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MAYOR'S MINUTE  
TOM WESTMORELAND

## Holding ourselves and others accountable

As we enjoy summer's fun and warm weather, it's important to remember that Utah roads are most dangerous during this time. Drive defensively, stay alert, obey traffic laws and be considerate for a safer, happier summer.

I'm going to share a story, not authored by me, to help illustrate my point. This story, about America's favorite summer sport, is a valuable reminder of the importance of following the rules and holding ourselves and each other accountable to certain standards.

### "17 INCHES"

By Chris Sperry

Years ago, in Nashville, Tennessee, during the first week of January, 1996, more than 4,000 baseball coaches descended upon the Opryland Hotel for the 52nd annual ABCA's convention.

While I waited in line to register with the hotel staff, I heard other more veteran coaches rumbling about the lineup of speakers scheduled to present during the weekend. One name kept resurfacing, always with the same sentiment — "John Scolinos is here? Oh, man, worth every penny of my airfare."

Who is John Scolinos, I wondered. No matter; I was just happy to be there.

In 1996, Coach Scolinos was 78 years old and five years retired from a college coaching career that began in 1948. He shuffled to the stage to an impressive standing ovation, wearing dark

polyester pants, a light blue shirt, and a string around his neck from which home plate hung — a full-sized, stark-white home plate.

Seriously, I wondered, who is this guy? After speaking for twenty-five minutes, not once mentioning the prop hanging around his neck, Coach Scolinos appeared to notice the snickering among some of the coaches. Even those who knew Coach Scolinos had to wonder exactly where he was going with this, or if he had simply forgotten about home plate since he'd gotten on stage. Then, finally ...

"You're probably all wondering why I'm wearing home plate around my neck," he said, his voice growing irascible. I laughed along with the others, acknowledging the possibility. "I may be old, but I'm not crazy. The reason I stand before you today is to share with you baseball people what I've learned in my life, what I've learned about home plate in my 78 years."

Several hands went up when Scolinos asked how many Little League coaches were in the room. "Do you know how wide home plate is in Little League?"

After a pause, someone offered, "Seventeen inches?", more of a question than answer.

"That's right," he said. "How about in Babe Ruth's day? Any Babe Ruth coaches in the house?" Another long pause.

"Seventeen inches?" a guess from another reluctant coach.

"That's right," said Scolinos. "Now, how many high school coaches do we have in the room?" Hundreds of hands shot up, as the pattern began to appear. "How wide is home plate in high school baseball?"

"Seventeen inches," they said, sounding more confident.

"You're right!" Scolinos barked. "And you college coaches, how wide is home plate in college?"

"Seventeen inches!" we said, in unison.

"Any Minor League coaches here? How wide is home plate in pro ball?"....."Seventeen inches!"

"RIGHT! And in the Major Leagues, how wide home plate is in the Major Leagues? "Seventeen inches!"

"SEV-EN-TEEN INCHES!" he confirmed, his voice bellowing off the walls. "And what do they do with a Big League pitcher who can't throw the ball over seventeen inches?" Pause. "They send him to Pocatello !" he hollered, drawing

4TH OF JULY  
FIREWORK  
SHOW

JULY 4  
8-10 PM

CORY  
WRIDE  
PARK

CONT. ON PG. 5



## EAGLE MOUNTAIN NEWS

# Feasibility study completed highlighting potential for hotel development

Eagle Mountain has completed a comprehensive feasibility study aimed at evaluating the city's capacity to attract and support a hotel.

Conducted by hospitality consulting firm HVS, the study equips City leadership with insights into the potential upside, as well as the logistics of hotel development in Eagle Mountain.

"The right hotels can be a catalyst for enticing other forms of commercial development highly desired by residents," says Eagle Mountain Economic Development Director Evan Berrett.

The study was initiated to provide data to City leaders and potential developers.

HVS's evaluation focused on three potential sites, with an emphasis on the downtown area to ensure the findings would be broadly applicable across the community.

Eagle Mountain has multiple locations that could accommodate a hotel, but the downtown area was selected for its central location, reducing the need for additional studies and maximizing the study's utility.

HVS found that Eagle Mountain has a significant and growing need for a hotel, with the potential to support more than one establishment in the near future.

Based on the study's findings, HVS recommended the development of an upper-midscale to upscale extended-stay hotel. This facility could feature 120 to 140 guestrooms, a swimming pool, a market pantry, a fitness room, and up to 2,000 sq. ft. of meeting space.

The development of a hotel in Eagle Mountain

is seen as a crucial driver of economic development.

