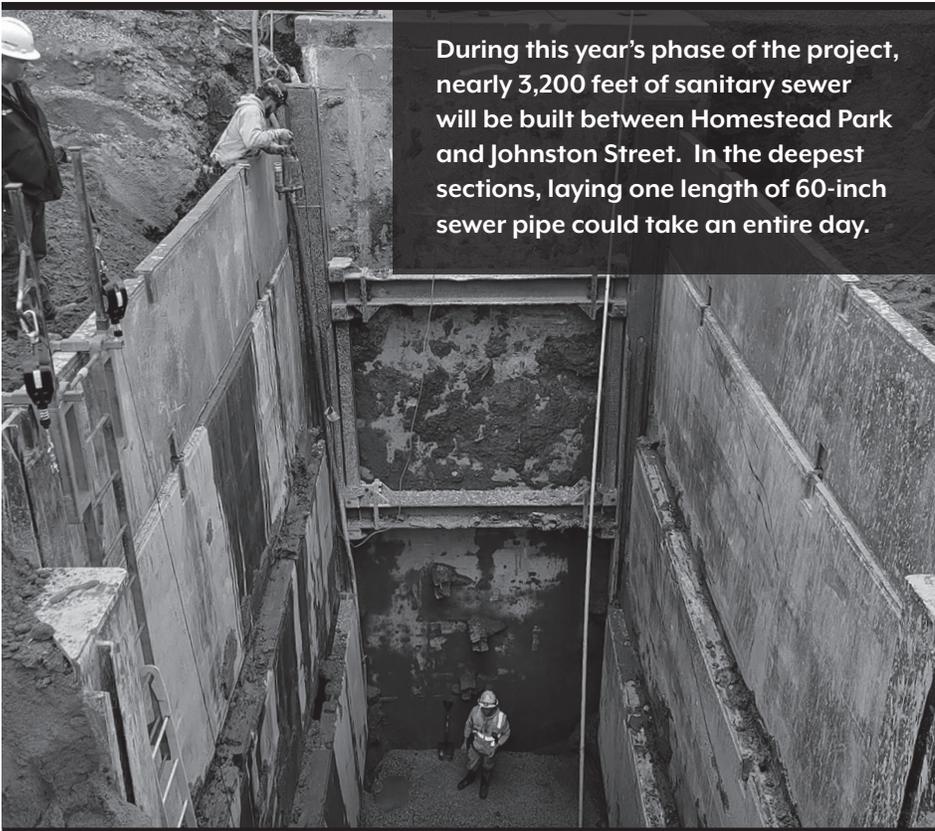


GAZEBO EXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MAY 2024



During this year's phase of the project, nearly 3,200 feet of sanitary sewer will be built between Homestead Park and Johnston Street. In the deepest sections, laying one length of 60-inch sewer pipe could take an entire day.

MASSIVE SEWER PROJECT

Years in the planning and design, the town finally broke ground in April on a major sanitary sewer system improvement project beginning along the Little Calumet River at Homestead Park with a 35-foot hole protected with levels of shoring.

When it concludes in 2036, Highland will have a new, deep gravity sewer from just south of Highland High School all the way to the north end of town, along with a new pump station and force main to Hammond, where the town's wastewater is treated.

The goal: End sanitary sewer overflows into the Little Calumet River. And along the way, eliminate four intermediate lift stations and their continual maintenance and electricity costs by allowing those areas to flow directly to the deep sewer without relying on pumping.

Public Works Director Mark Knesek said every phase of the project is large in size and will take time. Once all pipe is in the ground, parkway trees removed for the upgrades will be replanted.

>> **INFO:** Visit highland.in.gov/sanitary-district for project updates.

[SPRING CLEANUP DAY]

Republic Waste Services crews will collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning on Tuesday, **May 21**. **Not included:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at Public Works, 8001 Kennedy.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.



[HIGHLAND SHRED DAY]

Highland will shred your confidential documents for free from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, **May 18** at Highland Public Works, 8001 Kennedy. 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 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. Saturday, **July 27**. Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/ radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.



