

Deseret Connect: a new way for city news

**with
Mayor Mike
Winder**



Layoffs, new operating model at Deseret News

By Keith McCord

August 31st, 2010 @ 10:30pm



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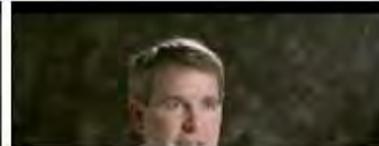
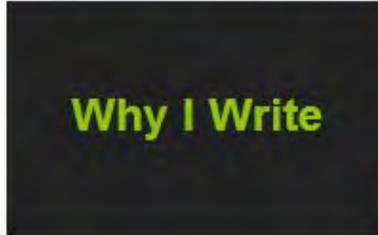
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FAQ

BLOG

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What is Deseret Connect?

It is where motivated, talented individuals become part of a growing online newsroom. We give our contributors the tools, training and opportunity to be published through trusted brands like Deseret News, KSL and others.

WVC mayor to write for Deseret Connect

By Mike Winder,
For the Deseret News

Published: Tuesday, May 17, 2011 9:06 a.m. MDT

2 comments

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Editor's note: Mike Winder is the Mayor of West Valley City, and an author of seven published books. He works with The Summit Group Communications and Winder Farms.

When I was elected mayor of Utah's second largest city in 2009, I promised to find ways to better connect with residents and to better tell West Valley City's story to the rest of Utah and beyond.

Since that time we have launched the city's WVC-TV channel, become more proactive on Facebook and Twitter, began a monthly Mayor's Video Report, initiated the popular "Milk with the Mayor" open-door meetings, and last year began a tradition of an annual State of the City address.



It is in this vein that I sign up today to write for Deseret Connect, a freelance contributor network utilized by Deseret News, KSL and their affiliate media partners.

Being a Deseret Connect contributor will be an opportunity to share more information about West Valley City or other topics I care passionately about with a large audience. National studies show that newspapers — online and in print — are still absolutely critical in helping to educate people about what their local government is doing.

According to a team of Michigan State University researchers in their report "[News Media Coverage of City Governments in 2009](#)," the majority of news about local government still comes from daily and weekly newspapers. Their data, compiled from research in 98 major metropolitan cities and 77 suburban communities, showed newspaper coverage was

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Target slated to build new store in West Valley City

By Mike Winder, For the Deseret News

Published: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 4:06 p.m. MDT

1 comment

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Editor's note: Mike Winder is the mayor of West Valley City.

WEST VALLEY CITY — Plans for Utah's newest Target store move forward Tuesday night when the West Valley City Council gave unanimous final plat approval to the Highbury Centre Subdivision. The 135,300 square-foot store will be built on a 39-acre parcel directly across the street from WinCo at 2550 South 5600 West.

Target, which in recent years opened 115 stores per year, is only opening 10 new stores nationwide in 2011.



"They said it was one of the best sites, and one of the cleanest sites they've seen in the country," said Terry Roylance of Suburban Land Reserve Inc., the property's owner.

"Target will be a welcome addition to the burgeoning 5600

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Salt Lake City: Work At Home Jobs (EXPOSED)

We investigated work at home jobs and what we found may shock you...



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AdCho

West Valley City honors top students

By Mike Winder, For the Deseret News

Published: Thursday, May 26, 2011 5:46 p.m. MDT

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Editor's note: Mike Winder is the mayor of West Valley City.

WEST VALLEY CITY — During Tuesday night's regular city council meeting, the brightest high school juniors in West Valley City were recognized in the fourth annual Mayor's Star of Excellence Award Ceremony.

The Mayor's Star of Excellence Award is given to the top 3% of high school students in the city each year. The award is determined by an index of cumulative grade point average and ACT test scores, a measurement also used in the college admissions process. School counselors submit the students' index numbers to City Hall and the top 43 are invited in to be recognized. Juniors are recognized because they can then leverage the city's recognition for future scholarship applications, college admissions, and other recognitions as they head into their senior year.



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Kevin Conde

West Valley City's top high school students are congratulated by Mayor Mike Winder and the city council for receiving the Mayor's Star of Excellence

Some student indexes were especially high, and the mayor invited the five highest ranking students in the city to stand first. They included Cyprus High's Malcolm Easton; Hunter High's Mason Hafen; and Granger High's Spencer Holmgren, Britta Johnson and Elizabeth Wynn. All five students have either a 4.0 or 3.99 Grade Point Average and ACT scores in the 30s.

