

GAZEBO EXPRESS

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

Venture downtown: Explore all that's new!

Whether it's browsing the vast collection of vinyl at Region Records or grabbing a health-boosting Buddha bowl at Green Witch, it's easy to make an afternoon of shopping and eating in downtown Highland. Check out what's new and what's coming to the Highway/Jewett corridor. ❖



[NEW CRAFT BREWERY TO OPEN THIS SPRING]



Fuzzyline Brewing Co. is coming to the heart of downtown as Highland's first microbrewery. Hometown boy Alex Robertson is bringing his dream to life at 2712 Condit St.

While patrons enjoy beverages both inside and out beginning this spring, Robertson will be creating brews in the main floor brewery, which is visible to guests in the taproom.

"We will have a small patio and a pair of bar areas," Robertson said. "The main floor seats about 50 and there is also a bar area upstairs that will have seating for 18."

In addition to craft brews that include barrel-aged sour beers,

Fuzzyline Brewing will offer a small pub menu.

"Taking a hobby of making beers and turning it into a business has been stressful, but fun," Robertson said. "I can't wait to open the doors and welcome folks to Fuzzyline."

"Fuzzyline Brewing is the sort of destination that Highland citizens and visitors alike will seek out. This type of establishment encourages young professionals and business individuals who want a bite to eat and an adult beverage," Redevelopment Director Kathy DeGuilio-Fox said.

"It most certainly will add a spark of interest to our downtown." ❖

[NEW PARKING LOT]



Renovations at the upgraded municipal lot are nearing completion — awaiting landscaping and electric car-charging stations this spring. Located at the midpoint of the Erie Lackawanna trail, the hub is already a haven for shoppers and bicyclists. ❖

[NEW STREET LIGHTS]



If you notice a new glow on downtown streets, you can thank members of the Redevelopment Commission who upgraded the street lights that have been in place for the last 20 years. Not only will the new fixtures brighten nighttime shopping, eating and browsing, the LED's will save money, too. ❖

[NEW CAFE OWNER]



If it's fresh and healthy, chances are Liz Popovich has already added it to the menu at The Green Witch Cafe or their chef can make it at your request. Nestled in at 2845 Highway, Popovich reopened Green Witch as the new owner with the new year. ❖

[SNOW PARKING BAN]

On-street parking is banned whenever there is more than one inch of new-fallen snow. This allows Highland plows to do their job in the first critical hours after a snowfall. The Town of Highland noise ordinance also bans the use of snow-blowers and snowplows in residential neighborhoods between midnight and 6 a.m. If you contract for snow removal, please schedule your service between 6 a.m. and midnight to avoid disturbing your neighbors.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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Sanitary rate increase begins this month; eliminate online service fee with town ACH

A rate increase approved by the Sanitary Board and Town Council last year goes into effect this month – the first sanitary rate increase since July 2016.

Because sanitary billing is dependent on water usage, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin said an average consumer will see an increase of \$9.17 or \$12.35 per month based on household water consumption.

Highland has had limited growth in its customer base over the last 30 years, which means long-standing customers must pay the costs of running the utility.

The estimated \$1 million generated by the rate increase will:

- Pay Hammond for increased charges to treat wastewater.
- Improve Highland’s underground infrastructure to reduce transmission and treatment costs.
- Pay into Highland’s general fund.

[ONLINE SERVICE FEES]

The banking electronic processing service charges a nominal fee for online bill pay as follows:

- Payment by credit or debit card: \$2.95 per transaction
- Payment by check or paying service online: 95 cents per transaction
- Payment by ACH if enrolled online: 95 cents per transaction

However, if utility customers enroll by ACH with the Town of Highland, the transaction is free.

Automatic Clearing House means the amount on your Highland utility bill is automatically withdrawn from the bank account you designate – either checking or savings – on the date it is due.

Time to renew your business, animal license

This year’s licensing process has been modified because of COVID-19 restrictions at Town Hall.

[BUSINESS LICENSE]

Every Highland business is required to get a business license and renew it annually. Visit highland.in.gov to download an application. Complete and mail the form along with the appropriate fee to the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, IN 46322 or place in the drop box. Make checks payable to the Town of Highland and please include a contact phone number. The Clerk-Treasurer’s office will mail the new license directly to you. Please allow a few days for processing.

