



Elk Ridge Bugle

Abby L. Hicks - Editor

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

COMING SOON IN A BILL ADDRESSED TO YOU

I find no humor in the above caption but we need your attention. How does one deliver serious news without causing unnecessary alarm? Where is the balance between stating the facts with clarity and being an alarmist? I don't have the answer. Simply stated, we have no industrial or commercial tax base but we do have all the expenses necessary to run a town. We are at a crossroad where our income from the water and sewer enterprises does not meet the City's needs.

ROADS: The road fund woes however are simply the consequence of unexpected circumstances. The Loafer Canyon road project exceeded the budget big time. The brand new road in Loafer Canyon has such serious flaws in workmanship that it will cost in excess of \$10,000 to repair?

WATER: Is there an easy way to say that last year with all wells producing near capacity that we had three weeks in which the level in our tanks was less than two feet at the end of the day? That level of water is not enough to fight a house fire without risking the loss of culinary water to the rest of our citizens.

Now, is all lost? Of course not! "Assuming" we have a strong aquifer in upper Loafer Canyon delivering 600 gpm, two others at 50 gpm and number five at only 200 gpm, down from the 400 gpm last year, we have cause for concern but not despair. We must replace #5 well and we have taken steps to do so ... but at a cost. When will the new well be on line? We hope by mid-July to early August. Is that a guarantee? No. A probability? We hope so. A replacement well however is only a single part of an overall problem.

SEWER: Our sewer system is at or near its capacity. We cannot allow additional development with its attendant connections. New development must bear the burden of its impact upon our City. Still, we need the impact fees from development to help maintain our services. There are no easy answers, just challenges that we must face each year.

SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

First and foremost, we want you to attend a public meeting where in we will demonstrate with clarity how we arrived at the present situation and more importantly, how we can dig our way out. Will we accomplish this without pain? No! Does the solution require a radical increase in our cost of living? I hope not however, each family will be impacted, some more than others. Do I as Mayor feel

a responsibility to make the impact as light as possible? I do. I have wrestled mightily over this matter.

For instance, how does one tell the elderly who pioneered this community when it was but a small village at the end of a dirt road, that the City wants more of their money? Across the country the elderly are being squeezed out of their homes because of taxes, increased cost of services, and on and on. I'm retired also. I know the seriousness of living on a fixed income. However, I am obliged as the Mayor to address the issues before us. We must consider the consequences of not raising the cost of water and sewer. After very careful consideration we are prepared to act. I am asked occasionally, will we run out of water this summer? The answer is that it appears there is plenty of water in the ground. We simply do not now have the ability to pull it out faster than we use it. A new well will help solve that problem. We also need another tank in the next year or two. We are talking with Payson about a shared project.

The new well will cost in excess of \$300,00 when finished. We do not have sufficient funds to even begin drilling. We must borrow. We need the well to meet our existing citizens requirements.

There are three areas in urgent need of attention as shown below.

WATER: We need a new well this year, another well within two years, a large storage tank and replacement of deteriorating water lines.

SEWER: New development must pay the cost for added capacity. Payson sewer connection will be the most likely solution.

ROADS: We must defer some work for a year to recover from overruns.

State of the City Address May 14th 6:00 PM

Call the office at 423-2300 not later than 3 PM on the 14th of May to register to address the Council. Those who register will be heard first. Following their 3-minute comments the meeting will be open to all. Unless persuaded otherwise the Council will vote on what the new rates will be during the regular Council session.

We Need You.....

Public Hearings

MAY 14th State of the City Address 6:00 PM

Tentative Budget 6:45 PM

The Planning Commission is in need of a dedicated individual who wants to make a difference in the future of our City. Leonhardt Schroedter has resigned from his position, which leaves the Planning Commission short handed. If you are interested in applying, please call the City Office at 423-2300. Thanks!

Elk Ridge City Celebration 2002

Our Elk Ridge City Celebration will be held June 24 to June 29, 2002. The theme for this year's celebration is *United We Stand*. A special thanks to all of those who have volunteered to help organize and run the events – we have a lot of wonderful volunteers in our City. A packet detailing times and events will be delivered to your home the first week in June. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Todd Jackson at 423-7919.

