



HIGHLAND INSIDER

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4 APRIL 2009

GOOD NEWS IN TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES...



As Mayor one of my most important roles is to set the proper financial tone for the city. There are many people who make up the City's financial team and deserve the credit for our financial successes and

yes, our failures. This month I would like to focus on some financial facts about Highland City.

First, this last month our financial leadership team comprised of me, the city administrator and city finance director and our financial advisor made a presentation to Standard and Poor's. This was done in preparation to receive a rating for a proposed refunding of the Pressurized Irrigation Bonds that were issued in 1998. The financial analysts examined the financial health of the City for the purpose of assigning a rating to let investors know the investment worthiness of the bonds. The S&P analysts have available to them city audits, budgets and an oral presentation. A rating is a professional conclusion on the financial management and health of our city by trained, experienced and impartial outside observers. I am pleased to announce the Highland received a AA rating. This is the highest rating a city of our size outside of a metropolitan area can receive. It resulted in refunding bonds being sold with an annual savings of about \$150,000 at a rate of 3.63%. This savings will be used to offset future rate increases in the Pressurized Irrigation system. This is a great accomplishment which speaks volumes about the sound fiscal management of our city over the past number of years.

One of the items the analysts commented on was the City's practice of maintaining a consistent general fund balance (similar to a personal

savings account) while still running a revenue surplus and using that surplus to fund capital projects. The City's general fund balance is maintained at around 10% and has been maintained at that level for the past seven to eight years. It was even more impressive when the city showed that this was done while levying the fifth lowest property tax rate in the county. Even though times are tough, it is my intent that the fund balance stay at around 10% and that the city not hold a truth in taxation hearing to raise property tax for the next year.

Another area that impressed the analysts was the fact that we paid our sewer bonds off early, made the final payment on Highland Glen Park, and paid cash for the construction of the new City Hall and Library building. It should be noted that the City's debt per household has gone from \$8,543 in 1999 to \$4,729 in 2009. That represents a significant reduction in the past ten years.

While the city is in sound fiscal health it does not mean we do not face challenges. Highland, like almost every other city in the state and nation for that matter, is struggling to find ways to continue to deliver vital city services in a slumping economy. New residential construction has come to a near standstill, subdivision development has stopped, and commercial activity, never a huge part of Highland, is very slow. But there are some bright spots; the city has a number of new businesses in Highland that need your support. ACE Hardware just opened up, right behind the new Alpine Credit Union. A number of new businesses have opened up across the street from Kohler's: **the Blue Lemon restaurant, Barbacoa, Roxberry, La De Da!, Little Caesars, The UPS Store, and Anytime Fitness** to name most of

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SPRING CLEAN-UP	2
RECREATION.	2
ARBOR DAY/TREE SALE	3
EASTER EGG HUNT!	3
MERIT BADGE	4
OPEN BURN	4

There is an old saying "Death by a Thousand Cuts"; in Highland, I believe in "Life by a Thousand Band-Aids". While none of these establishments by themselves can compete with the likes of a big box, but collectively, if we as "thousands" of consumers shop Highland first, we can have a significant impact on the success of these businesses and consequently on the financial success of our City.

In summary, the City is being very prudent in how we spend city dollars and are examining different ways to save money. But notwithstanding the financial turmoil that swirls about us, Highland has the financial resources to meet its obligations. As your mayor, and I feel confident speaking on behalf of the City Council, we commit to you that we will continue the long tradition of sound fiscal management with a commitment to keep property taxes low and user fees reasonable.

--Mayor Jay Franson

SPRING CLEAN-UP

The Highland City Public Works Department will be offering a Spring Clean-Up service Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18 from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. for Highland City residents. During this time garbage dumpsters will be located at the parking lot at the mouth of the American Fork Canyon (3900 W. 11000 N.). Public Works staff will be on hand to assist residents with unloading vehicles. You will need a driver's license or a utility bill to identify yourself as a Highland City resident.

A green waste dumpster will also be available for your yard waste. Small tree branches will be mulched and mulch will be available free to residents starting Monday, April 20th (first-come first-serve).

Things that can't be placed in the dumpster include: appliances, chemicals, paint, tires, concrete, rocks and dirt. All items must be placed in the dumpster, not on the ground.

