

Mayor's Message — Kurt Ostler

This month, I would like to highlight our dedicated Highland City front office staff. I have been impressed with the city staff's care and concern for the residents.

Over the past year, I've had several e-mails, calls, or spoken in person with several residents who have interacted with Highland City staff. Most comments have been compliments on how detailed and caring the city staff is. As is to be expected, there has also been some concern raised. I have noticed that the city employees are very dedicated and look out for the city's best interests.

Here are comments from a resident, contractor, and local business about our city's front office staff.

"Sometimes it hard dealing with the city; other times it's painfully hard. In the past short while, and even today, there have been four real "stand-outs" for excellence in protecting the city and assisting me (as a resident). (Resident named four staff members by name in e-mail) How refreshing to have such dedicated and just plain "good" people. I'm sure there are many more; however, I like excellence to be honored, and this is my little way" (longtime Highland resident)

A contractor came in for a basement building permit. He has a new construction business and hasn't worked in Highland City. The city employee was very cordial and explained our process to him. He was grateful for her help and wanted to "give back." So, the next day, he bought pizza for the entire front office.

The business license for the new Costa Vida was issued less than two days after the application was received, thanks to the city staff's rapid response! The business officially opened two days later at 10:30 am. There were a handful of hungry teenagers on site ready to eat!

The city front office staff comprises twelve full-time and six part-time employees that help oversee the overall functioning of the city. They deal with many different individuals, issues, and items being asked or requested of them. We are blessed to have such dedicated city staff as a city.



CALENDAR

Feb 7: City Council Meeting
7:00pm, Council Chambers at City Hall

Feb 21: City Council Meeting
7:00pm, Council Chambers at City Hall

Feb 28: Planning Commission Meeting 7:00pm, Council Chambers at City Hall

*Agendas, Minutes, and Audio at <http://bit.ly/HC-agendas>. Meetings streamed on <http://bit.ly/HC-youtube>.

PHONE NUMBERS

City Offices: 801-756-5751

Library: 801-772-4528

Justice Court: 801-772-4525

Police Department & Animal Control: 801-756-9800

Fire Department: 801-763-5365

After-Hours Public Works Emergency: 801-420-2553

Waste Management (pick-up & can repairs): 888-496-8824

ONLINE

Report a concern, pay a bill, reserve pavilions, request alerts, etc. at: www.highlandcity.org

Sign up for email, text, and phone alerts from Highland City based on your interests at alerts.utahcounty.gov.

Check us out on Facebook and Twitter @HighlandCity



Cemetery cleanups are held on the 1st Monday in March, 2nd Monday in June, the 1st Monday October, and the 1st Monday in December.

City Council Brief

In each month's newsletter, we give a brief overview of some stand-out items from Council meetings. For full agendas, minutes, & audio, visit <http://bit.ly/HC-agendas>.

January 3

The City Council voted to require that park and planter strips in all new developments be xeriscaped. This will not be a requirement for existing park strips, but any new ones constructed in the City.

The City Council approved the Preliminary Plat for Abbie's Acres which is 6-lot subdivision located at approximately 4943 W 11200 N and will be zoned R-1-40. The developer will now work with staff on the design and engineering of the subdivision before the final plat is reviewed by the City Council.

January 17

City Council approved the final plat for Ridgeview Plat H which consists of 125 townhome units located at approximately N County Blvd and Gallatin Way. The developer will now work with staff on the design and engineering of the subdivision before beginning construction.

The City Council voted to approve the Preliminary Plat for Hawks Landing which is a 7-lot subdivision located at approximately 11200 N Alpine Highway and will be zoned R-1-40. The developer will now work with staff on the design and engineering of the subdivision before the final plat is reviewed by the City Council.

City Council directed staff to create an updated plan for a Parks Maintenance Building at the Community Center. The new plan will include office space and restrooms so that Parks staff will not need to utilize space in the Community Center. The preliminary plan is scheduled to come back to City Council on February 7 for initial feedback.

The City Council approved a grant contact with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity for \$1 million that will go toward a culinary well project.

No Vehicles on City Property

As per City Code motorized vehicles are prohibited on City property. They can cause serious and expensive damage, and the City asks that residents refrain from using them for any purpose, including to pull sleds. Please notify the police if you see this occurring. Thank you for helping us keep Highland safe and beautiful!

Upcoming City Budget

Highland City's budget or fiscal year begins on July 1 of each year. City Council and staff have already begun the process of looking forward to Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) which will start July 1, 2023 and run through June 30, 2024.

One budget area the Council has given preliminary direction on is to eliminate the Open Space Fee starting July 1, 2023. The Open Space Fee began in 2001 when a new development type was created that allowed for smaller lots in exchange for more Open Space within the subdivision that was donated as a part of the development to the City. Some of the Open Space was developed into parks or landscaped areas, while other sections were left as native vegetation. The Open Space properties are available for use by all individuals, not just limited to the residents of the subdivision. The Open Space development type has since been removed as a development option due to unintended issues. There are approximately 1,200 homes within the 18 Open Space subdivisions in Highland. Homeowners in Open Space subdivisions pay an extra \$20 per month on their utility bills to go towards the maintenance of Open Space properties throughout the City. In all, the Open Space Fee generates approximately \$300,000 in revenue each year which pays for about half of the costs of maintaining the Open Space properties. The rest of the maintenance money comes from General Fund sources such as property and sales tax revenues. Eliminating the fee would mean that all the money needed to maintain city owned properties including Open Space areas would come from General Fund sources.

Other items that the Council has indicated as high priorities include: additional funding for a Parks Maintenance Building to construct it this Fiscal Year, an update to the General Plan, and extra funding for the maintenance of the soon to be constructed Mountain Ridge Park.

