



Highland Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak consults with Fiscal Analyst Jance Figueroa before Monday night's town council meeting. [Bernie Zemen photo]

NEW HIGHLAND CLERK-TREASURER HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

For the first time in three decades, there is a new face in the Clerk-Treasurer's office.

In his first day, Mark Herak was at work at 8 a.m., took a break to get sworn in as Clerk-Treasurer before heading back to the office.

If the Herak name sounds familiar, it should. The long-time councilman for the Second Ward was selected to serve out the vacancy created when Michael Griffin resigned to become state senator for District 1.

Council President Bernie Zemen expects a smooth transition.

"Mark served as budget chairman for the council for 20 years and — outside of Michael Griffin — is the most familiar with Highland's finances," he said.

"I have full confidence the town will be well-served by our new Clerk-Treasurer."

Herak said he and his staff are already working on ways to improve on systems in place.

"We are emerging from the pandemic at Town Hall," he said. "This is a perfect time to look at ways we do our work and how we can do it better."

SANITARY BOARD WEIGHS IN ON SERVICE LINE WARRANTY

After Highland residents called town offices regarding a letter from Service Line Warranties of America, Sanitary Board Attorney Robert Tweedle investigated.

"The advertising materials sent to Highland residents referenced a partnership between SLWA and the North Township Trustee's Office," Tweedle said. "Highland is not party to this agreement and does not encourage or discourage residents from participating in this, or any similar, program."

Tweedle is advising all property owners to carefully review the terms of any repair or service program, and, if necessary, seek independent advice when considering participation in any program of this type.

"The Town of Highland maintains all publicly owned water and sewer lines up to private property lines," he said. "The property owners are responsible for the maintenance of those lines from the edge of their property to their homes."

Public Works Director Mark Knesek said residents who experience a problem with their water service or sewer lines should contact Highland Public Works at (219) 972-5083.

"We will investigate the problem and advise whether the Town or the property owner is responsible for the repair," Knesek said.

[LIGHTNING ALERTS]

April showers bring May flowers — and thunderstorms, too! Six of the town's parks — Sharp Athletic Complex, Main Square, Homestead, Sheppard, Markley and Meadows — are equipped with devices that activate a siren/strobe light when lightning is detected within 10 miles of town.

[HIGHLAND SHRED DAY]

The Town of Highland will shred your confidential documents for free from 8 a.m. to noon **JUNE 18** at Highland Public Works, 8001 Kennedy Ave. Proof of residency is required.

- 4 boxes – no larger than 12x18x10 – or 4 brown paper grocery bags per household.
- No plastic covers, binder clips/ notebooks or spiral notebooks.
- Please recycle all your nonconfidential documents and other papers bi-weekly in your Highland curbside recycling bin.

[HAZARDOUS WASTE]

Make your environment safer by bringing your batteries, cleaners, oils, solvents, poisons, gasoline, pesticides, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs to the town garage from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **JULY 23**. Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

Earth Day: April 22

Show your support by planting a tree, walking or riding your bike instead of taking a car, reducing your consumption of non-recyclable goods and recycling where you can. Here's some upcoming environmental events to get you started:

[SPRING CLEANUP]

Republic Services will schedule extra crews **MAY 10** to collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning. **NOT INCLUDED:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at Highland Public Works, 8001 Kennedy Ave. **INFO:** Call (219) 972-5083.

[LEAVES & BRANCHES]

Crews will be running daily routes through **APRIL 14** to collect leaves, which should be raked as close to the street as possible. Branch pickup will continue through October. Please pile branches in front of the property. Please call to schedule a Friday pickup for heavier logs and stumps. Visit highland.in.gov for route maps.

[DRUG RECYCLING]

Turn in your unused or expired medications to the proper authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out. Highland Police will participate in the drug take-back program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **APRIL 30** at the police department, 3315 Ridge Road. No needles will be accepted. **QUESTIONS?** Call Ken Balon in Support Services at (219) 838-3184.

[GOT STICKERED? REDUCE. REUSE. RECYCLE.]

Public Works Director Mark Knesek said Highland households produce 154.9 tons of recycling per month. However, a good chunk of that paper, plastic and cardboard is unrecyclable. "Our Republic representative says we are not the worst when it comes to recycling but we're certainly not the best — and that costs us money," Knesek said. "I am calling on all residents to up your education on what we can recycle — and what we can't." It's good for the environment and makes it pay to recycle again. **INFO:** Visit highland.in.gov to a complete recycling guide.



