

Town of Alta Newsletter



Vol. 4 Issue 1

December 2011— February 2012

Municipal News

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

The Town's community representative from Rocky Mountain Power was in attendance at the February 9th Town Council meeting. In addition to discussing the Town's franchise agreement with Rocky Mountain Power, the Council and citizens had a great opportunity to ask questions about the electrical infrastructure in Town.

Also at the February 9th meeting, Jeanette Harris (consultant for Zions Bank) gave a presentation summarizing the results of the Municipal Waste Management study. The study looked at the quantity of waste generated in the Town and presented four scenarios for residential waste collection. The Town Council is in the preliminary phases of discussing the feasibility and location of such a waste collection facility. The complete study is available online at: http://townofalta.com/about_new.shtm

Tentatively on deck for next Council meeting: Bob Bonar, General Manager from Snowbird will be discussing the resorts upcoming plans and there will be further discussion on the proposed creation of a Special Service District for transportation in Albion Basin. The next Council meeting will be held Thursday, March 8th in the Alta Community Center. See you there!

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

Planning Commissioner Skip Branch has stepped down as chair, and Joan De-

giorgio will now take over as chair of the Planning Commission. The Town is incredibly appreciative of all of Skip's efforts as chair over the last few years and looks forward to Joan at the helm.

At the Feb 16th Planning Commission meeting, the commission forwarded the Vision Statement and Commercial Element of the General Plan to the Town Council. They also set a work plan for the next few years which includes revisiting the Base Facilities Zone ordinance, updating the format of the General Plan, and investigating municipal parking opportunities.

The Planning Commission has invited the Town Council and the U.S. Forest Service to participate in a meeting to discuss the Albion Basin Transportation Study. The purpose of this dialogue is for the Planning Commission to make a recommendation to the Town about a preferred alternative. The meeting will be held March 19th, 5pm, at Our Lady of the Snows. The Albion Basin Transportation study is available online at: http://townofalta.com/about_new.shtm

OTHER MUNICIPAL NEWS

As previously noted, a Municipal Waste Management study has been completed. This study marks the first step in evaluating the Town's ability to provide a waste management service. The study quantified the volume of waste and recycling generated by Town residents and businesses and

suggested four alternatives for waste management collection services for residents. Also included in the study is the results of the waste management survey distributed throughout town. Many thanks to all that provided responses to the survey — there was close to a 50% response rate! Please visit the Town's website and check out the study. If you'd like to make any comments, please send them to cer@townofalta.com. The study was funded by Community Block Development Grants and the consultant firm retained for the study was Zions Bank. View the study at: http://townofalta.com/about_new.shtm

On January 23rd, Town staff attended an education workshop for the participating entities in the Mountain Transportation study. The purpose of this

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Notes from the Marshal's Office



Dawn Patrol closures. New this season, you may have noticed that “backcountry closures” have been announced. These closures are issued by the Marshals Office, Unified Police Department, and the U.S. Forest Service and restrict backcountry access to certain areas north of Hwy 210 when avalanche control work is being planned. Violations of the closure order is a class B misdemeanor. Please respect these closures and help us ensure of the future of the highway avalanche program and safety of dawn patrol skiers.

Parking: Winter parking regulations are in effect. Cars may ONLY be parked overnight (12AM — 8AM) in DESIGNATED NORTHSIDE parking areas. A map of these locations can be found outside the Post Office and online. If you have any doubt about where to park call Alta Central.
http://www.townofalta.com/about_maps.shtml

Vehicle Maintenance: To prevent accidents and allow for better plowing, please dig out cars parked in town within 12 hours of a storm. Non-compliance will result in a citation.

Road/Interlodge information:

Local Information Line: (801) 742-3403. Please call this number before calling Alta Central. Website: <http://www.townofalta.com/road> for updated road conditions/interlodge status. Radio: Tune into AM530 for road status and closure/interlodge information.



Message from the Mayor



It's hard to believe that March is right around the corner. Although the season started a little slow, it has finally ramped up and we're back to the powder skiing we all love. It has been an unusual season,

with low snow totals and tricky avalanche conditions. We're fortunate to have all of the talented folks at UDOT, the Alta Ski Area, and our Marshal's office who manage these difficult situations.

We've begun our budgeting process for fiscal year 2012-2013. With a projected decrease in sales tax revenues and increase in litigation costs, we are facing a difficult budget cycle. We're getting an early start on this and are developing a game plan to move forward without compromising the services offered in Town. Stay tuned as we continue this difficult process.

