

# Citizenship in the Community



*Boy Scouts of America*



*Merit Badge Packet*



Office of the Mayor  
4600 So. Weber River Drive  
Riverdale, Utah 84405  
Tel (801) 394-5541  
Fax (801) 399-5784

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Dear Scout,

Thank you for your interest in the Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

Being a citizen in the community is much more than just living in a town. A community works best when everyone pulls together to make their town a better place to live.

Riverdale City also strives hard to be a good citizen in the community. This means that Riverdale City provides clean water, well maintained streets, plenty of parks for recreation and we are especially proud of our trail system that winds next to the river.

I hope you enjoy learning about what it takes to make a community work and what it means to be a citizen in that community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bruce Burrows".

Bruce Burrows  
Riverdale City  
Mayor

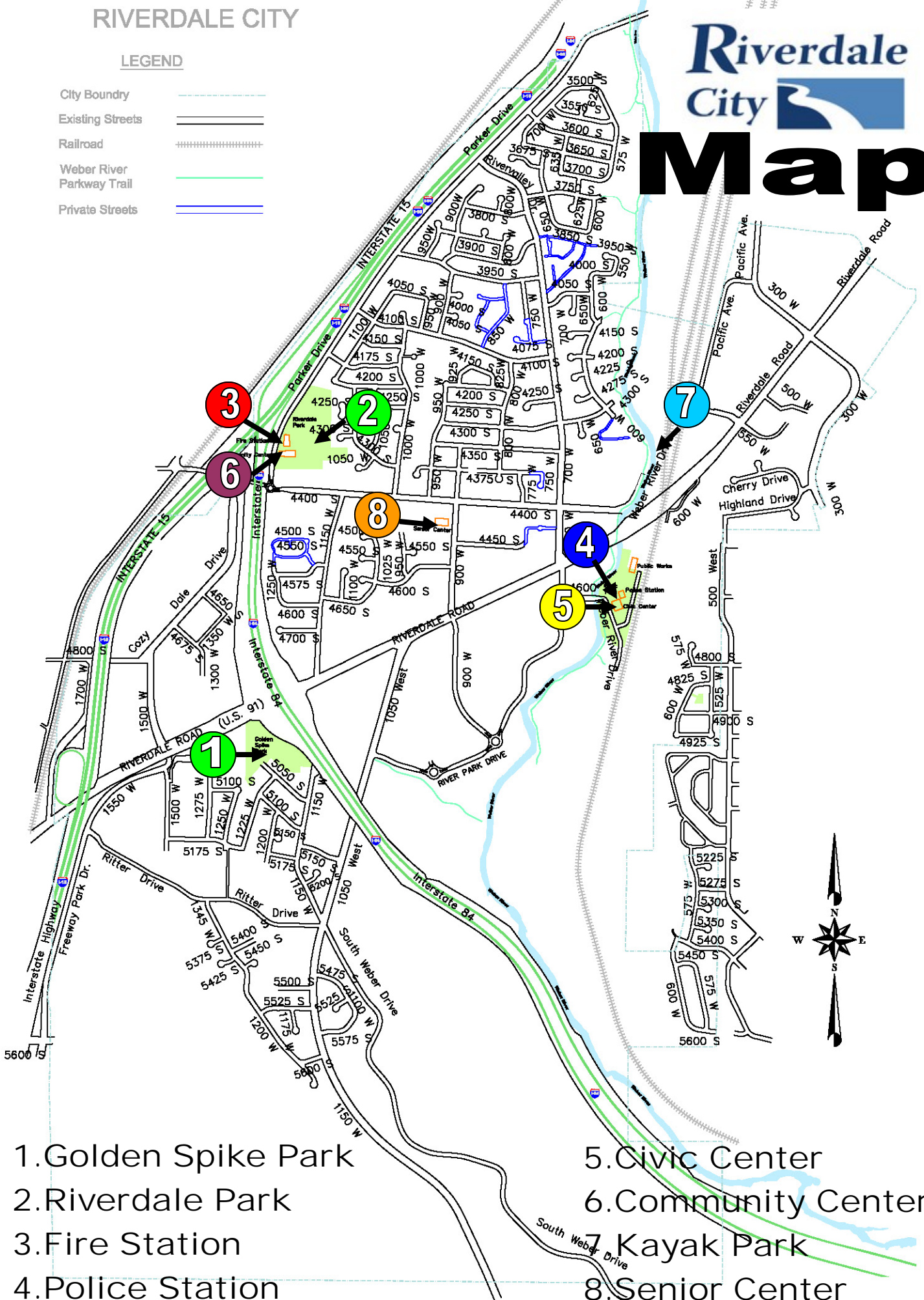
# RIVERDALE CITY

## LEGEND

City Boundary	-----
Existing Streets	=====
Railroad	+++++
Weber River Parkway Trail	=====
Private Streets	=====

Riverdale  
City

# Map



## **SERVICES PROVIDED BY RIVERDALE CITY**



### **POLICE**

The Riverdale Police Department is a full-service law enforcement unit with patrol, detectives, animal control, alcohol enforcement and educational services. These programs serve to protect the safety of Riverdale residents and business owners.

