

Town of Alta Newsletter



Vol. 2 Issue 7

April/May 2010

Municipal News

Salt Lake City has developed a website dedicated to the Spruce Bark Beetle issue along the Wasatch Front.

The website outlines treatment options for infested trees and educational resources. Please check it out at: <http://www.slcgov.com/Utilities/SpruceBeetle.htm>

As the snow melts, the Town and various agencies will be out surveying property for infested trees. Property owners will be contacted if infested trees are located on their property. The Town does not advocate any position with regard to protecting healthy trees but encourages property owners to remove infested trees as soon as possible.

The Planning Commission held a meeting April 27th. Discussion continued on a proposed Land Use Application Ordinance and the possibility of revisiting the Base Facilities Zone section of the Town's General Plan.

John Guldner and Claire Runge attended a Utah League of Cities and Towns Legislative Policy meeting on May 17th. Over the legislation interim the ULCT will be working on proposed legislation for the upcoming session. This may include changes to impact fees and change applications.

A quarterly Cooperative County Plan meeting was held May 19th with John Guldner and Claire Runge in attendance. The group was briefed on current and future UTA and Rocky Moun-

tain Power projects and the completion of an eastside transit study. The cooperative group is moving forward with project ideas for a 2010-2011 project and the possibility of applying for a Department of Housing and Urban Development grant.

The Utah League of Cities and Towns held a Land Use Training Session in Alta on May 20th for local government officials and staff. Many Alta Town Council and Planning Commissioners in addition to other officials from around the state were in attendance. Special thanks to John Guldner for setting up this convenient high altitude venue.

Come out and help keep our canyon watershed clean and beautiful for all to enjoy! Little Cottonwood Cleanup has been scheduled for Tuesday June 22nd. Come join us for a fun day! Participation is limited to Town of Alta and Snowbird residents and employees and their immediate families. Alta folks may register by signing up on a posted sheet at the Post Office, Town Office, or at your place of work. A commemorative T-shirt is given to all those that register by June 4th. **This is the 20th year the Little Cottonwood Canyon Clean-up** is being done in conjunction with UDOT's "Adopt a Highway Program." Questions? Call Kate or Piper at 801.742.3522. **The day's schedule is as follows:** **8:45-9:30am:** Light Breakfast, Check-in and Zone Assignments. Meet in Alta Lodge parking lot.

9:30-11:45am: Clean-up of assigned area.

11:45am-1:30pm: BBQ & drawings. Plaza Deck, Snowbird Center.

Primary Elections will be held June 22nd at the Albion Grill. Voters affiliated with the Democratic party will be voting for a candidate in the U.S. Representative District #2 race. Republican affiliated voters will be voting for a candidate in the U.S. Senate race and a Salt Lake County Council at-large seat. All parties (including non-affiliated) will be voting on the issuance of bonds for the Canyons School District. (See next item). The election will be run by Salt Lake County and no early voting will be held in Alta. Early voting locations and information can be found at: <http://www.clerk.slco.org/elections/voteEarly.html>

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ABOVE LEFT: Alta fox out on the town. Photo courtesy of Tom Bolen.

Marshal's Report

This report covers events from April 9th to May 12th, 2010.

April 9th, 5:00 pm: A 33 year-old male with a broken arm and possible knee injury was rescued from Grizzly Gulch following a skiing accident.

April 10th, 11:45 am: The Marshal's Office assisted the Unified Police Department (UPD) with a juvenile problem at a resort west of Alta.

April 13th, 10:30-11:30 am: The mid-canyon area was closed for avalanche control work.

April 22nd, 12:26 pm: The Marshal's Office responded to a hold up alarm at the Alta Ski Area. The alarm was found to be false.

April 23rd, 8:03 am: The deputy on duty assisted UPD with a three car accident near Snowbird Entry 3.

April 25th, 3:37 pm: A medical re-

sponse was made for a person who had sustained a possible head injury after falling in a Town parking area.

April 27th, 11:12 am: An alert resident reported occupants of a vehicle using drugs in the Bypass Road area. UPD responded to assist. A male was arrested for possession of heroin and paraphernalia.

April 29th, 2:00 pm: The Hell-gate/Superior area was placed on Interlodge closure status due to avalanche hazard.

