



# News from 10,000 Feet!

*September 2013*

*Brian Head Town News*

*Volume 11*

## **Brian Head Town Reservoir Project**

*(by Tom Stratton, Public Works Director)*

Brian Head Town is creating a Reservoir! This project will benefit our Town's economy and the local farmers in the Parowan Valley. It is scheduled to be completed by April 2014. By the time the project is completed, the Reservoir will be approximately 600 feet in length, 350 feet in width, and have a depth of 30 feet. We are transplanting fish in the Reservoir in the Spring of 2014.

The Brian Head Town Reservoir is being engineered by Advanced Environmental Engineering and J.P. Excavating is completing the excavation work. Judd Palmer, owner of J.P. Excavating, is a property owner in Brian Head. By the end of the project, 250,000 cubic yards of dirt will be removed.

In the Spring/Summer seasons tourists and locals will be able to enjoy fishing (from the shore or by boat) and boating on the Reservoir in non-motorized water craft (i.e. kayaks, small fishing boats, and paddle boats). In the Fall, after Labor Day each year, the water will be let out into the Parowan Valley for the Farmers to use to water their crops.

A bond election was held last November to vote on funding for the project. The project is being funded as follows: a) a low-interest Community Impact Board (CIB) loan has been obtained for \$2,000,000; b) the Town's Redevelopment Agency fund will be contributing \$600,000 towards the project; and 3) monies from the USDA loan/grant fund will be used.

Some of the features of the new Reservoir will be: picnic areas, a fishing dock, walking trails, grass areas, and a pavilion with lights. Come and check out this new recreational spot next Spring! It's a fun way to get out of the heat, relax, and enjoy nature's beautiful scenery. *(See page 6 for the proposed final project.)*



**The Meadow - before the Brian Head Town Reservoir Project**



**Brian Head Town Reservoir Project - Under Construction**

2013 Tour of Utah – Stage One

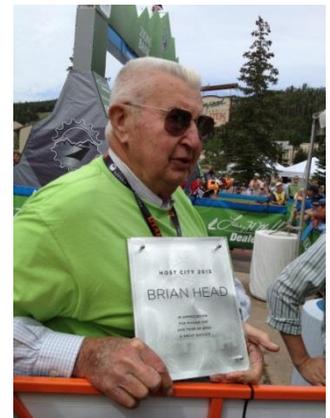
On August 6, 2013, Stage One of the 2013 Tour of Utah bicycle race started at the parking lot of Giant Steps Lodge in Brian Head, Utah. A large crowd gathered to watch the exciting event! Before sending the participants off, the National Anthem was sung by Garrett Robinson and Nathan Hatton, students from Parowan High School. Mayor Deutschlander then gave a speech welcoming the participants to Brian Head. After a scenic ride from Brian Head to Panguitch to Cedar City, the first day of the race ended in Cedar City, Utah where the Stage One winners were announced. Stage One winner was Greg Van Avermaet (from Belgium), with Michael Matthews (from Australia) taking second. Tyler Magner (from the USA) took third place and Michael Torkler (from New Zealand) was named “King of the Mountain.”



Brian Head, UT - starting point of the 2013 Tour of Utah Bicycle Race (photo courtesy of Cecilia Johnson)



And . . . they're off! (photo courtesy of Cecilia Johnson)



Bottom Right Photo – Mayor H C Deutschlander accepts the plaque (on behalf of Brian Head Town) for being a 2013 Tour of Utah Host City (photo courtesy of Alice Mattson)

Sixteen professional cycling teams, with members from seven countries and four continents, were participants of the 2013 Tour of Utah event. The cyclists were from Australia, Brazil, China, Italy, Luxembourg, South Africa, and the United States. The race was broadcast in 50 Countries!

The 586 mile race took place in six stages, ending in Park City, Utah, where the overall winners were announced. First place winner was Tom Danielson (USA) of Team Garmin-Sharp. Second place went to Chris Horner (USA) of Radio Shack Leopard Trek team and third place was awarded to Francisco Mancebo (Spain) of the 5-Hour Energy team. Michael Torkler (New Zealand) kept the title of “King of the Mountain”. Overall, the 2013 Tour of Utah was a big success and show-cased the beautiful Utah scenery! Hopefully, Southern Utah will be a part of this special event every year!



Bear Flat Pump House under construction – (above is front view with the water wheel pumping water; below is side view)

**Town Tidbits . . .**

- Brian Head Town will be renting a wood-chipper in September. We will have it for approximately 10 days. If you have any unwanted wood debris (i.e. limbs, branches, stumps, logs, etc.) please take it to the intersection of Mountain View Road and Falcon Court during that time. All wood will be made into chips, which are free to the public. The chips are good for mulch and/or landscaping and for use to help get your fires going!

