



JULY 2024

# THE EAGLE'S VIEW Newsletter

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**MAYOR'S MINUTE  
TOM WESTMORELAND**

## Remember what is most important

Recently, I traveled across the country to spend time with my aging father in Cape Cod. Though he isn't originally from there, his wife led him there about 30 years ago. Distance has limited our quality time together to mostly brief annual visits. In recent years, travel has become too difficult for him.

New England is a beautiful area, rich in history. I have always enjoyed learning about its past, the people who lived there and their incredible contributions to the American story. Today, those founders and valiant individuals are reduced to ghosts and relics of a nearly forgotten era. Politically, they would no longer recognize the place they once called home.

This time, I did not travel there to revive American history, but to preserve family history. Time is slipping away too quickly. My once vibrant and adventurous father is now frail and forgetful. In his glory days, I remember him looking like Robert Conrad on a roaring Harley-Davidson or cutting through waves on a surfboard.

With my oldest son joining us, three generations came together to share and record our stories. However, these stories are no longer as clear and vivid as they once were. We waited too long to capture them in full color.

Among the questions we asked my father were: "What accomplishments are you most proud of?", "What do you regret not doing?", and "What advice do you have?"

His answers surprised me. He was proud of his service in the Naval Reserve, a venture he took on later in life, making a difference even in a small way. To my surprise, he wished he had pursued further education. Earning a certification from Yale gave him a great sense of accomplishment and value, contrasting with his James Dean-like rebel persona.

His advice was to eliminate clutter from our lives, to get rid of things that don't truly matter and hold on tightly to the few things that do.

While we were there, we watched 34-year-old family videos, events I had long forgotten. My visit with my father left me awash with emotions—happy, sad and even a little frightened. With my father and son there, I saw my past, present and future all at once.

This experience left me with several reflections:

**Time is our most valuable commodity.** It is a series of individually wrapped gifts that expire quickly, whether we open them or not. Leave none unopened.

**Honor and serve the elderly.** They carry unseen glory. We will be in their place very soon.

**Bond with our children while they think we are cool.** To them, we are the most important people in the world. Once they become teenagers, that time has passed.

**Do you crave less drama?** Spend more time with the elderly. They don't have time for silly drama.

**Do you seek wisdom on what matters most?** Talk to someone facing their mortality.

I am honored to serve you as mayor. Our lives are busy, but I hope amid the busyness, challenges, fears, frustrations and heartaches, we make the most of our interactions and work together to create lasting, positive memories in this place we call home.

**FOOD TRUCK RALLY**

**THURSDAYS 6-9 PM**

**CORY WRIDE PARK**



## EAGLE MOUNTAIN NEWS

# Smith Ranch Park makes its debut with community celebration

After more than a year of anticipation and construction, Smith Ranch Park has fully opened its gates to the public. On Thursday, July 25, residents and visitors gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the latest addition to Eagle Mountain’s community parks. The event featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony, food trucks, a children’s entrepreneur market and the opportunity to explore every detail of the newly renovated park.

Construction on Smith Ranch Park began in May 2023, following the approval of an \$8.1 million bid by the Eagle Mountain City Council. Public Works Director Brad Hickman expressed his enthusiasm for the project.

“This park will be another staple for residents and visitors,” says Hickman. “We want to showcase that this area protects its natural beauty while also providing amenities.”

Smith Ranch Park offers a variety of amenities catering to different interests and age groups.

Among its highlights are two multipurpose fields, pavilions for community gatherings, and a small amphitheater designed to host nature learning events. These features are intended to foster a sense of community and provide versatile spaces for recreation and education.

A distinctive aspect of the park’s design is its emphasis on accessibility and inclusivity.

“We are always thinking about how to in-

clude residents of all abilities and how we can best incorporate that into our final designs,” Hickman added.

The park includes amenities specifically tailored to accommodate adaptive needs, ensuring that everyone can enjoy the space.

In line with its commitment to conservation, Eagle Mountain City has partnered with the Eagle Mountain Wildlife Alliance to enhance

“**We are always thinking about how to include residents of all abilities...**”

the park’s educational value. Interpretive signage will be installed throughout the park, providing visitors with insights into the region’s rich wildlife and vegetation. This collaboration underscores the City’s dedication to preserving the natural beauty of the area while educating the public about its ecological significance.

