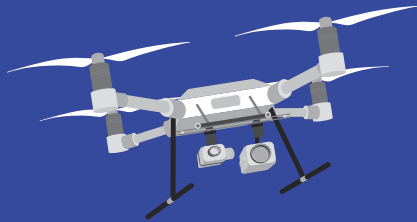


GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JANUARY 2021

Highland Police Department looks to beef up safety

Highland Police enter 2021 with plans to expand technology and aid police outreach efforts throughout the community. Whether that is solving or preventing crime, advanced technology or new applications for existing strategies, Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said the department is taking a new look at how they do their jobs.



[DRONE ASSISTANCE]

Once considered exotic, camera-equipped drones have become a workhorse in the skies, providing valuable visuals to those on the ground. “Over the last several years, we’ve noticed more applications for drones – from checking for blockages on the river to searching for missing persons,” Hojnicky said. “With a drone, we can see in moments what could take hours to find during a ground search.” The department plans to buy one drone for multiple operators this year.

[BIKE PATROL]

Highland police officers will be back on bicycles in the parks, on the trails and at widely attended community events. After abandoning summer bike patrols in favor of an all-terrain vehicle, Hojnicky said the department found that there is a need for both. “Bicycles allow us to move more easily through crowds, providing officers with visibility to react in every situation,” he said. The plan is to purchase two to four bikes that will be in use beginning this spring.

[REGIONAL SWAT TEAM]

The department will join the Northwest Indiana Regional SWAT Team to provide another level of safety should the need arise. Personnel will be equipped and train with other communities already involved with the unit.

[TECHNOLOGY]

The HPD has solved major cases using License Plate Readers and Intersection Cameras throughout town and will ramp up technology-driven policing to fight crime.



[RECYCLING SCHEDULE]

The 2021 recyclables collection schedule inside this month’s water bill contains dates for collection in your neighborhood.

2021 RECYCLABLES COLLECTION SCHEDULE	
JANUARY	
DATE	COLLECTION
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	
31	

FEBRUARY	
DATE	COLLECTION
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
29	
30	

[SNOW PARKING BAN]

On-street parking is banned whenever there is more than one inch of new-fallen snow. This allows Highland snow plow operators to do their job in the first critical hours after a snowfall.

[VACCINATION SITE]

North Township and the Lake County Health Department are partnering to use the social center at Wicker Memorial Park as a COVID-19 vaccination site. Details will be worked out over the next few weeks as vaccinations earmarked for Lake County are delivered. Vaccines will be available to individuals based on the priority levels set by the Centers for Disease Control.

Times and dates will be posted at northtownshiptrustee.com and wickermemorialpark.com.

**WARD 1**

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056

**WARD 2**

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126

**WARD 3**

MARK SCHOCKE
mschocke@highland.in.gov
(219) 207-2075

**WARD 4**

TOM BLACK
tblack@highland.in.gov
(219) 301.2077

**WARD 5**

ROGER SHEEMAN
rsheeman@highland.in.gov
(630) 673-3363

**CLERK-TREASURER**

MICHAEL GRIFFIN
mgriffin@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-1080

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:
The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Lithographic Communications
9701 Indiana Parkway, Munster, IN 46321

Highland approves sanitary rate increase

The Town Council and Board of Sanitary Commissioners have passed a rate increase for all sanitary district customers that will go into effect Feb. 1. An average household should expect to pay about \$14.25 more per month as a result of the increase.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin said the increase — the first since 2016 — is expected to generate about \$1.25 million annually that will be used to continue the program to retrofit very old sewage transmission lines and otherwise upgrade the system.

“The rate that was in place was not generating what it once did,” Griffin said. “Local operating costs have increased and there is wide agreement the town needs to put more money into the underground apparatus. Over time, the town will get a return on its investment, improving the bottom line.”

Public Works Director Mark Knesek said the sanitary board is committed to \$1 million per year in upgrades that make leaky pipes impervious again to groundwater infiltration. Left unchecked, leaks cost town property taxpayers thousands of dollars in uncompensated treatment fees that are paid to Hammond.

Councilman Tom Black, who serves as the liaison for the sanitary district, said the investment reduces the risk of sanitary back-ups during heavy rains.

“We have pipes — some of which are nearly 100 years old — that need to be fitted with liners that will keep them operating optimally for decades,” Black said.

“We don’t have the money to do every project in need all at once, but with this commitment, we will continue to make the system more efficient.”

Council seeks board, commission members

The Highland Town Council is looking for community-minded individuals who would like to serve on a board or commission for 2021 and beyond.

“We have several openings we would like to fill,” Councilman Roger Sheeman said. “We are especially in need of volunteers for the Council of Community Events and the Main Street Bureau.”

Open positions include seats on the following boards and commissions: Board of Zoning Appeals, Council of Community, Economic Development Commission, Highland Main Street, Parks and Recreation Board, Plan Commission, Police Commission, Redevelopment Commission, Sanitary Board, Traffic Safety Commission, Tree Board and Waterworks Board.

[HOW TO APPLY]

To be considered, residents must file an application with the Clerk-Treasurer’s office – either mail it to the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, IN 46322 or place in the town hall drop box.

Learn about each board and commission or download an application from our website – highland.in.gov. Click on the Boards & Commissions link under the Government tab.

Town Council members will review each application. Potential candidates may be asked to appear before the council for an interview.