I participated in a panel last week held by the Natural Resources Law Forum from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. I joined representatives from Friends of Alta and Alta Ski Area to discuss natural resource issues in the Town of Alta and Little Cottonwood Canyon. It was a wonderful reminder that we are incredibly fortunate to have such wonderful partners who are dedicated to preserving Alta's environment.

You may have noticed on page 4 that Rocky Mountain Power has proposed a rate increase. It is realistic to expect the cost of electricity to rise in the near future. Although its difficult to implement energy efficiencies in a tough economy, the Town has been fortunate to receive grant money to upgrade lighting and heating systems in all of our municipal buildings, and we are continuing to investigate how we can save money – and energy — in our municipal operations. We hope to highlight the benefits of implementing energy efficiencies in upcoming newsletters.

Since I have been Mayor, I have heard many ask for better waste manage-

ment services. I am happy to report that the Town has completed a Waste Management Study which investigated the quantity of waste generated in the Town and compiled price estimates for various waste collection alternatives (see page 1). There is still a lot of work that needs to be done before we can move forward with implementing a waste management collection service, but we are encouraged that when we are able to do so, it will be affordable and improve the situation for many residents. I encourage you to review the study online and if you have any comments to please send them to cer@townofalta.com.

As we get closer to summer, we continue to plan for this summer's visitor program and are looking to the future as well. To this end, the Planning Commission and Town Council will be holding a joint meeting with representatives from the U.S. Forest Service to discuss the Albion Basin Transportation study. It will be incredibly useful as we move forward to have a recommendation from the Planning Commission to help guide our planning efforts.

Enjoy the rest of the ski season!

Emergency Central: Are you ready to shake?

Last issue we covered what to do during an earthquake. In this edition we will discuss what to do after an earthquake. (The following is adapted from:

<http://www.earthquakecountry.info>)

After the earthquake, check for injuries and damage.

First take care of your own situation and remember your emergency plans. Aftershocks may cause additional damage or items to fall, so get to a safe location. Take your disaster supplies kit. If you are trapped by falling items or a collapse, protect your mouth, nose, and eyes from dust. If you are bleeding, put pressure on the wound and elevate the injured part. Signal for help with your emergency whistle, a cell phone, or knock loudly on solid pieces of the building, three times every few minutes. Rescue personnel will be listening for such sounds. Once you are safe, help others and check for damage. Protect yourself by wearing sturdy shoes and work gloves, to avoid injury from broken glass and debris. Also wear a dust mask and eye protection.

Check for damage.

Fire. If possible, put out small fires in your home or neighborhood immediately. Call for help, but don't wait for the fire department.

Gas Leaks. Shut off the main gas valve only if you suspect a leak because of broken pipes or you smell the odor or hear the sound of leaking natural gas. Don't turn it back on yourself - wait for the gas company to check for leaks. The phone book has detailed information on this topic.

Damaged Electrical Wiring. Shut off power at the main breaker switch if there is any damage to your house wiring. Leave the power off until the damage is repaired.

Broken Lights and Appliances. Unplug these as they could start fires when electricity is restored.

Downed Power Lines. If you see downed power lines, consider them energized and stay well away from them. Keep others away from them

also. Never touch downed power lines or any objects in contact with them.

Fallen Items. Beware of items tumbling off shelves when you open the doors of closets and cupboards.

Spills. Use extreme caution. Clean up any spilled medicines, drugs, or other non-toxic substances. Potentially harmful materials such as bleach, lye, garden chemicals, and gasoline or other petroleum products should be isolated or covered with an absorbent such as dirt or cat litter. When in doubt, leave your home.

Damaged Masonry. Stay away from chimneys and walls made of brick or block. They may be weakened and could topple during aftershocks. Don't use a fireplace with a damaged chimney. It could start a fire or let poisonous gases into your home. When safe, continue to follow your disaster preparedness plans

Once you have met your and your family's immediate needs after an earthquake, continue to follow the plan you prepared in advance. Aftershocks will continue to happen for several weeks after major earthquakes. Some may be large enough to cause additional damage. Always be ready to drop, cover, and hold on.

The first days after the earthquake.

The recovery period can take several weeks to months or longer. Take the actions listed below to be safe and to minimize the long-term effects of the earthquake on your life. Use the information you put together in your disaster plan and the supplies you organized in your disaster kits. Until you are sure there are no gas leaks, do not use open flames (lighters, matches, candles, or grills) or operate any electrical or mechanical device that can create a spark (light switches, generators, motor vehicles, etc.). Never use the following indoors: camp stoves, gas lanterns or heaters, gas or charcoal grills, or gas generators. These can release deadly carbon monoxide or be a fire hazard in aftershocks.

Be in communication

Turn on your portable or car radio for information and safety advisories. Call your out-of-area contact, tell them your status, then stay off the phone. Emergency responders need to use the phone lines for lifesaving communications. Check on the condition of your neighbors.

