

## THE STATE OF THE CITY

As I reflect on the year 2014, I am exceedingly grateful for the opportunity to serve Eagle Mountain City and the residents who call it home. While this year has been full of challenges, it has been just as full of victories. Before we consider the accomplishments of the year, I want to take a moment to remember the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Cory Wride of our Utah County Sheriff's Office. Sergeant Wride was murdered as he stopped to provide assistance to what he believed to be a stranded motorist. Sergeant Wride served our community faithfully for nearly four years, and we will forever honor his memory through the park that now carries his name. We salute you and your service Sergeant Wride.

We welcomed home our very own Olympian this year. Noelle Pikus Pace won a silver medal in women's skeleton at the Sochi Olympics. Where most Olympic athletes train and compete on intense schedules which could easily fragment families, Noelle and her husband Janson decided to pursue the dream together as a family unit. We are proud of the Pace family for Noelle's accomplishments on the track, and for their dedication to placing family above all else.

I believe that the family unit is in many ways the foundation of Eagle Mountain's identity. The median age of our residents is 19.9 according to recent census data. That low number is a result of the appeal Eagle Mountain has for young families. Our young demographic can be seen best in our youth sports programs. This year, in the first year of its offering, we had 710 children play spring soccer, 769 for baseball, 879 for Jr. Jazz basketball, and 865 in fall soccer. That is over 3,200 children that played on over 275 teams with just as many parents volunteering their time to coach the teams.

Because Eagle Mountain has so much to offer young families, we are one of the fastest growing cities in the state. With our history of rapid growth and our projections of continued growth, it seemed fitting to take a fresh look at where we want to be in 10 years or more. At 26,000 residents, the time is now to review our plans for the future. In 2014 we invested heavily



Photo: Sam Penrod KSL

Mid-Valley Park was renamed Cory B. Wride Memorial Park at an event on January 30 commemorating the one-year anniversary of the death of Sgt. Wride. The event included a procession for the Wride family, unveiling of the new park entrance sign, and a balloon release with thank you notes from elementary school students. We thank our schools and community members for your support!

in our planning efforts. We compiled a master transportation plan to identify existing assets and levels of service along with future corridors and expectations for roads and transit options. Because transportation needs are changing in the country, we integrated a bike and pedestrian master plan for our trails. These efforts will help us to manage our existing resources as well as setting a future course that will reduce the cost of new projects. We were also successful in working with UDOT to secure funds for protecting right-of-ways for the future expansion of Cory Wride Highway.

Eagle Mountain offers far more than great home prices. We have assets in our clean air, our starry nights, and our natural beauty. These assets may even have been what drew you to live in Eagle Mountain. For this reason, we passed a dark sky ordinance which will require new development to meet certain standards of lighting. Without sacrificing safety, this development code prevents the sky glow seen all along the Wasatch front and preserves the night skies which have

Continued on page 2...

become part of Eagle Mountain's identity.

As the value and charm of Eagle Mountain draws more people, the cost of building and maintaining our transportation infrastructure will cause considerable strain on our budget. With the inadequate tax revenues generated from gas tax, we have relied on our General Fund to supplement the maintenance budget. In 2014, we made a large investment in two of our primary roads. Pony Express Parkway and Ranches Parkway received much needed attention in order to extend the service life and reduce future cost. The remaining section of Pony Express Parkway will be included on the 2015-2016 budget for council consideration. We must continue seeking solutions to adequately fund road maintenance in the interest of preventing the greater future expenses of road replacement.

Presently, Eagle Mountain's budget is funded heavily by residential property tax and sales tax which is distributed to us from the State pool based on our population. Our finance department has once again been recognized with awards from the Government Finance Officer's Association for our budget and our annual financial report. While we will continue to make conservative revenue projections and be intentional with tax payer's money, we must pursue economic development to bolster property tax and build support for retail development. Due to these efforts in 2014, we hope to be sharing some significant success stories in 2015.

In order to offer long term value to residents, we have taken on the monumental task of selling our gas and electric utilities. Under the pressures of rapid population growth and increasingly volatile energy markets, this transaction aims to combine more sophisticated management of energy resources with the promise of greater customer price stability. As an added benefit, Eagle Mountain will pay off over \$26 million dollars in debt. This represents over 50% of our total City debt.

We took some big steps in 2014 and we have positive momentum carrying us into 2015. We are excited for the year ahead and we will continue our dedication to keeping you informed every step of the way. For the full version of the State of the City address and a video, please go to [www.mayorsvoice.com](http://www.mayorsvoice.com).

MAYOR CHRIS PENGRA

[www.mayorsvoice.com](http://www.mayorsvoice.com)  
[mayor@emcity.org](mailto:mayor@emcity.org)



*You are cordially invited to the*  
**Annual Princess Academy**

*Hosted by Miss Eagle Mountain, Alyssa Diaz! It will be held the morning of Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 at the City Hall. The day will be filled with many magical events: crafts, nail painting, a picture with Miss Eagle Mountain, a luncheon, and much more! The cost is \$10. Space is limited so reserve soon!! If you have questions, contact*  
*Celeste Lojik, 801-404-1183*  
*or*  
*Alyssa Diaz, 801-851-0917*

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Eagle Mountain City Notice of Municipal Election 2015

In accordance with UCA 10-3-301, notice is hereby given that the following positions are to be voted upon in the Eagle Mountain City 2015 Municipal Election:

- Councilmember 4-year term
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Candidate filing period begins June 1, 2015 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 8, 2015, excluding Saturday and Sunday (UCA 20A-1-401). Declaration of Candidacy must be filed in person at the Eagle Mountain City Recorder's Office located at 1650 East Stagecoach Run.

Primary election to be held August 11, 2015 (if necessary).

General election to be held November 3, 2015.

### Hunter's Education

Date: Saturday, 2/21/2015  
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
Location: City Hall  
Contact: Donna Millett, 801-361-0676, [sdmillet@yahoo.com](mailto:sdmillet@yahoo.com) for registration and information regarding this class.

Please bring the following with you to class: Internet completion papers, \$10 hunting certification (get from the store where you buy hunting license), safety glasses, ear plugs, cardboard box to put a target on and something to lay on, weapon. You can bring one of the following: bow with five arrows and your own bow target or a .22, .17, BB gun, or a pellet gun with 30 shells.

### Library Fundraising

Congratulations to the Eagle Mountain Public Library for some successful fundraising over the past few months. Since October 2014, the library has collected more than \$1,950 in fines and donations using the Junior Library Guild's Love Our Library program. These funds will be used to provide additional inventory for the library.