

# HISTORY IN THE MAKING

## THE GROWTH OF THE CITY OF WEST HAVEN

### 2006-CURRENT



**Brian Melaney** was elected as Mayor of West Haven City in the November 2005 municipal election. To date, August 2006, Mayor Melaney has shown great leadership ability, with an honest, straight forward yet respectful leadership style. He has an open door philosophy and has already shown residents that they can count on him to address their concerns. There are two suggestion boxes at the city office that no-one except Mayor Melaney has access to. He reads and responds to all suggestions he receives. In the short time that Mayor Melaney has been in office he has met with Governor Huntsman, taken a hands on leadership role in setting into motion activities that will hopefully result in getting certain streets widened and traffic lights installed that will make the city a safer place, and shown a great talent for multi-tasking. It is believed that the city will continue to be a beautiful and safe place to live under his leadership.

**Current city council membership** includes: Ronald Schultz; Tim Jensen; Blaine Holmes; Jennifer Canter; and Ted Parke. Ted was appointed to fill the council member position left open with the resignation of Vern Holmes effective July 2002. As of August 15, 2003 there are eight people running for three council member positions. Election will be held November 6, 2003.

### 1992-2005



**Tim Wayment**, was appointed as a council member to fill the position left open with the retirement of Don Stokes in September 1992. Tim was then elected to serve a 4 year council member term November 1993. November 1997 he was elected as the third mayor of West Haven City and re-elected at the November 2001 election. Tim served his second 4 year term as Mayor which ended December 2005. At that time he decided not to run again. Many accomplishments were made during Tim's tenure as council member and as mayor. Among the many city enhancements under his leadership as Mayor, one that stands out is the new city complex and the beginning of the new maintenance building.

### 1994-2001



**Lynn Messenger** was elected Mayor during the November 1993 election. He served from January 1, 1994 to December 2001. Lynn worked for the reality of a city arena and that was accomplished before he left office.

### 1990-1993



**Robert Holmes.** The beginning of a city to become known as The City of West Haven began long before its incorporation July 1, 1991. In order not to be annexed into one of the larger surrounding cities, a group of residents came together with an idea. After setting goals and developing a plan they chose someone they believed in to lead the way. Under the leadership of **Robert W. Holmes**, The City of West Haven was born. He was elected as the first City Mayor and lead the new city through many initial trials and tribulations which resulted in the building of a strong foundation until December 1993. The foundation that Mayor Homes began continues today and he continues his public service as Chairman of the West Haven Special Service District

### POPULATION

When the city incorporated the estimated population based on the 1990 Census was 2,171. This was the combined population as designated in the census for the Wilson and Kanerville unincorporated areas. This population classified the city as a 3rd Class municipality which has since been changed, by 2003 state legislation, to a 5<sup>th</sup>C class Municipality. The 2000 census determined the population to be 3,976 and the estimated population for 2005, made by the U.S. Census Bureau, is 5,558.

### REGULAR MEETINGS:

The West Haven City Council holds its regular city council meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. This meeting begins at 6:00 pm. The West Haven City Planning Commission meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. This meeting begins at 6:00 pm.

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**CITY WIDE SEWER SYSTEM:**

A long and sometimes chaotic road to provide a sewer system for residents of West Haven City began August 1993 with the creation of the WWCSSS “**West Weber County Sanitary Sewer System**” that was established with an inter-local agreement between West Haven City, Hooper Water Board and Weber County Commission. Eventually Weber County and Hooper Water District pulled out of the agreement and the WWCSSS was terminated. November 1995 the WHSSD “**West Haven Special Service District**” was established.

After hours, days, months and years of trudging through the hills and valleys of red tape and public opinion, the installation of a city wide sewer system, in coordination with Central Weber Sewer Improvement District, began March 2001 and was completed November 2002. To date, all but a few residents, who could not be serviced, are now connected to the system. The goal is to provide service to all areas of the city in the near future. Robert W Holmes continues to serve as Chairman of the WHSSD Board.

**WEST HAVEN YOUTH CITY COUNCIL**

May 1995 **Gary Sessions** presented information to the city council on developing a Youth City Council. The purpose being, to allow area youth to become involved in the political process which teaches young people to move into politics with some experience behind them. The Youth City Council, under the leadership of **Thelma Isaacson**, was formulated in 1995 and they have since provided many volunteer hours of community service to include organizing a successful Easter Egg Hunt now held annually for area children, creating the annual float to represent West Haven City the Ogden City Christmas parade, creating and managing the annual Halloween spook ally, managing children's games during our annual West Haven Day, participating in joint meetings with other area YCC representatives to plan a joint service project that benefits several communities, and many other activities. They elect their officials and are given a small budget at the beginning of the fiscal year which is always reimbursed with their fund raising events.

