

GAZEBO EXPRESS

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

Highland's population the highest in 40 years

Highland's official 2020 census reveals the town added more than 200 new residents, turning the tide on population declines that began in the 1980s and 1990s. Beyond drawing new boundaries for voting districts and the potential to bolster funds for road projects, the census means so much more. It offers a snapshot of Highland today and a glimpse of what tomorrow may offer.



[CENSUS RESPONSE]

When Lance Ryskamp became co-chair of the town's Complete Count Committee, he and co-chair Erin Stojic dove headfirst into spearheading a count of every man, woman and child who called Highland home in 2020.

"We put together a good plan, but COVID changed everything. Fortunately, this was the first Census to allow online response," Ryskamp said. "Our self-response rates, with the exception of one census tract, exceeded 2010 levels and was the 20th best in the state."

Today and in the months to come, town leaders will drill down on important benchmarks, such as:

- **Employment:** 11,740 have jobs, 1.4 percent more than in 2019.
- **Wages:** Rose \$2,984 year over year, a gain of 4.62 percent.
- **Poverty:** Dropped nearly 4 percent since 2019.

\$67,281 💰

Median household income for a Highland resident

10,326 🏠

Number of occupied housing units in Highland

41.9 👤

Resident's median age

28.7% 🎓

Residents who've earned a Bachelor's degree or higher

20.3% 👶

Residents 18 or younger

3 👤👤👤

Average family size

United States®
**Census
2020**

[POPULATION GROWTH]

When it comes to population, statisticians tend to look at movement within regions. In Lake County in 2020, residents continued to exit the lakefront cities in favor of bedroom communities in the south. Meanwhile, communities sitting between the two held their own.

HIGHLAND



MUNSTER



GRIFFITH



SCHERERVILLE



DYER



ST. JOHN



[UPCOMING SERIES]

Join us in 2022 as we explore the results of the 2020 Census and what makes Highland tick. We'll learn about our German roots, where we're from – and why we choose Highland to live, work and play.

[HOLIDAY TRASH PICKUP]

Highland residents are reminded that trash and recyclables will be collected on our regularly scheduled Tuesdays during the holidays. Christmas week collection will be Tuesday, **December 21**. New Year's Day week collection will be Tuesday, **December 28**.

[TOWN GARAGE CLOSED]

December 18 will be the last Saturday the Town Garage will be open from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m for dumping unwanted items until March 5, 2022.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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Snow rules help keep Highland streets safe

When snow and ice are in the forecast, Highland Public Works shifts into high gear – first with the road application of brine that is followed by salt. Plows pick up where salting ends.

Public Works Director Mark Knesek said residents can help by getting their vehicles off the street.

“When we’re out plowing, parked cars impede our ability to clear streets,” Knesek said. “They inconvenience neighbors and make for dangerous conditions when slush and snow freeze around vehicles.

“It’s not about when you’re going to get a ticket for on-street parking during adverse weather,” he said. “It makes sense to protect your well-being as well as that of your vehicle and help us do our jobs by moving cars in advance of winter precipitation.”



[SNOW PARKING BAN]

Highland Police Chief Pete Hojnicky is reminding residents to move vehicles off all streets when measurable snowfall is predicted. The Council increased the threshold for tickets and fines to 2 inches of snow.

“The ordinance was created to keep our police, fire and EMS workers along with our school bus drivers and the students they are carrying safe,” Hojnicky said. “We are all in this together. The best thing we can all do is follow the rules and be good neighbors.”

Be first in the know when snow and ice are predicted. Sign up for RAVE alerts online at Smart911.com.

Mild weather extends leaf, branch collection

Public Works crews have begun what they hope will be their last cycle of retrieving nature’s bounty of leaves – starting **December 6** with Zone 1 and concluding **December 17** with Zone 10.

Additional crews will continue that work through the remainder of the year beginning on the north side.

Public Works Director Mark Knesek said additional collection days should remedy the problem of leaves falling six weeks later than normal.

“By the beginning of January, we plan to begin branch collection and chipping, weather permitting,” Knesek said. “I want to thank residents – in advance – for pitching in to accommodate what has been a very unusual year.”

[BRANCH COLLECTION]

Small amounts of twigs and branches that are cut into small, manageable pieces can be disposed in your trash can. Larger amounts of branches can be placed in piles in front of your home for collection.

[CHRISTMAS TREES]

Wondering what to do with that live fir after the tinsel, ornaments and lights have been packed away? You have two options: Haul it yourself to Main Square Park or, simply leave it at the curb and let Public Works haul it to Main Square for you. Either way works and stokes the fires for the beloved Twelfth Night Celebration – the tradition of burning discarded Christmas trees – on **January 6**.

