



Elk Ridge Bugle

November 2009

Mayor's Message

Many Eagle projects have helped to beautify the community. Projects have included the planting of trees in four areas of town, painting the fire hydrants, whip poles on the hydrants for winter location, arrows on the roads for quick location of fire hydrants, a phone directory, benches in the park and playground, picnic tables also in the park and playground, an exercise and stretching station in the park and a new sign at the entry of town. Look for another sign at the Loafer Canyon entry into town in the near future. These projects are a boost to the community and make a measurable difference in our safety and health and in the beautification of the City. Thanks to the boys who have taken these projects and given them to the community. Thanks to you parents who have encouraged your boys and supported them and helped them to find success in their efforts. Thanks to all of you volunteers who have donated time and money and the materials to the boys.

Please note that any postings of signs within 100 feet of the new Elk Ridge sign is not allowed. Signs and posters cannot be taped, tacked or wired to the new sign. In an effort to keep that area uncluttered we encourage you to use the bulletin board at the city center parking lot. This was also an Eagle project and has four Plexiglas enclosures to protect materials from the weather. If you have an item to post, please contact the City office to make arrangements to use the board. It is free. It would be nice if people could come to rely on this location for information.

I am often asked why I ran for Mayor four years ago and why I did not run again this time. The joke is that back then I suffered from temporary insanity and that now I know better. The truth is that back then I had prayerfully considered the opportunity for about a year and had a desire to be a part of the

public process and commit to the tasks that needed to be done. I have never been one to hold to the doctrine that politics should be a lifetime profession nor avoided. Complaining for the sake of being the squeaky wheel is easy to do and can be destructive whereas rolling up your sleeves to participate makes more of a positive difference than whining.

Holding public office is designed to be an opportunity for any who desire to serve. That is why there are terms and term limits. The unfortunate thing is that at the end of four years a person who has worked hard really gets to know and understand the job and can almost certainly do better than before. It's kind of like raising children, by the time you are done you know enough to do it again but realize that it's probably time to do something else. I feel much more qualified now but have a burning desire to return to my profession of being an artist.

Part of building and growing a community means doing things that some people don't always like or agree with. In fact, every public decision has supporters and opponents. No decision has ever been made that is publically unanimous. Emotions can and do rise to the surface and feelings are hurt and people choose to be offended. What makes the process work is when people get and stay involved. I have been able to work with every Mayor in Utah County and all have expressed the concern about citizens who have no knowledge of who the local leaders are or what the current issues and events are. Some level of knowledge and constructive involvement is what makes a community mature and have balance. Supporting the process and the laws will build a stronger community.

SNOW REMOVAL

With all of the snow that we will have dumped on us, it is time to remind you of the removal process that is put into action here. The city trucks begin by plowing the main roads in and out of town, then the school bus routes are plowed and finally the remaining through streets, cul-d-sacs and dead-ends. When the trucks get ahead of the storm, they return to all of the areas to widen and clean-up the roads in preparation for the next storm. Sometimes that clean-up does not happen until the next day or several days later.

One of the things that the drivers of our snow plows have noticed when doing the clean-up is that some home owners are pushing and blowing a considerable amount of snow back onto the cleaned roads. In some places it has actually reduced the width of the road to one-way travel and in every instance, has reversed the safety of the road by producing a slippery area that now becomes a challenge for drivers. If an accident happens as a consequence of your efforts to put

snow back on the roads, you will be liable for the damage that results. If you want to put snow on the roads, move it before the snow plows clean-up the roads, not after. State code 72-7-303 prohibits "willful or careless obstructions" on public roads. The penalty for this violation is a class B misdemeanor.

Our drivers work very hard to make the roads as safe as possible. This means working when the storms are here at any time of the day or night. Some storms eat up many man hours and thousands of dollars of salt and sand. Please help us by keeping the roads clean and safe.

WINTER PARKING
Remember, we are going into winter, snow-removal mode. There will be no street parking allowed from November 1st to March 1st.



Sheriff's Corner

Just a few things to touch on this month. Several citations have now been issued for the noncompliance of Helmets while riding ATV's in Elk Ridge.

