

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • APRIL 2024



POLICE AUCTION

From elite bikes to those that could use a little love, Highland Police are auctioning off more than 100 two-wheelers they have accumulated as abandoned property, along with fishing rods, tools and other items.

Highland Police Department Support Services Administrator Ken Balon said the auction is an opportunity in the making.

“There are quite a few really nice bikes,” he said. “Some were stolen and never claimed. Others were involved in accidents and got a little dinged up, but would be great for parts. We’re giving everyone an opportunity to view the bikes before bidding.” Proceeds will go to the Police Pension Fund.

[EVENT DETAILS]

Check out the nearly 100 bicycles looking for a good home. Opening bids are \$1. Cash only and bicycles must be taken at time of sale.

When: Saturday, May 4. Registration and viewing begins at 8 a.m. Auction begins at 9 a.m.

Where: Highland Police Department, 3315 Ridge Road. Limited parking is available behind Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road

Questions? Call the HPD at (219) 838-3184.

Highland Neighbors for Sustainability nears plastics goal for community bench

Neighbors for Sustainability is closing in on its goal to reclaim 1,000 pounds of plastic film – like grocery and bread bags – that cannot be recycled in curbside bins.

The reward will be a TREX bench the group wants to locate at the Community Garden for everyone to enjoy. We logged 827 pounds of plastic film in March,” HNS Town Liaison Cathy Perrin said. “We will reach our goal by the end of April, thanks to the businesses and citizens who have made this program such a tremendous success. Between now and then, we are looking for donations to continue at Town Hall, Lincoln Center and The Green Witch Cafe.”

With a dream to add more benches throughout the community, Perrine is hoping another Highland group will step up to take over.

“We ask any group that would like to take on this project to contact us through Facebook,” Perrin said. “We will happily pass on our experience and expertise while supporting their efforts.”

[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. **See page 3 for details.**

[TRASH RATE INCREASE]

Residents will see an increase in trash fees beginning in April. The increase for a typical homeowner – from \$27.47 per month to \$28.92 per month – will be reflected in bills that are due in May.

Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak said the town’s multi-year contract with Republic Services expires this year. “We will be going out for bid in August or September for a new contract, which will go into effect beginning in 2025.”



WARD 1
GEORGE GORGEFF
g.georgeff@highland.in.gov
(219) 545-8530



WARD 2
DOUG TURICH
dturich@highland.in.gov
(219) 516-9649



WARD 3
ALEX ROBERTSON
arobertson@highland.in.gov
(219) 230-6116



WARD 4
TOM BLACK
tblack@highland.in.gov
(219) 301-2077



WARD 5
PHILIP SCHEERINGA
pscheeringa@highland.in.gov
(219) 741-2841



CLERK-TREASURER
MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-1080

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

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Highland Main Street annual essay contest asks kids: What would you do to improve downtown Highland?

The question posed to Highland students – public, private and homeschooled – was created to find out from the up-and-coming generation how they feel about their very own downtown.

“These are the children and teens who are making new memories, which we believe will likely be very different than those who preceded us,” said Jim Roubos, a member of Highland Main Street and owner of Miles Books on Jewett Street.

“These kids are the ones who are going to help determine what the next iteration of downtown will look like.”

Roubos, along with Councilman Alex Robertson and HMS Vice President Sandy McKnight are coordinating the contest. Entries will be judged by all HMS board members and Robertson, who is the council liaison to Highland Main Street.



[ESSAY CONTEST]

Highland Main Street’s third annual essay contest – What would you do to improve downtown Highland? – is in full swing. The contest is divided into three grade levels: K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Winners in each category will receive cash prizes; \$100 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third.

Essays are limited to four paragraphs typed or printed on white or lined paper. Deadline to submit to Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road, is **April 24**.

QUESTIONS? Call Coordinators Jim Roubos at (219) 838-8700 or Sandy McKnight at (219) 545-3800.

Town plans expanded restaurant crawls this summer

Highland Main Street is ramping up its July, August and September Restaurant Crawls with live entertainment and an open invitation to businesses throughout town to participate in the downtown celebrations.

HMS President Rhonda Bloch said there is something extra special when Highway Avenue is closed to vehicles to make way for pedestrian traffic.

“We have selected months that feature some of the nicest weather of the year to expand the crawl this year. People love when we make the street accessible to only them,” Bloch said.

“Now, let’s just hope we’ve got good weather for these events.”

[RESTAURANT CRAWL]

Join the Town of Highland for its upcoming Restaurant Crawl from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, **April 30** in downtown Highland. The concept is simple: participating restaurants feature a special for \$7 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 food.

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

Join the movement this Earth Day – **April 22** – to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health. Learn more at earthday.org.



PARK PRIDE DAY

Join Highland Parks and Rec for its 23rd annual community park cleanup day from 9 to 11:30 a.m. **APRIL 20**. 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 info, call (219) 838-0114.

[CELEBRATE 152 YEARS OF ARBOR DAY – HIGHLAND STYLE]

Please join members of the Highland Tree Board along with state and local officials as they celebrate Arbor Day 2024 with Lincoln Little Learners and the Kids First Preschool at 9:30 a.m. **April 26** at Lincoln Community Center, 2450 Lincoln St. A huge thank you to NIPSCO for providing a young tree that will be planted on site in a location where the children can watch it grow with them.

[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 Enforcement Administration (DEA) drug take-back program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **APRIL 27** at the police department, 3315 Ridge Road. No needles will be accepted. **INFO:** Call Ken Balon in Support Services at (219) 838-3184.

[LEAVES & BRANCHES]

Crews will be running daily routes for the first full two weeks of **APRIL** to collect leaves, which should be raked as close to the street as possible. Branch pickup routes will begin the first full week of **APRIL** and continue through mid-October. Pile branches in front of the property separate from leaf piles. Please call to schedule a Friday pickup for heavier logs and stumps. Visit highland.in.gov for route maps.

[HIGHLAND SHRED DAY]

Highland will shred your confidential documents for free from 8 a.m. to noon **MAY 18** at Highland Public Works, 8001 Kennedy.

- ❁ Proof of residency is required.
- ❁ 4 boxes – no larger than 12x18x10 – or 4 brown paper grocery bags per household.
- ❁ No plastic covers, binder clips, or spiral notebooks.

[SPRING CLEANUP]

Republic Services will schedule extra crews **MAY 21** 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.



[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. **April 20**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

VENDOR FEES: Vendor fees are \$45 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

[CHALK THE WALK]

Register with your family or friends to chalk a sidewalk square at Lincoln Community Center during our Spring Craft Show. Share your creativity for a chance to win prizes!

WHEN: Saturday, **April 20**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$5 per person or \$10 per group for a 4'x4' square. Artists encouraged to bring their own chalk.

INFO: highlandparks.org

[SOCCER SHOTS]

This engaging soccer class focuses on character development. Our caring team impacts lives on and off the field through best-in-class coaching, curriculum and communication.

Wednesday nights, April 10-May 29

MINI: (ages 2-3): 4:45-5:15 p.m.

CLASSIC: (ages 3-5): 4:45-5:15 or 5:30-6:05 p.m.

PREMIER: (ages 5-8): 5:30-6:05 p.m.

Saturday mornings, April 13-June 1

CLASSIC: (ages 3-5): 9-9:30 a.m. or 10:45-11:15 a.m.

PREMIER: (ages 5-8): 9-9:45 a.m.

MINI: (ages 2-3): 10-10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Field outside Lincoln Center

FEE: \$128 for eight weeks, \$20 annual enrollment fee includes soccer jersey.

REGISTRATION: soccershots.org/northwestindiana



*MAY THE FOURTH
BE WITH YOU!*

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join the Highland Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #122, the Highland Fire Department Association and even a stormtrooper or two as they host their first ever pancake breakfast. You can get all-you-can-eat planetary pancakes and lightsaber links for a \$10 donation. Kids five and under eat free.

Whether your a Resistance Fighter, a Jedi or loyal to the Galactic Empire, come dressed to celebrate!

Proceeds support community outreach programs.

WHEN: 9 a.m.-noon **May 4**

WHERE: Highland Fire Department Central Fire Station, 2901 Highway

[KIDS YOGA]

Kids – ages 6-10 – will enjoy this fun yoga experience using traditional poses, games, songs, adventures, and crafts to engage your child. We'll enhance fine and gross motor skills, balance, and core strength. Yoga encourages self-esteem, concentration, body awareness, and creativity through a non-competitive physical activity. Please bring a towel, blanket or yoga mat.

WHEN: 5:30-6:25 p.m. Wednesdays, **April 17-June 5** (off 5/8, 5/29)

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$35 residents | \$38 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org

[HATHA YOGA]

Yogis – ages 15+ – can relieve tension and restore good health with relaxing exercises, breathing techniques and meditation. Please bring yoga mat, water bottle and towel.

WHEN: 6:30-7:25 p.m. Wednesdays, **April 17-June 5** (off 5/8, 5/29)

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$35 residents | \$38 nonresidents, drop-ins \$10 R | \$11 NR

INFO: highlandparks.org

[HIGH-LOW AEROBICS]

Exercise to the sounds of the 50s-90s with this unique cardiovascular dance-style aerobics that 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 16-May 23**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

2X PER WEEK: \$48 residents | \$52 nonresidents

1X PER WEEK: \$26 residents | \$28 nonresidents

DROP-IN TRIAL: \$8 residents | \$9 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org