### **FIRE**

The Riverdale Fire Department provides full-time fire and ambulance service to residents, the business community, and visitors. Every year they inspect each commercial business in the City to ensure that the buildings meet current fire codes and respond to many calls for help. Some of their activities

include: Fire suppression, fire prevention, hazardous material response, rescue activities, public education, natural disaster response, etc.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

The Riverdale Public Works Department maintains the water and sewer system for the City. They mow and water the lawns in the parks and maintain the trail system. They also provide snow removal in the winter and maintain the City streets by paving them and using a street sweeper to keep them clean.



## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Community Services Department provides and directs recreational activities at the Community Center as well as overseeing the activities at the Riverdale Senior Center. This department also plans and executes Old Glory Days, which includes the parade down 4400 South and the activities at the Riverdale Park.



## **COURT/LEGAL**

The Riverdale Justice Court handles the misdemeanor cases that happen in Riverdale, such as traffic tickets, theft, etc. The City Attorney oversees the court and defends the City against lawsuits, as well as ensuring the Ordinances, or laws of the City, are legal and being followed.

## **BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

This department oversees the day to day financial operations of the City. This department includes the friendly staff who take and process water/sewer or court payments. The Business Administration department is responsible for keeping track of the finances of the City and preparing the budget that the Mayor and City Council approve each year.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Community Development Department issues building permits and



requires that new developments are built to existing codes. The building inspector checks to ensure that a new building is safe and meets current building standards before issuing a permit allowing the building to be occupied. This department also works closely with the Planning Commission and recommends

changes to the City's General Plan. The General Plan is a guideline of how the City could be built-out and makes recommendations of how to do it.

## **MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

Last, but not least, is the Mayor and City Councilmembers. These elected officials each serve a four-year term and have many duties. The Mayor and City Councilmembers play an important part in the community by making and amending ordinances, which are the laws of the City, during City Council meetings.

These Ordinances can change because Utah State law changed or because the needs of the city have changed. For example, Riverdale used to be mostly farm land along the river bottom with some houses. During



### **Current Riverdale Mayor and City Councilmembers**

Norm Searle, Dave Gibby, Don Hunt , Alan Arnold (*Back Row Left to Right*)  
Mayor Bruce Burrows, Shelly Jenkins, (*Front Row Left to Right*)

the last several years, however, the make-up of Riverdale has changed from a rural farming community to a bustling commercial/retail center which boosts the population from 8,400 residents to approximately 50,000 people every day. Because of this drastic change in how the City operates, many ordinances needed to be changed to accommodate the growth of the City.

The Mayor and Council also set the budget for the City. Each year, they meet with the different departments to go over their needs. For example, the City may need new water tanks in order for the residents to continue to have plenty of clean water. The Mayor and City Council must approve any amount of money that the City spends. They also approve things like adding new parks, extending the trail system, or hiring new police officers or other city workers.

## **RIVERDALE CITY MEETING SCHEDULE**

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS** are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m.

**RIVERDALE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY MEETINGS** are held the third Tuesday of each month, right after the City Council meetings.

