



# TOWN OF ALTA NEWSLETTER

April 2006

A monthly report of municipal business in the Town of Alta

**MAYOR**  
Tom Pollard

**TOWN COUNCIL**  
Steven Gilman  
Bill Lennon  
Bill Levitt  
Paul Moxley

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
John Guldner

**TOWN CLERK**  
Kate Black

**JUSTICE COURT JUDGE**  
Clinton Balmforth

**JUSTICE COURT CLERK**  
Piper Lever

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**Inside this issue:**

Mayor's Report	1
Marshal's Report	1
Court Report for March and April	3
Safe Place	4
Recycling Reminder	4
Town Contacts and Information Sources	4

## Mayor's Report

**Mayor Pollard attended** the Mayors Conference on March 23. One significant issue discussed by the mayors is the proposed property tax referendum to fund TRAX expansion throughout the Salt Lake Valley. It is estimated that the tax will be about \$98 per year per \$150,000 assessed value for up to 30 years. This could be a significant amount for Alta homeowners. It is not known whether the referendum will make it on the November ballot.

**On March 28, during a large storm,** power and phone service (including cell phone service) to Alta Central, as well as other parts of town, were damaged. Telephone and email communications

regarding avalanche and road conditions from Alta Central to residents and businesses were severely affected. Homeland Security funds are currently being allocated to purchase satellite phone equipment to help communication in future emergencies. Qwest is also planning on implementing improvements to the phone line to make it more resistant to the type of damage sustained during the storm.

**Mayor Pollard and Town Administrator John Guldner attended** a "town meeting" on March 29 on under age drinking. The topic of discussion was the effects of underage drinking, and programs available to address underage drink-

ing.

**After an unusually difficult season** with respect to weather, avalanches, and other emergencies (including the Hellgate fire), Mayor Pollard and the Alta Town Council passed a resolution commending all those involved in emergency response and management, including the Alta Marshal's Office, the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Unified Fire Authority, Utah Department of Transportation and the UDOT avalanche forecasters, Alta Ski Lift Company, Alta Ski Patrol, Snowbird, and Snowbird Ski Patrol. It was recognized that the cooperative effort to plan for and respond to these

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Marshal's Report March 9 to April 13 2006

**March 9** —At 11:00 am, the Hellgate/Superior section of town was closed and interlodged due to the avalanche hazard. At 12:30 pm, Little Cottonwood Canyon Road was closed below the Snowbird Entry. One gate for avalanche

control in the lower canyon. The road was reopened at 1:00 pm.

**March 10**—At 6:30 am, the Town of Alta and all of Little Cottonwood Canyon were closed and interlodged for avalanche control. The restrictions were

lifted at 7:16 am. At 10:48 am, the Alta Marshal's Office and the Unified Fire Authority were dispatched to the Albion Grill to investigate a possible fire. The problem was located in the locker room on the ground

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Mayor's Report

*(Continued from page 1)*

emergencies was exceptional. The Alta Bypass Road will be closed during the summer season while Snowbird uses it as a staging area for a ski lift construction project. Residents along the Bypass Road, as well as Emergency vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians will be allowed to use the south lane of the Bypass Road during the construction period.

**Town Administrator Guldner reported** on the status of three court cases involving the Town. He also reported on two permits issued so far for this year, and the status of possible demolition and/or rebuild work to be conducted at Hellgate this summer.

**Alta Resort Association Director, Meghan Sitcoske, reported**

on activities of the ARA, including the status of the Ski Utah Planner and the Alta brochure. She also reported that the most recent promotion through American Express was successful. Summer hours for ARA will be 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

**A public hearing was held** during the April Town Council meeting to receive comments and questions on the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant funds for the 2006-2007 program. Three comments were heard, one from the Road Home, a homeless shelter which the Town proposed to give 9% of its CDBG allocation. The other two comments from individuals objecting to the proposed CDBG contributions from the Town to the Road Home, the YMCA Battered Women's Shelter, and the South Valley Sanctuary.

The Town Council approved the following allocation of CDBG funds: The Road Home (\$1,350); YWCA Battered Women's Shelter (\$500); South Valley Sanctuary (\$400); Community Center Equipment (\$4,650); Town Recycling Program (\$4,800); Town Park Improvements (\$2,000); and Alta Arts Council (\$1,300).

The Town Council voted to approve the Town's \$2,500 annual contribution to the Alta Bypass Shuttle. The shuttle is in its sixth season, and has reported increased use.

A resolution (2006R-4) authorizing the extension of the agreement between the Town and Salt Lake County Service Area #3 was approved by the Town Council. The contract agreement was increased from \$1,200 per month to \$1,300 per month.

## Marshal's Report

*(Continued from page 1)*

level. Faulty heat tape wrapped around a waterline caused the smoke and odor. At 1:53 pm, the deputy assisted an elderly man to locate his wife after they became separated in the Albion Base Area.

