



DEC 2024

# THE EAGLE'S VIEW Newsletter

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**MAYOR'S MINUTE  
TOM WESTMORELAND**

## Where we've been, where we're going

As we close out another remarkable year in Eagle Mountain, it's an ideal moment to reflect on where we've been and where we're headed.

Our city is truly unlike most others. As one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation, we face challenges that some cities have taken a century to encounter—yet we meet them with innovation, determination and resilience.

There's so much to be proud of this year. Eagle Mountain continues to lead the way, setting the standard for excellence in many areas. Our City staff has earned state and national recognition for events, marketing and accounting. Our budget practices have become a model for other municipalities. Our road maintenance is celebrated as a gold standard, and, when other regions seek guidance on managing wildlife and preserving open spaces, they turn to us.

Eagle Mountain is quickly becoming a hub for technological innovation and economic development. The state views our city as a prime location for significant business growth and our Chamber of Commerce is thriving.

Our library has seen extraordinary growth, serving as a vital resource and a gathering place for our residents. We've also complet-

ed a new 4-million gallon water tank in the White Hills area, ensuring our infrastructure keeps pace with our city's expansion.

Speaking of White Hills, the upcoming Firefly development promises to be an exceptional addition to our community, offering amenities that will make it a truly unique place to live.

Our parks and trails continue to attract visitors from near and far, and we've celebrated standout achievements like our Pony Express Rodeo, which was awarded Rodeo of the Year.

Looking ahead, progress is all around us. We're working to preserve the right-of-way for the future Cedar Valley Freeway, and the much-anticipated Walmart and Old Airport Road are on track to open next summer. From roads and housing to parks, economic development, wildlife preservation, and utility services, Eagle Mountain is at the forefront of discussions shaping Utah's future.

Of course, growth brings challenges, and, as we look to 2025, one of our top priorities is addressing the statewide shortage of electric power. For a city growing as rapidly as Eagle Mountain, reliable energy is critical. We are working closely with state leaders to find solutions and are committed to mak-

ing electric power our top focus in the upcoming legislative session.

You may have seen recent news about the possibility of nuclear power generation in Eagle Mountain. While this is one potential path, we are actively exploring all options to ensure a sustainable and reliable power future for our city. Rest assured, any plan we pursue will meet the highest standards of safety and innovation. Our goal is to make choices that reflect our values as a community while continuing to lead by example for other cities to follow.

As we move into the new year, I want to thank each of you for your contributions to making Eagle Mountain such a special place to live, work, and thrive. Together, we've achieved incredible things, and with your continued support, the future of Eagle Mountain is brighter than ever.

**RAD KIDS &  
RAD WOMEN**

**SELF  
DEFENSE  
CLASSES**

**REGISTER  
NOW**



## EAGLE MOUNTAIN NEWS

# Chief Deputy Eric McDowell announces retirement

After nearly three decades of service with the Utah County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Eric McDowell will retire on Feb. 1, 2025.

Known for his sense of humor, big personality, and unwavering commitment to Eagle Mountain, McDowell leaves behind a legacy at the Sheriff's Office Eagle Mountain division that will resonate for years to come.

"I've been with the Sheriff's Office for almost 28 years, and my time in Eagle Mountain has felt like so much more than just an assignment," McDowell said. "It truly has been like a calling and a second hometown for me."

McDowell first joined the Utah County Sheriff's Office in 1997.

"I pursued an opportunity with the Utah County Sheriff's Office," McDowell recalled.

That sense of purpose came into focus in July 2007 when McDowell was assigned to Eagle Mountain.

At the time, the city was different than today, with a population of about 17,000 people spread across a handful of distinct neighborhoods. Over the years, McDowell has watched the city grow exponentially to more than 60,000 residents. What remained constant through that transformation, however, was the connection he felt to the people he served.

"The residents here have always appreci-

ated our efforts and have treated us well," McDowell said.

McDowell's tenure in Eagle Mountain has been defined by his ability to foster trust.

Whether it was building relationships with City leaders or ensuring that his deputies felt supported, McDowell approached every aspect of his role with sincerity. He describes the trust he has cultivated with the community as one of his proudest accomplishments.

"I've been fortunate to work with deputies of high character assigned to this division over the years," McDowell said.

Some of McDowell's most memorable experiences in Eagle Mountain came during times of hardship. He reflects on the tragedy of Sgt. Cory Wride's death in 2014 as a moment that showcased the community's compassion.

Throughout his nearly 28 years in law enforcement, McDowell has seen the profession evolve.

"The most significant changes in law enforcement during my career have been seen with technological advancements with the equipment our deputies are issued," McDowell said.

As he prepares for retirement, McDowell is focused on spending time with his family and tackling a growing list of projects.

"There is a 'to-do' list which is lengthening by the day I hope to take care of," McDowell said.

## EVENT CALENDAR

DEC 31	Noon Year's Eve - Library
JAN 1	New Year's Day - City Offices Closed
JAN 7	City Council Meeting - Council Chambers Teen Maker's Lab - Library
JAN 9	3D Art Workshop - Library Adult Book Club - Library
JAN 11	Family Puzzle Day - Library
JAN 13	Play N' Learn - Library
JAN 14	Storytime - Library Planning Commission Mtg - Council Chambers LEGO Club - Library
JAN 16	Kids STEAM Lab - Library Thread & Yarn Club - Library
JAN 20	MLK Jr. Day - City Offices Closed
JAN 21	City Council Meeting - Council Chambers

A new chief deputy has not yet been appointed to the Utah County Sheriff's Office's Eagle Mountain division. McDowell's advice for his successor is simple.

"Observe and allow yourself to get acclimated to the environment," he said. "We have good people assigned to the Eagle Mountain Division, trust the supervisors and allow them to lead their patrol teams."

As Eagle Mountain bids farewell to Chief Deputy McDowell, it does so with gratitude. His dedication has left a mark on the city and its residents.

Eagle Mountain City is conducting a survey that aims to understand residents' design, style, and concept preferences for the future downtown area. Survey results and comments will then be used to inform and guide the planning process for concept development. [Share your thoughts with us today!](#)



## KNOW THE CODE

# Accessory dwelling units

One of the most common requests the Planning Division receives at Eagle Mountain City pertains to Accessory Dwelling Units, otherwise known as ADUs.

### What is an Accessory Dwelling Unit?

ADUs are popular for property owners that want to create a second living space for family members (sometimes referred to as Mother-in-Law apartments, or Granny Flats) or for rentals.

Accessory Dwelling Units, or ADUs, are defined as "An independent habitable living unit, with a kitchen, bath facilities, and it's own entry." ADUs may be:

- 1) Internal ADUs, located within or attached to a Single-family detached dwelling unit; or
- 2) Detached ADUs, which are located within a separate or detached structure (such as above a detached garage or in a small standalone structure)

### Where are ADUs allowed?

ADU's are allowed in all single-family-zoned property in Eagle Mountain. Internal ADUs are permitted in all single-family detached homes and Detached ADUs are permitted on all lots of 8,000 sq. ft. or more.

### ADU Development Standards

Internal and external ADUs follow different sets of standards. For details specific to certain ADUs, visit the [City's website](#).

Standards that apply to all ADUs are as follows:

#### o Standards for all ADUs

§ Parking Off-street parking for one vehicle in addition to required parking of two parking spaces for the primary dwelling unit shall be provided. Parking may not be in front of garage doors, and must be on a hard surface (Concrete or Asphalt). Occupants of ADUs may not park on the street.

§ Address ADUs shall have the same address number but be referred to as Unit B

§ Short-term rentals: ADUs may not be rented for a period of less than 30 consecutive days

### How to get an ADU?

Planning Staff will evaluate the permit and if it is found in compliance, an approval letter will then be issued.



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE  
TODD BLACK

## Wintering wildlife

Observing winter wildlife, including songbirds, raptors, mule deer, elk and other animals can be a fascinating and rewarding aspect of nature. However, it's important to approach feeding and interactions with care, especially during the colder months when wild animals are more vulnerable.

Here's an overview of how to responsibly care for wildlife during winter, focusing on feeding birds, keeping dogs on leash around deer and elk and considerations for wintering wildlife populations.

### Feeding birds in winter

Birds often need extra food during the winter months when natural sources like seeds, insects and berries become scarce. Follow these guidelines:

Give high-energy foods: Offer high-calorie food like black oil sunflower seeds, suet, unsalted peanuts, and mealworms to help birds stay warm.

Avoid bread: Bread lacks nutrition and can harm birds if consumed in large amounts. Stick to seeds, nuts and fat-based food.

