

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND · SEPTEMBER 2022

“We appreciate our Highland Police. They leave nothing to chance and take nothing for granted when it comes to safety in our schools.”

– BRIAN SMITH | SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND



Highland police officers use simunition rounds during their annual active shooter training in the old police department space in town hall. The department has been training officers for these kind of emergency scenarios over the last decade. [photo provided]

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Highland police went back to the classroom, conducting a tour of all town schools — six public and three parochial — with a goal to enhance student safety.

Even the smallest change can make a big difference in emergency situations, Highland Police Cmdr. John Banasiak said.

“We provide a list of security concerns and recommendations to make things better,” Banasiak said. “It can be as simple as consistent door and closet labeling. In an active shooter situation, every detail matters.”

For police, the tour was followed by simunition training — a way to replicate an emergency and improve the time between notification and resolution.

“Our Highland officers provide another set of eyes when it comes to safety,” School Town of Highland Superintendent Brian Smith said. “They see the school buildings differently than we do — and that’s a good thing.”

Training also involves town leaders from public works, parks, fire and inspections. “We’re all in this together,” Chief Pete Hojnicky said.

CRIME WATCH MEETING: Join our rapid deployment instructors for an active shooter presentation at **6:30 p.m. September 15** in the Community Room at the HPD, 3315 Ridge Road. Questions? Contact Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or sanderson@highland.in.gov.

CIRCUIT BREAKER CHALLENGES 2023 TOWN BUDGET

The town will get a comprehensive look at the 2023 spending plan at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 19 in the Town Council chambers.

Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak said the challenge in preparing a budget is matching the needs of the community with available revenues while maintaining adequate operating reserves.

Property tax revenues capped because of the Indiana circuit breaker legislation limits the amount paid by homeowners at one percent of their property value.

Considered a win for taxpayers, the loss of property tax revenues has required cities and towns to make hard choices about how to provide essential services — like police and fire, snow plowing, road work, park programs and street lights.

Herak said Highland circumstances are no different than those facing other communities. However, responsible fiscal planning in the past has kept Highland in a better position to serve the community.

“I have been working with the department heads since July and the council has been reviewing those budget requests in preparation for the public hearing.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Sept. 19 hearing will be viewable on Zoom and Facebook. Budget documents are available on the town website — highland.in.gov — and at Town Hall.

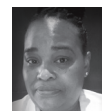
[NO BURNING LEAVES]

Open burning of leaves, twigs or other yard waste is prohibited within the corporate limits of the Town of Highland. According to Title 12.15.050 of the Highland Municipal Code, "No person shall openly burn or ignite refuse, garbage or rubbish." The law was created in 2000 to keep residents and structures safe.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov/MunicipalCode to learn more.



WARD 1
BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2
TOYA SMITH
tsmith@highland.in.gov
(312) 719-1928



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
MARK HERAK
mherak@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



[**HIGHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE**] The Highland Fire Department is inviting everyone to attend the 2022 Open House scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8 at Central Fire House, 2901 Highway Ave. Stop by for the food. Stay for the fire engine rides. Take in demonstrations of vehicle extrication along with rescue and fire-fighting. The department has age appropriate events planned for everyone to enjoy. [photo provided]

Matching grant helps Highland tackle \$1.5 million in road improvement projects

An \$827,733 investment by the town is reaping more than \$1.5 million in road improvements in 2022. In all, 19 streets deemed most in need are scheduled to be resurfaced by Nov. 14.

It's all part of the state's Community Crossing matching grant program. Highland was one of the first communities to buy into Community Crossings when it launched in 2016.

Over the last six years, the Indiana Department of Transportation program has awarded more than \$1 billion to road and bridge projects to cities, towns, and counties across Indiana.

"Community Crossings has been a huge bonus for the town of Highland," Public Works Director Mark Knesek said. "Because every dollar we spend – up to \$1 million per year – can be matched by the state, we have been able to stretch our funds and get vital projects completed more quickly.

"We are resurfacing roads this year that would have been waiting without this program," Knesek said.

[**2022 ROAD PROJECTS**]

- Forrest Drive: 45th to 41st
- Farmer Drive: 45th to 41st
- 43rd Street: 5th to Ellen Drive
- Anthony Place: Lois to Forrest
- Amy Drive: Dead end to Forrest
- Ellen Drive: 43rd to 41st
- Grace Street: 41st to Martha
- Grace Place: 41st to Martha
- Cottage Grove Avenue: 41st to Martha
- Cottage Grove Place: 41st to Martha
- Laverne Place: 220' east of Grace to Liable
- Liable Road: Wirth to Lincoln
- Lincoln: Arbor Hill to Liable
- Grace Street: Strong to North
- North Drive: 270' east of Grace to dead end
- Eder Street: Grace Place to Grace Street
- Grace Place: Eder to Duluth
- Cottage Grove Avenue: Highway to Laporte
- Hook Street: 41st to Martha

CRAFT & RETAIL VENDORS

BEER, WINE & CANNED MIXERS

FAMILY GAMES

LIVE MUSIC

JOIN US FOR OUR

BACKYARD BBQ

• LET'S CELEBRATE •

BEER • MUSIC • FOOD

"Just like at home, you'll enjoy family games, good barbecue, music, beer, a cornhole tournament and more!"

NOON - 10 PM SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 17
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
6 PM CASA CASA (Alternative Rock)
8 PM BONFIRE (AC/DC Tribute Band)

NOON - 8 PM SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 18

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?
The Highland Council of Community Events is looking for volunteers to help with this new event. Visit highland.in.gov to sign up.

[**GOLF OUTING FOR SCHOOLS**]

Mission Bible Church will host a golf outing to help Highland elementary school counselors provide students with needed school supplies.

WHEN: 1 p.m. Sunday, September 18

WHERE: Wicker Park Golf Course

FEE: \$80 includes lunch, contests, prizes

INFO: Visit missionchurchnwi.com to register or call (219) 713-2993.

[**BUSINESS VENDOR FAIR**]

The public is invited to join the Highland-Griffith Chamber and other area chambers for their annual Fall in Love with Your Business networking lunch and vendor fair.

WHEN: 9 am.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, September 22. Vendor tables from 9 a.m.-noon. Networking lunch and door prizes from 12:15-1:30 p.m.

WHERE: Villa Cesare, 900 Eagle Ridge Drive, Schererville

FEE: (lunch only) \$35 chamber members | \$40 non-chamber members

INFO: info@hgchamber.org

[**ST. JAMES RUMMAGE SALE**]

Hunt for gently-used gems at our fall rummage sale, hosted by St. James Women's Guild. Clothes are \$5 a bag and we'll provide the bags!

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 28 and Thursday, September 29 as well as 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, September 30.

WHERE: St. James Hall, 9640 Kennedy

DONATION: Drop off donations from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, September 27 and Wednesday, September 28. No electronics, TVs, large furniture or baby accessories such as car seats, cribs, etc.

INFO: For more info or to volunteer, call Pat Monzka at (219) 922-1961.

[FRENCH & ITALIAN CLASSES]

Join us from your living room (ages 7-11) as we explore new cultures and learn French and Italian languages via the interactive Zoom platform.

I Speak French

WHEN: 5-5:45 p.m. Mondays,
September 12-October 24 (off 10/10)
as well as November 7-December 12
FEE: \$78 residents / \$83 nonresidents

I Speak Italian

WHEN: 5-5:45 p.m. Wednesdays,
September 14-October 19 as well as
October 26-December 7 (off 11/23)
FEE: \$78 residents | \$83 nonresidents
INFO: 219-838-0114 | highlandparks.org

[SKATEBOARDING CLASS]

Learn the fundamentals or elevate your riding with group instruction from nationally ranked competitive riders while connecting with local skateboarders and making new friends. Anyone – ages 4 and older – with a skateboard is welcome! Build proficiency in balance, pushing, riding, agility, ollies and obstacles.

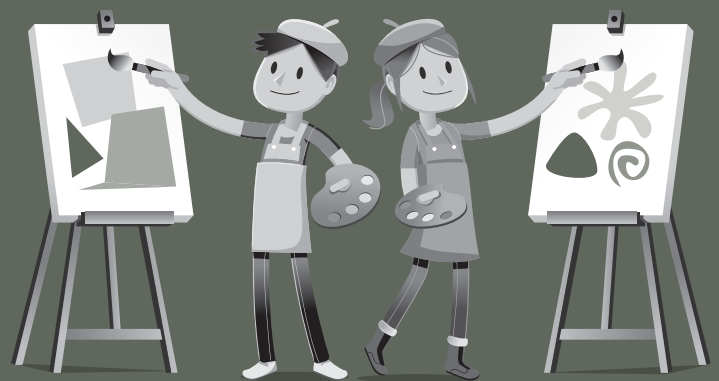
WHEN: 4-5 p.m. or 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, September 13-29 as well as October 4-20

WHERE: Sheppard Park Skate Park
FEE: \$70 residents | \$80 nonresidents
INFO: 219-838-0114 | highlandparks.org

[BRICKS 4 KIDZ]

This is not just a playtime session. It's an investment in your child's mind! Each of our models is designed to help your child put their STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education into practice while having fun!

WHEN: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays,
September 22-October 13 as well as
October 20-November 10
WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$60 residents | \$65 nonresidents
INFO: 219-838-0114 | highlandparks.org



Young Rembrandts

Our elementary-age curriculum (ages 6-12) is designed to teach basic to advanced drawing skills, art techniques and vocabulary. We believe that drawing is the bedrock skill required for future artistic success. We give your student the skills to express their creativity and believe that all children can – and should – learn to draw. You'll see increased art abilities, learning skills, self-confidence and self-esteem.

WHEN: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Fridays,
September 16-October 7
October 14-November 11 (off 10/21)
November 18-December 16 (off 11/25)

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$47 resident | \$52 nonresident

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

[TEEN IMPROV]

Students – ages 9-13 – learn the essentials of improv such as agreement and support in ensemble work, getting over stage-fright, being in the moment, making bold choices, basic improvised scenes and games. At the end, students participate in a showcase demonstrating their skills.

WHEN: 10:30 a.m.-noon Saturdays,
September 24-October 15
WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$50 residents | \$55 nonresidents
INFO: 219-838-0114 | highlandparks.org

[STAND-UP COMEDY]

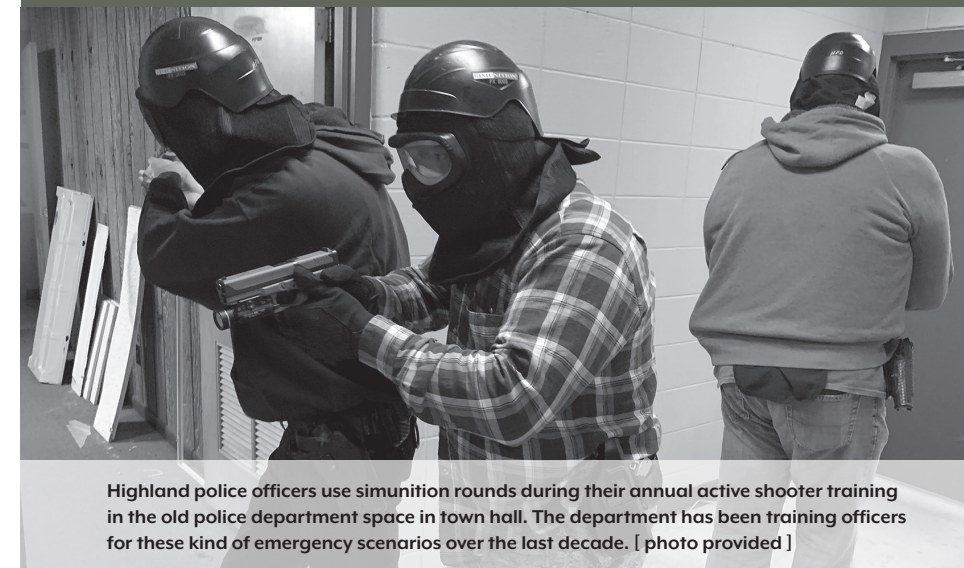
Learn how to write and deliver jokes just like the pros! Each week you will learn a new technique and come back the following week to show what you've written. The experience will culminate in a showcase where students – 17 and older – can perform their material.

WHEN: 3-6 p.m. Sundays, September 25-October 30
WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$75 residents | \$85 nonresidents
INFO: 219-838-0114 | highlandparks.org

GAZEBOEXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND · SEPTEMBER 2022

"We appreciate our Highland Police. They leave nothing to chance and take nothing for granted when it comes to safety in our schools."
– BRIAN SMITH | SUPERINTENDENT, SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND



Highland police officers use simunition rounds during their annual active shooter training in the old police department space in town hall. The department has been training officers for these kind of emergency scenarios over the last decade. [photo provided]

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

Highland police went back to the classroom, conducting a tour of all town schools – six public and three parochial – with a goal to enhance student safety.

Even the smallest change can make a big difference in emergency situations, Highland Police Cmdr. John Banasiak said.

"We provide a list of security concerns and recommendations to make things better," Banasiak said. "It can be as simple as consistent door and closet labeling. In an active shooter situation, every detail matters."

For police, the tour was followed by simunition training – a way to replicate an emergency and improve the time between notification and resolution.

"Our Highland officers provide another set of eyes when it comes to safety," School Town of Highland Superintendent Brian Smith said. "They see the school buildings differently than we do – and that's a good thing."

Training also involves town leaders from public works, parks, fire and inspections. "We're all in this together," Chief Pete Hojnicky said.

CRIME WATCH MEETING: Join our rapid deployment instructors for an active shooter presentation at 6:30 p.m. September 15 in the Community Room at the HPD, 3315 Ridge Road. Questions? Contact Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or sanderson@highland.in.gov.

CIRCUIT BREAKER CHALLENGES 2023 TOWN BUDGET

The town will get a comprehensive look at the 2023 spending plan at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 19 in the Town Council chambers.

Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak said the challenge in preparing a budget is matching the needs of the community with available revenues while maintaining adequate operating reserves.

Property tax revenues capped because of the Indiana circuit breaker legislation limits the amount paid by homeowners at one percent of their property value.

Considered a win for taxpayers, the loss of property tax revenues has required cities and towns to make hard choices about how to provide essential services – like police and fire, snow plowing, road work, park programs and street lights.

Herak said Highland circumstances are no different than those facing other communities. However, responsible fiscal planning in the past has kept Highland in a better position to serve the community.

"I have been working with the department heads since July and the council has been reviewing those budget requests in preparation for the public hearing."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Sept. 19 hearing will be viewable on Zoom and Facebook. Budget documents are available on the town website – highland.in.gov – and at Town Hall.