



The Eagle's View

City News April 30, 2022 Eagle Mountain City Government

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A vision for a city



1 - Mayor Tom Westmoreland

Planning a city of the future is serious business requiring an amazing amount of work from many people.

Laying out a vision and a plan to get there is full of tedious detail, salesmanship, negotiations, partnerships, and perhaps most of all, patience. Rather than slog through scores of data, and technical information that would likely either put readers to sleep or bring on challenges to the accuracy or feasibility of my findings, I offer you this fictitious account of the future of Eagle Mountain.

A few years ago, I was visited by a well-dressed gentleman with a distinguished looking mustache and a pleasant English accent. He said that his name was Mr. Wells, Herbert George Wells.

'H. G. Wells?' I asked.

He smiled and gently nodded. I didn't know what to say so I asked, 'Are you related?'

He sighed and responded, 'You are the mayor, are you not?'

Before I could answer, he said, 'Time is a precious, allusive thing and we have a great deal to cover. May I proceed with my purpose for being here?'

'Certainly,' I responded while gesturing with my hand for him to go on.

He explained to me that he had found that people are often held back from their full potential because of their daily concerns. It was his belief that if people would allow themselves to see what they could d

become and what positive changes they could make in the world, that there could be more peace and happiness in life.

'How do you know that? Do you have a crystal ball?' I asked.

'No crystal ball, but something better.' He cleared his throat. 'I have what you might call: a time machine.'

'You mean like a flying DeLorean?' I laughed.

He stared at me with a look of disappointment on his face.

Uncomfortably, I responded, 'Hey look, I don't want to waste your time.'

To which he matter-of-factly said, 'It's not my time you are wasting.'

'Well, can you give me some proof that time travel is possible and that this machine even works? I mean, it should be easy enough to prove. Give me a winning lottery number and I will know that it works.'

With a sober expression on his face and a tone in his voice that led me to think he had repeated these words a thousand times, he proceeded.

'Mayor, I have some things to explain to you, after which you have a choice to make. Please listen carefully because what I have to tell you is every bit as important as what follows. I will explain to you the purpose of my visit and why I believe it has value for you and a great many other people. What I have to share with you will change your life, if you allow it, by changing the way you view things. If you choose, you may see extraordinary, shocking things. Because of your human limitations, you will have natural human reactions. Some of them very emotional. Your emotions and your passions must be managed or they will overcome you.'

He continued.

'This is not a judgement on you, but it is the human condition. I am here to give you choices to see what may be. I cannot over-emphasize to you how important and difficult self-discipline is to the outcome of your experience. So, you must choose because I am here to prove nothing to you or to anyone else. I am not here to make you rich or fulfill your dreams and ambitions. Neither am I here to change history. We will look only forward. However, even in looking forward you will likely see things that will distress you. I warn you that you will be tempted to change those things. You must resist that temptation no matter how painful it may be. It is important that you remain focused on the good that can be done and let that good do its work.'

'I know this is all very confusing and you are probably thinking that if you can prevent pain and suffering, you should do it. You must remember that you can only be in one place at a time and by trying to prevent everything that you see as bad you will have to choose who you help and who you don't. Then even after you prevent one bad thing, then what about the next and the next?' he said.

'You will quickly be filled so full of fear and anguish that you will collapse in exhaustion and be no good to anyone. You must push fear out of your decision-making and have the faith to imagine things that you have not imagined before. That is how you can do the most good and that is how you will prevent pain and suffering while still allowing others to choose for themselves.'

To emphasize his point, he went on to explain that through the years he had worked with many people. He rattled off a list of names that he thought I would recognize and appreciate, sometimes pausing to add some detail. He said that he enjoyed working with George Washington, whom he described as an impressively disciplined fellow, and one of the most fearless persons he had met. He described his experience with Harriet Tubman as exciting because of the dynamic changes he saw take place in her. He said that Abraham Lincoln was so overcome with grief that he nearly lost sight of his purpose.

