

GAZEBO EXPRESS

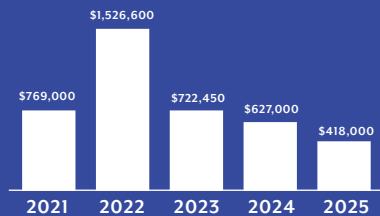
YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • NOVEMBER 2020

Parks & Recreation outlines 5-year master plan

Parks and Recreation unveiled a five-year plan in October that touches every park and recreation space in Highland. More than a year in the planning and with the input of nearly 500 residents, the document is a path forward that makes the town eligible for enhancement dollars through land and water conservation grants.

[ACTION PLAN]

The new master plan is packed with details to enhance recreation through: additional live music events at Main Square Park; greater use of the trails for outdoor fitness; new sports offering for youth and adults; nature programming, ramped up Halloween activities; special needs programming; and, expanding passive recreation and self-help workshops for seniors.



[PRIORITIES & COST]

From new playgrounds and additional soccer fields to softball field lighting and additional pickleball courts, there are upgrades planned for every town park designed to meet the needs of the community, including ADA compliance in all parks.

Visit highlandparks.org to view the complete Parks & Recreation master plan.

[TOP FIT CITY]

The numbers are in and Highland made the list of Best Cities for Fit Lifestyles. Coming in at #18 of 50, the town was measured against others on a host of factors, including: obesity, smoking, alcohol consumption, exercise opportunities, air pollution and physical distress. Conducted by BarBend, Best Cities showcases collective strengths as well as areas that could be improved.

[WHAT'S NEXT?]

Highland Park Board will meet Nov. 19 to approve by resolution and adopt the Master Plan Document as its guide for the next five years (2021-2025).



[VETERANS DAY CEREMONY]

Join our veterans and the Daughters of the American Revolution at 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 11 at Main Square Park as they salute those who've served. Speakers include North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan and Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin.

[DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT CRAWL]

The Highland Restaurant Crawl is the last Tuesday of every month with downtown restaurants changing up their menus with \$5 specials and downtown businesses offering great late-night promotions. The next crawls are from 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 24 and Dec. 29.

[BACK ON TRACK]

Despite an alarming increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, Indiana remains in Stage 5 through Nov. 14.

Stage 5 rules include: continuation of the mask mandate while, maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet when in public spaces. Restaurants and bars remain open at full capacity as do gyms and fitness facilities. There are no size limits on social gatherings.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov for the latest updates.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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[FALLEN HEROES MEMORIAL]



There is a steady stream of visitors at the southeast corner of Wicker Memorial Park paying their respects to firefighters, police officers and emergency medical personnel at the newly dedicated Fallen Heroes Memorial. In a little more than a year, the memorial to those died serving the residents of East Chicago, Hammond, Highland, Munster and Whiting has gone from concept to reality. North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan (left) credited Highland Police Cmdr. John Banasiak (center) for bringing the idea to the table and working to make it happen. Banasiak said it was the generosity of the public that made it all possible. "This project turned out to be more beautiful and larger than I ever imagined," he said. "I wanted to make sure the memories of these heroes was never forgotten." It's not too late to be a part of it. Visit NTTfallenheroes.org to purchase a brick or inlay for the memorial garden. [The Idea Factory photo]

Highland Town Council approves 2021 budget

The Highland Town Council approved spending for 2021 which – for most funds is fixed at 2020 levels. The Motor Vehicle Highway Fund and Sanitary District Operating funds, are reduced from 2020 spending levels for 2021.

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin said MVH was impacted by two factors – gas tax revenue reductions due to COVID-19 and a statewide reduction necessary to bring the fund into balance.

In the case of the Sanitary District Operating Fund, Griffin said state tax caps exceed the maximum amount that may be charged under Indiana law, which means the town will have

to find additional revenue to make up the \$229,675 loss that would have been paid through property taxes.

Councilman Mark Herak, who serves as budget chair, said the sustainability for the budget is dependent on support from the utilities.

"The planned reserves for the General, Parks and Recreation and Redevelopment General Funds should provide a soft-landing from the impact of tax cap losses," he said. "Revenues are intentionally estimated conservatively to allow bills to be paid and preserve budgetary choices for the Town Council."



10k Run - 5k Walk
Thanksgiving Day

The 2020 Pumpkin Plod will have all the familiar bells and whistles that have characterized the Thanksgiving run — with a nod to safety because to COVID-19.

Instead of a shotgun signal, Recreation Director Dave Byers said the race will have a rolling start that clocks the beginning and end for each athlete using their unique bib chip and a mat at the start of the race.

