



HIGHLAND INSIDER

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JANUARY 2012

MAYOR'S CORNER "STATE OF THE CITY"

As we look to the New Year, I felt it was appropriate to do a brief review of what I see as a "State of the City". We have accomplished much over the past year and face some challenges as we go forward.

Finances: Cash balance in the City has grown from \$225,000 in 2009, to \$1,123,242 in 2010 and to \$2,082,084 in 2011.

We have slowly become more financially sound. Additionally, we were running a \$400k annual deficit in pressurized irrigation which required a fee increase this past year. Highland City's debt decreased from \$17.3 million to \$15.3 million but continues to require an annual payment of \$1.4 million. After hitting rock bottom a couple of years ago, our new housing starts are growing slowly and steadily while our sales tax revenues remain strong.

Staffing: With the economic downturn we have been able to downsize staffing while still being able to provide essential services. Over the last year we have reorganized, reassigned, and developed efficiencies to manage the workload with existing staff with no need to increase personnel. We absorbed parks maintenance in-house with existing and part-time staff saving over \$300,000 annually.

Communication: A new city website was developed this year to give us the capability of better communication and transparency. Please sign up for the "notify me" feature on our website and receive notifications you are interested in from the City. Our agenda format was changed to make it easier for the City Council and the public to be informed and quickly understand the agenda item. Open-house presentations were conducted to receive input from citizens on trails, budget, public service district, and others. We not only enjoy hearing from you, we think it is essential for us to get the job done right.

Parks/Trails: Highland Glen Park restoration has been a major accomplishment this year. Restoration included a new roof on the pavilion, fenced trail, boat ramp, restroom restoration, and removal of overgrowth in parking and trail areas. A special thanks to our Public Works Department and volunteer groups. Other progress includes updating our trails plan, design of Beacon Hills Park, and initial plans for the Mountain Ridge Park. We also are continuing to work closely with the Open Space Committee to develop solutions in the Open Space Subdivision trails and parks.

Economic Development: The property east of LPHS was changed from total residential to mixed use. This allows for future commercial and residential development along with buffers for current residents. This committee is working to develop Town Center and other potential areas for development in the City.

Transportation: A consulting firm completed an evaluation of all City roads. The Transportation Committee is now using this information to study and prioritize road repair and rebuild for the City. We have many needs for road repair and need to prioritize those needs to the existing funding.

Murdock Connector: The Murdock Connector road is in its final stages. We are working with the Developmental Center to obtain a right-of-way through their property and are hopeful to complete this acquisition and build the road over the next year.

Highland Fling: The Highland Fling Celebration was a success again this year. We appreciate the work of staff member Emily Gillingwater and resident Ron Jewett as Chairman to bring the Fling to the City. This is a great way to bring the City together to enjoy each other and gather in one spot each year. We provided a carnival this year for the first time and consider it an important part of the Fling for years to come.

Challenges: We are continuing to overcome the funding challenges that come with the economic downturn. Bond debt consumes a large amount of our resources. We feel that the largest area that requires additional funding is our roads. We do not feel tax increases are needed at this time, and have chosen to postpone or eliminate services and projects that can be delayed. Essential services are well defined and we will continue to focus on those services as we work through this difficult time. We also, are looking for creative ways to increase revenue, gain efficiencies and do things better together. Thank you for your continued support.

Mayor Lynn Ritchie

If you have any questions you can email me at mayor@highlandcity.org. Also, I am at the City on Tuesdays from 8am to 12pm if you would like to discuss an issue please call Jody at (801) 772-4505 to make an appointment.



WINTER SNOW REMOVAL & PLOWING

With winter here it is important for Highland residents and the City to work together during snow removal weather. The Public Works Department tries to provide expeditious and efficient snow removal during winter snowstorms. City road crews work hard towards a high level of service for its residents during these road conditions. During heavy snow storms it can take as much as 48 hours to clear all priority routes and through streets once the storm has subsided. Please take into consideration that the Utah County plows North Utah County Blvd (4800 West), SR-92 and SR-74.

Frequently Asked Questions

When does my cul-de-sac get plowed? Cul-de-sacs are not plowed or salted until every thru-road has been cleared. This can take anywhere from 3-5 days after a storm has passed.

When do I have to clear the sidewalk of the snow? It is recommended that Highland City property owners clear adjacent sidewalks of snow within 24 hours after the end of the storm.

Where can I put the snow shoveled from my sidewalk and driveway? Residents should push or throw snow onto their own property. Putting snow into the streets can make the road more dangerous for automobiles and snowplows.

