

Highland Insider

City Office: 756-5751

City Web Site: www.highlandcity.org

February, 2007

Mayor's Report on State of the City

Report for 2006 by Mayor Jay W. Franson

During the year of 2006 Highland City issued 277 new home building permits. Ten new subdivisions were approved. The population of Highland is now over 15,000 people, which is almost double the size from the size we were at the time of the 2000 Census. These few facts define Highland City in 2006, where change is constantly occurring to meet the needs of our citizens.

The four major city functions of 1) City Administration, 2) Public Safety, 3) Public Works, and 4) Planning & Zoning/Community Development are continuing to adjust to meet the needs of our residents. I would list the following items as highlights of a few accomplishments during 2006.

- A consistent process for Council and Planning Commission meeting agendas has been developed. The agendas are posted on the City web page four days prior to the meetings. Please visit the site: www.highlandcity.org.
- City newsletters are published monthly.
- Key staff has been added.
- Significant master planning within the Public Works Department is occurring.
- The Fire Department received a \$931,500 grant for nine full time firemen.
- A Library Exploratory Committee has been appointed.
- The City budget process was revamped to get the City Council more involved.
- The audit of the City budget was done on time and with a "clean" report.
- Over 230 households make their utility payments on a "Direct Pay" process.
- The City paid off bonds which had been in place for the construction of the sewer system.
- The City was issued a Sales Tax Revenue Bond for the construction of a Fire Station and a Justice Center.

- An Appeal Authority was created for planning and zoning issues.
- An update of the City's General Plan was begun and will be completed in 2007.
- A Community Development Department was created to handle the growth which is occurring.
- A successful Highland Fling was held. The City hired an Events Coordinator to help with this and other community functions.

The City Council, the Planning Commission, all of the volunteer committees, and city staff have worked very hard to improve the quality of life here in Highland. Please take the time to thank them for their efforts.

This coming year represents the 30th anniversary of Highland. We hope you look forward to celebrating the past 30 years of Highland, and join us in preparing for the future of our great city.

Highland's General Plan Update

The Touchstone Company will present its findings on what residents want in the city on **February 8, at 6:00 p.m., at the City Building, 5378 W. 10400 N.** The company sent out surveys and it has been holding meetings as part of the General Plan Update.

SR-92: Lehi-Highland Environmental Assessment Public Open House

An Environmental Assessment is underway for potential road improvements to SR-92 from the I-15 interchange to the mouth of American Fork Canyon. The project team is hosting a public open house to provide information on the project, including the schedule and environmental process as well as feedback gathered from local community members on any issues and concerns associated with the corridor and possible solutions to those concerns.

The open house will be held **Thursday, February 22, 2007, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at IM Flash Technologies Cafeteria, 1550 East 3400 North, Lehi.**

If you have any questions regarding the project, please contact Randi Shover at (801) 262-8700 or sr-92@hwlochner.com. Information is also available on the project web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-92. We look forward to seeing you there!

Proclamation on White Ribbon Against Pornography

Mayor Franson signed a proclamation in conjunction with White Ribbon Against Pornography Month, February, 2007, which purpose is to increase awareness and educate the community on the devastating effect pornography has on our families and our communities. Americans throughout the nation will be participating in White Ribbon Against Pornography Month in various ways to support the enforcement of obscenity laws.

Dog Licenses Required

It is a new year and this is reminder that all dogs are to be licensed. You may renew or obtain your dog license at the Highland City Office upon proof of a current rabies vaccination. The yearly fee for the license is \$10 per year per dog for spayed/neutered animals and \$25 per year per dog for non-altered animals.

Please be advised that Highland City **will not** be holding a rabies clinic this year.

Need a New Year's Resolution?

Set up your account for Direct Pay through Highland City. It is FREE. It is EASY. SAVE yourself time, and SAVE the City time by participating in this program.

On-line bill payers, did you know that even though you do not write a check out to Highland City, Highland City receives a check from your on-line provider? On line payments require extra time by Highland City to process and credit them properly due to the following: no account stub in which to balance payment, wrong account numbers on payments, payments continue after the account has been terminated, inaccurate information on the account holder (post office box address or a former out-of-state address, etc.), payee name not changed from Highland Water to Highland City, etc., and significant credits accruing on accounts due to continuous payments being made when the account has a zero balance.

The direct pay is an ACH transaction that takes out the amount owing on the account. It goes through on the

20th of each month, or as close to the 20th as possible due to weekends and holidays.

The form for signing up is on the City's web page at www.highlandcity.org under utilities. Just follow the instructions and return the application to the City. SIGN UP TODAY!!