Then he mentioned others that he described as disappointments because they did give way to their fears or arrogance as they tried to prevent the unpreventable. These included men like Teddy Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin Roosevelt that thought they could swoop in and save everyone but only made things worse.

He then paused and looked me directly in the eye and said, 'You sir are no better than they. He then added, 'Everything that is designed for good can be used for evil but we must still move forward and inspire people to good all the while knowing that not all will choose good.'

To make his point, he began to list inventors like Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Nikola Tesla and Steve Jobs. Then, with a quizzical look on his face he said, 'That reminds me of a visit I had with Elon Musk. For a moment I thought he might say more, but then he shook it off and moved on.'

He made me promise I would not use anything revealed to me for personal benefit or try to prevent the outcomes of choices made by others and in return he would show me what could be if I would let go of my fear and work toward seeing it fulfilled. I agreed.

He then asked me, 'Does it seem like time, technology, and changes in the economy and world keep moving faster, so much that it is hard to keep up, and all of this brings about more stress and confusion?' To which I responded with a yes, as I contemplated the question. The thought was so real and overwhelming it nearly made me feel dizzy.

'Can you see that resisting what is coming only puts us further behind and more overwhelmed? That rather the best approach is to embrace time, change, and opportunity with the faith that you are here for a reason and that reason is to consider what you have not before considered and to make a better future. Time is moving on like a train rolling down the tracks.' (I thought I heard the rumble of a train.)

'Like the wind (I felt a breeze on my face) we don't know where it comes from.'

'Like a river flowing (I could taste the water). Shall we see where it goes? It leads to the future and the future is now.'

As he said those last words I tried to focus on his face but all I remember seeing was his calm, pleasant smile and his mustache gently curving upward on the ends. Then even his mustache began to fade and I felt like falling but not falling, more like being pulled or propelled along through clouds.

At first it was all blurry and cloudy but quickly began to come into focus. Clearer by the moment and then more clear than I had ever seen anything in my life. I was seeing, yes, clearly yes, but that does not half-describe the experience. I was seeing, hearing, smelling and feeling in abundance while processing it all at an advanced rate.

There was good and bad, pain and joy. There were things that caused me to feel proud and things that caused me disappointment. I kept repeating to myself to focus on the good. Remember what you see that is good.

At this point, I must apologize for the scattered description I am about to give. There is so much to describe and it is all coming at me so fast, my senses are jumping all over the place.

It's somewhere between 10 and 20 years into the future. I am a retired, empty nester. But Eagle Mountain is one of the largest cities in Utah County and among the top 10 in the state with over 100,000 residents. Eagle Mountain is a city of the first class.

While being a larger city, it doesn't feel like other cities to the east that are crowded and landlocked. Some say it is the best of both worlds, the way it balances a thriving economy with parks, trails, open space and agriculture.

The people that live here feel less of a need to get out of town because there is so much for them to do here. Eagle Mountain boasts having the most planned open space of any city in the state. There is "native" open space for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and wildlife. Combined with an elaborate parks and trails system that crisscrosses the city. There are even designated trails and a park, of sorts, for motorized vehicles.

Eagle Mountain has become a tapestry of a city of homes, businesses, schools, and churches nestled into a fabric of a variety of open space uses. I saw parks that, taken together, seemed to accommodate just about every outdoor activity imaginable. There, gatherings for large groups of people, coming together and celebrating together. On the weekends, the city appeared to be like a large Olympic village, buzzing with activity.

On any day during the week people can be found at the several sports-related businesses and training centers. Every weekend has event options like symphony, theater, concerts, sporting events, and cultural events.

The landscaping is like nothing I have seen anywhere else. If it weren't for old photographs of the city being little more than sagebrush, you might think it had always had the landscaping, and the houses were just built in around it. Grass, though not uncommon, could be seen where it has designed purpose, but grass was not the dominate feature. Trees were everywhere and were of interesting varieties.

