

Paradise Town
Office of the Mayor
www.paradise.utah.gov

December, 2011

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM – Following the Public Hearing held on November 16th, and after spending considerable time discussing the issue with the citizens and as a Council, the decision was made to go ahead with joining the National Flood Insurance Program. This allows property owners that live in the designated Flood Zone to obtain flood insurance at a subsidized rate.

Since it seems to many that the Flood Map provided by FEMA is unrealistic, we will be considering various options regarding further study and refinement of the Flood Zones. Funding for this type of engineering study is not part of our current fiscal year budget and will likely have to be postponed until the next budget year, unless State or Federal grants become available to fund a project of that magnitude.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – If you catch a member of the Lion's Club, please thank them for getting the lights ready and hung up this November. While not quite as fancy as Hyrum's or Preston's, we do enjoy a little holiday decoration and appreciate the work it takes to get bulbs put in and the lights checked out.

ROADS AND SNOW - Please do your part to help us safely and economically remove snow this winter by keeping cars off of and away from the road. Also, if it looks stormy, wait until Wednesday morning to put your dumpster on the street, and remove it Wednesday evening. Plowing around obstacles means the truck has to go down your street again to finish pushing the snow back to the edge. There are about 12 miles of road in town, and most of them take 3 or 4 passes to clean them to the edges, so you can certainly see the impact of needing additional trips to complete the job due to garbage cans or cars.

Most of the streets in Town are centered in a 99-foot right of way, with Town property extending a few dozen feet on either side of the asphalt. That area is to run and service utility lines and also is intended to be a safe area for the removal of snow. To prevent narrow roads and blind intersections when the snow gets deep, we typically plow back a little beyond the edge of the asphalt, and push the corners back to help with visibility. This sometimes results in the disturbance of landscaping that has been placed on the Town property. We appreciate homeowner's efforts to have a beautiful yard and hope you understand that if the grass gets disturbed near the road edges and corners, you will have ample opportunity in the Spring to put it back and soon it will look nice again.

OFFICE HOURS – We have missed Bev while she was out. Between her and the Temp, the office should be open most days Monday – Thursday in December. We will be closed on the Monday the 26th of December to extend our celebration of Christmas just a little. We will try to have a sign on the door letting you know of modified hours during the month.

TOWN HALL/PARK RENTAL – There are still some open times at the Town Hall for family holiday parties this month. Please call the office and get it scheduled as soon as you can for best choice on dates. The rental fee is very minimal for a facility that size with a nice kitchen.

If you would like to reserve either pavilion for this upcoming Summer, we will begin taking reservations on the 3rd of January at the office.

DOGS – I have heard the joke at an elected official training class about the toughest part of the job is dealing with dogs, and if that can be solved, everything else is easy. In our Town, it seems that we certainly have those same challenges. I am sure that if I kept track carefully, the number one thing folks call about or discuss at the Post Office, store, or gas station is some kind of a dog problem. It comes down to being a good neighbor and keeping your animals in your own yard – and helping them be quiet.

There seems to be some misconception about what is enforceable and what is not. Essentially, if your dog is off of your property - even if enticed by other dogs, horses, or people out and about, you may be cited for “running at large.” If the dog is bothering children, animals or even adults on the roadways or in a yard other than the dog owner’s, you may also be cited for “Chasing/Worrying.” Additional citations cover the situation where someone is actually bitten. If your dog is well behaved, you certainly can go take it for a walk without a leash, as long as it has been trained to immediately come to you if called. Keeping the animal under control and out of other’s yards is the owner’s direct responsibility.

The intent of these ordinances is to provide a place where children can play, people can walk, jog, keep domestic backyard animals, or just be in their own yard without the fear of being bothered by someone’s dog. Most everyone loves their dog and wants it to have as much freedom as possible, but when it creates a negative situation for others - public safety must prevail.

If you see dogs running up and down the road or sniffing through your backyard, please call the Sherriff Office Dispatch number at 716-9400 and give a good description, and if you know whose it is, pass that along as well. If your dog comes up missing, check with the Cache Humane Society, as that is the place we have contracted with for housing.

Obviously if the situation is an emergency due to imminent injury, a call to 911 is appropriate, as is resolving the matter yourself immediately and safely to prevent loss of a child or valuable animal’s life. Please be considerate of others and keep your dogs confined to your property.

Besides the above dog rules, all of the laws, ordinances, and zoning rules are intended to provide a system where everyone is treated fairly by having uniform expectations of behavior and land use based on a documented standard. While some consider their individual situation to be unique or special, if the rules are not followed uniformly, it becomes unfair to others. Public input is always welcome if you feel we need to revise an ordinance for some reason and take it through the established change process.

Please call/e-mail me with any comments or questions regarding the above notes or other Town issues.

Leland Howlett – Mayor

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