For any questions, please contact Nancy Day, City Treasurer, at 756-5751, ext. 110.

Rental of Water Shares

Anyone interested in renting their water shares to Highland City for 2007 should contact Laurie Adams at the City Office, 756-5751, ext. 103.

Scout Merit Badge Classes

Required Class: Citizenship in the Community*.

Location: Highland City Building

Date: February 16, & March 2, 2007

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Limit: 25.

Cost: \$10 Highland residents/\$12 non-residents.

*There will be homework in between classes - attend a City meeting and eight-hour community service project.

Elective Class: Public Health*

Location: Highland City Building

Date: February 23, 2007

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Limit: 25

Cost: \$5 Highland residents/\$6 non-residents

*Please complete requirement 5 before the class (visit a school cafeteria, restaurant, etc.)

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers to Teach Children Fishing Skills. Ten adult volunteers, including at least two who are registered merit badge counselors with the Boy Scouts of America, are needed to teach 6 to 13-year-olds about fishing and aquatic resources in Highland. Volunteer training will be held **February 26, 2007, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m., at the Highland City Building.** After training, volunteers will spend about two hours once a week, **July 16-July 28, 2007**, teaching children about fish and fishing by fishing with them **at the Highland Glen Park.**

Volunteers for the Highland Fling July 28 - Aug. 4
Volunteers to Plan Highland's 30th Year Birthday.

To volunteer, or for more information, please contact Emily Gillingwater, Highland City Community Enhancement Coordinator at 756-5751, ext. 122, or email emily@highlandcity.org.

Highland Children's Choir

For information on enrollment of children, ages 4 - 12, in the Highland Children's Choir, call 492-0590.

United Way Volunteers

United Way of Utah County is looking for volunteers to help low and middle-income families prepare their taxes. Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, volunteers can serve as site coordinators, tax preparers, receptionists, or financial educators. Training will be provided, and no experience is needed. Last year more than \$2.5 million in tax refunds were returned to Utah County residents who filed their income tax returns through the VITA program. For more information about volunteering with the VITA program, contact Jeri at United Way at 374-2588.

Free Home Buyer Classes Offered in Spanish

Community Action Services will offer a free Home Buyer Education class in Spanish during February, in addition to regularly scheduled classes. Home Buyer Education classes help people become qualified home buyers. This includes help with budgeting, money management skills, understanding your credit, how to save money on a loan, how to avoid predatory lending, special tips on shopping for a home, and working with real estate professionals. Plus, you will learn about down-payment, closing-cost assistance and loan programs. Educate yourself before starting your home buying process. For more information, or to register, call 373-8200 ext. 235, or visit www.CommunityActionUC.org.

How to Parent A Defiant Child

Well-known family psychologist, Dr. Randall Hyde Ph.D., will spend an evening at the Provo City Library **Wednesday, February 28, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**, for a free seminar teaching techniques to effectively parent defiant children. Seating is limited to parents and adults only. Guests are advised to arrive early to secure a seat.

Tree Committee

The term of service for several members on the Highland Tree Commission will soon be expiring. Interested volunteers may contact Ron Jones, Chairman, or Diane Hobson, Secretary. The Highland Tree Commission

meets the second Thursday of the month from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., at the Highland City Office.

With winter being upon us, this is a wonderful time to be putting together landscape plans for your individual properties so you will be prepared to do wonderful things in your yard this spring. Because of the large volume of people interested in this subject, a landscape design course is again being offered through the Adult Education system. Emphasis will be placed on designs for residences in the Highland area. The class will last for two hours each Wednesday evening and will be taught at the American Fork Junior High. The class is taught by a member of the Highland Tree Commission and Landscape Architect, Jay Roundy. This class will also prepare people to take advantage of the tree sales that are offered in Highland, and help Highland remain part of Tree City USA.

Did You Know? . . .

- City Council members were re-appointed to the following boards: Brian Branson and Steve King to the Public Safety District Board, Glen Vawdrey to the Timpanogos Special Service District Board, Kathryn Schramm to the North Utah County Animal Control Facility Board, and Claudia Sittlman to the North Pointe Solid Waste Board.
- City Recorder and City Treasurer were re-appointed for one year.
- Site plan approved and architectural approval granted for certain buildings in the Commercial Retail Zone (located at the northwest corner of SR-92 and SR-84).
- Final approval was granted by the City Council for the Mountain Ridge Subdivision. This is located at approximately 10350 North 5650 West, and will comprise an 84 lot subdivision within the Parkland Bonus Overlay Subdivision Zone. Plans include development of a city park with this development.
- Brian Branson was reappointed as Mayor Pro Tem for 2007.
- The following individuals were appointed to the Water Advisory Board: Jay W. Franson (2007), Mike Capik (2009), and Tavis Timothy (2009).
- The City Council denied a zone change request to R-1-20 by Jeff Throckmorton for property located at 10492 North 4800 West.
- The City Council approved a bid, not to exceed \$139,000, by BD Bush for construction of a road in the Town Center. This road will be constructed around the proposed new city hall and justice buildings, and will connect to the proposed new fire station.

