



JUNE 2003



Elk Ridge Bugle

Andrea Muhlestein - Editor

Message from the Mayor

Summer watering schedule is now in affect. We are in the fifth year of a major drought with no predictable end in sight. We believe we are alright so far as having sufficient water is concerned but still, we must exercise caution. We cannot be certain as to the strength of our aquifers.

Late last summer many wells in the valley either went dry or required special efforts to increase pumping capacity. The Cloward well drilled last summer bottoms out at about 980 feet with four aquifers feeding the well. If however, we see signs of a diminished capacity it will be necessary to restrict lawn watering even further. Several options present themselves: One is to water on alternate days, limit the amount of water permitted for each month (with large fines for violations) and/or prohibit lawn watering altogether. We certainly hope things do not get that bad but we must keep in mind that it takes 12-20 months for snowmelt to percolate down to the aquifers that provide our water.

Being the Mayor provides many opportunities to work with the community. It also comes with some less than pleasant tasks as well. Point at hand regards expressions of concern by citizens. I have always felt that every complaint required attention. I remain committed to that philosophy but I find it more difficult each day to maintain a neutral attitude when faced with conflicting demands. For example please consider the following:

ATV's – I don't believe there is a more contentious subject in the city. On any given day of the week I'll get a letter, phone call, or be collared in a social event in which the agitated party accused the city of not enforcing the laws affecting ATV's (or enforces them too vigorously). Age, speed, children, helmets, noise, inappropriate hours, trespass, the list goes on. One man accuses the mayor of not honoring his oath of office, etc. The voices continue in every manner. On the same day comes a letter from a citizen who admits that the use of ATV's on city streets is illegal but "they moved to Elk Ridge because of the trails and opportunity to ride in the foothills." The most interesting letter said that we are wasting the sheriff's time ticketing ATV's when he should be after speeders. Another person complains about exactly the opposite problem. We hope we are utilizing our sheriff resources prudently but obviously we aren't satisfying everyone. Is it fair to state however that the ten commandments were not suggestions and neither are the laws regulating ATV use. There may be value however, in considering when we chose which laws to obey and which to ignore, what message is passed to our children. One letter said that the majority of people in Elk Ridge are not concerned about ATV use in the city. I wonder, is this true because the number of complaints I get against ATV use far surpasses those in favor. Generally those in favor of no restrictions also own ATV's. If you think this is a subject worthy of your time, would you slip a note in your utility bill saying how you feel about regulating ATV use?

Another favorite concern is dogs running loose. I won't write here how I feel about that, but each time my lawn mower hits a doggy donation I'm not a happy camper. The problem with dogs is that when you call the county animal control, the first question they ask is "do you have the dog under restraint (trapped in the yard, garage, etc. or tethered)." If not, they will not come out unless you are willing to sign a complaint and identify the owners of the dog. Frankly, the only way we are going to get any level of control is for individuals to sign their complaint.

The city has an ordinance requiring grass (weeds, etc.) be kept under control and mowed or cut short. With the advent of an early dry summer and many vacant lots it is imperative that we take extra care to reduce fire hazards. Some neighborhoods are forming block watch groups to encourage lawn maintenance and care. If there are problems that make the area look badly, they are approaching their neighbors in an effort to encourage them to clean up their yards. Sounds like a great idea.

We are about to begin work on some of our roads. Problem? We have limited funds and maximum needs. Some roads are in a near crisis state and will have a higher priority than others. We plan to spend \$110,000 this year on resurfacing roads. Next year it could easily be the same or slightly less depending upon available funds. We have received several engineering reports and recommendations and will be talking to the residents on some of those roads in the near future. We ask that if your road, which is important to you, is not on this years list to be understanding. It's on the list, we just have to prioritize. I'm told by the county that the widening of county road 1600 is still on the books. Time will tell. I'm hopeful.

I would like to thank those persons who work so hard to make our community safe. I hope a recent disaster training night caught your attention. To all of our citizen volunteers including the fire department and associated groups and the three-step program, may I say thanks and extend gratitude of our citizens for your work.

READ TO SUCCEED



DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE 21,000 ADULTS IN UTAH COUNTY THAT CANNOT READ AT 6TH GRADE LEVEL?

