



# Elk Ridge Bugle

Andrea Muhlestein - Editor

June 2004

## **ELK RIDGE CITY CELEBRATION**

JUNE 25-26

Our City celebration will be held June 25-26. We have many activities during the week that will be sure to interest everyone. Volunteers are needed to help with the carnival. Youth ages 13-99 can volunteer to help. If you would like to help, please contact the city office at 423-2300 leave your name and phone number and Mary Rugg will contact you.

Make sure you keep a look out for your City Celebration Packet. They will be delivered by June 5<sup>th</sup>. The packet will give you all the information you need to make this year's City Celebration fun for your entire family.

### **Playground/park**

We are not going to have the bathrooms open for use during the summer. We tried this in the past and due to extreme vandalism and disrespect your children will need to go home to use the bathroom. We do have a water fountain.

### **ATV'S**

Currently registered OHV's may only be operated on public lands, roads & trails that are signed or designated open to OHV use, or on private property with the consent of the owner or person in charge. It is the operator's responsibility to know which routes are open to OHV use. Remember that congressionally designated wilderness areas are off limits to all mechanized travel. Respect private property by obtaining permission from the landowner before entering.

### **BOOKMOBILE**

The Utah County Bookmobile will be in Elk Ridge every other Wednesday from 2:00-4:00 at the City Office. Happy Summer Reading!!

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

City Council	June 8 at 7:00 pm
	June 22 at 7:00 pm
Planning Commission	June 3 at 7:00 pm
	June 17 at 7:00 pm
Public Hearing for 2003-2004 Budget	June 22 at 6:00 pm
Public Hearing for Street Name Change of Salem Hills Drive	June 8 at 6:00 pm



### **Message from the Mayor.....**

A brief mention about a problem we had with the dumpster service in May. There were a few citizens who abused the opportunity to get rid of their Junk. They left it lying on the ground around the full dumpster thus creating a major eyesore and clean up problem. It's too bad that the abuse by a few causes a problem for the remaining members who act responsibly. We may choose to stop the service if it is repeated

It appears that the early winter storms gave false hope that the drought was over. I would like to emphasize however, that so far as we know, our aquifers are strong and it appears at this point in time that we will have all the water we need for household and yard use. It is always wise however, to consider conservation methods to minimize your water bill and to preserve an asset that is absolutely essential to life in the desert.

The Council has been considering the possibility of adding to the limited amount of trails in the city. Some questions have arisen regarding the amount of money proposed for such activity. One person perceived that it might be considered frivolous to spend nearly \$100,000 for trails when the city has many other needs. I would agree if the source of money was coming from the general budget but it is not. When new construction occurs a Parks and Recreation impact fee is charged. By law the only thing such funds can be spent on is parks and recreation including trails. If we don't use the money it is lost. The old saying 'use it or lose it' applies here.

On the twenty-fifth of May a public hearing was held regarding the trails proposal before the Council. It was a mixed set of views from those in attendance. Obviously some opposed and others supported the concept. The city invites those who would like to add their views to send a letter to Council member Mary Rugg expressing both support and/or opposition and reasoning.

You may have noticed that owners of vacant lots are being encouraged to create a ten foot fire lane around the boundaries where their properties touch adjacent lots that have houses on them. This is a first effort to enforce a fire protection plan. The ordinance requires more than we are asking property owners to do this year and represents a first step to determine problems if any and exceptions if appropriate. In the following years, a new administration may choose to not enforce the ordinance but it is my intention as long as I am Mayor to make it an issue each summer. Certainly there will be instances of non-compliance and we will deal with these as they become known.

One of the problems encountered so far is that many lots have attractive oak stands. We don't

want to be draconian in our pursuit of fire safety but there does need to be an acknowledgment that brush can be a problem. On the other hand oak scrub helps hold the soil together too.

Regarding oak brush, Ms. Virginia Helgeson 423-2075 said she would permit harvesting firewood on her property. Call first to make arrangements.

The fourth of July celebration preparation is moving along nicely and I'm assured by Council member Mary Rugg that things are on schedule. We can all look forward to another pleasant get-together. We do indeed live in a great country. It's also appropriate that we welcome home Seth Waite and Cole Christensen from their active duty stint.

You may have noticed in the May news letter that Council person Mary Rugg provided a brief description of things that concerned her about the city and things related to her assignment which is the Parks and Recreation area and the Storm drain program. I invited each Council member to provide a Message to the community each month in addition to the message from the Mayor section. My hope is that by this means the citizens of Elk Ridge can better know their council representatives and also to help everyone become more aware of what the city is doing to address issues that affect all of us.

### **Elk Ridge Emergency & Disaster Preparedness**

*Elk Ridge experienced a mock earthquake on Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup>. The city wide drill included the EMT's from the Fire Department CERT teams, block captains and neighborhood chairmen, Logan Nilsson, David Tervort, Mayor Vernon Fritz, and members of the Elk Ridge Emergency and Disaster Preparedness Committee. Each neighborhood had a volunteer HAM radio operator to help the CERT team leader and the Neighborhood Chairman as make-up artists, Marty and Forrest Dana, we had over 40 victims spread through the 5 staging areas to help process the needs of individuals get the right kind of help in the least amount of time. The volunteer victims were wonderful! A Critical Care Unit was set up and managed by the EMT's and Linda Goodwin. Mayor Fritz said: "Based on information received from other communities, the emergency preparedness program in Elk Ridge is dramatically ahead of other communities of a similar size. The work of organization was accomplished by Linda Goodwin, Claudette Echols, Gayle Weber, LaRon Taylor and my thanks go to them as well as all of the volunteers in this effort." LaRon Taylor, Emergency Communications Director, stated that the communications network continues to improve with each drill. Linda Goodwin was pleased with the community's cooperation by the show of colored tags on the doors. If you would like to be a part of the emergency preparedness come to a free CERT class*

*October 16<sup>th</sup> from 8 am-9 pm and October 23<sup>d</sup> from 8 am – noon.*

***NEXT DRILL: Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 am***

