



Elk Ridge Bugle

October 2008

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

What a busy year to catch up on items here in the city. A new general plan is in the final stages, the big water project is finished and new codes and ordinances have been cleaned up and put into place. Much more is yet to come.

As most of the city is in the two zones of R-1 15,000 and R-1 20,000, it is important for you to know that a group of citizens are working on trying to change the ordinance to allow the raising of chickens. Presently the current code does not allow any animal rights for this to happen in at least those two zones. The Planning Commission is responsible for hearing the request for this change and in setting a public hearing, that all of you are invited to attend, as part of the process for gathering concerns and opinions that are needed to allow or not allow the raising of chickens. You will be notified through this newsletter, on the post boards at the city building and at the three-way stop at Elk Ridge Drive and Goosenest when a public hearing is set. The possible change in the code will have an effect on at least 400 homes here and will only change if that is what you want. So, if you desire to raise chickens or would like them raised next door to you or not, then this will be the time to support or not support this proposed change. Details are being prepared by the group that has requested this change and will be available for evaluation when they present them to the Planning Commission for discussion and review. We will post them

on the city web site for your review when they come to us. Our web address is www.elkridgecity.org and you can click on **Links** then **Miscellaneous Documents** then **Chicken Rules** to read what is prepared. If you do not have internet service and desire a printed copy, you will need to visit the city office to obtain one.

An ATV ordinance is being worked on at the City Council level and is in need of your attention also. Senate Bill 181 will allow the use of ATV on roads in communities of 7,500 people or less and was signed by the Governor. It takes effect on 1 October 2008. Details for city ordinance are left up to the community and councils to write. Another ordinance being considered is one that will not allow the shooting of any projectiles within the city limits. This will include BB guns, bows and arrows, sling shots and any other items that are defined as weapons. This has come about as a result of citizens concerned with the safety of such actions in their neighbor's back yards. **The council has set public hearings for both of the proposed ATV and Firearms and Weapons codes. The dates and time to calendar are 14 October at 6:00 and 6:30 PM.** We will discuss these items during the work session and then take action on them during the council meeting that same evening. Copies of these proposed codes can be found on the city web site as described above. Under **Miscellaneous Documents** look for **ATV and Firearms Codes** or come into the city office and pick up a copy.

CITY DRILL

**The drill will begin at 9:00 am.
The Fire Chief will be driving the streets with his siren on to signal the official start of the drill. Residents are to check all meters, power, water, gas and then report to their neighborhood stations.**

**Volunteers who would like to pose as victims please register with
Gayle Weber 423-3190
Participants must be 8 years old and older**



Sheriff's Corner

Last weekend I had the opportunity to take an ATV ride in the mountains and enjoy the beauty which surrounds this valley. The leaves are just starting to change and I'm thinking about this weekend could be the peak of the color. May I suggest you take a load off your life and relax with your family and enjoy the fall colors. There is nothing like taking some time for yourself and just look around at the real important things in life, such as the ones who mean the most.

More and more every month I have the opportunity to get to know your community. I learn more about each of you and what your about. I hear compliments about one another. When possible, I feel a great sense of enjoyment stopping and talking to some of you while your outside working in your yard, walking down the street, kids waiting for the bus etc. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Elk Ridge City Ordinances

Elk Ridge City has ordinances on the books which are about laws that apply to your city. These ordinances are intended for the benefit of the community in cleanliness, health and welfare, fire protection etc. They are available for review on the cities website or you can stop by the city office to review a copy.

Because we all have different personalities, come from different backgrounds life experiences, we may not always agree on some of the ordinances. But we all need to stop and think what is the intent of this ordinance and what is best for the community as a whole and not just personally. In my years of experience in law enforcement, I have scratched my head several times wondering about some laws, ordinances, and rules, but again I have to realize we are not perfect, and it is our responsibility as a community to try and do what is best for the community. Sometimes we have to agree to just disagree, but that's ok.

Perhaps in the past Elk Ridge City has not had the time, resources etc. to address some of the city ordinances. They do have limited funds, time, and manpower. Some of the complaints I have received have been about city ordinance

violations. I have spoken with the council and they have approved for me to assist in the notification of the ordinance violations. This will not only allow for this to be addressed, but it will also save the city money which can be used elsewhere for the community.