Downtown Business Spotlight



TASTY OLIVE COMPANY

Just months after being purchased, Tasty Olive Company has returned to Highland locating in the bustling downtown shopping district.

Specializing in quality olive oils and custom balsamic vinegars, new owners Sandy Ray (pictured left) and Kathy Smailis knew they wanted to locate on Highway Avenue as a niche business in a district rich with one-of-a-kind establishments.

“As soon as the perfect location became available, we snatched it up and couldn’t be happier,” Ray said. “We are carrying on the tradition of the Tasty Olive — highly rated olive oils from around the globe and balsamic vinegars that come from Moderna Italy, the cradle of creation for these specialty aged vinegars.”

ABOUT US

Tasty Olive Company
 2837 Highway
 Highland, IN 46322
 (219) 924-7881
 tastyolivecompany.com

HOLIDAY HOURS

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Tuesday, Thursday
 and Friday
 Noon to 5 p.m.
 Wednesday
 10 a.m. to 4 pm.
 Saturday
 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Sunday



[ANIMAL LICENSE RENEWAL]

All dogs and cats that call Highland home need a license. Registering is a one-step process that begins and ends at the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office, 3333 Ridge Road. Forms require contact information as well as pet name, breed, sex, color, spay/neuter and vet. All pets must be up-to-date on their rabies vaccination. The owner will then be given a registration tag the pet is required to wear. Each year the town reunites several pets and their owners through the license program. Visit highland.in.gov for the fee schedule.

[BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL]

Every Highland business is required to get a business license and renew it annually. Visit the town website – highland.in.gov – to download a business license form. Complete the application and submit it along with the appropriate fee to:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK-TREASURER
 Highland Town Hall
 3333 Ridge Road
 Highland, IN 46322

Please make checks payable to the Town of Highland.

QUESTIONS? Call (219) 838-1080.

[CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY]

Safe communities start when residents take ownership, working with law enforcement. That’s where the Citizen’s Police Academy comes in. The weekly classes and police facility tour allow residents to see how Highland’s finest operate. Deadline to apply for the 2022 academy is **DECEMBER 31**.

APPLICATIONS: Available at the HPD or online at highland.in.gov.

QUESTIONS? Call Det. Darren Conley or Officer Nick Vanni at (219) 838-3184.

[CANVAS PAINT WORKSHOP]

Created for painters 13 and older, Instructor Chris Hnatusko will show students how to paint a snow globe on their own 16" x 20" canvas. Learn the techniques while having fun.

WHEN: 6:30-9 p.m. **December 9**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$25 residents | \$30 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org

[HEARTSAVER AED/FIRST AID]

This video-based, instructor-led course teaches critical skills needed to respond to a first aid, choking or sudden cardiac emergency until EMS arrives. Students earn a course completion card valid for two years.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **December 11**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$85 per person

INFO: highlandparks.org

[CRAFTS, COOKIES & COCOA]

Children – ages 6 to 10 – will get into the holiday spirit making ornaments, decorating a gingerbread house while enjoying cookies and hot chocolate!

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. **December 15**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$10 residents | \$15 nonresidents

REGISTER BY: **December 10**

INFO: highlandparks.org

[COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT]

Enjoy the sounds of the season at the Highland Community Band's annual Christmas concert.

WHEN: 7-9 p.m. **December 16.**

Doors open at 5 p.m.

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High School

JOIN US! The band rehearses at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the band room at Highland High School. To join, email Director Greg Jasek at maestroflute@att.net.

**[NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS]**

Ring in the new year with a fireworks display at midnight **December 31** at Main Square Park. Bring the family to enjoy the midnight show and fireworks spectacular!

[TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION]

We'll wrap up the holidays at 6 p.m. **January 6** with a Twelfth Night celebration. Bring your Christmas trees to Main Square Park to light up the night.

[RESTAURANT CRAWL]

Join us for our popular Downtown Restaurant Crawl the last Tuesday of every month. 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. Several retail businesses will also be open late so diners can shop in between courses or while waiting for carryout.

WHEN: 4-8 p.m. **December 28**

WHERE: Downtown Highland

INFO: highland.in.gov

[YOUTH BASKETBALL]

Students in Grades 5 through 8 will play an advanced eight-week season. The league will consist of four divisions: 5th Grade, 6th Grade, 7th Grade and 8th Grade. If necessary, divisions will be combined. The league is geared toward school and town teams, not travel clubs. Practice time not included.

WHEN: 6-10 p.m. Tuesdays, **January 4 - February 22**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$400 per team

REGISTER BY: **December 21**

INFO: highlandparks.org