HOLIDAY PASTRIES
A Few of the Flakiest

Hometown Heroes
Lost Art of Entertaining
Grandma’s Old Jewelry
features

17
Ballet West
Close to Home and in Your Living Room
By Jacob Wilhelmsen

20
Gluten-Free
Just Another Trend?
By Katie Smith

29
Fruitland
Idaho’s Big Apple
By Larry Hiller

42
The Lost Art of Entertaining
By Natalie Hollingshead

35
Tooele
Oasis in the Desert
By Amelia Nielsen-Stowell

48
Golden Opportunity
Grandma’s Old Jewelry
By Natalie Hollingshead
On the edge of Utah’s vast west desert lies Tooele, a city that encapsulates the live-work-and-play mantra. Sitting at the base of the Oquirrh Mountains, Tooele is an oasis surrounded by a vast desert playground filled with wild horses, endless back roads, historic ghost towns, and the natural wonders of the Great Salt Lake and Bonneville Salt Flats.

By Amelia Nielson-Stowell
Photos by Kevin Kiernan
The lush canyons and arid desert landscape have long attracted a diverse and loyal group of people to the community. Goshute Indians inhabited the area until Mormon pioneers settled and incorporated the area in 1853. Tooele thrived as a small agricultural community until 1930, when railroads and mining companies transformed it into an industrial hub. In the 1940s, the U.S. government built the Army’s largest western supply center, and the people of Tooele supported soldiers through four wars.

Today, people still flock to Tooele for its small-town feel. It’s a city where love of country, family and community are still valued.

Exploding Growth

People often move to Tooele for its affordable housing ($160,000 is the median home price) and million-dollar mountain views, but they quickly fall in love and never leave, says Tooele Mayor Patrick Dunlavy.

Tooele has grown 45 percent in the past decade and now boasts a population of 32,000. Still, there’s a country atmosphere in Tooele, and residents appreciate knowing they live in a safe community where everyone knows their neighbors.

“There’s a sign on my office wall — I put it up the first two weeks after I got elected — ‘Welcome to Tooele City, the greatest city in Utah,’” says Dunlavy, a born-and-raised Tooele boy. “We’ve started that theme and use it in everything we’ve done. I honestly feel the community has embraced that. The community feels a lot of pride about living here.”

The town tops various “best of” lists, including Best Places to Live (Sperling’s BestPlaces website), America’s Friendliest Town (Forbes) and Best for Job Growth (CNN Money) while maintaining a cost of living that’s 5 percent below the national average.

Major industries in the area are still military and mining — Tooele County’s biggest employers include the Department of Defense and private mining company Kennecott Utah Copper Corp.
Something for Everyone


“There are many hidden gems Tooele County has to offer,” says Jared Hamner, the executive director of the Tooele County Chamber of Commerce. “The majestic beauty of Tooele is really untapped.”

Area recreation is highlighted by breathtaking terrain. Campers love the lakeside views at North and South Willow campsites in the Stansbury Mountains. Hikers choose their distance on the Dark Trail in Settlement Canyon. Bikers follow the 40-mile historical Pony Express Trail from Five Mile Pass to Simpson Springs. ATV junkies (and even casual Sunday drivers) see views of the massive Kennecott mining pit from the Middle Canyon Overlook Road drive. And anglers test their skill in water at the Deseret Peak Wilderness Area.

Tooele’s Main Street is being redeveloped into a charming shopping destination. Visitors can stop in at shabby-chic candy store Sweet Lizzie’s, check out crafts and home décor at Home Touch, enjoy a shake at American Burger, and enjoy a dinner special at Thai House.

The world-class Miller Motorsports Park thrills racing newbies and speed junkies alike. At the park, you can race at heart-pumping speeds, watch professional races, attend racing school in cars or on motorcycles, drive go-karts, fly down a zip line, or tour the auto museum.

“If you can’t have fun here, you don’t have a pulse!” says John Gardner, marketing communications manager of the race park.

The main 511-acre park (with another 900 acres across the road with a desert racing course) is more diverse than any other track in the world. A road-racing track, off-road racing track, kart track, motocross track, desert racing course, rock-crawling course, the Ford Racing School, the Yamaha Champions Riding School and a car collection dedicated to Carroll Shelby have made it a must-see location for tourists and racing fanatics from around the world.
History is rich in Tooele. In 1849, a U.S. army captain spelled the area as “Tuilla” on his surveying maps — and the pronunciation has stuck. Tooele is the county seat, and Tooele County is the largest county in Utah and also one of the oldest. Many natives can trace their roots back to those early settlers.

Dunlavy, mayor for eight years, says Tooele’s future is bright with a population base poised to grow tremendously.

“I’ve been fortunate enough to live and grow up in this neat city, and I’ve watched it grow from very small to where we are today,” Dunlavy says. “I’m pretty proud to be here.”