Planning Commission Update

There are no public hearings scheduled for October. Last month we did hold hearings on three issues.

- The rezone of Lee Haskell's property SW of the Goosenest DR/Elk Ridge DR curve was recommended by the commission for approval. There was little interest by citizens on this issue. The proposed change is from RR-1 zone (1/2 acre lots w/ animal rights) to 1/3 acre lots. The city council should make a decision on this change at their October 14 meeting.
- RR-1 Zone (W. Goosenest DR area) minimum lot size from 1/2 acre to 1 acre was tabled, indefinitely. Land owners in the area were to keep the option for 1/2 lots in the future.
- The landscaping requirements issue had many people there in favor of requiring current residents to install and maintain front yard landscaping. No one attended the meeting against the proposal. The commission will continue to work on the language of the proposed code and will most likely send the proposal to the council in November.

Zoning Enforcement

Elk Ridge is in such a beautiful setting, but sometimes our city doesn't look the part. At the city, we receive many complaints about people breaking zoning laws. All cities have rules that are meant to protect citizens from uses not conducive to residential areas. These include junk and weeds on lots; dogs on the loose; traffic safety where obstacles such as trees, bushes, fences, and RVs block corners and streets; buildings encroaching on setback areas; construction equipment being stored on residential properties; did I say dogs on the loose?

Being limited with staff and staff turnover, zoning enforcement hasn't happened as it should. As planner for the city, part of my job is zoning enforcement. I am pledging now to do a better job. Our building inspector, Corbett Stephens,

and our sheriff are also going to help in this area. By the looks of things we'll earn a 50% approval rating. The people with offenses will not be happy, the neighbors looking at the offenses will be.

As part of our renewed effort, we are first focusing on requiring trailers, RVs, boats, and disabled and unregistered vehicles to be off the roads, front yards, and vacant lots. We are also focusing on junk on properties. You could say that many areas of the city look like an auto wrecking yard, used RV lot, and trailer storage facility. Two or more disabled / unregistered vehicles are not allowed on lots in residential areas of the city. Trailers, RVs, and boats are allowed on your property but should be stored to the side or back of your home or enclosed behind a fence. There are also storage facilities that would love your business. The city street and shoulder area are not extra storage space.

At the end of September, we sent out over 20 letters requiring that these types of vehicles be moved. Additional letters will come this month regarding junk conditions. When a person is notified of a problem, they are usually given 30 days to correct it. If the problem is not taken care of in the time allotted, the issue is placed before the city council and they can decide to either issue a class C misdemeanor (up to a \$750 fine and \$10 a day until rectified) or defer the issue to our attorney.

We want to work with you to correct these problems. In the end, your neighbors want to live in nice neighborhoods, want to be proud of our city, and want something done. If you see a condition that needs addressing, please call the city and we will look into it. –
Shawn Eliot, City Planner

Note from the Fire Department

It seems that every time we have a major fire in Elk Ridge the "experts" on fire ground operations suddenly come out of the woodwork. Inexplicably, none of these "experts" have put forth the time and effort to join our fire department.

There has been what I believe to be unfair criticism of Elk Ridge Fire Department floating around since the Young fire last Friday night. I'd like to answer it.

First, I think it's instructive to compare to other departments and their protocols. Provo City will dispatch three stations on a fully involved structure fire similar to the Young fire.

This means that on the initial attack on a fire like the Young fire they will have between 10 and 15 full time professional firefighters. On the Young fire ERFD had four firefighters on the initial attack. Of those four, two have been on the department less than a year, three had never been on a structure fire, and one is a retiree. It's likely that some mistakes were made. In fact, I'd be really shocked if there weren't. The old saying that "no war plan survives the first bullet fired" also applies to a firefighting operation. It can be a chaotic, unpredictable, and dangerous environment. Elk Ridge Fire Department was woefully understaffed on the Young fire but the bottom line is our firefighters saved that house. I know each of those four people who responded to the fire and I can tell you that they did the very best they could and I also know that each of them is an exemplary example of selfless public service and they deserve our thanks and admiration.

After every major fire we critique our performance. We go over what went well, what went wrong, and we try to learn from this call so that we do better on the next one. Then we go out and practice it, doing dry runs with our equipment and trying to make sure that everyone is up to speed on every operation. We invest many hundreds of hours per year in training on Saturdays and Wednesday nights.

