

# Town of Alta Newsletter



Vol. 2 Issue 2

October/November 2009

## Municipal News

**Scott Zeidler and Colleen Keyes from the Department of Natural Resources** came to the October Town Council meeting to discuss the potential for a spruce bark beetle infestation in the Wasatch. Please review detailed information on p. 5.

**The United States Forest Service held a workshop and openhouse** at the end of October to discuss possible transportation alternatives in the Albion Basin. We thank the residents and various local agencies that came out to share their thoughts with the Forest Service. The final draft of the transportation study is anticipated to come out by mid-late spring.

**Town staff, with the help of Councilmen Cliff Curry and Dave Richards** have finished working through the Town Code of Revised Ordinances workbook. The code is now back at Sterling Codifiers for final codification. When the final code is adopted and passed by the Town Council, it will be available in its entirety online! We feel this will be a valuable tool for our residents and will announce when this feature is available!

**Salt Lake County is offering free prescription discount cards to all residents**, regardless of income and age. There are no claim forms to fill out and no annual fee to pay. This card may save up to 20% off of a pharmacy's regular price and up to 50% on 90-

day supplies of select generics through mail service. For more details please visit: <http://www.slvhealth.org/SERVICES/prescriptionDiscountCard/> This link will be "live" on the "breaking news" section of the Town's website.

**The Town's 2008-2009 fiscal year audit was passed at the last Town Council meeting.** The signed final copy will be available on the Town's website and through the Utah State Auditor's office.

**Several residents have contacted our office after noticing a mistake on their property tax bills.** Please examine your bill closely and make sure you were not charged for "Garbage Collection Fees and Certifications". If you have been charged for that service, please contact Kate Black in the Town Office as soon as possible.

**The first Little Cottonwood Canyon road committee meeting of the season was held November 10<sup>th</sup>.** Representatives from the Town, Alta Ski Area, Snowbird, Unified Fire Authority, UTA, U.S. Forest Service, Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, and UDOT were in attendance. Items discussed included metering, traffic patterns at the bottom of the canyon, and possible changes in weapons used for avalanche control. This committee will meet frequently throughout the winter to discuss and look for solutions to problems that plague Hwy 210.

**The Planning Commission met November 10<sup>th</sup>.** The required FEMA Flood Damage Ordinance was discussed as well as ideas and thoughts concerning a new Land Use Application Ordinance. Work was continued on the next portion of the Subdivision Ordinance.

**Recycling bins are now being picked up twice a week — Tuesday and Friday morning.** Please remember if a road closure and a recycling pickup time coincide, the pickup *will not occur*. Please do not leave your recycling bags on the street. Thanks in advance for consolidating your cardboard, it saves lots of space in the bins!

**The Town of Alta is happy to announce that we now accept credit cards for all payments!**

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# Marshal's Report

**This report covers activities from September 10th through November 8th.**

**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:52 am:** An intrusion alarm was investigated at a Bypass Road residence and found to be false.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:11 pm:** A 911 hang up call was investigated at an Albion Basin cabin. This was determined to be a telephone problem.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:27 am:** A minor traffic accident was investigated at the Peruvian Lodge.

**September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 pm:** A group of juveniles camping in a prohibited area were attended to by the deputy on duty.

**September 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:28 pm:** An arrest warrant was served at the Justice Court session after Judge Balmforth ordered a defendant taken into custody for failing to comply with previous orders of the court.

**September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:03 am:** A suspicious vehicle was reported in Albion Basin. The deputy on duty located and stopped the vehicle. Two underage males were cited for possession of alcohol and later released to parents.

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:10 am:** The Marshal's and Fire Departments responded to a fall with injuries at the Alta Lodge. A 60-year old man was transported to a local hospital. **At 12:06 pm,** a Search and Rescue operation was conducted in the Cecret Lake area. A woman with a possibly fractured leg was assisted from the mountain and transported to a local hospital via ambulance.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:58 am:** A caller requested the Marshal's Office search the entire Cecret Lake trail for a lost earring. She later cancelled the request stating she had found the earring in the shower. **At 2:43 pm,** a man was cited for off road driving in the watershed.