- Brian Head Town will hold a Surplus Property Sale on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Among the many miscellaneous items, 2 Town Trucks will be up for sale. Property will go to the highest bidder on each item. Please contact the Town Office at (435) 677-2029 for more information.
- Brian Head Town has a full-time resident population of 83 (per the last census from 2010). These 83 residents are allowed to vote on State, County and Town issues. When making important decisions for our Town, the Town Council realizes the secondary home-owners/part-time residents should have some input too. The Town is working on setting up a “Non-resident Advisory Committee” (NAC) made up of members of condominium and cabin owners in Brian Head. Once a committee is established, a blog will be set up for everyone to participate in and address issues, ideas and concerns pertaining to the Town of Brian Head. Pertinent information obtained from the blog, will be passed on to the Town Council through the committee members. The first step will be to contact secondary homeowners in Town and set up the committee. Watch for more information within the next couple of months on this important project. Brian Head Town is a unique and special place and we want to get **everyone** (full-time and part-time) involved in making it a successful community!
- Remember to vote (by-mail)! The election is November 5, 2013. Registered Brian Head Town voters will be mailed their ballots 3 weeks prior to the election. Be sure to mail your ballot back by November 5<sup>th</sup>! Two Council seats and the Mayor position are up for re-election.
- Just a reminder . . . effective October 1, 2013 the Brian Head Resort community tax will be increased from 1.5% to 1.6% and a new Municipal Transient Room tax of 1% will be assessed. *(Read more about these taxes in the June 2013 newsletter!)*
- Good news for you skiers, snowmobilers, snow-boarders and snow-shoers! According to the Farmers’ Almanac, this winter is supposed to have more snow and last longer than normal!

### **Public Safety Fall Report**

*(by Brad Benson, Deputy Public Safety Officer)*

Another beautiful summer season has come and gone for us in Brian Head. As the summer heat fades and the crisp mountain air starts to tickle our noses with the anticipation of autumn, we can't help but be a little excited about the changes to come. The leaves will soon change. Wildlife will begin moving around more in search of those last morsels of green feed. Tourists will be out taking pictures of the Deer, the Elk and the colorful foliage that is so abundant in our area. This is, by far, my favorite time of the year. Autumn at 10,000 feet can be an experience unlike any other.

We all like the feel of a wood fire. Many of us have wood burning stoves or fireplaces in our homes. Before starting that first fire we might want to do a little pre-season maintenance.

First of all we should consider the last time our chimney was cleaned. If you don't remember, it might be wise to check it out. As we all know, a by-product of any fire is smoke. As smoke raises and cools it leaves deposits, commonly known as creosote, on the chimney walls. After time and depending on what kind of wood we burn, those deposits will build up and literally choke off the escape route of smoke. Smoke must be able to escape easily out of our chimney. These deposits not only prevent smoke from being drawn up and out the chimney but are themselves a potential fire hazard as well. Flu fires or chimney fires are very common in our area and are not to be taken lightly. Many times these types of fires go unnoticed until they have burned through the chimney wall and have started burning in the walls and attics of our home. It does not matter if your chimney is a metal pipe or brick and mortar. After time, and with enough heat, any chimney can fail.

Cleaning a chimney is a dirty and labor intensive project and can also be very hazardous. Steep roofs may require that we use some type of special gear when cleaning chimneys. The best advice is to contact someone with experience or a company that specializes in cleaning chimneys. There are several in our area.

When cleaning ashes out of the fireplace or wood stove we need to be careful of how we do it. Never remove hot ash from the fireplace. Wait until it is cool and then use proper tools to prevent any fire hazard. Brian Head Fire has responded to dozens of fires that were caused by people cleaning out the fireplace and placing the ash in garbage cans or even cardboard boxes. Several fires have started after people have used a vacuum cleaner to clean the fireplace. The most common fires in Brian Head, during the winter months, are dumpster fires. These fires most often start after someone has cleaned out the fireplace and has disposed of the ashes in a dumpster. These fires ruin the dumpsters, melt the lids, peel the paint and can be extremely dangerous. Who knows what else maybe in the dumpster and what toxic chemicals are released when they are burning. Cars parked too close to dumpsters have also been damaged. Indeed it is not a wise decision to put hot ashes in the dumpsters. The best advice I can give is to wait and clean out the fireplace when you are certain the ashes are completely cold and no hazard exists.

Many of us also like to gather our own firewood. This is one of my favorite past times. Cutting firewood with a good chainsaw, splitting and stacking are events that help me feel that "pioneer spirit". I'm sure many of you feel the same way. But using saws and axes can also be dangerous. Use good judgment and proper techniques when using these tools. Wear proper clothing when operating saws and axes. When operating chainsaws of any size, always wear eye protection, ear protection, long pants, chainsaw chaps, helmet, gloves and boots. When using an axe or any other type of wood splitting tools, wear gloves, eye protection, long pants and boots.

If you choose to gather your own firewood it is important to know where you can and cannot harvest firewood. If you own property you may of course harvest any trees or logs within your property boundaries. If you choose to cut standing trees, be careful of hazards such as power lines, vehicles, and of course your home or cabin. Be mindful of your neighbors as well. There have been many neighbor disputes over what tree is on whose property.

