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Letter From the Chair

Dear Canyon Residents,

This newsletter is full of important information of which you will need to be aware. Our main issues in the canyon are: first, Senate Bill 73 (HB40) recently passed. As Senator Karen Mayne said, "This is one of the most important bills that we will ever pass in the legislature, it gives townships their identity and keeps them whole. It gives them the opportunity to choose their own destiny."

Another issue in the canyon is the changes being made to the sanitation ordinance. Please take time to read the article from the Salt Lake County Sanitation Department. In our May ECCC meeting, we will have representatives from the sanitation department review the new ordinance to discuss how the changes will affect canyon residents.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Salt Lake County Councilwoman, Jani Iwamoto and Mayor Corroon's liaison, Megan Hillyard for responding to the communities concerns.

The other pending issue is the addressing system in the canyon. The county is considering extending a common addressing grid from downtown to the top of the canyon. Emigration Oaks and Emigration Place are already on the county grid.

As always, we invite you to attend our ECCC meetings. They are held the second Tuesday of each month @ 7:00 PM in the Emigration Firehouse Community Room.

Best Regards,

Jessica Hook
ECCC Chair

Township Status

Senate Bill 73 passed the Utah legislature this year—assuring continued existence and protection for townships. The legislations which had some revisions during the session and was finally passed as a substitute bill, protects townships from partial or total annexation by adjacent cities. The bill essentially removes the sunset provisions from the township statute and makes certain revisions to those statutes to allow new townships and to allow certain citizens to withdraw from townships but only after meeting some strict requirements.

The effect of this legislation is to assure Emigration Canyon a degree of autonomy in the planning and zoning in the Canyon through the Township Planning Commission. More importantly, it will protect other townships with commercial areas from cherry picking annexations by adjacent cities resulting in higher taxes for the remaining townships to pay for municipal services. This bill places into statute the protection citizens of the townships and unincorporated areas expressed their strong desire for in last summer's survey process.

Waste Collection in the Canyon

Providing high quality waste collection in Emigration Canyon is a challenge especially where the roads are narrow and the snow gets deep. Residents on the steeper or unpaved roads face the additional challenge of bringing their cans down to the road and back up on collection day. Many people leave their cans on the sides of public roads for convenience.

Leaving cans out along the road beyond collection day violates Health Department ordinances. Plus the cans can be unsightly and they get banged up by snowplows and tipped over spreading garbage on the road and into the creek.

Responding to concerns from residents, Council Member Jani Iwamoto and the Mayor's Office have been working with the Sanitation Division to address these problems, asking the Salt Lake County Sanitation Division to look for alternative waste collection options in the canyon. The Division is looking for locations for containers—dumpsters—along the length of the canyon that would take the place of cans in areas where residents leave their cans out longer than legally allowed. Any site that is selected for containers would be protected by an enclosure, and the containers themselves have ports on the top that prevent scavenging and keep larger items out.

The change to waste collection is to work in tandem with a proposed amendment to the County's Right-of-Way ordinance which will require that all cans be removed from the road the same day that they are emptied. The ordinance brings an initial reporting to, and warning from the Sanitation Division, and will include enforcement alternatives for violations. Council Member Jani Iwamoto will be introducing this ordinance – first to the Public Works Subcommittee which she chairs – and then to the County Council for their consideration in April or May. You can watch for the agenda at <http://www.council.slco.org/agendas/index.html>. Also, for questions about this issue or other issues involving Salt Lake County, please contact Council Member Jani Iwamoto at jiwamoto@slco.org or her office at (801) 468-2937.

In the meantime, the proposed ordinance and the changes to Canyon waste collection services will be discussed at the May 12th Emigration Community Council meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at the fire station. County Sanitation personnel will be on hand to answer questions. -

Address Changes in the Canyon

Currently there are two address systems in the Canyon. This is confusing for emergency response personnel. To improve this situation, the canyon will change to a single address system. Residents currently on the mileage system from the bottom of the canyon will be affected. For example Camp Kostopulos' address is 2100 which is 2.1 miles from the base of the canyon. Emigration Oaks, Emigration Place, and some side roads will not be affected because they are already on the new system. More information on this topic is forthcoming.

CERT Training

The ECC has felt that we should be better prepared for an emergency. Jeff Graviat, the new county Emergency Director, will be attending the May 12th community council meeting.

The Community Council would like to offer CERT Training (Community Emergency Response Team). This class is 21 hours and curriculum includes: disaster preparedness, fire safety, disaster medical, light search and rescue, and organization in an emergency. If 20 residence sign up then the Unified Fire Authority (UFA) will teach the class at the fire-station, cost varies depending on grants (estimated as \$30-\$50). This cost is well worth the class.

