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## Emigration Canyon Community Council (ECCC)

Emigration Canyon Community Council Newsletter

Fall, 2003 [www.emigrationcanyon.org](http://www.emigrationcanyon.org)

### FIRE IN THE CANYON

#### A Wake-up Call for Residents

By Barbara Bentley

Although the fire on September 14th never proved to threaten homes in Emigration Canyon, it is clearly a wake-up call for all of us living in the wildland/urban interface. The fire season may be over, but the threat of wildfire is never far away.

Remember: fire is a natural part of our ecosystem. Scrub oak (*Quercus gambelii*) is a "fire adapted" species, and it does best if fire passes through the area every 15-25 years or so. The fire removes the dead and aging aboveground growth, and healthy new growth sprouts from the charred stumps. At the same time, nutrients are recycled into the soil, and dormant seeds of wildflowers will germinate in the newly created sunny patches.

Yet, because of the many programs in fire prevention and fire suppression for the past 50 years, fuel loads of dried leaves and dead woody materials have built up to an un-natural level --- increasing the chances of wildfire. Add to this the drought for the past 2 years, and we have the potential for a major burn just about everywhere in the Canyon.

It's not too late --- or too early --- to start thinking about preparing your property for wildfire. Fall is a great time to get out and rake all the leaves (even the ones that have accumulated in that far corner under the deck), clean out the gutters, and prune back the shrubs and evergreens around your house. And you can use the dark days of winter to start planning for spring gardening. Look in those catalogues for plants that will stay green throughout the summer, think about re-designing your foundation planting to include rocks and other non-flammable accents, find a lovely flowering crabapple to replace that leggy (and flammable) pine. In other words, think "Firewise" as you cuddle next to the fire and dream of another wonderful Emigration Canyon summer --- at the wildland/urban interface.

#### Suggestions Welcome

Please send all suggestions and articles for the newsletter to Ricklen Nobis, 4778 Emigration Canyon,. If you would like to receive the Newsletter via e-mail rather than hard-copy (saves publishing costs!), please contact Andy McNeil at [amcneil@lwdrealestate.com](mailto:amcneil@lwdrealestate.com). Please visit our website at [www.emigrationcanyon.org](http://www.emigrationcanyon.org).

#### Notice of Election Emigration Improvement District

Please note that there will be an election held on Tuesday, November 4, 2003 at Camp Kostopulos, 2500 Emigration Canyon for the Emigration Improvement District for the purpose of electing two trustees to serve on the District's Board of Trustees. The terms will begin on January 1, 2004 and run through January 1, 2008. Three individuals have filed and qualified with the District in conformity with applicable election law to fill the two positions. You will have the opportunity to vote for two of the three.

Michael Hughes and Lynn Hales have both filed to stand for re-election. Also running is Gayle Weyer. Brief statements by the candidates are included below. In October the District plans to send out a newsletter that will include a more detailed presentation of

Welcome  
News  
Contacts  
Meetings  
Documents  
Newsletters  
Links

each candidates views and plans if they are elected. Please be sure that you are registered to vote in Voting District #2902 so that you can vote for the two candidates of your choice.

Lynn Hales, candidate statement: I'm running for the EID board because I have always felt a responsibility to actively participate in the community and to try to bring to the community a process that includes accurate fact finding versus emotional reactive analysis and broad grassroots sentiment analysis versus strongly presented minority views. In all of my activities I have been committed to understanding the sentiments of our community and then supporting and representing them in preference to my own pre-dispositions.

Over the 23 years my family and I have lived in the canyon I have served in the community in many ways: 13 years as chair or co-chair of the community council, 7 years as a trustee of the Emigration Canyon Improvement District and currently, I am in my second term as a commissioner on the township planning and zoning board.

Water, and all that goes with it, is extremely important to the canyon. The Emigration Improvement District was created by the Salt Lake County Commission to be the organization responsible to provide water and sewer services and manage significant water rights in the canyon. As the EID completes a great work of service to the community by expanding the Oaks water system so others in the canyon can enjoy adequate quality water it is now important to continue a thoughtful process to evaluate appropriate ways to use the Canyon's water right to benefit all.

During the past few years more and more private wells have become stressed and have not been able to produce adequate quantities of quality water. This condition does not have to be the future of the canyon. By careful design and engineering we can increase the quality of life in the canyon, increase property values and maintain our unique canyon setting without promoting development. I would like to continue to serve on the EID board and bring a rational and systematic approach to water management in the canyon.

Mike Hughes, candidate statement: My name is Michael Hughes and I am a candidate for one of the Emigration Improvement District trustee positions available this November. I have lived in the canyon for seventeen years and I am currently serving as the chairman of the Improvement District. I have served on several Community Councils and have stayed involved in most canyon politics. When I ran for this position four years ago I was committed to a canyon wide water system and I am more convinced now that the only way to shepherd an over allocated under served water resource is a canyon wide system. We are currently delivering water to about half the canyon (350 connections). We have added 70 new fire hydrants and 8000 feet of distribution pipe while passing the cost of installation and operation to the effected special service areas. We have successfully negotiated the retirement of over 375 acres of what would have been one-acre lots for a hand full of water connections. We also represented the financial incentive in accomplishing the secondary access road from Emigration Oaks (with our water pipe and fire hydrants) all the way down to the main canyon road. We were just reminded on Sunday how important those hydrants are. The last two fires in this canyon (both range fires) were both fought successfully from those hydrants. One of the arguments against "a canyon wide water system is it would itself promote growth". The ability to throttle growth by "the hand on the facet" has been a very effective tool and puts another layer of local control after the Zoning Board.

