My Dear Fellow Ephraim City Residents.

I am excited to be able to write to you this month. We have such exciting things happening all around us. I thought that I would take a moment and put "ink" some of my thoughts concerning our present pandemic.

First of all, I believe that we can see the light at the end of this very long tunnel. It appears that the abatement of this pandemic is really beginning to take hold. I am grateful for that. I have seen the death of far too many of my friends and some of our dear city residents. Several of my own children have lost family members and have contracted the disease themselves.

A year ago, when this pandemic was in its infancy, as a City we did some statistical analysis of possibilities of how many residents we could lose in Ephraim City. A year ago, the news out of Europe was frightening, especially in Italy where the mortality rate was near 8%. We calculated that if 40% of our residents came down with Covid, and if 4% of those infections were fatal, that we could lose somewhere in the vicinity of 96-112 people. That was sobering. Being a praying man, I prayed mightily that these numbers would be blunted and that we would not have to suffer like that as a community. Every life is precious, and unfortunately, we have had some loss of life in Ephraim City due to the pandemic, but thankfully much of our population, especially our most vulnerable population, was spared. I attribute this to the carefulness and mindfulness of our residents who donned masks, stayed at home when it was not essential to be elsewhere and who were conscientious about washing hands and protecting their health. This is the essence of personal responsibility and loving our neighbors as ourselves. I also attribute this to the kindness of a loving God.

Now, we are entering a phase in our society where things are beginning to return to a sense of normalcy. Over 1.25 million Utah residents have received one of the 3 approved Covid vaccines. 382,000 Utah residents have had the virus. Because of these two factors, we are beginning to look at the benefits of some sort of herd immunity which will, hopefully in the long run, protect our community from too much further hardship regarding Covid-19. Now, that does not mean that we should let our guard down just yet. Personal responsibility for our health and the health of the most vulnerable in our community continues to be a priority. At this point it looks as though the mask mandate will be removed by April 10th. This signals a step forward, but caution should continue to be a watchword. I said caution, not fear! There is no value in fear, but there is value in respecting this disease and being observant of our own mortality in its midst.

Continued on Page 3
The announcement that Ephraim would be moving forward with the Scandinavian Festival was indeed good news and gave the hope and optimism that I have needed! I think our community celebrations are such an important tradition. Community holidays and festivals help create an upbeat and positive feeling. Such celebrations are built on a foundation of belonging, social support, social interaction, and in my case, built on a foundation of Swedish Meatballs!

For Ephraim, our Scandinavian Festival has long been a time when families came together to attend the festivities, and bring a renewed sense of belonging. It is a time to showcase our town and build on the pride we have as residents of Ephraim. Traditions reinforce the identity of a community. This area was indeed settled and established by many wonderful Scandinavian people. In 1880, Ephraim’s population was about 90% Scandinavian and approximately half of all residents had one of eight surnames: Anderson, Christensen, Hansen, Jensen, Larson, Nielsen, Olsen or Peterson. Though a large part of our residents still share those names, our community has grown and welcomed many that call Ephraim home. We can all appreciate the early settlers, and look forward to our tradition.

Fazilat Soukhakian / Anonymous Battle
(At Snow College Library through 6/04/2021)

Ephraim Children’s Art / Our Place
(At Ephraim Public Library through Spring 2021)

Ephraim Children Responding to Local History / Scandinavian Summer
(At Ephraim City Hall through Spring 2021)

Events
In-person workshop, 4/10/21 9 am - 2 pm, Landscape as Autobiography: A Photography Workshop with Daniel George

Visit Us
86 North Main, Ephraim / W-S 11am - 5pm / 435.283.3456 / Parking behind Ephraim Co-op

Granary Arts is supported in part by Utah Division of Arts & Museums, with funding from the State of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts, George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, The Sam and Diane Stewart Family Foundation, Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area, Sanpete County Travel, and generous support from Ephraim City.
There are some who have advocated a total disregard of masks, social distancing or obtaining a vaccine. This is your right to do so. However, moving forward, let us not mock those who continue to wear masks, or who choose to obtain one of the vaccines, or who stay at home during social events, or businesses that adopt the policy of mask wearing in the places of business. This is also their right. Be kind to those who have a differing view from your own. Lay off social media and the criticism of those who do not see things the way you do. As a people, we are better than that.