- Lafe Harris, of Butler and Associates, reported to the City Council on the schedule for construction of the Fire Station. Construction is anticipated to begin March 1, 2007, with plans for completion of the building by December, 2007.
- Gordon Clark, of JRCA Architects, reported on the schedule for construction of the Justice Center and City Hall. Construction is anticipated to begin by March 15, 2007 with anticipated completion by January, 2008.

Message from Police Chief

By Kip Botkin

The cold weather certainly is upon us. We continue to see a sufficient number of traffic collisions. Some of these may be attributed to driving conditions associated with colder weather. Some things to consider when encountering cold weather driving are as follows:

- Scrape snow and ice from all windows of the vehicle to allow unrestricted view while driving. (State law prohibits driving with the windshield obstructed by snow and ice, etc.)
- Realize that stopping distances will be increased on snow packed or icy roads;
- "Black Ice" is always a possibility in cold weather (especially when the sun shines during the day allowing snow, ice, etc. to melt forming a clear pool of water which freezes in the evening when temperatures drop, thereby forming "black ice");
- Vehicles often lose traction when the roads are not dry. This can cause the vehicle to slide, "drift" or spin in directions other than the one the driver desires to go. This frequently causes the vehicle to "slide off the road", or slide into the path of oncoming traffic;
- Speed limits are posted at optimum road and weather conditions. As conditions deteriorate speeds should be reduced accordingly, regardless of the posted speed limit. Excessive speed (for existing conditions) is the biggest contributor to traffic collisions.

We have many persons who walk or jog in the early morning hours. Winter hours move the sunrise to a later time. Frequently these walkers and/or joggers are doing these activities on dark streets. It would increase their safety, and the safety of the driving public, if persons who engage in such activity would wear some type of reflective outer garment, or at least light colored clothing. Such clothing worn during these activities would certainly increase the safety in our community.

We receive many complaints concerning dogs running at large in the early morning hours when many persons are walking or jogging. Both cities have a "leash law" which states that anytime a dog is off the property of the owner it must be restrained by a leash. We issue many citations for "dog at large" or "dog running at large". Please be responsible pet owners and restrain your pet at all times.

NACEL Summer School Cultural Exchange Programs

Families who are interested in hosting an exchange student in their home for the coming summer, or the next school year, may contact Wendy Leake for more information at 7685-3832, or check out the web site at www.nacelopendoor.org.

Recycling Information

The following is a list of acceptable and unacceptable items for recycling.

Acceptable Items

Newspaper, Magazines, Glossy Ads (paperclips & staples OK), Telephone Books, Plastic Containers (soda bottles, water bottles, milk jugs, laundry detergent bottles, juice bottles, any natural colored or clear plastic containers), Tin Cans (labels can be left on), Aluminum Cans, Corrugated Cardboard, Cereal Boxes, Tissue Boxes, Metal Hangers, Paper Towel/Toilet Paper Rolls, Junk Mail, Small appliances (ex. toasters, irons, coffee makers, kitchen mixers, pots and pans), Office Paper, Wrapping Paper.

Unacceptable Items

Styrofoam (packing peanuts, etc.), Food and Liquids, Green Waste (tree limbs, grass, etc.), Dirt and Rocks, Large Appliances, Plastic Grocery Bags, Aerosol Cans, Paint Cans, Motor Oil, Car Batteries, Light Bulbs.

Call Allied Waste/BFI at 785-5935 with questions on any other materials.

Condolences

Sympathy is expressed to the families of the following residents of our community who recently passed away: Brent Summers, Deborah Lucille Mehr, and Don Crookston.

Alpine Community Theater

The Alpine Community Theater invites you to "Be Our Guest" at the 2nd annual GALA, **February 17, 2007 at Timberline Middle School. 6:00 p.m. Dinner/Silent auction; 7:30 p.m., "Let Us Entertain You Program"** featuring superb local talent, \$75 per couple, Semi-formal dress. Proceeds will be used for the summer production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Tickets available at Kohler's, or by calling 756-6344.

Youth Council Update

In January, the Youth Council attended the "Day at the Legislature", and participated in a service project.