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:21 pm:** Another person was cited for off-roading in the watershed. **At 5:45 pm,** the deputy on duty assisted the Sheriff's Office with a motorcycle accident in the lower canyon. The possibly intoxicated driver was taken into custody.

**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 12:55:** A contractor was issued a warning for failing to comply with the conditions of an excavation permit. Corrective actions were taken and no other actions were taken.

**With the first bit of snow on the ground, "jibbing season" started in Alta.** If it can be skied on, ridden on, jumped on or off, it has been. Several enthusiastic individuals have been "talked down" from roofs, ledges, towers and other manmade structures not belonging to them.

**October 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:48 am:** A driver was detained after a report of the occupants of his vehicle intimidating bicyclists in the canyon.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 8:48 pm:** An alarm was investigated in the Hellgate area and found to be false.

**October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2:04pm:** A hiker with minor injuries was assisted along the Albion Basin road. Earlier in the day, the deputy investigated an ongoing civil dispute.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:45am:** The deputy on duty responded to the Grizzly Gulch area regarding a malfunctioning alarm. The homeowner was notified and corrective actions were taken. **At 12:35 pm,** the Unified Fire Authority extinguished a car fire in the Upper Albion Parking area.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE:

**Winter parking restrictions are now in effect.** Cars may only be parked overnight in designated northside parking areas. A map of these locations can be found outside the Post Office and online at: [http://www.townofalta.com/about\\_marshal.html](http://www.townofalta.com/about_marshal.html)  
Please contact Alta Central if you have any questions regarding overnight parking.

**OSV stickers and renewals are available at the Marshal's Office.** As noted in earlier newsletter editions, the OSV registration process has changed and all existing and new OSV's must register with the Marshal's Office. Please refer to the new OSV ordinance on the Town's website under the "Government" tab.

**And of course, please remember all cars must be dug out within 12 hours of the last storm!**



**ABOVE:** Alta School kids trick-or-treating at the Town Offices for Halloween!

## Message from the Mayor

### Greetings:

This is a time of great anticipation for the community as a whole, as we hope the weather that will give us the snow necessary for us to enjoy our outdoor passions. This is also a busy time for the businesses as they prepare for another winter season.

I want to thank the voters of Alta for their great showing in our most recent election. The 50% turnout of registered voters has to be one of the highest in the state. Personally, I want to thank you for the support of myself, and the incumbent council members Cliff Curry and Paul Moxley. I feel we have a very dedicated and energetic council at this time and I look forward to continuing to work with them. I also want to thank Barbara Jordan and Roger Bourke for their efforts. I feel their candidacy was important as it led to discussion of the important issues in our town.

As most of you are aware, at the last Town Council Meeting there was a major decision made regarding the proposed Patsey Marley subdivision. This was a very emotional issue for

many in our community. Although public opinion was strong, the council's decision to deny the application was based on the facts that it did not comply with the necessary ordinances. I am very proud of the diligence and integrity that the council showed during the lengthy review process of the application. I also would like to thank the staff for their great support during this process.

Currently we are working with Alta Ski Area, Friends of Alta, and Alta Community Enrichment, to move forward with a voluntary anti-idling campaign. Many people use our canyon as an escape from the poor air quality in the Salt Lake Valley. We need to do our part to create a program to protect the air quality in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Last year the council attempted to pass an ordinance to support this program. Due to the many issues pertaining to the equipment needed to support the operations of this canyon, passing an anti-idling ordinance was not realistic. However, we will be moving forward with signage, education, and stickers to promote the importance of this message. In the next



month we will be attempting to pass a resolution supporting a commitment to these efforts.

For all of the people who have returned to Alta for another winter season, welcome back and for those who are here for the first time I hope you get to experience what we all love about this special place. Let's hope we all have a prosperous, healthy and safe winter season.

