



Elk Ridge Bugle

December 2009

Mayor's Message

With a new Mayor and two new Council members taking the reins in January, it will be a busy and steep learning curve for them. The people here at the office and the professionals that we use are wonderful resources for these legislative members to tap into. It doesn't get much better than the people we have here at the office. Congratulations to those who are willing to serve.

The New Year will be a busy year as the economy recovers from one of the most difficult recessions in recent times. We have about 300 improved building lots scattered through the community, most are in the North end of town, and they will see some action this coming year. Don't be too surprised if you see 40 new homes built in Elk Ridge in 2010.

The three of us leaving the council are leaving these positions knowing that we have done our best during the last four years to correct ongoing problems, deal with the Great Recession, and prepare for the future.

Two surveys were taken to prepare for a new General Plan update and to gather information for economic and light commercial growth opportunities. Address changes, road name changes, an update to the sewer fee and garbage fee were all necessary to avoid future tribulations. The water system has been improved. We have doubled the storage from 1 million gallons to 2 million gallons. The North well and pump have been upgraded and booster pumps added that push water up hill to an additional storage tank. About four miles of new

road were added to the community. A site for a new park, works building and City Center has been purchased in preparation for future growth needs. A new snow plow was added to the fleet in order to keep up with our snow removal needs. We now have three trucks to battle Mother Nature's process of winter snowfall. We have hooked up to Payson's sewer facility and have the capacity for sewer for the build-out of Elk Ridge. Eventually a regional sewer facility will be located West of Springville and most of the South County cities will flow into it. That property is being purchased and Elk Ridge is one of the participating communities.

As your Mayor I have been involved in County and regional boards and committees to protect and plan for corridor preservation for roads that will move future populations with a minimum of congestion. Growth will come to the South County cities and we need to prepare for it. With the future coming towards us at changeable rates that reflect the economy, we must be ready for it. One day we will mimic the North end of the county as it presently looks. We will see new unnamed cities in this county pop-up that will contain a 100,000 people and more. It may take years but it will happen.

The thing I worry most about is the passive and dispassionate attitude that many people in this country have when it comes to voting. Our community of Elk Ridge has 1,364 registered voters and 473 (34.6%) voted in this last election. This means that in our city, as well as most cities in the country, the majority does not rule. A majority of those that vote are those that rule and that is equal to about 20% of the registered voters. If you didn't vote then don't complain. If you didn't vote then make a commitment to participate next time and quit taking that freedom for granted. Be active and make a difference.

WINTER PARKING

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

CHRISTMAS TREE DUMPSTER

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

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.

Sheriff's Corner



Another year is almost gone and changes are in the air. As many of you know, city elections were held in November.

At this time I would like to thank Mayor Dennis Dunn, Councilman Raymond Brown, and Councilman Nelson Abbot for their personal

sacrifice, and professionalism while serving the citizens of Elk Ridge.

The interesting thing about public service is, you really don't appreciate what it is until you have personally sacrificed, and directly been involved in it. Not only does it change your life, it changes your perspective of how you approach the tasks at hand. Although you may not agree with the issues, you have taken an oath to uphold the laws, rules, and integrity of the community and the responsibility is in your hands. Several times you try to ride the fence, and try to make everyone happy, but the position does not allow you to do that. You have a responsibility to make the right choice based on the information and responsibility you have. Don't think for a minute that there are not sleepless nights in the homes of your city officials trying to make the decisions that affect your community. I have spoken with Mayor Dunn several times about a variety of issues, and again, you may agree or disagree, but he has always had the best interest for Elk Ridge City in mind.

I want to publicly thank the Mayor and the council for their support during the past two years I have been the sheriff in your community. Although there are changes coming, it's always good to see different perspectives, and ideas. To all of the citizens in Elk Ridge, on behalf of the Utah County Sheriff's Department I would like to wish you Happy Holidays.

As you are already aware, this is the time of year that everyone seems to have charity drives which play on our emotions. No doubt there are plenty of

good organizations out there with good intentions. Just a few good rules to follow before you decide to donate your hard earned money to what you thought was going to change the lives of others.

Ask yourself a few questions.

- 1. Did I solicit the organization who has contacted me?**
- 2. Are they requesting me to provide an account number or credit card number for easy payment?**
- 3. Have I done any research on my own to find out further information about the organization?**
- 4. What will happen if I choose to wait before donating? (Probably nothing)**

These are just a few ideas. Take your time, and choose wisely when making that donation, it's your money, and you want it to be used for the changing of lives.

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!