Gayle Weyher, candidate statement: Water is the one issue in the canyon that both unites and divides us. Decisions about water affect everyone in the canyon. Yet, too many feel shut out of the decision-making process or they don't have enough information to understand the issues around using and preserving water.

I believe the EID must be more inclusive and provide more information about its policies and its actions to canyon residents. I declared my Candidacy for Trustee because I believe the EID needs representation from all the voices of the canyon.

The EID must be managed with the highest level of professionalism. I am committed to:

1) Adopting a written Ethical Standard for the EID to prevent actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest and ensure that trustees do not use their position for individual, personal advantage. 2) Establishing a purchasing policy that conforms to the highest professional and ethical standards. 3) Promoting respectful, reasoned dialogue with one another when we disagree.

I currently work as a landscape designer, contractor and nurseryman. In 1999 I published A Guide to Landscaping with Available Water in Emigration Canyon for homeowners in the Canyon that is distributed free of charge through the EID. I have worked in different areas of the Canyon-Pinecrest, The Oaks, Little Oaks, Emigration Place, Skycrest and Sunnydale-and have first-hand knowledge about the hardships and extremes of your landscapes.

Our situation in Emigration Canyon is unique. The joy and exhilaration of its beauty is why we choose to live here. We have a natural, self-purifying hydrological cycle that we depend upon as our water resource.

As trustee, I will work with all canyon residents to ensure that we make informed, thoughtful choices about this unique, but vulnerable environment, so that we can sustain the fragile balance between plants, animals and humans.

Gale Weyher 581-0575

Canyon News Nuggets

Joe Smolka, Council Chair

CANYON RECYCLING - Formerly, in order to receive a blue recycling can, it was required to submit a notarized request to the County. This has been waived for the property owner, but is still in force for renters. There have been many questions about the cost of the recycle cans. The fee charged only covers part of the cost, and the rest is covered by the county. This program was started in the hopes of extending the life of our landfill. If 10 percent of the county participates, it will extend the life of the landfill 10 to 15 years, saving the county money in the long run.

FREE DUMPSTERS - On August 19th, 2003, the County brought 50+ dumpsters into the canyon. They placed 3 in Emigration Place (1 dumpster filled), 13 in Emigration Oaks (6 filled) and the balance in the main canyon, Pinecrest and Killyons where 99 percent were filled. The county has utilized the snowplow trucks for this program, which means the equipment is not sitting idle 9 months of the year. This program is planned to happen every year. The reason for the 1 night drop is that the County has a large area to cover during each season. The program starts in March and runs to November. We're glad to see the program, and "thanks" to the Mayor and the County for the efficient use of county resources.

EMIGRATION CANYON FIRE STATION - Yes, it could happen. The County has approved the purchase of land on the corner of Pioneer Fork and Emigration Road for a future building. There is no time line for construction right now, but this could change at anytime.

COME JOIN US!

Saturday Morning September 20th

The Emigration Canyon Triathlon and Canyon Breakfast will be held at Camp K. in a few days. Race sign up starts at 7:30am, race start is at 8:00am. This is a VERY short Triathlon meant for participants of ALL ages and abilities (or LACK of..).

Canyon Breakfast starts at 9:00am. Come early and cheer the racers on to the finish. \$7.00 charge to race (cost of official T-shirt), no charge for breakfast! See next page for registration form. Everyone is invited!

Emigration Canyon Triathlon

Saturday, September 20, 2003 7:30 am

Camp Kostopulos

Arrive for race at 7:30 am, Get number, bike check, and course instructions.  
Race starts at 8:00 am followed @ 9:00 am by Breakfast for all canyon residents.  
Cost \$ 7/person \$ 20/family \$ 20/team  
Bring Towel, Bike and Helmet (mandatory). Wear Shoes and Swimsuit.

RUN BIKE SWIM

2.25 miles 6.5 miles 6 laps (3 down, 3 back)

Return application to - ask questions of - volunteer to help with:

Fred Smolka, Chairman, 3350 Emigration Canyon, 582-6176

Denny Eckert, Ass't Chairman, 5265 Emigration Canyon, 582-1427

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Race Application

Please circle sex and shirt size

Individual or

1st team member \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female

Shirt Size S M L XL Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

2nd team member \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female

Shirt Size S M L XL Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

3rd team member \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female

Shirt Size S M L XL Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

(T-shirts will be made up after the race for those who participate)

The undersigned participant understands and is aware of the risks and hazards of road running races in general and this race in particular. I represent that I am physically fit and capable of participating in this event. I assume all risk associated with my participation in this event, even if those risks are caused by someone else. I discharge and release all persons and organizations involved in this event of any liability whatsoever for any claim for damage, injury or death that may happen during my participation in this event. As a parent of the participant, I also understand and accept all of the above conditions.

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Signature Date Parent or Guardian (if participant is under 18)

Date \_\_\_\_\_