April 30th, 6:45 am: The Town of Alta was placed on Interlodge until 9:02 am for avalanche control work. At 11:20 am, a theft report was taken regarding a missing delivery item. At 12:20 pm, a minor traffic accident was investigated in the Powder Ridge area.

May 2nd, 6:30 am: Interlodge/Road closures were in effect until 8:53 am for avalanche control.

May 3rd, 6:30 am: Interlodge/Road closures were again in place for avalanche control work.

May 8th, 7:28 pm: A 911 hang up call was received. Upon callback a person claimed to be staying at one of the lodges in a room number that didn't exist. The caller was eventually discovered to be an intoxicated bar patron and was released to a person who agreed to take responsibility for removing him from the canyon.

Miscellaneous duties:

104	business and property checks
6	motorist assist calls
14	traffic violations
9	alcohol enforcements
3	watershed enforcements
2	vehicle impounds
5	outside agency assists
2	traffic accidents



ABOVE: As this issue goes to press, winter lingers in Alta. Photo of "powder shadows" courtesy of Julie Willis.

Message from the Mayor

Spring has been slow to return to Alta, with a significant amount of snow falling in April and May. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will be hiking and biking among the wildflowers soon!

Congressman Jim Matheson has introduced the Wasatch Wilderness and Watershed Protection Act in the current United States Congressional session. The proposed bill will designate an additional 26,000 acres of wilderness and special management area protection to the existing wilderness. The bill is primarily aimed at protecting the drinking water supply for the growing population in the valley.

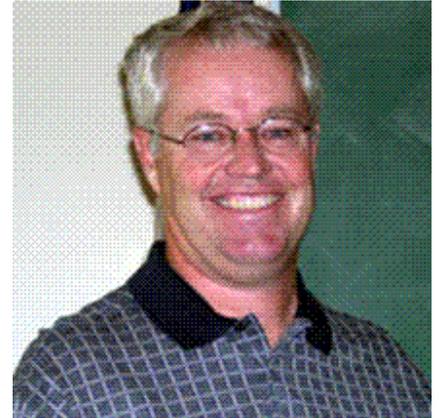
The effects of this bill on Little Cottonwood Canyon include additions to the Lone Peak Wilderness west of Snowbird, and an addition of a Heliskiing Special Management area south of Snowbird. The bill also includes a land swap between Snowbird and the U.S. Forest Service. The land swap will involve swapping Snowbird's private land on the north side of the Town of Alta. This land would then be designated as Wilderness/Special

Management area. That provision would expressly prohibit the installation of a chairlift on this land and "MAY" allow for the installation of gaz-exes or similar avalanche control devices.

The Town supports the expansion of wilderness, but not at the expense of our public safety and livelihood. In the event of the U.S. Army taking away our artillery based avalanche control program, it is absolutely crucial that we have all options available for avalanche mitigation above the Town. The public safety of our Town's residents and visitors is our foremost concern. It would be acceptable to have the land swapped to a U.S. Forest Service designation and have any avalanche control solutions go through the NEPA process, but a wilderness designation that could possibly prevent a viable avalanche control method is too restrictive.

Myself and Councilman Dave Richards will be traveling to Washington D.C. to testify before the House Committee on Natural Resource committee about our concerns with this bill.

Text of the bill and map of the



proposed wilderness expansion can be found at:

http://matheson.house.gov/iss_wspw.s.html

On the litigation front, a hearing date of July 22nd has been scheduled for the Estate of Joanne Shrontz versus Town of Alta and Salt Lake City Corporation in the third district court. We will have updates after the proceedings.

Cross your fingers for some good weather around the corner!

Property Tax Info

The Alta Town Council is recommending a 10% increase in the Town of Alta's certified tax rate (CTR). As outlined in the pie chart on page 4, 8.6% of total property taxes paid to Salt Lake County actually reach the Town of Alta in FY 2009/2010.

On June 17th, the Town Council will hold a public hearing to discuss the certified tax rate and the proposed FY 2010-2011 fiscal budgets. If the Town Council passes the general fund budget with the proposed tax increase, a Truth in Taxation public hearing will be held in August. The time and place of the Truth in Taxation hearing will be announced either by a public notice posted in a paper of

general circulation (Salt Lake Tribune and/or Deseret News) or by mail.

