



The Talk of the Town

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Merebea Danforth officially resigned from the Council on June 16th. Before moving east to begin a nursing program at John's Hopkins University, Merebea had been a year-round Alta resident and an active community member for eight years. Good luck Merebea!

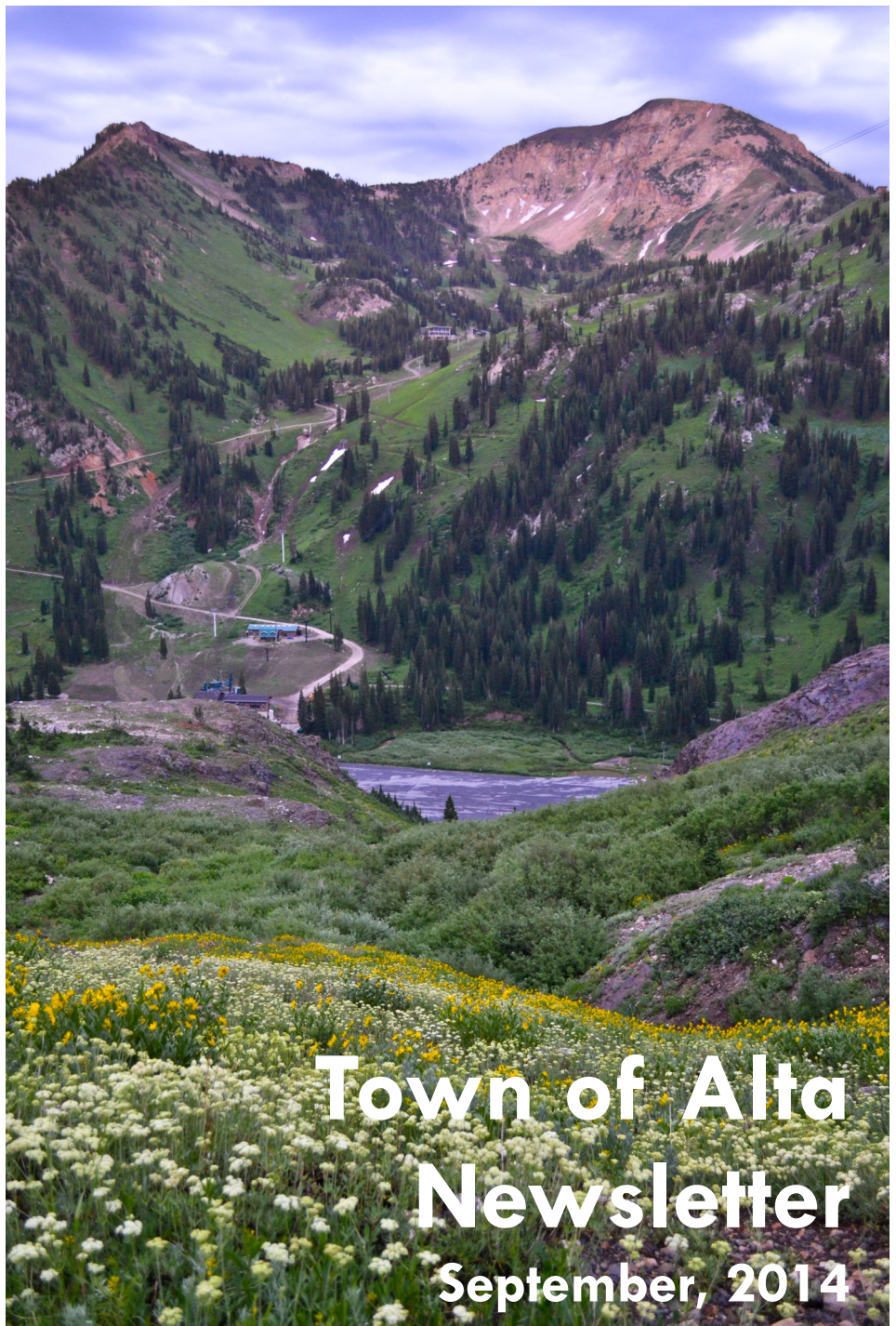
Elise Morgan was appointed to fill Merebea's Council seat. Elise has been in Alta since 2004, and currently she is Alta Ski Area's front office manager. Elise arrives on the Council having served on the Alta Planning Commission for one year.

