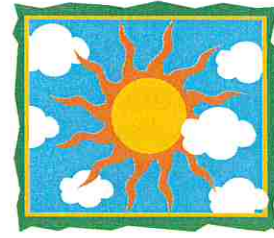


AUGUST 2003



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# Elk Ridge Bugle

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*Andrea Muhlestein - Editor*

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## *Message from the Mayor*

In every administration there can be found things done well and some done poorly. I think water represents a thing done well. When we read the news throughout the valley of the problems others are having with water one has to hope we are not visited with the same difficulties.

While we appear to have sufficient water for our current population, it is unlikely we will maintain a static growth pattern. For the past one and a half years we have limited development because of water and sewer concerns. Since these conditions have been better clarified a degree of growth is going to occur. With that said, we must still plan for growth in water source and storage capacity.

**Roads:** On now to a subject that evokes competing emotions, road repair and maintenance. There is a belief by some that whenever we perform major repair that rebuilding to "development standards" is necessary. I am not one who supports that thought.

Councilman Prestwich has spent a great deal of time and energy analyzing and studying our needs. Both he and I have consulted with surrounding cities to see how they address the issue and have come up with recommendations that I strongly support.

Such as, It has long been my contention that collector roads are a first priority and thus will consume a larger share of our road budget but the side streets are another story. They have neither the traffic nor the need for a full width street beyond what they currently occupy and only at the behest and expense of the adjoining property owners should curb and gutter be installed. While there are opposing opinions, it is mine that curb and gutter compounds runoff problems and dramatically increases cost for containment far beyond their supposed benefit. Also, I cannot support spending \$120,000 on a 900 foot side street.

Our entire year's budget is only \$110,000. A far more modest approach will be studied and possibly not implemented until next year. Whatever is done will be of good quality but not to "development standards" if my recommendations prevails.

I have asked our city attorney to confirm whether the city can have a "development standard" for new development and a separate "standard" for existing roads. He confirms that a two standard approach is legal and reasonable.

**Now on to other things.** I would like to thank the many citizens who expended energy and time to help beautify our city.

The many hours so spent reflects the pride of our residents in their homes and community. An eagle project is in progress to paint the city hall. Its nearly done. Good work! Thank you again.

The city recently purchased a street sweeper. I hope you will accept the occasional dust that accompanies sweeping our streets. As Martha Stewart would say, "It's a good thing."

A lot of space has been dedicated to ATV's. Some think it a good thing, others have chastened me for the use of the newsletter for such a singular subject.

Many others have been kind enough to write letters of support. I have appointed a 3 person committee to study how we can accommodate the use and safety of ATV's. If you have some good ideas let me know and I'll pass them on.

The Elk Ridge Trails system is well under way. Thanks to councilman Todd Jackson and his committee concrete plans are about to bear fruit. I think you will like what is happening.

Occasionally a citizen will express concern about our sewer system. For general information we send our "stuff" to Salem where we have an 18% ownership. Handling the effluent is not an inexpensive process nor is it without government intervention.

I have a letter on my desk where the state powers are threatening a \$10,000 per day fine if the system is not brought into compliance within a specified period of time. That translates into money. We are working on the matter right now. Elk Ridge has limited options. One however is the ongoing study of a possible agreement with Payson. I expect an answer to that issue within six months. If we do connect to the Payson system though, there will be a cost.

#### ELECTIVE OFFICE:

August 15<sup>th</sup> is the cut-off to register. We have three council positions being vacated as end-of-term this year. The position of councilman requires formal meeting twice a month and independent study between meetings. A \$300 stipend goes with the job. That is not a great deal of money but it does compensate to a degree for the extra effort needed to perform this job. We have a great council at present but three of their terms expire in January and we need replacements. Please give it some serious thought. By the way, the council positions are gender neutral. Anyone of qualifying age can hold the office. Registrations cut-off is August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### NOTICE! DERELICT VEHICLES ENFORCEMENT NOW IN EFFECT!

#### \*\*\*\*\*BE A VOLUNTEER\*\*\*\*\*

YOU DON'T HAVE TO RETIRE TO START HAVING FUN. VOLUNTEERING KEEPS YOU ACTIVE IN MINDY AND BODY WHILE DOING IMMENSE GOOD FOR SOMEONE ELSE AND OUR COMMUNITY. WITH ONLY A FEW HOURS COMMITMENT, YOU CAN BE A TUTOR AT ALL SCHOOLS AND THE FAMILY LITERACY CENTER. THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR THE FALL TERM. DO YOUR CHILDREN KNOW THE HISTORY OF YOUR COMMUNITY? VISIT AN OUTSTANDING HISTORICAL MUSUEM NEAR YOU, SUCH AS, THE ART MUSEUM, PETEETNEET, CHIEFTAIN, D.U.P. AND CITY MUSEUMS. IN ORDER TO RUN THESE FINE INSTITUTIONS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED. CALL NORMAN SMITH AT 798-1609 FOR DETAILS.

Christopher Haskell is 13 years old and has just completed all 120 Merit Badges offered by the Boy Scouts of America. This took a lot of hard work and dedication for Chris to accomplish this goal. It is believed that Chris is the youngest ever to accomplish this. This information comes from Renee Fairrer, associate director of marketing and communications for the Boy Scouts of America. Chris really loves the scouting program and through working on merit badges he has gained many new interests and has learned the true meaning of service. Chris has a kind heart and sensitivity that is rare in such a young man. Although he is a little bit shy he's never let that stand in his way of accomplishing what's important to him. Chris is very bright and excels in everything he does. Chris always does his best. Chris lives his life by the Scout Law "Be Prepared". Chris is looking forward to new adventures in Scouting! In one week Chris will be receiving his 3<sup>rd</sup> Eagle Palm. One of Chris' greatest qualities is his ability to see when someone is in need and without question he helps that person. Chris always looks and listens for an opportunity to help others. In school Chris has tutored many of his fellow students and is himself a 4.0 student. Chris is well liked and very outgoing. Chris is also a very good athlete and is involved in many sports and he is very much a team player. He has demonstrated on many occasions his leadership abilities, Chris is the Senior Patrol leader in his troop and also the Den Chief for the Webelows Den, and the President in his Deacons Quorum. Chris has never been afraid to stand up for what he believes in. For Chris' Eagle Project, Chris and scouts from Troop 918 fixed up the city play ground by building retaining walls around the tennis courts and adding steps. They also built bench-high block walls around play equipment. This was the best experience of his life according to Chris. Making and then meeting his goal of earning all the badges has helped Chris to grow in many ways as a person. He is very humbled and grateful for all of the kindnesses shown towards him and wishes to express his thanks to all of the people that have supported him and wished him well.

