



# The Eagle's View

City News Nov. 30, 2021 Eagle Mountain City Government

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## Finding the joy in the holiday struggle



*1 - Mayor Tom Westmoreland*

This time of year can feel similar to a long-anticipated holiday voyage where we set sail in search of hope, joy and great memories with friends and family.

As we board, expectations generally run high with good intentions to make this the best, or most meaningful, holiday season ever.

These expectations alone might add stress and workload like extra luggage we really didn't need. Then, just about the time we are ready to start the celebrations, a storm rolls in and rocks our boat so hard that partying becomes awkward. Or worse, maybe our boat crashes on a rocky shoal. Then what do we do? What do we do when the realities of life do not cooperate with our plans for joy and celebration?

This is where many of us too often find ourselves. Though each of us will experience varying degrees of disappointment and challenge, we still must patch it back together and make sense of it.

I recently found myself struggling to justify and feel the holiday spirit. It seemed to me there was too much heartbreak and loss all around me. I just wasn't feeling it.

As I reflected on the origins of holidays like Thanksgiving, Hanukkah and Christmas, I realized that they all started as major challenges. Without challenge and heartache, these special days might not be special, or might not even exist on our calendars.

The stories of the pilgrims, and William Tyndale before them, are stories of great sacrifice and hardship taken on willingly for the cause of liberty, truth and freedom of religion. Four hundred years ago, the

rugged and visionary pilgrims gave thanks to God when it seemed there was little about which to be thankful.

Many of them died that first year, yet they shared a cause greater than themselves and were grateful for the chance to make a difference. The light they lit still shines as an example for us today.

Hanukkah remembers a miracle of light that occurred in dark and trying times. A light that refused to flicker out.

In Christmas, we have a holiday that takes place in the darkest time of year and celebrates hope for even the smallest and least of us. We have seen the shaping of this holiday through the American Great Awakenings and stories like "A Christmas Carol" and "The Gift of the Magi."

It is not in our power to stop all suffering and ignorance. Nor can we eliminate the dark. But we can light a candle and we can bear another's burden. Whether sharing sorrow or sharing joy, it is still sharing. In the sharing we can lift ourselves while lifting others -- even if it is only in an exchange of "Merry Christmas."

I hope that our future will never be as hard as life used to be for our ancestors, but we will have our own difficulties to overcome.

The history of those that have gone before us shares a common theme. Ours, like theirs, is a story of grit and grace. We will find within ourselves the grit to carry on and persevere, to choose to be strong so that we can strengthen others, to know that our efforts are worthwhile whether we live to see the fulfillment of our goals, or it is left for others to finish.

We can choose to find the grace to forgive ourselves and forgive others. In doing so, we affirm that it is good and natural to rise up and lift up, to heal and to mend.

Merry Christmas!

Mayor Tom Westmoreland

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## Wildlife - Fall deer migration ensues



There has been much publicity and discussion around the topic of the 1,300-acre Wildlife Corridor Overlay Zone, which was recently approved by the Eagle Mountain City Council.

Eagle Mountain is the first city in Utah to implement this type of zoning. This is a vitally important step in order to maintain a migration route for the local mule deer population which, according to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, numbers approximately 2,900 deer.

You may wonder why they migrate, where they are going and why it is so important.

Every spring, mule deer, as well as the local pronghorn population, head to the mountains in search of summer ranges and then head back to the valley in winter to avoid the deepening snow. These movements are related to the availability of shelter and food that is crucial to their existence. Their shelter and diet needs vary greatly depending on the season, geographic region, time of year and elevation.

According to the Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service: in winter, the mule deer diet consists of 74% shrubs and trees and 15% forbs (herbaceous flowering plants that are not grasses) and 11% grass-like plants. This percentage varies depending on the current season and plant varieties available.

There are some 788 species of plants that are eaten by mule deer, including some shrub seed pods, nuts (including acorns) and berries. They have also adapted to, and enjoy, some of the landscape plantings.

It is wise when planting in open areas to choose plants the mule deer do not like such as daffodils and lavender. Check your local nursery or other gardening resources for information on plants that are deer-proof.

During recent weeks, the Eagle Mountain Nature and Wildlife Alliance has teamed up with the Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and local resident volunteers for habitat restoration in the wildlife corridor. They are restoring native shrubs and trees that have been degraded by wildfires or human activity. These shrubs and trees are vital to the diet and shelter of the mule deer and other important wildlife species.

Science Daily reports that there are many risks that mule deer face during migration caused by climate change and human disturbance.

Climate change's effects on seasonal growth patterns constitute a risk for these deer on the move. It is difficult to change their historic or learned migration paths. Human activities such as natural resource extraction, highways, fencing and urban development all have an impact on deer populations and migrations through habitat degradation and fragmentation.

Eagle Mountain's desire is to maintain this pathway and its vital amenities in the best possible condition for all wildlife here in Cedar Valley.

