



# "A LITTLE BIT OF COUNTRY"

## LINDON CITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2014

### Mayor

James A. Dain

### City Center Offices

100 North State St/Upper Level  
785-5043

### Community Development

100 North State St/Lower Level  
785-7687

### Public Works

946 West Center Street  
796-7954

### Justice Court

100 North State Street  
Upper Level  
785-1971

### Police

100 North State Street  
Lower Level  
Emergency - 911  
Non-emergency Dispatch  
229-7070  
Police Department Offices  
769-8600

### Fire

Emergency - 911  
Non-emergency Dispatch  
229-7070  
Other Fire Services  
229-7327

### Aquatics Center

60 West 60 North  
610-4160

### Community/Senior Center

25 North Main  
769-8637/769-8625

### City Website

[www.lindoncity.org](http://www.lindoncity.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lindoncity](https://www.facebook.com/lindoncity)

### Christmas Tree Pick-up

Trees must be placed curbside by Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> no later than 7 a.m. to ensure prompt pickup. Service is limited to one tree per household. Flocked trees cannot be picked up. Call 801-785-5935 for more info.

*The following article is reproduced with permission by Dustin Phelps, who was a student in a class that I taught at UVU. I felt his article contains an important message about our personal responsibility to improve the world around us. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Lindon and look forward to working with you to improve our great community.*

*Jeff Acerson, Mayor*

### The Power of Personal Responsibility

A wise professor once instructed his students to spend time picking up trash and then reflecting on what they learned from the experience. The professor intended that several lessons be learned about dealing with problems and finding solutions.

*First, be aware of your environment. Don't ignore or allow yourself to become accustomed to problems that surround you. Second, when you notice a problem, don't wait for someone else to do something about it. Don't point fingers. Just do something about it. Regardless of who is at fault and who ought to take responsibility for solving the problem - YOU be the one to take responsibility.*

Personal Responsibility is powerful, because it produces real results. Take the picking up trash example. If we were to forget about who is to blame for leaving the trash or who is 'responsible' for getting it cleaned up, and if we'd just pick up trash as we see it on our way through a building or down a sidewalk, then we wouldn't have a problem with trash. It's that simple. And even if only one person was willing to act that way, at least there would be less trash on the ground than there was before. That's the difference between someone who just complains and grumbles about problems and someone who does what he/she can to take responsibility for those problems. This is what personal responsibility is all about. It is the idea that it's not about what is fair; it's about what is right. It is the idea that no matter who we are, or where we are, we can make a difference simply by doing *something* to improve the world around us. It is the idea that we don't have to wait for someone else to help or for someone with more authority and influence to act.

Unfortunately, however, our culture has begun to breed a serious responsibility avoidance syndrome. As a society we have decided to never be personally responsible. When there is a problem, we don't think about finding solutions, we think about finding who is at fault. "We the People" are unfortunately the same way. Our country is facing serious dilemmas, and, of course, it's the President and the Congress and the citizens on the "other side of the aisle" who are (often) to blame. To be clear, people *do* need to be held accountable for their actions, but when the blame game leads to "therefore it's not my responsibility to do anything about it," that's when we have a problem. In a world of people who refuse to take responsibility for anything, we can't afford to have one more person join the choir of grumblers - unless he/she is also actively engaged in doing something to make things better.

If our generation is to avoid being the 'weak link,' then we must accept responsibility. It doesn't matter who caused the problems. It doesn't matter who ought to solve them. What matters is that there are problems, and each one of us is capable of at least chiseling away at those problems. We must learn to notice problems and then to become proactive. This means that it is incumbent upon us, the people, to do *something* ..... because we will ultimately have to live with the consequences of inaction, and if not us, then our children and grandchildren. You will decide what your contribution will be. Just be sure that it is the best you can give. The Founders were willing to sacrifice their lives and fortunes. What are you willing to sacrifice?