LANDFILL PASSES

One complimentary landfill pass is included with this utility bill and one pass will be included in September's utility bill. Both passes are good until March 31, 2010. Do not discard the passes as there are no replacements. Dumping is to be done by pick-up trucks only, up to 500 lbs., and loads must be covered. The North Utah County District Landfill is located at 2000 West 200 South, Lindon, Utah, (801) 225-8170.

YARD WASTE

Timpanogos Special Service District accepts yard waste to assist in producing compost. Mulch can also be purchased from TSSD. Please call (801) 756-5231 for more information

PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION

The pressurized irrigation system will be back ready for use the week of April 15.

Please be patient while the City brings up the system. It usually takes a week to ten days to bring online. Make sure your stop and waste valves are shut off while the system is being loaded. Individual sprinkling systems can then be loaded by residents.

ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFERS PROGRAMS FOR DISABLED PERSONS

The Alpine School District Department of Special Education is attempting to contact persons with disabilities between the ages of birth and 21 in compliance with the Federal law, which mandates the provision of free educational programs and/or services for such persons. If a child is having significant difficulty with vision, hearing, speech, behavior, is experiencing slow development untypical for his/her age, physical impairments, or learning difficulty, he/she may be a child with a disability.

If you know of any child whom you feel might qualify for these services, including students suspected of having a disability even though they are advancing from grade to grade, in a private school, homeless, or migrant, please contact the principal of your school or the Special Education office of Alpine School District at 801-610-8410.

If you are the parent of a child with an IEP enrolled in a public school, the School District is required by Utah Code Section 53A-1a-704(10) to inform you of the availability of a scholarship to attend a private school through the Carson Smith Scholarship Program. Further information is available at: www.schools.utah.gov/admin/specialneeds.htm

North Utah County Soccer Registration

'Challenger' registration will be held during the months of April and May for players who wish to play in the Fall 2009 / Spring 2010 season. For more details visit www.nucsonline.com.

Lone Peak Youth Football Registration

Visit www.lonepeakyouthfootball.com to register for 1st-8th grade tackle football. Season begins August 3. See website for program details and additional information.



ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES



- April 9: Story Writing Contest entries due
 April 23: Tree Care & Planting Class 6:00 p.m. at City Hall
 April 25: Arbor Day Tree Planting Project (10400 N. & 6800 W.)
 April 25 & May 2: Arbor Day Tree Sale (US-92 & about 5500 W.)

TREE CLASS – Scott Zeidler, Wasatch Front Community Forester and certified arborist will be teaching a class on tree planting and tree care. Everyone is welcome. It will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at City Hall. This is a fantastic class on proper tree planting techniques, tree selection, tree maintenance, and tree care.

TREE SALE - The annual tree sale will be held Saturday, April 25 and May 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in front of the Highland Water Building on 11000 North (US-92) near 5600 West. To better facilitate this year's sale, ONLY Highland City residents can purchase the first Saturday, April 25th. As this is a no profit service the city provides to its residents, we want to make sure you have first choice. You will need a driver's license or a utility bill to identify yourself as a Highland City resident. We will only accept checks and cash (no credit/debit cards). Additionally, there will be an 8 tree maximum purchase. Any trees not sold the first Saturday will be available for purchase the next Saturday, May 2nd. This last day will be open to anyone, including Highland residents. Please visit our website for a list of trees that will be available.

TREE PLANTING - The Arbor Day Tree Plantings will take place along 10400 N. & 6800 W. on Saturday, April 25. Volunteers should meet at the Freedom Elementary School parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Please bring shovels, buckets, wheel barrows, and work gloves. Don't forget to check in with our eagle scouts for their volunteer hour requirements.

Please visit the Tree Commission webpage at www.highlandcity.org for more details and to register for the class or contact Emily at Highland City (801)772-4523 or email emily@highlandcity.org

Youth City Council Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Highland Youth City Council and Highland Arts Council is co-sponsoring our Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt. The Youth Council puts on a fabulous Easter egg hunt and there will be cookie decorating on site as well. Bring your families and join us Saturday, April 11th at 9:00 a.m. sharp at Heritage Park (was at Mitchell Hollow Park in the past). Meet at the pavilion with a can of food for the Food and Care Coalition and get a picture with the Easter Bunny!

