

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • APRIL 2023

Think Green!

FROM PARK PRIDE DAY TO ARBOR DAY,
APRIL'S FULL OF ECO-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

Highland's civic engagement with greening the Earth began in 2002 when volunteers gave up a Saturday to trim bushes, pick up trash, rake leaves and manage the flower beds at Main Square Park. Today, the town is brimming with opportunities to become part of the solution. Thanks to Highland Main Street and a growing number of volunteers, a vacant lot has been transformed into a garden that feeds the body – as well as the soul. This year the town welcomed Highland Neighbors for Sustainability, which hit the ground running while it works for environmentally friendly solutions to vexing issues that impact every community – including Highland.

LEARN MORE INSIDE

CELEBRATE 151 YEARS OF ARBOR DAY – HIGHLAND STYLE

The Tree Board is inviting the public to mark Arbor Day 2023 with first graders at Highland Christian School, 3040 Ridge Road, at 2:15 p.m. **April 28.** Children will plant a Shingle Oak provided by the Indiana State Nursery. Town Council President Tom Black and State Rep. Mike Andrade will talk about the increased relevance of this day dedicated to trees.

Highland police look to replace gas vehicles with electric ones

Highland Police are looking to replace gas-powered police vehicles with their next generation cousins, two-to-four cars at a time.

The department is partnering with Drive Clean Indiana on the effort to secure an 80-20 matching grant from the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission.

"We are part of a multi-community

grant request through Drive Clean," Cmdr. John Banasiak said.

"If approved, this will be a big move forward for the department and reducing the carbon footprint of the community," he said.

Two electric vehicles models are part of the program. Manufactured by Ford, the F-150 rechargeable pickup and Mustang Mach E will be charged

at an EV station onsite at the HPD.

The terms of the grant require that the retired vehicles be scrapped.

"This next generation of electric vehicles has been created for public safety use," Banasiak said.

"Our officers put many miles on their vehicles every day, but would never be far from the department's charging station."

[SOLAR LIGHTING]

A year after the Highland Parks and Recreation Board approved the purchase and installation of pole-mounted, solar-powered along the bike trail from 45th north to the Little Calumet River, the project is complete.

The 68 lights come on at dusk at a low setting and get brighter upon motion detection all night.

The good news: The lights leave no carbon footprint and have no energy cost.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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Councilor Toya Smith (left) and Council President Tom Black (right) present an executive proclamation at the Feb. 27 Town Council Meeting to Tim Ferguson, Cheryl Ferguson and Paul Zarowny in recognition of feeding needy families in Northwest Indiana.

Veterans helping families in need

Just three months into 2023, more than 100 local families – including Highland – have been blessed with the gift of protein to feed their families thanks to Disabled Veteran Timothy Ferguson.

It all started 13 years ago when Ferguson, a hunter and son of a butcher, discovered he had more deer meat than his family could eat.

“People told me about people who couldn’t afford to buy meat,” the former Air Defense Instructor and Army Medic said. “From then on,

I gave my surplus to anyone who needed it.”

In 2012, Ferguson gave his number to the Sheriff’s Department to call when they had a deer kill he could dress, butcher and donate. “I wasn’t able to hunt anymore due to my health, but I could still help.”

His work has been noticed by hunters who’ve been donating other proteins, such as pork and duck, and by Howard & Sons in Munster, who butchers the meat after Ferguson dresses it.

ReUZ Room keeps recyclables out of landfills, makes items available to teachers, residents

After their first field trip to the ReUZ Room at Lake County Solid Waste Management, Highland Neighbors for Sustainability are already big fans.

Recycling team co-leader Cathy Perrin said members learned about items the Merrillville-based ReUZ Room accepts and makes available free-of-charge to teachers and residents.

“This is an important resource,” Perrin said. “These useful items get a second life and are kept out of landfills.”