[ANIMAL LICENSE]

All dogs and cats that call Highland home need a license. Owners must provide pet name, breed, sex, color, spay/neuter, copy of vet and rabies info. Visit highland.in.gov for fees. Information and fee can be mailed to the Office of the Clerk-Treasurer, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, IN 46322. Make checks payable to the Town of Highland and include a contact phone number. Allow a few days for processing. Once processed, the Clerk-Treasurer’s office will call you to pick up the tag, which will be handed to you through the door. Please call when you arrive in the parking lot. You may also request the license be mailed to you.

Keeping Highland safe

The Highland Town Council, Metropolitan Police Commission and Police Department Administration want to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the men and women – sworn, civilian and volunteer – who make the Highland Police Department a pillar of excellence among its peers in the law enforcement arena.

“They are all heroes for making Highland a safe place for our residents, visitors and businesses to call home,” Highland Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. “Their accomplishments in 2020 – both individually and collectively – are directly related to the low crime rates we experienced again this past year.”



[2020 HIGHLAND CRIME STATISTICS]

Highland is at or near record-low criminal activity in several categories. The following chart compares the 2020 incidents to the highs and lows of the last 52 years.

“We are grateful for the care and compassion our community expressed this past year,” Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. “Together, we made it through some really tough times. Thank you!”

CATEGORY	2020	HIGHEST	LOWEST
Homicide	1	2 (1986/2001)	0 (most years)
Rape	0	6 (2005)	0 (most years)
Robbery	2	35 (2005)	2 (2018/2020)
Assault	60	157 (1976)	10 (1969)
Burglary	31	185 (1980)	29 (2018)
Larceny	313	1,008 (1997)	203 (1971)
Vehicle Theft	20	258 (1991)	17 (2019)
Vandalism	102	577 (2006)	102 (2020)
Theft from Vehicle	63	249 (2009)	63 (2020)
Total NIBRS*	430	1,389 (1975)	422 (1971)

Arrest made in vehicular/ domestic incident.

2020 ties for the lowest number in last 51 years.

The 31 burglaries – 28 completed and 3 attempted – included 12 businesses, 7 homes, 6 apartments, 5 garages and 1 shed.

2020 lowest recorded incidents on record.

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* National Incident-Based Reporting System (formerly UCR-Uniform Crime Report) is the total criminal activity recorded annually by the FBI from every municipality across the country.



[COUPLES PAINT NIGHT]

Enjoy a date night out with your special someone. Our trained instructor will show artists – ages 16+ – how to paint an 11" x 14" Kiss Under the Trees on canvas.

WHEN: 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, **February 11**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$38 resident couple | \$42 nonresident

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

[BIDDY BOWLING]

Escape the snow and head over to Plaza Lanes for a day of family fun! Biddy Bowling with the Highland Parks and Recreation is open to children ages 4 to 11. Register by **February 12**.

WHEN: noon to 1 p.m. Saturdays,

February 13 to March 13

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy Ave

FEE: \$38 per child for residents |

\$41 for nonresidents.

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

[FEBRUARY RESTAURANT CRAWL]

The Highland Restaurant Crawl is the last Tuesday of every month with downtown restaurants changing up their menus with \$5 specials and businesses offering great promotions.

WHEN: 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, **February 23**

WHERE: Downtown Highland

INFO: Visit the Highland Redevelopment Commission on Facebook or the town website – highland.in.gov – for updates.

[ADULT SLOW-PITCH SOFTBALL]

Registration begins this month for men's and co-rec softball teams. League format will depend on number of teams in division. Top teams receive cash (check) prizes. Rosters are limited to 20 players. Players must be 18 years or older.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. weeknights, 5:30 p.m.

Sundays. Season begins **April 13** (single games) and **May 9** (double-header).

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$650 per team

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

Middle School Basketball

Highland youth or students attending Highland Middle Schools are invited to participate in the Parks & Recreation's Middle School Basketball League. The league format will be determined by registration numbers. Teams will be determined by player draft with the coaches.

WHEN: 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays, March 31 - May 19

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$50 residents | \$55 nonresidents. Fee includes shirsey.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 28

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (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, **April 30** at the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse. Photographers provide one free 5" x 7" photo. Extras are available for purchase.

Please Note: The annual Daddy-Daughter Dance has been postponed until April because of COVID-19 restrictions.

RESERVATIONS THROUGH APRIL 25: \$30 resident couple | \$35 nonresident couple \$15 | \$17.50 additional daughter

LATE FEE APRIL 26-29: \$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