

Town of Alta Newsletter



Vol. 2 Issue 6

March 2010

Municipal News

Census notifications were mailed to residents earlier this month indicating that household Census forms will be mailed out by the middle of March. For whatever reason, most of the Census forms have not made it to Alta. We have had to make some last minute alternative arrangements, PLEASE BE COUNTED!!! See flyer on page 5.

The Town was awarded over \$20,000 for Energy Efficiency upgrades by the Utah State Energy Program. This money was allocated to the state through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Federal Stimulus Package). The Town will be retrofitting gas furnaces in the Community Center and Alta Central from 80% efficiency to 95% efficiency. All lighting fixtures in the Community Center and Alta Central will be retrofitted to T12's and CFL light fixtures. Finally, the Town will also be receiving a comprehensive energy audit of all municipal facilities. Details of energy and cost savings will be reported in the future when they become available.

A Little Cottonwood Canyon Road meeting was held on March 2nd. Discussions included changing of the recoilless weapon on Peruvian Ridge to a Howitzer, and the possibility of paving the bottom half of the canyon road this summer.

Tracie Kirkham, representing Salt Lake City Public Utilities updated the

Town Council at its March meeting on efforts to educate and mobilize citizens in Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons regarding the Spruce Bark Beetle situation. Ms. Kirkham discussed training sessions that will be available for licensed arborists/tree sprayers and the permitting process needed to spray trees. In a few months, the Town will hold an open house to discuss the best course of action to protect our trees and environment at the headwaters of Little Cottonwood Canyons. New information will be posted on the Town's website soon.

The Alta Town Council passed a Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance at the March 11th Town Council meeting. The Town is now fully compliant with FEMA regulations and an active member of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Upon request of the Town Administrator, the Alta Town Council voted to increased building permit fees by 20%. Building permit fees have not been raised since 1994, and since then there has been a 28% increase in the cost of living. The fee increases will more closely reflect the costs associated with administering building processes in Alta. This also comes after the Town's Building Department, run by Forsgren Associates, has also raised fees charged for reviewing plans.

The Town held its first budget meeting on March 17th. As of press date,

the Town believes it will meet its budget for the current year (FY 2009-2010). Additional meetings will be held in the upcoming months to develop the FY 2010-2011 budget. All meetings are open to the public and will be posted on our website.

Alta Community Enrichment hosted Friends of Alta, Alta Environmental Center and the Town of Alta in holding a Greenhouse Gas Inventory Openhouse on March 23rd. Current community environmental efforts were discussed and the event was highlighted by a presentation by Judy Dorsey of the Brendle Group who discussed the community's 2007 Greenhouse Gas Inventory and next steps. A drawing was held to support local sustainability efforts raised \$403.

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Marshal's Report

This report covers events from February 11, 2010 to March 9, 2010.

February 13th, 12:18pm; The Hellgate/Superior area was placed on Interlodge closure. At 5:30 pm, the mid-canyon was closed for avalanche control work.

February 14th, 6:15 am; The Town of Alta was placed on Interlodge until 7:35 am for avalanche control work. At 6:13 pm, a suspicious person was investigated by the deputy on duty. The person presented a false identity to the deputy and was charged with a class A misdemeanor.

February 15th, 2:40 pm; The deputy on duty was called to mediate a civil dispute in the ski area.

February 16th, 9:20 am; The Hellgate area was placed on Interlodge closure until 4:13 pm. At 12:17 pm, a resident called to report a fraudulent use of her credit card which had occurred in Sandy. At 10:00 pm, the Marshal's Office assisted the Unified Police and Fire Departments with a rollover accident in the lower canyon.

February 23rd, 6:08 pm; The Marshal assisted the Unified Police department with a man who had assaulted a security officer at a Ski Resort West of Alta.

February 25th, 8:35 am; The Hellgate area was placed on Interlodge closure. At 10:30 am, a medical response was made for a man who sustained spinal injuries while skiing. He was transported to a local hospital via ambulance.

February 26th, 6:30 am; The Town of Alta was placed on Interlodge closure until 7:31 am for avalanche control. At 10:28 pm, a minor snow-cat accident occurred in the Patsey Marley area. A passenger sustained minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital via private vehicle.



February 27th, 9:27 pm; The deputy on duty was called to one of the lodges regarding a man who apparently solicited sexual acts while receiving a massage treatment. A citation was issued.

March 5th, 4:28 am; The Hellgate area was placed on Interlodge. The remainder of the Town of Alta was placed on Interlodge closure at 6:30 am. Avalanche control work was conducted and restrictions were lifted at 7:59 am. At 12:13 pm, a man was cited for theft of services after having been caught skiing with someone else's season pass.

March 6th, 8:18 am; A backcountry skier, who has possibly injured his spine, was transported to a local hospital via ambulance.

