It is with excitement and pleasure that I get to write to you this month and give a brief report on the happenings in Ephraim City. March is here and the work of the City is beginning to rev up considerably. Let’s get started.

As a City we have made the decision to go ahead with the Scandinavian Festival! As we have counseled with the Six-county Health Department, we believe that we can pull off the festival safely and in compliance with the health department’s requests. We are excited about this because it represents a “getting back to the new normal” that we have all been looking forward to. Additionally, we will have our Veteran’s Memorial Program on Memorial Day weekend. We expect good participation for both these events.

At our February 17th City Council meeting a group of concerned citizens petitioned the Council to begin the work of identifying where to place a new recreation site. After much consideration, we will begin the process of finding out exactly what we need, where we need it and how much it will cost. As a City we know that we need to expand our recreation facilities because, quite frankly, we are outgrowing our current facilities. Much hard work has gone into this decision by the Recreation Board and by the parents of children who are involved in the Rec. programs of Ephraim City. It’s time to formulate a plan and then move forward with that plan.

At that same meeting on February 17th the City Council opened the City budget for the rest of this fiscal year which ends on June 30th. Last summer the City Council chose to formulate a very “bare bones” budget because we were still not sure how the pandemic would affect our incoming financial resources. As it turns out, our tax revenues were surprisingly stable through the worst part of the pandemic which allowed us to take a harder look at the budget and allocate resources to things that needed to be done in the city. My hat is off to Steve Widmer and Shaun Kjar for their insight and prudence as we have navigated through this very difficult time.

On February 10th the City Council elected a replacement for Greg Boothe, who is

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Dear Community of Ephraim,

A whole-hearted THANK YOU for your support in the eight years we’ve been operating, and especially during the year of 2020! Thank you to everyone for your patience while we closed our doors during the early period of COVID-19. Despite extraordinary challenges we served 134,713 individuals in our local community and across the country as we successfully transitioned to a virtual platform, and engaged the community in new and exciting ways.

Thank you to everyone who has stopped by the gallery, interacted with us online, or visited one of our local partnering sites. We would also like to thank those community partners, Ephraim Public Library, Ephraim City Hall, and Snow College Karen H. Huntsman Library, for supporting us and allowing us to curate exhibitions in their facilities.

We were thrilled to re-open in July with fresh ideas and new additions to our programs. We launched Virtual Workshop Wednesday, weekly video tutorials for kids highlighting new projects and materials with free take-home art kits prepared for parents to pick up at the door, serving our many home school families during COVID-19. We supported teachers in every grade level at Ephraim Elementary by donating art kits to their classrooms, supporting the public school system and keeping kids engaged with art-making. In total we have donated over 1,000 art kits to the community and had 1,349 children participate in workshops. Thank you for allowing us to support you in educating our local children.

During 2020, we collaborated with 69 artists and 5 curators to host 17 exhibitions in our gallery, online, and at our partnering sites. We worked with the children of Ephraim for two of our current exhibitions, Creating Community: Ephraim Children Responding to Landscape and Community on view at Ephraim Public Library, and Scandinavian Summer: Ephraim Children Responding to Local History, on view at Ephraim City Hall.

We hosted seven Granary Arts Fellows working on community-based projects, including two that are on-track to be completed this summer. The Sanpete Story Tour will be a virtual tour of over 40 site-specific artworks and cultural stories by artists, historians, architects, and folklorists using ArcGIS mapping and site location technology, facilitated by Granary Fellow David Lindsay. Secondly, The Family Trade: Town Tracks will be an album with songs about the Sanpete Valley by Fellows Ashley Hanson and Brian Laidlaw written with help from community members. You can preview the songs-in-progress on our Instagram account @GranaryArts.

We supported two innovative art exhibition projects. Partnering with Utah Museum of Contemporary Art for Lawn Gnomes 2020 we featured works by artists and community members in Ephraim and the Sanpete Valley, asking our neighbors to experience art with us on new platforms and innovative places, our neighborhood front yards! Granary Fellows, PARC Collective, curated Incubation Period, a completely virtual exhibition is response to COVID-19. The project received 600 submissions!

2020 brought many challenges to all of us, but with the help of our community, we persevered, improved, and we’re looking forward to what 2021 will bring. Thank you for engaging with us and supporting the vision of Granary Arts, we couldn’t do it without you.

--The Granary Arts Team
Amy, Kamilla, Bryn, and Janice

We would like to thank Karen H. Huntsman, Mayor of Ephraim, Karen A. Dibb, Mayor of Snow College, and Fellows Ashley Hanson, Brian Laidlaw, and David Lindsay for their help in making our exhibitions and community projects possible.

The Granary Arts Team

The Lion’s Club will try to hold regular monthly meetings starting April, 2021. Further Information will be provided on an ongoing basis.

Stitchin’ Sisters will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

DUP hopes to return in September 2021. Further information will be provided on an ongoing basis.