The pie chart on page 4 shows the distribution of your property tax to various public entities that provide services. The Town received 8.6% of the total property tax paid to Salt Lake County by Alta residents and businesses in FY 2009-2010. The 8.6% is based on 2009-2010 tax rates set by other agencies and may change in the upcoming year.

The top pie chart is for the taxing district 40D that includes most of the Town with the exception of the "Blackjack Annexation" area. The bottom pie chart is for the "Blackjack Annexation"

area, or taxing district 40L. 40L includes all property south of Little Cottonwood Creek and west of Powder Ridge to the western border of the Town of Alta. The only difference between the two taxing districts is the inclusion of the CTR for Salt Lake County Service Area #3 in district 40L.

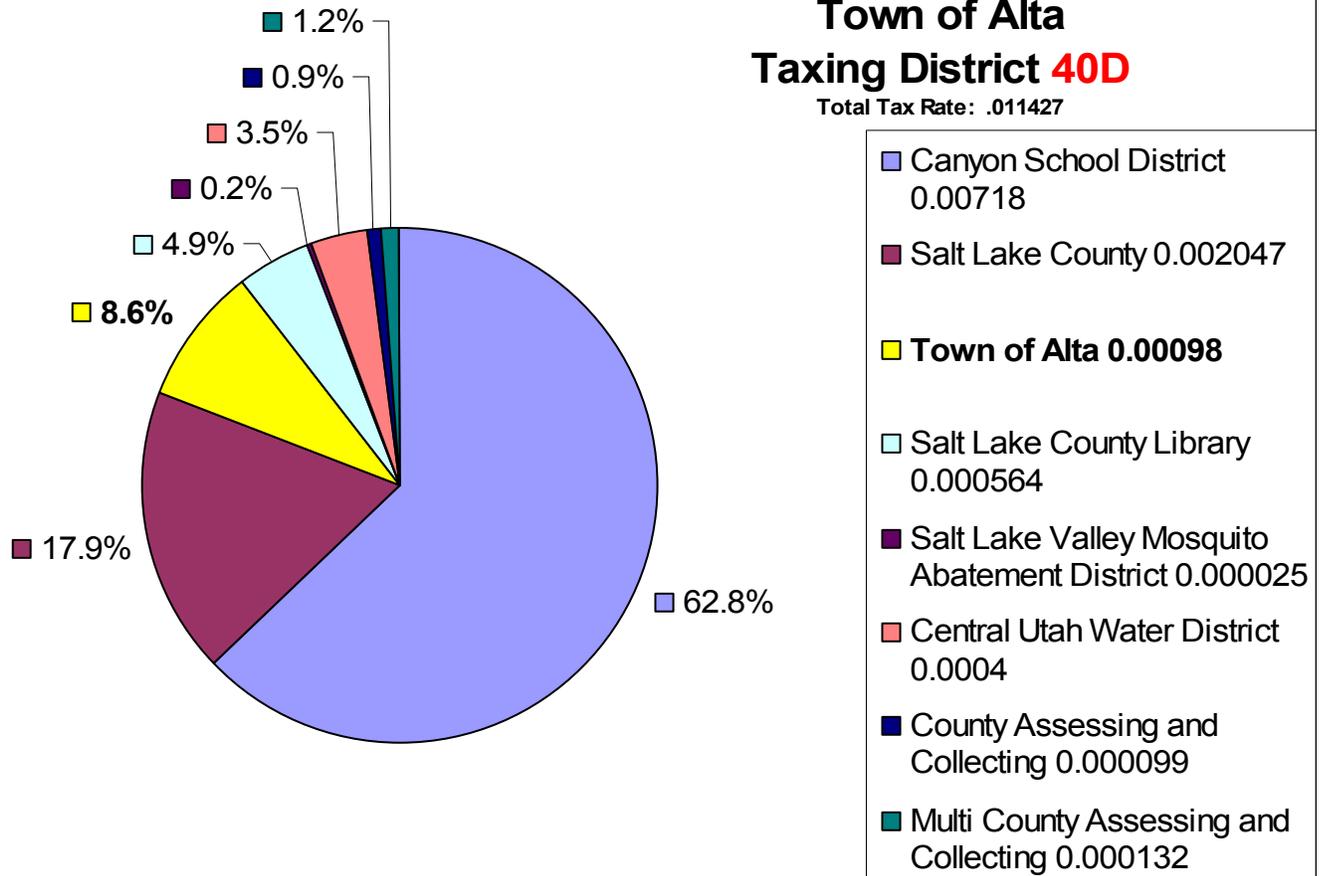
Next month, we will show how this pie chart will change for FY 2010/2011 after Salt Lake County and other agencies establish their CTR's.

