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Where do you get your information?

The American physicist and Episcopal priest William G. Pollard is quoted as having said, "Information is a source of learning. But unless it is organized, processed, and available to the right people in a format for decision making, it is a burden, not a benefit."

During my many years of public service I have observed how news outlets have worked hard to "scoop" news stories and seem to take great satisfaction in being the first to report a news story. Often the urgency to get the story out was at the expense of accuracy, and occasionally the inaccuracies were never corrected or updated. In recent years with the emergence of social media and "instant news," this practice seems to have spread beyond news outlets to include any organization or even individuals posting on social media.

Sharing information on social media is a good thing. It has become a way of getting information out to many of people in a short period of time. However, it is when misinformation is rapidly spread that potential problems may develop. Headlines and soundbites are used to get our attention, but don't always reflect the whole story. As consumers of information, it is our responsibility to scrutinize information to determine its accuracy, not just on social media, but all sources.

Where do you get your information about what is happening in Murray City? As a city, we have made efforts to utilize electronic media to let our residents know what is happening in the city, from recreation programs to zoning issues, and everything in between. Our city website (murray.utah.gov) is a key source for acquiring city information. The website not only contains information on what's happening, but it also has links to each city department page to allow the public to access department specific information and provides contact information to get your questions answered. The "E-Services" tab under the "Services" menu on the website is a great place to start. You can also report a concern from that same menu if you see something in the city that needs our attention. We appreciate feedback from the public on how to make improvements to our website.

Another important element of the website is the ability to watch city council meetings and planning commission meetings, either live or archived. Agendas and minutes for these meetings are also available, as well as agendas and minutes for the various boards and commissions in our city.



Social media has become a real benefit for getting information to you. The Murray City Facebook page and Twitter feed (@MurrayCityUtah) both have up-to-date information posted. We now feature a summary of the planning commission and city council agendas to make it easier to see if there are items that are of interest to you coming up for discussion or action. We also push current information out on Instagram (murraycityutah).

Several of our individual departments manage social media accounts as well. For example, during the recent windstorms and accompanying power outages, Murray City Power communicated where the outages were and their status. This is extremely useful for both the public and the power department to share information in real time. Want to know what's happening in parks and recreation or at the amphitheater? You can follow Murray City Parks and Recreation on social media as well. The police, fire, and public works departments also have useful social media accounts as well.

A monthly e-newsletter is sent to individuals who make their email addresses available to the city. If you are not currently receiving the monthly e-newsletter then you can sign up on the city's website under the "How Do I...?" link.

We want our residents to be informed! I invite and encourage all residents to share accurate information on your personal social media accounts. It is far better to post correct information than it is to be the first to post misinformation. Misinformation posted and reposted becomes a burden to all rather than a benefit.