



HIGHLAND INSIDER

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2008 STATE OF THE CITY - "MAKING LIFE BETTER"

BY MAYOR JAY FRANSON



2007 has been a very positive year for Highland City. The City now has over 16,000 residents.

While growth has slowed, it has not come to a halt. There

are areas that continue to grow and people continue to make Highland their home.

Many people don't realize the value municipal government brings. The quality of life residents enjoy has much to do with the quality of city government. There are four major functions to city government that support the slogan of "Making Life Better". These functions are:

1. **Public Works.** This area is one of the most important and handles the daily functions of the city. Ensuring your water is on for the morning shower...that your toilet flushes...minimizing potholes during this time of year when they seem to jump out of the pavement...providing pressurized irrigation to water lawns and gardens. As soon as any of these operations stop working the phone calls come in.

2. **Public Safety.** This area is considered the most urgent. When someone dials 911 a response is needed.

3. **Community Development.** This area is viewed as the most controversial because many times you have the differing opinions of 16,000 residents and some resi-

dents have the "not in my backyard" or "NIMBY" malady. Community development is the process that preserves a vision for a community's look and feel. It functions to help with the balance between protecting the overall City, and property rights and property values.

4. **Administration.** The fourth area ties everything together. It is the financial aspect of the City and the management of the people that assist residents. This area addresses how collecting money for the services provided. It also provides programs including merit badge classes and the Highland Fling.

During the coming year residents will see the administrative offices move to the Town Center. In addition to the administrative offices, this area includes a fire station, justice court building and a much anticipated library. While this meets a need, it also makes everything fit. I look forward to the move this fall and "making life better" in the town center. In my own career I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of people. The staff at Highland City is one of the most professional I have worked with. They have great skills to assist residents.

Some accomplishments that have contributed to a positive 2007 are:

- Highland's 30 year anniversary! A wonderful Highland Fling was associated with the anniversary.

2008 HOLIDAYS OBSERVED - CITY OFFICES CLOSED

January 1 - New Years Day

January 21 - Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday

February 18 - Presidents' Day

May 26 - Memorial Day

July 4 - Independence Day

July 24 - Pioneer Day

September 1 - Labor Day

October 13 - Columbus Day

November 27, 28 - Thanksgiving Holiday

December 25 - Christmas Day

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TREE COMMISSION NEWS

The Highland City Tree Commission is beginning to plan Arbor Day festivities. Their service project will be planting trees in Electric Park just west of Wendy's on the Highland Highway. Last year a few trees were planted by the Commission, but this year several more will be added on Arbor Day, April 26, 2008. This is a great way to help out the community. Trees will beautify the corner and obscure the electrical equipment from view.

Many of you look forward to the tree sale which takes place on Saturdays, April 26 and May 3. Plans are being addressed to limit the first day sales to Highland residents only. Stay tuned for more details in a future newsletter.

One last note, several members of the Tree Committee will be leaving us after numerous year of service. We have valued the time put in by past members and look forward to new members of the commu-

nity bringing fresh perspective and ideas. That means we need you! All that is required is a desire to help. Meetings are in the evening, once a month and last approximately one hour. The next Arbor Day planning meeting is February 12th. Please contact Emily Gillingwater at Highland City 756-5751 ext. 122 or e-mail emily@highlandcity.org if you are interested. We'd really love to hear from you!



Youth Fishing Classes

Highland City is requesting donations of new or gently used fishing poles to be used for the Youth Fishing program to be held in June at Highland Glen Park. If you would like to donate please contact Emily Gillingwater at Highland City 756-5751 ext. 122 or e-mail emily@highlandcity.org.



The Arts Council will be heading up the **Arbor Day Story Writing Contest** this year. The theme of the Story Writing Contest is "My Favorite Tree". The contest is open to 4th grade students

only. For more information, please contact your teacher. Home schooled students may contact Emily Gillingwater at Highland City 756-5751 ext. 122 or e-mail emily@highlandcity.org

REMINDERS FOR WINTER SNOW REMOVAL

One of the goals of the Highland City is to provide expedient and efficient snow removal during winter snowstorms. City road crews continue to strive toward providing a high level of service for residents during times of hazardous road conditions. Depending on the size of the storm, dangerous road conditions may remain for several hours. A higher magnitude storm can take as long as 48 hours to clear all main routes and through streets once the storm has subsided.

How can you help?

To expedite clearing roadways from

snow and icy conditions, the City is asking for your help. You can assist our snow removal operators in several ways:

1. Always park your vehicle off the street. Vehicles left in the roadway create unnecessary obstacles for snow removal operators to work around, can slow the process of properly clearing the road, and is against Highland City ordinances.
2. Keep obstructions such as portable basketball hoops, trash cans, and toys off the street and sidewalks during snow removal.
3. Exercise extreme care and caution when driving in adverse and inclement weather. Your safety and the safety of other motorists and pedestrians is the highest priority.
4. Travel at a safe distance from snow plows at all times to avoid damage to your car. Do not try to pass these vehicles and please be patient.
5. Limit and restrict travel unless absolutely necessary during severe weather.