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2009 Certified Tax Rate Information Town of Alta

Taxing District **40D**

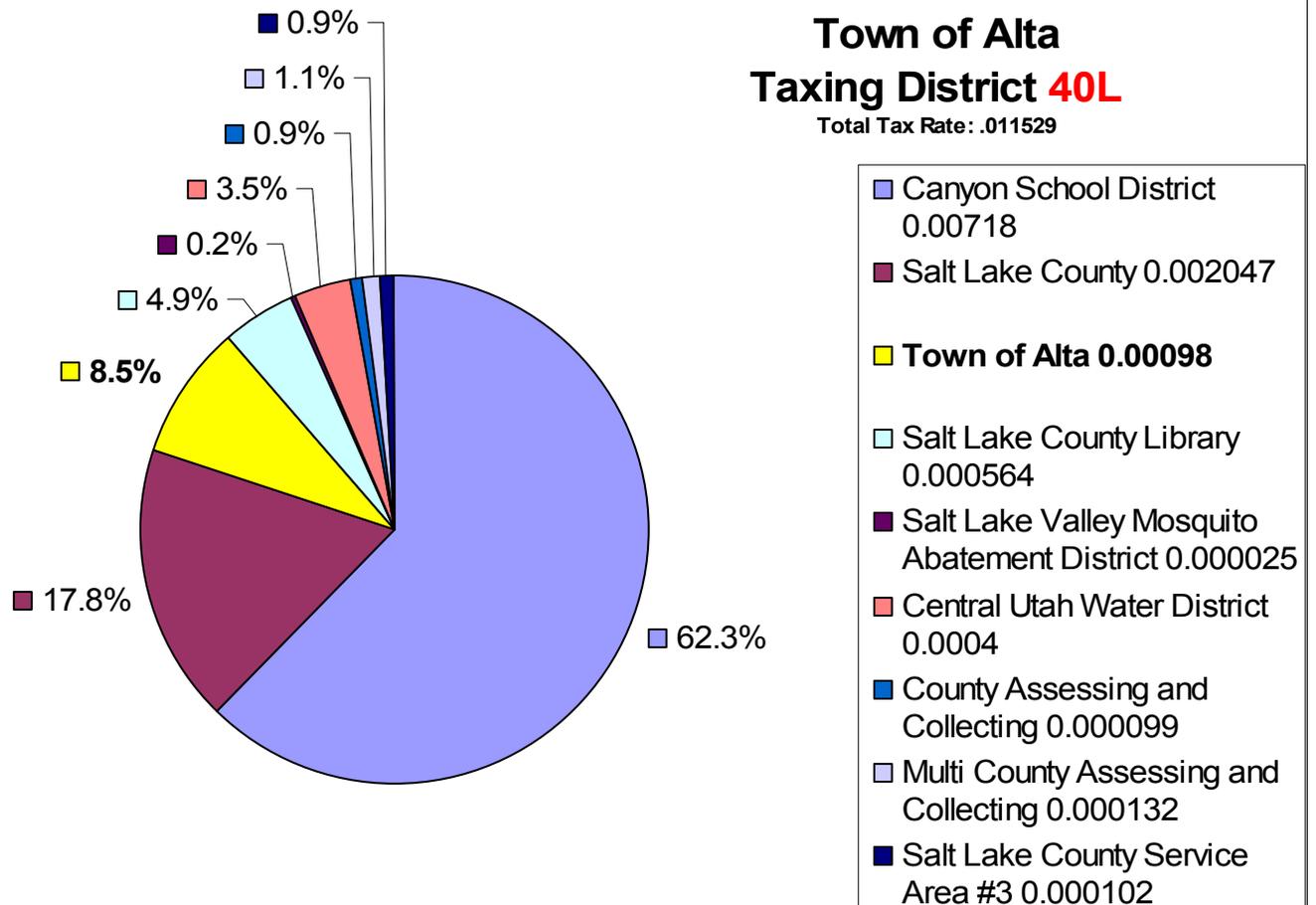
Total Tax Rate: .011427



2009 Certified Tax Rate Information Town of Alta

Taxing District **40L**

Total Tax Rate: .011529



Property Tax info (...continued from page 4)