Cheers,  
Tom Pollard

## Anti-Idling Campaign



**The Town of Alta, Alta Ski Area, Alta Community Enrichment, and Friends of Alta are proud to support a voluntary anti-idling campaign in Alta!**

Vehicle exhaust is one of the leading sources of air pollution in Utah and is hazardous to human health, especially children's.

By reducing the amount of time you idle you will...

**Save money** — by reducing fuel consumption

**Breathe easier** — by preventing unhealthy exhaust from building up in and around your car

**Protect your sky** — by reducing idling emission that contribute to smog

Interesting facts and recommendations (courtesy of Idle Free Utah):

- 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine
- Newer vehicles need no more than 30 seconds of idling in cold temperatures
- The best way to warm up your car is to drive it

For more facts and information check-out: [www.idlefree.utah.gov](http://www.idlefree.utah.gov)

Show your support and pick up a window decal (right) at the Town Offices, Alta Ski Area, or the Alta Post Office.

# H1N1 Update

**Update from the Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) website:**

**Recommendations:**

Pharmacies across the Salt Lake Valley (Harmon's, Walgreens, Smith's) are now taking appointments and giving H1N1 vaccinations (ages 13+). Residents are encouraged to contact their private healthcare provider to check for H1N1 vaccine availability. Private providers continue to receive weekly shipments of vaccine.

**Will there be enough vaccine for everyone?**

There is not an expected shortage of H1N1 vaccine, but the initial allotment is limited. The CDC recommends certain priority groups receive the vaccine first. As more supply arrives it will be available to those outside the priority groups. SLVHD expects to receive regular shipments of both nasal spray and injectable H1N1 vaccine in the near future.

**General Vaccine Priority Groups:**

- Pregnant women
- Those who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- Health care and emergency services personnel with direct patient contact
- People between the ages of 6 months and 24 years
- People aged 25-64 years with chronic health disorders (asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, chronic cardiovascular disease) and compromised immune systems

**Where can you get vaccinated?** Visit the Utah Flu Vaccine Locator for locations throughout the state. <http://www.immunize-utah.org/> SLVHD's four major clinics are distributing vaccines by appointment only. Locations are listed at: <http://www.slvhealth.org/h1n1/vaccine.html>

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

These links and phone numbers will also be posted on the Town Website under "Breaking News." The links will be "live" and more easily accessible.

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>  
1.800.CDC.INFO

**Salt Lake Valley Health Dept. (SLVHD)**

<http://www.slvhealth.org/h1n1/>  
Call 2-1-1 or 801.468.2750

**Utah Department of Health Immunization Program (Vaccine Locator feature available on this website)**

<http://www.immunize-utah.org/>  
1.800.275.0659 (Immunization Hotline)

**FDA H1N1 Vaccine Resources:**

<http://www.fda.gov/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm181950.htm>

Worried about **H1N1 SWINE FLU?**  
What you should do.

IF YOU ARE	AND YOU HAVE	YOU SHOULD
Not at High Risk	Fever (100.4) plus cough or sore throat	<u>Stay home</u> until you've felt completely well for a day. Don't go to a hospital.
* High Risk	Fever (100.4) plus cough or sore throat	<u>Call your doctor</u> to discuss whether you need medicine for flu. Don't go to a hospital.
Anybody with severe illness like difficulty breathing	Fever (100.4) plus cough or sore throat	<u>Get to a hospital</u> right away. If you call 911, say you may have severe influenza.

