Dear Ephraim City Residents;
As I’m looking out of my office window it appears that spring is on its way. I love the springtime in Ephraim. Everything begins to awaken after a long winter’s nap. The robins have returned; soon daffodils and tulips will begin blooming and on warmer days the honeybees will be busily gathering pollen to fuel the impending brood in a building up process that will result in a beautiful crop of honey later in the summer.

Our current watershed stands at a little over 100%, ensuring a healthy spring runoff and a continual run of water fueling the water supply for our forests, croplands and farms. Truly, it is a wonderful time of the year.

As we look at our city, it is no different. This spring will be different in many respects. During the week of March 23-28th, our city crews will be on hand to dispose of any branches, yard prunings or small items of shrubbery clippings that you may want to dispose of during that week. Please neatly stack this yard refuse out on the park strip in front of your property, and our city crews will come by and pick up and dispose of it. This is a service that we want to offer our residents and are hoping that it will go a long way in helping you beautify your yard so as to present a more perfect union. This is as it should be for a community that has a vested interest and concern for their neighbors.

On March 4th at 6:00 PM in the City Council chambers we will hear from residents, then discuss as a council and decide on possible mosquito abatement procedures that yards that we might not be able to get to without some help hauling it off. Now, I’m not talking about entire trees or anything else that might require a larger effort. No large-scale yard refuse, just some of the smaller yard upkeep items. There will yet be another time for the larger items that you need to dispose of which will occur at a specified time in April (be looking for that in our April newsletter).

Mayor John Scott
Call or text 435-851-6101
Mayor’s Corner . . .
Cont. from page 1

Ephraim will be following this coming early summer. If you have an opinion about this, then please come to our City Council meeting on the 4th and make your opinion known. We believe in hearing from our residents about this before making an informed decision.

On March 18th at 6:00 PM in the City Council chambers, we will have a public comment portion of our City Council meeting devoted to hearing from our residents about possible deer control procedures in Ephraim City. That night we would very much like to know what your thoughts are on this subject. We will then enter into our regular council meeting and hope to finalize a decision about whether or not to implement deer control procedures within Ephraim City. We have already heard from DWR as to different options of how to implement this control, but we need your feedback as to whether or not our residents want this control. Please come and express your thoughts and feelings on this issue.

In the last couple of months, I have heard from you in many instances concerning these and other issues. I have listened to the pros and cons that have been expressed about these and many other issues. Thank you for sharing with me your thoughts and feelings. Thank you for having enough confidence in city government to express your ideas and hopes on a variety of subjects. As a City Council, we prefer to have your input as we move forward to make decisions that affect our residents. The way that we avoid hearsay and gossip is to attend city council meetings and hear for yourself the several different viewpoints and to then see the deliberations of the Council and to witness for yourself how decisions are made. We very much want your input. We will then strive to make decisions based on what is best for Ephraim City. We may not make the decision that you wanted, but we will make the decision that is best for Ephraim. Just know that we need to hear all sides and then we will do our best to make a decision.

Thank you for all that you do to make Ephraim City a great place to live. This is the best town in the world. We have the best residents anywhere. We are headed into a great place for our City and for our residents. Let’s move together into a great future. If you have anything that you would like to express to me, you can e-mail me at john.scott@ephraimcity.org, or you can text me at 1-435-851-6101.

Sincerely,

John Scott
Ephraim City Mayor

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Ephraim Rec

Here is a list of all the events we have to offer for Track and Field this year! If your child was born in the year listed below each event, they are eligible to try it!

Don't forget to sign up!

Central Utah Track & Field Association - 2020 Order of Running Events

- 1600m
- 4x100m relay
- 100m
- 50m
  (2012-2013)
- 400m
- 800m
- 200m
- 4x400m relay

Field Events will be going on throughout the meet.

- Shot Put
- Discus
- Javelin
- Standing Long Jump
  (2012-2013, 2010-2011)
- Running Long Jump
- High Jump

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Library News

The library would like to thank Miss Ephraim, Samantha Everritt, for being with us at our Princess Party on Saturday, February 22nd. We had a full house and lots of fun! The library is planning events for Summer Reading, and getting ready for our annual Egg Hunt in April.

March Events at the library:

- Story Time - every Tuesday and Wednesday at 11:30. We will be exploring Colors this month.
- Anime Club - March 13th at 3 PM. We are watching Sailor Moon.
- Tween Scene - March 20th at 3 PM. Are you Feeling Lucky?

For more information about our upcoming events, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram or stop by the library for a calendar of events.
Many of you may have heard that Ephraim City took delivery of a new 2019 Rosenbauer ladder truck. This truck started its building process in Lyons, South Dakota in January of 2018, and took 16 months to complete. Needs were assessed by a truck committee organized by the Fire District, which came to the conclusion that a new truck was needed within the District and that it would be stationed in Ephraim, as we are the largest city in the County, with the most populace.

Payment for the new truck was funded by the Sanpete County Fire District with monies collected by the District throughout the county. All new equipment was purchased for the truck, which, in total, came to $900,000. The truck it replaced was a 1991 used truck that the District purchased back in 2001 from Provo City.

Fire Chief, Kerry Steck, stayed on top of production by communicating with the company, and occasionally visiting South Dakota, to make sure it was equipped with a certain pump or other particular pieces needed. This truck is ahead of its time with the most up-to-date equipment and technology. Each phase of the building process required both electronic and physical scanning, with workers double-checking every weld and screw and then double-checking again.

