



Elk Ridge Bugle

Aug 2008

Message from the Mayor

Elk Ridge has been working on a water project for the past year that is finally in the home stretch. We presently have on line, with this current project, two million gallons of water storage and an upgrade to our North well that has variable capabilities for supplying up to 1200 gallons a minute.

The new one million gallon tank was constructed through the winter and we used a pre-stressed design. That design uses less cement and rebar in the construction yet as the side of the tank is completed, a special piece of equipment is brought in to wrap a half inch braded, stainless steel cable, under thousands of pounds of pressure, around the outside of the tank. This wrapping of the concrete tank results in a reservoir that is extremely strong. We finish up by burying the tank in order to hide it, protect it from harmful exposure from the elements, and secure it from unwanted acts of vandalism.

We have a new variable speed pump on our big well and three booster pumps that move the water from our new tank uphill to an existing tank. From all three of our wells and tanks, the water is distributed to over 500 of the current 560+ homes in the city limits. The remaining homes are serviced by two privately owned water companies that are maintained by those home owners that receive that service. Even though growth is at a stand still, when it does pick up, we will

be ready for the demands of providing the necessary water to the properties that will come on line. We expect that approximately 550 additional homes will be serviced by this improved system bringing to a total, at least 1,050 homes that can be taken care of.

Our water is not treated with any chemicals and all of the water comes from wells in our community. It is about as pure as it can get. The unfortunate thing is that we must use that same pure water that we drink on our lawns, shrubs and gardens. It can be, and for many does, get expensive. We strongly encourage water conservation practices and creative landscape designs that implement native and drought tolerant plants.

Our big event for the near future is planning for a City Center that will house all of the works equipment, City Planning Department, all of the administration offices, a four seasons' reception and conference center and some extra space for any future needs and concerns such as a possible library or senior needs. The grounds would also include new soccer and or baseball fields and park space.

Elk Ridge Fire Department

Everyone is aware that Elk Ridge City is in it's dry season and we all must be watchful of the dangers of wild land fires. Those homeowners on the borders and in the interface areas need to be especially vigilant. To help make our City a safer place, please obey the "NO FIRE SEASON" time period. Those homeowners that live within the interface areas make sure that all brush and long grass are cut short and you have a border area of 30 feet between your home and the wild land area. Trim your trees up to at least three feet from the ground so that a fire will not climb up the trees and cause a wild land fire to spread. Common sense can make a world of difference if Elk Ridge City should be involved in a wild land fire.

The Elk Ridge Fire Department would like to thank all the residents of this City who obeyed our State law and used only legal fireworks during the evening of July 4th. By being respectful of our community and the safety issues of fireworks, we were able to make this holiday a safe day for our City. Thank you also for the abiding by the fireworks ban for the 24th holiday.

In June, the County Sheriff had a bicycle safety fair for all the youngsters in Elk Ridge. The turnout was fantastic and the lessons that our children learned during the rodeo has paid off. Our Emergency Response personnel have seen an increase of children using bicycle helmets while riding their bikes and skateboards. To reward the children for being safety conscious, Linda Jones, EMT, will be driving around Elk Ridge and giving out candy to those children that are wearing their helmets. So if you want some candy from Linda, make sure you are wearing your helmet when she passes by.

The Elk Ridge Fire Department needs volunteers as firefighters and first responders/EMTs. If you are interested in joining our Department go on line for an application or you may pick one up at the city office. Being a firefighter or EMT can be a very rewarding job knowing you are helping your community.



Sheriff's Corner

Because my article has to be in before the 25th of each month, I had not yet experienced the Elk Ridge City Celebration which was held the last few days of June. WOW how impressive it was. Speaking with several of those involved, it is hard to imagine the amount of time, effort that goes into putting on such a celebration for your community. Elk Ridge may be a small community, but you can rest assured there is a huge effort that takes place behind the scenes and your city employees, and city council deserve a big thanks for a job well done. Thank You!!

In the past I have introduced myself and have let you know a few things about the Sheriff's Office. This month I would like to introduce to you the heart of the Sheriff's Office. Without this group of professionals the county would come to a grinding halt. Unfortunately they don't get that vote of thanks so well deserved. In your time of need they are the ones who answer the phone with the voice of hope. It's your **Utah County Dispatch Center**.

They provide extraordinary community services on a daily basis, yes daily! Just a few of those services are letting your city know if you wake up, and your water does not come on. Compassion, for the one who feels life no longer has a purpose. They are also the one who gives you life saving skills until the ambulance arrives. They provide hope, security, and let you know more help is on the way. They are there for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I know based on the events during their shift some will not sleep, or get the things done they need. Their families pay for their unselfish acts to serve you.

Let me introduce Danielle. Although she has



only worked for Utah County a short time, she is a great representation of the professionalism all of the dispatchers who work so hard everyday to help keep your community safe. I have seen them during emergencies at which time it becomes organized chaos. Law Enforcement is dispatched, Ambulances and Fire Department's are en-route, Life Flight is

taking off, and then there is the one dispatcher who is conducting it all when they are on the phone with you, trying to get the information out as fast as he/she can. When the smoke clears you walk out amazed wondering how it all came together, but somehow it does. This month if you have the opportunity to call dispatch take a second and say thanks for a job well done, because they cannot hear that enough. Thank You Dispatch!

EXTREMELY SERIOUS NO WARNINGS WILL BE GIVEN!

