



# Elk Ridge Bugle

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January 2010

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**Happy New Year!**  
from  
**Mayor Lutes and Council Members**

As we begin our new administration in 2010, please accept our thanks for your confidence in electing us to office in Elk Ridge City. We appreciate very much your support and will do our very best to be worthy of it.

Thanks to all of the outgoing officeholders. Our sincere gratitude to Mayor Dunn, Councilmen Brown and Abbott, and the staff for their efforts in helping us make a smooth transition. Please join with us in extending to them the recognition they deserve for their years of work on behalf of the citizens of Elk Ridge. They have stepped up to the challenge and have done their best for all of us. Please let them know how you feel whenever you see them; they deserve a pat on the back.

This year of 2010 should prove to be an exciting one. Mayor Dunn has pointed out the growth he expects in our area. The economy has caused many changes. With it all, we have many challenges in order to prepare for the days ahead; we will have to make many difficult decisions. We pray for wisdom to know how to represent the citizens well and provide constitutional government. While we will be very busy, we want you to know that we want to hear from you—positive and negative. We need to understand what the residents desire and what would be good for Elk Ridge. Let your voices be heard; we are listening.

There is work already under way that will improve communications between the citizens and the public servants. Ideas are being explored to put the city in a stronger financial condition. Security is being addressed. Roads are a constant challenge. Water is always an issue. Much more is being considered and will be shared when appropriate—many thoughts for improvements coming from citizens. This is a team effort. Please be part of the team and make constructive suggestions for the protection, welfare, and liberty of our citizens.

Please keep in mind that government cannot do more than the people have given it power to do. Citizens need to govern themselves as much as possible. Please talk to your neighbors and resolve your own issues where possible. We need to get along with each other and remember that what each individual does may affect the whole community. Let us refresh what we were taught by our parents and what we learned in kindergarten—be nice, follow the rules, and say please and thank you.

Elk Ridge is a beautiful place; the majority of citizens want to keep it friendly, peaceful, neat, and attractive—a place our children will be very pleased to inherit. We should all take pride in our homes and our city. If government is forced to get involved and has to make and enforce a law, the results will surely be less desirable than just being considerate of others in the first place. We are a community; we need to live together, work together, and play together—peaceably.

We look forward to serving you in the years ahead and hope to provide the leadership necessary to make Elk Ridge City what the majority of citizens want it to be.

Sincerely,  
Ken Lutes  
Mayor

## **WINTER PARKING**

***Remember***, we are going into winter, snow removal mode. There will be no street parking allowed from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **CHRISTMAS TREE DUMPSTER**

The City dumpster for **Christmas trees only**, is scheduled for Jan 12<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **PLANNING** **COMMISSIONERS NEEDED**

There will be two Planning Commission positions available at the beginning of 2010. If you are interested in serving the community as a volunteer commission member, please contact the city office during regular office hours, to make an appointment with the Mayor. 801-423-2300.

## **JANUARY 2010**

These next few years will be full of growth and change. Our city will continue to change and develop as long as the need for dwellings exists. As long as we parents have children, more homes will be required. As long as families migrate to Utah and Elk Ridge, we will need homes, park space and schools. This process and these desires will not stop.

I attended a meeting in October and one of the topics was Regional Planning and future Development in Utah County. The Cedar Valley, West of Utah Lake, was a main feature of discussion. The highlights of future expectations (50 to 100 years) are as follows. Nearly 1.5 million people can occupy that area. New freeways and rail lines will need to be built as well as light rail for the movement of so many people. Water will need to be secured and sewer facilities built. New power and gas lines will have to be installed as well as an entirely independent (from the East side of Utah Valley) commercial and industrial structure put into place. New connector and arterial roads will have to be planned and built in order to safely move people around. An airport of considerable size will have to be planned and built in order to ration the demand on the Salt Lake International Airport.

Now if that type of growth is expected in the West part of the county, can you imagine the growth that will continue here in our existing communities?