No other truck has the extras we have on this truck. In fact, it is the most modern truck built to-date by the company, and is featured on the cover of their 2020 catalog.

You may be interested to know that a company called the ISO (Insurance Services Office) creates ratings for fire departments and their surrounding communities. The ratings calculate how well-equipped fire departments are to put out fires in that community. The ISO provides this score, often called the "ISO fire score," to homeowner’s insurance companies. The insurers then use it to help set homeowners insurance rates. An ISO rating goes from 1-10, with 1 being the best. The purchase of this new truck improved our rating by two numbers.

We now have newer and more up-to-date equipment to meet all of the fire protection requirements here in Ephraim, as well as throughout Sanpete County.

The fire station that we now have is located just South of the Middle School and was built in 2001. It has a large training room, restrooms, offices, kitchen and four large bays that house all of the trucks. There are two attack engines, the new ladder truck, three brush trucks, and a 6,500-gallon potable water tender.

Response time out of the station after a 911 call is, on average, four minutes. This is a very good time when you consider the firefighters have to respond to the station either from home or wherever they are working.

Our firefighters give of their time, and endanger themselves to respond to ANY call for help from the citizens of Ephraim. Firefighters have a desire, not for glory or recognition, but to give of themselves and feel the accomplishment and fulfillment it brings during and after any call.

Some of the duties and requirements of a volunteer fire fighter include:

- Responding to all emergency and paged calls
- Driving the trucks
- Properly using & maintaining all equipment
- Educating the community on fire safety and prevention
- And most of all, TRAINING!

All of this requires the physical ability and availability of firefighters to respond to calls, attend in-house training and out-of-station trainings offered by the State of Utah Fire Academy. Most of the certification training is offered at no cost to the City or the firefighters. Basic training courses include Fire Fighter I & II, and Wildland Fire Fighter I, to get started.

Our Fire Department is in need of more volunteers to join the Department, both male and female, who feel they would like to serve the community and give of their time. If you are interested, please email kerry.steck@ephraimcity.org for info.

STAY SAFE !!!!!
While it might be hard to believe, a human can survive more than three weeks without food. But most people would die after three days without water. In Ephraim City we are lucky to have access to multiple sources of good, clean water. Last year we had a very high water year. We were fortunate that the release of the snowmelt was steady and we didn’t have large amounts of flooding in town. I was asked the question, “Since there is so much water, why hasn’t my water bill dropped?” It is a good question and worth answering for water and other utilities.

If the supply has gone up, shouldn’t my cost go down? Most of the cost of a utility comes from delivery of the item, not from the cost of the item itself. For water, Ephraim has miles of pipe, from far flung sources that required initial development and each now has ongoing inspection, maintenance, testing, and repair costs. While there was more water last year, the cost for providing and maintaining the structures to deliver that water didn’t decrease, so there could be no decrease in cost. In many cases, the cost increased from 2018 to 2019 because of the increase in water rates. According to CBS News, “The average water and sewer bill in 50 cities jumped 3.6%” in 2019.

According to Ephraim City Community Development Director Bryan Kimball, we should keep these 6 things in mind:

1. We have over 50 miles of water lines to maintain inside city limits and roughly 17 miles of pipeline in the landslide-prone mountain areas from our springs before it gets to town, all of various ages and types of pipe.
2. We try very hard to keep our pipes in good working order and to keep safe, reliable water flowing to your tap. This includes making repairs, replacing aging pipes, maintaining the spring collection areas, purchasing and maintaining needed equipment to help us do our jobs better, and find ways to keep improving the system and increase the resiliency and reliability by providing additional redundancy and more resilient infrastructure.
3. We have actively pursued and have been awarded many grants totaling more than $3M in just the last several years that have allowed us to take on big critical projects while saving our customers money and allowing our funds to be stretched further and accomplish more than otherwise would be possible.
4. The entire water supply also passes through our multiple hydro plants, helping to provide clean energy and reduce your power bill to more affordable rates.
5. Our rates are very competitive and are actually lower than the average rates of many communities in the State.

We have recently completed master plans that help us plan for growth and critical needs of the future so we can continue to provide outstanding safe and reliable drinking water for the foreseeable future.

Many cities and utility organizations around the country over the years have been unwilling to gradually increase costs to follow market trends, such as inflation, and that means costs eventually catch up to and overtake assessed fees (if rates have remained flat) and force a large jump in fees to meet an overdue demand on aging systems.

In Ephraim, the cost for the first 7,000 gallons is $24 which is about 1/3 of one cent for an entire gallon. For those that use 7,000-30,000 gallons per month, the cost is only another $1.75 per each one thousand gallons. That is less than 2 tenths of a cent for an entire gallon of delicious drinking water. (For larger usage amounts see a detailed water rate schedule at EphraimCity.org)

To put it into perspective, if you grab a bottle of water from any convenience store, you’ll see that 16 ounces of bottled water can cost $2 or more. For that same amount you could buy 1,000 gallons of good, clean Ephraim City water, delivered right to your home. That is more than 2,000 times the water you’ll get from one handheld bottle. Our delivery systems will continue to need maintenance and innovation but for a resource as critical as water, the cost to the consumer in Ephraim is very competitive. I’ll drink to that!