The Community Council is also looking for HAM operators. Contact Joe Smolka at (801) 582-1089 or tab5k@yahoo.com

Bicycling Season is in Full Bloom

Spring is here and so is bicycling season. As Canyon residents know, thousands of cyclists flock to Emigration Canyon in good weather, to enjoy the beauty of the Wasatch Range.

Along with Millcreek Canyon and Wasatch Boulevard in Salt Lake County, Emigration Canyon is considered a prime road biking attraction. The canyon is home to hundreds of residents and the canyon road accommodates motor vehicles, bicycles, runner and hikers. With the season increase in demand, we must balance all of these interests and remember to Share the Canyon.

With the support of Mayor Peter Corroon, Sheriff Jim Winder and the Emigration Community Council, the Salt Lake County Bicycle Advisory Board will host two spring "Meet 'n Greet" at the top of Little Mountain Flat on April 18th and May 9th from 10am-12pm.

Representatives from the sponsoring agencies will be there to answer questions, collect feedback, and provide tips on bicycle safety. As a Canyon resident, please consider coming out to participate in this fun and informative gathering. Through collaboration, awareness and education we will kick summer 2009 off in a safe and productive manner. See you there!

CANYON CLEANUP Monday, May 18th, 6:00 PM

Firewise 2009 Update

We have a new half million FEMA grant that will be available for the next three years starting in the summer of 2009. It gives matching money to Emigration Canyon for fire prevention activities in the canyon. The grant pays ¾ of the costs for fire prevention activities. The homeowner pays 25%. The activities covered are for Safespace or State or County crews to cut out dead trees and downed wood and thin and up limb gambel oak. If you have maple, aspen or other riparian species, they leave those alone because they are not a fire hazard unless they are dead.

The other activity covered by the grant is a goat herd. The herd thins out areas of oak brush, undergrowth, weeds and grasses so that a fire would not have enough fuel to burn. When a fire gets to a goat fire break, the fire goes out from lack of fuel.

To get an estimate for goats or cutting crew work contact Kathy Christensen at kchriste@xmission.com or call 801-581-0897 and leave a message with your name, phone number, address and what you want done. Someone from the crews will contact you to ask to see what you think needs to be done and give you an estimate. If you have had the crews work in your yard in the past, but you think that the undergrowth needs trimming again you can request a touch up job.

A requirement for the FEMA grant is not only matching money but also a match of in-kind efforts by people in the canyon. If you have done clean up work in your yard including raking leaves and cutting up downed limbs or mowing weeds please let me know by email or phone how long you worked. It gives us matching money (about \$19.00 an hour) from the grant. If you have paid for these services it also counts. We need to have a match of \$20,211 so that we can pay off the work from last year so we don't have to dip into the new grant money for this year.

CYCLING SAFE ON THE CANYON ROADS: BICYCLE SAFETY TIPS

As the weather warms up more and more cyclists will take to the roads. Bicycling is an increasingly popular source of transportation, recreation and exercise. With the increasing number of bicycles on the roads comes an increase in the number of visits to the Emergency room. Some statistics indicate as many as 500,000 people saw a doctor last year due to bicycle injuries and approximately 700 cyclists died last year as a result of bicycle crashes.

Wearing a helmet can significantly reduce the chance of a serious head injury and it is vitally important to wear one when cycling anywhere especially on narrow canyon roads. But let's remember that wearing a helmet will not prevent the cyclist from crashing. The following tips can help cyclists achieve what should be their primary goal; don't get hit by another vehicle.

TIP #1: OBEY THE TRAFFIC RULES. Cyclists must follow the rules of the road like motor vehicles if they are going to be taken seriously by other drivers. This means obeying the Utah traffic laws which includes not exceeding the speed limit. When driving a bicycle on flat city roads this is usually not a serious concern because most cyclists are unable to easily propel their bicycle beyond the posted speed limit. The canyons are another matter. The 40 to 45 mile per hour speed limits, found in the canyons, can be easily achieved and exceeded by experienced cyclists headed down hill. At these speeds, the time a cyclist has to react to hazards is substantially reduced increasing the likelihood of a crash and serious injury.

Riding abreast to another bicycle (riding side by side) can also be hazardous on canyon roads. Riding in this manner is allowed by state law unless; by doing so it impedes the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, or traffic signs restrict it. Riding abreast to other cyclists can be dangerous on narrow canyon roads because doing so may force passing motor vehicles further into the on coming lane than they are comfortable. The cyclist may find motor vehicles passing dangerously close to them.