NEW GARDEN TOURS

The Highland City Tree Commission is starting a Garden Tour that will be held annually. The Commission is looking for a variety of yards from natural and formal landscape, kid friendly, small and large. The Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, June 13, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. If you are interested in showcasing your yard, please contact Emily at Highland City.

LIBRARY CORNER!

- **Storytimes** will not be held April 7th & 8th or 14th & 15th. They will resume April 21st & 22nd. For themes, copies of handouts and other information check the library web site.
- The library provides a number of **audio books** that can be downloaded to a computer or MP3 player. Overdrive provides downloading to iPods and includes a number of current, popular titles; NetLibrary collection includes more nonfiction and classical titles without the restriction to the number of users Overdrive does. Information about either service may be obtained at the library.
- Occasionally, individuals may lose items in the library. If you have lost something, please contact the library to reclaim your items. Items not claimed will be disposed of in accordance with city surplus property guidelines.

Contact us: Highland City Library, 5400 West Civic Center Drive Suite 2, Highland UT 84003; 801-772-4528; email: highlandcitylibrary@highlandcity.org; website: <http://highlandcitylibrary.org>

Hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00 am to 9:00 pm, Fridays & Saturdays 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.



5400 W. Civic Center Drive, Suite 1
Highland, Utah 84003

Phone: 801-756-5751

Fax: 801-756-6903

Email: gina@highlandcity.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.HIGHLANDCITY.ORG

APRIL MEETING SCHEDULE

CITY COUNCIL - 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAYS APRIL 7 & 21

PLANNING COMMISSION - 7:00 P.M.

TUESDAYS - APRIL 14 & 28

HIGHLAND FLING - AUGUST 1st

Highland Fling Vendor applications will be accepted starting April 1st for Highland Residents and April 2nd for non-residents (proof of residency is required). Parade applications are also available. To download an application please visit the Highland Fling page at www.highlandcity.org

OPEN BURN PERIOD

The one month window set by Utah County this year for the burn period is April 1 to April 30. Please get a FREE Burn Permit from the Highland City Hall, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions about obtaining a burn permit please contact Emily at Highland City (801) 772-4523.

MERIT BADGE CLASSES

- Citizenship in the World
- Reading
- Archery
- Boy Scout Clinic

Registration starts on April 1st at 9:00 a.m. Registration opens on April 2nd for non-residents. For more information and to register for these classes, please visit the Events & Education page at www.highlandcity.org

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT IDEAS

Highland City has a number of Eagle Scout Project ideas that scouts can sign up for on-line beginning Monday, April 13th at 9:00 a.m. For more information about the project ideas and to register for these project ideas please visit the Events & Education page at www.highlandcity.org.



Highland Arts Council and American Fork Arts Council present the Community Summer Musical, "**CHILDREN OF EDEN**". Auditions will be held on Tuesday, April 21 and Wednesday, April 22 at the American Fork Fitness Center, 7-9 pm.

"Annie Jr." Will be performed on Friday, April 24th at 7:00 PM and Saturday, April 25th at 3:00 PM at Highland Elementary School. For more information please visit the Arts Council page at www.highlandcity.org

Highland's Junior Miss is seeking bright, talented young women to participate in the upcoming scholastic program. The program will be held July 30, 2009 with a contestant/parent orientation meeting April 23, 2009, 7 pm, at the home of Dallas Harris, 9900 N West Crimson Court (5935 West), Highland. Online applications at www.ajm.org.

The local Junior Miss committee currently has openings. Anyone interested in serving on the committee or have questions concerning the program please contact Kori Ogao at 801-427-9802.

Recognition to Emily Carter and Emily Nielson who represented Highland well in Utah's Junior Miss Program in March. Emily Nielson was a finalist in the Fitness category!

DID YOU KNOW? There is a 10' public utility easement around each lot in Highland. This easement measures 10' from each property line. The public utility easements allow utility companies access on your property. Structures are not permitted in this easement according to State Law. If you are considering constructing anything within the PUE please contact the City beforehand to verify approval.

Registration is now underway for the HIGHLAND KNIGHTS 4th/5th CHEER PROGRAM and will run through 4/10/09. For more information please contact Lisa Young @ 801 671-6715 or email @ lisay8@msn.com / Diana Draper @ (801) 953-6356 email drapernest@yahoo.com.