



## MAYOR'S CORNER "ROUGH ROADS AHEAD"

### Rough Roads Ahead – Vote YES for Smooth and Safe Roads

In the next few months, you'll hear a lot of reasons presented on why you should not vote to keep the Road Maintenance fee that has been recommended by an independent group of Highland engineers and approved by the City Council. My purpose is to present the facts truthfully and without exaggeration to let the voters decide for themselves.

Opponents of the Road Fee have presented several arguments against the Road Fee. I'd like to examine these in more detail:

#### Argument #1: We have enough money to maintain existing roads.

It would be nice if this was true, but unfortunately it isn't. We have approximately 180 lane miles of roads in Highland, and maintaining all of those roads isn't easy and it isn't inexpensive. An independent group of Highland transportation engineers recommended that we budget \$600,000 annually for road maintenance and reserve \$20 million for future road rebuilds. Our critics say that we have \$4.3 million dollars in cash reserves, with \$1.3 million dollars in unrestricted funds to use on the roads. This is untrue. The State requires that cities keep 5% to 18% of General Fund money reserved. Highland keeps 12% in reserve as solid financial management. This means we need \$864,000 of the unrestricted funds for State requirements. In addition, due to necessary new roads, the road and building funds are \$650,000 in the negative. We do not have \$1.3 million dollars in unrestricted funds, and what we do have falls far short of the recommended \$600,000 for road maintenance. Even if we had the \$1.3 million dollars and supposing that it was completely unrestricted and could be used on the roads this year, what would we use for the next nine years to maintain our roads?



#### Argument #2: We can pay off our bonds and then rebuild our roads with the money that is "freed up."

Performing road maintenance is exponentially less expensive than road rebuilding. We can spend \$600,000 annually to maintain our roads, or we can spend \$80 million dollars in the future to rebuild the roads. By keeping the Transportation Road Fee, we can perform road maintenance immediately and also begin to save for future road projects.

Opponents have mentioned that we will have a bond paid off in 2022, which will free up \$425,000 annually. That's nine years away, and the city has already earmarked those funds for a much-needed pressurized irrigation system. Can you imagine the condition of our roads if we apply minimal band-aid solutions to our roads for the next nine years? Imagine for a moment that due to financial difficulties, your family has decided that it can't afford a visit to a doctor for nine years. You are only allowed to use your first aid kit for all of your medical needs, including broken arms, legs, emergency appendectomies, and a particularly nasty case of pneumonia. In what condition will the doctor finally find your family in nine years?

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Oct 1: City Council, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 7: Cemetery Clean-Up
- Oct 15: City Council, 7:00 p.m.
- Oct 14: City Hall and Library will be closed in observance of Columbus Day
- Oct 15: Pressurized Irrigation turns off
- Oct 17: Senior Citizen's Dinner
- Oct 29: Planning Commission, 7:00 p.m.

#### PHONE NUMBERS:

- City Offices (801) 756-5751
- Library (801) 772-4528
- Justice Court (801) 772-4525
- Police Department and Animal Control (801) 756-9800
- Fire Department (801) 763-5365
- After-Hours Public Works Emergencies (water, sewer, streets) (801) 420-2553
- Republic Services (garbage and recycle pick-up, can repairs) (801) 785-5935

Report a concern, pay your bill, etc. on-line at: [www.highlandcity.org](http://www.highlandcity.org)

Please submit community newsletter articles to [emily@highlandcity.org](mailto:emily@highlandcity.org) by the 15th of the month.

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To summarize, we aren't sitting on a pile of money that could be used to maintain roads or build new ones. We have a transportation shortfall and we need to begin maintaining our roads immediately, or face much higher costs to rebuild them in the future. We can't kick this can down the road and imagine that we'll somehow have \$80 million dollars to rebuild our roads. Our citizens and our community deserve smooth and safe roads now and in the future. Please join with me and many others in voting YES to support the Transportation Road Fee.

### *Mayor Lynn Ritchie*

If you have any questions you can email me at [mayor@highlandcity.org](mailto:mayor@highlandcity.org). Also, I am at the City on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. if you would like to discuss an issue please call Jody at (801) 772-4505 to make an appointment.

### **PI System to shut down October 15**

The pressurized irrigation system will be shut off on or around October 15. Please plan your watering schedules accordingly. When the system is shut down, please be sure to turn off your sprinkler system, open any manual drains, and also be sure to close the main valve in your PI box. This will prevent unintended flooding in the Spring, and may help avoid frozen and broken pipes this winter.

