

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND · JANUARY 2022



Highland's on the move in 2022

Long-vacant properties in downtown Highland are once again in high demand. A flurry of multimillion dollar developments are in the works. At the same time, the Redevelopment Commission has plans to add new signs that pair well with new lighting already in place throughout the downtown corridor. Redevelopment Director Kathy DeGuilio-Fox said all signs point to important projects in 2022.

[SENIOR LIVING DEVELOPMENT]

The Town Council voted Dec. 27 to approve an economic development package that sets the stage for construction of a senior living complex between Kleinman Road and Cline Avenue along Ernie Strack Drive. As part of the economic enhancements, the Russell Group will improve Ernie Strack Drive and complete the work necessary to disconnect the Griffland sanitary sewer from Griffith and connect it to the Highland sanitary district.

[FORMER BULT OIL PROPERTY]

Dormant for more than 20 years, the Redevelopment Commission is eager to see new construction on the former Bult Oil property. Ownership of the parcel is planned to be transferred in early 2022 from the town to the Eriks family, owner of Highland Body Shop. Early plans are for site remediation that will be followed by expansion of the body shop on the site.

[INNOVATIONS]

After installing EV chargers at the new downtown municipal parking lot, the Redevelopment Commission is continuing innovation and beautification efforts in 2022 by installing wayfinding signs that mirror the mid-century modern look and feel of Highland's downtown retail corridors. The project has been in the works for more than a year.



[NEW TASTING ROOM ON JEWETT]

Zorn Brew Works, known in Michigan City for the family brewing business that began 145 years ago, is bringing its name and experience to 2821 Jewett Street in 2022. Word is, the owners have plans to create a tasting room for microbrews and spirits and are eager to begin improvements. The Highland Redevelopment Commission approved the sale of the building to Zorn Brew Works late last year.



[BOARD MEMBERS]

The Town Council is looking for more than two dozen residents eager to serve on one of the 12 boards and commissions that help keep Highland humming. Residents must file an application with the Clerk-Treasurer's office – either in person or submitted by mail to the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, IN 46322.

INFO: Learn about each board and commission or download an application at highland.in.gov.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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The Gazebo Express is produced by:
The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Lithographic Communications
9701 Indiana Parkway, Munster, IN 46321

Town more efficient with tech upgrades

Highland's first Information Technology Director assumed the reins of the office in October and hit the ground running.

In just a few short months, Edward Dabrowski implemented new software and training for the building and zoning departments.

Next up are upgrades and efficiencies in the Water Department meter reading. Known as Neptune 360, the software is light years ahead of the current iPad readers. Using a device clipped to a belt, meter readers will be able to access comprehensive water reading information and store it digitally.

"This advance in water meter reading will make it possible to answer questions and inquiries from citizens about their account more quickly than ever before and pinpoint issues in record time," he said. "In December, we moved the town email system with enhanced security in-house, which is another important step in efficiency and reliability."



[FIBER OPTIC AHEAD]

For 2022, Highland IT Director Ed Dabrowski is looking to upgrade all town IT services to fiber to increase speed and reliability.

Fiber optic cables are made up of thin strands of glass or plastic and increasingly favored over the more traditional ethernet cables. A fiber network will speed information transmission, vital when it comes to the working of the police and fire departments.

Governor honors Distinguished Hoosiers



In a surprise to both, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin and Community Band Director Greg Jasek were honored at the Highland Community Band holiday concert with proclamations naming them Distinguished Hoosiers by Gov. Eric Holcomb.

"Our town is filled with so many Distinguished Hoosiers, I am humbled to be considered one of them," Griffin said. "I was especially honored to accept this award beside Greg Jasek, who has made our community better by being part of it."



[CELEBRATING 75 YEARS]

Less than two years after World War II ended, the town created the Highland Parks and Recreation Department that was a separate department within the community. What began with one has grown to include 20 parks, Lincoln Community Center, Sharp Athletic Complex and the four-mile Erie-Lackawanna Trail. Now celebrating 75 years, the mission of Highland Parks and Recreation remains the same — to enrich the community by providing safe, welcoming and sustainable parks. Stay tuned for celebration details in 2022!