**\* PEOPLE AT HIGHER RISK OF FLU COMPLICATIONS INCLUDE:**  
Babies under 2 | Seniors | Pregnant women | People with asthma, diabetes or other conditions affecting the heart, lungs, blood, liver or kidneys | People with weakened immune systems | People under 18 on long-term aspirin therapy

**DO YOU HAVE A FEVER?** A reading of 100.4 or higher is a fever.



# Spruce Bark Beetle

Following is a letter sent to all property owners in Alta:

A spruce bark beetle outbreak was first detected near Cedar City, Utah, and has proceeded northward yearly until it was detected in Heber Valley and Big Cottonwood Canyon. As of summer 2009, levels of spruce bark beetle in Big Cottonwood Canyon were determined to have exceeded natural levels. To a lesser extent, the beetle has been identified on public lands in the Town of Alta. The Utah State Department of Natural Resources and other agencies are trying to be proactive in hopes of avoiding wide-spread tree mortality along the Wasatch Front.

## What is the spruce bark beetle?

The spruce bark beetle is the principle agent of mortality in mature spruce trees. This beetle is "endemic" meaning that it occurs wherever spruce grow naturally in North America. The beetle is usually present in areas of weakened or wind thrown trees and reproduce rapidly in fallen trees.

## Why should I be concerned?

Sporadic outbreaks have destroyed wide areas of spruce trees. If the beetle population becomes large enough, it easily attacks and kills standing green trees. Spruce bark beetles prefer dense forests with large mature spruce trees, but younger trees may also be killed during outbreaks. Alta has a large population of similarly aged, mature, large-sized spruce—a primary host for these beetles.

## What is the Town of Alta doing to help?

The Town of Alta will be organizing volunteers in the spring/summer of 2010 to survey private property in the Town to identify trees that are infested with spruce bark beetle. Property owners will be notified if infested trees are found on their property.

In addition, the Town will be assisting the State Department of Natural Resources in disseminating timely information regarding this situation.

## What can I do as a property owner in the Town of Alta?

Become educated and be proactive. Learning how to identify signs of spruce

bark beetle infestation—so trees can be removed timely—may go a long way towards preventing future generations from hatching and spreading.

## What if I have infested trees on my property?

Infested trees should be removed as soon as possible. The Mayor will issue approval to remove infested trees. Please contact the Town when you have an infested tree so we may keep track of locations of infestations and tree removal.

Trees should be chipped or burned onsite to avoid spreading the beetle to outside locations. A certified arborist will be able to provide more information. A list of approved and certified arborists, provided by the U.S. Forest Service, will be available on the Town's website as listed below.

## What can I do to protect my healthy spruce trees?

Trees may be sprayed with Carbaryl, an insecticide that is effective for deterring spruce bark beetles for two years. These are preventative sprays only, and can be applied only to healthy, non-infested trees. If you decide to spray viable healthy spruce trees, it is recommended to continue spraying until the threat subsides, which may not be for many years. However, Carbaryl is not an approved insecticide for use in the Salt Lake City Watershed. Special permissions and restrictions will apply.

Due to watershed concerns, and because there is snow currently on the ground, no spraying can take place until snow melts the following summer. Updated information on spraying will be available on the Town's website as it becomes available.

## Where can I get more information?

A guide on how to identify spruce trees and signs of infestation, and much more will be posted soon on the Town's website under:

[http://www.townofalta.com/about\\_new.shtml](http://www.townofalta.com/about_new.shtml)

In addition, updates will be noted in the Town's monthly e-newsletter.

## How can I get involved?

The Town will be looking for volunteers to help us survey infested trees in the Town of Alta in the spring/summer of

2010. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Claire Runge as provided below.

## What does the future look like?

The reality is that Alta is not a closed system. The presence of spruce bark beetle in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Heber Valley mean that the possibility of spruce bark beetle infestation in Alta will not be going away in the near future. The Town remains committed to working with the State Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Alta Ski Area, and Friends of Alta to help provide resources and information to our property owners.

To protect and prevent trees from being lost, surveying may happen every year for several years until the threat has subsided to protect and prevent trees from being lost. It is realistic however to expect loss of trees.

## Disclaimer:

The Town respects all private property, and will not survey your property if desired. Please let us know in writing as soon as possible if that is the case.