Every season, it seems that a handful of residents forget these very important steps and suffer unnecessary flooding in the Spring. Please don't be the one affected next year; take a moment now to completely turn off your sprinkler system.

In order to close your main valve, open the PI Box that is located somewhere in the yard; typically near the sidewalk or street.

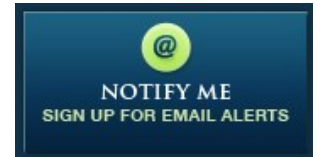
When you open the lid, be sure to keep an eye out for spiders that like to hide in these kinds of spaces. To close the valve, turn the handle so that it is perpendicular to the pipe, as shown in the picture. Then replace the lid, making sure that it is securely in place.

### **Cemetery Decoration Clean-Up**

The cemetery is cleaned up weekly during the mowing season to remove perishable items and items that are in the grass area. In addition to the weekly cleanup, four times a year a mass cleanup is performed. The next mass cleanup for the Cemetery will be on **Monday, October 7th**. At this time perishable items will be discarded and all trinkets, ornaments, lamps, shepherd-crooks, etc. will be removed from the cemetery and taken to the Public Works Shop (4066 West 11000 North). These items will be held for two (2) weeks so that the owner may claim the items. Items not claimed after two (2) weeks will be discarded. We have created a Cemetery calendar on our website, [www.highlandcity.org](http://www.highlandcity.org), which you can subscribe to receive notifications reminding you about the four major cleanup dates. To

sign up go to [www.highlandcity.org](http://www.highlandcity.org) and select the Notify Me button. Sign in with your email account, then scroll to the bottom and click on "Cemetery" calendar. If you need assistance with this process, please contact us at (801) 772-4523.

It is the goal of Highland City and the City Staff to offer families and friends that visit their loved ones a clean, beautiful, and peaceful environment. Please help us maintain this goal by keeping your site clean.



### **Dirty Gutters...can you help?**

If you walk outside your home and glance at the curb and gutter in front of your home, what do you see? If you see a lot of leaves, mud and other debris, will you join in a community effort to clean the gutters out? Every fall, gutters fill with leaves and it is impossible for City crews to clean all of them. In fact, crews may clean a street today and more leaves fall tomorrow. This means that heavy rain or fast snow melts will push debris to eventually back up somewhere, maybe even in front of your home. When this happens, water can jump the curb and flood into yards and basements. Please help to keep the streets and gutters clean from debris. If you notice a storm drain that needs maintenance, please call Public Works at (801) 772-4523 or go on-line to [www.highlandcity.org](http://www.highlandcity.org) and fill out a Report-a-Concern form.

### **Tips to Save Money on Your Utility Bill**

Did you know that your winter water usage affects your monthly sewer charges? Your yearly sewer charge is based on those winter water readings.

On your monthly statement from Highland City, you can see your previous water reading, your current water reading and the usage. The usage is in 1,000 gallon increments. Winter water usage should be within a low range. The average usage per household can range from 6,000 to 10,000 gallons per month. Please watch your monthly statement. If you see unexplained increased water usages please check your household appliances for leaks (i.e. toilets, hot water heaters, etc.) If you are unable to locate a leak you may call Public Works at (801) 772-4523 for assistance. This simple tip can help all of us and save you money.

### **Timpanogos Symphony Orchestra**

The Timpanogos Symphony Orchestra is pleased to present Richard Elliott, principal organist of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, in an unforgettable program on October 18 and 19. The program will feature the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony and the Poulenc Organ Concerto. Performances take place at Timberline Middle School in Alpine on Friday and Saturday, October 18 and 19, beginning at 7:30 p.m. each evening. The TSO is sponsored in part by the Highland City Arts Council, the Lehi City Arts Council, and the Alpine Community Arts Council. For details including ticket pricing, please visit the symphony's Web site at [www.theTSO.org](http://www.theTSO.org).

## Clean Out The Cabinet

Utah County Health Department Division of Substance Abuse and SMART will be holding another Prescription Take Back Day on October 26th from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at various locations throughout Utah County including Ridley's Market in Highland. For more information please visit [www.UseOnlyAsDirected.org](http://www.UseOnlyAsDirected.org) or call (801) 851-7181.

## 2014 Highland Youth City Council

The Highland Youth City Council is a competitive program available for those 9th - 12th grade that provides a great opportunity for leadership, community involvement, and service. Applications for the 2014 HYCC are available online at [www.highlandcity.org/index.aspx?nid=177](http://www.highlandcity.org/index.aspx?nid=177).

However in order to run an efficient program, parental involvement is needed. We are currently looking for parent advisors to assist with this program. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Emily at Highland City, (801) 772-4523 or [emily@highlandcity.org](mailto:emily@highlandcity.org).

