A Look Back at 2019—

Thanksgiving, come and gone, was accompanied by a legitimate snowstorm and provided terrific skiing for opening day. We did the obligatory laps and headed for the lodge for the celebratory libations.

The holidays will be upon us before we know it. Let’s take a brief look back at 2019 and recall a few notable events and accomplishments.

A particularly successful Year 2 of the Road and Path Program involved a major portion of Elkhorn Road and most of the streets in Twin Creeks along with a number of smaller projects in the City. Thank you for your forbearance during the disruption of traffic flows, removing and replacing of many driveway pavers, and establishing a workable culvert system to handle runoff. We hope you enjoy our new roads!

Next year’s projects will be less disruptive to neighborhoods but will entail some traffic flow challenges as we tackle the City Hall intersection. Thank you for your continued patience.

As some of you know, we are actively looking for a new City Administrator since Susan Robertson’s departure last August. In the interim, city staff has shouldered the burden of additional responsibilities and have handled them admirably. I am hopeful we will have that position filled in the spring. More details on the position can be found on our website, www.sunvalleyidaho.gov.
On October 1, the City entered into a Contract for Services with the Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District to provide general fire services, including administration, operations and permitting. Since that time, we have devoted energy, time and resources to the Ketchum Rural Fire District’s mission and its successful integration into the operational and cultural tenets of the City of Sun Valley and, specifically, the Sun Valley Fire Department. I am absolutely confident that this combination of SVFD and KRFD is resulting in a safer, more professional, more responsive and well managed fire services department and environment for all of our citizens, business owners and visitors.

Next, let’s look at the City’s budget for this FY 2020. For the 7th year in a row, the City did not take the allowable 3% raise in property taxes. To the best of my knowledge, Sun Valley Water & Sewer was the only other entity to forgo the increase.

The budget total this fiscal year is $16.5M, of which $5.6M is the bond construction fund. Last year’s numbers were $18.1 and $10M. Our LOT remains strong -- just under $2M in FY19. The Council has set aside approximately $3M in anticipation of future capital needs. The City continues to act conservatively and fiscally responsible. Moody’s Investor Services, in their credit report on our bond issue, stated we were in very healthy financial shape.

Lastly, Michelle Griffith, Jane Conard, and I were re-elected to our respective positions in the City government. All of us will be sworn in on January 2nd at the regular council meeting to begin our new terms. Please join us if you can.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as your Mayor for the past four years. I look forward to the challenges and successes of the future.

Peter