

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025

COMING SUMMER 2025

Project will link the Pennsy Greenway and Erie-Lakawanna trails and provide a safe connection to Wicker Memorial Park.



BRIDGES OVER DITCHES

Long-awaited connection between Highland and Munster will provide bridges over the Hart and Cady Marsh ditches

In the planning for nearly 20 years, bridge construction between Munster and Highland over the Hart and Cady Marsh ditches could be completed during a single construction season in 2025.

Parks and Recreation Director Alex Brown said the Bridges Over Ditches project will link two major pedestrian/biking trails – the Pennsy Greenway in Munster and the Erie-Lakawanna in Highland – over the waterways connecting Munster’s bike trail to the

Meadows and Brantwood subdivisions.

“This project will be enjoyed close to home as well as by those who see the additional access it will provide to all those who use the trails,” Brown said.

In anticipation, Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra said Highland is looking to tap federal grant money to enhance pedestrian and intersection safety for those looking to travel between the trails that will require crossing Indianapolis Boulevard and Kennedy Avenue.

>> View map and get updates at highland.in.gov.

[2025 COLLECTION SCHEDULE]

The 2025 recycling schedule starts **Tuesday, January 7**. The insert found in this water bill contains dates for recyclables collection in your neighborhood.



[BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL]

Every Highland business is required to get a business license and renew it annually. Visit the town website – highland.in.gov – to download a business license form. Complete the application and submit it along with the appropriate fee to:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK-TREASURER
Highland Town Hall
3333 Ridge Road
Highland, IN 46322

Please make checks payable to the Town of Highland.

QUESTIONS? Call (219) 838-1080.

[ANIMAL LICENSE RENEWAL]

All dogs and cats that call Highland home need a license. Registering is a one-step process that begins and ends at the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office, 3333 Ridge Road. Pet owners must provide contact information as well as pet name, breed, sex, color, spay/neuter, vet and current rabies vaccination certificate. The owner will then receive a registration tag the pet is required to wear.

[CRIME WATCH MEETING]

Join us 6:30 p.m. **January 15** for a Crime Watch meeting in the Community Room at the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road. We will have a general discussion and review crime statistics.

[SNOW PARKING BAN]

All on-street parking is banned when there is more than two inches of new-fallen snow. This allows plows to do their jobs in the first critical hours after snowfall.

Reminder: The Highland noise ordinance bans the use of snowblowers and snowplows in residential areas between midnight and 6 a.m. If you contract for snow removal, please ask the company to schedule your service between 6 a.m. and midnight.

WARD 1
GEORGE GEORGEFF
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DOUG TURICH
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WARD 3
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CLERK-TREASURER
MARK HERAK
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 (219) 838-1080

HIGHLAND POLICE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2025 CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Safe communities start when citizens take ownership, working with law enforcement. That’s where the Citizen’s Police Academy comes in.

The 8-week course allows residents to see how Highland’s finest operates – up close and personal.

Applications are now being accepted for the 2025 class, which starts 6-8 p.m. **March 4** and continues each Tuesday through **April 29**.

From ride-alongs to weekly classes that follow crime from its source to the courts, participants have the opportunity to become part of the crime-fighting team.

HPD Officers Justin O’Malley and Kyle Rhein are eager to welcome their first class of recruits. “We’re here to show our residents – in a few short weeks – what we do day to day to keep our community safe,” O’Malley said.

Topics covered include:

- ★ Police and department tour
- ★ Lake County Courts and Prosecutors Office
- ★ Gangs and drugs
- ★ Ride-alongs
- ★ Police Employees Assistance
- ★ Criminal investigation and evidence collection
- ★ Firearms training simulator
- ★ School Resource Officer
- ★ Police chaplain program
- ★ Police Drone Program
- ★ Human Trafficking

Applications are available online at **highland.in.gov**. Deadline to apply for this year’s class is **January 31**.

QUESTIONS? Call the Highland Police Department at (219) 838-3184.

TOWN COUNCIL SEEKS QUALIFIED MEMBERS FOR HIGHLAND BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The town is on the hunt for residents who want to make Highland an even better place to live, work and play.

That might include an appointment to a board that improves parks or sewers, a commission that fine-tunes rules for building and zoning or a group that coordinates events that are value-added. It all starts with an application to serve.