LIBRARY NEWS

This year is off to a great start for the library. As you may have noticed, the new City Hall building just south of Highland's main shopping center is coming along. We are very enthusiastic about the final product of the new City Hall, where the library will housed. Another exciting development is that interviews are underway for the new library director position. This will be announced soon in the news-

letter and on www.highlandcity.org under the library homepage.

We also want to announce that we have reached nearly \$27,000 in fundraising for the new library collection! It takes many people to make a project like this become a reality and it is happening, thanks to all the Highland City library families. For those who still want to contribute, it is not too late! You can include a contribution

with your Highland City utility bill and become a "Highland Library Family". For more details regarding our fundraising campaigns, please take a look at the library homepage on the city website.



TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Would you like to be actively involved in transportation issues in Highland? The Mayor is seeking individuals to serve on the City's Transportation Advisory Commission. This body will make recommendations to the City Council on transportation related issues. One person from each voting precinct is desired. Contact Jody Bates at 756-5751 ext. 111 or send an email to jody@highlandcity.org

CHIEF BOTKIN'S PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

The Holiday Season is now over and we certainly had a "White Christmas". The "white weather" continues and one may ask when the cold and snow will end. Hopefully we will experience some sunny days in February, but with the heavy winter and upcoming sun, spring run-off may be interesting.

Below are some prudent reminders for winter driving:

- Winter road conditions means adding extra time to your drive. Plan accordingly for this.
- Reduce your speed with winter road conditions. It takes longer to stop on snow pack or ice than on dry asphalt, no matter how good the braking system in your vehicle. When driving too

fast for conditions traffic collisions and slide-offs will occur. Remember, the posted speed limit is for optimum road conditions and doesn't consider winter conditions.

- Completely clear your windshield from snow or ice. We do issue traffic citations for "obstructed view". Clearing off a small square directly in front of the driver is NOT sufficient and you have no

peripheral vision. It's similar to a horse wearing blinders. Your forward vision is limited and you cannot completely view what is in front of you or coming at you.

- Lastly, please be patient drivers and help us keep our communities safe.



North Utah County East-West Transportation Study Public Workshops

February 7, 2008
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Mountain Ridge Junior High
5525 West 10400 North
Highland, Utah

For a complete list of workshops please visit the project website at www.utahcountyeastweststudy.com or call (801) 262-8700.

UPCOMING EVENTS—YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

Easter Egg Hunt - March 22, 2008. This annual Easter Egg Hunt held on a Saturday is for children ages 12 and under. It will be held at Mitchell Hollow Park.

Highland City Emergency Preparedness Fair - March 29, 2008. At the Lone Peak High School from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Highland City Spring Clean-up - April 18 - 28, 2008. Garbage dumpsters will be placed throughout Highland City at designated locations to allow residents to discard extra trash. This service will be provided in the spring and fall in addition to the dump passes which are included in the April utility bill.

Arbor Day Planting - April 26, 2008. Email emily@highlandcity.org for more information

Tree Sale - April 26, 2008 and May 3, 2008



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.HIGHLANDCITY.ORG

FEBRUARY MEETING SCHEDULE
CITY COUNCIL - 7:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AND 19

PLANNING COMMISSION - 7:00 P.M.
TUESDAY - FEBRUARY 12 AND 26

MERIT BADGE CLASSES

Citizenship in the Community *(required)*

Dates/Times: February 15th (5:30-7:00 p.m.) and
February 29th (6:00-6:30 p.m.)

Class Limit: 25

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

Location: Highland City Building (2nd floor)

Attendance on both days is mandatory.

A homework packet will be provided prior to the class.

Archery *(non-required)*

Date/Time: February 8th - 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Class Limit: 20

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

Location: Humphries Archery
42 W. Main, American Fork

Registration for Highland Residents will be online **ONLY** starting 7:00 a.m. on Fri, February 1. Once the class is full you may register for the waiting list online. Non-residents may register on February 2. For more information and to register for these classes, please visit www.highlandcity.org.

MAYOR, CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

- Purchase of 63 hillside acres to protect our view sheds.
- 12,000 feet of new trails throughout developments and the connection of City Trails from 6800 West to the Town Center.
- Purchase of the debris basin at the mouth of the canyon which will help with water conservation.
- Financial audit completed in a timely manner and with a positive grade.
- Establishment of online utility bill pay for the convenience of residents.
- Completion of a City History Booklet.
- Public Safety and Public Works were able to avert a major fire and property damage event since proper planning has allowed a water line to be upsized and the hydrants were able to carry the water. The Fire and Police departments had also planned the appropriate response to such an event.
- Nine new subdivisions in the City.
- 17 new ordinances passed.
- 17 new acres of open space dedicated throughout developments.
- Hiring of a new building inspector that is certified to review commercial and residential plans.
- Completion of an irrigation pond in the northwest area of the city.
- Completion of two large soccer fields.
- Installation of automated water meters to accurately read water usage monthly. This has also contributed to the success of catching leaks and other problems.

Highland continues to be a great city. I'd like to offer thanks to everyone that has been involved, including staff and the many residents that volunteer their time. I'd like to acknowledge how well the City Council worked together over the past year. For 2008 and coming years we can look forward to more growth and challenges. Finally, I'd like to welcome our new City Councilmembers, Brian Braithwaite and Larry Mendenhall. In 2008 Highland City will continue "making life better!"