

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! Did you know there are approximately 2 billion mothers in the world, with four babies born each second? In America, more than 4 million women between the ages of 15 and 50 became mothers in the last 12 months.



GAZEBOEXPRES

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MAY 2014

CONSTRUCTION BIDS

Highland seeking contractors for new public safety building

Site work on the new public safety building is continuing as the Town Council hires contractors to begin the bricks-and-mortar phase of what is planned to be a 16-month project.

Next up is the common construction wage hearing May 5, which determines pay ranges for labor and bid submission. Bid opening is scheduled for May 22.

No one is more excited to see footings poured and construction begin than Councilman Dennis Adams, council liaison for the project.

In that capacity, Adams will shepherd the project and ensure that work is being completed expediently and cost-effectively.

"We've been talking about this project for more than a decade. The council decided they wanted one person overseeing the project

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR ...

NIPSCO installed three electrical poles to reroute electricity from the house that will be demolished by mid-May. At its regular meeting of April 28, the Town Council authorized Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin to solicit construction bids.

rather than six or seven," Adams said. "We have this one opportunity to move things along and see construction of this much-needed public safety building come to fruition.

"This is an exciting project we are eager to see evolve for our police officers, who will have the space and technology they need to do their jobs. This will be a wonderful addition for our town. Our target for completion is September 2015. That day can't happen soon enough."



HIGHLAND MILITARY VETERANS TO ADDRESS MEMORIAL DAY CROWD

This year's Memorial Day ceremony will include a pair of speeches by two hometown heroes who chose careers in the military.

Col. Daniel Kozlowski and Master Sgt. Ryan Ralph will address the meaning of Memorial Day and the sacrifices of those who defend us.

Kozlowski, who will deliver the President's Address, is a senior legal advisor for the Judge Advocate's office at Atterbury-Muscatatuck.

As part of his service, Kozlowski supported operations in the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ralph, a father of four,

has been deployed to numerous hotspots, including Iraq, as part of his work as a United States Marine.

"We are honored to have these brave soldiers grace our Memorial Day remembrance," said Dawn Wolak, coordinator of the Memorial service for the Council of Community Events.

"Our soldiers who protect us today, as well as those who came before them, add immeasurably to the lives of every American."

Highland's celebration will begin at 10 a.m. May 26 at the Main Square Gazebo.

LOWEST FORECLOSURES

With only two properties added to the list in May, Highland has the distinction of having the lowest percentage of foreclosures in Lake County.

"We have consistently had a lower percentage of foreclosures than most of our neighbors. It is wonderful to see our new ranking," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "Our hope is that the worst of the housing crisis is over."

Since January, Highland – with 10,335 housing units – has recorded 23 bank foreclosures and two of those were eventually cancelled.

FAMILY SAFETY NIGHT

Highland Police are partnering with Garfield Lodge No. 569 for a Family Safety Awareness Night to help families become aware of their surroundings and develop strategies to remain safe.

Members of the Highland Police Department will demonstrate simple self-defense tactics from a martial arts expert. The event is free. Light refreshments will be served.

WHEN: 6 p.m. Friday, **MAY 30**

WHERE: Highland Masonic Temple, 2234 Martha St.

INFO: Call Jim Slagle at (219) 628-6797.

... TOWN TICKER ...

Home from college? Join [Lincoln Fitness Center](#) in May or June and pay no initiation fee on a three-month membership! ... Highland Middle School students are finishing their [Gang Resistance Education And Training \(GREAT\)](#). Interested in sponsoring the program? Please contact Sgt. Michael O'Donnell at modonnell@highland.k12.in.us or call the school (219) 922-5610, ext. 1054. ... [Highland police](#) will be targeting junk cars as part of the town's spring cleanup. To report a junk vehicle, contact Building and Inspections at (219) 838-3185. ... Budding blooms! [Highland High Athletic Boosters](#) will be selling thousands of annual flowers from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 10 at the Middle School parking lot at 41st and 5th streets.

COFFEE WITH A COP



Join your neighbors and Highland police officers for coffee and conversation. No agendas or speeches, just a chance to ask questions, voice

concerns and get to know the officers in your neighborhood.

WHEN: 8:30 to 11 a.m. **MAY 17**

WHERE: McDonald's, 3904 Ridge Road

INFO: Call Corporal Shawn Anderson at the Highland Police Department, (219) 838-3181, ext. 4074.