PARKS CONTINUE TO ENRICH HIGHLAND

Consistently updating the five-year plan detailing the needs and wants of the community has been instrumental in continuing the growth and expansion of the parks for the past 75 years. As the community's expectations of recreational spaces have changed, so have Highland parks.

[UPGRADES & IMPROVEMENTS]

The Park Board and Highland Town Council are investing \$3.3 million in park upgrades, facilities improvements along with vehicle and equipment replacement beginning in 2022. Park Superintendent Alex Brown said highlights of the plan include:

- Bike trail improvements including solar lighting and crossing upgrades at Kennedy Avenue
- Development at Sheppard Park
- Expansion of pickleball courts at Meadows Park
- Upgrades to Sharp Athletic Complex
- New playgrounds at Homestead and Markley parks

[PROGRAMS. LEAGUES. EVENTS.]

When he thinks about the dozens of major projects and expansion of the park system over his more than 23 years at the helm of Highland Parks, Brown can conjure a mile-long list of accomplishments that resulted from the leadership of the Park Board and Town Council and enthusiasm for park projects, programs, leagues and enrichment. High on his list are:

- Construction of the fieldhouse in 1998 and reconstruction of Lincoln Center
- Refurbishing and redesign of Main Square Park
- Construction of the new skate park at Sheppard



[LEGO STEM CLASS]

Show your creativity and problem solve as you build LEGO creations. Students – ages 8-12 – will have a STEM challenge, free build time and presentation practice weekly.

WHEN: 4:30-6 p.m. Mondays, January 24-March 7 (off 2/21)

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$83 resident | \$88 nonresident



[TEEN IMPROV]

Students learn the essentials of improvisation such as getting over stage-fright and making bold choices through group exercises, basic improvised scenes and games. At the end, students participate in a showcase demonstrating their skills.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.-noon Saturdays, February 5-26

WHERE: Lincoln Center Banquet Hall
FEE: \$50 residents | \$55 nonresidents
REGISTER BY: January 29



[NERF WAR]

Join us for our 1st Annual Nerf Gun challenge! Players – ages 6-11 – will compete in teams of four in a capture-the-flag tournament. Prizes awarded to the top teams. Bring one Nerf gun and Nerf N Strike foam darts. Protective eyewear will be provided and must be worn to play. Teams formed by age groups.

WHEN: Noon-3 p.m. February 12
WHERE: Lincoln Center Banquet Hall
FEE: \$10

[SENIOR FELLOWSHIP]

Age 55 or older? Join us for Bingo, games, great conversation and the occasional guest speaker.
WHEN: Noon-2 p.m. the last Tuesday of the month
WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
REGISTER BY: Two days in advance.

E-SPORTS LEAGUE



Highland Parks and Recreation is partnering with GG Leagues to bring the exciting world of e-sports to our community. Register and play from home in this eight-week league.

Time and Age Division:

- 7 -8 p.m. (Youth Division: 8-12)
- 8-9 p.m. (Teen Division: 13-18)
- 9-10 p.m. (Adult Division: 18+)

Dates: January 24-March 18

Fees: \$40 per person



[MONDAY]

- Madden 21 on PS4 with PlayStation Plus Subscription
- Madden 21 on Xbox One with Xbox Live Subscription
- Mario Kart 8 Deluxe on Nintendo Switch with Nintendo Switch Online Subscription

[TUESDAY]

- Fortnite 1v1 on PC, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation, Xbox

[WEDNESDAY]

- Rocket League 1v1 (beginner and competitive divisions) on PlayStation, Xbox, PC, Nintendo Switch
- Rocket League 3v3 (beginner and competitive divisions) on PlayStation, Xbox, PC, Nintendo Switch with a team of 3

[THURSDAY]

- Super Smash Bros on Nintendo Switch with Nintendo Switch Online Subscription

[FRIDAY]

- Fortnite 2v2 on PC, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation, Xbox

Registration deadline:

Register by January 17 at app.ggleagues.com/clubs/highland-parks-and-recreation

For more information:

Visit highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

