



City of Elk River

MAYORS UPDATE

March 2023

Steve & Dixie Stephens, Elk River Lodge and General Store, had their annual Ice Fishing Derby on February 4th. It was a huge success! They had 346 entries, compared to 199 last year. First place won \$1,700.00. 74 gifts and 10 cash awards were also given away. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time! Great job to Steve, Dixie and their crew!

Fire Chief Wayne Wilson has decided to transition out as Chief to play more. He has been Chief for nearly 5 years and has done a great job rebuilding and organizing our Volunteer Fire Department. He and his wife Patti have also done a tremendous amount of work at our new Fire Station. Anthony Yockey has agreed to work with Chief Wayne and Uncle Larry Yockey to transition to Fire Chief in the next few months. Thanks Anthony!

Speaking of the Fire Department, Tom's Tavern Annual Elk River Fire Department Auction is set for April 29th. Silent auction begins at 2 p.m. and the live auction begins at 3 p.m. Food will be provided by the Fire Department. All amounts raised will continue to go towards the building, maintenance & equipment. They appreciate any donation & would like all donations in hand by April 24th. You can contact the following to coordinate delivery/pickup of the donation: Kami Nibler (208)826-3301, DeEtta Mitchell (208)669-2476, Leesa Semler (509)336-9780.

Our community shooting range has encountered some difficulties. Let me try to explain what we're looking at. For several years it has been a bit confusing about ownership of that area. As it turns out, the U.S. Forest Service, USFS, and the Idaho Department of Lands, IDL, each own half of the shooting area. We've hit two speed bumps. The validity of the shooting range has been brought to their attention. They have to evaluate the concerns. The other is IDL is planning a timber sale on the west side of their portion. Their concern, of course, is bullets flying when foresters are in there planning the sale and then, the actual logging. Both departments acknowledge that people have been shooting there for over 60 years. They are impressed with the community's effort to clean up the mess (cans, broken glass, parts of targets, etc.). In my discussions with both departments, they realize that the community's new shooting bench and targets are not permanent fixtures and can be adjusted to address safety concerns. The USFS and IDL were both at our February City Council meeting. We will meet as a group in mid March to continue the discussions.

Thanks for listening!

Mayor Dave