“Highland is very fortunate to have a rich legacy of volunteerism,” Town Councilman Alex Robertson said.

“If you have a desire to serve the community, please consider applying to be on a board or commission.”

[HOW TO APPLY]

The Highland Town Council is looking for residents eager to serve on a board or commission. From the Plan and Police commissions to Community Events and the Water Board, the council is looking for residents who want to make a difference in their community.

INTERESTED? Download an application from **highland.in.gov** and file it 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.



WHAT'S AHEAD FOR HIGHLAND IN 2025

DEVELOPING MASTER PLANS

While Highland Parks and Recreation makes plans for the community's recreational needs for the next five years, the Redevelopment Commission will begin crafting a new 20-year comprehensive plan aimed at neighborhood revitalization, expanding green spaces, improving pedestrian connectivity, and upgrading transportation infrastructure. We want to hear from you! Share your ideas and suggestions with Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra at mbecerra@highland.in.gov or call (219) 972-7598.

ENHANCING OUR PARKS

Highland Parks and Recreation will replace outdated softball field lighting at Meadows Park and start preliminary engineering for expanding parking and soccer fields at Sheppard Park. A Hawk Signal at Kennedy Avenue and the bike trail project will go out for bid in March.

PAVING THE WAY FOR SAFE STREETS

When asked what intersections could be made safer for pedestrians or vehicles, Highland residents provided their thoughtful suggestions. More than 300 responses are being studied by the Safe Streets for All committee as the town looks to include projects in a federal funding request this spring. Haven't weighed in yet? Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra wants to hear from you! Email mbecerra@highland.in.gov or call (219) 972-7598.

PLANTING MORE TREES

The Highland Tree Board received two grants – \$70,000 that will be used to purchase 200 seedlings for the south watershed of the Little Calumet River and upgrade the town's tree inventory. Board Secretary Richard Underkofler thanked Lake County Commissioner Mike Repay and Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission Executive Director Dan Repay for the infusion of funds. Visit highland.in.gov/treeboard for the latest updates on the project.

REDEVELOPING SOUTH HIGHLAND

The town has plans to expand the south allocation area on Main Street east to Kennedy Avenue and north to the railroad tracks, setting the stage for future development. Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra said action on the redevelopment plan is expected in early 2025.

[CERAMICS WORKSHOP]

This hands-on class is perfect for beginners and experienced artists. Learn basic techniques in shaping, molding and decorating. Take home a piece once it's fired and glazed.

WHEN: 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays,
January 14-February 18 and
February 25-April 8

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$100 residents | \$110 nonresidents
– \$20 paid to instructor for materials.
INFO: highlandparks.org

[CAKE DECORATING]

Participants – ages 12 and older – will get a step-by-step guide from an award-winning baker/cake decorator on the fundamentals of decorating cakes using buttercream frosting. You will leave class with a decorated cake.

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. Fridays,
January 31 (sweater theme) and
February 21 (Starbucks theme)

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$45 residents | \$50 nonresidents
INFO: highlandparks.org

[BIDDY BOWLING]

Escape the snow and head over to Plaza Lanes for a day of family fun! Open to children ages 4-11.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Saturdays, **February 8-March 8**

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy
FEE: \$38 residents | \$41 nonresidents.
INFO: highlandparks.org

[WINTER WONDERDANCE]

Highland Parks and Recreation invites individuals of all ages who have special needs and abilities to join us for an evening of dancing with snowflakes, twinkling lights and seasonal decor.

WHEN: 6-8:30 p.m. **February 21**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Banquet Hall
FEE: \$5 per person – register by Feb. 13.
INFO: highlandparks.org



Get your tickets today at
Lincoln Community Center!
highlandparks.org

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

5-7 PM | SATURDAY | MARCH 1

Join us for an evening of flower power, disco lights and unforgettable memories as we turn back the clock to the '70s at the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse! Dads and daughters – ages 3-13 – are invited to dress up in their best retro outfits and enjoy a groovy good time! The evening includes light refreshments, DJ entertainment and professional photos (one free 5x7 print per couple).

FEE THROUGH FEB. 23: \$35 residents | \$40 nonresident couple
\$17.50 resident | \$20 nonresident additional daughter

FEE FEB. 24-28: \$40 residents | \$40 nonresident couple
\$20 resident | \$2.50 nonresident additional daughter