[ABOUT THE REUZ ROOM]

The ReUZ Room accepts magazines, calendars, egg cartons, clean metal coffee cans, arts supplies, buttons, thread, yarn, clean fabric, zippers, toilet/paper towel rolls, seasonable decor, office supplies, oatmeal containers, glass jars with lids, wine bottles/corks and gallon jugs.

INFO: To drop off items or to browse for your own use, call for an appointment at (219) 853-2420.

PARK PRIDE DAY

Join Highland Parks and Rec for the 22nd annual community park cleanup day from 9 to 11:30 a.m. **APRIL 22**. Everyone is welcome, especially community groups and families. You will be assigned a park for cleanup. Bring gloves, rakes and energy! Immediately after, meet us at noon at Main Square Park to receive your free T-shirt and lunch.

INFO: Individuals and groups must register at Lincoln Center. For more information, please call (219) 838-0114.



[DRUG RECYCLING]

Turn in your unused or expired medications to the proper authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out. Highland Police will participate in the drug take-back program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **APRIL 22** at the police department, 3315 Ridge Road. No needles will be accepted.

INFO: Call Ken Balon in Support Services at (219) 838-3184.

[TREE CITY USA]

What began in 2016 as a way to increase the number – and species – of trees is bringing more shade every summer. The Community Canopy Project was started seven years ago in the aftermath of the devastating scourge of the Emerald Ash Borer. Since then, Highland became a Tree City USA in recognition of its tree-planting efforts. Today, the town is celebrating its fifth recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation; of being a community that recognizes the many benefits of trees and answers the call to increase the presence of trees.



[LEAVES & BRANCHES]

Crews will be running daily routes through **APRIL 14** to collect leaves, which should be raked as close to the street as possible. Branch pickup will continue through October. Please pile branches in front of the property. Please call to schedule a Friday pickup for heavier logs and stumps. Visit highland.in.gov for route maps.

[SPRING CLEANUP]

Republic Services will schedule extra crews **MAY 9** to collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning. **NOT INCLUDED:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at the Public Works Department, 8001 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: (219) 972-5083.



[ELKS DINNER SHOW]

The Highland Elks Lodge, 3120-45th Street, will host a dinner show **April 10** featuring Harley Hehr, singer-comedian-impressionist. Dinner includes homemade Salisbury Steak with mushrooms, mashed potatoes and gravy, California vegetables, homemade cornbread casserole and New York cheesecake. Tickets are \$25. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Show is 7 p.m.

INFO: Call the lodge at (219) 922-8253 for tickets or more information.

[PIANO LESSONS]

This piano course will teach budding musicians – ages 8 and older – how to play an electronic keyboard, read music, play songs as well as tackle hand positioning and basic chording.

WHEN: Tuesdays, **April 25-JUNE 13**

BEGINNERS: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE/ADV: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$90 residents | \$95 nonresidents

MATERIALS FEE: \$12 for music book and \$3 per week keyboard rental, paid directly to instructor.

REGISTER BY: **April 18**

INFO: highlandparks.org

[HIGH LOW AEROBICS]

This unique cardiovascular dance-style aerobics – to the sounds of the 50s through 90s – builds energy while shaping your body, increasing flexibility and toning muscles with hand weights and various exercises.

WHEN: 6:10-6:55 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, **April 18-May 25**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$44 | \$48 2X per week, \$24 | \$26 1X per week, \$8 | \$9 drop-in trial

INFO: highlandparks.org

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE

Dads and their daughters – ages 3 to 13 – are invited to enjoy dancing, light refreshments and DJ entertainment at the annual Daddy-Daughter Dance.

Photographers provide one free 5" x 7" photo.

Photo booth and extra photos are available for purchase.

5-7 PM | SATURDAY | MAY 6

RESERVATIONS – No tickets sold the day of the dance.

Now through April 29

\$35 resident couple

\$40 nonresident couple

\$17.50 | \$20 each

additional daughter

May 1-5

\$40 resident couple

\$45 nonresident couple

\$20 | \$22.50 each

additional daughter

FOR MORE INFORMATION

highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114