**WEST HAVEN PARKS COMMITTEE**

Resolution 11-01 established policy for the purpose of creating and governing the West Haven City Parks Committee in November 1991. Without the combined dedication and efforts of the volunteer members of the parks committee, under the leadership of Council Member Tim Jensen, there would be no annual West Haven Day Celebration. Along with planning other community activities throughout the year, the members of this committee begin in August, each year, planning and preparing for the West Haven Day Celebration. Anyone interested in serving on this committee may contact Council Member Tim Jensen. (See **Council Directory**)

**ANNUAL WEST HAVEN DAY CELEBRATION:**



**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of June, each year**, is the day designated for the annual West Haven Day celebration. This celebration, hosted by the Mayor and City Council, is escalated into reality under the leadership of **Council Member Tim Jensen with the** combined talents of members of the Parks Committee, for the benefit of everyone. It begins at 7:00 am with a flag ceremony, breakfast, and a silent auction, peppered with a variety of booths, food vendors, games, entertainment, a car show, Youth Rodeo and an Adult Rodeo through out the day. Sunset brings what has been referred to as the best fireworks show around and a lasting memory to the end of a fun filled day for family and friends.

The first celebration was held July 4, 1994 at the Wilson Church Bowery located at 2233 South 2700 West. This included the flag ceremony, breakfast, an auction and some games. With the completion of the city park and new rodeo arena in 1997, the celebration evolved bigger and better each year. July 4, 2003 marked the city's 10th annual celebration. After the 2004 celebration, the date was changed to the month of June to allow those who spend so much time and energy developing it to share their own July 4<sup>th</sup> with their families.

**WEST HAVEN CITY PARK**

In 1994, 40 acres of property was purchased at 2900 West 3300 South. This purchase marked the planting of the seed and gateway to fulfilling the vision of harvesting the first West Haven City Park. Under the endless leadership of **Council Member Tim Jensen**, and the undying support of the **Mayors and City Council Members**, the seed was nurtured, a solid foundation emerged, and today we have a beautiful park that has become the hub for activities that include family reunions, rodeo's, riding club practices, children playing on safe equipment while others participate in baseball, soccer games, and beginning in 2006, football. The current enjoyment is a result of a mountain of volunteered time

and talent from Park Committee members, a wide range of donations from residents and businesses within the city, and endless hours of time spent by the city crew under the direction of **Scott Venstra**.

## **RECREATION PROGRAM**

1994 also marked the year that Recreation Director, **Pam Molen** was hired to help develop a recreation program. Under the direction of **Council Members Tim Jensen and Jeni Canter**, with the support of the **Mayors and City Council Members**, Pam took the drivers seat and has not stopped yet. She has given birth to one of the best recreation programs in the County and provided major opportunities for youth, both inside the city and outside, to participate in T-Ball, baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, football, special athletic clinics and tournaments. Pam's faith in the program and never ending dedication and energy will carry the West Haven City Recreation Program to great heights.

## **RIVER PARKWAY TRAIL**

### **CHARLES MCFARLAND JENNIFER CANTER**



November 1998 the city was awarded a grant for a trail way in the amount of \$96,000.00 with the city's cash matching funds of \$45,242.00. The purpose was to build a multi-use non-motorized recreational trail, estimated to be 9 feet wide and 6,150 feet long, that would include a fishing bridge, a tunnel under the railroad tracks to allow pedestrians to safely cross 21st Street, picnic

tables for picnics, places to rest and points of historical interest along the trail.

The trail was envisioned to provide a scenic pathway that would lead to and around area business establishments; increase activities offered by area motels; meet objectives of environmental groups by enhancing and preserving the environment; provide a much needed environmentally educational pathway to adventurous experiences for family and youth groups of all ages.

The project would not only be a link to a county wide comprehensive network plan, by connecting West Haven River Parkway Trail with the Weber County Centennial Trail, the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, the Ogden City Trail, and eventually continuing through Ogden Canyon into Huntsville, it was significant as the regional networking of these trails would allow multi-use non-motorized access to surrounding historical activity centers such as Fort Buenaventura and the Ogden Dinosaur Park.

