

Mayor's Message - Kurt Ostler

If you've noticed dry patches along parkways or in our City parks recently—you're not alone. Many residents have reached out, and as your Mayor and City Council, we've seen conditions firsthand. Alongside City staff, we've met with the Parks Department to understand the situation and potential solutions. Over the past month, the Parks Department has shared updates on the steps being taken.

So, what's going on?

According to our Parks staff, an early heat wave in June arrived faster than expected, catching much of the region by surprise. With over 1,700 sprinkler zones to adjust, transitioning from spring to summer watering schedules wasn't an overnight process. This delay in shifting irrigation clock timing led to some of the dry areas you may have seen. In addition, clock battery failures and issues with Lone Peak area water pumps contributed to the problem.

Although we started the season with 102% of average snowfall, the rapid warm-up caused snowpack to run off earlier than usual. This significantly reduced water flow from American Fork Canyon, which now sits at just 63% of typical flow. The early switch to Murdock Canal water also brought more sediment and debris, requiring frequent cleaning of pressurized irrigation filters—something many residents may be experiencing with their own systems.

With this in mind, I wanted to highlight the extensive work our dedicated Parks staff accomplishes each week.

Highland City's Parks Department includes six full-time staff and 30 seasonal summer workers. Key roles include a splash pad supervisor, two irrigation specialists for sprinkler maintenance, and a repair technician for fountains, docks, and graffiti cleanup.

The City oversees over 10,200 sprinkler heads in 1,700 zones. In 2024, 640 heads were replaced, and 5,200 pressurized irrigation meters have been installed in the past two years. With current water flow at 63% of normal, residents are encouraged to water only on recommended days.

Crews maintain 184 acres of turf, with each employee covering about 13 acres weekly—over 83 football fields. Highland Cemetery alone has 97 zones and takes 12 staff nearly five hours to mow. The City maintains 27 parks, 18 playgrounds, ten pavilions, eight pickleball courts, and one convertible tennis court. Highland Glen Park spans 75 acres with a three-acre pond. The new Highland Family Park (17 acres) is set to open in mid-August and features water-wise landscaping.

Highland City has been a Tree City USA community for 27 years. We maintain over 5,000 public trees, replacing 50–100 annually, with care provided by two certified arborists.

I want to thank our Parks Department for their dedication and hard work, and express my appreciation to the residents of Highland for your continued support as we work together to keep our City beautiful, water-efficient, and thriving. Our parks and open spaces are among Highland's most cherished amenities, and are one of the key reasons many of us chose to make Highland our home.



CALENDAR

July 31 — August 2: Highland Fling

August 5: City Council Meeting
6pm, City Hall

August 19: City Council Meeting
6pm, City Hall

August 26: Planning Commission
7pm, City Hall

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: highlandut.gov
Or you can text us with any questions or concerns at
385-421-9045

Follow us on Social Media



@highlandcityutah



Highland City

City Council Meeting Brief

For full agendas, minutes, & audio, visit <http://bit.ly/HC-agendas>. For video, go to our YouTube channel @HighlandCityUtah or visit bit.ly/HC-citycouncil.

July 1, 2025

- Amendment Expiration of Approvals and Applications:** The City Council approved proposed amendments that established expiration procedures for land use applications and approvals.

July 15, 2025

- Agreement to Fund Road Improvements:** City Council approved an Interlocal Agreement between Utah County and Highland City to fund improvements of 10400 North and 6000 West and the reconstruction of 6800 West.
- Regulating Materials and Vegetation in Public Ways:** City Council amended the municipal code to provide clearer regulations to keep streets, sidewalks, and trails clear of obstructions.

Highland City Municipal Primary Election — August 12th, 2025

Do you need to register to vote? vote.utah.gov

Have you received your ballot? Ballots were mailed to registered voters starting July 22nd. If you have not received your ballot, call the Utah County Elections Office at (801) 851-8128.

What will be on the ballot? A [sample ballot](#) can be found on the Election page of the city website. <https://bit.ly/3ZC7Nc1> Two (2) Highland City Council Seats and One (1) Aspen Peaks School Board seat.

City Council Candidates: McKaiden Carruth, Ron Campbell, Wes Warren, Liz Rice, Kristin Richey, Scott L. Smith, Corey Freeze

Aspen Peaks School Board Candidates: Nicki Brammer, Jonathan Bejarano, Mary Thomas, Jennie Hall

Brittney P. Bills is the only individual who has filed to run for the mayoral seat. The mayoral race will not appear on the ballot until the General Election in November.

How do I find information about the candidates?

Go to the Election page on the City's website at <https://bit.ly/3ZC7Nc1> where you can read candidate bios as well as a Voter Information Guide which includes candidate responses to key issues in Highland City.

How Do I Vote?

Early Voting: Early voting will take place at the Utah County Elections office located at 100 E Center Street, Provo, UT from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on August 4th to 8th, and August 11th.

Ballot Drop Box: Drop off your ballot at any Utah County Ballot Drop Box until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025. There is a drop box located on the north side of the City Offices, 5400 W Civic Center Dr. For additional drop box locations go to vote.utahcounty.gov/voting-locations.

Vote Centers on Election Day: Drop off your ballot at any Vote Center throughout the County on Primary Election Day, August 12th, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Highland City will be hosting a Vote Center at City Hall. For a list of Vote Centers go to vote.utahcounty.gov/voting-locations.

Mail: Mail in your ballot. **Note:** Due to new legislation this year, your ballot must be received no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day. We strongly recommend using either the ballot drop boxes or vote centers to ensure that your ballot will arrive on time. Ballots arriving in the mail after Election Day will not be counted.

Did you know you can track your ballot?