Green Spruce along with pinion and other evergreens stood out, especially during the winter. Oaks were also seen in high numbers along with nut and fruit-bearing trees like walnut, apple, cherry, peach, pear, and plumb. This came as a result of the city, residents and developers working together to move forward on the food forest concept. As a result, harvest season was heavily celebrated and fall colors were impressive. There are even a few groves of aspen that add to the character of the landscape.

Speaking of agriculture, this is another obvious evolution as technology and agriculture came together for practical and economic advances in both outdoor and indoor farming. No longer was alfalfa grown primarily outdoors. Cattle feed was now grown mostly indoor, year round, and while using very little water. This freed up more water than any other water conservation effort in the state.

While advances in technology and agriculture sectors were obvious, they were not the only advances. Goods, services, and transportation also advanced but not in any single way, but in a multitude of ways.

The preparations of the City in right of ways and partnerships with businesses and landowners brought about a new level of vitality. The technology advances in water treatment were literally life-changing. The positive economic impact was obvious with all of the thriving businesses, the improved efficiencies in local government and still the lowest tax rates of comparable cities. There were schools, a hospital, rec center, library, and safety buildings.

Just as astounding are the advances of the City as an influential leader in the state because of positive reputation, partnerships, alliances and an engaged lobbying effort.

Wells cautioned me about being distracted by the hard and ugly things that I saw, so I will not go into detail. I will say that other areas were not adapting to changing times as well as our city. Everything wasn't glorious and beautiful. People struggled but there was much less of a struggle in Eagle Mountain. Our city is considered a safe place for people and business.

Wildlife, though not in great abundance, found a city and a people that made accommodations for it.

Among the many interviews by those studying the success and failures of Eagle Mountain, it was often asked what brought about the success. The answer generally went something like this: The people of Eagle Mountain came to a firm determination that honesty and goodwill were the best policy, and under those conditions, with a faith in, and respect for nature and nature's God, a people learn to accomplish things together that were previously thought impossible. In doing so, success breeds success. While pursuing success in our endeavors, we learn that once we discover the "why" that the "how" and the "what" come into view.

As we lose our fear of futurity and consider that which has not been considered, we are changed and prepared to fulfill the reason we are here.

There is so much more that could be said, but this account is too long already. I can and will add more detail at a later date, as I hope all who read this will.

As for Mr. Wells, when I found myself back in the office, he was gone and I was sitting at my desk staring at a picture hanging on the wall of George Washington crossing the Delaware.

Mayor Tom Westmoreland

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Know the code - Why do we have Neighborhood Improvement officers?



There must be a mechanism in place to protect Eagle Mountain citizens, and to help maintain the steady increase of property value as well as to sustain the beautification of Eagle Mountain City.

Neighborhood Improvement is considered vital to Community Development. Codes and regulations are adopted by the City Council to protect public health, safety and the welfare of all citizens.

What does Neighborhood Improvement do?

Neighborhood Improvement is responsible for the enforcement of City codes. One of the main goals of Neighborhood Improvement is to bring to the attention of residential and business owners any existing code violation which could have a negative impact on their neighborhood.

Many such code violations are referred to as "public nuisances." Through voluntary compliance, cooperation and a spirit of personal responsibility for the well-being of our community, conditions which create code violations can be eliminated. Also, with the arrival of the Administrative Law Judge in 2021, this gives the Neighborhood Improvement officers the ability to address a violation and resolve said violation in a timely manner, making Eagle Mountain a better place to live.

Neighborhood Improvement officers are always available to attend neighborhood and organizational meetings to explain City codes and assist citizens with improving their neighborhoods.

What does Neighborhood Improvement mean to me?

As citizens of Eagle Mountain, we owe it to ourselves and to our neighbors to maintain our homes and businesses in a manner which has a positive effect on the overall appearance of the community.