Recently I have heard of opposition to the receiving of the several different Covid-19 vaccinations. This, too, is your right. A mandate for a Covid-19 vaccination will never come to this state or to this community. To do so would violate the Constitutional values that we all hold so dear. I taught Constitutional law for 10 years on the college level. I am very aware of its provisions and strictures. Individual entities such as an Airline Company or an amusement park may require you to have a Covid vaccine shot in order to frequent their business. They are within the guidelines of the Constitution if they decide to require that as a private business operator. I am hoping that will not come to the United States, but it is being required on carriers in Europe and elsewhere.

For a small portion of our residents, the whole Covid scene has been one of constant conspiracy and seeming threats being advanced against personal liberties. From our City’s standpoint this has not been the case. We have not, nor will we, mandate restrictions regarding personal liberties guaranteed in the Constitution. As the Mayor and the City Council we have a sworn duty to uphold the Constitution and we all take that oath very seriously. I am here reminded of a quote by Rachel Marie Martin, who said: “Today you have a choice. You can choose between anger and love, division and unity, frustration and hope, selfishness and giving, turning away and showing up. Choose kindness and the choice is simple. It’s hard to regret being kind.” Indeed, one of the hallmarks of our community response to this pandemic has been the general kindness that we have shown to one another. Let us be generous in how we speak about others and in how we take to our own opinions. I appeal for kindness, and a sense within us to protect one another’s good name in private and public conversations. Snipping at one another over perceived differences of opinion has never been a good look on any one of us. Enough said about our hardships in this pandemic. May we never be consumed by its gnawing prevalence among us again!

Spring Cleanup
Beginning on April 1st we will be offering a service to the city with yard waste clean-up. Initially, our City crews will be picking up on the curbside: branches, tree limbs, garden waste and other associated items that lend itself to a cleaner looking appeal for Ephraim City. Please leave on the sidewalk these smaller items that need to be removed. Please do not haul out old stumps of trees, appliances, cars, or whole trees to the curb side as there will be a future provision for larger items and you should call the City for help in cleaning out bigger things that can be reasonably done. Additionally, we will make available to the public, a large, industrial sized disposal waste bin, just to the south of the Ephraim Elementary school. It’s time to clean up Ephraim. It’s time to take that personal responsibility that we all have and do our part to beautify our city and help it to appear well and comely. In regard to this, through our ordinances, we will encourage our residents to dispose of cars, appliances and other dilapidated debris in yards and on the streets. Let’s work together and beautify our city.

State of Emergency: Water
Governor Cox has recently declared a state of emergency as it relates to our drought situation. As of the writing of this letter, we are about 77% of normal water in our mountains to the east of Ephraim which is where about 65% of our culinary water comes from. In a normal year that wouldn’t be too much of a concern; however, this season is not normal. We have had successive years of drought and the soil below all of that snow in the mountains is thirsty and dry. Our runoff this spring will be minimal, which will affect every single farmer throughout Sanpete County. Our City water supply will be affected; however, we have worked very hard on the redundancy of our water supplies and so for most of the summer we should be OK. It will be in the fall, when students return to Snow College, depending on whether or not we get our annual monsoons (which have not come for the last two summers) that we will see whether or not we need to implement some sort of watering restrictions in the late summer and early fall. We urge you to use all means possible to conserve water. Ephraim City is different from a city along the Wasatch front from the standpoint that we do not rely on vast reservoirs, which can run dry, to supply our water. We are dependent on a water commodity that we have limited storage for, but which runs continually. Nine months of the year we have copious amounts of water—it’s during the summer months that we have to watch our water use to gage it against our supply coming off the mountain and coming out of our City wells. A year ago, we had only one well; now we have two wells, and hopefully sometime in 2022 we will have a third, very large well coming online.

Scandinavian Festival
As I said during my March newsletter, we will be hosting our Scandinavian Festival during the Memorial Day weekend. Memorial Day celebrations will also be taking place during that weekend at our cemetery. Again, these are all signs that the grip of Covid-19 is lessening.

ISO and Your Homeowner’s Insurance
At the beginning of the year, we learned that our ISO rating for Ephraim City improved from a 5 rate to a 4 rate. This improvement will lower insurance costs for most homeowners in Ephraim. The ISO rating is the number that insurance companies use in determining the rate of your insurance, and Ephraim is doing quite well in this regard.

