

GAZEBO EXPRESS

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



FIRST PHASE OF SANITARY SEWER PROJECT AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Since beginning in April of this year, work on Highland's major sanitary sewer project is moving forward ahead of schedule.

The 60-inch diameter sanitary sewer is already installed halfway across Homestead Park and should reach Parrish Avenue by mid-August.

As the work nears the east end of the park, preparations are being made to temporarily move power and communication lines out of the way.

"The excavator is so large that it can't even fit below the phone and cable lines," Public Works Director Mark Knesek said. "Residents will experience short service interruptions while crews disconnect and reconnect the lines, but service will be maintained after the switchover."

In order to keep up the pace, the contractor plans to start a second crew this month to relocate water mains along Parrish Avenue and Duluth Street ahead of the new sanitary sewer.

"I'm pleased with the progress," Knesek said. "We are taking advantage of every day of dry weather, so we can finish on time."

When the sanitary sewer project is fully complete, Knesek said the grass and trees that were taken out to make way for construction will be replaced.

HIGHLAND MASTER PLAN

From a field of four, the Redevelopment Commission selected Merrillville-based Arsh Group as they seek fresh ideas on how to best utilize what remains of Highland's undeveloped property and maximize the town's commercial corridors.

The result will be an update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra said the updated plan will provide vision, goals, objectives, a capital improvement plan and policies to guide development and redevelopment through 2045.

Becerra said the updated plan will integrate downtown vitality, land use, public facilities and infrastructure along with economic growth recommendations.

"A critical component of the plan will be setting a vision for Highland," she said.

"This includes an analysis of infrastructure needs, the highest and best use of land in commercial corridors and gateways into Highland, as well as the role technology will play in community outreach and town operations."

WHAT'S NEXT? Meetings outlining the project and inviting input from the community are planned for October.

[SIDEWALK PROGRAM]

If your sidewalk has seen better days, Highland Public Works has a way to help.

Using department personnel, the town pays for the labor to remove failing concrete while the Highland property owner pays to replace it.

How It Works ...

1. Start by calling Highland Public Works at (219) 972-5083 and explain the need.
2. The Streets Supervisor will respond and provide a quote for the cost of concrete replaced.
3. If interested, the resident pays the amount due at Town Hall and Public Works adds your job to the contractor's schedule.



Moments after Highland's newest fire academy graduates – from left: Nick Steele, Amy Ryan, Zack Myers, Kevin Martinez and Collin Hatfield – pose with Chief Mike Pipta, they put the brakes on training for an emergency response of a kitchen fire. "It's all part of a day's work," Pipta said. [The Idea Factory photos]

5 cadets join Highland firefighting team

Highland's five newest volunteer firefighters bonded during their thrice weekly classes at Indiana District 1 Fire Training Academy in Valparaiso and a love of firefighting in the community they call home. Fire Chief Mike Pipta couldn't be prouder. "This is an impressive group that fits in so well with our department, which now numbers 40 sworn firefighters."

[MEET THE GRADUATES]

Collin Hatfield, 19, was inspired to pursue a career in fire service by his stepdad. "I'm on track to be a full-time firefighter at Cleveland Cliffs. I will stay in Highland. I love what we do."

Kevin Martinez, 19, is a Highland graduate who plans on a career in nursing. "Firefighting is in my family. I love being a first responder who helps keep our community safe."

Zack Myers, 31, works in IT at Lake Central School Corporation. "My grandfather was a fire chief and my dad is on the Lansing Fire Department. It's in my blood."

Amy Ryan, 38, is thrilled to realize her dream of a firefighting career with Highland. "I decided I was going to give it my all. Firefighting challenges me like nothing else. I love it."

Nick Steele, 19, works fabricating sheet metal full time: "My dad, who is a firefighter, definitely influenced me the most. I love training and working in controlled fire settings.

"There is so much energy and enthusiasm for ongoing training. We must be prepared for any – and every – emergency," Pipta said.

"We work to keep the community safe. It never gets old."