With the support of the Mayors and City Council Members, under the leadership of previous **Council Member Charles McFarland**, later joined by the talents, direction, hours of service, determination and undying dedication of **Council Member Jennifer Canter**, the West Haven River Parkway vision has become reality.

The trail currently provides a continuous pathway that begins at a point located on the east side of 1900 West and North West side of 2100 South then lazily curves it way along the South side of Weber and Ogden Rivers crossing over the "Charles McFarland Bridge" (named in honour of the dedication and service of Charles McFarland both during and after his City Council Member tenure) and a variety of land owners property who have graciously allowed easements in order to culminate this undertaking until it finally reaches the city limits bordering Ogden City.

Council Member Jeni Canter has generated grant monies, a mountain of donated material, cash donations, hours of donated labour from area business and residents, (with a special thanks to Randy Moulding, Moulding and Son's Excavation for his time, talents and dollar donations) and utilized them, along with city funds, to bring to fruition a beautiful area for residents and non-residents alike to walk, run, ride bikes or just enjoy a leisurely stroll along the river in the peaceful surroundings. For Jeni, it has truly been a labour of love, a labour that everyone appreciates. Refer also to the "**River Pathway Brochure**" for additional information on how Jeni's leadership has made this project a success.

## **HISTORICAL MONUMENT AT CITY PARK**

### **KENNETH BALDWIN**



Under the direction and dedication of **Kenneth Baldwin**, during his tenure as a City Council Member, who spent endless hours gathering support and donations, a beautiful historical monument was placed at the City Park, located at 2950 West 3300 South, and dedicated to the city July 4, 2001. The monument carries the names of all who donated to its creation. The monument is in honour of the history of the area incorporated July 1, 1991 and became The City of West Haven. This history is written on the monument as follows:

Native Americans, such as Chief Little Soldier and his band of Ute's who lived in Weber County prior to the white settlers. In 1841, Miles Goodyear obtained a land grant from Mexico that included most of Weber County. Captain James Brown of the Mormon Battalion bought all of the 20 square miles of land from Goodyear. Brown later sold or gave the land to settlers.

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**WILSON COMMUNITY**

The community of Wilson was named after 4 Wilson brothers. Bradley, Lewis, Harlow and George Wilson. They started farming the area in 1854 and in 1860 they built permanent homes on their land. The Wilson brothers, built a bridge across the Weber River making access to Ogden much easier than fording the river. In 1879 Wilson Irrigation was formed, providing water to about 4000 acres. In 1882 an LDS Ward was formed with Brigham H. Bingham as bishop. They later built a chapel at a cost of \$3000.

In 1874 the Wilson School District was formed and a one room adobe school house was built. Later the Wilson school was built on this same site. It operated from 1907 to 1966 and those in the 1st to 9th grades attended.

In 1898, the Ogden Sugar Company built a factory in Wilson. This was a great financial benefit for the farmers, providing them with a cash crop and employment. It was the means bringing electric power and the telephone to Wilson.

Building I-15 freeway has brought many changes to the area in recent years.

**KANESVILLE COMMUNITY**

The first settlers in the section of Weber County that became known as Kanesville were Orin Hedlock, John Atkin, and Calvin C. Wilson, who located there in 1868. The area was first known as Northeast Hooper. In 1882 the colonists petitioned the Weber County Court for a school district. The settlers erected a schoolhouse in 1884 and the first teacher was Georgina Geertsen. This building served for all public functions including church meetings until 1892.

During the early period settlers had to go Ogden or Hooper for their mail. Later a post office was established known as the Florence Post Office. Peter B. Peterson was the postmaster and Joe Wintle mail carrier.

In 1886 the Kanesville ward was formed, with Peter B. Peterson as bishop. Apostle John Taylor suggested that the area be named Kanesville in honor of Colonel Thomas L. Kane a life long friend of the Latter Day Saints. The settlers earned their living through farming.. Water for farming was supplied by Wilson, Weber Davis and Hooper Irrigation companies.

**WEST HAVEN ESTABLISHED JULY 1991**

In 1990, residents of Kanesville and Wilson voted to incorporate the area into a city. They chose the name of West Haven. West Haven, Utah became incorporated as a municipal corporation on July 1, 1991 as a third class city. The city was formed to keep a rural community with orderly growth. The eastern end of the city is zoned commercial and many businesses have located there.

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**NOTE:**

Most histories begin at the beginning. This one begins in the current moment reflecting back to the beginning so current history can be added each year. We hope it has been informative.