



Elk Ridge Bugle

Year 2002 Edition

Stephanie Christensen - Editor

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Time to bring everyone up to speed on what has been happening around the city. Questar has been and gone, but some problems remain. We are working our way through them. The Well project has been a long drawn out affair. When you work with the government few things go quickly but at least drilling is now taking place. We hope for the completion to be by December 15th. Emphasis on the word hope. Drilling will be 24/7 and yes, there will be some noise.

We got through the summer without any major water problems other than paying our individual water bills. At least we were not forced into rationing. Four years of drought has taken its toll on many wells around the valley. I sit in on many meetings in which the discussions center around failing wells, lowered aquifers, increased pumping depths and dry wells dug at great expense which produce little or no water but still have to be paid for.

The well we are drilling is fifty feet from the one being replaced. It seems to be a strong aquifer and we expect to go down about eleven hundred feet. From experience we know there is water around the eight hundred foot level but obviously we need to get deep enough that further drought years won't leave us high and dry. Someone suggested we should drill out the old casing in the well being replaced.

Good idea except for one problem. There are two high voltage power lines above the well and drillers hesitate to erect a tall rig between the power lines above the well and drillers hesitate to erect a tall rig between the power lines. As a reminder, the new well is going to cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$350,000 to \$375,000 if things go as planned and almost never do projects come in under budget. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

There are rumors around the city that Elk Ridge may join Payson in developing a well and tank in the foothills above the city. Indeed we have held conversations with Payson regarding such but timing, unpredictability, and unknowns caused us to back out. We do hope however to connect to their new system to provide back up for each other.

There may come a point in time where we purchase water from Payson or buy into their system. Much more conversation and study is needed but if it makes sense and our two cities can come to an agreement it may happen.

We are also discussing the possibility of entering into agreements where we would purchase police, sewer, and garbage services. So far there is nothing solid but we are serious about the possibilities where there are mutual benefits from such actions. Regarding water, which is of primary concern, one of the main objectives I had when I took office was to insulate Elk Ridge from the

problems of having insufficient water to meet current and future needs. The replacement well is a good start.

The strong aquifer and well in Loafer Canyon is our main source of water for nine months of the year. The lower well (Cloward well) supplements our summer needs. This is the well that began failing this year because of a bad casing and dropped from four hundred and fifty gpm to one hundred and seventy-five gpm. Two other wells each produce less than fifty gpm and one of them is so weak that it failed early in the spring. Water is our lifeline but it comes at a cost.

We cannot gamble with the security of our city by being complacent. We must assure our water supply. As stated before, it comes at a cost but failing to act would extract an even higher cost. Somewhere in the future it is going to be more difficult to get approval from the state for new wells. We must act early and establish our position before greater restrictions take place.

Another topic, while we may not like it, but growth is going to happen. Developments in the area north of the current boundaries will double our population over the next ten years. We must plan for that probability. To meet the increased water needs, it will be my effort to bring on line a third well and tank however, such construction will be paid for primarily by impact fees on new construction. By primarily I mean nearly all.

If however, there is a clear benefit to the city as a whole, we may indeed participate but only if there is an offsetting benefit to the city. Developers approach the City with promises of how their new project will bring blessings to our City. Like the Burger King advertisement of some years back, where's the beef?

Bad news on another front. The widening of 1600 entering the city is off until spring. I think it will happen but problems with getting landowners to deed land to the county is being delayed. By the way call DOT at 227-8000 to get a light at the entry to 1600 and to get the Elk Ridge sign put up.

Mayor Vernon Fritz

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Winter is Coming

In order to facilitate the speedy and safe removal of snow from city streets, no vehicle may park upon any city street, at any time during day or night hours, from December 1st, through March 1st, of the following year. Violation of this ordinance is a parking infraction. Each day that said vehicle is permitted to continue will be considered a separate offense and/or after twenty-four hours, the vehicle will be towed to a public garage and stored at the owner's expense.

Free for the taking

One Long Table Top (was the council room table) Great for basement crafts, or add more guests to your Thanksgiving feast!

Come get yourself a shot!

The health department will be in town November 20th from 2-4 at City Hall to give Flu and Pneumonia shots. Flu shots are \$13.00 and Pneumonia are \$23.00.

3 Steps

to Emergency Preparedness

Ever wondered how much charcoal you would need to cook with for a year? I have! I was pleasantly surprised to discover that if I cooked for a family of 4 using 35 briquettes a day I would need approximately 18 twenty four pound bags of briquettes. Two 24# bags purchased at Sam's Club costs about \$10.00. That's affordable! So I took the plunge and bought myself an early Christmas present of \$140.00 worth of briquettes. I can now cook with a dutch oven, barbecue, or apple box and have hot soup instead of cold, raw food. I am now enjoying more "Peace Through Preparation" which is the 3 steps motto.
Linda Goodwin

The 3 Steps Emergency Preparedness Booklets will be available at the city office for \$3.00 each.

BE A VOLUNTEER

THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO THANK THE MANY VOLUNTEERS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND CITY. THEY SAVED ABOUT 1,175,660 TO AREA TAXPAYERS LAST YEAR THROUGH THEIR SERVICE AT DOZENS OF SITES. THAT IS A CONSIDERABLE CONTRIBUTION. THINK HOW MANY PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN THEY HELPED WITHOUT SPENDING A DIME! THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR YOU WHO ARE GRATEFUL TO RETURN TO OUR COMMUNITY YOUR SKILL AND EXPERIENCE. IT ONLY TAKES A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME.

CALL NORMAN SMITH AT 798-1609 FOR SOMETHING THAT FITS YOUR SCHEDULE.

Elk Ridge Fire Department

Free CPR Class for all Elk Ridge citizen's Nov. 22 7:00-9:00 p.m. call Kamile Peterson for enrollment 423-2205.

Big congratulations to the prizewinners at our open house! Heather Barton, Lori Brinkerhoff, Sherrie Woodward and David Merrill.

Have you changed the batteries in your smoke Detectors?

Fire Department Spotlight

Terry Pierce, an Air Traffic Controller, has been an Elk Ridge Fire Fighter since April. He and his wife Margie moved here from American Fork last March. They have been married for 14 years. They have 4 children: 2 boys, Ian 10, Trevor 9, and twin girls: Kaylie 4, Mckelle 4. Terry would like to see Elk Ridge have our own ambulance some day and slower growth. Terry is a great baseball coach and he enjoys camping, hunting, fishing and mtn. Biking. We extend a huge thank you to Terry and his family for their sacrifices to serve our community.