

# West Valley City Neighborhood Network

Fall 2013



The Fassio Park neighborhood had an amazing National Night Out event with more than 500 in attendance. The train rides were a great hit this year!

## WVC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is a nonprofit crime prevention organization which works in cooperation with thousands of crime watch groups and law enforcement agencies throughout the country. NATW members felt that a high-profile type of crime-prevention program was needed nationally - a program that would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations, but that would involve entire communities at one time. The first National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," was introduced by the Association early in 1984.

This year marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this national event. WVC residents have been participating in this night of crime prevention and community safety

since its beginning. For the past nine consecutive years, the city has received National recognition for its efforts to meet the National Night Out goals as well as for its outstanding community support and attendance at the various events.

More than 41 events were held in the city in 2013. This year's kick-off was a fun-filled evening held at the city's Utah Cultural Celebration Center that included a barbecue, live music and K9 demonstrations, as well as bounce houses, face painting and balloon twisting for the kids.

Throughout August, community block parties ranged from simple neighborhood meetings to large extravaganzas with live entertainment. Save the date and join us next year on Aug. 5, 2014!

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The West Valley City Neighborhood Services Office strives to preserve, improve, and revitalize neighborhoods by helping residents access City services. An emphasis is placed on partnerships between residents, business owners, elected officials, and City employees to build and preserve clean, safe neighborhoods that reflect the diversity of the City's population.



## MEET OUR OFFICE

Currently the West Valley City Public Relations & Neighborhood Services Office consists of four employees: Craig Thomas, Leslie Hudson, Cathie Alberico and Aaron Crim.

Aaron, Director of PR&NS, grew up in WVC, where he attended Valley Junior High and Granger High School. He has a Bachelors degree from Westminster College in Salt Lake City where he studied marketing and finance. He has been with the City for 10 years; prior to that he was with the Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification and founded the Utah Association for Government Communications. His main responsibilities are to oversee all internal and external communications from WVC in all formats and all neighborhood and community outreach programs.

Craig, Assistant Director of PR&NS, also grew up in WVC, where he attended Valley Junior High and Skyline High School. He has Bachelor degrees from Utah State University in Asian Studies and Liberal Arts & Sciences. He also has a Masters degree from USU in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning. His main responsibilities include organizing and providing support to our Neighborhood Watch groups, working closely with the city on community outreach and education programs such as a series of city services brochures, the Giving Tree,

WestFest, PetFest, VITA, the Clean & Beautiful Committee and representing the city at many community events in the city. Craig is a driving force behind WVC's nationally recognized and award winning National Night Out program, which is enjoyed by thousands of WVC residents every year. Craig has been with the city for 13 years.

Cathie, Executive Secretary, grew up in Colorado and graduated from Colorado State University. She has been with the city for 16 years. Referred to as the "Director of First Impressions," she is busy at the front desk providing assistance and answering questions from residents about city services. She is also a valued member of the Clean & Beautiful Committee.

Leslie is the newest member of the department; she is just completing her first year with Neighborhood Services. Like Aaron, she graduated from Westminster College in Salt Lake City, where she studied English and Music Education. Leslie was an elementary school teacher in Spokane, Washington and a program coordinator and reading tutor in Park City before joining the PR&NS staff. She assists Craig in promoting WVC at community events and offering support to citizens looking to start or strengthen their Neighborhood Watch programs.



## Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a program which enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with the Police to reduce crime in their community. The program takes various forms and has been around for many years.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most popular and successful of all efforts to prevent crime. Perhaps one reason for the success of the program is its simplicity. Although programs may vary the ways they are organized and the methods used to reduce the opportunity for crime, all are predicated on the need for residents to protect their neighborhood by observing and reporting suspicious or unusual activities.

[www.wvc-ut.gov/nw](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/nw)



# Events

[www.wvc-ut.gov/events](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/events)

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS** are held on the first four Tuesdays of each month (unless otherwise cancelled). Regular meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at West Valley City Hall. A 30 minute public comment period is at the beginning of each regular meeting.

