



February 2003



Elk Ridge Bugle

Year 2003 Edition

Stephanie Christensen - Editor

Message from the Mayor

Our City is maturing! Almost 2000 and growing. Elk Ridge is a desirable place to live and part of what makes it so is having access to beautiful mountains, a panoramic view of the valley, clean air, and friendly neighbors. We are blessed with well-kept homes, concerned community members whose vision extends beyond the boundaries of their own yards, people who are willing to embrace a community concept regarding appearance and livability. Elk Ridge is a peaceful place to live. We are however, a community with limited resources. So saying that let me present some thoughts for your consideration.

I believe there are sufficient resources available to meet our needs and to extend us beyond basic necessities. I would like to use this month's newsletter to make some suggestions regarding the future of our city-home.

Beautification of Elk Ridge

"A journey begins with a single step". Someone far wiser than I penned that simple sentence but it embraces the concept I have in mind. Eight years ago a resident planted a small weeping willow in his yard. It had a trunk diameter of less than an inch; today it is thirteen inches thick and has a canopy of thirty feet. It sways in the embrace of the breeze that blesses our community. Grace and attractiveness are its attributes and serenity is unspoken gift to the landscape. Now suppose we transpose and multiply that single tree upon the park area and the access to our city?

From the bend in Park Drive beginning at the corner at Elk Meadows up the city park there is an opportunity to plant and create. On both sides of that main road is open land inviting the hand of man to create an avenue of stately trees, a walking path with a modest span of grass or other ground cover, perhaps a sidewalk of asphalt to create a place of safety for our children as they walk to and from our park. Yes, there would be some maintenance and water consumption. But, beauty comes with a price and I think the value is there. Councilman Jackson is working on this concept. Think about it. I think it is a great idea.

Traffic Signs

On to another subject. We will be accepting public input regarding traffic signs on February 11th. We welcome comments at that time. Some changes have already been made on E. Park Drive above City Hall. The change was brought about because of concern regarding safety. Folks ran stop signs, sped through the section and represented potential for an accident. We enlisted the help of a retired police officer with nearly 30 years of traffic engineering experience. Bring your ideas and opinions.

Storm Drains

We will begin cleaning storm drain sumps soon, as well as the drain line at the corner of Gooseneck and W. Park Drive. It will cost nearly \$5,000. To reduce the frequency of cleaning we are aggressively enforcing our clean streets policy regarding construction sites. Dirt from these activities is the main cause of filling the sumps. We are also putting the purchase of a street sweeper on the purchase list.

ATV's

ATV's are wonderful toys, but they are dangerous and there are laws regarding their use. There is also hostility associated with their use. Owner's resent enforcement of the law, non-owners resent the presence of ATV's racing around their homes. The city has only one position. Obey the law. We can take no other position. If ATV owners can offer an acceptable alternative we'd love to hear it.

The New Well

This section is reserved for the best. The well is complete and was finished on time and under budget. As announced last month we can draw up to 1250 gpm as opposed to the 175 gpm from the well we replaced. With the beginning of a 5th year of drought one has to hope this doubling of our capability will carry the city through this period of water shortage. Our pump is set at around the 400-foot depth but the well is 980 feet deep. May I extend my thanks to all of you for your support in this project. Sincerely, Vernon L. Fritz

A New Elk Ridge Sign

Currently at the joining of county road 1600 and Goosenest, we have two sign structures. One declares the entrance to our city; the other provides a map for those seeking directions.

We have many occasions where we want to post a message to the community. Examples that come to mind: The annual prohibition of fireworks, no burn periods, and similar messages, even special meetings. I would like to expand the size of the sign and include a message board for meetings announcements. A local sign company made a proposal to construct a sign as shown. It could include lighting, the city name and logo, and three bulletin / announcement panels. Access to the panels would be by key and city employees would do all posting.

Only community items would be permitted. The sign would sit atop a cement stand with rock fascia and would be anchored in the foundation to resist damage from high wind. This would be an expensive sign and we may want to consider alternatives. The professionally built sign portion would be about \$5,000. We would build the foundation, bring in the electricity, and improve upon the site with gravel and non-vegetative landscaping. I realize it is a high price but what do you as citizens think? I like the idea but I'm apprehensive about the cost. I'm open to ideas.

I will not proceed to Council consideration until and if we have community support. We will have an open session on Feb 11th. Perhaps we have a resident with the skills and talent who would like to take on the project? We welcome your comments.



Schedule for the Utah County Bookmobile				
Salem Hills Drive & Maple Lane 3:30-4:45 p.m.				
<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
14th	8 th 22 nd	5 th , 19 th	5 th , 19 th	2 nd , 16 th , 30 ^t

Volunteer

Although Chet likes to golf and travel, he takes out two hours every week to help kids read at Mt. Loafer School. I asked him why he did it and he said he felt he was helping someone do something very important in his life. He may not get thanks from the kids, but he knows they are gaining valuable skills for a lifetime. Our thanks go out to the "Chets" of Elk Ridge who are helping our kids learn to read.

If you want to enjoy helping, call Norman Smith for opportunities at 798-1609.

Water, Sewer, or Road Emergencies

If you have any kind of an emergency regarding water, sewer or Roads, please call this pager number. 283-3270.

Baseball Shirts

All Baseball shirts need to be returned to the City Office ASAP!

Planning Commission

The city is currently looking for two new members to serve on the Planning Commission. This is your opportunity to serve your community. Contact either Mayor Fritz at the City Office 423-2300, or councilman Lee Freeman at 423-9164.



News from 3-steps

The Emergency Preparedness Program for Elk Ridge.

Good communications are essential in an emergency. We have been advised to have two systems in place. One will be the city system

Winter is Here!