Hotels attract large employers who require nearby accommodations for their workforce and visitors. They also support tourism, which in turn boosts local businesses, including sit-down restaurants. Moreover, hotels are essential for hosting privately-run festivals, sports tournaments, and other large-scale events.

"Although we are not as close to I-15 as many other cities in Utah, we have a lot of what hotels look for," says Berrett. "In my conversations with several brands, they are all very excited about Eagle Mountain."

Eagle Mountain's downtown area, while not yet defined, is set to be an integral part of the City's development strategy.

The future downtown is likely to encompass Cory Wride Memorial Park and a significant portion of land to the east of the park across Pony Express Parkway. This area will feature centers of traditional retail and a Main Street district focused on small businesses.

City leadership is committed to involving the public heavily in the downtown planning process.

A lot of effort will go into ensuring that the new downtown area reflects the community's needs and values.

"Residents and small-business owners will be the key contributors to designing a unique downtown that emulates who we are and becomes something we are truly proud of," says

## EVENT CALENDAR

JULY 2	City Council Meeting – Council Chambers
JULY 3	Senior Arts & Crafts Activity – Senior Center
JULY 4	Independence Day – City Offices Closed
JULY 9	Planning Commission Mtg. – Council Chambers
JULY 10	Senior Arts & Crafts Activity – Senior Center
JULY 11	Senior Lunch Bunch – Senior Center
JULY 12	Movie in the Park - Wride Memorial Park
JULY 15	Seniors Bingo – Senior Center
JULY 16	City Council Meeting – Council Chambers
JULY 17	Senior Arts & Crafts Activity – Senior Center
JULY 18	Senior Workout Program – Senior Center
JULY 23	Planning Commission Mtg. – Council Chambers
JULY 24	Pioneer Day – City Offices Closed
JULY 25	Senior Workout Program – Senior Center
JULY 27	Summer Bash & Laser Show – Wride Park
JULY 31	Senior Arts & Crafts Activity – Senior Center
AUG 3	Back to School Night/Concert – Wride Park

Berrett.

It is unlikely that any hotel development will occur along Pony Express Parkway, particularly near the middle school, to ensure the suitability and convenience of the hotel's location for all potential guests.

Moving forward, City leadership intends to maintain current building height regulations, requiring hotels to seek variances if height issues arise.

As the City considers these findings, the groundwork is being laid for future hospitality opportunities that could greatly benefit the community.

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

### Trim your trees

Tree-lined streets offer beautification, shade, raised property value and cleaner air. With trees comes the responsibility of tree maintenance.

Trees in park strips that abut adjacent properties are the responsibility of the homeowner. Many trees in residential areas overhang onto the streets and sidewalks, making it difficult as well as hazardous for travel. This overhang can cause damage to school buses and other high profile delivery vehicles and create safety as well as visibility hazards for weekly trash pick-up.

Eagle Mountain City asks residents whose property abuts the park strip to trim trees so that traffic signs are visible, and street side canopy is 14-foot high. Trees overhanging sidewalks should be pruned clear to a height of 8 feet.

17.60.040 General landscape provisions.

The following landscape provisions shall be adhered to by all land uses unless otherwise noted:

A. Park Strips. Park strips adjacent to residential dwellings shall be landscaped and maintained by the property owner whose property abuts the park strip.

B. Landscape Maintenance. All landscaped areas shall be maintained by watering of landscaping, removal of weeds, the cutting of lawn or any other activities required to maintain healthy and aesthetically pleasing landscaping. Topping of trees as a pruning technique is prohibited.

C. Tree Clearance. Trees which project over any sidewalk shall be pruned clear of all branches between the ground and a height of eight feet for that portion of the foliage located over the sidewalk.

D. Clear Vision Triangles. No landscaping over three feet in height shall be allowed within a clear vision triangle as shown in this chapter except trees with single trunks that are pruned such that all branches and foliage are removed to a height of at least eight feet.



### LIVING WITH WILDLIFE TODD BLACK

## Getting familiar with urban wildlife

I realize that to some of us, urban wildlife is an oxymoron. There is, however, such a thing.

Eagle Mountain is a perfect example of this. We have such a vast amount of urban wild interface that just invites wildlife to take advantage of our community sprawl. To some, much of this is neat, cool and welcomed; to others, not so much.

Generally speaking, though, I believe most folks like having wildlife around -- just not the raccoons, skunks, snails in my garden, and feral pigeons and collard doves.