## November

15

WVCPD Giving Tree  
Valley Fair Mall  
Benefitting WVC youth,  
donations accepted  
through December 15

20

NW 555  
Neighborhood Watch  
Chairperson Training  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
West Valley City Hall  
Suite 230

## December

16

Neighborhood Watch  
Chairperson and Block  
Captain (and families)  
Christmas Social  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Utah Cultural Celebration  
Center  
Followed by WorldStage!  
Winter Concert Series  
featuring Bonnie Harris

## January

15

NW 101  
Neighborhood Watch  
How to Get a Group  
Started  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
West Valley City Hall  
Suite 230

### Coming in February:

Power of Prevention  
Conference

NW 211  
What to Look For,  
Current Trends

## WELCOME POLICE CHIEF LEE RUSSO

After an extensive nationwide search, Lee Russo, a veteran law enforcement official from Kentucky, has been named the new chief of the West Valley City Police Department. Russo, who grew up in Delaware was drawn to the excitement of being a police officer. He earned a degree in criminal justice at the University of Delaware and worked for the university's Public Safety Department while

going through school. After moving to Maryland, he began a 20-year career with the Baltimore County Sheriff's Department, where he became a captain and precinct commander. When he left, the department had more than 2,600 officers and was one of the 25 largest in the country. He then became the CEO and Chief of Police in Covington, Kentucky, the largest municipal police department in northern Kentucky. He was the first chief hired from an outside agency in that police department's 125-year history. Russo says that he was aware of problems facing West Valley's police department when he applied for the job, and was "attracted to the challenges it represents". "I thrive on serving communities," he says, adding that he applied for the job to help the community. Russo stated that he



considers it "an honor and a privilege to be here" and looks forward to the life that he and his wife will be sharing with the community. The Russos are making a long term commitment to the city and have already begun building a home here in West Valley.





## WEBSITES TO REMEMBER

West Valley City  
[www.wvc-ut.gov](http://www.wvc-ut.gov)

Police Department  
[www.wvcpd.com](http://www.wvcpd.com)

Neighborhood Watch  
[www.wvc-ut.gov/nw](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/nw)

Basic Online Reporting  
[www.wvc-ut.gov/reportacrime](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/reportacrime)

Crime Statistics Online  
[www.wvc-ut.gov/crimemap](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/crimemap)

Code Violations Map  
[www.wvc-ut.gov/codemap](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/codemap)

City Facebook and Twitter Accounts  
[www.wvc-ut.gov/social](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/social)

Nextdoor  
[www.westvalleycity.nextdoor.com](http://www.westvalleycity.nextdoor.com)

WEST VALLEY CITY *Utah*

**www.wvc-ut.gov • (801) 966-3600**

West Valley City Hall • 3600 Constitution Boulevard • West Valley City, Utah 84119

Animal Services	(801) 965-5800
Building Inspections	(801) 963-3283
Business Licensing	(801) 963-3290
Code Enforcement	(801) 963-3289
Family Fitness Center	(801) 955-4000
Garbage Collection - Waste Management	(888) 496-8824
Graffiti Hotline	(801) 963-3467
Harman Senior Recreation Center	(801) 965-5822
Housing Authority	(801) 963-3320
Neighborhood Services	(801) 963-3285
Parks and Recreation	(801) 955-4000
Planning and Zoning	(801) 963-3312
Sanitation Services	(801) 955-3720
Storm Water and Sanitation Billing	(801) 963-3334
Street Repairs and Snow Removal	(801) 955-3720
Street Lighting and Signs	(801) 955-3720
Utah Cultural Celebration Center	(801) 965-5100
Victim Services	(801) 963-3223

Tip-A-Cop Hotline (801) 963-3459

POLICE AND FIRE EMERGENCY 9 1 1

Non-Emergency Dispatch (801) 840-4000

Unity • Pride • Progress

Neighborhood Network is Online. In order to more effectively disseminate information, Neighborhood Network is emailed for faster and broader distribution. A printed version can be obtained in the Public Relations & Neighborhood Services Office in City Hall. To add your email address to our email list, please contact our office at [neighborhoods@wvc-ut.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@wvc-ut.gov). You may also subscribe to the email list by visiting [www.wvc-ut.gov/notifyme](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/notifyme)

West Valley City  
 Public Relations & Neighborhood Services Office  
 3600 South Constitution Boulevard  
 West Valley City, UT 84119-3720  
[www.wvc-ut.gov/neighborhoods](http://www.wvc-ut.gov/neighborhoods)  
[neighborhoods@wvc-ut.gov](mailto:neighborhoods@wvc-ut.gov)