Councilman Steve Buhler, whose son Thomas Buhler of Taylorsville High School was also being awarded with the Mayor's Star of Excellence, told students they were the "cream of the crop."

Then, after Buhler told the students to enjoy themselves this summer, he cued city technicians who played loudly the first verse of Alice Cooper's classic rock anthem from 1972, "Schools Out," to laughing students and their parents.

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New West Valley City attorney sworn in

By **Mike Winder**, For the Deseret News

Published: Sunday, May 29, 2011 10:41 p.m. MDT

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West Valley City – Deputy City Attorney J. Eric Bunderson has been named city attorney.

His appointment by City Manager Wayne Pyle was ratified by the West Valley City Council on May 24.

Bunderson received his bachelor's degree from Utah State University and his juris doctorate from the University of Utah. He first worked for the city as a prosecutor and recently moved to the Civil Division after being promoted to deputy city attorney. "I'm incredibly honored to have been given this opportunity," he said. "I have been mentored by incredible

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Mayor Winder ends citizen-journalist experiment

By **Mike Winder**, For the Deseret News

Published: Tuesday, June 7, 2011 1:52 p.m. MDT

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Editor's note: Mike Winder is the mayor of West Valley City, Utah.

Earlier last month, I announced I would begin to submit stories about West Valley City via Deseret Connect, a freelance contributor network utilized by Deseret News, KSL and their affiliate media partners.

It has been my commitment since I campaigned for mayor to explore innovative ways to get word out about the many great things going on in Utah's second largest city.



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Mike Winder

Mike Winder is the mayor of West Valley City, Utah.

The idea of a mayor doing news reporting in his own city is, of course, unconventional and raised some concerns but also some good questions. Some mistakenly asserted Deseret News had replaced their beat reporter with me. The reality is Jared Page, a Deseret News reporter, covers cities and fulfills the important watchdog role of society's fourth estate. I was just submitting additional content.

Some worried I, as an elected official and likely candidate for future office, was given a platform others were not. The reality is anyone was, and still is, welcome to submit content for Deseret Connect. No special offer was made to me – rather, I took the initiative.

Some lamented my bias as an elected official would corrupt any story I submitted. The reality is stories I submitted — about a Target being built in West Valley, about high school

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WVC exhibit portrays 99 names of God from Quran

By Aaron Crim, For the Deseret News

Published: Saturday, Aug. 27, 2011 4:00 p.m. MDT

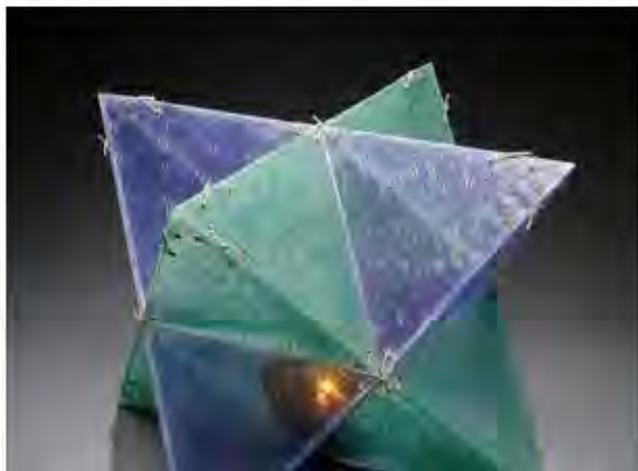
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WEST VALLEY CITY — The Utah Cultural Celebration Center will open an exhibit on Sept. 1 representing the 99 most beautiful names of God found throughout the Quran — sculpted in glass.

Local artist and BYU art instructor Andrew Kosorok was inspired to create the art when he set out to learn more about Islam following the events of 9/11.

"Religious traditions are intended to help the faithful to become better people and to lead them into a better world," Kosorok said. "Islam is no different. I am a Christian, not a Muslim, and I determined to learn about a faith so misrepresented as to no longer be recognizable to its faithful practitioners."



