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"The settlers who the actors are portraying are the real deal: they lived and died in our community, raised their families and left legacies for us to follow."

The Crossroads of Taylorsville Supports Local Food Pantry and You Can, Too!

By Jessica Thompson

n June 9 city officials, including Mayor Larry Johnson, attended a demolition event to celebrate the knocking down of the old Blockbuster building and the redevelopment of the Crossroads of Taylorsville. Many VIP guests gathered to watch the old building fall down in less than 15 minutes. The event consisted of music, confetti, cannons and refreshments.

When the event ended there was just one problem: what to do with all of the extra treats from the morning's celebrations? With the help of city officials, The Crossroads of Taylorsville donated the extra goodies to the nearest food pantry.

Bill Stone, principal of S Squared Development, said, "We were delighted to see the turnout and support at our event last week from the mayor, the city council members, and several other city leaders and VIPs. We are also extremely proud to support the people of Taylorsville with this small food donation."

The extra treats that were donated were mini croissants, broccoli quiche and bear claws. These extra treats are items that are an uncommon specialty to the people who are registered at the Taylorsville Food Pantry. Candy Caballero, Taylorsville Food Pantry manager, said, "I was ecstatic that the demolition's kickoff thought to bring the extra food to the Food Pantry instead of wasting it. The treats were gone within fifteen minutes of opening the next day to our regular recipients. When we are given these kind of rare treats it means a lot to the people who frequent the Food Pantry because they have no way of buying those kinds of extras on their own."

Donating goods to this facility is important not only to the people who need the food, but to our community. Caballero said, "Having free food at the pantry helps keep some people from stealing and committing crimes to get food, because when you are hungry you get so desperate." Donations go toward families who have lost their jobs and are in emergency situations. These families have no way of supporting their children and must qualify for the extra assistance. Caballero said, "These families come into the Food Pantry because they have nothing and the food is a godsend to them. It helps save them from starvation and sickness." Every Wednesday grocery stores



The Food Pantry is blessed to have many dedicated and hardworking volunteers who give many hours to help feed those in our city who are going hungry. Volunteers, from left to right: Sue Lane, Candy Caballero, Virginia Watts, Gary Caballero, Enid Hudson, Cassi Diaz, Alex Diaz and Tiffany Diaz. Photo by Nancy Wolf

give to the hungry by being a part of a program called Grocery Rescue. Local grocery stores drop off fresh food such as fruits, vegetables, dairy and deli items that are close to the sell-by date. This program helps adults and children eat healthy for free when they are struggling.

The Food Pantry brings so much hope to those who are struggling, not only with hunger, but also to the homeless. Currently they are giving out hygiene kits to those who are homeless. Sue Lane and her daughter, Tiffany Diaz, have spent hours in their living room putting together 114 homeless kits with items donated to the pantry. This is the second round of kits these volunteers have put together. The kits consist of soap, shampoo, fruit bars and water bottles. 50 of the kits will be delivered to Homeless Teen Resources, 50 to The Road Home and 14 will be kept at the pantry for the homeless who come to the pantry for food. "When we help a family in need, we feel very happy. We get looks of huge gratitude with many thank yous. That makes it all worth it," says Caballero. The volunteers at the pantry

FOOD PANTRY CONTINUED ON PAGE 00



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REVITALIZING OUR CITY

Taylorsville City Economic Development Report

Similar to the fabled Phoenix, Taylorsville is experiencing its rebirth.

Buildings are falling, dirt is moving, and new commercial and office buildings are emerging from the dust all over the city. Everyone wants to know what is happening and why and how? Here is a sampling of the activities:



New owners of the former Family Center on 5400 South and Redwood Road bought the property in September 2014 and rebranded it as The Crossroads of Taylorsville. Vacant and dilapidated buildings including Blockbuster Video, Circuit City and Castle of Chaos have been leveled. They are being replaced by a 14-screen Regal Cinema, new retail buildings and a nice offering of several new restaurants.

Plaza 5400 was purchased in March 2015 and has seen immediate activity with the demolition of the Furniture Warehouse building. Sprouting from the dirt and preparing to open this fall are stores such as Beans & Brews, Five Guys, Mattress Firm, Cubby's, other dining options and several soft goods retailers.

The 100-acre UDOT parcel on 6200 South and Bangerter has planning commission recommendation for a large continuous care retirement community and a major retailer on the property. Also, the property north of American Express on 2700 West has approvals and is under development for the first of three 100,000-square-foot office buildings.

Changes like this happen due to the dedicated efforts of elected officials and city employees. One of the most impactful events in retail recruiting is the annual ICSC Convention in Las Vegas



each year. The last two years, Mayor Larry Johnson and Economic Development Director Wayne Harper spent several intense days in meetings. They met with many companies, brokers, land owners, and retailers to ensure that many companies know about Taylorsville and the quality of sites available in the city. For example, in 2015, meetings were held with 34 retail tenants, 13 brokers, and seven property owners. A lot of thanks go to the City Council for their contributions and Economic Development Specialist Jean Ashby, who spent six weeks diligently contacting companies from all over the country setting up the slate of appointments. Additional unscheduled discussions took place with other potential companies.

Stay tuned as other improvements and redevelopment occur in other areas of the city. More announcements are on the horizon. Great things ARE happening in Taylorsville City.