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Learn about recent crime trends at this month's neighborhood meeting.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **MAY 14**

WHERE: Highland Library

INFO: Call Corporal Shawn Anderson at the Highland Police Department, (219) 838-3181, ext. 4074.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

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dvassar@highland.in.gov
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WARD 4

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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DEVELOPER INVESTS IN VACANT LAND FOR CORPORATE HOUSING, RENTALS

Even before the last snows melted, 45th Avenue was alive with projects to enhance the look and vitality of the retail corridor.

The first structure to be razed was the one-time Mama Puntillo's – most recently Chela's – in Woodland Mall. The town paid \$42,300 to demolish the building, fill the property and turn it into green space until a suitable developer can be found. The town plans to recoup its investment when the property is sold.

The second building to come tumbling down was on the five-acre property that once housed Terry Shaver Pontiac, 2121 45th Avenue.

Long-time developer Eric Gastevich saw an opportunity in the abandoned parcel.

“The property had been sitting vacant for an awfully long time,” said Gastevich, who owns Prairie Square LLC, the company developing the \$10 million project. “I decided there had to be a solution to correct that situation. We believe this development will complement the

neighborhood, which is a mix of apartments, condominiums and retail.”

Five new buildings will house 176 one- and two-bedroom rental units. In addition, the complex will feature a common building anchor that will serve as a gathering spot for tenants and feature a main office, coffee bar, fireplace lounge and exercise room.

While considered a motel, Gastevich said a majority of the tenants will be leasing the units, which feature stainless appliances, stone countertops and in-unit laundry facilities, for a year or longer. The units are ideal for corporate clients who need extended housing options.

“Within the market, there exists high demand for corporate rentals, particularly one-bedroom units, which we do not have,” Gastevich said. “The buildings will be a mix of two- and three-story structures. We expect to have our first occupancies this fall and have the complex completed within a year.”

TOWN TO ASSESS FIFTH STREET BASIN SANITARY SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

RedZone Robotics, Inc. of Pittsburgh, will be conducting an assessment of the sanitary sewer collection system within the Fifth Street Basin. Located east of the Norfolk and Southern railroad tracks and Kennedy Avenue, the Fifth Street basin represents about 60 percent of the town's sanitary sewer system.

Terry Hodnik of NIES Engineering said work could begin as early as this month and continue for the next year.

“The project will provide a full condition assessment of all sanitary sewer mains and manholes within the basin,” he said. “RedZone will utilize advanced robotic televising equipment to capture the condition of each asset.”

They will use the National Association of Sewer Service Companies industry standards for Pipeline and Manhole Assessments to rate the condition of each sewer pipe and manhole.

“This information will be uploaded into a software program that will work with the town's mapping software,” Hodnik said. “By combining old and new data, we will have the information we need to better manage the system and make repairs.

“The project will also provide valuable information where storm water is leaching into the system,” he said. “Upcoming projects will be planned to reduce costly infiltration.”

RedZone personnel will be identifiable by the markings on their trucks as well as badges on individual personnel. Hodnik said they will also have paperwork with them should a resident have questions.

INFO: If you have concerns or questions during this project, please call Bob Johnsen, assistant director of public works, at (219) 972-5083.

Sounds of Summer

Sultry skies and oh-so-warm evening temperatures lend themselves to spending time outdoors. Grab a comfy lawn chair and your favorite bug spray and head to Main Square for Highland Park's summer concert series. From the classic tunes of our community band to the sounds of garage rock, pop, funk and blues, there's something for everyone to enjoy this summer!

concert in the park

WHEN: 7 to 9 p.m.

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in the Lincoln Community Center Field-house. Please bring your own chair.

INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 or www.highlandparks.org.



the talent

JUNE 5

Community Band
classical and modern

JUNE 12

Tonal Attitude
rock, pop, funk, blues

JUNE 19

Oscar and the Majestics
garage rock

JUNE 26

Neverly Brothers
rock & roll

JULY 10

Dan Mateja & the Downtown Sound
polka

JULY 17

Piano Man Mike Sigman
Tribute to Elton John & Billy Joel

CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME

Come out and cheer on our Highland Police Department as they take on the Munster and Dyer in the 2nd Annual Charity Softball Tournament. The event features door prizes and concessions. All proceeds benefit the Cancer Resource Centre in Munster. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased:

BY MAIL: Mail cash or check payable to the Town of Munster to the Munster Police Department, c/o Ofc. James Christ, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321.