As Kosorok began to explore the faith, he became intrigued by the tradition of the 99 most beautiful names from the Quran, an index of God's infinite characteristics, simplified for the benefit of mortal minds.

"These are attributes of God that help the faithful navigate their place in the universe relative to God," Kosorok said. "They form a practical point from which to start the exploration of another faith."

The exhibit will include 15 of Kosorok's glass sculptures as well as drawings and blueprints of planned sculptures, a mosaic painting and a number of pieces provided by the community representing the Islam faith and the 99 most

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WVC residents celebrate 28th National Night Out Against Crime

By Aaron Crim, For the Deseret News

Published: Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2011 3:06 p.m. MDT

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WEST VALLEY CITY — Residents of West Valley City kicked off the city's National Night Out Against Crime celebration Monday night, marking the city's 28th year of participation.

The nationwide program, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is traditionally observed on the first Tuesday of August with neighborhoods across the country gathering to hold block parties.

West Valley City, however, expanded National Night Out to include not only the traditional Tuesday-night block parties, but the kick-off event and safety fairs throughout the month of August.



See all 3 photos | Click to enlarge

Craig Thomas, West Valley City Public Relations

"We introduced the kick-off event three years ago as a way to involve the entire city in National Night Out," said Assistant Director of Public Relations and Neighborhood Services Craig Thomas. "Not all neighborhoods have the resources to host block parties, and this event has become a city-wide block party for all residents."

Last year's event included an estimated 37 million people in more than 15,000 communities from all 50 states.

"Neighborhoods in West Valley City have made National Night Out a tradition," said West Valley City Mayor Mike Winder. "This is a tradition that helps to strengthen and build unity in our neighborhoods."



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The truth about crime in West Valley City

By Mike Winder

Published: Wednesday, July 6, 2011 7:44 a.m. MDT

15 comments

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WEST VALLEY CITY -- The shootings in West Valley City last month have elicited numerous comments on websites and comment boards exacerbating stereotypes about crime in my city. As mayor, I do not intend for these to go unanswered. I am extremely proud of my city, its residents and its police department, and I hope the following facts will help illustrate why.

We are a large city

People who wonder why a West Valley City crime story appears on the news more often than one about their own town forget how big we are. West Valley City, with a 2010 census count of 129,480, has as many residents as Saratoga Springs, Centerville, Highland, Farmington, Herriman, Brigham City and Holladay combined. We are Utah's second-largest city and cover more than 35 square miles.

On a per capita level, West Valley City's violent crime and property crime rates are lower than several Utah cities, townships and unincorporated areas. Nationally, our crime rates are average for a city of our size. Are there cities in Utah with lower crime rates than us? Of course. Is crime in our city as bad as some imagine it to be? Not by a long

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Mike Winder

Mike Winder is the Mayor of West Valley City, Utah, an author of seven published books, and works with The Summit Group Communications and Winder Farms.

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-  High school football: Rock Point, Ariz @ Monument Valley 10/21 [Write Article](#)
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The truth about crime in West Valley City	Deseret News Web	3,331
Mayor Winder ends citizen-journalist experiment	Deseret News Web	2,290
West Valley City honors crossing guards for their service	Deseret News Print,Deseret News Web	810
New West Valley City attorney sworn in	Deseret News Print,Deseret News Web	168
West Valley City honors top students	Deseret News Web	149
Target to build in WVC	Deseret News Print,Deseret News Web	1,521
WVC mayor to write for Deseret Connect	Deseret News Web	881



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Community Connection changing lives in South Salt Lake

Created By: [Charee Peck](#)

SOUTH SALT LAKE—Vanice Thompson smiles as she balances on a ladder and scrapes old paint off her front porch. The mother of three knows that a large group of volunteers from the K2 Church will be at her home to paint it the next day and do some other improvements, all part of South Salt Lake's Community Connection program.

Earlier this year, Mayor Cherie Wood launched the Community Connection project to focus resources on rehabilitating the area between 2700 South and I-80, and between Main Street and West Temple.

"The goal is to focus all the city programs, federal neighborhood revitalization funds, and volunteer programs on a select area of the city in order to obtain the maximum impact," said Wood. "We want to provide clean, safe, beautiful neighborhoods for our residents and businesses," she said, "and Community Connection has allowed us to really see the progress we are making."