I have spoken with Juvenile Court about their support in the enforcement of the law and then said the fine will be about \$50.00 per incident. Parents, when your child goes to Juvenile Court, you are also required to accompany them. That means lost time at work which is also further financial loss for your family. **Again, if your child is under the age of 16, he or she is required to wear a helmet while being in visual contact with you riding on a public roadway. If your child is under the age of 18 he or she is required to have a helmet on.**

If you are one of the many who walk or jog on the side of the roadways, please be aware of vehicles. Remember you need to yield to the vehicles. Pedestrians do not always have the right of way. There are laws when and where they do, and Elk Ridge does not have many options. Also when it is dark try to have a light to help assist vehicles seeing you. There are many products out there, and they are inexpensive. Light colored clothing is also a great idea.

Voice your proactive concerns directly to me at: jt195@yahoo.com.

Just include location of the concern. All others please call dispatch at 851-4100, and report the incident there. I will return your email as soon as possible and you will remain anonymous. Thank You!

THE CITY BILL

Our city bill that is sent out monthly is expected to be paid in full each month. To help all residents receiving a city bill understand what the code is that the office must follow, the following is the code as quoted. "An account is considered delinquent if it is not paid by five o'clock (5:00) P.M. on the last day of the same month that the bill is sent (or on the following day if the last day falls on Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday). Unless payment is made in full by the last day of that month, service will be discontinued". (Ord. 89-11-14-4, 11-14-1989; amd. 2003 code)

To continue the code," If the water service is thereafter discontinued for failure to make payment, then before the water service to the premises shall again be provided, all delinquent water charges must have been paid to the city treasurer or arrangements made for their payment in a manner satisfactory to the city." (2003 code) "The city council is hereby constituted a board of equalization of water rates to hear complaints and make corrections of any assessments deemed to be illegal, unequal or unjust." (Ord. 80-5, 5-8-1980)

SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Winter is quickly coming upon us and some changes have happened this past year. We have need for two new drivers for the snow plows. A total of six drivers are required to safely and efficiently do the job. Drivers can be called out to clear the roads any time of the day or night. Shifts can be up to eight hours or more depending on the severity of the storms. You must have a valid Utah CDL license to operate the trucks. The city is willing to pay for your license if you desire to commit to being a driver. Contact our Works Director, Kent Haskell or Mayor Dunn at the city office, 423-2300, if you are interested in making some extra money this winter. The job pays \$12.00 dollars an hour.



**FROM THE
EMERGENCY
OPERATIONS
CENTER
HOW I SEE IT**

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

The fall emergency drill for the city was held on the 24th of October with many different aspects of an emergency exercised. A 7.8 earthquake was simulated, with the three bridges down which prohibited any external rescue aid from entering the city. The CERT teams were activated to service in each of the six areas and performed as trained. Thanks to Edward Whitlock, the new CERT director, for putting this exercise together.

The CCU was functional with numerous victims being treated. Judy Brown accepted the position as Critical Care Director replacing Scott Pedersen who has moved from the area; Judy did a fantastic job in a very short period of time.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) suffered simulated damage as a result of the earthquake and personnel were evacuated to the



portable EOC (PEOC), a 12x22 tent which was erected during the drill, complete with emergency generator supplying power for the lights, computers and the projection system. Neil Dykstra joined our team as the head of Logistics and did a great job in providing and setting up the PEOC.

This drill also simulated a very long exercise, and at the simulated twelve hour point a shift change occurred where the backups took charge providing them experience for an actual emergency. Joining the team for the first time as the deputy Incident Commander (IC) was Ken Lutes, mayor elect of Elk Ridge City, and my deputy, Mike Brockbank.

After the drill ended at 11:00, a debriefing was held in the Alpine building to assess the adequacy of the exercise; positive comments came from all with some recommendations for improving the performance of the team. Overall assessment: the drill was meaningful as we found some holes; action items were assigned to fix the problems.

Thanks to all who participated especially the community in general who displayed the colored paper in their windows.

On May 1, 2010, we'll do it again!

Remember:

IT ISN'T IF, IT IS WHEN!

**Elk Ridge Bugle Fire Department
Message NOV 09**

Thank You!!

I would like to take a moment and thank everyone for the support of the Emergency Services. Our fund raiser breakfast this year was yet another success. We also started an Easter Egg Hunt this year that was also supported well, even during the rain. We will be doing these again this coming year and hope to get bigger and better.

