



# Elk Ridge Bugle

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May 2009

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## Mayor's message

Being prepared is council that comes to us from many sources. Our city CERT team is in a constant and active process of practicing and learning the skills necessary to help in time of need. Twice a year they plan for and activate a city wide drill to sharpen the correlation of the neighborhoods, fire and EMS groups, CERT volunteers, citizens and law enforcement. It is important that all can work together and accomplish a large amount in the least amount or best use of time. An assessment of those drills take place immediately following that activity. Many things are learned and modified into the process of emergency care. These drills help to keep us prepared.

Each household is encouraged to prepare for the unexpected. The unexpected can be loss of employment, loss of health, loss of a family member or changes that create stress in relationships and unity. Having and storing food and goods that will keep you alive and healthy has been encouraged for decades. For many of us, we have heard this dialog all of our life. For that same amount of time, many have also done nothing or very little, to prepare for the unexpected.

Staying out of unnecessary debt and controlling habits, instead of habits controlling us, has always been the practical instruction. Yet it seems that in this day of disposable and instant everything, it has been easier to forget that instruction and to continue to just let things ride. Ask yourself, 'How many paychecks can I miss before I get into trouble?'

Many years ago, a story about the industrious ant and the lazy grasshopper was written to teach us about how important preparing for

seasonal changes was and how survival required planning and work. That lesson is still applicable to us today.

If we were to have the big earthquake that we have been warned is overdue, it would take out our water, sewer, roads and power. The bottom line is, we would be without these infrastructure items for quite some time. Some could be lost permanently.

Emergency preparation is essential to survival in the events that will come upon us whether they be acts of man or acts of God. The only thing that you can pull out of your hat is what you have put into it. There is no magic here. Just common sense that reminds us to do all that you can to expect the unexpected.

I would like to remind you of the approaching election season this year. Two Council positions and the Mayor position are on the ballot this year. If you are interested in serving the community you must file for this opportunity by the last day of June. You have about 60 days to contemplate this option to serve. It is a wonderful experience to be active in working for the community.

## **VANDALISM OF PLAY EQUIPMENT**

Over the past year, we have had both slides vandalized to the point of removing one of them permanently and the large slide is out of service until a part is shipped in for repair. The net on the tennis court was cut along the top from end to end completely destroying it. These repairs are adding up to be about \$2,500.00.

We have a zero tolerance for any individuals caught vandalizing city properties. This includes the water system, park, play equipment, signs, fences and buildings. Those caught will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. If a 'Do Not Enter' sign has mysteriously shown up at your home, it was taken from the school bus turn-around in Loafer Canyon. We would like it back.

This is the first year for the newly planted seeds and trees on the Fairway water tank to take hold. Please take note that the area has been posted "no trespassing", in order for this area to recover and look more like a native hillside instead of a construction site. Help us out by staying off of the hill.

Our desire is to see the play and city equipment worn out by proper use and not by abuse. Please be kind to the City equipment and have fun and enjoy what we have and let others enjoy it too.

## OUR NEW CITY FLAG

The flags that we post here in the city only last about a year. The weather and elements take their toll on the fabric. The flags are retrieved when the colors are faded and the wind has whipped the end into threads.

The new flag that is flying over our City Park has flown once before. When you look at this flag you need to know that its maiden posting was on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2009. For a brief time it flew over the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, United States Senator was asked by Mayor Dennis A. Dunn to fly two flags for the City of Elk Ridge. This new flag is one of those two.

We are planning to retire three of the old flags that have been taken out of service at a solemn and respectful service at the City Park and Pavilion this June. If you have ever desired to witness and experience the reverence and respect that accompanies the proper treatment of our flag when it is retired then this is an event to look forward to. The exact time and date will be in the next newsletter.