## Senior Citizen's Appreciation Dinner

The annual Highland City Senior Citizen's Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Highland Youth City Council will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 17 at Lone Peak High School. Please call Highland City to RSVP at (801) 756-5751 ext. 0 or email [emily@highlandcity.org](mailto:emily@highlandcity.org).

## Smoke Alarm Safety

Smoke alarms save lives. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Smoke detector's can be hard wired or battery operated. With interconnected smoke alarms, when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Smoke alarms detect smoke, not fire. An alarm doesn't mean that there is fire somewhere in the structure if there is no smoke. It could be an alarm malfunction due to a bad battery, dirty detector or a faulty detector.
- If alarm activates and you see no smoke, check to see if it's a carbon monoxide alarm. If there is Carbon monoxide emergency, evacuate the structure and call 911.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least twice a year. When you change your clocks, change your batteries. If an alarm "chirps", warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old or

sooner if they do not respond properly.

- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a "hush" button. A "hush" button will reduce the alarm's sensitivity for a short period of time.
- An ionization alarm with a hush button or a photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.
- Smoke alarms that include a recordable voice announcement in addition to the usual alarm sound, may be helpful in waking children through the use of a familiar voice.
- Smoke alarms are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. These devices use strobe lights. Vibration devices can be added to these alarms
- Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan.
- Please view our short video on how to clean your smoke detector at [www.lonepeakfire.com](http://www.lonepeakfire.com) Be sure to follow Lone Peak Fire on twitter and Facebook!

## Highland Arts Council

**Friends of the Arts** will be meeting Wednesday, October 2nd (note date change) from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Our guest artist will be Don Howard. We will meet again on Wednesday, October 16 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for our workshop. Bring a "show and tell" if you desire and a project you want to work on except oil paint. All meetings are held at the Community Center (5378 W 10400 N). Please contact Linda Littlefield at [littlefield06@msn.com](mailto:littlefield06@msn.com) for registration fees and more information.

## Upcoming Classes and Events

**Cartooning** for kids. October 21st, 3 :00 - 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$10.

**Basket Weaving** for adults. November 2nd from 10:00 a.m. - 2 :00 p.m. Cost is \$25 and includes all materials

**Basic Watercolor** for adults . Cost is \$15

**Christmas by Me Workshops:** This is a great chance for children to make their own Christmas Presents.

**Children's Art Exhibit** at City Hall. Registration of art will be December 2nd from 3:00-5 :00 p.m. We are looking for holiday or winter pictures, and now is the time to start a project to enter into the art show. The art will be displayed at the City Hall throughout the month of December. We are proud of our children and their many talents.

**Christmas Crafts Day with Santa!** Please join us on Saturday, December 7th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at City Hall to make inexpensive crafts, listen to live entertainment by the Highland Children's Choir, and visit with Santa.

We are excited to provide some special interest classes for our community. To register for these classes, please call Shauna (801) 756-9614 or email [shaunaholt@live.com](mailto:shaunaholt@live.com) or visit [www.Highlandcityarts.org](http://www.Highlandcityarts.org)



## HIGHLAND RESIDENTS: “YOUR VOTE COUNTS”

### Candidates for the Highland City 2013 General Election:

Mayor:

Larry M. Mendenhall  
Mark S. Thompson

City Council:

Rod Mann  
Ed Dennis  
Scott Leroy Smith  
Dennis LeBaron

**Early Voting, October 22<sup>nd</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup> :**

Highland City Hall, 5400 West Civic Center Dr.

Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> through Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**General Election, Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> - Voting Locations:**

Precincts HI01, HI04, HI05, HI07 & HI08 will be voting at  
Highland City Hall, 5400 West Civic Center Dr., 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Precincts HI02, HI03, HI06, HI09 & HI10 will be voting at  
Highland Community Center, 5378 West 10400 North, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Forget to vote? \*\* Don't like standing in lines? \*\* Out of town? \*\* No Time?**

### **VOTING MADE EASY ..... VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT**

- Any registered voter can request to vote with an absentee ballot,
- Ballot will be sent to your home 2 weeks prior to election, mail or hand deliver back to the city.
- Avoid long lines and vote at your convenience.

\*\* If you signed up for an absentee ballot for the Primary Elections you  
**DO NOT** need to re-apply for the General Election. \*\*

(For application visit [www.highlandcity.org/departments/recorder/elections](http://www.highlandcity.org/departments/recorder/elections))  
Or contact the City Recorder at (801) 772-4505 or [jody@highlandcity.org](mailto:jody@highlandcity.org)