Additional items that the City may need to consider as a part of its budget is a change to the Road Fee and Public Safety Fee. There is currently a court case pending in the Utah Supreme Court whose outcome could have implications for those particular fees. Staff is watching for the outcome of this case to see if any changes are needed for Highland.

The public is welcomed and encouraged to get involved in the budget process. You can watch the entire January 5 Budget Work Session at <http://bit.ly/HC-youtube>. Staff plans to present a draft of the preliminary budget to City Council on Thursday, March 30 at 6:00PM. Residents can also visit <http://bit.ly/HC-Council> to find contact information for the Mayor and City Council.



Contact
Website:
highlandcityarts.info

Arts Council Chair,
Shauna Larson:
385-427-9337

The Timpanogos Ringers are rehearsing some fun new songs for the Spring season. Come try out ringing or just listen to a session. Find us at the Highland city Community Center Wednesday nights. Visitors are welcome!

Highland Choral Arts will present their Spring Concert May 6 at Timberline Middle School. Don't miss it!

Friends of Art will meet on February 2 at 10am at the Highland City Community Center. All are welcome! New local professional artists present each month.

Watercolor Classes are Wednesdays (10am to 12pm for beginners, and 12:15pm to 2:15pm for intermediate and advanced). Contact Rachelle Livingston at rwatercolors@gmail.com for more information.

Highland Quilters Bring your old quilts and handmade items to show off on February 23 from 9:30am to 11:30am at the Highland City Community Center. Contact Carol Hadlock at cwhadlock@gmail.com.

Snow Removal Reminders

The safety of Highland City residents during and after a snow event is a top priority for the City. Check out <http://bit.ly/HC-snow> for more information on snow removal including plowing priority, street parking, clearing driveways, sidewalk clearing and more.

Please be aware that as outlined in City Ordinance 10.08.050, it is unlawful to park on the street between the hours of 12am and 8am, or during snow. If vehicles are present on the street, that street will unfortunately have to be skipped as it will impede snowplows from accessing it.

If your street has been skipped, please use the on-call number to contact us: 801-420-2553. We look forward to a safe winter for all of Highland's residents!

Kindergarten Registration Open

Kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year is now open for the Alpine School District. This includes both new and returning students. Enrollment is now online! Visit your local school's website for more information.

ISO Fire Score

The Lone Peak Fire Department has earned a Class 2 rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) - the second highest possible rating for fire protection services and places the Fire Department in the top 4% of all fire departments in the country. The department's new rating went into effect in January 2023.

An ISO score calculates how well-equipped fire departments are able to put out fires in the community. ISO provides this score to homeowners insurance companies. Insurers then use it to help set insurance rates. The better equipped the fire department is to put out a fire, the less likely your house is to burn down which makes it less expensive to insure.

The impact an ISO rating has on your homeowner's insurance premium varies by insurer, and it's often only one of many factors it considers with regards to fire safety. For example, some companies ask about your home's proximity to a fire station or fire hydrant, as well as whether you have a fire alarm or sprinkler system. And some insurers, do not use ISO's score to set homeowners' premiums at all.

Highland and Alpine City residents can call their insurance companies and ask them to reevaluate their fire insurance based on the department's new ISO rating. This new rating has the potential to save residents some money.

Friends of the Library

We are happy to announce a giant book sale on February 25 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (early bird sale for Friends of the Library members only is 10:00 am - 11:00 am; you can join at the door) and February 27 from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. The sale will be held in the Council Chambers at the Highland City Library. Stephen King writes that "books are uniquely portable magic." Come and pick up some magic for your spring and summer reading. All proceeds go directly to supporting library programs.

Historical Society

This month's presentation on our City's history will be on Feb. 8 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers. Please join us. For more information please call Charlie Greenland at 801-913-5200.

YOUTH SPORTS & RECREATION PROGRAMS

OPEN TO HIGHLAND CITY RESIDENTS WITH NO ADDITIONAL FEES

VISIT CEDARHILLS.ORG/RECREATION TO FIND OUT MORE!



HIGHLAND CITY LIBRARY



February 2023

Closed Feb 20

Books Babies

F @ 11AM - Ages 0-2

Storytime*

T,W,TH @ 11AM - Ages 0-5

Grandparents Storytime*

Jan 13 @ 11AM - Ages 0-5

Tween Writers Group*

T @ 4PM - Ages 9-12

Teen Writers Group*

TH @ 4PM - Ages 12+

Teen Corps

Feb 11&25 @ 1PM - Ages 12+

*Highland City Library Card Required

Highland History Lecture

Feb 9 @ 6PM

Learn about Highland's early settlers!

Blind Date with a Book All Month

Can you find your next great literary love?

HOURS:

M-TH: 10AM-8PM

F: 10AM-4PM

SAT: 12PM-4PM

Closed SUNDAY

Valentine Boxes - Ages 6-11

Feb 4 @ 1PM

Make a fun box to collect Valentine Goodies! Children 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

For the Love of Slime

Feb 18 @ 1PM

Do you love slime? So do we! Come join us for some slimy fun! Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

Friends of the Library Booksale

Feb 25 @ 10AM-11AM Members Only

Feb 25 @ 11AM-4PM

Feb 27 @ 10AM-6PM

Buy some discounted books and support the Library!

Paws to Read - For All Ages Ends Feb 28

Reading is perfect for a cold winter's day. Have fun this winter with a reading incentive program! Complete challenges to earn prizes. Sign up is easy, just ask a librarian!

CONTACT US:

Email: circstaff@highlandcity.org

Phone: (801) 772-4528

Website: www.highlandcitylibrary.org

Address: 5400 Civic Center Dr. Suite 2 Highland, UT

