



Elk Ridge Bugle

Abby L. Hicks - Editor

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A Message From Our Mayor - *Vernon L. Fritz*

"Did you hear the one about...?"... Let me tell you about two men who get up at 4:00 a.m. to drive around town for ten or twelve hours, go to bed about 9:00 p.m. and get up again six or seven hours later to do it all over again.

Kent Haskell and Tyler Cruz (and often Mark Johnson too) remove snow from our streets in the worst kind of weather. Slick roads, blinding snow, and early hours are part of the job. Yes, there are those occasions when our driveways get plugged up, a mailbox gets bumped, and a lawn edge gets run over. No, there is no truth to a rumor that Kent and Tyler compete for how many mailboxes they knock over. They do a good job under difficult circumstances. I would not want to be the one behind the wheel on those big trucks. I think they deserve recognition. If not a hug, then maybe a cup of hot chocolate and a slap on the back would be in order. Thanks guys!

Lets talk about dogs. Owning 'man's best friend' is seen as an inalienable right. As the old joke goes when the IRS comes to seize assets, its "my truck okay, the house possibly, but my dog? Never!

It's unnecessary for us to talk long about dogs. They should be penned or tethered, not allowed to roam free. We all know the mischief they get into. Dogs bark! That doesn't surprise anyone. But please give some thought to how the noise affects your neighbors. City ordinance limits the number of dogs to two. Please don't turn them loose at night...and please spay and neuter.

On to a more serious subject: As Mayor I am called upon to evaluate the health of the City. One such measurement involves our financial resources...the strength of our assets, the needs of the City, and the manner in which we would like our community to progress. I must then make decisions. Such decisions are not popular because they affect our wallets.

We face such a circumstance this year. Please know that I am acutely aware of an obligation to not impose a financial burden upon our citizens. I also know that we must confront reality and resolve problems where they exist for to do less means a deterioration of our community. If after tightening the purse strings, the need continues then we must consider ways to increase revenue. No such action will occur however, without demonstrating need and consequence for failing to act.

Like any family faced with hard decisions, we (the City) must also make adjustments. For the family, instead of a vacation to Rio, perhaps Nephi to watch a goat roping contest... No, just kidding. But we are in an austerity mode for calendar year 2002.

I'd like to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Did you know that Phyllis Thomas has retired after fourteen years as the City Historian? She did! And we want to thank her. What you may not know is that another of our almost pioneer citizens will take her place. We are so pleased to have Craig Ingram as our new City Historian.

Something else that you may not know. I really do enjoy visits from citizens with suggestions for how to do things better. Bruce Lindow spent a half-hour giving me some good ideas. Don't be hesitant give me a call we still need volunteers.

On to another matter, children are ridding their skateboards down the streets and among kids waiting for school. Would you caution your children about the danger of doing so? Also, I receive calls about young people abusing private property by damaging landscaping as they dash across other people's lawns. There is no intent to do damage but it happens. We might want to mention this when we sit down together as families. If we respect one another we will all benefit. Good citizenship begins in the home. Remember also, a good example is better than a good lecture.

Did you know? ... That many of your 'home business' fellows pay for a business license. If you operate a home business, you need to visit the City Office and apply for a license. When I had a mortgage business in my home I chafed at paying for a license but somewhere I read about 'obeying the law of the land', so I paid. Please give it some consideration.

A closing subject: I am often called upon to sign a 'Notice to Abate' letter for everything from trash to illegally parked vehicles, and many other reasons. It is the one aspect of being Mayor that I don't like. Still, I took an oath to enforce City Ordinances and in that light I do so. Nothing personal, just something that comes with the job.

None-the-less, Elk Ridge, thanks for letting me serve you. It really is a pleasure.

Vernon L. Fritz, Mayor

GAS LINE UPDATE

I have been asked to inform the community of the rationale regarding the relocation of the proposed gas line from Questar. I will attempt to do so with as much objectivity as possible. It is an emotional subject.

For those living in the right-of-way there is valid concern about their beautifully landscaped yards being torn up. It would leave their fences, trees, bushes, and lawns, gone. No compensation, just destruction.

The question then arises, is there an alternative? And the answer is yes. Bury the line in the street...

To those who know face the possibility of the new gas line being relocated into the street running beside their homes, there is a concern. "What about risk?" "Why should we suffer when the inevitable happened?" "Didn't the original line carry with it the knowledge that maintenance would be required?" The answer is yes. Both arguments have validity. I wonder though, is there room for compassion and compromise?

When I took office in January I inherited a process that had already progressed to the point where engineering had been ordered, plans made, and an assumption by Questar that it would probably happen. I made some decisions that permitted the process to continue but with the full understanding that we had to have a public hearing and Council approval. It is quite possible that the new line will be rejected. If so, then Questar will invoke their legal right to run the line through the original right-of-way.