Water meter replacement program

Public Works Director Mark Knesek said a water meter replacement program is underway for all residents whose devices lose battery power.

“We send letters to households whose battery sensors stop sending water-use data,” Knesek said. “All residents need to do is respond to the letter and schedule a time to have a town employee come into their home for 15 minutes to swap out the old meter for a new one.”

To date, about 4,000 meters have been swapped out. The meters were transformational when human meter readers were replaced with radio-frequency technology.

“Most communities use this technology and it has worked well,” he said. “When the meters were purchased, we knew they had a fixed life and would need to be replaced.”

[ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT]

The water department is sending letters to those whose meters are not working properly. It is important to schedule a meter replacement appointment as soon as you receive the letter to ensure you are billed properly for water usage.

A town employee from the water department will access the meter inside your home to make the change. All employees have a town ID and drive a marked Town of Highland vehicle. This employee will wear a mask and gloves following all COVID-19 safeguards.

INFO: If you receive a notice, please call Highland Public Works at (219) 972-5083 to schedule your appointment.

2. LEAK DETECTOR:
Displays a possible leak with a dripping faucet icon in upper left corner of the LCD panel.

» OFF: No leak detected.

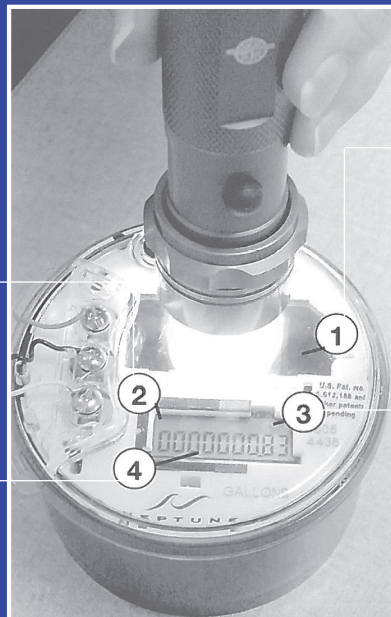
» **FLASHING:** Intermittent leak indicates that water has been used for at least 50 of the 96 (15-minute interval) readings in a 24-hour period.

» **ON CONTINUOUSLY:** Indicates water use for all 96 (15-minute interval) readings during a 24-hour period.

4. READING SCREENS:

The meter shown in the photo is displaying the water meter reading of 0000000.83 gallons. Rate of Flow screen then appears with the word **RATE** above the numbers and is displayed every 6 seconds.

How it works ...



1. SOLAR CELL:
Located at the top of the meter, supplies power for the LCD panel.

3. FLOW INDICATOR:
Shows the direction of flow through the meter with an arrow icon in the upper right corner of the LCD panel

» ON: Water in use.
» OFF: Water not in use.
» FLASHING: Water is running slowly.

[GET FIT IN 2021]

Join the Lincoln Community Center Fitness Center and pay no initiation fee! Get signed up and start working on a better you this New Year! **PLEASE NOTE:** Face masks are required when in the building except when exercising.

PERSONAL TRAINING: Personal training is available for an additional fee. First-time clients receive three sessions for \$109.

SENIOR PROGRAMS: The fitness center is an official location for SilverSneakers and Renew Active, fully-funded Medicare, UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage, and AARP Medicare Supplemental programs. Visit silversneakers.com or myrenewactive.com to see if you qualify.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

[PARENT/KID PAINT NIGHT]

Enjoy a night of painting a picture together with your child. Each will paint a 12x12 canvas that will go together to form one picture.

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, January 14

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$28 resident couple | \$34 nonresident

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

[DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE]

Dads and their daughters – ages 3 to 13 – are invited to enjoy dancing, light refreshments and DJ entertainment at the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday, **February 5** at the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse. Photographers provide one free 5" x 7" photo. Extras are available for purchase.

RESERVATIONS THROUGH JANUARY 31:

\$30 resident couple | \$35 nonresident couple \$15 | \$17.50 additional daughter

LATE FEE FEBRUARY 1-4: \$35 resident couple | \$40 nonresident couple \$17.50 | \$20 additional daughter

No tickets sold the day of the dance.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114



Downtown Restaurant Crawl

Highland Main Street is kicking off 2021 by continuing its popular Downtown Restaurant Crawl. The concept is simple: participating restaurants feature a special for \$5 or less, so that visitors can “eat their way through downtown,” stopping at their usual haunts and discovering new favorites along the way. Eight restaurants are participating for January, and several retail businesses will also be open late so diners can shop in between courses or while waiting for carryout.

Join us 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, January 26

PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS:

- Dan’s Pierogies: Polish on a bun – \$4 plain or \$4.50 with kraut
- Growlers: Chicken bacon mac and cheese – \$5
- Langel’s: Tajin tossed pork rinds with a side of salsa – \$5
- Jose’s: Oven baked chicken with primavera rice – \$5
- Maria’s: Crispy beef tacos with cabbage, pico, cheese – \$5
- Sakura Bowl: Snow Winter Roll – \$5
- Sip: “The Mantle” latte with chestnut, maple, brown sugar cinnamon paired with a vegan cloud cookie – \$4.50
- Traditions: Philly cheese steak sandwich with fries – \$5

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES: Elegance, Hoosier Highlander, Miles Books, Primitive Peddler, 2 Chicks.

INFORMATION: Visit Highland Redevelopment Commission on Facebook or highland.in.gov for updates.