Park Pride Day: April 23

Join Highland Parks and Rec for the 21st annual community park cleanup day from 9 to 11:30 a.m. **APRIL 23**. Everyone is welcome, especially community groups and families. You will be assigned a park for cleanup. Bring gloves, rakes and energy! Immediately after, meet us at noon at Main Square Park to receive your free T-shirt and lunch. Individuals and groups must register at Lincoln Center. **INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114.

[TREE CITY USA]

For the third year running, Highland has been named a “Tree City USA” by the Arbor Day Foundation. The national recognition is the result of the town’s commitment to add to the tree canopy and promote the positive benefits of trees.

Most notably, trees:

- Help clean both air and water.
- Reduce flooding.
- Create habitat for wildlife.
- Provide significant social and health benefits.

Tree Board Secretary Richard Underkofler said Highland planted 80 trees last year – provided by the CommuniTree program – along Highway Avenue, at the downtown Fire Station and in the Sandalwood neighborhood north of Highway.

[NO BURNING YARD WASTE]

Resist any temptation to burn anything outdoors with the exception of clean wood. Town ordinance prohibits burning household garbage and all yard waste. Before legally burning wood outdoors, please consider weather conditions. Windy and low relative humidity make for hazardous conditions and the potential for out-of-control fires that can jump to nearby structures and combustible materials. Always have a hose nearby and resist any urge to use accelerants, such as lighter fluid or gasoline.

[ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION]

Highland’s 2022 Arbor Day Celebration will begin at 10 a.m. **APRIL 29** at Main Square Park with the students and staff of Our Lady of Grace School. The public is invited. Following an opening ceremony and proclamation by Town Council President Bernie Zemen, the program will feature remarks by State Sen. Michael Griffin and State Rep. Mike Andrade followed by a presentation from a local arborist who will focus on the care and planting of new trees.



[E-SPORTS LEAGUES]

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.

Youth Division: 7-8 p.m. ages 8-12

Teen Division: 8-9 p.m. ages 13-18

Adult Division: 9-10 p.m. ages 18+

DATES: April 18-June 6

FEE: \$40 per person

REGISTER BY: April 13 at app. ggleagues.com/clubs/highland-parks-and-recreation

GAMES: Madden, Fortnite, Rocket League, Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros!

[SENIOR MEETINGS]

Age 55 or older? Join us for Bingo, games, great conversation and the occasional guest speaker.

WHEN: Noon Tuesday, April 25

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: Free

REGISTER BY: Two days in advance at the office or call (219) 838-0114
Attendance is free.

[VENDORS AT CONCERTS]

Parks and Recreation is seeking vendors of ready-to-eat food and information business booths for its Second Sundays Summer Concert Series, which begin May 8.

WHEN: Noon-3 p.m. second Sunday of the month through September

WHERE: Main Square Park

VENDOR FEES: Weekly fee is \$25 (add \$7 for electric) and season fee is \$100 (add \$25 for electric).

[FOR MORE INFORMATION]

For more info about these and other park events, call (219) 838-0114 or visit us online at highlandparks.org.



Fred Holly met with many students and avid art fans during an open house in his honor. [photos provided]

Longtime art instructor retires

Fred Holly was a painter born into an artistic family. Education at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago was followed by a fellowship in art restoration in England.

Holly became a restoration specialist at The Art Institute by day. His nights were a different story. He reserved that time to teach budding artists in his home town of Highland how to express themselves in acrylic paints.

Today, Holly has cleaned his last brushes and taught his last class at Lincoln Center. "I loved introducing people to painting; enjoyed seeing them evolve," he said. "They always thanked me for teaching them. I was always surprised they didn't know how much I learned from them."

Banquet Hall gets new audiovisual equipment

The Banquet Hall at Lincoln Center is going high tech with upgraded audio and visual equipment to meet the needs of larger town meetings, business seminars, wedding receptions, bridal and baby showers, even birthdays.

Projectors are ceiling mounted. The 7 feet by 5.5 feet screens are wall mounted and retract when not in use. There are 16 speakers, eight on each side, eight wireless microphones and HDMI cables plug-in ready.

"The council used Cares Act money to provide a quality venue -for large town meetings as well as for rentals," Councilman Roger Sheeman said. "This is a great system. We want the public to know the hall is available for rental."