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MAYOR'S MINUTE TOM WESTMORELAND

Planting roots for Eagle Mountain's future

As mayor of Eagle Mountain, I've always believed that our city's strength lies not just in our rapid growth or economic development, but in the thoughtful choices we make today that shape the quality of life for generations to come.

This spring, we're embarking on an initiative to expand our tree canopy: a project that reflects our commitment to sustainability, community well-being and long-term planning.

City Forester Alec Boydston is leading this effort, which will see trees planted at 10 locations across Eagle Mountain in 2025. The first of these plantings will occur near the Maverik and car wash at Ranches Parkway and State Route 73, where 19 trees are set to be added. Additionally, all City parks will receive new trees on a park-by-park basis.

We've allocated funds specifically for this initiative because we recognize the long-term return.

As these new trees begin to appear around the city, I hope you'll take a moment to notice them. They're more than just landscaping; they represent years of planning, budgeting, and behind-the-scenes work by our dedicated staff to make Eagle Mountain more livable and beautiful for the long term.

Alec and his team are taking a thoughtful, science-based approach to this work. They're choosing trees not just for looks, but for their

ability to thrive in Eagle Mountain's unique conditions such as our elevation, soil, water availability, and wind exposure.

Hardy, water-wise species like elm, box elder, oak, and select evergreens will form the backbone of our city's new canopy. We're also working with homebuilders to avoid the common mistake of planting the same species in rows, which makes trees more vulnerable to disease. Diversity is key to a healthy community forest.

I've lived in Eagle Mountain long enough to remember when much of this area was open land. As we grow, we have a responsibility to ensure that we're not just expanding outward, but also building up the natural beauty and ecological resilience of our city.

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The trees we plant today won't reach their

full potential during my time in office. This is a gift we're giving to our children and their children. A mature tree canopy takes decades to develop.

Of course, this effort goes beyond what the City can do on its own. If you're a homeowner, I encourage you to care of the trees on your property.

Further, I want residents to feel involved and communicate to the City to encourage further tree planting.

This past winter was dry, and many trees are showing signs of moisture stress. Watering deeply and mulching properly can make a big difference in their long-term health.

Together, we can create a greener, more sustainable Eagle Mountain, one tree at a time. I'm proud of the work our staff is doing to lead this effort, and I'm excited to see these new trees take root and grow along with our community.

Let's plant wisely. Let's plant for the future.

**PONY
EXPRESS
DAYS**

**MAY 29-
JUNE 13**

**DETAILS AT
EAGLE
MOUNTAIN
.GOV**



EAGLE MOUNTAIN NEWS

Alberta delegation visits Eagle Mountain to learn from data center success

A delegation of elected officials and staffers from Sturgeon County, Alberta, Canada visited Eagle Mountain in April as part of a Learning Tour aimed at better understanding the city's data center development model.

Located just north of Edmonton, Sturgeon County has been exploring opportunities to grow its own technology infrastructure and was introduced to Eagle Mountain late last year.

The delegation identified Eagle Mountain as a leader in data center planning and implementation, especially when it comes to managing environmental impacts, community benefits and long-term sustainability.

"There's a growing global interest in how communities can harness the economic potential of data centers while also protecting their resources and supporting residents," said Eagle Mountain Economic Development Director Evan Berrett. "We're proud that Eagle Mountain is being seen as a model for doing this well."

The delegation's visit included a guided tour of Meta's Eagle Mountain data center campus.

Meta has played a central role in positioning the city as a rising hub for tech infrastructure, with ongoing investments in state-of-the-art facilities that are designed to be energy efficient and integrated with the community.

"It was a pleasure to welcome our Canadian visitors and share how Eagle Mountain has approached the development of this indus-

try," said Berrett. "We've worked hard to create an environment where data centers can excel without sacrificing our environmental values or the needs of our residents."

The City's approach is gaining national recognition for its thoughtful planning, which emphasizes water conservation, clean energy and responsible land use.

Eagle Mountain also places a strong emphasis on negotiating long-term public benefit as part of its development agreements with data center operators.

"These projects are about strategic investment in our future," says Berrett. "Data centers bring jobs, tax revenue, and the chance to invest in services and amenities that will enhance quality of life for our residents over time."

