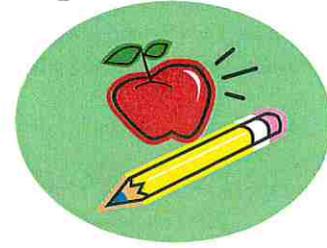




September 2003



# Elk Ridge Bugle

Andrea Muhlestein - Editor

## Letter from the Mayor

How do you say "THANKS" to everyone who helped fight the several fires we have had this year. Three times our volunteers have responded to protect our community from potential loss of life and property. The latest incident being the ten acre fire on the south end of they city.

Wayne Frandsen was the first to report the fire. He saw the signs of smoke almost from the beginning and had the alarm sounded. Elk Ridge volunteers responded immediately followed by surrounding agencies and cities. According to state and federal agencies this fire was fought text-book style with nearly everything in our favor. It could have been much worse. Only one home was evacuated when flames came within fifty feet of the house.

We had one human injury. Mary Jo Stout severely injured her knee. Best wishes on a swift recovery.

A total of at least seven cities, agencies, etc. from locals, state, county, and federal entities combined their energy and skills to knock the fire down within hours. Our hearty thanks to all. This was the third significant fire for Elk Ridge this season. The previous two could have had similar results were it not for quick response by our volunteers. Lets hope it is the last of the season.

The one question on everyone's mind was and is, how did it start? We will probably never know unless someone starts talking but as reported by the fire investigators it was human caused. Was it an off road vehicle? Possibly. For certain? Well, no but it is not entirely eliminated as a source. Of course the temptation to assign blame is always present.

At this point however, placing blame is less the point than is the realization that we were lucky. Lucky the fire occurred where it did. (A popular off-road trail leading from the road into the foothills.) Lucky it was on the out-skirts of development, lucky the wind was blowing in the manner it did, lucky equipment and personnel were available. Good luck combined with skilled men and women who applied their training to a real life situation prevented a lot of potential damage.

Following the aftermath of a major fire like this are concerns about mud flows, reseeding the land, clearing the dead wood and brush, and stabilizing the land. We are in contact with appropriate agencies and groups to accomplish this. We may have several eagle scout projects available if anyone is interested.

One issue that needs addressing is paying for the fire fighting process. We had three helicopters ferrying water from the golf course and a fixed wing bomber that dropped one load of fire suppressant on the fire. Also there were seven agencies and cities working to knock down the fire.

None of these services including over 37 personnel on the lines comes for free. The earliest estimate of cost was around \$50,000 but after taking into account cooperative agreements between cities and various government agencies the last figure provided was just under \$18,000.

State law says that if the persons responsible for the fire are convicted they can be forced to pay those costs. That means that if one of our children caused the fire the parents could be held financially responsible. As it stand now the city will have to pay those costs out of the common treasury. It might be worth while reconsidering off road vehicle recreation until after the fall rains begin. One major fire could bankrupt most families.

One thing that will receive a lot of attention next year will be vacant lots with uncontrolled weeds and grass and yards and open spaces with junk that could create a problem. So far as the city is concerned we really don't want to be the bad guy regarding yard clutter and junk but having seen how swiftly this fire moved (I was there within minutes of its beginning) it frightens me to think how many homes could be lost if we fail to act.

It has been suggested that we create some soil retention barricades using bales of hay. If that possibility is confirmed by authorities who know, we will be asking for some volunteers. Many things cross our minds at this point and we will keep you advised. If you want to help, leave your name and phone number with our staff at city hall.

**Entrance Sign:** In the near future (a couple of years) we will be finishing the retention basin at the top of county road 1600. We will consider the new sign at that time rather than having to relocate later on.

**Guns:** Tis the season when the blood stirs in Utah hunters. We would like to remind you however, that discharging firearms in the city of Elk Ridge is prohibited. That includes skeet and/or target shooting. The message hasn't gotten out apparently to some folks. Please be considerate of you neighbors. Change occurs with increased population and the pleasures of olden days now causes concern among your neighbors. Remember, illegal firearm discharging can result in a formal citation and a court date.

**Dogs:** We continue to get calls about dogs running loose or homes with more than two dogs. If your neighbor reports a violation of either and is willing to sign a complaint the sheriff's department will cite you. That results in a court date and a fine. Please give some consideration to the rules that are designed to make life pleasant for all.

**ELECTION TIME:** Eight citizens filed for the three open council positions. We will have a run-off in October followed by the regular election in November. Congratulations to those of you who care enough about our city to volunteer your time.

## Council Member Nominations

**Nelson Abbott  
Michael Ashton  
Janna Barry  
Alvin L. Harward  
Tommy Ingram  
Mark W. Johnson  
Sean L. Nielsen  
Mary Rugg**

3 Election Judges needed for:

- 1) Primary Election October 7, 2003
- 2) Municipal Election November 4, 2003

Compensation \$50.00 per day  
Deadline for election judges is September 9<sup>th</sup> by 3:00 pm!

**Water, Sewer, or Road  
Emergencies:**

**Call this pager number  
283-3270**

**HAM RADIO CLASS**  
Ham Radio classes will be beginning soon. The new manuals just arrived! There is no charge for the class, just the cost of the manual (\$15.00). The class will run for 8 weeks. If you are interested in taking the class or just buying the manual, please contact Linda Jones @ 423-3126.

Congratulations to the following people on receiving their Ham radio license:  
Paul Jones, Cassie Jones, Jessica Jones, Christopher Jones,



**UTAH COUNTY BOOKMOBILE**  
Salem Hills Drive & Maple Lane  
September 17<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

### *Fire Department Spotlight*

*Hal Shelley is our new EMT Captain, he has been an EMT for Elk Ridge for over a year but has lived here for 3 years. Hal has been an EMT since 1994 and worked for Mapleton Ambulance before moving to Elk Ridge. He is an educator by trade, teaching Seminary at Payson High School. His wife Becky is a nurse and they have 5 children; 3 that are married, 2 that are still living at home and 2 grandchildren. Hal enjoys and is talented in music, singing, and entertaining. Hal liked Elk Ridge for its quietness and friendliness. He hopes to see any future growth happen in a controlled manner. We are proud to have such a fine man leading us and fortunate as a town to have his experience in serving us.*

With School started, this is a good time to remind everyone to **SLOW DOWN** and watch for kids.  
**BE SAFE!**



We would like to thank Doug Stout, Craig Olson and all the member of the Fire Department on their speedy response to the fire in August. Because of their quick assessment and request of additional help, they were able to contain the fire quickly with no structural damage. We would like to wish Marie-Jo Stout good luck on her recovery from her injury sustained in fighting that fire. We would also like to thank Tim and Debbie Dallas for opening their house to us and allowing us to use it as a staging area for medical care. Their pizza, ice water, snacks and generosity was greatly appreciated. Elk Ridge has wonderful people!!!