The integration of native plants and a dedicated walking path along the Tickville Wash further highlights the City’s conservation ef-

## EVENT CALENDAR

- AUG 1** Food Truck Rally – Wride Park  
Senior Lunch Bunch – Senior Center
- AUG 3** Back to School Social & Concert – Wride Park
- AUG 6** City Council Meeting – Council Chambers
- AUG 7** Senior Craft & Meal – Senior Center
- AUG 8** Food Truck Rally – Wride Park  
Joint City Council/Planning Commission Work Session – Council Chambers
- AUG 13** Planning Commission Mtg. – Council Chambers
- AUG 14** Senior Craft & Meal – Senior Center
- AUG 15** Food Truck Rally – Wride Park
- AUG 19** Seniors Bingo – Senior Center
- AUG 20** City Council Meeting – Council Chambers  
Redevelopment Agency Mtg. – Council Chambers
- AUG 21** Senior Craft & Meal – Senior Center  
Food Truck Rally – Wride Park

forts. These elements not only enhance the park’s aesthetic appeal but also contribute to the preservation of local flora and fauna.

“We want to partner with nature advocates because we want this park to last in its thoughtfulness and remain well-maintained over the years,” Hickman said.

Smith Ranch Park represents a significant investment in the community, providing a space where residents and visitors can connect with nature, engage in recreational activities, and learn about the local environment.

Stay in the know with emergency alerts. Sign up for traffic and other emergency alerts by scanning the QR code or by visiting [emcity.org/notifyme](http://emcity.org/notifyme).





## KNOW THE CODE

### Property maintenance

During the spring and summer months, there has been an increase in the number of properties that are overgrown with grass, weeds and the accumulation of trash. This is due to the lack of property maintenance by the property owner/occupant. This creates the potential for fire hazards, as well as attracting unwanted vermin, which will increase if the properties are not properly maintained.

Eagle Mountain City encourages citizens to maintain their properties according to code 8.07.020. Eagle Mountain City Neighborhood Improvement officers are continuously addressing properties that are in violation of Eagle Mountain City code.

8.07.020 Weeds and other refuse.

A. Responsibility to Keep Property Clean. It is unlawful for any person, corporation, partnership, or legal entity owning or occupying real property in the city to let the height

of weeds on such property grows beyond the maximum permitted, or to fail to remove

from the property any such weeds or refuse, dog manure or waste, unsightly or deleterious objects or structures, after having been given written notice by the city.

B. Weed Control Standards. Weeds shall not be permitted to reach a height of more than six inches at any time or to otherwise create a fire hazard to structures or habitat for disease, insect vectors, or vermin. As used in this chapter, the term "weeds" means

plants which are unwanted in the location where they are growing, and which are not a

part of landscaping, xeriscaping, or native plant landscaping. The term "weeds" also

includes noxious weeds which are described under the Utah Noxious Weed Act, defined

by the State Weed Committee of the state of Utah and by Utah County.



### LIVING WITH WILDLIFE TODD BLACK

## Mice, gophers and voles – oh my!

In case you haven't noticed, the rodents have exploded in their populations.

I'm guessing we are on the 3rd or 4th generation of these little pesky pests for the season, and that equates to thousands of little vermin running around in your neighborhood.

All of these, and others, are R-selected species; meaning, that they have smaller bodies, reproduce quickly, have short gestational periods, little-or-no paternal care and live a short life.

As environmental conditions all come into alignment, their populations will explode.

We have several species of rodents here in the valley; however, the most abundant, and the ones causing you all your pain, grief and suffering are the western deer mouse (*Peromyscus sonoriensis*) and the meadow vole/sagebrush vole (*Microtus*). Oh, and the occasional gopher, but they don't seem to be exploding this year like the voles and deer mice.

Mice are easy to catch. Most any baited trap with some peanut butter-oatmeal mix will work fine. Live traps or snap traps will work the best. Before you go too far off, these are pests and you should be aware that it's against the law to relocate them and let them go

somewhere else.

Also try to avoid baits containing rodenticides. Many of these are toxic to other animals if consumed and there are concerns about bioaccumulation with raptors.