IN PERSON: In the front lobby of the Munster Police Department or from any of the participating players.

WHEN: 1:30 p.m. Sunday, **MAY 18**

WHERE: Munster Community Park, 8601 Calumet Ave., Munster

INFO: Call Corporal Shawn Anderson at the Highland Police Department, (219) 838-3181, ext. 4074.

ST. BALDRICK'S EVENT

Tradition's Restaurant and Pub will host a St. Baldrick's event to raise money for childhood cancer research. This family-friendly event features games for the kids as well as music, food and raffles for the big kids! The afternoon will honor Amber, a Highland High School student diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma in November 2013 and is now cancer free.

WHEN: 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, **MAY 18**

WHERE: Tradition's Restaurant and Pub, 2739 Highway Ave.

INFO: To volunteer or become a sponsor or shavée, visit www.stbaldricks.org/events/hoseoutcancer2014 or contact Christie Zumm at stbaldrickhighland@sbcglobal.net.

CIVIL WAR ANNIVERSARY

Join the Highland Historical Society for a presentation of "U.S. Grant: The Hero of Appomattox" portrayed by Terry Lynch, professional actor and historian. It has been 152 years since the start of the Civil War. Ulysses S. Grant, commander of the Union Army, commemorates this anniversary as he reveals how the war impacted the lives of all Americans. The conflict was not restricted to the battle fields. The war affected the lives of average citizens as the nation struggled to remain united. This is a free program and refreshments will be served.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, **MAY 22**

WHERE: Lincoln Center, Room 108-9

INFO: Call (219) 922-1047.

PARKS & RECREATION KICKS OFF TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS

YOUTH TRACK & FIELD: This program benefits boys and girls - ages 4 to 12 - who will compete in meets against other Northwest Indiana teams. Volunteer assistants are needed, too!

PRACTICE: Wednesdays, beginning **JUNE 4**

WHERE: Highland High School Track

FEE: \$50/\$55. Register by **JUNE 1** at Lincoln Center.

HERSHEY GAMES: Compete in basic track and field events and have a chance to receive an all-expense paid trip to compete in the annual North American Final meet held in Hershey, PA.

PRACTICE: 6 p.m. Wednesday, **JUNE 18**

WHERE: Highland High School Track

FEE: Free. Register by **JUNE 13** at Lincoln Center

CLASSIC CAR CRUISE

Calling all classic car enthusiasts! If you have a classic car or antique hot rod, join us for the inaugural Highland Main Street Car Cruise in downtown Highland. Cars may be registered onsite the afternoon of the cruise.

WHEN: 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, **MAY 31.**

Our rain date is 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, **JUNE 7.**

WHERE: Downtown Highland. Vehicles will park along Highway Avenue and Jewett Street east of Kennedy Avenue, and in the municipal parking lots east and west of Kennedy Avenue along Highway.

INFO: Call Mario DeGeorge, chair of the cruise for Highland Main Street, at (708) 250-1388.

GIRLS ON THE RUN SPRING 5K

Girls on the Run of Northwest Indiana is hosting its 5th Annual Spring 5K at Highland High School.

WHEN: 8 a.m. Saturday, **MAY 17.** Race starts at 10 a.m. Onsite registration, Happy Hair and face painting begin at 8 a.m.

WHERE: Highland High School

FEE: \$20 adults, \$15 kids under 16

REGISTRATION: Deadline is Thursday, **MAY 15.** Register online at gotrofnwi.org.

INFO: Email Jill Schlueter-Kim at gotrofnwi@yahoo.com about the 5K. Email Jodi Aurand at Jodi@gotrofnwi.com about registration.

HIGHLAND PIZZA PALOOZA

The Highland Chamber is hosting a pizza-tasting contest to find out who makes the best pizza in the Highland area! Sample locally made pies and Three Floyds beer crafted right here in Northwest Indiana. A portion of the proceeds benefit the Humane Society of the Calumet Area.

WHEN: Doors open at 5 p.m. Monday, **MAY 12**

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

TICKETS: \$20 includes up to 10 pizza samples and three beer tastings

INFO: For tickets or more information, please call the chamber office at (219) 923-3666 or visit www.highlandchamber.com.