[MEMORIAL DAY]

Join your neighbors and friends In recognizing Highland veterans and fallen heroes at the Gazebo in Main Square Park at 10 a.m. Monday, **May 27**. Hosted by the Council of Community Events, the event will feature military speakers as well as the Hometown Heroes banners lining the streets of downtown.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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Highland police on the move ...



[PAT VASSAR RETIRES]

Asst. Police Chief Pat Vassar – the longest serving officer in the history of the Highland Police Department – has retired. Born and raised in Highland, Vassar joined the department in 1981, rising through the ranks of corporal, sergeant and lieutenant before being named assistant chief in 2008. “Pat has distinguished himself as an exemplary police officer,” Chief Ralph Potesta said. “The town is better because Pat was here.”



[TYLER WILSON JOINS FORCE]

Welcome Tyler Wilson, Highland’s newest Probationary Police Officer. A native of Willowbrook, Illinois and a 2016 graduate of Hinsdale South High School, Wilson is coming to Highland, fresh from a two-year stint as a patrol officer with the Rockford Park District in Illinois. Sworn in as a Highland officer in March, Wilson will begin work after completing field training.

[HIGHLAND POLICE MEMORIAL]

The Highland FOP invites the community to remember Highland’s fallen officers during a memorial at 9 a.m. Saturday, **May 11** at the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road.

The service will recognize officers Donald R. Sheppard, who was shot and killed by a prison escapee Nov. 12, 1971; and, Robert J. Markley, who was struck and killed by a drunk driver March 10, 1978.

[CRIME WATCH MEETING]

Join us 6:30 p.m. **May 16** for a Crime Watch meeting in the Community Room at the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road. Learn about what’s going on in your neighborhood as well as Highland’s total criminal activity in 2023, which is one of the lowest on record.

INFO: Please email Crime Watch Coordinator, Officer Justin O’Malley, at jomalley@highland.in.gov.

Two broods of cicadas ready to emerge

Following a nap that lasted for more than a decade, two broods of ravenous cicadas are preparing to emerge, focusing their mating and feeding on a large swath of the Midwest that includes Lake County.

The buzz on this year’s hatch: both broods will emerge at the same time in a rare, synchronized event that last occurred in 1803. The 2024 dual arrival is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

[CICADA PRESENTATION]

Join the Highland Tree Board and DNR Entomologist Kallie Bontrager at 7 p.m. **May 21** at Lincoln Community Center for a presentation and question-and-answer session about cicadas and their emergence. Cicadas will arrive in numbers that have not been seen in generations. Learn how it can impact your neighborhood, trees and landscape.



Small Works of Art

Diminutive creations offered up for sale by local artists are the foundation of a blockbuster summer for the arts.

Highland Arts Council Chairwoman Dawn Diamantopoulos said the group is partnering with Highland Neighbors for Sustainability to create a mural this summer on the side of the Edward Jones Building at 5th and Highway that faces Main Square Park.

Proceeds of the upcoming art sale will be donated for the mural and other projects that promote the arts in town.

“We are excited to see the mural come to life in downtown where it can be enjoyed by everyone,” Diamantopoulos said. “We are hoping for a great turnout at the Small Works Fundraiser.”

ABOUT THE FUNDRAISER: The Small Works Fundraiser features nearly 100 pieces of 5”x 5” artwork donated by local artists. Grab your favorite from 6-8 p.m. Friday, **May 10** for \$40 or 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, **May 11** for \$25 at Promise You Art House, 8830 Kennedy Ave. All proceeds benefit Highland Arts Council projects.

[DRONE LIGHT SHOW]

Cap off your Independence Day holiday with Highland’s first-ever Drone Light Show at Main Square Park. The change of venue – necessitated by construction at Homestead Park – gives neighbors and festival-goers an opportunity to savor this one-of-a-kind “fireworks” celebration. The festival begins at noon July 3 and concludes with the drone light show at 9 p.m. July 7.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov or Highland Council of Community Events on Facebook for updates.