**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS** are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m.

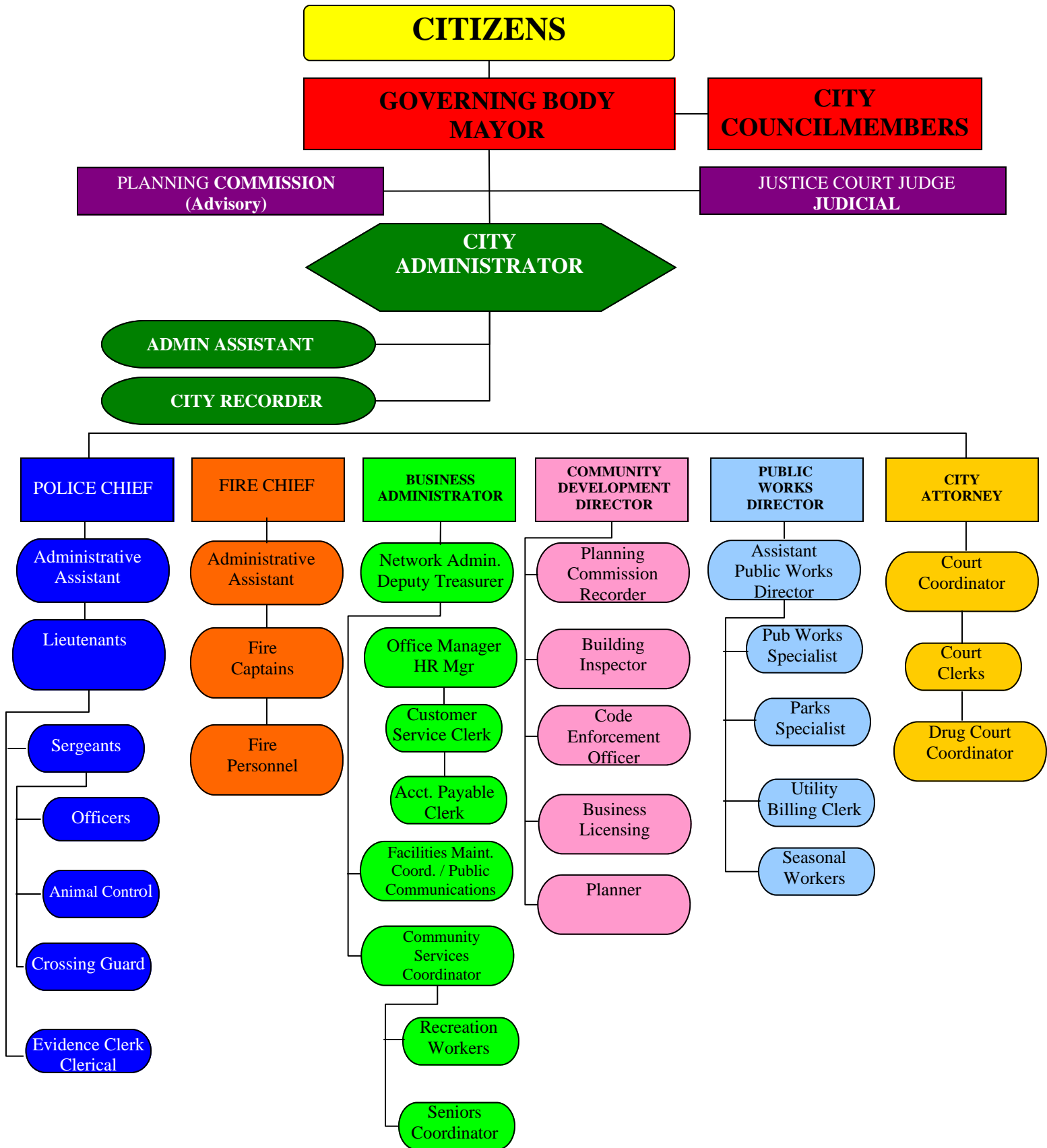
The above meetings are held at the Riverdale Civic Center, located at 4600 South Weber River Drive, unless otherwise noted.

The **RIVERDALE JUSTICE COURT** is held Mondays at 2:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.



For more information contact  
the Riverdale Civic Center at  
(801) 394-5541 or visit the  
City's web-site  
[www.riverdalecity.com](http://www.riverdalecity.com)

# Riverdale City Organization Chart



# HISTORY

## Riverdale - Past

**R**iverdale is situated in south central Weber County. It was once called "Stringtown" due to the early homes being strung along a single road and the Weber River. It was also known as "Jack Thompson's Settlement" and "Union" before the name of Riverdale was given to the town.

The first settlers in the community were James Graham, his sons George and Robert, and other members of the family. They farmed in the area as early as 1850. Elisha Lane located nearby, as did William Farley, and Rufus Allen. Other early settlers of Riverdale included Adam Fife, Alexander Patterson, Warren C. Child, Thomas Slater, Richard Woolsey, John Child, John C. Thompson, William Stimpson, Myron Barber Child, and George Ritter.

In 1853, Daniel Burch built a grist mill on the east side of the Weber River. Later he added a saw mill to rip logs and saw lumber for homes. The river bottoms were covered with cottonwood timber which supplied the lumber. In 1858, Apostle John Taylor of the L.D.S. Church, purchased the mill and made improvements, including the establishment of a carding machine. Richard Dye and Edward Stratton took charge of the grist mill and carding machine.