## Eagle Mountain City boards need volunteers



Eagle Mountain City has vacancies on three of its advisory boards.

If residents are interested in serving on any of the following boards:

**The Eagle Mountain Public Library Advisory Board**

**The Senior Citizens Advisory Council (55+)**

**The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

Please complete the forms through link: <https://emcity.jotform.com/213144754942053><sup>1</sup>

You can also find an application by visiting the Resident Portal and clicking on "Volunteer Opportunities."

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<sup>1</sup>[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Femcity.jotform.com%2F213144754942053%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2\\_8YP8TsmEymtjvUL1gsIEKLYVcv1qT7D0clrzG1B\\_vwdIo5KoYR\\_FD04&h=AT3LJ\\_L68dEYJO9ZJkDs0xCMjuNKC-3fSb-QA-Y7RGp0Eo4KmGmeLl4\\_u7Go5Q8pcfMqWnG4rUH0w\\_-XU1wbLE4jJtggLU63js1Yk4muz0Ko8SfE6lBebAFFNjvrt-BK0l&\\_tn=-UK-R&c\[0\]=AT0QVADKha3\\_zKxxescAthNUOJIWzXQraYlkXdZ0TxP59ACCu4AFILL8BehGA0jDGgcv1U1Gwzll6XetYm\\_w2MYcrSFHG0an8B7\\_8dejVbRBFbgwYwUws18Ox4kblvGsmDuaA-mpRIOv4yf\\_3JTUwLxJvcw7JgaCXo94eq1kAQWk3Q](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Femcity.jotform.com%2F213144754942053%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR2_8YP8TsmEymtjvUL1gsIEKLYVcv1qT7D0clrzG1B_vwdIo5KoYR_FD04&h=AT3LJ_L68dEYJO9ZJkDs0xCMjuNKC-3fSb-QA-Y7RGp0Eo4KmGmeLl4_u7Go5Q8pcfMqWnG4rUH0w_-XU1wbLE4jJtggLU63js1Yk4muz0Ko8SfE6lBebAFFNjvrt-BK0l&_tn=-UK-R&c[0]=AT0QVADKha3_zKxxescAthNUOJIWzXQraYlkXdZ0TxP59ACCu4AFILL8BehGA0jDGgcv1U1Gwzll6XetYm_w2MYcrSFHG0an8B7_8dejVbRBFbgwYwUws18Ox4kblvGsmDuaA-mpRIOv4yf_3JTUwLxJvcw7JgaCXo94eq1kAQWk3Q)

## New business



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Embed://

Eagle Mountain continues to grow. Follow along with new businesses locating in the community and track their progress every month.

## Emergency prep - Holiday safety reminders



In the true spirit of the season, and to help keep family and friends out of harm's way, here are some tips and helpful hints for *The 12 Days of Holiday Safety*:

*On the First Day* ... prepare your home for the holidays –and safety. Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector, smoke alarm, fire extinguisher and a first aid kit.

*On the Second Day ...* make a plan. Your family may not be together when an emergency occurs. Plan how to meet or how to contact one another and discuss what you would do in different situations. Share your family plans with overnight guests.

*On the Third day ...* leave the lights on. Thieves usually don't approach homes that appear to be occupied. Leave on outside lights at night and when you leave during the day; leave on some lights inside the home to give the appearance that someone is home.

*On the Fourth Day ...* decorate with safety in mind. Never leave burning candles unattended and keep them away from children and pets, decorations and wrapping paper.

*On the Fifth Day ...* make your tree safe. Christmas tree fires can be devastating for what is normally such a beacon of happiness. If you have a live tree, make sure that it has water every day, and ensure that any lights you use are checked for breaks or exposed wires. Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire-resistant.

*On the Sixth Day ...* keep lights bright. Make sure you use indoor lights inside your home and outdoor lights outside. Check the light strings and extension cords, throwing out any that are frayed or have exposed wires, loose connections, or broken sockets. Turn off all holiday lights before you go to bed or leave your home.

*On the Seventh Day ...* choose appropriate toys. Always follow age recommendations when choosing toys for children to avoid choking hazards. Check for toy recalls and be sure to read all warning labels and instructions before you allow your child to play with a new toy.

*On the Eighth Day ...* get ready for severe winter weather. Blizzards, ice storms, and high winds can develop quickly. Listen to local radio or television stations for severe weather warnings and advice.

*On the Ninth Day ...* prepare your car for an emergency. Install winter tires and make sure windshield washer fluid is always topped up. Prepare a kit to keep in your vehicle in case of an emergency. Use this LIST<sup>2</sup> to help you.

*On the 10th Day ...* prevent illness. Effective handwashing is a skill that you can easily learn, teach to others, and use every day to protect your health. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean, running water.

*On the 11th Day ...* learn first aid. Knowing first aid and CPR could save a life. Trainings are currently offered online and in-person through the American Red Cross<sup>3</sup>.

