall, "Idle hands are the devil's workshop." In this room is a trunk and a smaller hope chest. These hope chests were generally built by fathers or brothers and given to young girls wherein they could place their sewing projects to take with them when they married.

Downstairs, in the addition, there are ornate door plates with fancy door knobs attached. One might surmise this speaks of a bit more money available as the addition was built. The keys that unlock these back two doors are also pretty fancy, not ordinary skeleton keys. These are always the most interesting objects when the 3rd graders come to tour the home every fall. They want to lock and unlock the doors. And even of greater interest is the 3-hole potty outside. *Three holes? Really?*

There is a good deal more to see and feel in this home. This historic place speaks volumes of our past. It may very well be worth a few minutes of your time. And, while you're touring, there is a booklet available written by Hannah Daphne Smith Dalton, daughter of Jesse Smith entitled "*Pretty is as Pretty Does.*" It's a good, short read and inexpensive.



This painting of Valentine Peak by Parowan artist Spike Ress has been juried into the Oil Painters of America's Thirty-third Annual National Juried Exhibition. The exhibit runs April 5th through May 30, 2024 at Mark Arts, Inc. in Wichita, Kansas. Of more than 2,500 entries only 211 works were selected for exhibit.



From the artist: *"I have a clear view from my studio looking east at Valentine Peak. In the 30 years I've been living in Parowan I see Valentine Peak every day and have seen it in many different weather situations. I have painted it several times and continue to be inspired by dramatic lighting, both morning and evening, as well as the storms I watch embracing it. This painting is of a storm that was rolling in over the mountain, collapsing down over the peak and the entire area. I have collected hundreds of photographs of my Valentine Peak view in every kind of weather situation you can imagine. I will be inspired to make paintings of it for many years to come."*

Several of Spike's paintings, as well as other local artist pieces, are prominently displayed in Parowan's City Hall for public enjoyment. We appreciate his and other local artist's work showcased throughout our City and look forward to additions to public art in Parowan in the coming years.

Parowan Animal Assistance League (PAAL)

Very often PAAL is asked to help find a dog or cat. We will ask for a good recent picture of the pet and many times the owner doesn't have one. Please make sure you have a picture of your furry friend, preferably just of the pet. This makes it better to post on our Facebook page. Also, a city license tag and an identification tag on the collar would help. The best way to get your pet home is a chip. We scan all dogs brought into the shelter for chips. You can get your dog chipped at your vet. And remember to register the chip with the company that makes them.

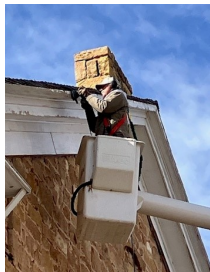
Old Rock Church Days

First Fundraising Efforts Going Towards Paint Restoration

We will soon be seeing the value of our fundraising efforts come to fruition on the windows, belfry, facia, posts and railings of the Old

Rock Church. Rosenberg Painting has been employed to do the job using the funds raised by the DUP last June at Old Rock Church Days. Correct paint stripping, restoration, and repainting the old wood is not easy and so we're grateful for the knowledge and experience Rosenberg Painting brings to this first phase.

We're hoping for another great turnout and fundraising effort on June 22, 2024, which will include a silent auction/yard sale.




**Old Rock Church Days
June 22, 2024**

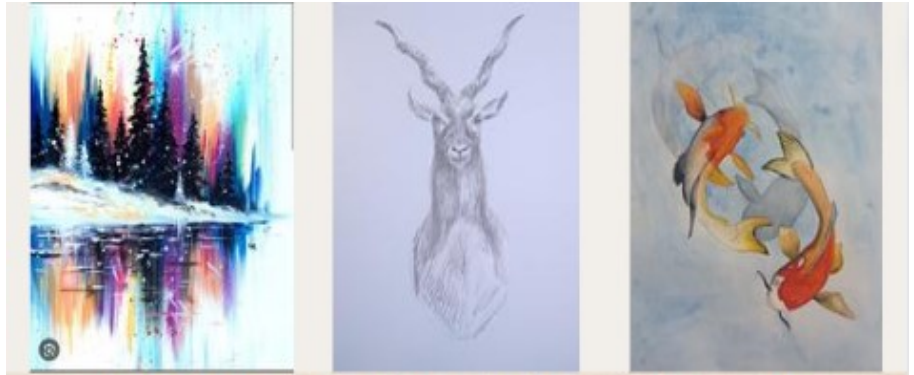
Watch the Parowan City website, parowan.org, and upcoming newsletters for more information.

*Message from the Mayor
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Opportunities abound to get involved in Parowan! The Parowan Fire Department is in need of volunteers, Little Salt Lake Service Club (flags on Main) and upcoming Community Easter Egg Hunt, PAAL (Parowan Animal Assistance League-435-704-4112), Meeks Pond/Park Restoration, Parowan Shade Tree Commission, Parowan Visitor Center Events, Parowan City Recreation, Parowan Community Choir, Parowan Chamber of Commerce and the Old Rock Church/Daughters of the Utah Pioneers to name just a few would love to have you join them in their efforts to care for our beloved town. Contact Parowan City for the organizational contact personnel to get involved in any of these worthwhile, community building activities. No place stays special by accident, and together we can do so much.

Please feel free at any time to let me know how I can best serve you by sending me an email, or phone or text me directly. I am here for one reason and that is to serve you!

Sincerely,
Mollie Halterman
435-238-0993
mayor@parowan.org



THIRD THURSDAY ART PROGRAM

Painting, Drawing, Photography, Ceramics

Great Teachers

Most Events Are Free

(some events may have a small materials charge)

6:00 p.m.

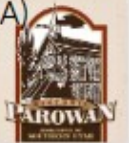
Third Thursday of Every Month

Primary location

Parowan Fire Station, 190 W 200 S

Plein air painting, summer months, on location (TBA)

To sign up for info about each month's event email
steve.parowanart@gmail.com



Thank you, Parowan Community, for your continued support of our local businesses! Join us every 1st Wednesday of the month for our monthly PCOC meeting at the Visitor Center at 10 am. We would love to have you join us! All businesses, entrepreneurs, solopreneurs and start-ups are WELCOME!

Our Main Street Beautification project is well underway! Stay tuned for all the wonderful improvements we will be making to our beautiful Main Street! If you would like to volunteer to help during this project, we would love to have you. Email us at: parowanchambercontact@gmail.com.

Do you have a business and want to get involved and be better connected? YOU are invited to our Chamber Social and Mixer PARTY! ALL members and non-members are invited!

Lucky You!
Parowan Chamber of Commerce
is having a Party!!!
Join us for a
Chamber Social Mixer Event
Dinner | Networking | Games | Music | Fun
March 6th 5:30-7:30pm
\$15 per person
Cedar Rose Estate | 995 West Old Hwy 91

RSVP BY: March 3rd to Lynsey at: 435-477-9877
Non-Member Chamber or Not at the Store
All Members and Non-Members are Invited

When: Wednesday March 6th, 5:30-7:30pm
Where: Cedar Rose Estate, 995 W Old Hwy 91
What: \$15 per ticket- Dinner, Networking, Games, Music and Fun

We hope to see you there!

Your Board: Danny, Christine, Lynsey and Kristina