**March 11**—The Marshal spoke to a concerned dog owner claiming to be picking up more than her share of dog poop. The Marshal would like to remind dog owners and handlers that law requires them to clean up immediately after the dog does its business.

**March 12**—At 1:00 am, the Hellgate/Superior section of town was closed and interlodged. At 6:00 pm, the deputy investigated and took a report of missing property from a guest room at the Peruvian Lodge.

**March 13**—At 4:00 pm, a man was arrested on the charge of theft of services for using another person's ski pass at Alta. At 8:13 pm, the deputy was called to assist Snowbird Public

Safety with an intoxicated guest at the Snowbird Resort. At 9:22 pm, the Marshal's Office and UFA were dispatched to the Creekside Chalet on a medical call involving a four-year-old boy with a bad headache. The child was transported to the hospital by private vehicle.

**March 14**—At 2:37 pm, a 57-year-old man was transported by LifeFlight helicopter to a hospital with a head injury he sustained while skiing.

**March 15**—At 7:33 am, the Hellgate/Superior section of the Town of Alta was closed and interlodged due to the increasing avalanche hazard. At 8:00 am, Little Cottonwood Canyon Road was closed below Snowbird Entry One for avalanche control. The road reopened for a short time at 8:58 am only to be closed again at 9:08 am due to impassable road conditions. The road was plowed and reopened at 10:46 am. At 9:40 am, while all the road problems were being addressed, the Marshal was dispatched to assist

the County Sheriffs and Snowbird Public Safety with an extremely intoxicated man who was rallying around the Gad Valley parking lot in his truck smashing into snowbanks. He was arrested and booked into jail on several charges. At 1:00 pm a woman called to report a lost wallet. At 11:35 pm a report was taken from two local employees who, over a period of a few hours, were conned out of several hundred dollars by a man they met at a bus stop in Alta. There are a couple of leads in this incident and the case will remain under investigation.

**March 16**—At 6:15 am, sections of the Town and Snowbird were interlodged to facilitate the use of a helicopter for avalanche control work. The restrictions were lifted at 7:07 am.

**March 17**—At 9:46 am, an Alta resident experienced the frustration of losing his car for several hours. What

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Court Report for March and April 2006

The Alta Justice Court had 26 defendants in court during the March and April court sessions. Fourteen of the cases heard were moving traffic violations. Most of the defendants were offered plea in abeyance agreements, in which the charge would be dismissed after a certain period of time if the defendant could avoid any subsequent moving violations. The standard State fine schedule was followed (1-10 mph over the speed limit is \$92, 11-15 mph over is \$117, 16-20 mph over is \$167 and 20-25 over is \$242).

Other cases included two citations issued by the state task force that enforces tobacco laws; these two violations were for selling tobacco to minors in local lodges. The defendants both pled guilty. One was fined \$280, which is the standard set by the State and the other was fined \$200.

There were three theft of services charges brought against defendants

for trying to ski in the lift-serviced area using someone else's season ski pass. One defendant could not make it back to court after returning to his home in Montana. The Judge offered the defendant the option to pay the standard bail forfeiture of \$555 and \$49 restitution to the Lift Company in lieu of a court appearance. The other two defendants appeared to plead guilty. One was ordered to pay the \$555 fine plus the \$49 restitution. Thirty days of jail was suspended in that judgment as long as the defendant keeps up with his payment schedule. The other defendant was fined \$500, with \$250 of that suspended; 12 months of probation was ordered.

A couple of parking tickets were contested in court. Both defendants pled not guilty. One ended up paying his ticket and the other has a bench trial scheduled for May 25.

A defendant appeared to plead guilty to possession of a controlled substance. The defendant was offered a 12 month plea in abeyance if he pays the \$350 fine and follows the terms of his 12 month probation.

A local employee appeared to plead guilty of driving with an open container. He pled guilty and was fined \$100.

During March and April 2006, forty-seven traffic cases were filed, including eleven moving violations, two non-moving violations, no driver license violations and thirty-five parking tickets. Seventy-six traffic cases were disposed of either through bail forfeiture, trial, arraignment or transfer. Four new criminal cases were filed and four were disposed.

## Marshal's Report

*(Continued from page 2)*

started as a good day driving to and stopping by the Snowbird Cliff Lodge for a cup of coffee turned into a nightmare when someone mistakenly took his car from the hotel valet. It took several hours and the cooperation of other police agencies to track down and find the obviously distracted driver who was unaware he was driving someone else's car. The car was later recovered at a hospital in the Salt Lake Valley where the man works.

**March 18**—At 6:20 am, the deputy assisted the County Sheriffs with two tour buses blocking the roadway at Entry One of Snowbird. At 10:18 am, an Alta Ski Lifts employee reported a missing snowmobile that was parked near the Alta cat shop. It was later found and recovered crashed into a tree off the Albion Road. At 10:00 pm, the Hellgate/Superior section of town was closed and interlodged due to the

increasing avalanche hazard.

