LOOKING FORWARD

With the new year comes a chance to start fresh and look forward to a promising future. We can expect great things in 2017, particularly if we are willing to work together to make them great. Below is a list of important 2017 events you can look forward to locally, nationally, globally, ...and galactically.

PHOTOBOMBING SATURN
On the Sep 15 the spacecraft Cassini-Huygens, after having studied Saturn for 13 years, will be disposed of by plunging into Saturn’s atmosphere.

AN ASTANA-SHING EXPOSITION
The World Expo will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on Jun 10 through Sep 10. The theme of the expo is “Future Energy” and aims to concentrate on the innovative and practical energy solutions and their impacts.

STEEL YOURSELF
The American Fork Steel Days Celebration is tentatively planned for Jul 6 through Jul 15. This week and a half celebration is expected to be bigger and better then ever. Stay up to day through the city’s website.

A SOLAR ECLIPSE OF THE HEART
On Aug 21 there will be a total solar eclipse; the first one in the 21st century. The eclipse will last 2 minutes and 40 seconds. The location of the greatest moment of the eclipse will be on the western edge of Christian County in Kentucky at 6:25 pm. Road Trip!

THE END OF ACT I
On Oct 26 the collection of records established by the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992 will be completely disclosed to the public.

NEW CITY ADMINISTRATOR
We are pleased to introduce David Bunker as the new City Administrator; a native of American Fork with over 20 years of experience. He will begin Jan 3 and has extensive experience in municipal government, engineering, and public works. Visit the City’s website for more detail.
**COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN POLICING PROGRAM**

Beginning January 11, 2017 at 7 p.m. the American Fork Police Department will be holding monthly meetings at Historic City Hall where citizens can meet the police department, learn important safety tips, and ask any questions they want. These meetings, called Community Partners in Policing, will be held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at Historic City Hall. They are designed to equip citizens with ways to be safe in all situations, and help citizens understand the role of the police department in the community.

In January’s meeting Sergeant Josh Christensen will discuss what citizens should do if there is an active shooter nearby. Following the training Sergeant Christensen will take questions on any topic.

If you are interested please fill out a form on the police departments website, or click here if viewing this online: [Neighborhood Watch Application](#). For questions on the Community Partners in Policing Program or the Neighborhood Watch Program, contact Sergeant Josh Christensen at 801-763-3020. Or email him at jchristensen@afcity.net.

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**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

The American Fork Police Department is looking for volunteers to participate in the neighborhood watch program. These volunteers will work closely with their neighborhood police officer and receive training on how to help keep their neighborhoods safe.

If you plan to attend please fill out a survey on the police department’s website, or by clicking here if viewing this online: [Community Partners in Policing Program](#). The survey is not required to attend, but it would help us know how many to expect.

**FITNESS CENTER FAIR**

The Fitness Center will be holding its annual Fitness Fair on Jan 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During that time there will be hourly prizes, local vendors, demonstrations, and more. Admission is free the entire day!

During the Fair the Fitness Center will be offering a steal of a deal for next year’s season passes! Annual passes will be on sale for 14% to 23% off. Their will be discounts on all pass types, including family passes which will be $100 off. Applies to residents and non-residents.

Seniors ages 60+ don’t need to wait for Jan 14 to purchase tickets. Rather, they can purchase their pass for the discounted prices anytime between now and Jan 14.

Offer does not include monthly payments or additional discount on sale prices. Contact Fitness Center for more information at www.afcity.org or by calling 801-763-3084.

The Senior Center will be closed through Jan 9, 2017.
ART GALLERY IN THE BALCONY

GALLERY BALCONY EXHIBITS
Beginning January 2017 the American Fork Library will be holding monthly art exhibits on the second floor balcony of the Library in an effort to foster the arts in our community. Most of the artists are connected in some way with American Fork. On Tuesday January 3, 6-7 p.m., a reception will be held to kick off this year’s first art exhibit.

