



Interlaken Town  
P.O. Box 1256  
Midway, UT 84049  
(435) 565-3812

## Interlaken Spring 2026

### Message from the Mayor

Hello Neighbors,

I have seen many changes in my 25+ years living full time in Interlaken watching it grow from a quiet summer cabin neighborhood to what has become a thriving year-round community.

I was involved with helping the Interlaken Mutual Water Company before becoming a town council member and mayor, so I have a very good understanding of the challenges we have overcome and those that we face in the future.

We are extremely lucky in so many ways to get to call Interlaken our home, but some of what makes our home so special also presents challenges and dangers.

One of the biggest concerns that I have for our community is the threat of a catastrophic fire due to its topography and the flora of our hillsides.

While it is meteorological spring, it sure feels like summer, and we are going to likely have very hot, dry weather for the next several months which will really exacerbate the danger of fires in Interlaken and the surrounding Wasatch State Park

Fires can start in a myriad of ways, it doesn't have to start as a forest fire, it could as easily be a structure or vehicle fire that spreads, or

someone being careless about burning something or lighting fireworks in direct violation of our town ordinance that prohibits outdoor wood burning fires and fireworks at all times.

To be very blunt, if your actions (or those of a guest, tenant, or family member) starts a fire that spreads through Interlaken and causes damage and God forbid injuries or worse, the repercussions, financially and potentially criminally, would be severe.

If you witness anyone in the neighborhood endangering us all with any type of fire or other careless behavior, please engage them immediately and ask them to stop. Time is of the essence in this scenario and neighbors correcting neighbors' egregious behavior is absolutely acceptable and truly needed.

And in case you think this is not a problem, we have had two open wood fires reported this week!

The fine for an open wood fire is currently \$500, though we will be raising that penalty. Use of fireworks is a fine up to \$1000.

It is also very important that you take steps to protect your home from fire by removing fuels that could help a fire spread to or from your home. This could also save you from being dropped by your insurance company or refused coverage in event of a fire if you have left your property in harm's way by not properly preparing your home.

There is a lot of good information on <https://wildfirerisk.utah.gov/> and I encourage you to take the fire danger seriously. We will be taking more steps to educate residents about fire danger, but this is

a personal responsibility and if you do not act to protect your home and your family, you are literally playing with fire.

Summer puts a strain on our water resources as we have higher occupancy of homes and more demand for water. Our water usage in June, July, and August accounted for more than 50% of our annual usage in 2025. That is not sustainable in a drought like we are facing this year.

Due to the significant drought conditions, we will be monitoring our well levels closely and while we do not anticipate any issues, if people are careless about their water use, we may be forced to take measures to protect our most valuable resource.

At this point we are asking that people be very careful about their water usage this summer. Consider it an act of civic responsibility and neighborliness to curtail your water usage this summer.

Remember, the water in Interlaken is for indoor culinary purposes only. We do not have irrigation water of any kind.

This is not the summer to plant trees or grow a garden or have any type of water needy plantings. Any restrictions that we must employ would first target outdoor water use, so consider that before investing in anything that needs to be watered.

I would also ask that everyone watch their speed on our roads. I hear more about speeding issues than almost any other complaint. The speed limit in Interlaken is 20 miles per hour for a reason. It can feel hard to drive that slowly, but we have narrow roads with limited sight lines and some areas with little to no shoulders. We have people,

pets, and wildlife using our roads at all times, and speeding through this neighborhood is completely idiotic. If you have young drivers in your household, please talk to them about the speed limit here. Also, guests and contractors are major offenders so please remind them of our speed limit and ask anyone who is driving too fast to slow down.

We have limited options financially and personnel wise to enforce the commonsense laws that we have, so the town council would like everyone's help in respectfully reminding neighbors to help keep us all safe.

We are lucky to live in one of the most unique, beautiful and peaceful places in the Heber Valley, with some of the best people I know. Let's work together to keep our town safe.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Harrigan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Harrigan

Mayor, Interlaken Town