

Town of Alta Newsletter



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Mike Morey

Issue No. 3

October 2008

Municipal News

At the final meeting for the Scenic Byways stakeholders, the group decided to pursue a National Scenic Byways Designation for Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Both canyons are currently designated State Scenic Byways. If national designation is granted, this will open up additional avenues for funding. Unlike most National Designations, the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways, if designated, would not seek increased tourism. The goal would be to better manage existing visitation and use additional funding for promotion of watershed stewardship and improving transit along both corridors.

On September 29th, John Guldner attended a meeting concerning the **resurrection of the 1964 proposed Wilderness area**. This was the first of many meetings of interested parties. Attending were representatives from Alta Ski Area, Snowbird, Solitude, Wasatch Powderbird Guides, Salt Lake County, Save our Canyons, and Black Diamond.

On October 2, Mayor Pollard, Marshal Morey, staff, and dispatch members **toured the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Traffic Operations Center** to see traffic control

in action. After the tour, the group met with representatives from UDOT to discuss ownership of AM530 radio station. The Town of Alta will still have control of disseminating information at the top of the canyon, while UDOT will disperse information about the bottom of the canyon and Big Cottonwood Canyon.

It was also agreed upon that the Town will once again operate the electronic sign at the base of the canyon.

Mayor Pollard, Kate Black, and Claire Runge met with Carol Majeske from the Salt Lake Ranger District, and representatives from the National Park Service to discuss **a grant received from the Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands Program**. As the Albion Basin remains highly visited in the summer months, increasing congestion has led to concern for natural resource protection. The study will develop transportation alternatives that balance recreation and resource protection. The study will begin in the summer of 2009, and opportunities for public comment will be sought in the following months.

Students in the Alta satellite school

will be part of the newly named Canyons School District. The name of the new school district was announced on October 28. A Brighton High School senior submitted the chosen name. The name was selected from over 500 suggestions, and was the first school district naming in Utah since 1918.

The district was formed in 2007 as residents from the eastern portion of the Jordan School District broke away to form a new school district. Currently both sides are in arbitration to divide district assets.

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Marshal's Report

September 13th 4:36 pm: The deputy on duty responded to a possible domestic violence call on a hiking trail. The situation had not progressed beyond a verbal dispute. After some mediation, the parties were released with no other action taken.

September 15th 10:44 am: A deputy patrolling Albion Basin observed excavation work being conducted and notified the Town's Building Official. The work was determined to have been conducted without necessary permits in place. Charges have been filed with the Alta Justice Court.

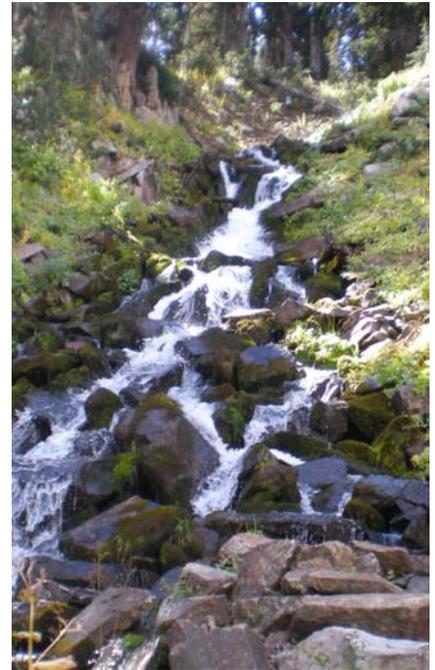
September 28th 10:13 am: An Albion Basin cabin was reported to have been broken into. An MP3 player was apparently stolen and a pellet gun kept at the cabin was used to vandalize windows and a snowcat parked on the property. **At 4:18**

pm, a 50 gallon chemical drum was found to have been abandoned along the Summer Road. A haz-mat team from the Unified Fire Authority responded and determined that there was no threat to the public or watershed. The drum was disposed of.

September 29th 9:13 am: A report of a lost wallet was taken.

October 6th 5:37 pm: The deputy on duty observed and investigated a suspicious vehicle with two males in the campground area. A crowbar was found in their possession. We are investigating whether or not this is related to the cabin break-in.

October 7th 10:56 am: A bypass road resident reported possible credit card fraud related to a wallet that had been recently lost.



Summer Booth



Albion Basin remains a highly visited location in the summer months. For the third summer in a row, the Town of Alta has been keeping count of visitation as people travel through the summer booth.

Below are counts for visitation over the summers of 2006-2008. These statistics count only visitors during booth hours (8am-5pm) and is an estimate (counts do not distinguish between residents going to homes or workers). Please note that each summer has a different opening and closing date for summer booth operation.

Intense demand for parking spots in the Albion Basin and congestion

along the Summer Road prompted the Town of Alta to provide a shuttle option midway through the summer of 2006.