I recently was told about a very serious problem which has been observed in Elk Ridge. The operation of a motor vehicle by under aged drivers. Not only do they not have the training they are putting themselves and others at risk. Not to include who will pay for the property damage and or medical bills because they are not insured. Families are being put at extreme financial risk when this is allowed.

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 SPORTS

BASEBALL: A big thanks to our baseball and softball coaches: Andy Haskell, Anita Ault, Sean Woolf, Wes Cook, Darrin Magoffin, Rich Barton, Tyler Kindle, and Janna Barry. We sure appreciate their willingness to help our kids!

Congratulations to the 3rd/4th boys Giants team. They made it to the state tournament!

SOCCER: We are wrapping up sign-ups and should have teams drafted soon.

Games start the end of this month.

FOOTBALL: It is time for football registration. Sign up before Friday, August 15th to get the early discount of \$30. After that the cost will be \$35.

Just for your information, Janna Barry

will now be helping Kara Cook run the sports program. Janna will be in charge of soccer and basketball, Kara will be in charge of football and baseball/softball. (Kara is extremely grateful for the help!) :)

A HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ELK RIDGE

As Compiled from the existing files by Mayor Dennis A. Dunn July 30, 2008

Elk Ridge was built on the 1800 acre Goosenest Ranch nestled against Mount Loafer in the south end of Utah County. The ranch got its name from an area of land in the west end of Elk Ridge known as 'The Goosenest'. The geese came to nest in this area for many years. It is a natural basin that had been improved upon to hold water that flowed down from Payson Canyon. However, after strengthening the dam and building a canal that ran from the reservoir to Payson, those early builders were most disappointed because the reservoir would not hold water. The water entered the basin and within a few days would disappear; travel underground and show up in the fields two or three miles to the north. Their beautiful project was a failure. Until recently, Payson still would send the high water down to the Goosenest and it would still disappear. The course it would take has cut a very deep wash through the Goosenest area. It is interesting that the first road to access Payson Canyon was up through this Goosenest area.

The original ranch was a 160 acre parcel homesteaded by James Fayette Shuler. James married Mary Ann Olive Warthen of Council Bluffs, Iowa. After James died in 1923, the land went to Mary Ann. She died in 1936 leaving the ranch to her five children. Dave, the youngest of the children bought out the interests of the other heirs. He later bought other ranches that surrounded his and increased his ranch to a total of 1800 acres. Some of the other ranches purchased were: the Huber Ranch, the Herman Tagge Ranch, the Dave Curtis Ranch, the John Dixon Ranch, the Perry

Jackman Ranch, and the Joe Barrett Ranch.

Dave and Erma Shuler lived in Payson until 1947. They traveled back and forth to take care of the many duties of farming this large dry-land ranch. In 1947 they sold their home in Payson and moved to the ranch so that Dave could be closer to his work. In 1948 Dave's son Hal married Carolyn Davis of Salem and built a small two-room house behind the old ranch house in order to help his father with the huge task of putting up acres and acres of dry-land hay and wheat.

Hal graduated from BYU in agronomy and soon became the manager of the ranch. The ranch had miles of fences to build and keep in repair. The amount of damage done to them by the deer and elk during the winter was amazing. There was a large herd of cattle to be fed during the winter and looked after during the summer. Some years the ranch had large herds of pigs, over 100, that would wander the foothills eating last year's acorns and eating from the many pig feeders that were stationed at the springs located about three miles from the ranch house. The ranch house itself has an interesting history. The Shuler's were kept busy remodeling and repairing the frame house that was once built and owned by Jesse Knight, a famous man in the early days of Utah County. It had been on Mr. Knight's farm in West Mountain (west of Payson). It was moved to the ranch by Herman Tagge and at that time was the only home at the south end of Utah Valley. Dave and Erma Shuler remodeled the home and added the rock work. It now sits on the west boundary of Elk Ridge and is owned by Hal Shuler.

Dave Shuler died in 1965 and his once famous Goosenest Ranch was divided among his five children and his wife, Erma. His son, Hal, bought a few hundred acres from his father and after the death of his father bought some of the land that was owned by his two sisters. The land owned by his brother Howard was sold to Mr. Jim Winterton of Provo. Mr. Winterton and

Dave's son, Keith "Bish", started the county subdivision of Salem Hills. Roy Broadbent, manager of the First Security bank in Payson, shared the ideas and aspirations of the developers and made it possible for them to proceed with the development of Salem Hills.

The original water rights were agricultural farm water rights and in 1970 were transferred into culinary rights to be taken from the underground source of a well. Keith Shuler drilled three wells that provided enough water for the initial development and the county neighborhood of Salem Hills was started.

In 1970 a dirt road wound its way up the hillside and the very first homes built were condominiums. The idea and plan was to rent out the condos while homes were being built. Sewer lines were installed, with open ponds located at the area of the present roads of Star and Olympic Lanes, the utilities were buried and parcels of land were sold. The Goosenest Ranch where the deer and the elk had roamed undisturbed and where acres of alfalfa and wheat made a patchwork pattern of this end of the valley was now given way to homes and people.

The first home completed in Salem Hills was the Gary and Rhonda Proctor home located at 62 South Clark Lane. They moved here from Aurora, Colorado, into one of the condominiums in 1972. Their home on Clark Lane was finished in June of 1973 and they moved in at that time. The Proctors still live here but over the years have moved to a home located on Highland Circle.

To Be Continued.....

Have you lost a bike?? Please contact the City Office for more information.

If you are interested in the dance for August, contact Allison Richardson, utahvalleygrove@yahoo.com