**ELK RIDGE
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Many of us are now or have installed all of our outdoor Christmas lights and our homes are looking beautiful. Please remember that incandescent lights, whether large or small, can overtax your outlets, especially if the outlet is on a 15 amp circuit. You should try and distribute the electrical load of your lights and not have more than three light strings on one circuit. However if you have changed over to the new LED Christmas lights, your electrical requirement is far less and much safer. So please observe how you are stringing your outdoor and indoor lights.

A Christmas tree is such a beautiful thing with the lights shining and the ornaments sparkling. Somehow it brings warmth and happiness into our homes. How we decorate our homes for Christmas. But remember, these beautiful surroundings can change very quickly if we are not careful and safe with our decorations. A live Christmas tree and the branches we may place around our home can dry out very quickly and become a fire hazard if we don't treat them with care. Remember not to place your tree or your ornaments too close to a heat source. Keep your tree well watered and when the boughs begin to shed, take the tree or the branches down. It

doesn't take long for a dried Christmas tree or boughs to catch fire. Also remember not to have burning candles close to any Christmas decoration. While you and the children are trimming your tree and your home, talk about fire safety and your escape plan. Make Christmas a happy and enjoyable time in your lives. Don't let a fire destroy your Christmas Season.

Once again the winter snows will fall and those Elk Ridge residents that have a fire hydrant on their property are responsible to keep the hydrant clear of snow. Within the last year, the Elk Ridge Fire Department changed over to a larger water supply hose that we attach to the fire hydrant and the Engine. This new hose requires more room around the fire hydrant and we ask that you clear a 2 ft path to the hydrant and a full 3 ft clearance around the hydrant. This is not an easy job but a necessary one. Start early and keep your hydrant clear. All City hydrants must be available upon our arrival at an emergency scene. Please help us so that when we have to respond to an emergency situation, we have water immediately available.

From all of our Emergency Medical Responders and Firefighters to all of Elk Ridge City, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Planning Commission Update

Currently the planning commission is finishing up work on the new General Plan. The plan will be available for public input in January and should be passed by the city council soon after. The plan is a guidance and goal document for the city to help with future development, services, and needs. The commission is also working on the Planned Unit Development Code rewrite and cleaning up the Conditional Use Permit noticing requirements, and Junk in Yards.

There are three public hearings for the Planning Commission on Thursday December 10 starting at 7pm. All three are on the city website at www.elkridgecity.org look at the bottom of the homepage under public hearings. The hearing items include:

Planned Unit Development (PUD) code rewrite:

This revision is to clean up some confusing and contradicting code that is currently in the PUD code and the R-1-12,000PUD zone code. This also includes deleting the Large Scare Development code and moving the last remaining section of it (Mountain Home Development code) to a different section of the development code. The main confusion of the current PUD code is having a PUD code and an R-1-12000PUD zone that are supposed to work in tandem. Working through the PUD development at the north end of the city (Elk Ridge Meadows PUD) many of the contradictions

between the two codes became apparent. To fix this the planning commission is proposing to create a PUD overlay zone and a separate R-1-12,000 zone.

The PUD overlay zone would be allowed in any residential zone except the hillside zones. A development must be over 20 acres in size (this requirement limits its use to only about 4 locations, most outside the current city limit). The main crux of the new code is density traded for park and open space. The current R-1-12,000PUD zone would revert to a "normal" residential zone and only cover the area to the north of the city that is already approved as a PUD under the old code.

Here is an example of the density that is being proposed: if the underlying zone allowed half acre lots and you have a 40 acre development you could develop about 68 lots (taking out for roads, terrain issues, etc.). With the new PUD Overlay zone you could develop 80 lots but would also be required to develop park and open space.

Conditional Use Permit Notification Time:

Currently the code requires 14 days to mail to the neighbors within 200 feet a notice of a proposed Conditional Use. The proposed change would change this to a 3 day notice to all properties within 300 feet. This change is based on a change in state law about 4 years ago. The city changed other sections of code regarding notification but neglected to change this portion.

Junk in Yards: It is proposed to delete a section in the development code regarding junk stored on lots since this issue is addressed elsewhere in city code under the Nuisance Code and is not needed in the development code.

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).

Merit Academy

Merit is a free public high school geared towards college bound students grades 9-12. Our teacher student to teacher ration is 20 to 1. We provide "real-life" learning experiences. We are now excepting applications now for the 2010-2011 school year - Don't miss out- we are filling up quick!! We have weekly tours. www.meritacademy.org or (801) 491-7600.