“There are six, 10-minute start windows – each for 100 runners and 100 walkers – giving the opportunity for safe social distancing at the start and along the course while preserving the fun and competition,” Byers said. “Instead of posting paper results, all times will be posted online and updated in real time. We are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving the way Highland has for decades.”

[THE DETAILS]

Register now for the 45th Annual Pumpkin Plod, which begins at 8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 26.

Awards will be mailed to top three runners in each category and all participants will receive a long-sleeve shirt.

WHERE: Race begins at Kennedy and Highway and finishes at Lincoln Community Center.

INFO: Visit highlandparks.org to register. Deadline is Nov. 23. There is no same-day registration this year.

[TOYS FOR TOTS]

The Highland Fire and Police departments are collecting gifts as part of the 2020 Toys for Tots campaign. Bring your new, unwrapped gift(s) to these locations through Dec. 6:

Highland Main Fire Station:

Gifts may be dropped off at 2901 Highway, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays.

Highland Police Department: Drop off donations anytime at the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road.

[SHOP WITH FIREFIGHTER]

Fire Chief Bill Timmer is appealing to the public to help make this Christmas bright for Highland school children. Since the department did not hold its annual golf outing this year, Timmer is hoping residents will dig deep to help by donating. “We treat the kids to a day they will always remember.”

DONATIONS: Make checks payable to Highland Fire Association Shop With a Firefighter and drop off or mail to Highland Main Fire Station, 2901 Highway Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 923-9876.

[CHRISTMAS COPS & KIDS]

The Highland FOP Lodge #122 is seeking donations for its annual Christmas Cops and Kids shopping event in December. Last year, the FOP took dozens of Highland kids shopping at Meijer, where they spent more than \$6,000.

DONATIONS: Make checks payable to Highland FOP #122, P.O. Box 1743, Highland, IN 46322 or drop them off at the police department.

INFO: Contact FOP President Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184.

[COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE]

Do you have stuff you'd like to sell, but don't want people in your home? Join the community garage sale and sell your items from your own booth!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **NOVEMBER 21**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$33 for 10' X 10' interior space or \$54 for 23' x 6' wall space. Table, chairs, extension cords not provided.

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

[CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR FAIR]

Grab your holiday shopping list and head to our annual fall show featuring candles, jewelry, clothing, handbags, home décor, skin care, gourmet dips and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **NOVEMBER 28**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: \$43 for 10' X 10' interior space and \$70 for 23' x 6' wall space. Table, chairs, extension cords are not provided. Merchant certificate is required

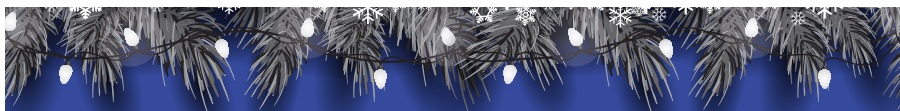
INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

[NO SHAVE FUNDRAISER]

During October and November, Highland police are participating in the national No Shave campaign. Officers will refrain from shaving and donate the money they would spend on grooming to one of their own – Kim Majors of the Support Service Division, who was diagnosed for the second time with cancer. The public is encouraged to participate by either growing their own beard and making a donation or purchasing “No Shave” wristbands at the Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road.

DONATIONS: Donations will be accepted through **NOVEMBER 30**. Make checks payable to Highland FOP #122, P.O. Box 1743, Highland, IN 46322 or drop them off at the police department.

QUESTIONS? Contact Det. Darren Conley, Cpl. Brandon Norris or Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184.

*Santa's March*

Parade with Santa through downtown Highland ending at the Main Square Park Gazebo. Hot chocolate will be served. Parade applications are at Town Hall and Lincoln Center.

WHEN: 4:45 p.m. **NOVEMBER 28**

Santa Meet-and-Greet

Santa, who will socially distance when visiting with children at Main Square Park, will have treats for good boys and girls. Bring your letter to drop off in Santa's mailbox!

WHEN: 5-6 p.m. **NOVEMBER 28**

*Tree-lighting Ceremony*

Join us for the lighting of Main Square Park for the holiday season. Food and beverage concessions will be available.

WHEN: 6 p.m. **NOVEMBER 28**

*Phone Calls from Santa*

Pick up a special “Letter to Santa” form at Lincoln Community Center and have your child fill it out and mail it at the special mailbox at Main Square Park by December 1.

WHEN: Santa will call your child between 6-8 p.m. **DECEMBER 3 or 4** (your preference) from the North Pole. Highland residents only.

Home Decorating Contest

Enter our contest and let the public be the judge of the best decorated homes. Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center and must be submitted by December 1. Highland residences only. Winners will receive a gift card – \$100 for First Place, \$75 for Second, \$50 for Third and \$25 for Honorable Mention.

CAST YOUR VOTE: December 3-9 at highlandparks.org

WINNERS ANNOUNCED: December 10