Thompson, who has lived on Stratford Avenue in the Community Connection project area for fourteen years, feels that it is working. "Attitudes are changing as the homes along our street are cleaned up," she said. "These are good improvements, and the area is so much better than when we moved in."

The rehab projects include roofing, exterior paint, landscaping, fence repairs, and other exterior repairs as needed. The city is also focusing on park strip maintenance, lighting repairs,

Preview

Community Connection Program working in South Salt Lake

Launched earlier this year, South Salt Lake's Community Connection program is bringing together federal programs, charitable organizations, and community groups to focus on cleaning up a... [more](#)

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Story Resources

New TRAX lines benefits South Salt Lake

Created By: [Charee Peck](#)

SOUTH SALT LAKE CITY — It is a given that the Mid-Jordan and West Valley TRAX light rail lines opening August 7 will benefit those communities, but the impact has ripple effects down the line in South Salt Lake where all of these lines come together.

"We are so excited for these lines to open," said South Salt Lake Mayor Cherie Wood. "They will bring more people to our community and allow our residents to easily access points all over the valley."

South Salt Lake already benefits from three TRAX stations within the city limits: Central Pointe (2100 South), Millcreek (3300 South), and Meadowbrook (3900 South). This helps South Salt Lake residents have the highest transit ridership of any city in the Utah Transit Authority's system.

"If one were to pinpoint the center of Utah's 'Crossroads of the West' designation, that pin would be planted in South Salt Lake City," said UTA senior adviser Justin Jones.

He points to the gathering of UTA's Blue (Salt Lake City Intermodal Hub to Draper), Red (University of Utah to Daybreak in South Jordan) and Green (Salt Lake International Airport to West Valley City's Fairbourne Station) light rail lines all in South Salt Lake. Buses on State Street, the confluence of I-80, I-15, and SR 201 freeways, and a future streetcar line to Sugar House "all make South Salt Lake the center of Utah's crossroads," he said.

South Salt Lake's Urban Design Director Sharen Hauri points to the economic development advantages of this connectivity

Preview

Deseret News

New TRAX lines benefits South Salt Lake, too

It is a given that the Mid-Jordan and West Valley TRAX light rail lines opening August 7 will benefit those communities, but the impact has ripple affects down the line in South Salt Lake...

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Taylorsville City mulling UPD proposal

By Aimee Newton, For the Deseret News

Published: Friday, June 3, 2011 11:42 p.m. MDT

2 comments

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TAYLORSVILLE — After hearing a presentation by Salt Lake County Sheriff Jim Winder Wednesday on the benefits of Taylorsville City joining the Unified Police Department, members of the city council gave no clear cut timetable as to when they would deal with the issue, which left some residents, police officers and the mayor shaking their heads.

"I was disappointed the council did not indicate whether or not there would be further discussion," said mayor Russ Wall. "UPD would be a good thing for Taylorsville."

Following the meeting, however, council chair Jerry Rechtenbach said the council would have a discussion on UPD in the near future, but it would only take place sometime after this year's budget is approved. The deadline for the budget approval is June 21.

Some residents and Wall hoped the savings with UPD would give needed funds for other departments and stave off a

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Taylorsville celebrates 15 years

By Aimee Newton, For the Deseret News

Published: Saturday, July 23, 2011 10:51 p.m. MDT

2 comments

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TAYLORSVILLE — Substantial progress has been made in the 15 years since residents of Taylorsville decided to "control their own destiny" and incorporate as a city in 1995.

"Our first city hall was a rented space in a strip mall," said Janice Auger Rasmussen, one of the first council members and later a Taylorsville mayor. "We started saving our money the first day we became a city."

In 2002, city hall moved to a new facility that was paid for in cash. Other all-cash projects include a fire station, a recreation center and senior center. The city has also built Millrace Park, Vista Park, a bass fishing pond, dog park and skate park.

The city boasts innovative traffic-flow options. Four continuous-flow intersections are operational, and a reversible-lanes project will soon open on 5400 South. "Our city sits in the center of the valley," Mayor Russ Wall said. "Traffic has become an issue."

Though the economy has hurt city revenue, Wall said he is determined to increase funds through economic

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Taylorsville celebrates 15 years

By Aimee Newton, ksl.com Contributor

June 25th, 2011 @ 3:20pm

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