A lot of people might not know what it means to have a volunteer fire department. You might be wondering to yourself, "Well, why was ERFD understaffed that night"? The answer is we don't have firefighters sitting at the fire station waiting for calls. As luck would have it, at the time of the Young fire, we only had four members of ERFD in town.

Since we only have a structure fire every three years or so, it would not make sense to pay people 24/7 to sit around waiting for a fire to happen. Our fire department effectively consists of those fire department members who are in town at the time that a fire occurs. When a call comes through on our pagers, we take off at a dead run for our cars and drive down to the station as fast as we can without hitting any kids, we put on our turnouts, and we wait for more firefighters to arrive before we go to the fire. Even with all that, at most calls that I've been to we have arrived on scene at around 6 minutes after page out. Sometimes we find a homeowner loudly wondering "what took us so long to get there". I understand that. If your property is burning up then every second feels like an eternity.

Being a volunteer fire department also means that when we respond to a fire we don't know what job we're going to be called upon to do. We don't know who is going to be engineer, who is going to be incident commander, or who is going to be on the end of a nozzle until we see who shows up. I've responded to several calls over the years in which there has only been one other person so that we have had a 2 man crew to try to do a job that takes 12 men. If you're going to have a house fire, try to do it on a week night other than Friday. That's when we get our best response. You might even get lucky and get the whole fire department.

Showing up at a fire and expecting to suddenly become an honorary member of the department doesn't work. If ERFD were to allow people with no protective equipment and no training to "help out" on an active fire it would create a huge liability for the city. Similarly, we can't have crowds of people milling around and walking through the fire scene the whole time. I don't think anyone wants their local tax dollars to go toward paying millions of dollars for someone who was injured in such a scenario. Therefore, securing the scene is an essential part of protecting the public and the city.

Life is full of tradeoffs. Having a small volunteer fire department with unpredictable staffing levels is one downside of living in a small town. On the other hand, it's an opportunity. If you think our fire department can be better then join us and make it so. It's got to beat standing on the sidelines taking potshots at those who are putting their necks on the line to save someone else's property.

Darrell Hodges
Firefighter ERFD

From the Emergency Preparedness Corner

How I See It

by Spence Sheets

Director, Elk Ridge Disaster Preparedness and
Emergency Response (DPEM)

Since accepting the position as Elk Ridge DPEM director, I have been constantly concerned about Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) especially since the world is in such a restless situation.

In my previous career, I worked as an engineer on the B-2 stealth bomber flight control system. Part of the responsibility included the development of a flight control system which was immune to EMP. The design for EMP was critical as this pulse will "lock up" all

semiconductor electronics and render them unusable. In some cases the electronics may recover, but in most cases they will not, depending upon their construction and use. EMP can be caused by a nuclear event, whether on the ground or above the earth. Usually an EMP event does not kill people, but it reeks havoc on semiconductor electronics. Many of our enemies have nuclear capabilities and could launch a nuclear armed missile at our satellites or above the United States and literally shut down this entire country.

Consider for a moment how many devices contain semiconductors and it will immediately become apparent how overwhelmingly EMP can affect our lives. Semiconductors are involved in almost every aspect of our existence. They are used in our automobiles, trucks, tractors, trains, airplanes, water and natural gas pumping stations, electrical grid control, cell phones, television and radios, cameras, tools, watches and clocks, to name a few. In fact, there are few things in which they are not used. So if trucks, trains, and planes can't run, how will our food and other commodities be delivered? And if there is no electricity we will be living as our ancestors did in the 1800s.

The government commissioned a select group of engineers and scientists to study this problem and to ascertain the impact of an EMP event upon the U.S. I have condensed this 200 page report into just a few paragraphs for your perusal. The full report provides significant detail, which I strongly suggest you read; it can be found by Googling *Government EMP Report*. The first item in the list is a scant summary by *Watchman Magazine* from which I've gleaned some of the information in this letter. The second item in the list is the executive summary report.

Information from the magazine will be included in next month's news letter.

ELK RIDGE SPORTS NEWS

Salem has hired a new sports director. He doesn't want us to put together our own teams any longer, he wants us to just sign up down in Salem. Like most of you, we think this is a problem. DON'T PANIC, we are working on a solution!