WARD 1
GEORGE GORGEFF
g.georgeff@highland.in.gov
(219) 545-8530



WARD 2
DOUG TURICH
dturich@highland.in.gov
(219) 516-9649



WARD 3
ALEX ROBERTSON
arobertson@highland.in.gov
(219) 230-6116



WARD 4
TOM BLACK
tblack@highland.in.gov
(219) 301-2077



WARD 5
PHILIP SCHEERINGA
pscheeringa@highland.in.gov
(219) 741-2841



CLERK-TREASURER
MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-1080

HIGHLAND COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY EVENTS



• LET'S CELEBRATE •

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13	SEPTEMBER 14	SEPTEMBER 15
5-10:30 PM	12-10:30 PM	12-9 PM

BEER MUSIC FOOD CRAFTS RIDES

Carnival rides and an extra day have been added to this year's Backyard BBQ.

Join us for the delicious food, beer garden, crafts, live music and more as we celebrate the end of summer.

[SPECIAL ABILITIES DAY]

Those with special abilities can enjoy the carnival rides from noon-2 p.m. Sunday, **September 15**. Please email highlandcce@highland.in.gov to register your child.

[ENTERTAINMENT]

Friday, September 13

- ◆ 5 PM - Little Giant
- ◆ 6:45 PM - Buck Daddy
- ◆ 8:30PM - Rockology Chicago

Saturday, September 14

- ◆ 3:30 PM - Ashlyn
- ◆ 6 PM - I'm With Frank
- ◆ 8:30 PM - Nate Venturelli

Sunday, September 15

- ◆ 2 PM - Rocky Road Band
- ◆ 4:30 PM - Crawluppies
- ◆ 7 PM - Bonfire

[BIG RESTAURANT CRAWL]

We're shutting down Highway Avenue from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, **August 27** for a special Downtown Restaurant Crawl featuring live entertainment by Bluegrass band Strings Beyond Description, shopping specials – and, of course – soul-satisfying eats.

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 favorites along the way. Dine in or enjoy your meal alfresco at one of our many picnic tables.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov or the Highland Main Street Facebook page for latest specials and updates.



[COMPOSTING PROGRAM]

While you're out for the crawl, join the Neighbors for Sustainability for a composting program from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, **August 27** at the community garden, next to the Main Fire Station on Highway. Learn how to turn your kitchen scraps and yard waste into a nutrient-rich addition to your garden from the educators from the Lake County Solid Waste Management District.



[RECYCLING SNEAKERS]

Save your old sneakers. Highland Neighbors for Sustainability will begin collecting sneakers soon. **Gotsneakers.com** is a zero-waste recycling company. They give the lightly-worn sneakers to charity and recycle the materials from the rest. When you're shopping for new sneakers, please consider saving the old ones for HNS.

INFO: Check out Highland Neighbors for Sustainability on Facebook for collection times and locations.

[SUMMER CONCERT SERIES]

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park from 7-9 p.m. **August 14** for the last live concert of the season featuring the Polka music of Eddie Korosa Jr. Food vendor Sweet & Savory Delights will be on location selling pierogies, sausages and authentic Polish specialty dishes. **NOTE:** If inclement weather, concert may be moved to Lincoln Center.

INFO: highlandparks.org



[TOWNWIDE YARD SALE]

Highland's next Townwide Yard Sale will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. **August 24-25**. Participants can sign up for Saturday only or both days. All participating addresses must be located in Highland. Residents are responsible for setup/removal of sale items, method of payment and assume all responsibility/liability for their location taking part in the event.

REGISTRATION: Please email your name and address to Highland Council of Community Events at highlandcce@highland.in.gov. Deadline to register is **August 17**.



[BABYSITTING CERTIFICATION]

Have a young person – ages 11-14 – who is interested in earning some extra cash? Babysitter Lessons and Safety Training or BLAST is a four-hour class that offers training in pediatric first aid, household safety and fundamentals of childcare. **Note:** Please bring water and a snack

WHEN: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. **September 14**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEES: \$40 residents | \$44 nonresidents – includes course manual and program materials. Deadline to register is **September 7**.

INFO: highlandparks.org



[Photos by Laura Pilewski | Highland Main Street]

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, **August 15** 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.

[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 Parks and Recreation and reserve a booth at its indoor community garage sale.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **August 17**

WHERE: 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

[PARENTS NIGHT OUT]

Enjoy a night on the town or a peaceful evening at home while our trained martial arts instructors wear out your kids! Participants will have a blast, make new friends and burn lots of energy. Pizza and water/juice are included. Monthly themes.

WHEN: 5-9 p.m. **September 20**, **October 18** and **November 15**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEES: \$45 residents | \$48 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org