Taxable Value	Current Tax Rate approved by the Town of Alta for fiscal year 2009/2010 0.000980	Estimated Tax Rate proposed by Town of Alta 0.001078 *	Annual Dollar Increase to the Town of Alta with a 10% increase
	Tax Dollars Generated to the Town of Alta	Tax Dollars Generated to the Town of Alta	
\$30,000 - raw land	\$29.40	\$32.34	\$2.94
850000 ** primary residence	\$458.15	\$503.97	\$45.82
\$850,000 commercial business with like value or secondary residence with like value	\$833.00	\$916.30	\$83.30

* The proposed tax rate for the Town of Alta will be based on the actual tax rate provided by Salt Lake County in June 2010

** \$850,000 is the average home value in the Town of Alta as determined by Salt Lake County

NOTES ON THE CHART ABOVE:

Above is a comparison of property tax dollars currently generated to the Town in FY 2009/2010 to the proposed 10% CTR increase for FY 2010/2011. Tax dollars generated to the Town represent approximately 8.6% of the total property tax paid by a land/property owner.

Raw land up to one acre MAY get a residential exemption for property tax. Raw land over one acre is taxed at full market value.

Primary residences are taxed at 55% of their full market value. In the example above, this would be:
 $\$850,000 \times .55 \times 0.000980 = \458.15 .

Secondary residences and businesses are taxed at 100% of the full market value. In the example above this would be:
 $\$850,000 \times .000980 = \833.00

The first column represents the portion of the property tax dollars paid to the Town of Alta for 2009/2010 based on the current CTR and owning either raw land, a primary residence, a secondary residence/business. The middle column represents the property tax dollars the Town of Alta would receive from your property tax with factoring in the proposed 10% increase in the CTR. The third column represents the annual dollar increase to the Town factoring in the proposed 10% increase in the CTR.

Alta Events Calendar

June

17	10am	Town Council meeting
22	8:45am	Little Cottonwood Canyon Cleanup Day. Meet at Alta Lodge parking lot. Additional details can be found on page 1.
22	7am-8pm	Primary Election, Albion Grill. Additional details can be found on page 1 and 6.
24	2-4 pm	ACE Event: Herbal Remedies for the Entire Family, Our Lady of the Snows. Learn about the most useful herbs to have on hand for the home and family. Herbal preparations will be explained. Herbs for kids and adults will be discussed and suggestions will be made for the best herbs for colds, flu, allergies, cuts, scrapes, pain, sleep stress, and more. Taught by clinical herbalist, teacher, author, and wild guide, Merry Lycett Harrison, RH (AHG). REGISTRATION: Register early to reserve your place! You can register by e-mail Merry at millherb@xmission.com You can find out more about Merry at millcreekherbs.com

July

16-18		Wasatch Wildflower Festival. Alta's day is July 17th. Check out the event line up and get additional information at: http://www.wasatchwildflowerfestival.org/
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All events are subject to change. For Alta Community Enrichment (ACE) events please check: www.altaarts.org or call 801.742.0830.

Municipal News (continued from page 1...)

The Canyons Board of Education is seeking a \$250 million, tax-rate-neutral bond to renovate or rebuild aging schools, build a new high school in Draper, and forward the District's efforts to better prepare students for college and careers. The bond proposal would keep the debt service rate constant over time. The \$250 million represents a portion of \$650 million of

deferred maintenance liability that has been identified. More information at: <http://www.canyonsdistrict.org> **The bond election will be held in conjunction with the primary election on Tuesday June 22nd.**

The June Town Council meeting is scheduled for the THIRD Thursday of the month, June 17th, to wait for the

county to provide the Town its certified tax rate information. At this meeting, a public hearing will be held to discuss the proposed FY 2010-2011 budgets. Final action on the budget will be taken during the regular agenda of the meeting. The proposed budget is available online at: http://www.townofalta.com/gov_budget.shtml

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



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
plrem@townofalta.com

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.