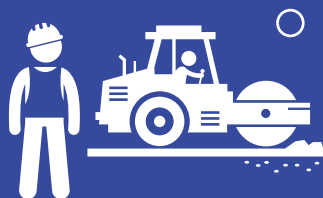


GAZEBO EXPRESS

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

From roads and sewers to leaves and snow, Highland Public Works is always on the go

All seasons have combined into an avalanche of activity as public works buttoned up construction, completed 3.5 miles of sewer upgrades, installed 2,000 feet of water main, maintained green spaces, managed torrential rains and leaf collection while prepping for the upcoming snow season. **Here are the highlights:**



[ROADWORK]

By the end of November, Public Works Director Mark Knesek said \$1 million in roadwork will be completed as part of Indiana's Community Crossings Matching Grant Program. A participant in Community Crossings since the program began in 2017, the benefit is the state matching approved projects dollar-for-dollar.

In addition to Community Crossings construction, the town completed sewer repairs on Hook Street and upgraded the number of unimproved streets in town. At the end of construction, residents in the 3500 block of Jewett Street will have an 8-inch water main, curbs, sidewalks, storm sewers and a fully paved street.

[SEWERS]

The town spent \$1 million in 2021 lining sewers with a cure-in-place process that makes transmission pipes impervious to storm and ground water. The investment was the latest installment in a multi-year effort to reduce the amount of rain water and snow melt Highland must pay to send to the Hammond treatment plant. By applying cured-in-place pipe technology to the most leak-prone sewers, Highland is saving money in treatment fees.

[SNOW REMOVAL]

Public Works Director Mark Knesek is asking the community's cooperation in getting vehicles off the streets before snowplows are dispatched. "We are asking residents to move their cars and trucks as soon as snow is predicted," Knesek said. "It makes it safer and faster for us to clear the streets curb-to-curb if we don't have vehicles blocking the way."

[LEAF COLLECTION]

Blame it on climate change or simply the vagaries of weather. Whatever the reason, autumn foliage was late to change color and leaves were even later to start falling. Public Works is hoping leaves fall and are able to be collected before snow makes an appearance. Reminder: Leaf collection continues through Dec. 15.



[NO SHAVE FUNDRAISER]

Highland Police Officers will once again be sporting beards for their No Shave 2021 fundraiser, which benefits the NICK (Northwest Indiana Cancer Kids) Foundation.

DONATIONS: Make checks payable to Highland FOP #122, P.O. Box 1743, Highland, IN 46322 or drop them off at the police department. Wristbands are also available for a \$10 donation.

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



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



[**NEW LADDER TRUCK**] The Highland Town Council approved spending \$1 million to replace the Fire Department’s 75-foot aerial ladder truck, a key piece of equipment when it comes to fighting multi-story fires. The new truck will replace its 25-year-old counterpart in function and use. Fire Chief Bill Timmer said 20-25 years is the useful life of nearly all firefighting rigs. The new truck is expected to be delivered in mid 2023 because of lingering pandemic supply chain issues. It will be able to flow 2,000 gallons per minute – double the existing capacity – and provide enhanced electronics throughout. [e-one.com photo]

New code enforcement officer eager to work with community to keep properties up to code

Welcome to Highland Code Enforcement Officer Carl Porter.

Porter, who retired after 21 years as a Lake County Sheriff’s police officer, is looking forward to making a difference in the community by working with residents and business owners to get – and keep – their properties and buildings up to town code.

“I have already started meeting with members of the community,” Porter said. “I want everyone to know I am here and willing to work with them to get the job done.”

Building Commissioner Ken Mika said Porter’s experience in interacting with the public in his previous job, will be an asset to his work.



“Carl is able to communicate well and will be both fair and objective when dealing with residents,” Mika said. “Maintaining town laws are vital to keeping our community safe.”

PUMPKIN PLOD

46TH ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DAY TRADITION



Register now for the **46th Annual Pumpkin Plod** – a USATF-certified 10K course through the streets of Highland that is chip timed by T&H Timing. Pumpkin pies will be awarded to top three runners in each category and all participants will receive a long-sleeve shirt (while supplies last). Walkers are invited to join an unofficial 5K noncompetitive fun walk.

THANKSGIVING DAY NOVEMBER 25

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

FEE: \$30 for runners and \$20 for walkers through **November 24**, \$35 for runners and \$25 walkers on race day.

REGISTRATION: Online only at runsignup.com/highlandpumpkinplod.

INFORMATION: For more race details, divisions, shirts and awards, visit highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

[VETERANS DAY CEREMONY]

Join our veterans and the Daughters of the American Revolution at 11 a.m. **November 11** at the Highway of Flags as they salute those who've served. Speakers include Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin.

[TURKEY SHOOTOUT]

Kids – kindergarten through Grade 5 – get 10 free throws for a chance to win a prize **November 18** at Lincoln Community Center. Participants in each age division that make the most shots win.

Grades K-1: 6-6:45 p.m.

Grades 2-3: 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Grades 4-5: 7:30-8:15 p.m.

Fees are \$5 residents and \$7 for non-residents. Register by **November 11**.

[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 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **November 20** at Lincoln Center. Register to sell your items now! Vendor fees are \$34 for 10' X 10' interior space or \$56 for 23' x 6' wall space. Table, chairs, extension cords not provided.

[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 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **November 27** at Lincoln Community Center. Vendor fees are \$43 for 10' X 10' interior space and \$70 for 23' x 6' wall space. Table, chairs, extension cords not provided. Retail merchant certificate required.

INFO: For more information on these and park events, call (219) 838-0114 or visit highlandparks.org to register.

[TOYS FOR TOTS]

The Highland Fire and Police departments are collecting gifts as part of the 2021 Toys for Tots campaign. Bring your new, unwrapped gift(s) to these locations through **December 10:**

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 from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Highland Police Department lobby, 3315 Ridge Road.

[SHOP WITH FIREFIGHTER]

The Highland Fire Association is appealing to the public to help make this Christmas bright for Highland school children. Firefighters are hoping residents will dig deep to help by donating. "We treat the kids to a day they will always remember," Highland Fire Chief Bill Timmer said.

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]

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: Call FOP President Officer James Mullins at (219) 838-3184.

Santa's March

Parade with Santa through downtown Highland at 4:45 p.m. **November 27** from 1st and Highway to Main Square Park. Lineup begins at 4 p.m. Hot chocolate will be served. Parade applications are at Town Hall and Lincoln Center.

Tree-lighting Ceremony

Helpers will be asked to assist Santa in officially lighting Main Square Park at 5 p.m. **November 27** for the holiday season. Santa will have treats for good boys and girls. Bring your letter to drop off in Santa's mailbox!



Phone Calls from Santa

Register at Lincoln Community Center by **November 30** to have Santa call your child directly from the North Pole! He'll talk to your child about his or her wishes. Registration forms are available at Lincoln Community Center. Highland residents only.

WHEN: Santa will call your child between 6-8 p.m. **DECEMBER 2 or 3** (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 6**. 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 8-15 at highlandparks.org

WINNERS ANNOUNCED: December 16