March 7th, 2:49 pm; A male was issued a citation for skiing in a closed area.

March 8th, 12:00 pm; A rescue team from the Alta Ski Area was mobilized to assist a backcountry skier in the Car-

diff area who had injured his lower leg.

Misc. duties;

168	business and property checks
16	traffic offenses
29	motorist assist calls
13	alcohol enforcements
6	watershed violations
10	reports of lost/stolen ski equip
8	vehicle impounds
5	traffic accidents
9	outside agency assist calls

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.

Legislative Recap

The 2010 General Session of the Utah State Legislature came to a close on March 11th. As usual, the Mayor and Town staff closely followed the oftentimes unpredictable process. Attending weekly Utah League of Cities and Towns (ULCT) Legislative Policy meetings and keeping in close contact with our local legislators helps ensure the Town keeps up with the fast-paced session.

The following provides a summary of a few key bills passed in the session. Some are of local interest, others may be of general interest to Utah residents. Most of the material was provided by ULCT, with minor additions added by the Town.

SB244—Annexation Amendments—Failed. This bill would modify the annexation provisions to allow for an annexation of a resort area if the resort area is contiguous to the annexing city. This bill was of particular importance to the Town as it would allow for Sandy City to annex Snowbird. After extensive negotiation, the bill was put on hold to be studied more carefully in the interim. The Town will be an integral player in this process.

HB278—Government Records Access and Management Act Amendments—Passed. This bill originally started as a bill to create a penalties provision for violating the GRAMA



statute. The ULCT, with urging from the Town, was successful in amending the bill to remove the penalties clause.

SB53—Voter Challenge Revisions—Passed. This bill was a clarifying bill to address voter challenges. It created a process of how voters can be challenged in writing prior to the election and then creates a process to evaluate the challenge and notify the challenged voter. The bill also established a judicial remedy to the challenge. This bill was amended substantially by the ULCT to address concerns raised by Alta and other jurisdictions about timing requirements that were originally imposed on the recorder to evaluate the challenge.

HB363—Municipal Election Amendments—Passed. This bill waives early voting for 5th class cities and towns. This bill was pursued at the request of the ULCT and creates a municipal option regarding participation in early voting for these types of cities and towns. With the passage of this legislation, the Town will evaluate its options as it relates to early voting.

HB231—Water Rights Priorities in Times of Shortage—Passed. This bill provides that the priority for water use, under water rights, is deter-

mined by the date of the appropriation of water. This was a priority bill for the ULCT, establishing a domestic preference of water rights during a time of shortage.

CHANGES TO THE UTAH RETIREMENT SYSTEM (URS). The financial crisis of 2008 opened up a \$6.5 Billion unfunded liability in the Utah Retirement System. Another market collapse, similar to the 2008 financial crisis, could financially devastate the pension system. Two critical pieces of legislation were passed to contain and reduce the current bankruptcy risk.

SB43—Post-retirement Employment Amendments. This bill modifies the "double dipping" provision to require any new retiree who comes back to work for a participating entity to be reactivated in the retirement system and suspend the retirement benefit.

SB63—New Public Employees' Tier II Contributory Retirement Act. This is the retirement bill that makes major changes to the "new" employee retirement system. The bill caps employer contribution amounts and reduces retirement benefits for new public employees.

Message from the Mayor

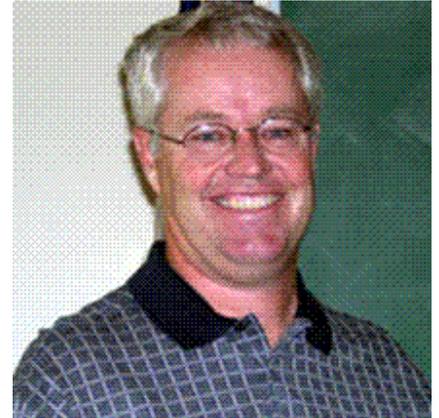
I can't believe April is here already, the season has really flown by! There is only a few more weeks of skiing before our summer hiatus and I hope that what started as a slow snow year will really end with a bang.

Every ten years the Census comes out, and it seems like every ten years a new challenge presents itself. Census notification forms were mailed to residents, however the actual Census form itself has made it to very few residents. We are not sure what happened, but we've had to make some last minutes plans to make sure everyone is counted. A realistic Census count is absolutely crucial for our Town. Not only does it determine how much sales tax we collect, but our money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (in the forms of CBDG funds) is based on our Census count as well. Please make sure you check out the additional information in the newsletter [editors note: see page 5] about

how to make sure you are counted!