Food and Water. If power is off, plan meals to use up refrigerated and frozen foods first. If you keep the door closed, food in your freezer may be good for a couple of days. If your water is off or unsafe, you can drink from water heaters, melted ice cubes, or canned vegetables. Avoid drinking water from swimming pools or spas. Do not eat or drink anything from open containers that are near shattered glass.

As a recap, preparedness is key!

We've touched on 72-hour emergency kit and making emergency plans in previous newsletter issues, but it must be emphasized that during or after an emergency is not the time to be thinking about preparedness. Visit ready.gov for information about what to stock in your 72-hour kit, how to make emergency plans, and how to stay informed.

Now... are you ready to shake?

Municipal News (...continued from page 1)

study is to analyze alternative transportation options in Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons. More information about this study can be found at: <http://www.cottonwoodcanyonstransportation.com/>

Are you participating in the Great Utah ShakeOut? This is a great opportunity to test your preparedness for an earthquake. On April 17 at 10:15am, residents, businesses, schools, and others will be encouraged to "Drop, Cover, and Hold on" in the first ever statewide earthquake drill. The Town staff and council will be participating in the drill and also a tabletop earthquake response exercise. The Town will also be testing backup communications systems and the Mayor will be participating in a valley-wide policy maker conference call. Find out more information and register to participate at <http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>

John Guldner attended a quarterly County Cooperative Plan meeting on February 22nd. Of note is the County's newly developed Wasatch Canyons Today effort. The County has acknowledged that planning for canyon management is very complex and to help



move forward from the Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow initiative into Wasatch Canyons Today, the County will be holding a kick-off symposium on March 26th at the West Valley Multi Cultural center. Keep an eye on the Salt Lake County webpage as details are developed: <http://www.slco.org/>

The Town of Alta is now a voting member on the Salt Lake Valley Homeland Security Grants Council. The Council manages the administration and distribution of homeland security grant money. Claire Runge will be the Town's representative on the Council.

NEWS FROM THE ALTA COMMUNITY

The Alta Chamber and Visitors Bureau has announced "Alta in April", a week-long community wide event that will run from April 6th-15th. From pool parties to costume contests and après ski events — this will be a week of fun not to be missed! For the complete lineup of events and to see lodging and dining specials during this time please visit:

<http://www.discoveralta.com/events/alta-in-april>

The Alta Ski Area has released its 2011 Sustainability Report. Building off its 2003-2004 Environmental Report, the Sustainability Report documents Alta's many accomplishments in working toward sustainability over the past seven years, from restoring vegetation to increasing the efficient use of energy and water in lodges, lifts, snowmaking and grooming operations. The Report also shares 12 goals developed by Alta's departments for future progress — goals that address issues ranging from energy and waste reduction to transportation and water use. By 2020, Alta's goal is to implement projects with a total emissions reduction of at least 300 tons CO₂e. View the full report here:

http://www.alta.com/documents/AltaSkiAreaSustainabilityReport_web.pdf

Alta Community Enrichment (ACE)



proudly supports the artistic, cultural and educational endeavors of local community members by offering four grants: the Artist Grant, the WEXL Education Grant, the Young Guns Grant, and the Community Service Grant. Grant applications are due on March 10th and each grant recipient will be awarded \$1,000 on April 1st. For more information about each grant and how to apply, visit: <http://altaarts.org/grants>

Rocky Mountain Power filed a request for an increase in prices on February 15th and has anticipated that the resulting price changes will be effective in October 2012. If approved, residential rates will increase 10.5% and commercial rates will increase either 8.5% or 9.5% depending on the rate schedule. Rocky Mountain Power cites growing electricity demand and environmental regulations are the two main reasons for the proposed rate increase.

Alta Classifieds. Interested in selling something or have a service to provide to the Alta community? Thanks to a great suggestion from a reader, we are going to experiment hosting a small Alta classifieds in the newsletter. Newsletters are published quarterly, so if you have anything that you would like published in late May, please email cer@townofalta.com for incorporation into the newsletter.