Driving a bicycle against traffic is against the law and is also very dangerous. Some cyclists may say riding against traffic is a good idea because they can see the cars that are passing them. This is poor reasoning. Though the cyclist may be able to see the cars coming, they will be coming much faster since the bicycle and motor vehicle are approaching from opposite directions (it's the sum of the bicycle's and motor vehicle's speeds). This will decrease the time the cyclist has to react to the situation, if it goes bad, such as an oncoming vehicle veering toward them. Let's also keep in mind that vehicles pulling out of driveways and side streets or making right turns do not expect to see a bicycle traveling on the

wrong side of the road. They will not be looking out for the cyclist and may either run into them or pull in front causing the bicycle to crash into their side.

TIP #2: BE SEEN. Keep in mind that bicycles are small and easy to see right through day or night. Wearing bright colored clothing can make a big difference when a cyclist wants to be seen by motorists. Yellow and orange reflective vests or reflective strips on the arms and legs can also make the cyclist more visible even in daylight.

Bicycle lights (white lights in the front and red lights in the rear) are not only required by law at night, they are good for being noticed anytime. Even in the daytime a bright white light, particularly one that has a flashing mode, will make a cyclist more visible to motorists.

Using hand signals is required by law when making turns but they also can make the cyclist more visible to other drivers. Even if some motorists do not understand the signals they are more likely to see the bicycle when the cyclist makes them.

In the end, a cyclist should not assume motorists see them until they are sure they do. Making eye contact with any driver that poses a risk to the cyclist is important.

TIP #3: LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU. Cyclists should be able to look back over their shoulder without losing their balance and swerving the way they are looking. Some motorists, for a myriad of reasons, will pass by cyclists within mere inches, so moving even a little bit to the left unexpectedly may place the bicycle in the path of a motor vehicle. Remember, even if it ends up being the motorist's fault, the cyclist will not be any less injured when they are run over.

A mirror can also help the cyclist monitor the traffic behind them. A mirror should not be considered a substitute for looking over the shoulder before turning to the left or right, but it can help the cyclist keep track of what is going on behind them without having to constantly look over their shoulder.

TIP #4: NEVER PASS ON THE RIGHT. Motorists and other cyclists alike are likely not going to be looking for bicycles passing on their right. Motor vehicles that are driving slowly (slow enough that a cyclist may be in a position to pass them) are likely preparing to make a turn. They may or may not be using a turn signal. Either way the cyclist should slow to assess the situation and determine what the vehicle is doing then pass safely on the right. If a motorist is planning on making a right turn into a parking lot, driveway or side street it is unlikely they will be looking for

~bicycle safety, continued

a bicycle approaching them on their right side. Even if a slow motor vehicle has activated their left turn signal the cyclist should slow to assess the situation. The motorist may be attempting to make a U-turn and is likely to veer right before turning left.

Other cyclists are also less likely to look over their right shoulder before veering to the right. Cyclists should announce themselves to the cyclist ahead then pass on the left.

Bicycling is a fun and energizing sport but it requires all of the cyclist's concentration. It requires the appropriate equipment for the type of riding being done. It requires the cyclist to follow the traffic laws and be prepared to avoid hazards. Have fun this cycling season.

References

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Bicycling In Washington. (2006) Bicycling tips. Retrieved March 14, 2009, from Washington State Department of Transportation web site: <http://wsdot.wa.gov>.

Word On The Road. (2009) Bicycle safety tips. Retrieved March 14, 2009, from Brazos valley cyclists web site: <http://brazoscyclists.org>.

Bluejay, M. (2008) How to not get hit by cars; important lessons in bicycle safety. Retrieved March 14, 2009, from web site: <http://bicyclesafe.com>.

Bicycle Meet & Greet

April 18th, May 9th

10 AM - 12 PM

Little Mountain Flat Parking Lot

*County Sheriffs, and Mayor's office will discuss bicycle safety.
Cool drinks will be served.*

Pet Waste in the Canyon

Pet waste is a huge problem in our canyon. Many canyon residents choose to ignore the problem, but many of our favorite trails—Killyon's Canyon, the Mining Trail, and Freeze Creek trail—are examples of what happens when people don't accept responsibility for their pets. We can do better.

If you have a problem with your neighbor's dog, talk to your neighbor—maybe they're unaware of the problem. Let's all leave the canyon better than we found it.

If you can't come to an understanding, you can call Salt Lake County Animal Control at 801-559-1100 Monday through Saturday from 9:30 to 5:30. The County animal ordinance is very plain on this subject and can be found by reviewing Chapter 8.01 Salt Lake County Code of Ordinances (<http://www.animalservices.slco.org/html/SLCountyOrd.html>)