

# Town of Alta Newsletter



Vol. 4 Issue 3

June —August 2012

## Municipal News

### **TOWN COUNCIL NEWS**

At the June 21<sup>st</sup> Town Council meeting, the Council passed an ordinance which increases the municipal energy sales and use tax from 4% to 6%. The municipal energy sales and use tax is levied on the use of electric and natural gas energy sources. Utah State Code allows for municipalities to collect up to a 6% tax on those commodities. This increase will take several months to go into effect, so expect to see changes in your October energy bills.

The Town of Alta Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budgets were passed at the June 21<sup>st</sup> Town Council Meeting. View them here: [http://www.townofalta.com/gov\\_budget.shtml](http://www.townofalta.com/gov_budget.shtml)

The Certified Tax Rate (CTR) for Fiscal Year 2013 dropped from 0.001084 to 0.001065. The decrease in the CTR is to balance the increase in the assessed values of properties in the Town. In the next newsletter we will compare this rate to other municipalities and look at a breakdown of where your property tax money goes.

The Town Council has been working on revisions to the Town's General Plan. For more information about this process, visit: [http://townofalta.com/gov\\_plan.shtml](http://townofalta.com/gov_plan.shtml). The next work session to discuss the General Plan will be held September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am, prior to the Town Council meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Town Council will be held September 13<sup>th</sup> at the Alta Community Center (Library) at 10am.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS**

The Planning Commission held a walk-around of the Alta base area on July 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss proposed changes to Base Facilities Zone.

The Planning Commission anticipates holding a meeting in September, the date is yet to be determined. Please check the Town's website for more information.

### **OTHER MUNICIPAL NEWS**

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Little Cottonwood Canyon clean up day was held on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The Town is extremely grateful for the several hundred volunteers that show up annually to beautify our canyon. The Town thanks the Alta Marshals Office, Unified Police Department, Unified Fire Authority, Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, Alta Ski Area, Sysco, and the Alta Lodge for providing supplies and/or assistance.

The Town of Alta held a restoration and trail work project on July 7<sup>th</sup> in collaboration with the Alta Environmental Center, Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, and Friends of Alta. Several dozen volunteers got their hands dirty transplanting native plants and creating a new trail spur from the Albion Base parking lot to the Albion Meadows trail. There are still a few summer

stewardship opportunities left, check out the events calendar for more details.

The Town has used the remainder of its Energy Efficiency Conversation Block Grant funding to retrofit the lighting in the Town Office building. Funding for this grant comes from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and has been used previously to upgrade 3 furnaces from 80% to 95% efficiency, retrofit lighting in both Alta Central and the Community Center, and complete a Town building energy audit. The total amount funded from ARRA to the Town was \$25,444. The Town has been enjoying the energy savings and rebates from Rocky Mountain Power and Questar!

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## Municipal News (...continued from page 1)

The Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium will be held September 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center. Join the dialogue about water quality, pollution control, and watershed protection in the County. Find out more and register at: <http://www.watershed.slco.org/symposium/index.html>

The following notice is from Rocky Mountain Power (RMP): RMP and other members of Utah's energy community have reached an agreement that

would bring greater predictability to electricity prices for our customers over the next two years. The agreement has been submitted to the Public Service Commission of Utah for approval.

The increases for associated rate schedules are below:

**Schedule 6**

5.07% effective 10/1/2012

4.2% effective 9/1/2013

**Schedule 8 and 9**

6.07% effective 10/1/2012

3.08% effective 9/1/2013

The Mona-Oquirrh transmission line is scheduled to be completed by September 1, 2013. If the transmission line is not in service by September 1, 2013, then the 2013 price increase will be delayed until the line is completed. RMP will not be allowed to file its next rate case January 1, 2014, with an effective date of September 1, 2014.

RMP customers can lessen the impact of future price increases and take charge of their electricity bills by using RMP's wattsmart energy efficiency programs (see page 4).