## DUMPSTER

**The spring dumpster will be at the City office beginning Tuesday May 12th until Tuesday May 19th**

## Planning Commission Happenings

As you know, new construction has plummeted and with that the planning commission hasn't been too busy with development approvals lately. One small subdivision on the south side of Gooseneck DR, just south of the LDS stake center was recently approved. Other than that, we have been working on code. The one big issue that has been on our plate is with animal uses. This started last summer with some residents wanting to legally raise chickens. Soon afterwards the question came up about limiting the amount of cats a homeowner could have. Miniature Horses and goats then were brought up.

The planning commission conducted a survey and held public hearings in November and December last year, which were well attended. It was very apparent that the issue is polarizing. It seems that half the community is for allowing more/different types of animals and half against it. The planning commission went back to work and studied how this issue is handled in other communities in the area.

The results of this work are now available on our website at [www.elkridgecity.org](http://www.elkridgecity.org) click on City Services and then Codes and Ordinances. There is a summary of the issues and work done as well as the new code. Please review both. Plan to attend the public hearing for the animal uses issue on **Thursday, May 14 at 7pm**. The code is what the commission is proposing as a compromise on the issue. If you don't want the code changed to allow for chickens or goats or other animals listed, come and be heard. If you do want them, come and be heard. The commission will take what they hear and formulate their final proposal to send to the city council, which will have the final say on the matter.



## FROM THE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER HOW I SEE IT

*By Spence Sheets, Elk Ridge City Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Director*

On April 25 Elk Ridge City Disaster Preparedness and Emergency team conducted a drill simulating an earthquake. The purpose of this drill was to 1) provide an opportunity for the CERT members to practice their skills in helping those injured during the earthquake; 2) enhance the skills of the neighborhood block captains to quantify the injuries and report to the staging areas their findings; and 3) to test out the new Emergency Operation Center (EOC) projection system and reconfiguration of the EOC.

The CERT personnel did not have as many "victim" volunteers as needed, so not all teams had the experience of helping those in need. Not having enough volunteers is a serious negative to this effort, as keeping their skills honed only comes by practice, and since these drills are only conducted every six months, it behooves all of us to participate to the maximum. Hopefully, next October better participation will be provided by the community.

The communication between block captains and neighborhoods went well. It was reported during the debriefing all block captains responded to the neighborhood chairs in a timely manner, and for the most part followed the communications protocol. There was one neighborhood which did not have a good HAM radio and so the reporting of the incidents in that neighborhood was deficient, but runners were on hand. The EOC communications folks are looking at buying new radios to remedy this situation. For the first time in two years, the Critical Care Unit (CCU) was functional and available to the staging areas as was the morgue for the first time. These functions will be a very important part of our emergency operations when an event occurs as the CERT people's skills are limited, whereas the CCU is manned with professionally trained individuals.

The new projection system in the EOC was tried out for the first time. There were some rough spots, but they are being resolved. A paper backup system is always in place in case of a power or equipment failure. For the most part, the new system performed well.

As most of you know who read this page, a pandemic has been discussed over the past few months. Methods of handling a pandemic were provided and resources made available to better understand the effects of these viruses, how to build decontamination booths, how to make your own home safer, how to care for family members who have this very contagious flu, etc. I hope each of you took advantage of these resources as we may need them in the near future. Here is one more reference:  
<http://www.utahpreppers.com/2009/04/..-preparedness/>

Remember,

***IT ISN'T IF, IT'S WHEN!***

## **Bond and Leeway Election** **(Public Meetings)**

Wednesday, April 22 - 7:00 p.m. ::  
Springville High School Auditorium  
Thursday, April 23 - 7:00 p.m. :: Spanish  
Fork High School Auditorium  
Wednesday, April 29 - 7:00 p.m. :: Salem  
Hills High School Auditorium  
Thursday, April 30 - 7:00 p.m. :: Payson Jr.  
High School Cafetorium  
Wednesday, May 13 - 6:00 p.m. :: Public  
Hearing 560 S. Main, Springville, Utah

*(For more information, go to  
[www.nebo.edu](http://www.nebo.edu))*