My task is to measure the positive against the negative. Sometimes that's not a clear-cut call so I make an educated guess and hope I'm right. I was tempted to say I use the SWAG system for decision-making but that's not at all right.

As Mayor however, I have the obligation to consider the City as a totality. One positive aspect of the reroute is, if it occurs, that we will then be free to eventually build a new fire station on the lot on which the City Hall is located. A substantial savings will come about by eliminating the eventual need for a maintenance building that would have been built in the vicinity of lower Elk Ridge near the storm drain retention pond. A further consideration is a one-half new built portion of Park Avenue using Questar money.

That is not an argument that persuades some in the City but it is one that I must take into account. Another aspect from a safety point of view, is a gas line under the road diminishes the possibility of a puncture caused by some degree of risk is lessened. Understandably, property owners tend to measure the issues based upon how it impacts them. Questar will be personally contacting every homeowner directly affected by the new line, to answer questions.

In the end I will make a recommendation to the Council who in turn must than bear the thorns and plaudits for their decision. (I have no vote)

When we have the public hearing we want everyone who wishes to speak to have a chance to do so. It will help if you organize your thoughts on paper before you come to the meeting.

There will be a three minutes limit for individual presentations. If you would like to appoint a 'neighborhood' representative and pool your time limits (up to a maximum of ten minutes) you may do so.

One rule regarding the order of making your concerns known is to sign up no later than 4 o'clock on the day prior to the public hearing. Those who do not sign up will have to take their chances that they will have an opportunity to speak. The date for the public hearing will be within the next month.

Vernon L. Fritz, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

WHEREAS, non-stranger and stranger rape and sexual assault affect all human beings regardless of age, gender, race, social or economic status; and

WHEREAS, women, children, and men are reported by the Department of Justice to suffer multiple types of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, recognition of the compassionate and dedicated individuals and volunteers for and in behalf of the survivors of sexual assault is appropriate; and

WHEREAS, volunteers provide 24-hour hotlines, and 24-hour response to emergency calls, providing support to survivors of sexual assault during medical examinations and police investigations; and

WHEREAS, professionally trained staff provide community awareness, risk reduction, and training to schools, churches, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, your support for our campaign to continue education and increase public awareness of sexual assault and its consequences to survivors is vital; and

WHEREAS, **The Center for Women and Children in Crisis** requests your support in working toward a society where all individuals can live without fear of violence and exploitation;

NOW THEREFORE, **We, the Mayors of Utah County do hereby proclaim the month of April as**

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

GARY BOWEN RESIGNS

Would each of you join me in wishing good fortune and success to Gary Bowen who has been one of the hardest working councilmen the City has seen for years. As Mayor Pro Temp, Gary oversaw the completion of several major improvement projects during 2001 and served a full four-year Council position. Gary has submitted his resignation effective immediately. Good luck to you Gary. We wish you the best.

The Council now has a vacancy to fill and is seeking any interested citizens who have the desire, time, and a high level of commitment that is required for such a position, to bring in a letter of interest and an application to the City Office before **April 15th at 3:00 PM.**

We hope to be able to find someone to fill the vacancy before the April 23rd City Council Meeting. Thank you.

Vernon L. Fritz
Mayor

Burn Season

The Burn Season for 2002 begins March 30^h through April 30th. To obtain a Burn Permit, come to the City office between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm Monday through Friday.

STREET CLEANING...

We will be sweeping the streets later this month. Would you please remove liter, rocks, and etc. from the gutter to help accomplish a more effective cleaning? Thank you.

Vernon Fritz
Mayor

Questar Gas Meeting

The Questar right-of-way agreement will be a 6:30 PM agenda item during the April 9th work session. We encourage those wanting to address the Council to prepare their remarks before hand and to register their interest in speaking with City Hall (423-2300), not later than 3:00 PM on the 8th of April. Those who have registered to speak will be heard first followed by other individuals wanting to speak if sufficient time remains of the thirty minutes allocated for the subject. There will be a three minutes limit for individual comments.

1600 Bridge Update...

The bridge on 1600 is scheduled to open the end of April. The County apologizes for the delay and hopes the wait will be worth it when it finally is opened for traffic.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

CPR Class will be held on April 5th at 7:00 PM at the Fire Station. For more information please call Kamile Peterson at 423-2205.

Congratulations to our new EMS Director Paul Grimes. We appreciate your willingness to serve.

Fire Department Spotlight

Sean Nielsen has lived in Elk Ridge for four years. He has volunteered as a Fire Fighter for Elk Ridge for almost two years. He works as a wholesale mortgage sales representative and enjoys the outdoors and riding his ATV. Sean and his wife Lori have been married for eleven years and have three sons, Travis, Tyrel, and Trevin. We greatly appreciate their sacrifices for our City. Thanks!

