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# Elk Ridge Bugle

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Abby L. Hicks - Editor

Issue III - March 2002

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

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### What do you do when the well runs dry?

Mid-February the weatherman said January was the driest month in thirty-seven years and February, the driest in seventy-four. Closer to home, we know that one of our aquifers has dropped significantly and its still winter. Such knowledge does not bode well, although the same weather people say we may be in for an El Nino this year, whatever that means.

The City is moving quickly to secure financing for a new well. We hope it will be producing in time for the summer period. Otherwise we will be short about 200-250 gpm compared to last year. This potential water shortage has nothing to do with new development; indeed there are no new developments on the horizon. An accompanying problem is our current water revenue will not meet the debt load of the new loan.

On to another subject: We continue to evaluate our finances as the bills come in for all the road work performed last fall and we will make a presentation to the community sometime after the first of April regarding finances and planning.

Regarding projects for this year, it is my intention as Mayor to maintain a position of austerity for the calendar year 2002. We will assess the City's "must do" against its financial health. Our focus will be on maintaining what we have rather than aggressively pursuing new projects. The one exception being water related work.

From an administrative point of view, it is my desire to build a large reserve in every account during this calendar year and then become aggressive in the spring of 2003. Even in a year of austerity though there will still be preventive maintenance performed, just no large-scale projects other than water related work items.

So far only two citizens have volunteered to help with special projects (committees). I'd love to have six or seven more. We need a committee to make suggestions on how to improve the looks of Elk Ridge. I still favor a system of trees lining Park Ave., but with water being in short supply that may be a back-burner concept. I'd like to create an advisory committee to plan a small business park. I'm open to other suggestions as well.

The one committee that I want more than any other though, is one to chase after grant money available to cities. Please give it some thought and call me if you can help. We also need Planning Commission members. We are considering changing the period of office to three years rather than five. Not firm yet.

On a more serious note: We have a fine community here in Elk Ridge, many beautiful yards and homes, amenities that make life pleasant, and a great place to raise children. But ... I continue to get calls about four-wheelers driving across private land, trashy yards, derelict vehicles, etc.

***Did you know that the City ordinance requires unregistered vehicles to be housed rather than sitting on the lawn or driveway?***

Regarding nuisance complaints we try to address the issue with the people involved with a letter. We have varying results with most folks complying. Some citizens treat trashy yards as a "property rights" issue but it really isn't. Trash is trash, mess is mess, and it is a visual blight that extends beyond the property line.

Those of you who have such a problem, would you please consider cleaning up your place even if it is only as a gesture of good will to your neighbors. Next month's subject? Dogs. That ought to be interesting. Again, thanks for your support. As you know, we all have one goal, make Elk Ridge as even better place to live.

## SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Due to the Questar Gas Line coming through Elk Ridge this summer, we will not be able to offer T-Ball as we have in the past. Salem City has invited us to join them for Softball, T-Ball and Baseball. The information is on the back of the City Calendar in this month's bill. The gas line should be completed in time for Youth Soccer. If there are any questions, please call Mishelle Knuteson at 423-8043 or Salem City at 423-1035.

### Utah County I-15 Idea Interchange

On Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 8:30 PM at the Orem Senior Center, located at 93 North 400 East, there will be an Open House for interested citizens to give their input and share their insights with officials from the Utah Department of Transportation and the Mountainland Association of Governments about proposed reconstruction options for I-15 in Utah County during the next 30 years. For information contact, Geoffrey Dupaix, Utah Department of Transportation (801) 227-8006

### Burn Season

The Burn Season for 2002 begins March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. To obtain a Burn Permit, come to the City office between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm Monday through Friday. For questions about what materials can be burned, please contact Seth Waite at 763-6322.

## Planning Commission News

### Current Planning Commission Members

Robert Goodwin – Chair  
Leonhardt Schroedter – Vice Chair  
Bruce Lindow  
Marc Rugg  
Sharon Dahlstrom  
Kelly Adams  
Daniel Steele

#### UPDATE ON ISSUES:

The proposed annexation scale development is no longer under consideration by the Planning Commission or Council.

#### PLANNED PUBLIC HEARINGS

##### CHANGES IN THE SIDE SETBACKS:

The Planning Commission has recommended to the Council to change the side setback from ten (10) feet from either side lot line and the combined total distance of the two side setbacks shall be not less than twenty-four (24) feet to not less than "12 from any side property line not abutting a street. The public hearing on this scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>.

##### GENERAL PROVISION REQUIRING PROVISION DEALING WITH PROPERTY ACCESS

##### ORIENTATION:

The Planning Commission has recommended to the Council to require on all existing, undeveloped lot properties the access be required to front on the street of Minor Collector class or lower. If the lot fronts on a major collector class or higher, a circular or hammerhead driveway will be required. The Public Hearing on this is scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>.

### MARCH PUBLIC HEARINGS

March 26<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM Changes to Side Setbacks

6:15 PM General Provisions Dealing With Property Access

6:30 PM Amended Budget