



HIGHLAND INSIDER

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THE “NOT SO” PERFECT STORM IN 2008

BY KIP BOTKIN, CHIEF OF POLICE

Highland has experienced an interesting winter with the amount of snowfall received. Some say this is actually a typical winter and since Utah has been in a drought for past ten years we simply forgot the conditions of a “normal” winter. Others tell me that this past few months is certainly not an example of a normal winter. Whichever viewpoint or analysis is correct, this is an excellent time to suggest some precautionary measures and offer some “food for thought” that will benefit each of us.

The evening of Wednesday, February 13 is certainly a night many of us will not forget. The blowing snow and “white out” conditions caused the closure of many roads. Several vehicles became “drifted in” by blowing snow and could not move. Some vehicles actually ran out of gas and were left in the travel portions of several roads. Once many vehicles became stuck the drivers/occupants were removed from the vehicle and taken to their home or other shelter. Many people were actually preparing to spend the night in their vehicle. I know I had family members that spent between 5 and 8 hours getting home from the Salt Lake valley. This was a typical time frame for travel for many of our residents. This is an excellent opportunity to consider certain aspects of your vehicle and the opportunity to list some items you may want to include in your vehicle.

- Always keep fuel tank at least half full;
- Be fully aware of the condition and tread type of vehicle tires;

- Have a realistic knowledge of vehicle capability in snowy conditions;
- Keep one or more well insulating blanket(s) in the vehicle;
- Keep drinking water in the vehicle (It may freeze but the car heater can be used to thaw it out. Keep several smaller bottles of water as opposed to one large container).
- Food snacks and consumable food items that do not have to be cooked or heated (jerky, granola bars, power bars, nuts, etc.);
- Insulated gloves and a warm hat that can cover your ears;
- A small collapsible shovel (in this situation one with a square nosed head with an aluminum collapsible handle is excellent. These are frequently carried by snow mobilers and can be purchased at a variety of places. They are designed specifically to clear and move snow which is what you may need to do to regain traction for your vehicle.);
- Some interesting reading material (you may be stranded for a period of time during daylight hours and boredom frequently makes us unpleasantly impatient);
- Most of us carry a cell phone and have a radio in our vehicle. The cell phone should be used to call for help, notify loved ones or emergency services personnel of your status, and for necessary communications. The radio is a means of receiving news and weather updates and information.

This list could certainly go on. Each of us has specific items we would like to have in our vehicle under certain conditions.

CONT. (See SNOW STORM p. 4)

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT

Highland City will be moving offices during the summer months to the Town Center. We are excited about our move!

The City seeks public input on the disposition of the current City Hall at 5378 West 10400 North. Please contact councilmembers to make comments via www.highlandcity.org OR attend the City Council meeting on March 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

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TREE COMMISSION NEWS

The Highland City Tree Commission is planning our annual Arbor Day Tree Sale. It was such a crazy day last year we thought we would make a few changes. Please note that we are planning to sell to Highland City residents ONLY that first Saturday, April 26th. As this is a non-profit service the city provides to its residents, we want to make sure our residents have first choice. You will need a driver's license or a utility bill to identify yourself

as a Highland City resident. Additionally, there will be an 8 tree maximum purchase. Any trees not sold that first Saturday will be available for purchase the next Saturday, May 3rd. This last day will be open to residents of other cities as well as Highland residents. If you would like to volunteer with the Tree Commission, please contact Emily Gillingwater at Highland City 756-5751 ext. 122 or e-mail emily@highlandcity.org.

**Don't forget the
Arbor Day
Planting Project
April 26, 2008**



HIGHLAND FLING - July 26 - August 2

Highland Fling Vendor applications will be accepted starting April 1st for Highland Residents and April 2nd for non-residents (proof of residency is required).

To download an application please visit the City website at www.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

SR-92 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) has evaluated several solutions to address transportation needs for the SR-92 corridor. Last fall UDOT and the project team gathered feedback from the public on proposed alternatives. Based on comments received, a new alternative has been developed to best meet the needs of the communities.

Three neighborhood meetings will be hosted in late-March to display the latest alternative and gather comments from the public. Each of the following meetings will cover the same content, so please choose a meeting that works best for you. All meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.:

Option 1 - Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at Highland Elementary School, 10865 North 6000 West; Highland, Utah

Option 2 - Wednesday, March 26, 2008 at Lone Peak High School, 10189 North 4800 West; Highland, Utah

Option 3 - Thursday, March 27, 2008 at the Cabela's Conference Room, 2502 West Grand Terrace Parkway, Lehi, Utah

For more info or to receive project updates, contact the project team by e-mail: sr-92@hwlochner.com or Telephone: (801) 262-8700

Information is also available at: www.udot.utah.gov/sr-92.

SPRING CLEAN-UP **April 18 - 18, 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.

HIGHLAND CITY PREPAREDNESS FAIR

EVERYONE is invited to the Highland City Preparedness Fair on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 9am until 2pm at Lone Peak High School (10189 N. 4800 W. Highland). There will be dozens of vendors, booths, and displays to educate, inform, and let you purchase things to help you be prepared for whatever may come. There will be six different classes to choose from every hour, including topics such as the following:

- Where do I start... Food storage basics
- Does this Really Taste Good?
- Friendly Fuels or Cold Soup
- Bulletproof your Finances ... Six steps to financial fitness
- Rocking or Rolling... Retirement Planning
- Footloose & Mortgage Free
- The Art of the Green Thumb
- Sprouting for Life
- Electrical Safety
- Earthquake proofing your home
- 20 Items I wouldn't be without (72 hour Kits)
- Preparing for Pandemics
- The Earthquake Lady

Emergency vehicles will be on display in front of the school. Kids come meet Smokey the Bear and The Talking Tomato! There will also be a mock tornado disaster hosed by the American Red Cross CERT Team

going on during the duration of the fair so you can watch from the sidelines and see the professionals in action.