The basis of the Code Enforcement program rests upon each of us acting as good neighbors. We all have property rights that protect us; however, the term "property rights" also implies that a property owner has certain responsibilities. No property within the city may be used or maintained in a manner which downgrades the value, use, enjoyment, or safety of one's own or surrounding property.

Where can I find City codes?

<https://www.codepublishing.com/UT/EagleMountain/>

Wildlife - How can we help?



With the human population increasing here in Eagle Mountain, we would like to reflect on several simple ways we can help protect the wildlife that live among us.

Feeding wildlife?

Eagle Mountain City joins with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in reminding residents not to feed deer or other wildlife.

While it is not illegal to feed wildlife here in Eagle Mountain, there are several reasons that it is highly discouraged, including: public safety concerns, the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) among deer; and potential harm to wildlife from introducing foods not in their diets, particularly during winter months.

Chronic Wasting Disease is a relatively rare, but fatal, and highly transmissible illness that affects the nervous systems of deer, elk and moose. There are currently no vaccines or treatments for this disease. CWD is easily transmitted in areas where a large number of deer congregate. Feeding deer can cause large groups of them to congregate into one area, increasing the chance of transmission.

Whether it's intentional or not, deer gathering around a wild bird feeder to eat birdseed, which their intestinal system cannot digest, can do harm to our deer herd here in Eagle Mountain. Deer often die of starvation with full stomachs, having eaten something placed outdoors by humans that their digestive system is not designed for. Bird feeders should be located where deer cannot reach them.

The perils of bird migration

As birds migrate between late summer and early winter -- and back again in early spring -- many species fly through the night and bright lights are often confusing to them.

An easy way to help them during their migration is to turn off your outdoor lights at night. Light pollution can disorient birds and draw them off course. Sometimes it can cause collisions with lighted buildings and other structures.

Reduce plastic use and DO NOT litter

There is evidence everywhere we look of those who throw trash from their vehicles. The DWR says paper, plastic and food pieces can cause digestive issues for animals. This can be fatal.

Residents should always be sure to properly dispose of garbage to decrease the impact on wildlife. Eagle Mountain City suggests always keeping a trash receptacle in the car and emptying it in a proper waste disposal container as needed.

It is becoming more apparent that we need to strictly avoid single-use plastics, including bags, bottles, wraps and disposable utensils.

More ways we can help

Shon Reed, local wildlife advocate and founder of the Eagle Mountain Kestrel Project to help protect raptors, offers the following additional ideas for protecting local wildlife:

- Limit or eliminate the use of rodenticides due to the possibility of the deadly effects on our local raptors who depend on access to healthy rodents for their sustenance and that of their young. There are alternative ways of exterminating unwelcome rodents.
- Retain natural vegetation where possible. Many of our local animals depend on our sagebrush steppe ecosystem. To eliminate those plant species means loss of the wildlife as well.
- Keep dogs contained and cats indoors. Outdoor cats kill more birds than any other threat.
- Keep off-road vehicles confined to established and approved routes.
- Record wildlife sightings on [iNaturalist](#) – this is important to establishing critical areas and habitats and helps to monitor species trends over time. Even common sightings will help.
- Volunteer with local wildlife protection groups.

Eagle Mountain's commitment to wildlife

Eagle Mountain prides itself in our Kestrel project, our environmental planning and wildlife preservation program and our recently established wildlife corridor. These programs are a testament to the City's ongoing efforts to protect and live side-by-side with the wildlife that inhabit this place we call home.

EM City Streets department receives recognition



The Eagle Mountain City Streets department was recently recognized for its efforts to build relationships in the pavement industry.

The Utah Asphalt Pavers Association (UAPA) awarded Eagle Mountain City its "Friend of Industry" trophy for 2022. The award is presented to an individual or organization that demonstrates vision, dedication and cooperation between the public and private sector with respect to the pavement industry.

According to UAPA, Eagle Mountain City has worked to foster relationships over the last five years in the pavement industry, which have kept the community's roads in quality condition.