Eagle Mountain's careful planning has not only attracted tech leaders like Meta but also sparked interest from municipalities across North America seeking to replicate its success.

"Seeing another county so engaged and eager to learn from us was really encouraging," said Berrett. "It shows that what we're doing here has broader relevance. We're showing that even a relatively young and fast-growing city can help set the standard for responsible innovation."

The Sturgeon County delegation's tour was part of a broader initiative to examine best practices in tech-related economic development. Their visit included time with City officials to discuss zoning, permitting, infra-

EVENT CALENDAR

MAY 1	Pajama Party Storytime – Library
MAY 5	Library Closed for Maintenance
MAY 6	City Council Meeting – Council Chambers
MAY 8	Adult Book Club – Library
MAY 13	Planning Commission Mtg – Council Chambers
MAY 19	Seed Savers Exchange – Library
MAY 20	City Council Meeting – Council Chambers
MAY 21	Wildlife & Nature Education – Council Chambers
MAY 22	Motivation Mile World Record – Cory Wride Park
MAY 26	Memorial Day – City Offices & Library Closed
	Memorial Day Ceremony – Cemetery
MAY 28	PXP Days Family Fun Night – Nolen Park
MAY 29	PXP Days Carnival – Cory Wride Park
MAY 30	PXP Days Carnival – Cory Wride Park
MAY 31	PXP Days Grande Parade – Pony Express Pkwy.
	PXP Days Carnival – Cory Wride Park

structure planning, and how Eagle Mountain collaborates with industry partners to align development with long-term community goals.

City leaders hope that sharing their insights with others will lead to stronger, more resilient tech infrastructure development across North America.

"We're not just focused on growth, we're focused on the right kind of growth," said Berrett. "That's what makes the difference, and that's what makes visits like today's so meaningful."

Eagle Mountain resident Ben Lyne (aka "Runner Guy with a Sign") is attempting to break a world record and he needs your help! Join him on Thurs., May 22 to create the world's longest chain of people holding inspirational signs. Meet at Cory Wride Park at 3 p.m. to help make history!



KNOW THE CODE

Accumulation prohibited

This time of year, when landscaping projects and general property maintenance activities are being addressed, we have found that many properties adjacent to Eagle Mountain City open spaces, yard waste and other debris is being dumped over fences. Landscaping material such as mulch, dirt, and gravel is also being dumped in the street/gutter in front of properties.

When the Neighborhood Improvement department is made aware of this, the homeowner will be sent a dated notice for the material/yard waste to be removed. If the debris is not removed, an invoiced \$50 a day until compliance will be sent to the property address.

15.65.060 Clean gutter.

Once the curb and gutter and surface course is in place it shall be kept as clean as possible. When equipment is required to cross over sidewalk, bridging will be provided to protect concrete. Dirt and gravel will not be placed in gutter or on street. Gutter will flow freely at all times.

8.05.150 Accumulation prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to accumulate, throw, discard, deposit, place, sweep, dump, conduct or allow any person to accumulate, throw, discard, deposit, place, sweep, dump or conduct any solid waste or litter into or upon any public place, private premises, street, road, alley, property abutting any alley, stream, well, spring, canal, ditch, gutter, lot or any other property or place, above or below ground level.



LIVING WITH WILDLIFE

TODD BLACK

Purr-vasive outdoor cats can destroy bird populations

Let's just say I'm not a cat fan, at all, least of all a feral cat fan.

One thing I've never understood is why dog people must keep dogs on a leash, keep them in their yards and under control, but cat people: not so much. Some simply let their cats out, especially at night and let them wander here and there, and are granted unlimited freedom. Now, I know that not all cat people are this way, a few keep them inside and rarely let them out to keep close tabs on them. Others don't.

I see weekly on social media those looking for lost cats or dogs announced via social media. I see them dead on the roads and I know firsthand a few lost cats that have become owl food or coyote food.

Per our City Code (6.05.090), under conditions of animal ownership it states that "animals shall be restrained or confined as required by law" and that "animals shall not be permitted to disturb the peace or constitute a public nuisance or hazard." To me, this just says be responsible pet owners and

don't let them cause problems.