Volunteers hard at work restoring native vegetation and establishing a new trail spur. Photo courtesy of Maura Olivos.

## Notes from the Marshal's Office



Thank you for your compliance with the fire restrictions that were imposed earlier this summer on federal lands. We are not out of the

woods yet, but we appreciate everyone's cooperation and diligence.

Even though snowfall seems like a distant memory, our office continues to work with UDOT, UPD, and the ski areas to look for ways to improve communication and road travel conditions for the winter season. Look for updates regarding some exciting projects we have been working on in the next newsletter.

Thank you for your patience on Hwy 210 and the Bypass Road during road

work. We are looking forward to a wider shoulder on Hwy 210, the beginning of a fiber conduit installation project in the canyon, and a newly resurfaced Alta Bypass Road. Thanks to UDOT for the improvements to both roads.

The last weekend the summer shuttle will run is Labor Day weekend (September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>). The Town will staff the booth on Labor Day weekend and then shut it down during the week. It will operate on Friday, Saturday and Sundays through September 16<sup>th</sup> when it will close for the summer season.

Want to make travelling around the valley a breeze? Check out the Salt Lake County Map Book app and the UDOT Travel app. The Salt Lake Coun-

ty Map Book app provides a street guide and apartment maps for the county. The UDOT travel app allows access to road and travel conditions including traffic conditions, accidents, road construction, and more. Both apps are available for iPhone, iPad, and Android devices.



## Message from the Mayor



Thanks to the efforts of Senator Mike Lee and Representative Rob Bishop, the Town may have its own land! Senate Bill 684 was signed into law by the president of the United States on June 27<sup>th</sup> which granted the Town approximately two acres of land that was previously held by the U.S. Forest Service. The exact acreage and legal description will be determined by survey, but the Town intends to obtain the land under and around its municipal buildings/facilities. The Town currently

owns no land and has been trying for nearly a decade to obtain the land under and around its public buildings.

I had the privilege of meeting with the new Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Forest Supervisor David Whittekiend and other folks from the District Ranger's office to discuss issues on the Forest Service land here in town. Since over 75% of our land is owned by the Forest Service, it is really wonderful have them up here to see the challenges we face and hear from us first hand.

September is national preparedness month. How prepared are you and your family for an emergency? If you have thought about it and have not done anything yet, now is the time! Put together a 72-hour kit and talk with your family about a plan. Learn about what types of disasters are likely to strike where you live. We will be discussing emergency preparedness at the September 13<sup>th</sup> Town Council

meeting and will have hand-outs and information to help you take the first step. Take the pledge to prepare at [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

You may have noticed the fiber conduit going in the road in the upper part of the canyon this last month. UDOT is laying the conduit with the intention of having top to bottom fiber optics in the canyon in the next few years. The Town, in conjunction with UDOT, the ski areas, and a private vendor are actively working to see this come to fruition. Not only would fiber optics in the canyon provide a much needed redundant telecommunication pathway, but would also increase the available bandwidth to businesses and residents, and allow UDOT to employ technology to better monitor traffic and road conditions.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

# Environmental Central

## Salt Lake Community Solar

The following is information from:

<http://www.mycommunitysolar.org/>

Salt Lake Community Solar is an innovative community bulk-purchase solar initiative designed to help homeowners overcome the logistical and financial hurdles of going solar. Participants unite to tackle the solar process as a team, realizing great cost savings through bulk purchasing power. Modeled after other successful campaigns, Salt Lake Community Solar is drawing on the lessons learned from other communities to pilot this effort in Utah and seeks to spread this model throughout the state. Local citizens, non-profits, and local government are working together to lead the Salt Lake Community Solar effort and ensure success!

Participants in Salt Lake Community Solar will receive the following benefits:



## Rocky Mountain Power's "wattsmart" program

With proposed rate increases from Rocky Mountain Power looming on the horizon, now is a great time to take advantage of Rocky Mountain Power's wattsmart energy efficiency programs.

### For residents:

Check out Rocky Mountain Power's wattsmart program to learn more about saving energy and money in your home. Visit [wattsmart.com](http://wattsmart.com) to:

- Access a free Home Energy Analysis self-audit tool to quantify your home's energy use.

- **Significant discount pricing for residential solar installations, made possible by group purchasing power:** Similar to the 'Groupon' model, discount pricing for solar is available once a minimum number of participants commit to installing solar through this effort. As more participants commit, the price for all participants declines. Prices may be up to 30-40% off the average installed price for solar (before incentives)!
- **Simplified and streamlined solar installation process:** Life is busy and complicated. Tapping into the sun for energy should be streamlined and simple. Salt Lake Community Solar does the heavy lifting, so you don't have to, freeing up your time and giving you greater peace of mind throughout the process. As a participant, you will have access to information and a community network to guide you through the solar process without hassle.

- Learn about incentives to customers who buy energy-efficient appliances, lighting, windows, insulation or other products and services for the home. Details at: [rockymountainpower.net/hes](http://rockymountainpower.net/hes)
- Find resources, tips, and tools for saving energy around your home

### For businesses:

Use Rocky Mountain Power's free Business Solutions Toolkit to save energy and money. Visit [rockymountainpower.net/toolkit](http://rockymountainpower.net/toolkit) to:

- Find benchmarks and calculators that compare your operations with others in your industry.

- **Quality projects from installers vetted by the Steering Committee:** The voluntary Steering Committee initiated a highly competitive bid process and selected a qualified team of solar contractors to provide discount pricing for high quality residential solar installations across Salt Lake County.

Learn more about how this project works and read about other successful community-bulk solar projects at:

<http://www.mycommunitysolar.org/>

Interested? You must commit by September 21st.

Take the first step today! Take the online "Solar Eligibility Survey" to reserve your spot in the process and receive a free solar assessment by the selected contractor.



- Generate money-saving recommendations with a short energy assessment of your facility.
- Estimate the payback to upgrade lighting, motors, HVAC, and other equipment.
- Peruse the eLibrary for energy-saving articles, links and programs categorized by business segment. Get access to technical researchers, engineers, and other researchers to assist with your business questions.

Sign-up at [rockymountainpower.net/toolkit](http://rockymountainpower.net/toolkit) or call the Business Solutions Team at 1.866.870.3419 for answers to your energy questions.

# Town of Alta Community Covenant Signing Ceremony

Thursday, September 13, 2012  
9-9:30am, Alta Community Center/Library

**Join the Town of Alta and the Utah National Guard  
in honoring the military men and women in our  
community. Reception to follow the signing  
ceremony.**

The Community Covenant program is designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families, both at their current duty stations and as they transfer to other states. It is a formal commitment of support by state and local communities to Soldiers and Families of the Army - Active, Guard and Reserve. While Community Covenant is an Army program, it extends to the other Military Services as well, recognizing that many community efforts support all Service Members and their Families regardless of the uniform they wear.



# Alta Events Calendar

## September

|    |            |  |
|----|------------|--|
| 6  | 1-4PM      | Summer Stewardship Event: Invasive Weed Removal. For more information or to register email <a href="mailto:volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org">volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org</a> or call the Public Lands Information Center at 801.466.6411  |
| 8  | 9AM - 4PM  | Summer Stewardship Event: Alta Ski Area Tree Planting. For more information or to register call (801) 364-2122 or email <a href="mailto:planting@treeutah.org">planting@treeutah.org</a>   |
| 13 | 9AM        | Town Council meeting, Alta Community Center (Library). 9AM Community Covenants signing ceremony, 9:30 General Plan Work Session, 10AM regular meeting.   |
| 13 | 6:30PM     | ACE Event: Salsa and Enchilada Culinary Competition, Our Lady of the Snows, \$5 to taste.  |
| 14 | 9AM or 1PM | Summer Stewardship Event: Memorial Tree and Seedling Planting. Two sessions; come for one or both, 9am-12pm or 1-4pm. For more information or to register email <a href="mailto:volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org">volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org</a> or call the Public Lands Information Center at 801.466.6411 |
| 18 | 6:30PM     | ACE Event: Country Line Dance Class, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!  |
| 27 | 6:30PM     | ACE Event: Spray Paint Art and Stencil, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!   |

## October

|    |        |  |
|----|--------|--|
| 4  | 6PM    | ACE Event: Soup Competition, Our Lady of the Snows, \$5 to taste. 5 quarts required to enter.  |
| 9  | 6PM    | ACE Event: Hula Hoop Instruction, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!   |
| 11 | 10AM   | Alta Town Council meeting, Alta Community Center (Library).  |
| 16 | 6PM    | ACE Event: Breadmaking 101, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE! Please pre-register at <a href="mailto:info@altaarts.org">info@altaarts.org</a> |
| 25 | 5:30PM | ACE Event: Pumpkin Carving and Haunted Hollow, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!  |

## November

|    |      |   |
|----|------|---|
| 8  | 10AM | Alta Town Council meeting, Alta Community Center (Library).   |
| 15 | 7PM  | ACE Event: Welcome to Winter Slideshow and Dance party, Our Lady of the Snows, price TBD. This years theme is: May the POW be with you! Doors open at 6:30PM. |
| 19 | 7PM  | ACE presents TGR's "The Dream Factory," Our Lady of the Snows, \$5. Doors open at 6:30PM.   |

### September is national preparedness month.

**Are you prepared for emergencies?** Although every emergency or disaster is different, you will be ahead of the curve if you are informed and have a 72-hour kit and family plan ready to go. Take the pledge to prepare at [ready.gov](http://ready.gov)

Now's the Time.

Resolve  
to be  
Ready



FEMA



# Town Information and Contacts

## Town info

<http://www.townofalta.com/>

### Town of Alta Phone:

(801) 742-3522 or  
(801) 363-5105

### Town of Alta Fax:

(801) 742-1006

### Post Office Phone:

(801) 742-2142

### Library/Community Center Phone:

(801) 742-2068

### Justice Court Phone:

(801) 742-2407

### Alta Central Info Line:

(801) 742-3403



## Town Council contact info

Mayor — Tom Pollard — [mayor@townofalta.com](mailto:mayor@townofalta.com) — Term expires 2014  
 Councilmember — Cliff Curry — [cliffcurryaltautah@gmail.com](mailto:cliffcurryaltautah@gmail.com) — Term expires 2014  
 Councilmember — Steven Gilman — [gusgilman@msn.com](mailto:gusgilman@msn.com) — Term expires 2016  
 Councilmember — Paul Moxley — [ptm@pkhlawyers.com](mailto:ptm@pkhlawyers.com) — Term expires 2014  
 Councilmember — Harris Sondak — [harrisondak@gmail.com](mailto:harrisondak@gmail.com) — Term expires 2016  
**ABOVE: Town Council from left to right:** Harris Sondak, Steven Gilman, Tom Pollard, Paul Moxley, Cliff Curry



The Alta Post Office is open Mon-Sat, 9am-1 pm. Photo courtesy of Tom Bolen

## Staff contact info

John Guldner — Town Administrator  
[jhg@townofalta.com](mailto:jhg@townofalta.com)

Kate Black — Town Clerk  
[kswb@townofalta.com](mailto:kswb@townofalta.com)

Piper Lever — Assistant Town Clerk, Justice Court Clerk, Business License Official  
[plrem@townofalta.com](mailto:plrem@townofalta.com)

Mike Morey — Town Marshal  
[mmorey@townofalta.com](mailto:mmorey@townofalta.com)

Claire Runge — Assistant Town Administrator, Newsletter Editor  
[cer@townofalta.com](mailto:cer@townofalta.com)

The Town Office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Please call us at 801.742.3522 or 801.363.5105 or stop in for assistance.