In the meantime, **basketball sign-ups will be done in Salem.** You need to sign up by October 29th to get the early fee.

Also, we will be sending out a survey to get feedback about the sports program. If you don't receive an e-

mail and would like your voice to be heard, please contact Kara Cook at wkcook@hotmail.com. Thanks to our soccer coaches this season: Janean Wright, Cindy Cromar, Michelle Stevens, Maurie Vance, Shelly Neria, Andy Haskell, Mark Goold, Shaunalie Auman, Dean Ingram, Kevin Fisher, Scott Young, James Bonny, Sabrina Sorensen, and Janna Barry. We couldn't do it without your support!

A HISTORY OF THE CITY OF ELK RIDGE CONCLUSION

As Compiled from the existing files by Mayor Dennis A. Dunn July 30, 2008

In 1979 a well was drilled at the north end of Elk Ridge. The well could pump 350 gallons of water per minute and was 950 feet deep. The cost to pump the water to the upper tanks was very expensive at that time so it was rarely used. Two other small wells were drilled in Loafer Canyon in 1978 and 1979. In 1993 a new well was drilled in the canyon at the extreme south end of Elk Ridge within the private gated area. It supplies the community with an exceptional amount of water that once brought to the surface has gravity flow to the storage tanks.

By the summer of 1980, the population was 381 and there were 99 homes in Elk Ridge. The first youth baseball league was organized that summer. During the summer of 1981, work was started on the seven-acre site that was set aside for the city park. This park site was donated by the developers Hal Shuler, Keith Shuler, and Jim Winterton. The baseball diamond was graded by the Utah National Guard Engineering Unit based in Springville. The labor and equipment was donated as a work project and the town paid for the lunch and fuel. Council meetings were held in the homes of the Council members until a city building was completed in 1984. We received a grant from the government to help with the new city building, however; many, many more hours were donated by volunteers to complete the building.

Several changes were made in the City Council members between 1976 and 1981 for various reasons. In the November 1981 election, a new slate of officers was elected.

The mayor was John Peterson and the Council consisted of Cregg Ingram, Hal Shuler, Wayne Shute, and John Thomas. The new council faced many problems common to a growing city. The most critical problem was sufficient water storage. During the heat of the summer, residents experienced a shortage of water on many occasions. During the peak hourly flow, without the wells pumping, water storage was depleted in one hour. In March 1982, the city applied to the Utah Board of Drinking water and Water Resources for financial assistance in increasing the water storage capacity.

The summer of 1987 saw the completion of the pavilion, which was almost, completely, done by the residents of Elk Ridge. We did receive a matching grant from the government to help build the pavilion. In September 1984, the first LDS chapel was completed.

On May 28, 1988, the Gladstan Golf Course was opened. Elk Ridge donated land to Payson to help build the golf course.

In the Fall of 1985, Cable TV was introduced to part of the city. In June of 1988, Elk Ridge and Salem completed their combined new sewer plant.

Building of homes was slow, after seventeen years of growth, only 157 had been built by 1989.

Between 1984 and 1990 the Fire Department became well organized. Regular training sessions were held and equipment and tools were purchased. Elk Ridge was tied into the emergency "911" phone system.

The City Council and Fire Department sponsored a Fourth of July celebration each year. In the beginning, the Scouts would help organize a program and the Saturday morning breakfast was prepared and served by the Fire Department and EMS group.

Races, a parade and various sporting activities, as well as, a carnival are a part of the celebration.

In 1990 the Census recorded a population in Elk Ridge of 771 people. By January, 1994 the town had grown to 230 homes. Presently in 2008, we have approximately 550 homes and an estimated population of 2,600 people.

CAT PROBLEMS ?

It is brought to our attention, often, that the cats that wander about town create some nuisance issues. Because the cats will not wait for the animal control officer to pick them up, the city has purchased two (2) live cat traps. These traps can be used by coming into the office and checking them out. When you catch the cat, you will need to call the county animal control officer and he will take the cat out of the trap. If you catch a skunk or raccoon, please **do not** let them go. We have instructions on how to deal with the latter two animals.

Lost Bike

If you have lost a bike,
call the city office to make
an identification.