Eagle Mountain City's Streets department values its relationship with UAPA as a place and a resource for information and cooperation.

Residents encouraged to save water this year



Eagle Mountain residents may have noticed slightly cooler temperatures throughout much of the spring in 2022. This has created an opportunity to save water and save on utility bills.

Residents have been encouraged to Wait to Water their lawns through much of April. With temperatures beginning to rise for the year, there are still plenty of opportunities to conserve. Many Eagle Mountain residents may be interested to know that over-watering is considered a fundamental problem in the state of Utah. According to Utah State University Extension, Eagle Mountain is no exception.

The City provides resources for residents to better understand how they water their lawns for strengthened roots and improved resiliency. Visit our Water Conservation web page [here](#) to learn more.

Residents whose homes fall under the auspices of a Homeowner's Association may also be interested to learn of [Senate Bill 152](#), which regulates watering rules for residents who feel their HOAs are unresponsive to conservation needs and requests. This bill, signed by Gov. Spencer Cox in 2022, is anticipated to provide homeowners within HOAs some relief while Utah's record-breaking drought persists.

In 2021, Utah and much of the west entered what was considered the worst drought in more than 1,200 years. Eagle Mountain City is encouraging residents to stay mindful of their water use while irrigating their lawns in 2022.

New business development



Embed://<iframe src="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSIWRw7neS-73iHF34gciQ-OaJHui-cKCYvWyd209VZdpw4mkLGw5aXjdY6MsyyAnvS3DVHSLsBeDhx/pubhtml?widget=true&headers=false"></iframe>

Eagle Mountain continues to grow. Follow all of the new businesses locating in the community each month.

MAG hosting Senior Health Challenge



Challenge yourself and join the Mountainland Association of Governments' annual Senior Health Challenge June 1- June 30. Track your physical activity throughout the month of June to earn prizes, including a Fitbit watch! Register online by June 1 at mountainland.org/health or call 801-229-3821. Registration is free and open to individuals age 50+ living in Summit, Utah and Wasatch counties.

Fireworks Restrictions



A fireworks restriction map for 2022 covering the July 4th and 24th holidays was approved by Eagle Mountain City in April. Please see the maps included here for more information on restricted areas.

In addition to the adopted maps, in fireworks-restricted areas, Eagle Mountain City may approve a City-owned park as an alternate fireworks discharge location. That list of approved parks will be developed over the coming weeks and shared with the public prior to the July 2-5 and July 22-25 legal fireworks discharge periods.

Eagle Mountain residents should be aware of the following sections of Utah state code:

53-7-225.1. Civil liability.

(1)

(a)

An individual who negligently, recklessly, or intentionally causes or spreads a fire through discharge of a class C explosive is liable for the cost of suppressing that fire and any damages the fire causes.

(b)

If the individual described in Subsection [\(1\)\(a\)](#) is a minor, the parent or legal guardian having legal custody of the minor is liable for the costs and damages for which the minor is liable under this section.

Residents planning to discharge fireworks in Eagle Mountain in 2022 are asked to respect the safety of their neighbors and the community, pay attention to changing winds and weather patterns, and remain mindful of undeveloped areas that may have an increased likelihood of wildfire.



We're hiring



Eagle Mountain is looking to fill several positions. Here's a list of available jobs:

Parks seasonal (3 positions)

Planner I

Seasonal Storm Water (Summer)

Seasonal Streets Operator (Summer; 2 positions)

Senior Planner

Wastewater Collection System Operator

Find the career that's right for you by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming events

- May 3 - [City Council Meeting](#)
- May 10 - [Planning Commission Meeting](#)
- May 17 - [City Council Meeting](#)
- May 19 - [Eagle Mountain Chamber of Commerce Connect 4 Lunch](#)
- May 24 - [Planning Commission Meeting](#)
- May 30 - Memorial Day (City offices and library closed)

Contact us

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Visit us on the web at www.eaglemountaincity.com.

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

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