Adult Coed Softball registration is currently open. Registration closes on April 30th. Register with your friends and family for $300.00 or sign up by yourself for $40.00 and we will work on getting you on a team. The season begins May 13th and all games will be played on Thursday evenings. Register online at: https://ephraimcityrecreation.sportsites.com/player#Root1b18872b9-39b0-4ac3-9223-99786e4f2f5c0 or call the Ephraim City Rec Department at (435) 283-4631.

Lion’s Club Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 3, 2021
At the Family Park 4-Plex
10:00 SHARP!
Ephraim City Fire Department
Written by Deputy Chief Jeff Hermansen

Hello, from the Ephraim City Fire Department.

The Fire Department has been very busy and has experienced many changes over the past year, which have improved the quality of our overall team.

The Fire Department is rated every 5 years by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). We have worked hard as a group, and were able to bring our number down from a 5 to a 4 rating. Our goal is to achieve a 3 in our next rating, as lower numbers are the goal. This will help the citizens of Ephraim lower the cost on their homeowner’s insurance.

COVID has brought many challenges for all of us; however, the County Fire District obtained one million dollars worth of equipment, which was divided between all of the fire departments throughout Sanpete County. Each City paid for one self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with seven additional SCBAs being covered by COVID funding under the CARES Act. This is huge for the fire department and the overall budget. We were also instrumental in hosting many COVID testing and vaccination sites.

Ephraim fire inspectors have been busy inspecting new businesses to ensure fire safety for our citizens. I have also been busy, along with other City employees, reviewing plans for all of the proposed building and growth that is going on in our city. My part as the Deputy Chief is to make sure we have adequate fire protection and access for safety. The future of the city is exciting, but I am all for keeping the home town feel.

We are currently recruiting more firefighters to join our department. If you have ever thought about joining us, please do not hesitate. We need you! Contact Ephraim City at 435-283-4631 for further information, or come visit us at the fire station. We need the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor’s Corner
Continued

came about as a result of hard, determined work by our Fire Department. The lower rating may affect the amount of your home insurance premium. You ought to call your insurance provider to inform them the rating has changed, and possibly get a break on your premiums. See the Fire Department article above for information regarding our ISO rating.

City Park/Rec Center
I also want to let you know that Ephraim City has identified a potential location for our new City park / recreational facility. This site will be south-west of Ephraim City, out by our industrial park location, consisting of about 50 acres. The City already owns the land, and this makes it an ideal site. We are also working with the Comino Verde group developer who is taking a hard look at building a Recreation Center as a public, private partnership. We are hoping this happens because a private developer can build a Rec Center cheaper and faster than we can as a City. We will have all the input into what we want to have in this new facility and the location of the site will enhance the livability for those in Ephraim City and be an enhancement for those who will live in this new subdivision. It’s exciting. We are hoping for the best.

City Growth and Planning
Last week Shaun Kjar and I took a tour of Ephraim City with another private developer. They were impressed with our city. They were impressed with our quality of life, with the friendliness of our residents and with the redundancy of our infrastructure. We toured all of the sites in the city where we have development happening. That’s when I became so positively impressed with the new homes being built to the east of Palisade Park, the new homes being built in the Shingle Mill Subdivision, the roads being cut to the south of Ephraim and to the east of Ephraim; all in preparation for new homes including the finishing of the Danish Fields Subdivision. It is true, growth is happening, but I believe that it is a planned growth cycle with good cooperation from local community builders and some builders from outside our community. Now, that growth isn’t going to happen overnight. We won’t see the full fruition of this growth for a decade, but it is coming and we will do our very best to ensure that the growth does not outstrip our resources in water, electricity and sewer. It is a balancing act that myself and our City Council keeps in mind for every single instance when we make decisions for the benefit of the city. It’s our commitment to you.

The thought has occurred to me many times that we are a blessed people in this community. We have a wonderful quality of life and we don’t want to mess that up. Growth is happening throughout our State and instead of allowing that growth to act upon us, we must act to govern its pattern and make every cent count to furnish to our residents the benefits of good City services. We have clean water. We have clean air. We have a community that loves its neighbors. We have peace. We have prosperity. The dreaded pandemic is in abeyance. We have so much to be grateful for and really so little to complain about. With this in mind, I am impressed by the following picture and caption and I hope it will affect you as it has me:

Sincerely,

John J. Scott
Mayor, Ephraim City

Lord, if I’m ever ungrateful, forgive me.

APRIL 2021

Page 4