JANUARY’S SHOWCASE
Local artist Olani Durrant will be showcased in January’s Gallery Balcony art exhibit at the American Fork Library. After a long stint as an engineer for various companies throughout the west, a BYU professor, a state legislator, a husband and father of seven, and twice a Bishop in the LDS Church, Olani Durrant was persuaded by his wife to reactivate his artistic interests. After returning to Utah, Durrant enrolled in a freshman painting class at age 65 where he discovered his favorite medium: oils.

On Tuesday January 3, 6-7 p.m., a reception will be held for Durrant as his exhibit opens on the second floor balcony of the library. The reception will kick-off a series of monthly exhibits where local artists can display their artwork for public view.

Durrant claims that this series, as most of his artwork, is inspired from nature. “I tend to paint from photographs,” said Durrant. “I may take a dozen or two photos while fussing over a flower or still life arrangement. Then, most often, my painting will end [up] being some combination of my photos.”

Despite Olani Durrant’s claims against being a formal ‘artist,’ his paintings hang in the Bank of American Fork, the historic American Fork City Hall, and soon, the American Fork Library.

Artists interested in showcasing their art at American Fork Library can pick up a brochure in the library or email lnemelka@afcity.net.

IMPROVING EMS SERVICE
In 2016 the American Fork Fire & Rescue Department responded to over 2,700 calls requiring EMS dispatch. That equates to about 7.5 EMS runs every day of the year! For a department that only has four active ambulances, that is a lot of wear and tear; on the vehicle and the crew.

While our EMS crews are up to the challenge, the vehicles can only handle so much. In January of 2017 our department will be surplusing two EMS vehicles, each with over 150,000 miles. Keep in mind, these aren’t, ‘drive your kids to the store’ miles. These are hard, life-or-death miles where every second counts. Additionally, while the usual rotation for an EMS vehicle is 10 years, the two vehicles being surplused are respectively 19 and 13 years old. This is possible because of the great care our Fire & Rescue Department gives their vehicles.

The two new EMS units will have the latest life saving devices we equip on all our vehicles, with the exception of improved technology for cardiac and ventilator patients. The two units will also be about ten inches longer (you’re welcome tall people).

Making sure we have up-to-date equipment helps us work towards constantly improving service and continually running at peak performance.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 3, 6-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Art Exhibit Reception</td>
<td>American Fork Library</td>
<td>Come see artwork from local Olani Durrant. Visit Library website for details.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Family Night</td>
<td>American Fork Library</td>
<td>Movie Night with <em>Pete’s Dragon</em>. Visit Library website for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 10, 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Cooking for 1 or 2</td>
<td>American Fork Library</td>
<td>Senior Citizen Activity. Visit Library website for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 11, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Community Partners in Policing</td>
<td>Historic City Hall</td>
<td>Come get training from police and ask questions. Contact Josh Christensen at <a href="mailto:jchristensen@afcity.net">jchristensen@afcity.net</a> for more detail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.</td>
<td>Fitness Center Fair</td>
<td>American Fork Fitness Center</td>
<td>Come get gifts, see demonstrations, and buy annual passes at a discount. Contact Fitness Center for more detail.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 14, 2:00-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Organizing Class</td>
<td>American Fork Library</td>
<td>Vicki Winterton of <em>Organizing Mind Over Matter</em> will share organizing tips. Visit Library website for more info.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 19, 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Full STEAM Ahead</td>
<td>American Fork Library</td>
<td>Create your own battery powered cars. Ages 8-11. Register online. Visit Library website for more information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 19, 7 p.m.</td>
<td>Cooking Class</td>
<td>American Fork Library</td>
<td>Making healthy snacks. Bring your favorite recipe to share.</td>
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<td>Fridays 3-6 p.m.</td>
<td>Teen Writers Club</td>
<td>American Fork Library</td>
<td>Create worlds, spin stories, share your ideas and conquer writer’s block.</td>
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**City Council** meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays for each month at 7:30 p.m. Details about these, and other city and community events are also listed on [www.afcity.org](http://www.afcity.org), Twitter and Facebook.