

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MARCH-APRIL 2025



THE LAST REPAIR SHOP
OSCAR WINNER – BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM

AWARD WINNER

MEET
HIGHLAND'S
VERY OWN
HOLLYWOOD
SUCCESS
STORY

JOIN US!

THURSDAY | MARCH 13

MONBECK AUDITORIUM
HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL | 9135 ERIE STREET
DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

The Highland Arts Council and Community Foundation are inviting the public to a free screening of the Academy-Award winning documentary “The Last Repair Shop” with the added bonus of meeting the lead orchestrator and conductor of the film, Greg Jamrok, who just happens to be a hometown boy. In addition to the 40-minute short documentary film, Jamrok, a 1994 HHS graduate has worked on the scores of numerous films

and television shows – including Oppenheimer – through Fine Line Music, a company he owns.

Jamrok’s latest work, “The Wild Robot,” just won Outstanding Original Score for a Studio Film from The Society of Composers and Lyricists.

As a gift to the town, Jamrok arranged for “The Last Repair Shop” to be shown at no cost and will be interviewed by fellow HHS alum and emcee Larry Brechner following the screening.

FREE ADMISSION: This is a fundraiser for the Highland High School band program. Admission is free, but donations are encouraged that evening or online at highlandcommunityfoundation.org. All donations – 100 percent – will go to the high school band program.

CELEBRATING ARBOR DAY WITH 200 TREES

Highland is celebrating Arbor Day 2025 with the planting of a whopping 200 seedlings from the Department of Natural Resources nursery along the south watershed of the Little Calumet River.

The trees will improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide emitted by vehicles on I-80/94. Their growing root systems will reduce the volume of stormwater flow and improve water quality by filtering hydrocarbon stormwater pollutants that flow to Lake Michigan from the Little Calumet River.

Tree Board Secretary Richard Underkofler thanked the Little Calumet Basin Development Commission for a \$15,000 grant that is being used to not only plant, but mulch and water the trees for the next two years.

“The growing tree canopy will benefit our town in so many ways and we are grateful to the commission for making this possible,” he said. “We welcome the community to spend time along the river and watch them grow.”

[FREE TREES]

The Highland Tree Board will distribute free trees to Highland residents from 9-11 a.m. **APRIL 12** at Public Works, 8001 Kennedy Ave.

[MORE INSIDE]

Join Parks and Recreation for Park Pride Day **APRIL 26** and learn about eco-friendly activities on page 3.

[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 Enforcement Administration (DEA) drug take-back program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **APRIL 26** at the police department, 3315 Ridge Road. No needles will be accepted. **INFO:** Please contact Ken Balon in Support Services at (219) 838-3184.

[CRIME WATCH MEETING]

This month's Crime Watch meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. **MARCH 19** in the Community Room at the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road. We will have a general discussion and review crime statistics.

**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**

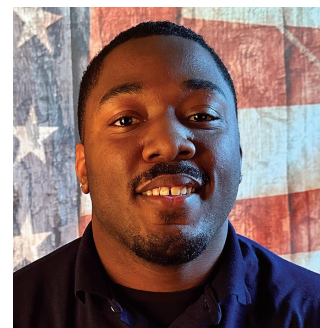
TOM BLACK
tblack@highland.in.gov
(219) 301-2077

**WARD 5**

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

**CLERK-TREASURER**

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

**Chaplain Jen Gregory****Chaplain Ray Wigent****Warden Drakkar Frazier**

TWO NEW CHAPLAINS, ANIMAL WARDEN JOIN HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administrative Cmdr. Shawn Anderson said the Highland Police Department is growing in ways that serve the community even better.

Warden Drakkar Frazier is hard at work protecting our four-legged friends, returning pets to their owners and protecting strays from harm, while Chaplains Jen Gregory and Ray Wigent work with officers, who face high-stress situations on a daily basis while assisting residents who find themselves coping with medical emergencies and accidents.

Gregory, an ordained pastor who focuses on crisis and trauma, and Wigent, a care-visitation elder at Faith Church, have been tasked with getting to know the department – one officer at a time.

"I meet with the officers and ride along on patrols getting to know them. Just as importantly, they get to know me," Gregory said. "Everything I've done has prepared me for what I'm doing now."

During ride-alongs, Wigent ministers to officers. "My passion is to serve."

LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDING HANDS-ON POLICE EXPERIENCE

Det. Sgt. Lee Natelborg is a testament to the value of police department internships. Today, he's an example for the next generation of officers.

"An internship in Terre Haute helped me decide to become a police officer," said Natelborg, internship coordinator at the HPD for the last five years."

The 150-hour internship is available only to those who are 21 or older, currently enrolled and taking classes at an accredited college or university and have a 2.5 or higher GPA.