*On the 12th Day ...* know the risks. Across the U.S., we face a number of hazards both inside and outside our homes. Knowing the risks where you are can help you better prepare and eliminate stress, especially during the holiday season.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.ready.gov/car>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.redcross.org/local/utah/take-a-class/first-aid>

## Election Results



These are the certified results from the 2021 Municipal General Election.

### **Mayor**

Tom Westmoreland 2,611

Melissa Clark 2,403

### **City Council**

Brett Wright 2,877

Donna Rivera Burnham 2,420

Rich Wood 2,383

Jason Allen 1,696

## Rapid Infiltration Basins boost EM's sewer capacity



Eagle Mountain City's sewer treatment plant expansion is primed to take on additional capacity, improve operations and better manage wastewater in the community. But there was a final piece required to finish the project: a set of rapid infiltration basins (RIBs).

To bring Eagle Mountain City's expanded sewer treatment facility into compliance with state regulations by deadline, the City was tasked with building the remainder of the expansion project itself. No contractors, no specialists, just hard work.



"This in part was required for our expansion and our current RIB that failed that needs rehabbing," says Public Utilities Manager Mack Straw.

Following the treatment process at the wastewater facility, wastewater is sufficiently treated to state standards and returned to the area's aquifers. To drain the water into the aquifers, the rapid infiltration basins act as a retainer for treated wastewater and provides time for the water to either evaporate or return below the surface.

Thirty acres of land was set aside to construct the basins. Building them, however, became a large undertaking.

"We have some of the most dedicated and hardworking employees," said Straw. "They are very skilled and truly care about Eagle Mountain City and its residents."

For two months, employees in the City's Wastewater, Streets and Storm water departments worked to construct the basins. This involved the removal of dirt, the building of pipes and properly constructing the basins for leveling and capacity.

"This is an amazing undertaking," said City Administrator Paul Jerome. "It was basically an insurmountable task."

Eagle Mountain City received engineer estimates the RIBs project would cost more than \$1 million. Using existing staffing resources, the City was able to save nearly \$500,000 when completing the construction of the basins.

"That was really an amazing thing to see how all of our people stepped up," said Mayor Tom Westmoreland.

With four basins, Eagle Mountain City now has the ability to cycle their usage and perform rehab work to the basins on a yearly basis. The ability to conduct annual maintenance will prolong the life of the basins and save taxpayer dollars in the long-run.

"It's exciting to see things like that get done in Eagle Mountain even under less than ideal conditions," said Westmoreland.

Fencing and some minor cleanup will finalize the RIBs project, which should be completed within the next few weeks. Completion of the Rapid Infiltration Basins doubles the capacity of the City's sewer treatment facility.

"We've got great guys. We truly do. Some of the best," said Mack Straw.

## City jobs available



Eagle Mountain City is looking to fill several positions. Currently, the City is hiring for:

**Part-time Rec Aide**

**Senior Accountant**

**Sports Official (Recreation, Junior Jazz)**

**Streets Operator I or II**

To find the job that best fits you, click here<sup>4</sup>.

## Upcoming events

- Dec. 4 - Christmas Village<sup>5</sup>
- Dec. 7 - City Council Meeting<sup>6</sup>
- Dec. 11 - Silent Santa<sup>7</sup>
- Dec. 14 - Planning Commission Meeting<sup>8</sup>
- Dec. 23-25 - City offices and Library closed

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<sup>4</sup><https://emcity.applicantpro.com/jobs/>

<sup>5</sup><https://eaglemountaincity.com/calendar/christmas-village/>

<sup>6</sup><https://eaglemountaincity.com/city-recorder/city-meetings-portal/#meetingdocs>

<sup>7</sup><https://eaglemountaincity.com/calendar/silent-santa-4/>

<sup>8</sup><https://eaglemountaincity.com/city-recorder/city-meetings-portal/#meetingdocs>

- Dec. 31 - City offices and Library closed

## Contact us

### **Eagle Mountain City**

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Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM

(801) 789-6600

Visit us on the web at [www.eaglemountaincity.com](http://www.eaglemountaincity.com)<sup>9</sup>.

**After-hours hotline for Water, Parks, Streets, Storm Water, and Sewer: (801) 789-5959**

Can't find the answers you need on the website? Email [info@emcity.org](mailto:info@emcity.org)

Facebook<sup>10</sup> | Instagram<sup>11</sup> | Twitter<sup>12</sup> | YouTube<sup>13</sup>



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<sup>9</sup><https://eaglemountaincity.com/>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.facebook.com/eaglemtncity>

<sup>11</sup><https://www.instagram.com/eaglemountaincity/>

<sup>12</sup><https://twitter.com/eaglemtncity>

<sup>13</sup>[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE6PWYgb\\_g-qDncu6tkhU-g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCE6PWYgb_g-qDncu6tkhU-g)