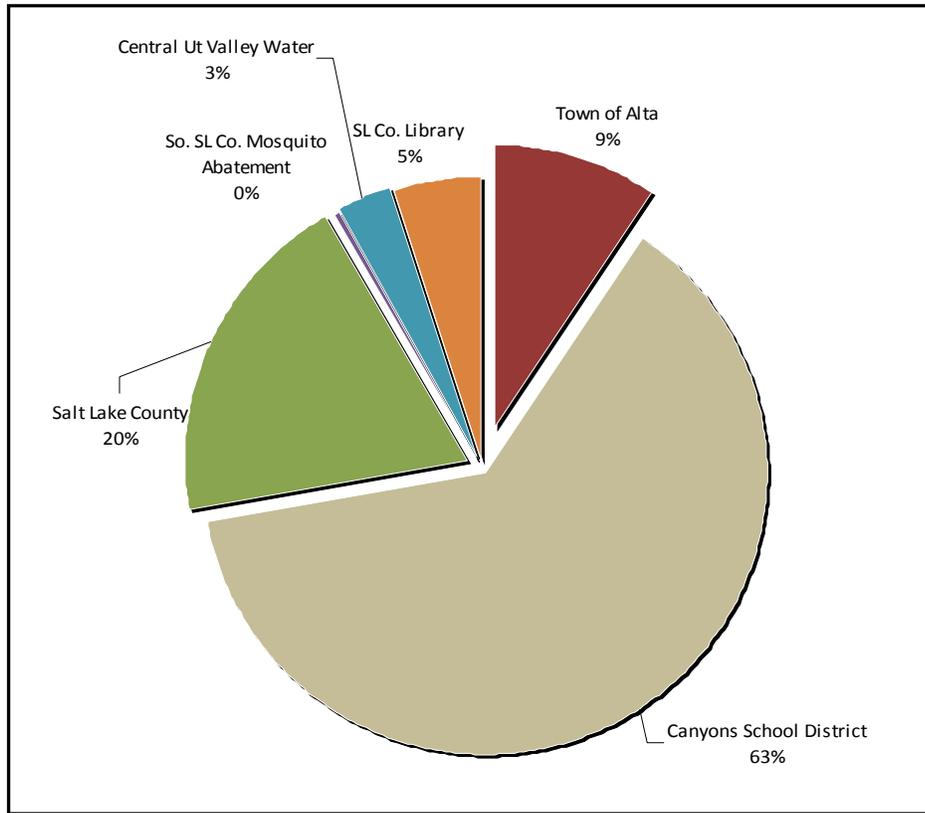
Since the inception of the shuttle, the percentage of people using the shuttle has increased, while the percentage of people who choose to drive their own vehicle has decreased.

With the Albion Basin Alternative Transportation study next summer (see p.1), the United States Forest Service, in conjunction with the Town of Alta will continue to look for alternatives in transportation in this sensitive area.

Albion Basin Visitors	2008 (opened 7-18)	2007 (opened 6-18)	2006 (opened 6-25)
#people through booth	13,408	14,595	15,537
#people on shuttle	13,086	12,589	9,422*
Total Visitors	26,494	27,184	24,959

*shuttle operation started August 6

2008 Property Tax Breakdown



Last month, certified tax rates were compared for all municipalities in Salt Lake County for 2008. The Town of Alta has the third lowest certified tax rate in the county. This month the breakdown of property taxes will be examined. The rates and pie chart were provided courtesy of Utah League of Cities and Towns.

Above: Pie chart showing how Alta residents property tax is distributed to different agencies. Jordan School District (now Canyons School District) received over 60% of property taxes collected. The Town of Alta received 9% of property taxes in 2008.

Below: The average cost of a home in the Town of Alta is \$880,000. Using that as an example, this chart shows the amount of money paid to each entity from property tax on a primary residence. Note for each column, a 55% residential exemption is taken into account:

$$(880,000 \times .45 \times \text{rate})$$

For a \$880,000 home, a total of \$3,888 will be paid in property taxes, about 1% of the taxable value of the home. In this example, the Town of Alta will receive \$368.28 of the total property taxes paid on a primary residence.

(Please note the average home price in Alta is set by Salt Lake County)

Alta \$880,000 Home value	Town of Alta	Jordan School District	Salt Lake County	So. SL Co. Mosquito Abatement	Central Ut Valley Water	SL Co. Library	TOTAL
2007 rate	0.00093	0.00615	0.001934	0.000022	0.000286	0.000497	0.009819
Dollar amount	\$368.28	\$2,435.40	\$765.86	\$8.71	\$113.26	\$196.81	\$3,888.32
% of tax bill	9%	63%	20%	0%	3%	5%	100%

TOWN OF ALTA
10201 E. Hwy 210
P.O. Box 8016
Alta, Utah 84092-8016

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contacts and Information Sources

Website: <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 Resort Association Phone: (801) 742-0101

Justice Court Clerk Phone: (801) 742-2407

Alta Central Info Line: (801) 742-3403

ALTA BOXHOLDER

Winter Information

With winter on its way, please consult the following sources for road condition information *before* calling Alta Central.

- **Local information line:** (801) 742-3403
- **New this winter!** Check out <http://www.townofalta.com/road> for updated road conditions and interlodge status.
- **AM530:** provides messages concerning travel in both Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons.
- **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.



Trick or treat! Alta schoolkids come trick-or-treating at the Town Offices.

Alta Events Calendar

NOVEMBER

10	5:15pm	ACE event: Yoga with Loraine, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!
11	12pm	Planning Commission Meeting, Market Street Grill
13	9:30	Town Council Meeting, Community Center
20	7pm	ACE event: Welcome to Winter! Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!
23	6pm	ACE event: Know before you go, avalanche safety class, Gold Miner's Daughter, FREE!
21	9:15am	Alta Ski Area Opening Day (conditions permitting, please check www.alta.com for updates)
24	7:30 (doors open)	ACE Movie Event: TGR's <i>Under the Influence</i> , Our Lady of the Snows, \$5

DECEMBER

5-6	ACE Annual gear swap, please check www.altaarts.org for more information
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*All events are subject to change **Please check ACE's website at www.altaarts.org, or call 801.742.0830 for event updates