"We all work to provide each intern with a real-world experience in law enforcement," Natelborg said.

[HOW TO APPLY]

The Highland Law Enforcement Internship Program offers students and aspiring professionals hands-on experience in the criminal justice field, including patrol duties, investigations, community outreach and administrative functions.

INTERESTED? Download an application from **highland.in.gov** and send completed information to Internship Program Coordinator Det. Sgt. Lee Natelborg at lnatelborg@highland.in.gov or call (219) 838-3184.

Park Cleanup Day

Join Highland Parks and Recreation for its 24th annual community park cleanup day from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, **APRIL 26**. 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. **INFO:** Individuals and groups must register at Lincoln Center. For more info, call (219) 838-0114.

[LEAVES & BRANCHES]

Crews will be running daily routes for the first full two weeks of **APRIL** to collect leaves, which should be raked as close to the street as possible. Branch pickup routes will begin the first full week of **APRIL** and continue through mid-October. Pile branches in front of the property separate from leaf piles. Please call to schedule a Friday pickup for heavier logs and stumps. Visit highland.in.gov for route maps.

PLEASE NOTE: Highland Public Works will announce the Spring and Fall Cleanup dates soon. Please check highland.in.gov for updates.

DID YOU KNOW? Earth Day is an annual event on **APRIL 22** to show support for environmental protection. First held in 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by earthday.org, including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

[HIGHLAND SHRED DAY]

Highland will shred your confidential documents for free from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, **JUNE 21** 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, or spiral notebooks.

[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. Saturday, **JULY 26**. Items not accepted include: tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/ radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

Please note: Batteries cannot be dropped off at Highland Public Works in advance of Hazardous Waste Day.



[COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE]

Do you have items you would like to resell, but don't want to invite people into your home? Rent a booth space at one of our garage sales!

WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **MARCH 15**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: Vendor fees (includes 7% sales tax) are \$40 for 10' X 10' for an interior space or \$65 for 23' x 6' for a wall space. Table, chairs, extension cords and moving carts are not provided.

INFO: highlandparks.org

[MARKET & VENDOR FAIR]

Join us for our annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair. You'll find a variety of items, including: candles, jewelry, clothing, handbags, handmade items, gourmet dips and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **APRIL 5**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$45 for 10' X 10' interior space or \$70 for 23' x 6' wall space.

Table, chairs and extension cords are not provided. No resale items!

INFO: highlandparks.org

[SOCCER SHOTS]

This engaging soccer class focuses on character development. Our caring team impacts lives on and off the field through best-in-class coaching, curriculum and communication.

April 2-May 28 - Wednesday nights

MINI: (ages 2-early 3) 4:45-5:15 p.m.

CLASSIC: (ages 3-5) 5:30-6:05 p.m.

PREMIER: (ages 5-8): 6:15-7 p.m.

April 5-May 31 - Saturday mornings

PREMIER: (ages 5-8): 9-9:45 a.m.

MINI: (ages 2-early 3): 10-10:30 a.m.

CLASSIC: (ages 3-5): 10:45-11:15 a.m.

WHERE: Field outside Lincoln Center

FEE: \$153 for outdoor nine-week session, \$20 annual enrollment fee includes Soccer Shots jersey.

REGISTRATION: Enroll online only at soccershots.org/northwestindiana.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Join the Easter Bunny and his furry friends for a continental breakfast. The event features a bike drawing, basket raffles and photos with the bunny.

WHEN: 9-11:30 a.m. **MARCH 29** – first seating is 9-10 a.m., second is 10:30-11:30 a.m. **WHERE:** Highland High School cafeteria

TICKETS: Purchase \$7 tickets online at hgchamber.org. Click on the Upcoming Events tab and navigate to the March calendar. Tickets are first-come, first-served. **INFO:** Call (219) 923-3666.

Easter Egg Hunt

Grab your basket and head to Wicker Memorial Park for the annual North Township Easter Egg Hunt. Township children ages 1 to 10 are invited to hunt for filled eggs until the last egg is found!

A visit from the Easter Bunny and his mascot friends will be part of the day's activities.

WHEN: 10 a.m.-noon **APRIL 12**

WHERE: Wicker Park Pavilion

INFO: Call (219) 313-3934.

**CALLING ALL EVENT VOLUNTEERS!**

The calendar may say spring, but the Highland Community Events Commission Board has already leap-frogged into planning the town's Independence Day Celebration and looking for volunteers to help make this year's Fourth of July festivities one for the record books. Interested in helping organize the parade? How about the Beer Garden or fireworks?

INFO: Email highlandcce@highland.in.gov to volunteer or contact HCCE Events Liaison Alyce Van Drunen at avandrunen@highland.in.gov or (219) 838-0114.