If you must gather firewood from property you do not own, it is very important that you obey all laws pertaining to firewood gathering in Utah. There are several laws and ordinances concerning firewood gathering, and they may change from year to year. If you want to harvest "dead wood" or "fallen wood" from Forest Service or BLM lands you must first purchase a firewood permit from these agencies. When you purchase a federal lands firewood permit you will be given papers explaining laws and regulations pertaining to gathering of firewood wood within certain boundaries. It is very important to know and obey these laws.

When cutting firewood in other areas it is also important to know the laws. Brian Head town cuts many trees down each year while widening streets or digging water lines. The public is encouraged to take as much of this wood as possible for

## Public Safety Fall Report

*(continued from page 4)*

firewood. This saves the town money and helps clean up these areas. These areas change constantly and are not marked as firewood gathering areas. Check in with Brian Head Town Hall before taking any firewood from any area within town limits. It is hard to know if a pile of logs stacked near the road is a Brian Head town project or a private landowner that has made other arrangements or has sold the logs to someone else. The best advice is, if you don't know, don't cut.

Another great concern with firewood is where to stack it after it is ready to burn. We most often burn firewood when it is cold and nasty outside. We like to stack as much wood as we can, as close to the house as we can, so we don't have to venture too far out to get it. We stack wood on our decks or under the decks or leaning on our house. This makes perfect sense during the cold snowy winter months but can be hazardous during the summer months.

Because we live in an area with the potential of wild land fires, we want to be extra careful in protecting our cabins and homes. Stacking dry firewood next to cabins in fire season is a very bad idea. This is called fuel loading. Embers from fires can be trapped between stacked firewood and smolder for days or even weeks. Cabins in our area have gone up in flames long after the fire that caused them has been put out. The smart thing to do each fall is to wait as long as you can before stacking firewood near your house or cabin and then only stack what you will use during the winter months.

If you don't want to gather your own firewood, but still want to burn it, you can contact a number of people or companies in our area that will deliver firewood that is ready to burn. There are numerous ads and flyers around town, or ask anyone who has lived in Brian Head for a while. I am sure they can help you. Have a safe and warm autumn.



Brian Head - September 2012

## Strategic Planning: Be Part of Shaping the Future of Brian Head

*(by Bret Howser, Town Manager)*

The summer is drawing to a close in Brian Head, and it has been an exciting season. The Town has enjoyed several successful events including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, the Tour of Utah, and the Festival of Flavors. Progress is being made on the pond project, which will be an excellent new recreational feature in the Town. The Resort is working on upgrades to the lodges, tubing hills, and other features, and several homeowners and businesses have begun remodels and other improvements.

Brian Head seems to be on the cusp of a welcome new phase of community and economic advancement. The Town Council and staff want to be sure that as we enter this phase, the Town is in tune with the needs and desires of homeowners, businesses, and guests. In order to ensure that your tax dollars are being put to work for the best interest of the Town, we're engaging in a community strategic planning process.

During the months of September and October, the Council will be holding public hearings to solicit input regarding the Community Vision, which will be the basis of the strategic planning process. During these hearings, staff will illustrate a new planning process which the Town will utilize in order to link all policy decisions, staff actions, and expenditure of tax dollars back to this common Vision. In this fashion, we can be assured that the Town government is effectively engaged in carrying out the desires of the community.

***The first of these public hearings is tentatively scheduled for September 24, 2013, at 1:00 pm in Town Hall.*** Another will be scheduled in October, and will be noticed on the Town's website. Please attend and let your opinion be heard. This process will only be effective if the Vision that the strategic plans are based on truly represents the will of the community. If you are unable to attend one of these, feel free to give me a call and share your thoughts on the matter.

**"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."**

**-Albert Einstein**



**Brian Head Events**  
(September, October, and November, 2013)

**September 13 & 14 – Annual Red Rock Relay.** Teams of 12 run relay style through 187 miles of southern Utah's most stunning landscapes in a journey that starts on Friday morning at Brian Head ski resort and ends sometime the following day at the base of Zion National Park. Visit [www.redrockrelay.com](http://www.redrockrelay.com) for more information.

**September 21 & 22 – 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Oktoberfest.** From noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> and from noon to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, come celebrate everything German (food, music & dancers) along with vendors selling their wares.

**September 28 & 29 - Cedar Breaks National Monument Fall Nature Festival.** The fall season brings bursts of color and energy to the high mountain country. USA Today described Cedar Breaks National Monument and the surrounding area as "one of the top ten places to experience fall colors" in the United States. Special events include activities, workshops, and more. We will also celebrate National Public Lands Day, a fee-free day, on Saturday, September 28, with a volunteer service opportunity. Call 435-586-0787 for more detailed information.

**November 15, 2013 – Brian Head Ski Resort Winter Operations Opening Day.** During the winter season there will be live music every Saturday from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. starting November 16, 2013 through April 19, 2014.

**November 15, 2013 – Brian Head Ski Resort Rail Jam Competition.** Come join this fun winter opening day event!

**November 28, 2013 - Brian Head Resort will be open Thanksgiving Day!**



**Brian Head Reservoir Project**