Watch for the flyer on your door in the days prior to the fair with the full class schedule and more information. Come enjoy the preparedness fair with your family and bring a friend!

UPCOMING SPORTS SIGN-UPS

It's time to register for spring sports thru American Fork Recreation. Register at the AF Fitness Center, 454 N. Center St. (AF) or register online at www.afcity.org. Highland City is contracted with American Fork Recreation to provide all of your recreation needs. As a resident of Highland you pay "resident" rates for recreation activities thru American Fork Recreation.

Highland / Cedar Hills Youth baseball is gearing up for 2008! Visit their new website www.highlandcedarhillsbaseball.org to get updated information on the league and register online. Coach pitch through Major leagues (ages 5-12) is offered. T-ball will be offered through American Fork recreation league.

Tryout dates for ages 9-12 is March 29th and the season

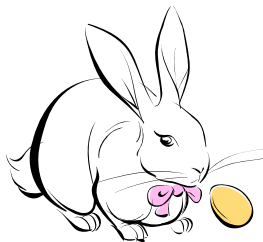
starts April 21st with the younger boys beginning the following week. Baseball umpires, ages 15 and up are needed. For more information please contact Scott Taylor (796-7220) at sctaylor@xmission.com or Greg Willie at greg.willie@marriott.com. Volunteers are also needed, so please contact the above if you can assist the league in any way.

Lone Peak Youth Lacrosse League has begun! There are teams for 1st grade thru 8th grade boys, and 4th grade thru 8th grade girls. Games begin April 26th and are played on Saturdays in Highland, Lehi, and South Salt Lake. No prior experience needed!
For more information visit www.lonepeaklacrosse.com

2008 Easter Egg Hunt!

March 22, 2008
9:00 a.m. *sharp*
Mitchell Hollow Park
10400 North 6400 West

Come enjoy a great time hunting for eggs! (For children ages 12 and under)



UTAH COUNTY FAIR RETURNS TO SPANISH FORK

The Utah County Fair will open at the Spanish Fork Fair Grounds August 13 and close August 16 with the theme "Building for the Future on the Foundation of the Past"

The Utah County Fair Committee is pleased with the amenities offered at the Spanish Fork Fairgrounds, and plans to produce a fair to remember. There is plenty of parking and things to do and see every day at the County Fair. The Fair officially opens 4 p.m. on August 13, and the excitement will continue until the final fireworks show August 16. The entire family will find entertainment and fun. A traditional county Fair, Utah County's offers Open Class and 4-H exhibits, equine events, stock judging, a back hoe rodeo, demolition derby, traditional carnival, children's interactive exhibit, Antique Machinery, food booths, Ranch Rodeo, and entertainment tent.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.HIGHLANDCITY.ORG

MARCH MEETING SCHEDULE
CITY COUNCIL - 7:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, MARCH 4 AND 18

PLANNING COMMISSION - 7:00 P.M.
TUESDAY - MARCH 11 AND 25

MERIT BADGE CLASSES

Communications *(required)*

Dates/Times: March 7th (4:00-5:30 p.m.) and
March 14th (4:00-5:30 p.m.)
Class Limit: 25
Cost: \$10 residents/ \$12 non-residents
Location: Highland City Building (2nd floor)

Public Health *(non-required)*

Date/Time: March 28th - 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Class Limit: 20
Cost: \$5 residents/ \$6 non-residents
Location: Highland City Building (2nd floor)

Registration for Highland Residents will be online ONLY starting 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 3rd. Once the class is full you may register for the waiting list online. Non-residents may register on March 4. For more information, to register for these classes, and for a list of requirements please visit www.highlandcity.org.

SNOW STORM, CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The important message is to **realize that these situations are a possibility and we should prepare accordingly.**

When my family was younger we routinely made winter trips between Southern Nevada and Wyoming. My wife and I knew that in the Mountain West it can be common for snowplows to not operate between 9:00pm and 5:00am (in our urban area the times can be much different). We always recognized the possibility existed that we may slide off the road and become stuck, having to wait until the following morning for help to arrive, particularly in some remote areas we traversed. We carried specific items in our vehicle during these winter trips. Our circumstances today are no different. A small amount of preparation goes a long way when you find yourself in these circumstances.

Please remember that a large amount of patience is requested and needed on your part. Mostly, you are in a warm vehicle, with the heater going, out of the weather. Our emergency response personnel, city workers (many working extra hours), volunteers, many Good Sams, and others are literally out in the weather trying to make the situation better for you

and all of us. None of us wished for the specific challenge of the moment. The best solution is to be patient, understanding, and helpful and remember that it is a matter of time until things return to normal.

To my knowledge, even though approximately 30 vehicles were towed the following morning of the storm from our section of SR-92 and Highland Boulevard, no one froze to death nor was anyone severely injured in a traffic collision in our jurisdiction. All of the children in school buses that were stuck and all of the children that spent the night at Ridgeline Elementary (and the teachers and parents) all eventually got home and were physically safe during the ordeal.

Important keys in these situations are preparation, patience, prioritization and understanding. Thanks to all of you who demonstrated these traits on that Wednesday night and Thursday following. February 13 and 14, 2008, will be some days we won't soon forget.

~Kip Botkin, Chief of Police

