Dear Ephraim City Residents,

I hope that your summer plans and summer celebrations are going well. Summer is always a sweet time in Ephraim City and this summer will be no exception. It’s such a wonderful time to take those long walks, get together with neighbors, enjoy neighborhood barbecues, along with going fishing, swimming, hiking, camping, and excursions to our beautiful Utah parks, or to have backyard chats on the porch with family members during a warm summer evening. I love summer and all that it brings.

It appears that this bear is also excited about the coming summer. On May 17th, he was given the royal treatment of having highway 89 closed so that he could safely cross it to complete his trek up to the east. Currently, we do not know when they will have their groundbreaking or when they will actually open.

Supply chain issues are affecting nearly every construction project. Let me take a moment and clear up any misconceptions about these businesses locating to Ephraim. I have noticed some misinformation on social media that seems to indicate that Ephraim City is the entity that attracts these businesses to our town. Although we welcome these businesses, I think it must be made clear that as a City, we do not somehow compel businesses to locate to Ephraim. Municipalities do not have the power to coerce businesses to come to our City nor can we by state statute, deny a business from building in Ephraim City. Some have asked why so many of these types of businesses or food establishments are in Ephraim?

I have mentioned this before, but I wanted to point out that both Wendy’s and Arby’s have submitted an application and have received approval from the City to begin construction for their establishments in Ephraim City. Wendy’s will be located where the old bank trailer building used to be on the east side of the Walmart parking lot. Arby’s will be right across highway 89 to the east. Currently, we do not know when they will have their groundbreaking or when they will actually open.

I have just completed a wonderful Scandinavian celebration. I want to thank everyone who have put so much heart and energy into this annual celebration. It seems that the festival grows every year and people from all over the region come and enjoy all the booths, along with the food and entertainment, and of course our lovely City. Several years ago I spent three weeks in Sweden and every day I thought about our Scandinavian heritage that we celebrate so heartily here on an annual basis.

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A Message from Our Council
Lloyd Stevens

This past week I had the opportunity to speak with a young lady from Hungary. She was very intelligent and provided a point of view that was very insightful. Throughout our conversation, we spoke of her journey from a country under social rule to a country of freedom and prosperity. Her answers provided me with interesting perspectives and helped me focus on the newsletter for this month.

This young woman met her husband online. After more than a year of correspondence, her now husband visited Europe. They eventually got married and decided to move to Provo, Utah. Some of the angles that she provided me with were refreshing. She mentioned that she enjoys the ability to go to the grocery store, where the shelves are full of food. People within the states are very kind, making her feel like a part of the community and accepted for who she is—despite her different background. She no longer has a fear of leaving her apartment and feels very safe. This young woman feels a significant contrast between her former home in Hungary and her new home in Provo.

The conversation that I had with this woman influenced me to come home and ask some of our locals why they like living in Ephraim. One of the email replies that I received was very insightful. Here is what was said:

“I was asked recently why I like living in Ephraim. The answer came quickly, I like living in small-town USA where nearly all of the news in the local paper is positive and where a traffic jam is waiting for three cars to pass until I can make a left turn at the one signal-controlled intersection in town. The Ann Murray song, “A Little Good News” comes to mind—there have been no recent reports of shootings, killings, robberies, assassinations, burglaries, or the like. Our police department is manned by competent, honest, hard-working officers doing their best to keep the news “good” and here to protect and serve our community and doing a fine job. Our volunteer fire department is also excelling in that regard under the able direction of our full-time fire chief. Everything I need to survive is available at the local markets, gas stations, and medical clinics, and although prices have skyrocketed lately, there’s still plenty in my pantry, and I know if I run out there are neighbors who are willing to help if things get really bad. I can’t say enough good things about the people in our little city. Everyone waves to one another and now and then I forget to wave just as the person passing me waves and I feel bad that I didn’t wave first. Can you relate? If someone is “missing,” the entire city is on the look-out to help find the person, and when someone mourns the loss of a loved one, we all mourn. While reports of the drought are all over the state, there’s good news that our next well supply will be doubled. I can drive in my side by side for 6 minutes and be up on “The Mountain” overlooking the beautiful city below breathing the clean fresh air and enjoying Mother Nature. There’s hope for our city to grow in a responsible manner and others will soon be moving here to enjoy the things that sometimes we take for granted. But just travel north an hour and suddenly you miss what Ephraim has to offer. I just love it HERE!”

What a great insight for me and for us all! Being an “Ephraim-ite” from birth, I tend to overlook the obvious benefits of living in our community. I forget how special the area is, despite some of the challenges or problems that we face. This experience has encouraged me to try to do better at focusing on the positive aspects of living in Ephraim. I love Ephraim and hope that we all see the good side of living in rural Utah, while allowing it to grow and expand for a better future.

Lloyd Stevens

SENIOR CENTER
JUNE ACTIVITY
85 West 100 North
ephraimseniors@hotmail.com

ALL CENTER RENTAL RESERVATION INQUIRIES AND CANCELATIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MELISA TINOCO: (435) 283-6310.

RENTAL RATE INCREASE: EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022, DAILY RENTAL $100 WITH $25 DEPOSIT.

FREE COVID TEST KITS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT COVIDTESTSGOV. THE SITE WILL ASK FOR YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS. ANYONE ASKING FOR MORE INFORMATION THAN THAT, IS A SCAMMER.