Can I park my vehicle on the street during the winter season? Vehicles may not park on City Streets between midnight - 8:00 a.m., December 1st through March 31st, and anytime snow is present. The Police Department may issue a parking citation, and/may have the vehicles that are parking on the street towed, especially during or shortly after a snow storm. Parking on the street after a snow storm makes it difficult for plows to clear the streets.

When will the City remove snow from the walking trails? After the snow has been removed from the streets, we will work to remove any snow from the walking trails and school sidewalk routes.

The snowplows push snow into my freshly cleared driveway. Isn't there a better way to clear the streets to show some consideration to the City residents? Unfortunately, there isn't a better way to clear streets. The snow has to go somewhere, and to make our roads safe, that somewhere is the side of the road. Snowplow blades are designed to push snow to the side of the road. The plow driver has no other option as to where the snow goes. We recommend that you push the snow to the right of your driveway as you face the street, it will keep the snow from being pushed back in front of your driveway.

How can you help? To help expedite clearing roadways from snow and icy conditions, Highland City asks 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

Residents may view a copy of Highland City's snowplow priority zones and frequently asked questions on the Public Works page at www.highlandcity.org. If you would like to report any dangerous conditions please call Highland City Public Works at (801) 772-4523. To report parking/traffic violations in your neighborhood, please contact the Lone Peak Police Department at (801) 756-9800.

Public Hearing Notice – Disposal of Surplus Property

The Highland City Council will hold a public hearing on January 17, 2012 at 7:00 pm for the Disposal of Surplus Property located east of the north-east corner of Century Heights Drive and Beacon Hills Boulevard and underneath the power lines (a portion of Beacon Hills Plat D). The City Council declared this property surplus at the July 6, 2011 City Council Meeting.

The property will become eligible to purchase this property after the City Council holds the public hearing concerning this matter. We invite you to attend this public meeting to provide us with your input. If you are unable to attend the meeting or would like additional information please contact: Nathan Crane, Community Development Department, Phone: (801) 772-4515, www.highlandcity.org

Lone Peak Fire District News

When using heaters inside a home, tent, etc. make sure that they are designed for closed spaces. Heaters that burn fuel are usually not designed to be used inside and produce Carbon Monoxide, a deadly gas. Make sure that your smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors are working with fresh batteries installed.

If you live near a fire hydrant make sure that the snow is removed with at least a 3' clear radius around it. During a fire, time is of the essence. Removing the snow makes it faster to locate and attach fire hoses to take care of your emergency. Clearing snow around hydrants is a great service project for youth groups!

SR-92 Deals

Flatiron Construction Corp has been working hard to deliver the new Timpanogos Highway back to the residents of Highland. We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this project. Flatiron has launched a website, SR92deals.com, to help Highland residents continue to discover the many businesses offering products and services in your community. On the website you will find more discounts and coupons to use throughout the holiday season. Visit SR92deals.com.

2013 National Jamboree

Plan now for the 2013 National Jamboree. The Utah National Parks Council is sending a troop from the Highland/Alpine area to the National Jamboree in 2013 at the new Bechtel Summit Scout Camp in West Virginia. The troop will have just 36 boys (ages 12-17 at the time of the Jamboree) and spots are filling up quickly. The dates are July 10-25 and will begin with a tour of Niagara Falls, Palmyra, Susquehanna River, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Amish Country, Baltimore and Washington D.C. before heading to the scout camp. At the Jamboree there will be scuba diving, rock climbing, white water canoeing, mountain biking and BMX bikes just to name a few activities. There will be approximately 50,000 scouts participating from all over the country (and world) as well as over 5,000 LDS scouts and Church leadership to help celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the LDS Church/BSA partnership For more information please contact Tony Gibson, at 801-319-4162 or tony3493@gmail.com.

Did you Know?

- The **City Hall Christmas Tree** was decorated by **Highland 18th Ward**

Activity Day Girls.

They did a great job decorating the tree!



- Thank you to our residents who have placed

canned food and other non-perishable food items under the City Hall Christmas Tree. We have donated 6 barrels of food to the Food Bank!

- The **2012 Recycle Calendar** is now available at City Hall and on-line on the Utilities page at www.highlandcity.org
- The Lone Peak Police Department would like to remind you that all dogs are required to have a **Dog License**. Please contact the LPPD at (801) 756-9800 for more information.