I also want to thank everyone for the safe and relatively quiet summer fire season. There were no fireworks related incidents this year, no illegal burns and no accidental fires in Elk Ridge. It is always a relief for the Fire Department to get through the fire season without a major incident.

We tried something new this year with fire prevention week and those that attended had a great time. The Saturday morning event was well attended, the information relevant, and the kids liked all the treats. Those that wanted to attend, we hope you will come down next year and in the meantime look forward to EMS week coming up in May 2010. Now You Know!

We have had some questions come up about why our EMT's are staging away from an incident until the Sherriff can arrive, instead of immediately going to the aid of the individual. Some calls have potential to be unsecure or even a crime scene. When we get those kinds of calls, our protocol forces us to keep clear of the incident until we are cleared by law enforcement to come in. This makes sure that no evidence is tampered with and the scene is safe to enter.

There have also been comments about Emergency Personnel standing around outside a residence instead of going in. At times we have more people than is necessary responding to a scene and not everyone is needed inside. Too many people inside with a patient can make it harder to do a job and harder for the patient and family to deal with. Out of courtesy to the family and patient, we only send in the personnel needed and everyone else stays out until assigned to other tasks.

We have also had neighbors and friends come to an incident and want to go in and see if they can help or check up on their friend. State and Federal Privacy policies restrict responding departments and personnel to allow bystanders into a scene or give out information about what is going on. We will be as polite as possible, but will not tell anyone details about a scene or allow access to non-emergency personnel. Please don't push it, you may check back later after the emergency personnel have gone.

Safety

Before winter starts, it would be a good time to check the exhaust vents for your dryer. Lint buildup in the dryer vent is a fire hazard and greatly reduces the capability of the dryer. Just remove the plastic flapper from the outside vent cover and put your shop-vac hose down the tube to get the lint build up in the vent. You will be glad you did!

With Thanksgiving right around the corner many people will be trying the deep fried turkey this year. Please follow all cooking instructions on your cooker with extra consideration not to overfill the oil. People have been severely burned and started house fires with over flowed oil.
EMS Volunteers Needed

We have a critical shortage of EMS volunteers in Elk Ridge and if you have been going back and forth about whether to come down and put in an application, please make this the time you do. We have paid training which can lead to a new career, opportunities for continuing medical training and the satisfaction of being able to help your neighbors and friends in a time of need. When "911" is called the time for response is greatly lengthened when there are no people to answer the call. We have been fortunate to be able to provide this service to the community but we also rely on the people in the community to be able to keep providing this service. If you have a desire to serve, would like a new career opportunity or just want to be involved, come fill out an application to join our EMS crew today!!!

CENSUS 2010

Every ten years, as a Nation and the territories under United States authority, it is mandated by the Constitution to count every person. This is known as a Census.

It has been the process since 1790 that every ten years we undertake this Census count. Needless to say, it is a bigger task each time than it was the time before.

What does the U.S. Census Bureau do with this information and why count people at all? The data collected helps the Nations leaders to make vital decisions on our behalf. Decisions like reapportionment and redistricting and how to fairly distribute more than \$300 billion in federal funds to tribal, state, and local governments each year. Programs like Head Start, WIC, road construction and rehabilitation, public transportation, programs for the elderly, scientific research, planning for school projects, business environments and growth, are all affected as a result of having this census information.

It is important to get the correct information for fair representation. The results for Utah may give us another seat in the House of Representatives. Population has a direct relationship with that number whereas the U.S. Senate is composed of only two Senators from each state.

New Nuisance Code

By Shawn Eliot

The city council approved an updated nuisance code to handle things from junk cars to weeds. You can view the code at www.elkridgecity.org/codes. The new code is better defined in explaining what is a nuisance violation and clearly outlines the abatement process. A \$50 a day fine will also help in better enforcement. If you see a nuisance problem, call the city. This new code will greatly aid the city in better management of these problems.

Main Code Violations

Dogs out of yards, weeds, non-landscaped yards, junked or unlicensed cars, trailers-RVs-Boats parked in front yards or the street seem to be the main culprits in the city.

1. Dogs must be kept on your property or on a leash.
2. Weeds on vacant lots or in backyards must be kept less than 4 inches tall within 30 feet of a structure or street.
3. Front yards must be landscaped within 2 years of building a new home or October 2010 for all other homes.
4. Vehicles that have flat tires, in general disrepair, or unlicensed are not allowed within sight of a road.
5. Trailers, RVs, Boats, ATVs, etc. are to be parked to the side or back of a home (corner lots can have one of these types of vehicles in the front if there isn't room on the side of the home).