The Birdseye and Indianola area located in the Southeast of the county has seen some new growth in the past six years and will see more as people push development to the outer edges of the county.

The cities in the North end of Utah Valley are seriously struggling with the results of insufficient planning that has resulted in congested and

inadequate transportation (road) facilities. The lesson to learn is that these characters of growth will move this direction. It is only a matter of time.

Water conservation practices will be required by future code in order to ration something that is taken for granted by most users. Smaller yards will be embraced because of the future demands for a resource that depends on the weather for supply. Poor water use habits will have to be tempered or we be forced into more efficient behavior.

It is a different world now than what we grew up in. That does not mean that it is bad, only different. You cannot hold the door shut on progression. It will burst open on you and trample over you like a herd of animals with only one direction to go, past you.

I will leave you with one thing to ponder for wherever your walkabout in life takes you. It is the following wisdom by Socrates (469 - 399 B.C.). He is credited for the following statement; "By far the greatest and most admirable form of wisdom is that needed to plan and beautify cities and communities." As far as the future goes, ready or not here it comes.

Mayor Dunn

## **RIGHTS**

In several public meetings held during the past four years, the statement "We have a right to do what we want with our property without the city getting into our business" is a false and dangerous doctrine.

All properties have rights and those rights have parameters to them. Those parameters are defined by the codes and ordinances that are written and attached to the property. A property owner has the option to exercise property rights. Those rights do not allow you to do "whatever you want to." You cannot raise animals without animal rights; you cannot grow plants that are considered illegal simply because you want to. You cannot abuse people or animals on your property and consider those actions to be right because "we can do what we want on our property."

It is every citizen's responsibility to know the laws that govern their actions. If you have been practicing things that are not allowed by the law it is because you have either been uninformed of the law or, you know the law and have chosen to do things regardless of the law.

There is an old adage that is worth repeating at this point. It goes like this, "You have a right to swing your fist and that right ends where my nose begins." At that point when the fist and the nose meet, it is considered an assault. You can and should be held accountable for that kind of action or activity. So it is with property rights. Should you overstep the boundaries as defined by the codes, you will be responsible for those actions.

We are doing our best here at the city to encourage people that are not aware of the rights and parameters associated with the properties that they are stewards over, to be aware of those boundaries. If you are not within those boundaries, it is not only your duty and responsibility to work to get within them, but it is the cities duty and responsibility to let you know and work with you so that you may find your balance with the law.

Thank you to the 80% of you who received a 'Finding of Nuisance' and have adjusted your habits and made this community look more presentable and beautiful. Thank you for taking the time and making effort to do what is right.

## **Planning Commission Work**

- by Shawn Eliot

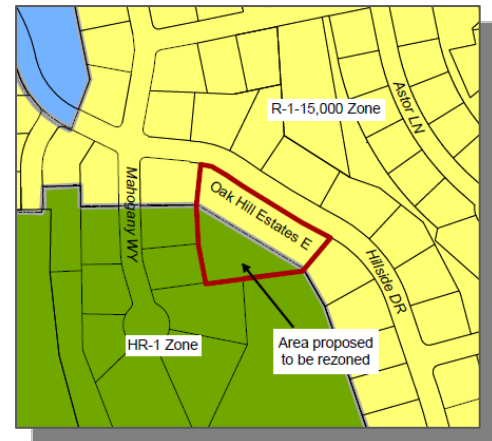
The planning commission will continue to work on the general plan through January. There is also a request for a zone change on the agenda. The commission finished work on a new Planned Unit Development code that took 6 months to complete. They held a public hearing on the issue in December with no comment received. The other issues they worked on last month regarding conditional use noticing and junk in yards also passed with no public comment received. All these items will now go to the city council for their review.

**General Plan:** With the holidays, the planning commission will review the draft general plan through January. The next newsletter will give a date for a community open house sometime in February. We plan on having an afternoon and evening set aside so you can come in and review the plan and give us input. This is an important document in that it shall be used to guide future development in our city and help in improving the city as a whole.