- **2012 Park Pavilion Reservations** can be made starting 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 3. You may view the reservation calendar and submit a reservation request on-line at <http://www.highlandcity.org/index.aspx?nid=171>

- **Christmas Tree Pick-Up:** Allied Waste will pick up Christmas trees January 9-13th. Please remove all ornaments and lights and have your tree placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. on January 9th. (flocked trees are not allowed for pick-up). If your tree was not picked up by January 14th, please call Allied Waste at (801) 785-5935.

In addition to providing curbside pick up, an extra large dumpster will be located at the Heritage Park parking lot located at 5381 West 10400 North, January 4-11th for your Christmas Tree. Please do not use the small blue garbage dumpster as this is for park waste, not Christmas Trees.

WWW.HIGHLANDCITY.ORG

HIGHLAND CITY

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday,

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., closed Friday

Please submit newsletter articles via email no later than the 15th of the month to emily@highlandcity.org

CITY MEETING SCHEDULE

City Council, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Highland City Arts Council

Artist Group: January 11 - Guest Artist Showcase 1-3 pm. January 18 - Studio Workshop, come bring lunch and an art project to work on. Please, no oil or children...they don't mix. 11am -2pm. For more information, Call Corene at (801)-768-9643 or Jo (801)-756-9717

Theatre: American Children's Theatre: Musical Theatre Workshop Classes, Ages 7-12, Monday afternoons beginning January 9, 2012, For more information, call Jennifer at 801-692-1313 or e-mail madsenfam@mac.com. For more info visit www.highlandcityarts.org or info@highlandcityarts.org

Savvy Shopper Couponing Classes will be held on January 26 at City Hall. Couponing 101 is at 7:00 p.m. Then at 8:00 p.m. Better your couponing skills, Savvy Shopping 201. Call Savvy Trainer-Katie at (801) 367-4604 for information.

Library News

Certification Update: We are often asked if residents can use their card at other libraries. The answer is: yes, eventually. In order to be invited into the Northern Utah County Library Cooperative, we must be first certified by the Utah State Library Division. That process is now complete and we are in the process of applying to be an associate member of the Cooperative. As an associate member library Highland City Library patrons will still need to pay half-price of the non-resident fee to use Cooperative member libraries (Pleasant Grove, American Fork, Lehi, and Eagle Mountain). In order to avoid this fee, Highland City Library needs to add at least 10,000 volumes to our collection to show we are able to sufficiently share our collection with neighboring libraries and not be heavy burdens on them as highland residents use those libraries. Watch our Facebook page or the city newsletter for more information as it develops.

Holiday Hours: The Library will be closed on Monday January 2nd. No items will be due on this day. Please return your items before or after the holidays to avoid over-filling the book drop.

New Author Notification Service: Beginning January 1st we will be offering our "New Authors Notification Service." When the library acquires a new title from one of your favorite authors, we will automatically place you on hold for it. Registered library patrons may request up to 10 authors to be on their list. Contact the library for more information or to sign up for the service.

New Story Times this Winter! Toddler Time: This new shorter and simpler storytime session is for moms and children ages three years and under and focuses on early literacy skills. These 15-20 minute session will be limited to 10 children. Moms must attend! Registration is required.

Preschool Storytime: This no-parents class will be held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at the same time as our new Toddler Time class! This class is similar to the regular storytimes, however with a little more emphasis on alphabet recognition and other early reading skills along with smaller class sizes. Class will last about 30 to 45 minutes. Registration is required.

Family Storytimes! Do your school-aged children miss storytimes? Bring the entire family in every month on the third Wednesday at 5:00 pm for songs, puppet shows, activities, crafts, games and, of course, stories. No registration is required!

Storytime: The next six-week session runs from January 10 to February 16. You and your child are invited for songs, games, and stories on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. or on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Registration is required. Drop-in Storytimes are available on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. only. Drop-in classes require five or more children in attendance to be taught and may be cancelled without prior warning.

Library Youth Advisory Committee (L-YAC): NEW TIME! L-YAC will now meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 5:00 pm. Want volunteer hours? Want a say in library teen programs, events, materials, and spaces? Just want to be involved with a group and have fun in your community? Anyone ages 12 to 18 with a Highland City Library card in the family is welcome!

Teen Bookclub: The next titles are: Crispin: Cross of Lead by Avi, Holes by Louis Sachar, and Romiette & Julio by Sharon Draper. Bookclub meets to discuss the current title the first Wed. of ea. month at 4:30 pm. Pick up your copy at the circulation desk today! If you have read the book, and are between the ages of 12 & 18, please join us!

For more information please visit www.highlandcity.org