Other early industries included a blacksmith shop built in about 1860. Matches were manufactured by Hugh Findlay. He packaged them in pasteboard boxes of 200 and sold them for 25 cents a box. Milk was hauled in from the Morgan area and was processed at the Creamery. Settlers also enjoyed the convenience of a canning factory.

The pioneer settlers dug a canal taking water out of the Weber River near the eastern bend for the purpose of irrigating the bottom land. They raised hay, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, and sugar beets.

John Child was the first postmaster. Mail came once a week. Hugh Findlay was the first teacher in the log school house in 1858. The school house was located at about what is presently 1000 West 4400 South. In 1862, a larger log building was constructed, and then replaced by a rock school house in 1865. It served until 1900.

The population of Riverdale in 1878 was 211.

The Town of Riverdale was incorporated March 4, 1946 with Mondell Bennett serving as the first President of the Town Board. Alexander Carlsen and Frank Warner subsequently served as President also. Riverdale became a third class city on July 7, 1956. Edwin G. Anderson, the presiding President, became the first man to officially have the title of Mayor. He was also the first elected mayor. Other mayors who have served the citizens as Mayor include Gail Sanders, Keith N. Oram, L. Leon Poulsen, Ben A. Jones, and Howard Coleman. J. Bruce Burrows is the current Mayor of Riverdale.

## **Riverdale - Present**

Riverdale City presently boasts approximately 8,400 residents and about 500 home and commercial businesses. It encompasses sections of two Interstate highways and a major thoroughfare - Riverdale Road. Riverdale City is a focal point in Weber County due to its business district and makes an excellent first impression for all of Weber County.

The community of Riverdale is situated on the border of Hill Air Force Base (HAFB), which is one of the largest bases for Air Materiel Command. Riverdale enjoys a good relationship with HAFB and is playing an important role in helping to establish the Falcon Hill Aerospace Research Park in cooperation with the Military Installation Development Authority (MIDA). MIDA is working to assist in the commercial development of approximately 550 acres of Air Force Property on HAFB, which will bring industry and jobs to the area.

The business district in Riverdale enhances the economic well being of the area. Riverdale is working hard to attract businesses that will bring a diverse and unique shopping experience. This large business district also provides a tax base that helps City officials keep property tax rates at one of the lowest levels in Weber County.

The large business district, Interstates, and Riverdale Road provide another unique concern for the City - that of law enforcement. Riverdale has a relatively large police force for its population due to the special needs of the area. It is estimated that the day-time population of Riverdale is 50,000 versus the night-time population of 8,400 residents. Businesses and residents appreciate the professional attitude and protection that is provided by the Riverdale Police Department. Because of the highway system that cuts through Riverdale and the important transportation corridor that is provided by Riverdale Road, the Justice Court has an unusually high case load for this type of court. The Court employs a part time Justice Court Judge, and full-time clerks to handle the case flow. The Riverdale Justice Court also hosts the Riverdale Substance Abuse Court and has had many graduates from this successful program.

Riverdale residents are also protected by a fully staffed fire department with state of the art fire fighting equipment. In addition to fighting fires, the Riverdale Fire Department staffs two ambulances to meet the needs of the City and surrounding areas.

Riverdale City is continually striving to plan for the future needs of the City and with all the growth and development it has become increasingly critical to preserve open green space and recreational areas. Riverdale City has completed a section of the river parkway trail and is continuing to work to extend the trail and to preserve open spaces. The trails network is available for the enjoyment of all citizens to walk, bike, or skate and the open space is an area preserved for natural wildlife and habitat. Riverdale residents can also enjoy the outdoors at the city's parks or spend time indoors at the Community Center playing basketball or participating in other sports.

Each year, Riverdale celebrates Old Glory Days on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The festivities have traditionally included such events as a Sunrise Service and flag raising, fund-raising breakfast and lunch sponsored by the Riverdale Lions Club, a parade down 4400 South, and carnival and vendor booths at Riverdale Park. Old Glory Days ends with a fireworks show at Riverdale Park.

## **Riverdale - Future**

As we look to the future, Riverdale will strive to maintain the current level of city services that residents enjoy while keeping costs down. City officials are looking to add amenities such as curbside recycling, baseball fields, soccer fields, a splash pad, and Veteran's Memorial Amphitheater at the Riverdale Park.



# NOTES





Riverdale Civic Center  
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Riverdale, UT 84405  
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