SCHEDULED:
March 9        Stitchin’ Sisters
March 7, 14, 21, 28
Athenian Academy Home School
March 7, 14, 21, 28 Mike Barton

LUNCHEON AND BINGO CANCELED DUE TO COVID
Ephraim City is thrilled to announce that the annual Scandinavian Heritage Festival will be coming to Ephraim in 2021!

The Scandinavian Festival will be held during Memorial Day weekend this year on May 28th and 29th. The City is working diligently with the Scandinavian Festival Board, local community members, City staff, the local health district, and many others to provide a safe and entertaining event this year.

We will be working hard to bring back many of the traditional Scandinavian Festival events and activities that you love, such as the car show, concerts, vendors, historic reenactments, and many more!

Keep on checking your monthly City newsletters as well as Facebook and the City website as updates about the event will be provided!

If you have any questions about this year’s Scandinavian Heritage Festival, or would like to volunteer, please contact Michael Patton at 283-4631 or michael.patton@ephraimcity.org.

Mayor’s Corner . . .
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relocating to another city. Lloyd Stevens was elected to fill the unexpired term of Council-member Boothe. He was officially sworn in as a Council member on February 17th and we welcome Councilmember Stevens onto the Ephraim City Council.

Moreover, on February 10th we received the very good news that Ephraim City has been awarded a 1.6-million-dollar grant from UDOT to complete an “overlay” of the Ephraim Canyon road including curb, gutter, and sidewalk. This is a boon to Ephraim City because it will create a safer walkway up the canyon road that our residents can enjoy. Additionally, it will keep our kids safer as they ride bikes and walk to the two schools at the bottom of the road. The grant will be given to Ephraim City in two years, but preliminary site work may begin as soon as this summer. Again, there was a lot of hard work that was put into this project, principally by Bryan Kimball, and I thank him for his diligence in getting this grant application worked up and then submitted to UDOT. We didn’t think we had a chance at this, but in fact, we came in first place with the grant awarding for this cycle.

On February 25th there was a groundbreaking for the “Estates of Ephraim Crossing.” This project will eventually consist of 44 homes and it represents the first tangible construction component of the larger “Ephraim Crossing” development. The total build-out of Ephraim Crossing will extend over the next ten years, but this is an exciting first step in a wider project development.

On Main Street at 4th South you will notice that there is the construction of a new building which will be an Ace Hardware store. At this point they are planning on a Grand Opening sometime in mid-summer. We welcome them to our community. Additionally, as you drive around Ephraim you will notice the construction of new houses, new apartment complexes and new condominiums. There are so many exciting things and projects happening in our city. We welcome all these entities into our city as part of our larger Ephraim family.

Thanks for all that you do to make Ephraim City a wonderful place to live. You are the heart and soul of our community and without you this city would be so much less than it is. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. If you need to get ahold of me for any reason, my cell number is (435) 851-6101 and my e-mail is john.scott@ephraimcity.org.

Sincerely,

John Scott
Ephraim City Mayor
Greetings to the citizens of Ephraim. The Ephraim City Council wishes you all well through all the difficult times we are facing in the world today.

With all that is going on, exciting things are taking place in Ephraim. After taking last year off, the Scandinavian Festival is back for 2021. Stay tuned for online information in the next few weeks on the City website and Facebook pages. It will be exciting to see everyone back over Memorial Day weekend. A big thank you to our Scandinavian Festival Committee for all the time they put in to pull it off. Thank you.

The Council, Recreation Board, and many residents of Ephraim have had a lot of discussion about much needed green space for baseball, softball, soccer, flag football as well as a much-needed recreation center. I can assure you all that we are working on this. As a member of the Council and a life-long resident of Ephraim, I feel it is time to get busy and make this happen. It is greatly needed, not just for our youth, but adults as well.

I have been doing some research on the benefits of a recreation center:
- Benefits families
- Helps you stay healthier, longer
- Reduces stress
- Reduces crime rates with children and youth
- Increases property value
- Contributes to culture diversity
- Boosts student performance
- Increases public safety
- Enhances economy
- Creates jobs

In the past year, the Recreation Department had 800 participants in youth sport programs. There was also a Halloween event and our Sanpete Shootout Softball Tournament that had 2,000 participants. This year we will be holding adult activities as well.

Again, we thank you for all you do to benefit our community.

Free Art Kits for Kids + Virtual Workshop Wednesday

We are offering free art kits with our weekly video workshops! Pick up your kit at Granary Arts, available on a first come first served basis. New video workshops + kits posted to Facebook every Wednesday at Facebook.com/GranaryArtsUtah.

Virtual Workshop Schedule:

- 3/3: Starry Starry Night-Vincent Van Gogh
- 3/10: Andy Warhol Donuts
- 3/17: Large Flower Georgia O’Keeffe
- 3/24: Van Gogh Sunflowers

Haworth/Blake