I know that some of you will say, 'Todd this is easy, unleashed dogs can attack and hurt people.' While I'd agree with that, I know cats can do that as well.

I know an older lady, let's call her "mom" who was attacked by a cat at her doorstep and yada, yada, a week later, six rabies shots, and an IV to treat the infection. Her insurance paid the hospital \$6,000. All this for a nasty cat that bit her calf/ankle area causing enough pain, infection and swelling that she couldn't walk for several days.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, free-roaming and feral cats pose a significant threat to bird populations. Some estimates suggest they kill billions of birds annually in the U.S. alone. Some are suggesting that with some species of birds, cats are contributing enough to bird populations that it is causing localized extinctions.

As we approach the nesting season and transition into fledgling season, let's

work to keep our cats and dogs under control. We can do better; we can educate our neighbors and help eliminate any unwanted bird mortalities.

Here are some things we can all do, as recommended by the many different bird groups to reduce unwanted bird deaths from cats (and dogs).

First, keep your cat indoors through June if you can. This is the best and most obvious way to reduce the impact of cats on birds locally, keep them indoors or in a controlled environment.

Now I'm not an expert and don't even know what these are, but folks that are in the know say to build a "catio" (enclosed outdoor space) for your cat to allow them outdoor time without the risk of hunting birds.

Increased public outreach and education is needed to inform citizens about the conservation and welfare problems caused by outdoor cats. Start by sharing this article if you know someone who likes to just let their cat out and wander freely.



BUILDING & PLANNING MIKE MALAY

Protecting your home from pests

Homeowners may occasionally notice an unwelcome guest or two: rodents and other pests seeking shelter.

These little intruders are a nuisance and can cause serious property damage, trigger allergies, spread germs and even carry diseases.

Here are a few tips to help protect your home from unwanted visitors:

Seal Off the Entry Points

Rodents and bugs don't need much space to sneak in. A mouse can squeeze through a hole the size of a dime.

Residents should examine cracks in their foundation or siding, gaps around windows and doors, openings at the roofline, and garage doors with worn-out weather stripping.

Use quality sealants like caulk or foam and

consider stainless steel or copper mesh for tougher areas. Weather stripping and door sweeps also make a substantial difference.

Keep Moisture Under Control

Water is one of the biggest attractants for pests. Damp wood invites termites and carpenter ants, while standing water attracts insects of all kinds.

Fix leaky faucets, hoses, and sprinklers; clean and direct gutters away from the home, and slope soil away from the foundation for better drainage. A dry home is a pest-free home.

Choose Pest-Resistant Building Materials

If you're building, upgrading, repairing, or renovating, you have an extra opportunity to make your home pest-resistant from the ground up.

Use materials like brick, fiber cement, or concrete. Or you can choose borate-treated wood and insulation.

Eliminate Food & Shelter

Rodents and pests settle where they can eat and hide. So be sure to keep trash in sealed containers, clean up pet food and crumbs, declutter garages, and seal gaps under your sinks.

Even after pests are gone, their dander, droppings, and fur can linger and aggravate allergies. Prevention is the best cure.

And if you ever feel overwhelmed or spot signs of infestation like droppings, chewing marks or scratching in the walls, don't hesitate to call a licensed pest control professional.

Staying ahead of pest problems protects your home, your health and your wallet. Many of the same steps we recommend for energy efficiency, like sealing and water management, also help keep pests outside where they belong.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

City Council directs funds for small business assistance



The Community Development Block Grant program directs Federal funds to communities of sufficient size to promote the development of programs and services or make capital investments that support targeted people or businesses in need. Municipalities, working with certain rules, can determine how those funds are to be used to support the local community.

The Eagle Mountain City Council recently approved the use of our allocation, with \$150,000 going toward supporting small businesses. This is a new funding source for local economic development efforts that we are excited to use for the benefit of our small business owners/operators.

City staff are currently exploring the best uses for these funds and welcomes input from local business owners or future entrepreneurs. Our aim is to make this as widely available as possible.

Residents and business owners can expect more details to come in the next couple of months.