On the litigation front, the Town is pleased to announce that the firm of Parsons Kinghorn Harris will now be representing the Town for the Shrontz Estate Lawsuit. Paul Moxley and Catherine Brabson will be the main counsel handling this litigation. Most recently, the Estate has responded to the motions made by the Town/Salt Lake City, and the Town/Salt Lake City now has until April 16th to make its final response before a hearing is scheduled. The Town will still retain Parsons Behle and Latimer for all other legal matters.

The Town is pleased to announce that Sarah Evans has been named the Dispatcher of the year by the Utah Chief's Association. Sarah was nominated for facilitating the prompt evacuation of the public into shelter, reclosing and evacuation of SR-210 and dispatching emergency medicinal



services in response to a burial of an Alta Ski Patroller in an unexpected avalanche. I commend her swift actions and poise and feel we are very fortunate in Alta to have such talented dispatchers and public safety personnel.

Please make sure to participate in the Census and enjoy the remaining days of skiing!

Municipal News (continued from page 1...)

Thanks to the community for supporting these efforts.

Congratulations to Roger Bourke for his appointment to the Alta Planning Commission. Roger will be the first Alta resident appointed to the Planning Commission since an ordinance change in 2008 allowed a resident to serve on the Commission. Jan Striefel and Skip Branch were also reappointed to another term.

The Planning Commission held a meeting March 25th. The Commission began discussion on a Land Use Application Ordinance that would help clean up and clarify the application process for Conditional Use Permits, Planned Unit Developments, and other land uses. There was also discussion on following up the recently passed Subdivision Application Ordinance with a Subdivision Approval Ordinance. As with all land use related ordinances,

public hearings are required in front of both the Planning Commission and Town Council. Stay tuned as ordinance work continues.

In order to preserve vital Town information the Town has archived all ordinances, resolutions, Town Council minutes, Planning Commission minutes, and incorporation papers with the Utah State Archives. These files will be kept in permanent storage at the Utah State Archives for safekeeping.

Salt Lake County is looking for election judges for the June 22nd primary election. The polling place for Alta will be the Albion Grill. Please contact the Salt Lake County election office at 801.468.3427 if you are interested in working the election.

In 2009, the Town supported 68,400 kilo-watt hours of renewable energy. The renewable energy supported pre-

vented the release of 83,334 pounds of carbon dioxide — that's equivalent to planting 980 trees or not driving a typical car 84,730 miles. The Town's municipal facilities used a total of 158,222 kilo-watt hours of electricity in 2009. 43% of that electricity use was offset by wind energy.

A public hearing to gather input on how to spend the Town's Community Block Development Grant (CBDG) funds is scheduled for the April 8th Town Council meeting.

PHOTO BELOW: It's still winter in Alta!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Do you live in Alta?

Did you NOT receive a Census form in the mail?

If you are an Alta resident and would like to be counted in the 2010 Census in Alta, please stop by to fill out a household census form. Your form did not get mailed to your Alta residence.

Monday April 5th. 4-6:30pm

Thursday April 8th. 4-6:30pm

Albion Grill

BE COUNTED!

United States[®]
**Census
2010**



This applies to all those living in condos, single family homes, duplex cottage units, and caretaker units. Any questions, please call Kate Black at 801.363.5105 or

TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Alta Events Calendar

April

7	6pm	ACE Event: Shot Ski Craft Night, Our Lady of the Snows, \$5.
8	10am	Town Council meeting, Alta Community Center.
8	8:30pm	ACE Event: Dazed and Confused Disco Party, Our Lady of the Snows, \$5.
12	5:30pm	ACE Event: Zumba! Our Lady of the Snows, FREE! The Zumba Program fuses hypnotic Latin Rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will blow you away!
22	5:30pm	ACE Event: Yoga with Stacy, Our Lady of the Snows, FREE!
27	12:30pm	Planning Commission Meeting, Location TBD. Location will be posted on the agenda which will be available approximately one week prior to the meeting on the Town's website.

All events are subject to change. For Alta Community Enrichment (ACE) events please check: www.altaarts.org or call 801.742.0830.



ACE's annual Snowflake Festival brought out many to enjoy our transition into spring! Ski racing, hole-in-one contests and volley ball were just some of the exciting events!



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 — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Cliff Curry — cliffcurry@altalodge.com — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Steven Gilman — gusgilman@msn.com — Term expires 2012
 Councilmember — Paul Moxley — ptm@pkhlawyers.com — Term expires 2014
 Councilmember — Dave Richards — 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
- Canyon Alert System: Sign up for canyon updates via text messaging at 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
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Kate Black — Town Clerk
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Piper Lever — Assistant Town Clerk,
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Claire Runge — Assistant Town
Administrator, Newsletter Editor
cer@townofalta.com

Sara Madsen — Alta Visitors Bureau
info@discoveralta.com

Mike Morey — Town Marshal
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.