“**Mice are easy to catch. Most any baited trap with some peanut butter-oatmeal mix will work fine.**”

Voiles, the ones tearing up and making little tunnels all over in your nice green Kentucky blue grass, are hard to catch. They like fresh, wet green/white roots and will hardly come into my live traps with bait.

The best DIY solution is to drown them out or place the snap traps near their hole. There are some natural repellents you can use as well, try putting a teaspoon of castor oil, your favorite hot sauce, liquid garlic, or just a handful of pepper around their hole. That will often cause them to vacate, but they're likely just to end up in another part of your yard or your neighbor's yard.

One method I like to use is a pipe trap. Basically, you are putting 10-inch PVC pieces of

pipe, capped off at one end in the paths of the vole. Once the voles get in, they can't turn around and get out.

Lastly, I'll jump on my soap box here for just a second. It's unlikely that 30 years ago there were few if any meadow voles. There were maybe just a few sagebrush voles here and there.

Similarly, there were likely not as many deer mice, either. With the farm fields being plowed one or two times a year, this kept much of the vegetation down to a minimum. This is not a city problem, it's a city-wide problem, and it's a perfect example of: "if you build it, they will come."

If you plant Kentucky blue grass and you water it like it's a tropical rain forest, you're unintentionally contributing to the problem. If you don't want a bunch of voles in your yard, let the Kentucky blue grass go.

Perennial grasses evolved to grow fast, seed, and then go dormant. Keeping it green is just an invitation to all voles. Keep your trash and debris down to a minimum. These things just invite these rodents.

Remember, the City is dealing with this as well. We are doing what we can to take care of what we have. Keep up the battle!



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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### Back-to-school safety

**B**ack-to-school safety isn't just for kids and their parents; it affects everyone in the community.

Now that school is almost back in session, it is important for everyone to remember some safety tips. Here are just a few:

#### Tips for drivers

As the new school year approaches, it is essential for drivers to prioritize safety on the roads. Motorists should avoid texting or talking on mobile devices while driving to eliminate distractions.

Reducing speed is crucial, especially in school zones, where drivers must remain vigilant and ready to stop at all crosswalks. It is important to watch for school buses and to be prepared to stop when red flashing lights and an extended stop arm are visible. Additionally, drivers should be alert for children playing and gathering near bus

stops, and always be aware of their surroundings when backing up or driving in neighborhoods.

#### Tips for students

With the new academic year underway, students and parents should take several important steps to ensure safety. It's crucial to learn the school's emergency procedures as well as classroom-specific safety rules. Knowing the travel routes to and from school, along with having alternate routes and a backup plan, is essential.

Students should always be aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious activity. Avoiding high-risk situations and refusing to participate in negative or criminal behavior is vital. It's also important for students to inform their parents of their plans before and after school. Additionally, refraining from teasing, bullying and harassing other students helps create a safer

and more respectful school environment.

#### Tips for parents

Parents play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of their children as they head back to school. It's important to set a good example by always buckling up, following pedestrian safety rules, and avoiding talking or texting while driving.

Supervise young children as they walk or bike to school or wait at the bus stop. For parents of teen drivers, ensure they understand and obey all traffic laws, especially around schools and crosswalks. Keep the school's contact information up to date, including emergency contacts, so you can be notified promptly in case of an emergency. Stay vigilant for signs that your child may be getting bullied. Additionally, watch for signs of stress, anxiety and depression in your children and don't hesitate to seek help if needed.



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

### Medical office building coming to City Center

A new 24,000 sq. ft. medical office building planned for the Eagle Mountain Marketplace development (anchored by Macey's grocery) has secured funding and its initial tenants.

The two-story, multi-tenant office building will be the future home of additional offices for Premier Family Medical, Utah Valley Pediatrics and Beyond Limits Physical Therapy. Additional space is currently available for lease. The building is anticipated to be completed by end of Q1 in 2025, or beginning of Q2 2025.

Eagle Mountain continues to attract additional commercial development and is working extensively to draw the attention of desired retailers and services to our area.

Although the cost of construction is still very high, resulting in some pull back in commercial growth, several factors are making Eagle Mountain a strong candidate for continued commercial growth. The City hopes to have some exciting announcements in the coming months.