Child Bitten by Unleashed Dog

This month we had a child in Elk Ridge attacked and bitten by a dog as the child was walking with his father. Fortunately the child did not suffer serious physical injury. However, as we all know it could have been much more serious!

Elk Ridge has a strict Nuisance Ordinance (92-6-9-7) that states that...it is unlawful for the owner or person having charge, care, custody, or control of any dog to allow such dog at any time to run at large. The owner or person charged with responsibility for a dog found running at large shall be strictly liable for any violation(s) committed by the dog, regardless of whether or not the person knows the dog is running at large. (Sec. 5-10)

Please keep your dogs controlled at all times! It is for the safety and protection of all the citizens. We would hate to see one more person injured as the result of negligence.

Thank You

Attention Parents.....

A couple of weeks ago a man was shot in the leg while visiting a friend in the center of town! The shot came from an irresponsible BB gun owner. Please be aware that it is illegal to fire a gun of any sort within the City limits. No child should be permitted access to a firearm without supervision! If there are any questions regarding the law, please call the Utah County Sheriff's Department at 375-3601

Welcome Aboard

We have a new Council Member to replace Gary Bowen. His name is Sean Nielsen. Sean and his wife Lori have lived in Elk Ridge four years and have three boys. Sean and Lori are Mortgage Representatives. His hobbies include four-wheeling, fishing, hunting, and sleeping. ☺

Sean wanted to serve on the City Council to try and make a difference. We appreciate his willingness to serve and are happy to have him onboard.

CITIZEN ALERT

Get your dialing finger ready! I thought you would like to know that the Elk Ridge access road to the highway from the City entrance to Canal Road (1600 West) is a sub-standard road. It has been for 27 years (and may be for another 27) despite promises by the County to provide us with a fully improved road.

The County has the project and funds to build a new access road to the new Woodland hills road going east from the stop sign on the Loafer Canyon Road. At that stop sign the "new road" will cross vacant property going west and come out at the newly constructed bridge on 1600 west. It is called a "loop road" and supposedly will give greater access to the highway and I-15, not to Elk Ridge residents.

Three years ago when we had a meeting and this road was discussed, residents of Elk Ridge felt no new road (serving no one) should be built until the County provided an adequate road, since Woodland Hills residents have been blessed by two (2) roads.

I found out that our main road off this hill is sub-standard and no speed increase can be justified until it is up to standard. I was informed that according to John McMullin of the Roads Department no one from elk Ridge City Council or Mayor had presented plans or asked for improvements. THIS IS NOT TRUE!

Call the County Commissioners until their ears burn.

David Gardener	370-8136
John McMullin	370-8621
Jerry Grover	370-8135
Gary Herbert	370-8133

Unless we voice our disapproval over the years of neglect we have faced we will be doomed to face many more!

Bettylou Bean
423-1764

I have a map if anyone is interested.

HELPER' S NEEDED FOR CITY CELEBRATION

We are now taking names of people who would like to work at the City Celebration on June 28th & 29th. You will receive \$6.00 per hour. We need people who can work for two hours on the 28th (6:00 PM – 8:00 PM) and three hours on the 29th (9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon). You do not have to be able to work both days in order to sign up. Names will be taken on a first come basis. Please call Dayna Hughes at 23-3022 if you are interested.

Fire Department Spotlight

Berty Morgan has lived in Elk Ridge for nine years. She's been volunteering on our Fire Department as an EMT for six months now. Berty works as an Occupational and Physical Therapy Aide and is a great asset to our team. She has five children; T.J., Tasha, Keynan, Kolton, and Luke. She enjoys camping, ATVing, singing, sewing and reading. She would like to see a convenience store in Town in the future and hopes for controlled growth.

We appreciate Berty and her family for their sacrifices for this Town. It's people like her that make this a great place to live.

National EMS Week

May 19th – 25th is National EMS week. Find and thank a Fire Department Volunteer and get your name entered into a prize drawing. Mind your safety P'z and Q'z. We'll be watching!

Free CPR Class Friday May 3rd. Call Kamille Peterson for enrollment 423-2205,