What Do I Do If I Have Been Noticed That I Have A Nuisance Problem?

There are 4 ways to abate a nuisance:

1. **Correct the Problem Within 2 Weeks of Finding of Nuisance**
2. **Voluntary Correction Agreement**
If you need more time you can enter into a contract between the city and the responsible person in which the person agrees to abate the nuisance within an agreed upon time and according to specific conditions. It stops any fines.
3. **Administration Citation**
If voluntary correction does not work, or the responsible person cannot be found, the city may issue you an Administrative Citation to the responsible person or owner of record.

This citation comes with a **\$50 per day fine** and a completion date that the nuisance must be abated by. If a nuisance is corrected by the completion date, any fines accrued shall be canceled.

4 Abatement by the City

The city may abate a nuisance when the terms of a Voluntary Correction Agreement or the requirements of an Administrative Citation have not been met. Whenever a nuisance is occurring which constitutes an immediate and emergent threat to the public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment, the city may summarily and without prior notice abate the condition. Abatement by the city can include the city removing the nuisance and billing the responsible person or owner on record the abatement costs.

Can The City Work With Me?

The city wants to do whatever we can to work with you to rectify the problem. Please understand that our biggest complaint from citizens, **your neighbors**, is nuisance issues. We will do everything we can to work you on a voluntary basis and a reasonable timeline to help you correct a nuisance problem.

Elk Ridge City Nuisance Code

These portions of the code relate to the purpose and the general definitions of the nuisance code. The complete nuisance code can be found at the city office or at www.elkridgecity.org/codes.

City Code 4-2-1-10 What Does This Section Do:

“The purpose of this ordinance is to provide a means for the city and individuals to identify nuisances within the city and to provide a means for correcting or abating the nuisances. The city needs the ability to abate nuisances in order to protect the health and safety of the public, to foster neighborhood stability, to preserve the appearance, character, and beauty of neighborhoods, to encourage community pride, to preserve the value of property, and to protect the general welfare of the city and its citizens, businesses and visitors.

This ordinance provides for progressive enforcement measures to abate nuisances; the most aggressive forms of enforcement are generally reserved for the most recalcitrant violators of the ordinance.”

City Code 4-2-1-20 Nuisance Defined: “This section defines nuisance by providing 4 general definitions of what constitutes a nuisance and then providing specific examples in 4-2-1-30 of situations, conduct or activities that constitute nuisances. The purpose of the general definitions is to allow the city to classify an offending situation, conduct, or activity as a nuisance, even though the

situation, conduct, or activity may not be listed as a nuisance in the specific examples. The first three general definitions are taken directly from Utah state law. The purpose of listing the specific examples is to identify some of the specific situations, conduct and activities that the city intends to abate as nuisances. Any activity that meets any one or more of the 4 definitions set forth below shall constitute a nuisance if it occurs within the city of Elk Ridge:

Anything which is injurious to health, indecent, offensive to the senses, or an obstruction to the free use of property, so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property.

Any item, thing, manner, or condition whatsoever that it is dangerous to human life or health or renders soil, air, water, or food impure or unwholesome.

Unlawfully doing any act or omitting to perform any duty, which act or omission annoys, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health, or safety of three or more persons; or offends public decency; or unlawfully interferes with, obstructs, or tends to obstruct; or renders dangerous for passage, any lake, stream, canal, or basin, or any public park, square, street, or highway; or in any way renders three or more persons insecure in life or the use of property. An act which affects three or more persons in any of the ways specified in this subsection is still a nuisance regardless of the extent to which the annoyance or damage inflicted on individuals is unequal.

A condition which; wrongfully annoys, injures, or endangers the comfort, repose, health or safety of others; or unlawfully interferes with, obstructs or tends to obstruct, or render dangerous for passage, any public park, square, street or highway, or any other public place; or in any way renders other persons insecure in life, or in the use of property, and which affects the rights of an entire community or neighborhood, although the extent of the damage may be unequal.”

City Code 4-2-1-30 Specific Definitions: These violations below are specifically defined in the code. Note these are general titles, Weapons refers to illegal weapons, Garbage Cans refer to leaving cans in the street all week, etc.