By definition, wildlife that can live or thrive in the urban/suburban environments that are occupied and populated by humans and human environments are termed urban wildlife. It's important to note that while these species have adapted and are thriving in the urban environment, they are still wild animals and need to be treated as such. In fact, more caution ought to be given to these adapted species due to disease and no fear of man. These are the ones I'd watch out for.

Different types of urban areas support different kinds of urban wildlife. Just by building a sewer plant here in Eagle Mountain and introducing water to a desert, we created a micro habitat/environment that invited many

different species of birds that otherwise would not be found here in Cedar Valley.

We created a wetland, which gives new meaning to "if you build it, they will come."

We now have several types of waterfowl, shorebirds, upland birds and swallows that nest and call the sewer lagoons home just because we created a new habitat. I've documented over 40 different species of birds just in this area.

Thirty or maybe 40 years ago, the vistas in Cedar Valley looked very different. Greasewood, saltbush and wheatfields dominated the valley floor while sagebrush, pinyon and juniper dominated the hillsides.

These habitats likely supported meadow lark, horned lark, sagebrush lizards, sagebrush voles, coyotes, badgers and burrowing owls than we have now. These species and their populations have all been on the decline ever since man started developing Cedar Valley given many of the habitats have been eliminated.

At the time, there were very few robins, kestrels and raccoons. There was just not the habitat to support these species. Now, we seem to have more raccoons than we want, a pair of robins nesting on every

city block, over 30 pairs of kestrels just in the city boundary, and more invasive, non-native species of wildlife than we had 40 years ago. They win with urban sprawl, meadow larks do not.

This urban sprawl and urban wildlife also create some unique challenges. One of the biggest of these is human wildlife conflicts. As wildlife encounters humans, it creates issues with human safety concerns. Many of these wildlife carry and can transmit disease and parasites. Raccoons are particularly good at this. We have more challenges with wildlife-vehicle collisions causing damage to vehicles and putting people at risk for injury and trauma.

Human health and safety with this urban wildlife greatly depend on an understanding of urban wildlife and their interactions with the human-made landscape. Pets and livestock are often most at risk from interactions with urban wildlife and may require extra precautions to ensure their protection from native predators.

Eagle Mountain City strives to do all we can to help mitigate habitat loss, plan and protect important key habitats, and preserve micro habitats throughout the city that invites wildlife to thrive as we continue to develop the city.



## BUILDING & PLANNING MIKE MALAY

### Why do I need a permit?

The City's Building department often get asked what happens if work has been finished without a permit. We want to reassure our residents that we are here to assist. Not having a building permit can lead to various legal and practical consequences, depending on where you are and the nature of your construction project. Here are a few potential outcomes:

**Legal Issues:** Building without a permit can result in fines, citations or even legal action. In some cases, you may be required to stop construction until you obtain the necessary permits, which can delay your project and incur additional costs. You also could have liability in landlord-tenant disputes.

**Safety Concerns:** There have been various structural failures for unpermitted buildings, additions, remodels and decks in the state and Eagle Mountain. Permits ensure that construction projects meet safety standards and building codes. Without a permit, there is a risk that the

structure may not be safe, posing hazards to occupants and potentially leading to accidents or structural failures.

**Property Value and Insurance:** Insurance companies will not pay for damage to unauthorized work. Buildings constructed and work done on existing structures without permits might not be recognized by insurance companies or real estate appraisers. This could affect the property value and potentially invalidate insurance coverage, leaving you liable for damages in case of accidents or disasters.

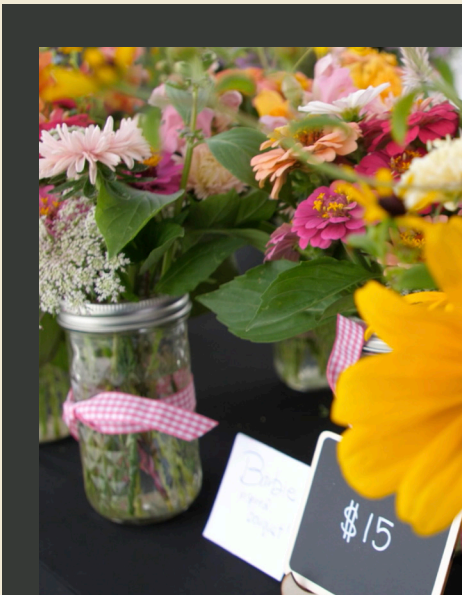
Obtaining a building permit in Eagle Mountain also offers several added benefits.

**Professional Guidance:** When you apply for a building permit, you often receive guidance and support from City plan techs, inspectors and officials who can help ensure your project meets all regulatory requirements. This assistance can be invaluable in navigating the complexities of building codes and processes.

