ISSUE #35

City Administrator's Update

HIGHLAND HAVEN
✦
July 2, 2026



A Time to Celebrate and Reflect

Independence Day in Highland Haven

Dear Highland Haven Residents,

As we approach the July 4th holiday weekend, I would like to take a moment to recognize what this time represents and how we celebrate it as a community.

Independence Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on the values that have shaped our country and continue to guide our communities today—freedom, responsibility, and a shared commitment to one another. It is also a time when many of us gather with family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy all that makes Highland Haven a special place to live.

Here in Highland Haven, that sense of community is especially evident during holiday weekends. Whether spending time on the lake, visiting with neighbors, or simply enjoying a few days of rest, these moments are an important part of what makes our community strong. As we enjoy the holiday, it's also important that we do so in a way that keeps everyone safe and protects the quality of life we all value. With increased activity throughout the City, a few simple reminders can help ensure a safe and enjoyable weekend for all.

Fireworks Reminder
The ignition, detonation, or setting of fireworks within the city limits is prohibited at all times. While fireworks are a part of many holiday traditions, this restriction is in place to reduce fire risk, protect property, and maintain the safety of our neighborhoods. We appreciate everyone's cooperation.

Golf Carts, E-Bikes, and Scooters
We continue to see increased use of golf carts, electric bicycles, and scooters throughout the City, especially during busy holiday weekends. Please remember that these vehicles must be operated in a responsible way—they are not toys, and children should not be driving them. All operators should use caution, follow basic traffic rules, and operate these vehicles safely and responsibly at all times. If you are driving a car, please stay alert and watch for these vehicles, as well as for pedestrians and cyclists. A little extra awareness goes a long way in preventing accidents.

Lake and Boating Safety
For those enjoying time on the lake, please operate watercraft responsibly, be mindful of others, and take basic safety precautions. Staying aware of your surroundings and using appropriate safety equipment helps ensure that everyone can enjoy the water safely.
Watch for Increased Activity

With additional visitors in town, we can expect more traffic, pedestrians, and activity throughout the community. Please drive carefully, stay alert, and do your part to help keep Highland Haven safe and welcoming for everyone.

Our community works best when everyone does their part. Thank you for helping maintain the safe, respectful, and neighborly environment that makes Highland Haven such a great place to live.

Stay safe, enjoy the holiday, and thank you for being part of our community. As always, stay informed, stay involved, and please don't hesitate to contact City Hall if you have questions or concerns.

Andy Adams

City Administrator
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Next BOA Meeting

The Board of Aldermen will have their next regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday July 7, at the Community Center.

A copy of the agendas will be available online, as well as the packets.

Next P&Z Meeting

The next regular Planning and Zoning Commission meeting will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday July 9, at the Community Center.

A copy of the agenda will be available online, as well as the packet.

Budget Preparation Timeline

We're preparing the City's next fiscal year budget (Oct. 1, 2026 – Sept. 30, 2027) using a clear, phased approach: starting with the General Fund (core operations funded largely by property taxes), then the Water Fund, Solid Waste Fund, and finally tying everything together into a balanced whole.

This fund-by-fund process keeps discussions focused and efficient, complies with state law, and prioritizes:

- Stable, city-controlled revenues (like property taxes and transfers) to cover essentials first
- Conservative estimates (e.g., water charges based on lowest recent usage year)
- Fixed/mandated costs before variable/operational items

Public input is welcome and encouraged at every step—attend meetings, workshops, or reach out anytime!

Key Meeting Dates & Focus (All at 7 p.m. unless noted; workshops at 5 p.m.)

- ~~March 3: Introduce budget calendar, format, key dates, and tax concepts~~
- ~~March 17: Review current-year budget; approve any needed adjustments~~
- **April — General Fund**
  - ~~April 7: Present draft (revenues, expenses, new projects)~~
  - ~~April 21: 5 p.m. Workshop to refine; 7 p.m. updated draft + public input~~
- **May — Water Fund**
  - ~~May 5: Present draft (charges, expenses, transfers, possible rate changes, projects)~~
  - ~~May 19: 5 p.m. Workshop to refine; 7 p.m. updated draft + public input~~
- **June — Solid Waste Fund & Full Balanced Budget**
  - ~~June 2: Present full draft (including Solid Waste options, updated funds, tax/levy scenarios)~~
  - ~~June 16: 5 p.m. Workshop to refine; 7 p.m. updated full draft + public input; finalize for filing~~
- **July — Filing & Final Prep**
  - July 7: Review filed proposed budget (adjustments limited after filing)
  - July 21: Final tweaks, set public hearing dates, more public feedback
- **August — Adoption**
  - August 4: Public hearing on budget and tax rate; possible adoption
  - August 18: Backup date for hearings/adoption if needed

We aim to file the proposed budget with the City Secretary in early July and adopt by mid-August (targeting our August 4 or 18 meeting) to meet state deadlines, including the certified appraisal roll around July 25 and required public notices/hearings.

To view our proposed budget presentation please click the following link:

City of Highland Haven Proposed Budget Presentation

Stay in the Loop & Reach Out!

We appreciate you taking the time to stay informed about what's happening in Highland Haven. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat about city matters, we're always happy to hear from you! Feel free to reach out, and we'll do our best to provide answers and keep you in the know.

📞 Phone: (830) 265-4366
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Stay engaged, stay involved, and thank you for being a part of what makes Highland Haven a great place to live!