Alta Events Calendar

March

1	5:30 PM	ACE Event: Yoga with Stacy, GMD Yoga Studio, FREE! Mats are available.
3	3:45 PM	Alta Historical Society Fireside Chat: Janice Huebner presents "Winter Wildlife in the Cottonwood Canyons and Wasatch Mountains." More info at: http://www.altahistory.org/
8	10 AM	Town Council Meeting, Alta Community Center (Library)
9	7 PM	Full Moon Snowshoe Tour: Join the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for a snowshoe nature tour to introduce you to the winter wonders of Alta! Reservations required. For more info visit: www.cottonwoodcanyons.org
10		ACE grant applications due! Please see page 4 for more details.
13	7 PM	ACE Event: Samba Fogo — Brazilian Drum workshop, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE! All ages and abilities welcome and all instruments will be provided.
18	10 AM	Snowshoe Tour: Join the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for a snowshoe nature tour to introduce you to the winter wonders of Alta! Reservations required. For more info visit: www.cottonwoodcanyons.org
19	5 PM	Joint Planning Commission and Town Council meeting. Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service will be in attendance to discuss the Albion Basin Transportation study. (See page 1 for more details)
22-25		ACE Event: 26th annual Snowflake Festival! Check out the details at http://altaarts.org/events/SnowflakeFestival for this annual event that can't be missed!

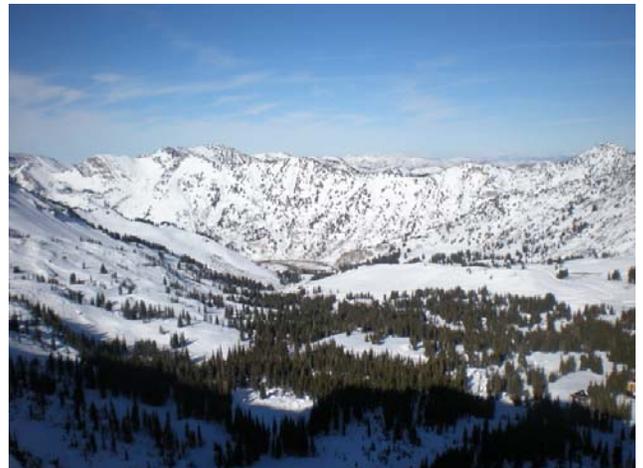
April

6	6 PM	Alta Gala at La Caille. Join Alta's non-profits for a fabulous evening including an abundant silent auction, topnotch dining, and dancing with live music by Lake Effect. Alta Gala is an annual collaborative fundraiser for Alta Community Enrichment, Friends of Alta, and the Alta Historical Society. The goal is not only to raise money for these 501(c)(3) non-profits in Alta, but to raise awareness of the arts, environment, and history of Alta. View details and purchase tickets at: altagala.org
6	8 PM	Full Moon Snowshoe Tour: Join the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for a snowshoe nature tour to introduce you to the winter wonders of Alta! Reservations required. For more info visit: www.cottonwoodcanyons.org
8	11 AM	ACE Event: Easter Egg Hunt, Alta Java, FREE! Bring your basket, wear your bonnet and join the Easter Bunny for the annual egg hunt in Alta. This event is for children under 12.

Ongoing winter events:

Join Stacy Petersen for Earthflow yoga classes. Stacy offers a Tuesday 6:45AM Power Yoga class, Thursday 6:45AM Power Yoga class, and a Thursday 5:30PM Restore Yoga class. Both classes are held at the Goldminer's Daughter Lodge and have a suggested fee of \$10/class. Learn more at: earthflowyoga.com

Catch up on your Alta history! Join the Alta Historical Society and featured speakers for fireside chats focusing on Alta's storied mining, skiing, and political history. Chats will be held periodically throughout the winter at the various lodges during après ski hours. Visit altahistory.org for more details.



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 — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Cliff Curry — cliffcurryaltautah@gmail.com — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Steven Gilman — gusgilman@msn.com — Term expires 2016
 Councilmember — Paul Moxley — ptm@pkhlawyers.com — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Harris Sondak — harrissondak@gmail.com — Term expires 2016
ABOVE: Town Council from left to right: Harris Sondak, Steven Gilman, Tom Pollard, Paul Moxley, Cliff Curry



Winter Travel Information

Please consult the following sources for road condition information *before* calling Alta Central:

- Local Information Line: (801) 742-3403
- Check out <http://www.townofalta.com/road> for updated road conditions and interlodge status
- AM530: Tune in to hear messages concerning travel in both Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons
- Canyon Alert System: Sign up for canyon updates via text messaging at <http://updsl.org/services/canyonalerts>
- Twitter: Follow [@CanyonAlerts](https://twitter.com/CanyonAlerts) on your twitter account

Staff contact info

John Guldner — Town Administrator
jhg@townofalta.com

Kate Black — Town Clerk
kswb@townofalta.com

Piper Lever — Assistant Town Clerk, Justice Court Clerk, Business License Official
pirem@townofalta.com

Mike Morey — Town Marshal
mmorey@townofalta.com

Claire Runge — Assistant Town Administrator, Newsletter Editor
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.



The Town code is available online at: www.sterlingcodifiers.com/Alta,Ut