**Quality Control:** Permits require that work be performed by contractors who are licensed and familiar with current building standards. This can help ensure that your project is completed to a high standard of quality, which can enhance the longevity and value of your property. It also helps protect you from predatory frauds.

If you find yourself in a situation where you have already started construction or have completed a project without a permit, reach out to us in the building department to discuss your options. It is better to address the issue proactively rather than risk facing more severe consequences later.

While it may seem like an additional step, obtaining a building permit in Eagle Mountain offers numerous benefits that protect your investment and ensure the safety and compliance of your construction project, it is an essential measure that can save you time, money and potential headaches down the road.



## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Discover local this year

It is hard to overlook how much Eagle Mountain has grown both in terms of residential and new business growth. The unseen business growth is even more tremendous, with an incredible rise in new home-based businesses in the community. Nowhere is this more apparent than with the Eagle Mountain Farmers Market. Taking place each Saturday this summer at Cory Wride Park, the Eagle Mountain Farmers Market has all sorts of great booths to check out. The size of the market has exploded. When first starting out,

the market hosted 10-15 booths, but now boasts nearly 80 booths. You'll find food trucks, farmers, interactive booths, bakers, youth vendors and so much more.

Also, prepare yourself for September when the annual ShopFest Utah event takes place -- hosting over 300 businesses, tons of food vendors, live music and hot air balloons. There has been no better year to discover what you've been missing out on by exploring our local businesses.



## ACCOUNTABLE, CONT.

raucous laughter. “What they don’t do is this: they don’t say, ‘Ah, that’s okay, Jimmy. If you can’t hit a seventeen-inch target? We’ll make it eighteen inches or nineteen inches. We’ll make it twenty inches so you have a better chance of hitting it. If you can’t hit that, let us know so we can make it wider still, say twenty-five inches.’”

Pause. “Coaches... what do we do when your best player shows up late to practice? or when our team rules forbid facial hair and a guy shows up unshaven? What if he gets caught drinking? Do we hold him accountable? Or do we change the rules to fit him? Do we widen home plate?”

The chuckles gradually faded as four thousand coaches grew quiet, the fog lifting as the old coach’s message began to unfold. He turned the plate toward himself and, using a Sharpie, began to draw something. When he turned it toward the crowd, point up, a house was revealed, complete with a freshly drawn door and two windows. “This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline. We don’t teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We just widen the plate!”

Pause. Then, to the point at the top of the house he added a small American flag. “This is the problem in our schools today. The quality of our education is going downhill fast and teachers have been stripped of the tools they need to be successful, and to educate and discipline our young people. We are allowing others to widen home plate! Where is that getting us?”

Silence. He replaced the flag with a Cross. “And this is the problem in the Church, where powerful people in positions of authority have taken advantage of young children, only to have such an atrocity swept under the rug for years. Our church leaders are widening home plate for themselves! And

we allow it.”

“And the same is true with our government. Our so-called representatives make rules for us that don’t apply to themselves. They take bribes from lobbyists and foreign countries. They no longer serve us. And we allow them to widen home plate! We see our country falling into a dark abyss while we just watch.”

I was amazed. At a baseball convention where I expected to learn something about curve balls and bunting and how to run better practices, I had learned something far more valuable.

From an old man with home plate strung around his neck, I had learned something about life, about myself, about my own weaknesses and about my responsibilities as a leader. I had to hold myself and others accountable to that which I knew to be right, lest our families, our faith, and our society continue down an undesirable path.

“If I am lucky,” Coach Scolinos concluded, “you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: “If we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; if we fail to hold our spouses and our children to the same standards, if we are unwilling or unable to provide a consequence when they do not meet the standard; and if our schools & churches & our government fail to hold themselves accountable to those they serve, there is but one thing to look forward to ...”

With that, he held home plate in front of his chest, turned it around, and revealed its dark black backside, “...We have dark days ahead!”

Note: Coach Scolinos died in 2009 at the age of 91, but not before touching the lives of hundreds of players and coaches, including mine. Meeting him at my first ABCA convention kept me

returning year after year, looking for similar wisdom and inspiration from other coaches. He is the best clinic speaker the ABCA has ever known because he was so much more than a baseball coach. His message was clear: “Coaches, keep your players—no matter how good they are—your own children, your churches, your government, and most of all, keep yourself at seventeen inches.”

And this my friends is what our country has become and what is wrong with it today, and now go out there and fix it!

“Don’t widen the plate.”