Office Hours: Mon 10-4, Tues 10-6:45, Wed 10-6:45, Thurs 10-6:45

READ TO SUCCEED is an Adult Literacy program that is here to help! STUDENTS and VOLUNTEER TUTORS are needed! For more information contact Cathy or Annette 465-0388. Our office is located upstairs in the Payson Library, 66 S Main Street, Payson.

"Unless someone like you cares a whole, awful lot, things aren't going to get better, they're NOT!" – Dr. Suess, The Lorax

Read to Succeed provides one-on-one tutorial programs to enable functionally non-literate adults to improve their reading and writing skills sufficiently to meet their personal goals, function well in society, and become more productive citizens.

We have "Highlights from Utah Off-Highway Vehicle Laws and Rules" brochures at the City office.

Want to know what is on the agenda for council or planning commission meetings? Check the bulletin board outside the City Office Building. Agendas are usually posted the week before the meeting date.

VACANT LOTS * WEEDS * TRASH

Do you have a vacant lot next door??? The weeds grow without water. Trash collects without anyone living there. Lawn clippings, rock and general yard debris deposited from adjacent neighbors **MAKE IT EVEN WORSE! WHAT CAN YOU DO? Invite others in your neighborhood to join you in a "GOOD NEIGHBOR PROJECT" and periodically clean up those vacant lots.** Most of the vacant lot property owners do not live locally, and the process of notifying them takes longer than anyone wants. Your occasional mowing, picking up trash blown there by the wind, and not depositing your stuff on the vacant lot really helps in making those vacant lots easier to live with and makes the Elk Ridge Community a more beautiful place to live, **which is what we all want!!**

BFI HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

JULY 4TH
JULY 24TH
SEPTEMBER 1ST LABOR DAY
NOVEMBER 27TH THANKSGIVING
DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS

ON THE WEEK OF A HOLIDAY PICK UP WILL BE A DAY BEHIND, UNLESS A HOLIDAY IS AT THE END OF THE WEEK.

REMEMBER TO HAVE YOUR CANS OUT BY 7:00 A.M.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

School's out, but Johnny's still learning! He has fun with his reading skills at a literacy center, in his local library and at an after-school program. He doesn't stop learning. Help him keep his skills sharp. Volunteers are needed through the summer and during after school hours. Call Norman Smith for details 798-1609.

AMERICAN SPIRIT

2003 ELK RIDGE CITY CELEBRATION

Monday June 23rd

3:00 pm Citizen of the Year entries due

Thursday June 26th

3:00 pm Visual Art Contest entries due

3:00 pm Family Float entries due

4:30 pm Golf Tournament

Friday June 27th

4:00 pm Junior 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament (elimination round)

6:00 pm 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament (elimination round)

6:15 pm Line up for Parade

6:30 pm Parade begins

7:00 pm Mayor's Dinner and concessions

Saturday June 28th

7:00-11:00 am Pancake Breakfast

7:30 am Mountain Challenge 10K begins

8:30 am Flag Raising Ceremony

9:00 am Main Street Mile begins

9:00 am 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament final round (junior and senior)

9:30-11:30 am Carnival



Packets will be passed around the first part of June

-NOTICE-

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARING

June 17, 2003 the Council will hold a public hearing pertaining to modifications of the existing animal control ordinance. The thrust of the changes, if approved in its proposed form, will liberalize the definition and permitted number of "household pets". If passed in its proposed form there would be no limit to the number pets a homeowner could have. Those wanting to address the Council should call no later than noon on June 17th to be included in the hearing. Office 423-2300.

Hearing for animal control starts at 6:00 pm

Hearing for 2002/2003 proposed budget starts at 6:30 pm

Hearing for 2002/2003 final budget starts at 6:40 pm

Ordinance No. 02-8-13-15 Requiring control of weeds & grass

Noxious weeds as may be defined by the Utah State Commissioner of Agriculture; or any weeds more than twelve (12) inches tall; or any weeds within thirty (30) feet of a structure, or weeds within ten (10) feet of the outer edge of any public street, or weeds in any other location including vacant lots and open fields that constitute an unreasonable fire hazard...