**March 20**—At 11:31 am the Alta Marshal's Office was dispatched to the Goldminer's Lodge when a 13-year-old child collapsed. The child was taken to the Alta Medical Clinic. At 12:47 pm a man was arrested for theft of services when he was caught skiing with someone else's ski pass.

**March 21**—At 7:45 am the Alta Bypass Road was temporarily closed for avalanche control in the Blackjack area of Snowbird. At 9:00 am the Hellgate/Superior section of town was closed and interlodged due to the increasing avalanche danger. At 11:12 am another person was arrested for theft of services when caught skiing with someone else's ski pass. At 9:37 pm the Alta deputy investigated a hit and run car crash near the Rustler Lodge.

**March 23**—At 1:18 pm the Hellgate/Superior section of town was closed and interlodged due to the avalanche hazard. The restrictions were lifted at

6:14 pm. At 1:39 pm the lower canyon was closed due to wet slide avalanche activity. It was reopened at 3:44 pm.

**March 26**—At 6:55 am the Alta Bypass Road was temporarily closed for avalanche control in the Blackjack area of Snowbird.

**March 28**—At 5:50 am the Town of Alta started experiencing electrical power problems. The problem became very apparent when a large phone line exploded in the basement of Alta Central, filling the building with smoke. Apparently a downed power line came in contact with a phone line, energizing it with high voltage, literally melting the phone system. It took a couple of days to restore phone services to Alta Central and neighboring businesses. Emergency and 911 calls were routed through County Sheriff's Dispatch.

**March 30**—At 5:18 pm a report of a missing person was quickly resolved by dispatch.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**TOWN OF ALTA**  
**PO BOX 8016**  
**ALTA, UTAH 84092-8016**

**Contacts and Information Sources**

Website—<http://www.alta.utah.gov>  
Town of Alta Phone: (801) 742-3522 or (801) 363-5105  
Town of Alta Fax: (801) 742-1006  
Post Office Phone: (801) 742-2142  
Library/Community Center Phone: (801) 742-2068  
Alta Resort Association Phone: (801) 742-0101  
Justice Court Clerk Phone: (801) 742-2407  
Alta Central Info Line: (801) 742-3403  
UDOT Cottonwood Canyons Hotline: (801) 975-4838

**SAFE PLACE**

The Town of Alta is participating in the Salt Lake County Division of Youth Services' "Safe Place" Program. The Town office, Alta Central, and Community Center/Library buildings are official "Safe Place" locations, open to youth seeking assistance in getting to help, safety, shelter, and support.

**ALTA BOXHOLDER**

The Town of Alta facilitates a voluntary drop-off recycling program. Recyclable materials should be placed in trailers located near the Alta Community Center/Library building. In addition to cardboard, paper, and aluminum, we now accept plastics #1 and #2. Contact Laura McIndoe for recycling questions.



**Marshal's Report**

*(Continued from page 3)*

**April 1**—The Marshal's Office took complaints of some mean spirited April fools jokes that were more damaging than funny. At 2:38 pm a report and investigation was started regarding some fraudulent Alta Ski Area passes.

**April 3**—At 10:22 am another arrest was made at Alta Ski Lifts when a person was caught using someone else's pass.

**April 4**—At 10:51 an investigation into an alleged sexual abuse incident that occurred March 17th at a party in Alta was filed with the County Attorney's Office. At 9:10 pm, the Marshal's Office and the UFA were dispatched to the Peruvian Lodge when a drunken partier fell on his face while running through the parking lot. The victim was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

**April 6**—At 9:50 am the Hellgate/Superior section of town was closed

and interlodged due to the increasing avalanche hazard. At 12:00 pm the road was closed at Entry Two of Snowbird for mid-canyon avalanche control. This was followed up by interlodge at the Snowbird Resort at 3:00 pm for avalanche control work over Snowbird Village. The road was reopened for a short time when an avalanche hit the road mid-canyon, pushing one car and its seven occupants over the side. No one was injured in the incident. This avalanche caused an emergency closure and interlodge of the entire canyon; many people ended up staying the night at Snowbird and Alta because of the canyon closure.

**April 7**—At 7:00 am avalanche control was started in Little Cottonwood Canyon and completed at 8:30 am. The road remained closed due to complications with plowing and removal of abandoned vehicles until 12:20 pm.

**April 8**—At 7:26 pm the Alta Marshal's Office and UFA responded to

the Alta Lodge to help a guest who fainted.

**April 10**—At 8:08 am the Alta Marshal's Office and UFA were dispatched to the Blackjack Condominiums to help a 14-year-old who was having difficulty breathing. The patient was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

Other duties of the Marshal's Office during this period included:

- 15 Alcohol Enforcements
- 138 Business and Property Checks
- 31 Motorist Assists
- 25 Motorist Violations
- 7 Watershed Violations
- 2 Ski Thefts
- 14 Ski Rack Patrols
- 7 Agency Assists
- 3 Vehicle Impounds