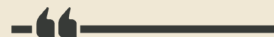
Use a variety of feeders: Tube feeders, platform

feeders, and suet cages attract different species. Place feeders in safe locations, away from predators like cats.

Keep feeders clean: Regularly clean feeders with soap and water to prevent disease.

Water for drinking: Provide a heated birdbath or refill it with warm water regularly during freezing temperatures.

Plant native shrubs and trees: Native trees and shrubs that provide berries and shelter can support local bird populations in winter.



**Always leash your dog in areas where deer or elk are present**



### Keep your dogs on a leash when around deer and elk

When walking your dog in areas with deer or elk, keep them on a leash to protect both wildlife and your pet.

Wildlife stress: Deer and elk are already stressed by winter. Dogs can cause

them to flee into dangerous areas.

Predation risk: Dogs may chase or harass wildlife, leading to injury or exhaustion for the animals.

Dog safety: Defensive wildlife behavior can be dangerous for pets and people.

Maintain distance: Stay at least 100 yards from wildlife. Always leash your dog in areas where deer or elk are present.

### General guidelines for observing wildlife in winter

Minimize human impact: Avoid off-trail hiking, loud noises or other actions that could stress animals.

Keep pets under control: Ensure pets are indoors or in controlled areas, especially during extreme cold.

Support conservation efforts: Habitat loss, food scarcity and human interference impact wintering wildlife. Support conservation programs or volunteer with organizations dedicated to protecting these species.

Winter can be tough for wildlife, but with a little care and respect, we can help them thrive while preserving their natural behaviors.



## BUILDING & PLANNING MIKE MALAY

### Safe & efficient snow removal

As winter approaches, snowstorms can pose significant challenges for homeowners and businesses. To help manage snow buildup and maintain safety, here are key strategies and tools for effective snow removal.

#### Melting Ice and Snow

To combat hardened snow, ice melt products (such as calcium chloride or magnesium chloride) can be highly effective, even in sub-zero temperatures. Applying rock salt or ice melt before snowstorms creates a barrier that helps prevent snow from bonding to surfaces and provides better traction on driveways. Always follow manufacturer instructions and avoid excessive use to protect the environment and sensitive surfaces.

#### Plastic Tarps for Easy Snow Removal

If you're tired of shoveling snow, try laying a plastic tarp over driveways or sidewalks before the snowstorm hits. When it's time to clear snow,

simply pull the tarp away, taking the snow with it. This method is quicker than shoveling, though it may be more difficult with heavy snowfalls.

#### Leaf Blowers and Snow Blowers

Leaf blowers work well for light, fluffy snow early in a storm but lose effectiveness once the snow compacts. For tougher snow, snow blowers are more efficient. Choose a powerful machine, clear obstacles from the area, and take smaller passes to gradually remove hardened snow. Regular maintenance ensures optimal performance, and always prioritize safety when operating machinery.

#### Preventative Measures

Preparation before a storm can make snow removal much easier. Weatherproof your property by installing storm windows and plastic films. Apply weatherstripping to doors. Protect pipes by insulating outdoor pipes and adding extra attic insulation. Trim tree branches to prevent damage from heavy snow, and clear gutters to avoid ice dams.

#### Snow-Melting Mats

For a low-effort, long-term solution, consider snow-melting mats. These mats use heating technology to keep driveways and walkways clear of snow and ice, reducing the need for manual shoveling.

#### Pretreat Your Property

Apply a liquid deicer or salt brine solution to your property before a snowstorm. This treatment creates a protective barrier, making it easier to remove snow and reducing the risk of ice formation.

Effective snow removal requires both preparation and the right tools. By staying proactive, using the right products, and maintaining equipment, you can ensure your property remains safe and accessible all winter long. For any questions, feel free to reach out to the building department at [buildinginspections@eaglemountain.gov](mailto:buildinginspections@eaglemountain.gov).

Stay safe and prepared this winter!

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 2024: A year in review



This year has been an exciting one for commercial and industrial development in Eagle Mountain. Construction on the new Walmart is underway, several new businesses have opened their doors, and others have been announced. Additionally, new phases of commercial centers are currently in the planning and approval stages.

We also began the exciting process of planning a new downtown area. The Eagle Mountain Chamber of Commerce has grown significantly, launching new programs like Launch Pad. Business licenses saw a 7.7% increase, reflecting the growing entrepreneurial spirit in our community.

Much of the work happening behind the scenes is setting the stage for incredible results in 2025. If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach