

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MARCH 2022

Vision for downtown, Town Theatre site

Highland got its first look in February at \$50 million in new construction planned to expand the footprint of downtown and create an upscale business park at the southern gateway to Highland at Kennedy Avenue.

It was a call from Redevelopment Director Kathy DeGuilio-Fox to Munster-based 1st Metropolitan Builders Managing Partner Jay Lieser that led to plans today to redevelop the former theatre district. “I cold-called Jay in October of 2020 and we’ve been talking and hatching this project ever since,” DeGuilio-Fox said.

Town Council President Bernie Zemen was impressed with what 1st Metropolitan is proposing. “This is the first discussion of what I expect will be many meetings about this development,” he said. “It’s exciting to see on paper how Kennedy Avenue could be transformed.”

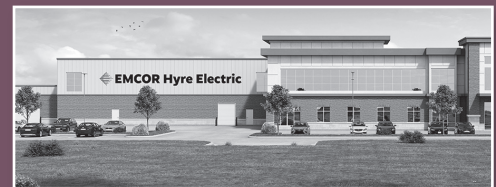
[MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT]

The anchor to the 1st Metropolitan plan along Kennedy north of Condit will be a mixed-use development of ground-level storefronts with second- and third-floor condominiums. The goal: to give residents new options for living downtown and additional spaces to shop.



[WHAT'S NEXT?]

Following the unveiling of tandem projects on Kennedy Avenue, the Highland Town Council is expected in coming months to take a deep dive into the specifics, how well each component serves the needs and future of the town along with details on financing.



[EMCOR HYRE ELECTRIC]

1st Metropolitan Builders vision for the downtown business district includes moving one of Highland’s largest employers to a new campus along south Kennedy. EMCOR Hyre Electric is in favor of the plan to expand its footprint and become the first of what could be several new companies in a new business park across from the Hoosier Prairie.



[CONDOMINIUMS]

In addition to adding housing along Kennedy Avenue, the development plan includes construction of 96 condominiums that would be located on the eastern side of the bike path. Housing along the well-used pedestrian trail has been included in conceptual studies that have envisioned uses for the property over the last decade.



[POLICE PROMOTIONS]

Congratulations to Cpl. Brandon Norris, left, who was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and to Officer Nicholas Vanni, right, who was promoted to Corporal. Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said both Norris and Vanni were selected from a field of highly qualified officers. Norris began his career with Highland Police on April 24, 2005. Vanni began his career with Highland on December 21, 2014. The promotions were effective March 1.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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Highland Main Street launches monthly Downtown Small Business Saturday event

Downtown retailers are pooling their sales and specials into one event on the last Saturday of every month.

Highland Main Street President Teri Yovkovich said rave reviews of the Downtown Restaurant Crawl became the inspiration for Downtown Small Business Saturday.

“We want to get the community as excited about the new retail crawl as we are,” said Yovkovich, who owns 2 Chicks Resale and Consignment Shop on Jewett Street. “This is a fantastic opportunity to browse the downtown to see all we have to offer and walk away with great deals.”

Thirteen businesses signed on for the first event in February. More retailers are expected to be added over time. You can find information on March events in the days leading up to the next Downtown Small Business Saturday.



[UPCOMING EVENT]

The next Downtown Small Business Saturday will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **March 26.** Check out downtown Highland the last Saturday of the month for deep discounts and retail specials.

INFO: Visit Highland Main Street’s Facebook page for participating retailers and updates.

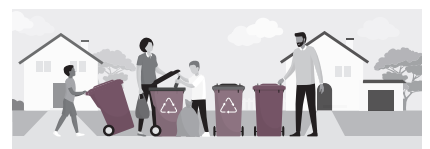
Store garbage, recycling bins after collection

Code Enforcement Officer Carl Porter wants to remind residents that garbage containers must be:

- Removed by the end of the day when garbage and recyclables are collected; and,
- Placed at the rear of the premises until the next collection day.

A growing number of instances when residents are in violation of one, or both, of the requirements may result in a warning or fine per town ordinance.

“We are seeing garbage containers being left on the curb for two or three days after the pickup day,” Porter said. “We are also seeing garbage containers being placed in front of the residence until the day of pickup.”



[ABOUT THE CODE]

Highland Code 12.15.070 Garbage containers – Placement states ... Containers shall be placed in an orderly and sanitary manner on the days designated for collection and removal of refuse by (those designated) to collect refuse. The containers shall be removed to the rear of the premises after collection is made and on the same date of collection. Following a warning, future violations will result in a citation.

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,” Highland Police Chief Pete Hojnicki said. “Their accomplishments in 2021 – both individually and collectively – are directly related to the low crime rates we experienced again this past year.

“Our staff acknowledges their responsibility to the community and are held accountable for their actions,” he said. “This philosophy upholds the foundation of a good, solid police department.”

[2021 HIGHLAND CRIME STATISTICS]

Highland is at, or near, record-low criminal activity in several categories. The chart below compares 2021 incidents to the highs and lows of the last 53 years.



“Even though we’ve seen spikes of criminal activity in our neighboring communities, Highland was able to maintain a relatively low crime rate,” Police Chief Pete Hojnicki said. “When comparing statistical data over the past 53 years, we find ourselves again at, or near, record lows across several categories,”

CATEGORY	2021	HIGHEST	LOWEST
Homicide	0	2 (1986/2001)	0 (most years)
Rape	0	6 (2005)	0 (most years)
Robbery	6	35 (2005)	2 (2018/2020)
Assault	69	157 (1976)	10 (1969)
Burglary	18	185 (1980)	18 (2021)
Larceny	267	1,008 (1997)	203 (1971)
Vehicle Theft	18	258 (1991)	17 (2019)
Vandalism	91	577 (2006)	91 (2021)
Theft from Vehicle	102	249 (2009)	63 (2020)
Total NIBRS*	644	1,389 (1975)	422 (1971)

2021 matched previous record lows with 0.

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Lowest on record in 53 years.

2021 lowest recorded incidents on record.

* 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.



[COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT]

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

WHEN: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, **March 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Banquet Hall

ADMISSION: Free

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

[TROPICAL ART WORKSHOP]

Participants – ages 15+ – are invited to join Fred Holly for a Tropical Rainforest Art Workshop. Supplies included.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, **March 12**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$15 residents | \$18 nonresidents

REGISTER BY: March 11

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

[MARCH 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: 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, **March 29**

WHERE: Downtown Highland

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

[CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR FAIR]

Join us for our annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair. You'll find a variety of items, including: candles, jewelry, clothing, handbags, handmade items, gourmet dips and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, **April 2**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: Vendor fees are \$43 for 10' X 10' interior space or \$70 for 23' x 6' wall space. Table, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

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

[BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY]

Join the Easter Bunny and his furry friends for a continental breakfast. The event features a bike drawing, basket raffles and photos with the bunny. Children also receive a McDonalds coupon. Please note: Because of COVID019, we will be following CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of all participants.

WHEN: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, **APRIL 2**

WHERE: Highland High School cafeteria

TICKETS: Purchase tickets – \$5 each or three for \$10 – online at eventbrite.com. Please note: Tickets are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

FOR MORE INFO: Call Melinda Frazier at (219) 923-3666 or visit highlandgriffithchamber.com.

[EASTER EGG HUNT AT WICKER PARK]

Grab your basket and head to Wicker Park for the annual North Township Easter Egg Hunt. Children ages 1 to 10 are invited to hunt for filled eggs until the last egg is found! DJ music and a visit from the Easter Bunny will be part of the day's activities.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.- noon Saturday, **APRIL 9**

WHERE: Wicker Park Pavilion

FOR MORE INFO: Call (219) 313-3934.