Following a public hearing on Tuesday, August 5th, the Alta Town Council approved a **general fund budget** for fiscal year 2014/2015 of \$1,584,617. The budget reflects a certified tax rate of .001200, which generates \$336,274 in property tax.

Please see page 4 of this newsletter for information on upcoming Town Council meetings. Meeting agendas and minutes can be found at: www.townofalta.com/gov_agendas.php

PLANNING COMMISSION NEWS

The membership of the Alta Planning Commission has changed significantly. In addition to the resignation of Elise Morgan, now a Town Council member, **Skip Branch** resigned from nearly 25 years of service in June. Skip served



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as chair of the Commission from 2003-2012. We will miss Skip's dedication to our community and his critical perspective on issues of development and planning in Alta.

The Planning Commission has been focused on significant **revisions to the Town of Alta Base Facilities Zone Ordinance** since 2011. In September of 2013, the Town Council received the Planning Commission's recommendations to amend restrictions on building height, lot coverage, yard set-

backs, rooftop mechanical screening, and architectural step-back. In light of new information about possible restrictions on the Town of Alta's culinary water supply system and other considerations, the Town Council remanded these recommendations to the Planning Commission, and in June the two bodies conducted a joint meeting to consider moving forward with new recommendations. The Town Council will hold a public hearing on these recommendations on September 11, and if eventually drafted as new Town ordinance-

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es, the recommendations will allow most current hotel properties in the Town of Alta to expand within their current property boundaries.

Another significant topic on the Planning Commission agenda in recent months has been the possibility of allowing **limited condominium development** in the Base Facilities Zone. Condominiums are currently prohibited in the Town's Base Facilities Zone, which is considered Alta's "commercial core." This is a complex issue—stay tuned to future Alta Planning Commission meeting agendas for more discussion.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held September 15th, 4pm, at the Alta Community Center (Library). Meeting agendas and minutes can be found at: http://www.townofalta.com/gov_planning_agendas.php

NEWS AROUND TOWN

Election day 2014 is November 4th. If you are a registered voter in the Town of Alta, you will be receiving a **vote-by-mail ballot**. There are no Town of Alta positions up for election this year. For more information about this election, please contact the Salt Lake County Clerk's office at 385-468-7400.

Town Staff is working closely with the Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management on the **conveyance** of USFS land to the Town. Parcels include the land under the Bay City Tunnel water building, 1.32 acres west of the Alta Post Office building that is a possible location for a future community center, and the land on which Alta Central and the Town offices are located.

It has been another busy **summer in Albion Basin**, with Summer Booth staff reporting a total of 27,546 cars pass-

ing through the booth as of August 24th, a 22% increase over 2013. The Town operated a free shuttle through Canyon Transportation in 2014, which ran at capacity every day it was offered. Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, the Alta Environmental Center and Friends of Alta provided informational staff at the Albion parking lot and at the upper trailheads, acting as critical resources for the thousands of visitors who come to Alta to experience our spectacular landscape. New for summer 2014 was Alta Ski Lifts operation of the Albion Grill for food service and restroom access, providing summer visitors with valuable amenities.

Alta Ski Area has pursued a significant terrain modification in lower **Collins Gulch**. With the goal of providing an easier way down Collins Gulch, the focus of this project was the widening of the "Corkscrew" ski run, and the removal of the mining overburden pile that has long separated Nina's Curve from Corkscrew. The overburden material was transported uphill into Nina's, which not only opens up space on the lower mountain, but also makes Nina's a more navigable run.

Friends of Alta, the Alta Environmental Center and other partners have hosted several **volunteer stewardship events** throughout the summer. Projects so far this summer have included significant rerouting and corridor management on the Albion meadows trail; significant re-routing of the Devil's Castle Loop trail, and several invasive weed removal projects. For more information on upcoming stewardship opportunities, see page 4 of this newsletter.

In April, **Claire Woodman** resigned from six years of service to the Town of Alta as Assistant Town Administrator. Claire's contribution to the Town is difficult to summarize, as she met so many individual responsibilities. Claire has moved into a position with Parametrix, a consulting firm that is coordinating significant aspects of Mountain Accord, a regional planning initiative described elsewhere in this newsletter. We wish Claire good luck!

In May, the Town hired **Chris Cawley** as our new Assistant Town Administrator. Chris brings to the job a broad perspective on issues important to Alta, and he looks forward to serving the community in which he has lived, worked, and played since 2005.



Photo by Alta Marshal Tom Bolen

Message from the Mayor



Summer in Little Cottonwood Canyon has been punctuated by a major roadway construction project: contractors are installing fiber optic technology along the length of Highway 210. I want to thank everyone for their patience with the traffic interruptions caused by this project—when it is completed, our community will have access to state-of-the-art cellular and data connectivity, and our public safety officials will be far better equipped to monitor roadway conditions and com-

municate essential information to the public.

By now, many of you have likely heard of Mountain Accord. As of August, Mountain Accord is deeply engaged in a “systems” approach to planning for the future of the Central Wasatch Mountains, in which large groups of regional experts convene monthly to evaluate future scenarios for the environmental, economic, recreation, and transportation systems. In a nutshell, these “system groups” are creating idealized versions of their own systems, which will be forwarded to a committee of public officials with jurisdiction over the study area, which spans the terrain from I-80 to Little Cottonwood Canyon, and from I-15 to Highway 40 in Summit and Wasatch Counties.

Trying to summarize the scale of this initiative is not easy, but I think it is

helpful to mention a couple of possible proposed actions: establishment of a major new transit corridor in Little Cottonwood Canyon—something like a train, aerial tramway, or bus rapid transit; designation of large portions of the Central Wasatch for conservation, recreation management, or other goals; establishment of user fee systems in high-traffic recreation destinations; and creation of a regional recreation management organization. Make no mistake: Mountain Accord will significantly impact the way we use the Wasatch Mountains, and it could have serious ramifications for the Town of Alta.

If you love the Wasatch Mountains, please visit mountainaccord.com and make a comment, and visit the “meeting schedules” section of the website for information on upcoming stakeholder forum meetings.

—Mayor Tom Pollard

Notes from the Marshal's Office



Parking: Winter parking regulations will be in effect soon! 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.php

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.

Dawn Patrol closures: 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. Violation of the closure order is a class B misdemeanor. Please respect these closures and help us ensure the safety of avalanche forecasters and backcountry travelers.

Road/Interlodge information:

Local Information Line: (801) 742-3403. —Please call this number first for up to date road information.

Website: <http://www.townofalta.com/road/index.php> for updated road conditions/interlodge status.

Radio: Tune into AM530 for road status and closure/interlodge information.

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 County 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.

Alta Events Calendar

For more information on ACE and Friends of Alta community events, please visit altaarts.org/events, or visit friendsofalta.org/support/volunteer

September

5-7	7AM-8PM	SLCA Craggin Classic-Visit www.saltlakeclimbers.org for more information
6	8AM-Noon	Alta Ski Area Seedling Planting w/ Tree Utah—register at treeutah.org
11	10 AM	Alta Town Council Meeting with Public Hearing, Alta Community Center/Library. Regular meeting to follow
11	3-5 PM	Friends of Alta Invasive Weed Removal, Albino Base Area
12	9:30 AM	Friends of Alta Memorial Tree and Seedling Planting—please RSVP to stella@friendsofalta.org
13	10 AM	Electronic Recycling Opportunity
15	4 PM	Alta Planning Commission Meeting, Alta Community Center/Library
16	3 PM, 5 PM	Friends of Alta Invasive Weed Removal, Albion Base Area; followed by Stewardship Social AND ACE “Kimchi Pickling Class” at Our Lady of the Snows
23	6:30 PM	ACE Event-“Many Stories to Be Told”—a night of storytelling with Eric Foxman; Our Lady of the Snows

October

2	6 PM	ACE Event: Intro to Loom Beading, Our Lady of the Snows
9	10 AM	Alta Town Council meeting, Alta Community Center/Library
14	3 PM	Mountain Accord Stakeholder Meeting, location TBD—visit Mountainaccord.com for more information
17	4 PM	Alta Planning Commission meeting, Alta Community Center/Library
28	5:30 PM	ACE Event: Haunted Pinewood Derby, Our Lady of the Snows
23	7 PM	ACE Event: Piano performance by Shannon Corey, OLS, FREE!

Staff Contact Information:

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 Chris Cawley, Assistant Town Administrator:
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Town Council Contact Information:

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 Elise Morgan: elisedmorgan@gmail.com
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 Harris Sondak: harissondak@gmail.com

Town Info

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 Library/Community Center Phone: (801) 742-2068
 Justice Court Phone: (801) 742-2407
 Alta Central Info Line: (801) 742-3403+



Photo by Pete Kelley