## Town of Alta Contact:

Claire Runge, Asst Town Administrator  
[CER@townofalta.com](mailto:CER@townofalta.com)  
 Work: 801.363.5105 or 801.742.3522



**ABOVE:** Widespread tree mortality in Dixie National Forest, Utah. Photo from <http://www.usu.edu/beetle/>

# Alta Events Calendar

## November

23	8pm	ACE Event: Teton Gravity Research presents, "Re:Session", Our Lady of the Snows \$5. Doors open at 7:30pm and seats go fast!
30	5:30pm	ACE Event: Yoga with Stacy, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!

## December

10	10am	Town Council meeting, Alta Community Center
4-5		ACE Gear Swap! Please see details at: <a href="http://www.altaarts.org">www.altaarts.org</a>
8	9am	ACE Event: Women's Beacon Clinic, FREE! Meet at the Albion Grill.
10	6pm, 7pm	ACE Event: Double Header—Know Before you Go Avalanche Program and Powderwhore's 2009 Film "Flake," Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!
13	12-4pm	ACE Event: Holiday Art Sale, Goldminers Daughter Art Gallery. Support local artists and buy local!
14	7pm	ACE Event: "The Edge of Never" Movie, A True Story of Skiing's Big Mountains Tribe, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!
16,17, 19		3-day Alta locals only avalanche class. Please see details at <a href="http://www.altaarts.org">www.altaarts.org</a>

**All events are subject to change.** For Alta Community Enrichment (ACE) events please check: [www.altaarts.org](http://www.altaarts.org) or call 801.742.0830. Changes to Town of Alta events will be posted on the Town's website under "Breaking News."

# Municipal Election Results

We had 150 voters in the November 3rd municipal election... nearly a 50% turnout rate! We sincerely thank all the candidates for running and the Goldminer's Daughter for hosting the election. Additional thanks to the election judges Kent Jensen, Sarah Evans, Julie Willis, and Claire Runge and thanks to all that voted early, absentee, and on election day! Candidate campaign finance statements are available under "breaking news" on the Town's website. (Below, candidates in bold represent those elected, and \* represents an incumbent)

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Office &amp; Term</u>	<u>Total Votes</u>
Barbara Jordan	Mayor (4 year term)	44
<b>Tom Pollard*</b>	<b>Mayor (4 year term)</b>	<b>104</b>
Dominic Mallamo (write-in)	Mayor (4 year term)	1
Roger Bourke	Town Council (4 year term)	55
<b>Cliff Curry*</b>	<b>Town Council (4 year term)</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>Paul T. Moxley*</b>	<b>Town Council (4 year term)</b>	<b>108</b>



# 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

Alta Visitors Bureau:  
(801) 742-0101

Justice Court Clerk 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 — [cliffcurry@altalodge.com](mailto:cliffcurry@altalodge.com) — Term expires 2014  
 Councilmember — Steven Gilman — [gusgilman@msn.com](mailto:gusgilman@msn.com) — Term expires 2012  
 Councilmember — Paul Moxley — [ptm@pkhlawyers.com](mailto:ptm@pkhlawyers.com) — Term expires 2014  
 Councilmember — Dave Richards — [drichard@townofalta.com](mailto:drichard@townofalta.com) — Term expires 2012  
**ABOVE: Town council from left to right:** Steven Gilman, Tom Pollard, Paul Moxley, Cliff Curry, Dave Richards

## 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
- UDOT road conditions can be found at: [www.commuterlink.utah.gov](http://www.commuterlink.utah.gov)
- Canyon Alert System: Sign up for canyon updates via text messaging at [www.slsheriff.org](http://www.slsheriff.org)
- Taking the UTA ski bus? Look for park-n-ride information signs traveling east on 6200 S and 9400 S. The signs will display which of the main ski bus lots have available parking before you even get there. When lots are closed, this does not indicate that the ski areas are closed.



## 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)

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

Sara Madsen — Alta Visitors Bureau  
[info@discoveralta.com](mailto:info@discoveralta.com)

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

**LEFT:** Piper, Kate, John, and Claire