Go to vote.utah.gov to sign up to track your ballot.

More election information can be found at vote.utahcounty.gov/home or you can email elections@highlandut.gov.

Water Conservation Notice

This past winter did not deliver the snowpack we had hoped for, and as a result, the City's pressurized irrigation (PI) system is already nearing capacity—well before the hottest weeks of the year.

To avoid exceeding system capacity, the City is asking all residents to use their sprinkler systems wisely and avoid overwatering. Recently installed water meters are a valuable tool for monitoring usage. If you haven't yet accessed your water use portal, visit <https://www.highlandpmeters.com> to sign up for an account.

If you notice brown spots or dry areas in your yard, try cleaning your sprinkler filter or spot-watering those areas instead of running a full sprinkler cycle.

Thank you for doing your part to conserve water!



Shauna Larson, President
801-891-7183

 @highlandcityarts  Highland City Arts Council

Contact
Visit our website!
highlandcityarts.info



All of the following events are held at the Highland City Community Center unless otherwise stated.

Sew 'n Sews will be meeting on Friday, August 15th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring your machine or hand project to work on something for Sew and Tell. Hope to see you there. Contact Carol at cwhadlock@gmail.com or 801-400-8727 for more information.

Now Enrolling! Highland Children's Choir Spots are reserved in the order registrations are submitted. Multiple choirs for ages 5-23. Register at highlandchildrenschoir.com. COME SING WITH US!

Timpanogos Ringers It's back to Bell time! If you have ever wanted to try handbell ringing, come try out at our first rehearsal on August 20th, 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. For more information contact Paige at super.paige.erick@gmail.com.

Highland Choral Arts looks forward to seeing you in the Highland Fling Parade! We have auditions beginning on August 12th. Go to highlandchoralarts.org to sign up for an audition.

Friends of Art Get ready for another exciting year! Our First meeting starting fall of 2025 will be Thursday, September 4th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We will have a guest speaker and a luncheon to follow. Hope to see you all there. Everyone is welcome.

After School Art Club Pre-registration is required. First class is September 8th, 4:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Ages 8-11. For more information and to pre-register, contact Linda at 717-368-6924.

Visual Arts Institute Check our website for more information to come on Visual Arts Institute fall programs.

Friends of the Library When Donna Cardon was hired as Library Director in 2018, the Friends of the Library bonded with her immediately. She listened to the Library Board, City Council, and other community organizations. She decided she wanted the library to be the happy face of the City, where patrons could spend time with family and friends.

Donna wanted many library events during the year. She wanted to encourage reading. She made it all happen. The Friends have loved her willingness to devote herself to the library and allow them to help. So why don't we have a happy face today? Donna is leaving, but we'll all be smiling when we remember all she's done.

Highland Fling

Don't forget to join us for this year's Highland Fling from Thursday, July 31st to Saturday, August 2nd.

Event details are posted on the Highland City website at highlandcityfling.com.

Highland Historical Society

Celebrating 150 years of community history, immerse yourself in Highland's past at the Highland Fling! Look for fascinating historical facts woven into the parade and encourage children to embark on a historical trivia scavenger hunt for a small prize at the Historical Society museum booth.

The Highland Historical Society and the Highland Arts Council will join forces to create the **Highland Center for the Arts and Heritage**! This center will feature:

- An **interactive, family-friendly historical museum** that brings our past to life.
- An **auditorium and stage** for captivating theater productions and musical performances.
- **Practice space** for the music groups.
- An **art gallery** showcasing local artistic talent.
- Versatile **classrooms** to serve a diverse range of interests for all ages.
- Dedicated **activities and programs** for our cherished senior population.

This is more than just a building; it's a legacy we're creating together. To ensure the center truly reflects our community, **we need your voice as we plan and raise the funds needed**.

Get involved by contacting Claudia Sudweeks (Historical Society: 801-602-8394, highlandhistoricalsoc@gmail.com) or Shauna Larson (Arts Council: 801-891-7183, shaunaholt@live.com). Keep an eye on our announcements for info sessions where you can share ideas and help shape this project. Let's work together to build a Center for the Arts and Heritage that will inspire, educate, and entertain for generations to come.



No Regular Library Programs

All Month

We will be pausing our regular programs during the month of August to prepare for our programs during the school year.

Friends of the Library Used Book Sale

Sat, Aug 2, 9am-5pm

Teens & Adults

The Friends of the Library will be holding their biggest book sale yet in the Pavilion at Highland Heritage Park at this year's Highland Fling.

All proceeds support the library!

Summer Celebration Chalk Walk

Sat, Aug 16, 1pm-3pm

All Ages

Celebrate the end of the summer at this chalk art showcase featuring artistic patrons' favorite stories from this year.

There will be fun for the whole family!

Hours

M-Th: 10 AM-8 PM

F: 10 AM-4 PM

Sat: 12 PM-4 PM

Closed Sunday

Craft & Chat

Daisy Bracelets

Wed, Aug 20, 6pm-7pm

Teens & Adults

Make macrame daisy bracelets and find a sense of community and creativity at this free craft class where all supplies are provided.

Registration required at highlandcitylibrary.eventbrite.com

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

Drop Off: Fri, Aug 29, 12pm-4pm

Pick Up: Aug 30

Storytime Session 1: 1pm

Storytime Session 2: 2pm

Make macrame daisy bracelets and find a sense of community and creativity at this free craft class where all supplies are provided.

Registration for pick up sessions can be found at highlandcitylibrary.eventbrite.com

Contact Us

library@highlandut.gov

(801) 772-4528

highlandut.gov/1160/Library

5400 Civic Center Dr. Suite 2
Highland, UT