KIWANIS CHICKEN DINNER

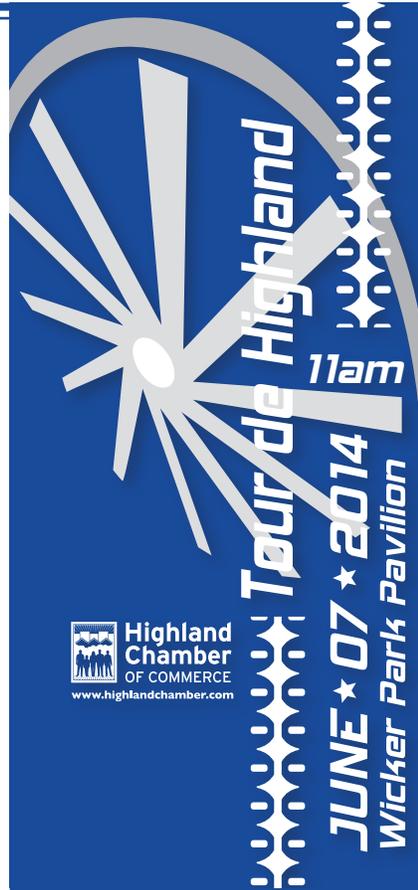
Join the Highland Kiwanis for a chicken dinner at Main Square Park. Eat at the park or take home. Tickets are \$9 and include half a roasted chicken, Nelson's tasty Pit-Tatoes and slaw.

WHEN: 5 - 6:30 p.m. Thursday, **JUNE 5**

WHERE: Main Square Park

TICKETS: Purchase tickets by **MAY 23** at First Midwest Bank, 2842 Highway Ave.; Edward Jones, 8415 Kennedy Ave.; or Lincoln Center.

INFO: Call Jeannine at (219) 923-2360.



Enjoy a family-friendly bicycle ride through our hometown.

Texas Corral will provide lunch at the registration site to all participants (must be wearing a sanctioned wristband to receive food).

Friends and family may join the riders for lunch for \$5 (they will be given a wristband upon payment).

WHEN: 11 a.m. Saturday, **JUNE 7**

WHERE: Check-in is at 10 a.m. at Wicker Park Pavilion. The bike ride starts at 11 a.m. and is expected to last about 60 minutes. Cookout will begin after riders return.

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$10 by 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 27 includes giveaway and lunch

LATE REGISTRATION: \$15 May 28 - June 7 giveaways while supplies last

ONLINE REGISTRATION: www.signmeup.com/100349

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666 or email info@highlandchamber.com.

WIZARD OF OZ AUDITIONS

Calling all actors! There are 10 major roles including 25 munchkins and 25 crowd people for this summer's community theater performance of the "Wizard of Oz." Bring a short song and dance audition. We also need assistance back stage.

WHEN: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. **MAY 20-22.** Children ages 5-12 audition Tuesday, May 20 and adults Wednesday, May 21. Callbacks Thursday, May 22.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

NOTE: No dance auditions for munchkins.

INFO: Email Director C. Dale Kelley at Cdale52253@aol.com.

10-WEEK SUMMER CAMP

Highland Parks and Recreation's summer camp engages kids – ages 5 to 12 – in games, crafts, songs, drama, sports activities and field trips. Register your child today for an out-of-this-world camp experience.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, **JUNE 2 to AUGUST 9.** Pre-camp hours are from 7 - 8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

CAMP FEE: \$105/\$110 weekly, \$25/\$30 daily

PRE-CAMP FEE: \$30/\$35 weekly, \$6/\$7 daily

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Join us for a presentation about our preschool program. Registration information will be provided for parents of students ages 1-5.

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, **MAY 27.**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

POP WARNER SIGN-UPS

There's still time to register your child for Highland Pop Warner football, cheer or dance. Must bring child's birth certificate, report card and physical. A doctor will be onsite to provide physicals for \$15.

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays, **MAY 10, 17, 31**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$200 football, \$200 cheer and dance

INFO: Call Mark at (708) 516-4948 for football and Tanya at (219) 677-8070 for cheer/dance.

INDOOR STREET MARKET

Stop indoors for your favorite breads, fresh local honey, cupcakes, spices and more one last time before the outdoor market debuts in June.

WHEN: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, **MAY 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.