VETERANS HELP AVAILABLE: FREE SERVICE AVAILABLE TO HELP VETERANS, WIDOWS, AND DEPENDENTS, TO UNDERSTAND AND APPLY FOR VA BENEFITS. DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE SERVICES: (435) 835-0771.

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION VOUCHER SYSTEM: CONTACT SIX COUNTY AT 435-893-0726 FOR INFORMATION.
Volunteer with us!
Granary Arts is looking to expand our network of regular volunteers! Volunteers help with Workshop Wednesdays, serve as docents for exhibitions, and assist with events. Email info@granaryarts.org for more info, or sign up for our volunteer mailing list GranaryArts.org/Subscribe.

Workshop Wednesday
Join us Wednesdays at 3:30pm upstairs in the Ephraim Co-op for a free kids’ art activity. Subscribe to our mailing list to get the monthly workshop schedule straight to your inbox GranaryArts.org/Subscribe.

Kits can be picked up at Granary Arts, available on a first come, first served basis. Our virtual art tutorials are on our website at GranaryArts.org/Education-Workshops. Subscribe to our mailing list to get the workshop schedule and a link to our virtual workshops straight to your inbox GranaryArts.org/Subscribe.

Workshop Wednesday Schedule 3:30pm
6/1: Let’s Paint / Jorge Rojas Exhibit
6/8: Paper Plate Woven Flower
6/15: Tissue Paper Flowers
6/29: Simple Sketch Pad/Journal
VIRTUAL Simple Flipbooks (pick up free art kit anytime)

Exhibitions
Jorge Rojas / Material Witness
Laura Sharp Wilson, curated by Scotti Hill / Chiasma
Jane DeGroff / Naturally Dyed Textile Art
David Lindsay / Our Valley Speaks: A Sanpete Experience (virtual exhibition)

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

The veterans flags were set up at the Ephraim Park Cemetery by citizen volunteers. The annual Memorial Day program was held on May 30th to honor local veterans. The flags will be removed after Memorial Day. A big “thank you” goes out to these incredible volunteers from the community and the Cemetery Board.

Picture:

(1-r) Terry Lund, Allen Keisel, Steve Crosland, Craig Rasmussen and Andy Shaw. Not pictured Beverly Thomas, Dale Nicholls and Dick Olson.

Mayor’s Corner (Continued)

Well, the truth of the matter is that state statute dictates that a municipality cannot pick and choose what comes or does not come to our city and if we did so, we would open our city to serious legal ramifications. If they meet the zoning requirements, they can build here. This also applies to housing developments. Again, we welcome all businesses to Ephraim City. In the next few years we will see many businesses locating in our wonderful town. We wish all our current and future businesses success!

Recently, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints announced the groundbreaking date for the Ephraim City Temple on August 27th. This will be a special day in our community because this will begin the construction phase of this beautiful building. The construction will be completed 18-24 months after the date of the groundbreaking. I have been informed that attendance at the groundbreaking will be by invitation only.

With the summer months upon us, I wanted to give a little update on the retrofit of our third well from agriculture to municipal water. This project has gone without major complications and the retrofit is nearly complete. When this well comes online we will more than double our well water capacity for our city. This is a great boon to our water supply and helps us meet our water needs for at least the next decade, which includes all of our projected building growth. We will continue to search for other sources of water, and also upgrade our current infrastructure with our springs so we can continue to secure adequate water sources to meet our current and future needs.

Inflation is hitting us all pretty deeply and it looks like this will be ongoing for perhaps the next decade. This has been very apparent as we try and run a City and continue to offer our residents quality services. Our power costs are on the rise, gas for our city vehicles have increased by nearly 80%. Our cost to deliver water to our residents have steadily increased, and our sewer maintenance costs have also increased. In short, the cost of everything has been driven steadily upwards in this current economic climate. We have worked hard to economize, but there just comes a point where you have to look at raising city rates for water, sewer, and electricity, to meet the demands of increased costs in the city. As elected officials, we certainly don’t want to do this, but we have to look at the realities of the present situation. As I have met with the other Mayors in Sanpete County in the last few weeks, we are all feeling these same pressures. The last thing that our City Council wants to do is wait to enact rate hikes and then create a disastrous “reaction” with large rate increases to make up for years of deficits in our utility and personnel departments. Instead, what we will do is have smaller, incremental rate increases, which can be more easily absorbed into a household budget. Our City Council is extremely sensitive to the number of City residents that are on fixed incomes, and we will do all in our power to mitigate the increases that have to be made. Be looking for public hearing notices on this subject so that you can voice your feelings on these matters.

Last of all, I wish to extend to President Brad Cook, the current Snow College President, an expression of appreciation for all that he has done to foster good relations between the City and Snow College. On the evening of May 12th, before it was announced publicly, President Cook called to inform me of his decision to leave Snow College, effective the middle of July. He will be missed, and we wish him good luck in his new adventure as he assumes the Presidential Chair at the American University in Bahrain. Brad and his wife Jen have made a positive impact on the faculty and students at Snow College and throughout our community. We wish them well.

I hope that you continue to have a wonderful summer. Take time to enjoy the beauties of where we live. Make time to draw your family close to you and make memories this summer that will last a lifetime. You are appreciated and loved. We live in a one-of-a-kind community. Truly, we are “Rich in Heritage and Invested in the Future.”

Sincerely,

John Scott

Ephraim City Mayor