

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2025

SEPTEMBER
26-27-28

MAIN SQUARE
PARK



BACKYARD BBQ



• LET'S CELEBRATE •

LIVE
MUSIC



BEER
GARDEN



CARNIVAL
RIDES



FOOD &
CRAFT
VENDORS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

FESTIVAL & BEER GARDEN: 5-10:30 PM

CARNIVAL: 5-10 PM • \$35 wristbands

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

6-8 PM: Big City

8:30-10:30 PM: Echoes of Pompeii

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

FESTIVAL & BEER GARDEN: 2-10:30 PM

CARNIVAL: 2-6 PM \$30 wristbands

6-10 PM \$35 wristbands

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

4-5:30 PM: Crossthreads

6-8 PM: Dave & Dave

8:30-10:30 PM: Chronic Flannel

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

FESTIVAL & BEER GARDEN: 2-9 PM

CARNIVAL: 2-8 PM \$35 wristbands

SENSORY-FRIENDLY CARNIVAL: 1-3 PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

4:30-6 PM: The Dirty Buoys

6:30-9 PM: Anthem's Grand Illusion

SKYROCKETING NIPSCO BILLS? TAKE ACTION!

In the weeks since Town Council President George Georgeff wrote a letter calling on all Highland residents to join in as the council challenges the state and NIPSCO to roll back nearly 20 percent increases in electric rates, he said local communities are banding together demanding relief.

"This rate increase is extreme," Georgeff said. "We need to keep up the pressure. It is unfair for a utility monopoly, like NIPSCO, to drastically increase rates. There is no justification we've seen. We continue to study the issue to see how this massive increase could get approval from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission."

In August, Highland hosted a meeting with officials from Hammond, Schererville, Dyer, Munster and Griffith where the issue was discussed.

Georgeff said he and the council are going to keep up the fight.

"NIPSCO has two more hefty rate increases planned for 2026 and 2027," he said. "We are going to oppose them."

[FILE A COMPLAINT]

Let's flood the IURC with opposition to this rate increase from Highland residents. File a complaint in person at Town Hall or visit the town website – highland.in.gov – to download a form today!

[NO BURNING LEAVES]

Just a friendly reminder that open burning of leaves, twigs and other yard waste is prohibited within town limits. Visit highland.in.gov/MunicipalCode to learn more.

[CRIME WATCH MEETING]

This month's Crime Watch will be held at 6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, September 10** in the Community Room at the HPD, 3315 Ridge Road. Meet the police department's new social worker, Halie Gonlag and her furry friend Murphee. Learn about Crisis Intervention Training and the role of the department's very first social worker. Neighborhood crime stats will also be discussed.

INFO: Email Officer O'Malley at jomalley@highland.in.gov.



[NEW HAWK SIGNAL] Work is underway on the Hawk signal at the bike trail on Kennedy Avenue just south of Jewett Avenue and north of Wicker Avenue. The work is expected to continue through November. Public Works Director Mark Knesek urges motorists to be cautious as curbside lane closures will occur. Visit highland.in.gov for a complete schedule of roadwork. [Josh Carlascio photo]

[CHANGES IN TRAFFIC PATTERNS] Earlier sunsets at the same time children return to the classroom and autumn sports are in full swing pose a unique set of circumstances for drivers – and students. • **Drivers:** Slow down near schools. Stay vigilant. Watch for children crossing roads without warning. Put your phone down. It is against the law to use your cell when operating a vehicle. • **Students:** Use sidewalks and crosswalks. Always look both ways before crossing the street. Never walk behind a bus. Wear a helmet when riding a bike or scooter.



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HELP SHAPE HIGHLAND'S FUTURE! SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR OUR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra is pleased at the growing number of residents who are offering their input on a 10-20 year Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Highland.

While the online survey continues to be available at highland.in.gov, the town has scheduled an in-person opportunity for residents to learn more and offer their vision for the town.

"This is a pivotal moment for the community and creating a shared vision that will serve all Highland residents and businesses going forward," Becerra said.

[COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE]

Highland is updating its Master Plan, a blueprint that will guide growth, redevelopment, parks, housing and transportation decisions for the next 10–20 years.

Join us from 4-8 p.m. **Thursday, September 18** at Lincoln Community Center, Room 116. This is your chance to review early findings and share your ideas. The open house will feature interactive displays, opportunities to give feedback and conversations with the project team and community leaders.

HIGHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT



HIGHLAND FIRE ON THE MOVE

Just one month into his tenure as Fire Chief, Glenn Schlessler said Highland already feels like home.

“This is a busy fire house. We have 36 volunteer firefighters and a career chief who handle 500-600 calls per year,” the veteran firefighter said.

“As a department, we are in an assessment period where we determine the steps we need to take to build a bright and successful future.”

Schlessler, who left his job as fire chief in Storm Lake, Iowa to head the Highland Fire Department, said the department is already increasing training capabilities – internally and regionally – to create a regional training hub while continuing recruitment and retention efforts.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE & CAR SHOW



The Highland Fire Department is hosting an open house and car

show from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **Saturday, October 4** at the Central Fire Station on Highway Avenue. The event features demonstrations, fire truck rides as well as local vendors.

For \$20, you can register your vehicle in the car show at highlandfireassociation@gmail.com. Proceeds benefit our Shop with a Firefighter program for kids in need.

[LEAF COLLECTION]

Leaf collection begins **Monday, October 13** and ends **Friday, December 5**. The insert in this issue contains dates for leaf pickup in your neighborhood.



[CELEBRATE MIGRATION]

Join Highland Neighbors for Sustainability for a Migration Celebration from 10 a.m.-noon **Saturday, September 13** at the Highland Heron Rookery. Learn about the rookery and celebrate the awe of how many birds pass over the Little Calumet River on their way to their winter home.

[FALL CLEANUP DAY]

Republic Waste Services will schedule extra crews **Tuesday, October 21** to collect unwanted items as part of fall cleanup day. Construction debris, concrete, hazardous waste, paint, pool chemicals and leaves are NOT included.

[DRUG TAKE BACK]

Highland Police will be participating with the DEA as a drop-off site for medications from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturday, October 25** at the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road.

INFO: Call the Highland Police Department at (219) 838-3184.

[HOME ALONE SAFETY]**NEW**

This engaging and interactive class is designed to help children ages 10-12 gain the confidence and skills needed to stay home alone safely. Through fun activities, discussions and real-life scenarios, students will learn:

- Basic safety rules for staying home alone
- How to handle emergency situations (fire, injuries, strangers, and more)
- Safe use of household appliances and electronics
- What to do if someone comes to the door or calls the house
- Creating a daily routine for safety and responsibility
- When and how to seek help from a trusted adult

When: 9-11 a.m. **October 18****Where:** Lincoln Center**Fee:** \$26 residents | \$28 NR**Info:** highlandparks.org**[FALL CRAFT SHOW]**

Join us for our annual Fall Craft Show. 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. **October 25****Where:** Lincoln Center**Vendor Fee:** \$45 for 10'x10' space or \$70 for 23'x6' wall space**Info:** highlandparks.org**[RETAIL CRAWL]**

Get a jump on holiday shopping and cash in on local retail specials at our Downtown Retail Crawl.

When: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. **November 1****Where:** Downtown Highland

Highland Fright Ride
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 | 5:30-6:45 PM CHECK-IN | 7 PM RIDE

Join us for our third annual spooky 7.5 mile community bicycle ride after dusk. There will be two pit stops along the route for refreshments and bathroom breaks. Participants will receive a T-shirt (while supplies last). Route starts and finishes at Main Square Park.

REGISTRATION: Online at bikesignup.com/highlandfrightride

Haunted Restaurant Crawl & Trunk or Treat
OCTOBER 28 | 4-8 PM

We're shutting down Highway Avenue for a special Haunted Restaurant Crawl in downtown Highland. Participating restaurants will feature a spooky special for \$7 or less. Trick-or-treaters should also stop along Highway for our annual Trunk or Treat. Costumes and decorated vehicles are encouraged. **Want to participate?** Email Alyce Van Drunen at highlandcce@highland.in.gov to register.

Pumpkin Smash
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8
10 AM-1 PM

Highland Neighbors for Sustainability invite you to bring your pumpkins to Main Square Park and aim them at our bullseye! Smash them with a mallet! Pumpkin remains will be taken to feed animals at a farm sanctuary. Children's activities. Pollinator plant seed giveaways.

Please note: No painted pumpkins. Please remove candles and other non-food items.

Trick or Treating
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 | 5-7 PM

Trick-or-treating hours are from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, October 31 for all ghouls and goblins! Don't forget to stop by Mission Bible Church, 41st Street across from Highland Middle School. They'll have trunks in the lot and treats with photo ops in the gym from 5 to 7:30 p.m.