

**Paradise Town
Office of the Mayor**

www.paradise.utah.gov

July 2013

FIREWORKS – As of now, the Town Council **has not** adopted an emergency ordinance that restricts the use of fireworks within the corporate limits. By order of the State, no fireworks are allowed in the unincorporated areas within Cache County this summer. The jurisdiction of the State does not extend into the local municipalities since they trust our judgment to best manage those details based on local conditions.

Although firework use for the upcoming 24th of July holiday is not prohibited in the Town, the following steps must be taken to be both safe and smart as well as to be in compliance with State law:

- Only use fireworks that are purchased from a legitimate dealer within the State of Utah
- Use fireworks with adequate adult supervision and only on hard surfaces or green lawn areas.
- Keep a water bucket and hose handy, since it takes precious minutes to find those items in a panic in the dark.
- Know which way the wind is blowing and make sure that sparks cannot get near cars, buildings, or dry weedy/grassy areas.

COUNTY SHERIFF CONTRACT – We have a limited contract with the County Sheriff Office for law enforcement in our community. Our intent is to have them help us by responding to 911 and Dispatch calls as well as providing specific problem solving assistance in addition to some random patrols. Generally we have a peaceful quiet community and we rely on each other being good neighbors to help keep it that way. Occasionally during some of those random patrols or near areas like “Thrill Hill” where we have asked for more help keeping the cars behaving safely, we might get a ticket or warning for speeding or rolling thru a stop sign. Remember the parent of small kids on a busy street may have a different perspective about traffic risks than a busy person that is late getting somewhere. Please do your part to be a good neighbor and leave a minute earlier and go a little slower to prevent both tragic accidents and the pain that a possible ticket would involve. We don’t want to seem heavy handed, nor do we want to ignore the safety concerns of residents.

NEW PARK – We had a great turnout for the Service Day where we installed hundreds of sprinklers and planted nearly 100 trees. We sincerely appreciate all the labor hours that were donated by the community as well as those that purchased a tree.

While we have been relying on RAPZ Tax awards from the County and donated labor from the community for the construction of various park items, the long term maintenance costs (mowing, irrigation share assessment, utilities, and general upkeep) have not been addressed while the park is still being developed. Soon there will be grass to be watered and mowed with legitimate costs that need to be covered. The Town Council and Park Committee both recognize that this is a regional county park as well as a park for the residents within the corporate boundary which brings unique challenges for covering the annual maintenance costs.

It is likely that RAPZ Tax monies will be available every few years (hopefully every year for a while) for capital improvements, but typically they do not fund ongoing expenses for parks. Perhaps where this park serves Avon and the Paradise suburbs, we can get some limited RAPZ funding for recurring costs but certainly nothing that can be relied upon each year. The Park Committee has asked the Town Council to explore an adjustment to the Property Tax rates for the Town as well as a Special District created to include the County residents that are near to Paradise to help cover maintenance costs.

Any increase in tax generally brings negative emotions and the community must decide if the value received from that increase brings the desired outcome. If the average home within the Town had an increase of the cost of 2 pizzas a year (about \$30,) there would be \$6,000 to be used to care for the open space and recreational facilities at the new park. When we buy a new TV or washing machine, we think nothing of the \$30 added to the bill as Sales Tax, but an upward adjustment of our Property Tax assessment always seems to stir the emotions.

At this point, we are too late to do anything about it for this upcoming fiscal year, but I would sincerely like to treat this as a straw poll and want feedback from all of you both positive and negative about an approximate \$30 bump in Property Tax to help fund the new park. **Please e-mail me and I will keep tally of the Yes/No as well as compile your comments.** Of course this is a non-binding way to determine the level of support for the concept and I will share the results!

Feel free to call or e-mail me with any concerns, comments, or questions regarding the above notes or other Town issues.

Leland Howlett – Mayor

720-3893 Home
245-6737 Town Office
mayor@paradise.utah.gov