The draft plan is now available online on the city website at [www.elkridgecity.org](http://www.elkridgecity.org) Please take some time to review it. Please note that it is in draft form, there will be adjustments by the planning commission, by you, and finally by the city council.

## **Public Hearing Oak Hill Estates E Zone Change:**

Mr. Fred Gowers who owns lot 1 of Oak Hill Estates plat E located at approximately 110 South Hillside DR. is requesting that his 1.5 acre lot be rezoned.



Currently the lot resides

within two zoning districts. The northeastern portion of the lot is within the R-1-15,000 zone, the southwestern portion is located within the Hillside Residential 1 (HR-1) zone. Mr. Gowers is proposing to rezone the HR-1 portion to R-1-15,000. Though he is not proposing splitting his lot in this process, his future intention is to split the lot into 2 building lots. The HR-1 zoning would not allow this since the zone only allows 1 acre or larger lots. The R-1-15,000 zone allows third acre lots.

**A public hearing for the proposed rezone will be held on Thursday, 14 January 2010 at the Elk Ridge City Hall by the planning commission. The meeting will start at 7pm.**

If you have any comments, concerns, or questions, please ask the applicant, attend the public hearing, or write a letter addressed to: Dayna Hughes, Planning Commission Chair, 80 East Park DR, Elk Ridge, UT 84651.



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

*By Spence Sheets, Elk  
Ridge City Disaster*

*Preparedness and Emergency Management  
Director*

Winter is still upon us, and during the winter months the roads are slick with snow and many accidents are waiting to happen.

We live on 1600 west just above the Highline Canal. After a snowfall I watch the cars in the morning inching down the hill from my kitchen window. Most drivers are cautious and watch their speed; others are impatient and drive too fast for the slick condition.

Many of the fences along the road have been taken out over the years due to icy roads and excessive speed.

As residents return home in the afternoon after a snowfall, I watch two-wheel drive cars struggling to get up the hill. Many are driven by young people who have little experience driving in the snow; some end up off the road and stuck. So for this month's *Emergency Corner* I'm providing some hints I've learned over the years on how to drive in the snow.

- 1) Never use more power than necessary to move in the snow; the more power you apply to the drive wheels, the more tendency there is for the wheels to lose traction. It doesn't help to spin the wheels with the "pedal to the metal", this just makes the situation worse and may cause the car to swerve and possibly go off the road or even slide into traffic coming in the opposite direction.
- 2) When starting in the snow, use just enough power to move the vehicle forward; again don't spin the tires.
- 3) If you are stuck, don't spin the drive wheels. Rock the car gently forward then backward, going from drive to reverse to drive. You may have to dig the snow out of the path of the wheels. It's a good idea to carry a small foldable shovel.
- 4) When coming down the hill, use the brakes judiciously. Applying the brakes too hard will lock up the wheels and may cause the car to go into a spin. Tapping the brakes gently and frequently is better than applying them hard. Using a lower gear will also help in slowing down the vehicle. However, if you drop the transmission into a lower gear, you must be careful to not cause the drive wheels to lose traction as this has the same effect as applying too much braking; a spin may result.
- 5) If you are in a spin, always turn the steering wheel in the same direction the rear of the car is moving, i.e., if the rear of the car is coming around to your left (clockwise), turn the steering wheel to the left (counterclockwise).
- 6) Don't follow too close; this is one of the major causes of accidents, and if you rear-end someone, it will be your fault for following too close.
- 7) When the snow flies, it is better to leave a few minutes early for your destination rather than driving too fast for existing conditions.

I hope these hints will be helpful while driving in the inclement weather we experience in this area.

Also as part of this coming year, I encourage all of you to consider becoming a trained EMT and a HAM operator. The city needs both badly!

## **Elk Ridge Quilt Guild!**

We are interested in starting a quilt guild right here in Elk Ridge! Whether you have no idea how to thread a needle or you're an expert quilter (or anywhere in between), we'd love to have you! Please contact Tracie Magoffin (801-423-2712) or Lynn Rawlings (801-423-1832).