[HIGHLAND HISTORY]

Join the Highland Historical Society and guest speaker Andrew Finick for an evening of Highland memories. A longtime Highland resident and board member of the Highland Historical Society, Finick will share his life, photos and stories of growing up in a small house at 9311 Kennedy Ave. Refreshments will be served at the close of the presentation.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, **May 16**

WHERE: The Lincoln Center – 2450 Lincoln St. – Room 116-118

INFO: misudo@sbcglobal.net



[COMMUNITY GARDEN]

Community Garden volunteers are beginning their fifth year growing vegetables for their Highland neighbors with new ideas, partners and dollars to increase summer’s bounty. Check out the community garden, which is located at 2917 Highway Ave. next to Main Fire Station. Upcoming events include:

Planting Day

10a.m.-noon Saturday, **May 18**

Pet Blessing by Father Gregory

6-7 p.m. Thursday, **May 30**

[HIGHLAND MARKET]

Grab your sneakers and a tote before heading downtown for the Highland Market. Hosted by Highland Main Street, the market features food, crafters and more!

WHEN: 3-7:30 p.m. Thursdays, **May 9** through **September 26**

WHERE: The Municipal Parking Lot, 2730 Highway Ave.

INFO: For more information or to participate as a vendor, please contact HMS President Rhonda Bloch at (219) 306-0980.



[SUMMER CAMP]

Join us for games, crafts, songs, drama, sports and field trips.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, **May 28-August 9**. (Off July 4-5). Pre-camp is from 7-8:30 a.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

WEEKLY CAMP FEE: \$130 R | \$150 NR

DAILY CAMP FEE: \$30 R | \$35 NR

DAILY PRE-CAMP FEE: \$7 R | \$8 NR

LATE PICK-UP: \$10 per child every 15 minutes past 5 p.m.

NOTE: Mandatory parent meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. **May 28**.

INFO: highlandparks.org



[PUZZLE-PALOOZA]

Teams comprised of two to four people – ages 10 and up – will race against each other to complete the same 500-piece puzzle. Puzzlers have 2.5 hours to complete the challenge. Winners receive a prize pack. Register by **May 14**.

WHEN: 6-9 p.m. Friday, **May 24**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$45 residents | \$47 nonresidents and includes puzzle you can keep.

INFO: highlandparks.org

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Main Square Park

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park this summer for live entertainment. All shows are 7-9 p.m. Here's the lineup:

MAY 23: Community Band

JUN 5: Hendrix Effect
Jimi Hendrix Tribute

JUN 12: Soul Entertainment
Blues

JUN 19: Pawns
Motown

JUL 10: Soulguru
Pop

JUL 17: Crawford Band
60s-70s music

AUG 7: Stingrays
Swing and 20s-50s music



If inclement weather, concert may be moved to Lincoln Center.

VENDORS WANTED!
Parks and Rec is seeking vendors to complement the summer concert series. Tables, chairs and extension cords are not provided.
WEEKLY FEE: \$30
SEASON FEE: \$175 (7 weeks)
INFO: highlandparks.org

[COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE]

Do you have items you would like to resell, but don't want to invite people into your home to show your products? Join the community garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **May 18** at Lincoln Community Center!

VENDOR FEE: \$38 for 10' x 10' interior space or \$60 wall space. Tables, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

INFO: highlandparks.org.



[TRACK & FIELD]

Designed to introduce you and your child to the many disciplines of Track and Field, boys and girls – ages 5-14 – compete separately in four events within their age group. At the conclusion of our season, you and your child will have a better understanding of sprints, distance, relays and field events. Team T-shirt included. Register by **May 22**. Fee includes a registration code for the American Mile Run on July 3.

WHEN: 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning **May 29** and continuing **June 6, 12, 13, 19, 27; July 10, 11, 18, 24; June 27** and **July 24** will be intra-squad meets.

WHERE: Highland High School track

FEE: \$60 residents | \$70 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org.



[RESTAURANT CRAWL]

Join us for our popular Restaurant Crawl from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, **May 28** in downtown Highland. The concept is simple: participating restaurants feature a special for \$7 or less, so that visitors can “eat their way through downtown,” stopping at their usual haunts and discovering new ones along the way. Retail businesses will also be open late.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov.