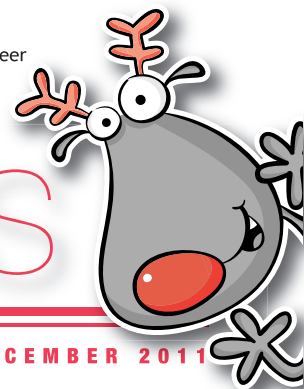




**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM RUDOLPH!** Santa and my flying reindeer friends – Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder and Blitzen – will deliver Christmas toys to all of Highland’s good little girls and boys! Make sure you go to bed early on Christmas Eve!



# GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • DECEMBER 2011

## CULVER’S COMING TO TOWN

The company best known for its buttery hamburgers and soft-serve custard delights will be opening a restaurant in Highland.

Representatives from Culver’s Frozen Custard will be talking with the town’s economic and planning agencies this month with plans to open their newest restaurant by summer. Demolition has already begun at the site of the former Shell gas station at the southwest corner of Ridge Road and Cline Avenue.

Longtime resident Fred Terpstra will operate the Highland Culver’s. Terpstra, who is going to invest nearly \$1 million in the property, has applied for tax abatement. Councilman Dan Vassar said Culver’s is the latest in a spate of good economic news for the town. In recent weeks, two new restaurants have opened and the former

Gator’s has been acquired and is now operating as Fuel Fitness.

“Having a national chain open at that corner will help in the revitalization efforts along the east Ridge retail corridor and replace an eyesore at the same time,” he said.

Culver’s began in a converted A&W root beer stand in Wisconsin in 1984. Three years later, the company began franchising its casual restaurants, ButterBurgers and frozen custard. Today, Culver’s has 425 restaurants that operate in 19 states.

“Culver’s is known for its attractive buildings and nicely landscaped properties. This is going to be an attractive addition to the community,” Vassar said. “It also shows Highland is getting noticed by corporations that are looking to invest or expand and see the potential here.”

### ABOUT CULVER’S

While Culver’s is known for its signature ButterBurgers and fresh frozen custard, there’s something for everyone on its extensive menu – from crisp, garden-fresh salads to homestyle dinners and more.

**WHERE:** SW corner of Ridge Road and Cline Avenue  
**MORE INFO:** [www.culvers.com](http://www.culvers.com)

### ABOUT SABOR RESTAURANT & TEQUILA BAR

Sabor is a Nuevo Latino restaurant and Tequila Bar, which strives to bring the traditional flavors of the Americas in a modern, yet down-to-earth fashion. The menu features a variety of tapas and flavorful entrees from Latin America including the Caribbean, Mexico, South and Central Americas.

**WHERE:** 2907 45th St.  
**MORE INFO:** [www.eatatsabor.com](http://www.eatatsabor.com)

### ABOUT QDOBA MEXICAN GRILL

Qdoba Mexican Grill is an artisanal Mexican kitchen where anyone can go to enjoy a fast, handcrafted meal prepared with innovative flavors, fresh ingredients and inviting service.

**WHERE:** 10439 Indianapolis  
**MORE INFO:** [www.qdoba.com](http://www.qdoba.com)

## HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

With a growing number of families in need this holiday season, the Highland Emergency Fund is looking for help.

Director Renee Jones said about 50 families in need have already called. The fund provides utility assistance to Highland residents twice a year – \$25 each for water and NIPSCO – and food donations as they are available.

So far this year, the fund has donated \$1,400 to pay for utilities and thousands of dollars more in donated food.

The Emergency Fund is supported entirely through donations and is available only to Highland residents.

Jones said the National Honor Society at Highland High School as well as Kiwanis

and local churches are big supporters.

In late November, the fund was continuing to receive calls from families with young children seeking help in providing a special gift for Christmas.

“We are helping more people now than we ever have,” said Jones, who has been involved with the Emergency Fund for more than 25 years, the last 10 as director of the 66-year-old organization.

“We have a number of large families this year and have 44 names on our list. Employees at Town Hall always help us and have taken 24 names. They will purchase gifts for each child.”

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you would like to provide a merrier Christmas for a local child or family, please call Jones at (219) 972-9326.

Nonperishable foods as well as cash donations that are used to purchase food certificates are welcome.

## HOLIDAYS WITH HEART

This month’s Community Band concert will benefit the Highland Emergency Fund.

Attendees are asked to bring paper goods or soap products as a donation.

There is no cost to attend the concert.

**WHEN:**  
7 p.m. Monday, **DEC. 19**

**WHERE:**  
Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High, 9135 Erie St.



**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

Members of the 27th Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer will ring out the year with a swearing-in ceremony.

Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, Dan Vassar, Brian Novak and Konnie Kuiper will represent Highland as members of the next Town Council from 2012-2016.

Michael Griffin will represent the town as its Clerk-Treasurer for the next four years. The public is welcome.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. Saturday, **DEC. 31**  
**WHERE:** Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road  
**INFO:** (219) 838-1080

**YOUR COUNCILMEN**



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



**WARD 2**  
**MARK HERAK**  
 mherak@highland.in.gov  
 (219) 838-0126



**WARD 3**  
**DAN VASSAR**  
 dvassar@highland.in.gov  
 (219) 924-1945



**WARD 4**  
**BRIAN NOVAK - president**  
 bnovak@highland.in.gov  
 (219) 810-7810



**WARD 5**  
**KONNIE KUIPER**  
 vice president  
 kkuiper@highland.in.gov  
 (219) 924-7820

**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

Send your suggestions to:



**GAZEBO EXPRESS IDEAS**  
 c/o Highland Town Hall  
 3333 Ridge Road  
 Highland • IN • 46322

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**ARTS TO HIGHLIGHT DOWNTOWN**

Bridget DeYoung believes one of the keys to linking the community to downtown Highland's retail corridor is through the arts.

DeYoung, a member of the Redevelopment Commission, is president of the Art and Music subcommittee of Highland Main Street.

The newly formed group will work with the schools, music and art studios as well as local music, theater and fine arts groups to bring the arts to downtown. They are looking for members who have a passion for the arts.

"I am hoping to bring new life to our downtown by getting people to visit more often and getting new businesses to locate in our Main Street neighborhood," DeYoung said. "As a musician, I thought a great place to start would be through music and the arts."

The group hosted an impromptu tunefest at the Christmas Tree Lighting in November

**HAVE A PASSION FOR THE ARTS?**

If you are interested in being part of the Art and Music subcommittee, please call Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email [cpetro@highland.in.gov](mailto:cpetro@highland.in.gov).

and has plans to showcase art by Highland school children in local businesses over the next several months as part of "Winter in Highland." Look for outdoor music performances in the downtown area during the spring and summer.

"Increasing the downtown culture of arts and music will be a win for our businesses and for musicians, artists and performers in our community and schools," DeYoung said.

"The committee is working to give our residents and those from other communities another reason to visit our downtown."

**UPSCALE CONSIGNMENT SHOP FEATURES GENTLY USED FURNITURE, HOME DECOR**

Julie Glenn already had a full-time job when she decided to follow her heart.

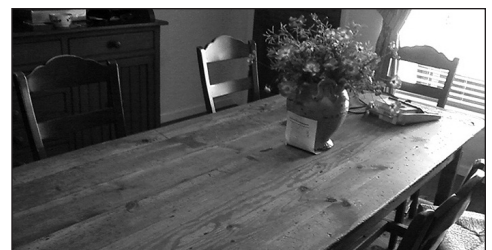
The result: The Comfy Couch, an upscale consignment shop located in a converted home on 45th Street.

"I had been talking about opening a furniture consignment store for five years and my husband said I should just do it," Glenn said. "I was nervous because of the economy but I had faith and things just fell into place."

In April, Glenn started telling friends about her plans and setting aside items of her own she was willing to part with. A sign in the store window advertising for consignors quickly filled the shop.

Five months after opening, shoppers and those eager to sell gently used furniture and home furnishings are flocking to the store. The decor changes daily as Glenn blends the beautiful offerings from dozens of consignors into rooms that have a style and ambiance that is uniquely hers.

"We have been absolutely thrilled. The store is doing better than I even imagined it might," she said. "I love looking at everything we have and putting items together so they



This dining room set is one of several handcrafted consignment pieces available at the store.

**THE COMFY COUCH**

**WHERE:** 2636 45th St., Highland  
**HOURS:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday or by appointment only.

**DETAILS:** Consignors receive 55 percent.  
**INFO:** (219) 513-9948 or [mycomfycouch.com](http://mycomfycouch.com)

work. We have gotten so many positive comments, I feel like I have found my niche." There were other blessings the family hadn't expected. "I have met so many awesome women and have been so surprised by how much I love the people I meet," she said. "This experience has touched me more than I ever imagined."

# Let it Snow!

When it comes to digging out from heavy snows, Public Works Director John Bach said his crews can't do their jobs unless we do ours. It is only a matter of time before the town experiences a significant snowfall, all part of living in the Midwest near Lake Michigan.

Bach's requests are simple: move vehicles off the streets when snow is predicted, try to stay off the roads as much as possible and refrain from blowing the white stuff back into the street when clearing drives and walks.

"The big snowfall we had in February demonstrated just how important it is to have cars off the streets when plows are working to clear the roads," he said. "We were working around the clock because of the severity of that storm and knew we needed to open the streets as wide as possible. That was an extraordinary event but anytime we have a snowfall that measures more than a couple of inches, we're in the same boat."

Bach said dodging cars that are parked on the streets provides an unnecessary hazard to snowplow drivers operating with limited visibility during storms. On-road parking also provides an aggravation to neighbors.

"We get calls during every major snowfall from people asking us to come back out to plow because we had to drive around cars," he said. "There isn't much we can do at that point. The vehicles are already snowed in."

## HELPING HANDS

Every winter, Public Works receives calls from residents who are unable to get out and shovel their drives and walks.

Until now, Director John Bach has been unable to accommodate the requests, hamstrung by a manpower shortage and laws that don't allow taxpayer-supported workers to provide services on private property.

This year he's hoping to change the status quo.

"We are asking anyone who needs help with shoveling to give us a call and we'll put them on a list," Bach said.

"At the same time we are asking anyone who has a little bit of time and a sturdy back or snow blower to give us a call if they are willing to volunteer to help their neighbors. I'm also going to be talking to some of the middle- and high-school organizations to see if they have students who would be willing to help."

## NEED HELP SHOVELING OR WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Call Bach at (219) 972-5083 or email [jbach@highland.in.gov](mailto:jbach@highland.in.gov).

## SNOW REMOVAL QUESTIONS?

Call Public Works at (219) 972-5083. After 4:30 p.m., call the Police Department nonemergency line at (219) 838-3184 or email Bach at [jbach@highland.in.gov](mailto:jbach@highland.in.gov).



## PATHWAY TO 2040

Congratulations to Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin, who has been named chairman of Pathway to 2040, a committee of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission that is charged with implementing recommendations to integrate land use and transportation improvements with economic development.

The committee will meet quarterly to identify, prioritize, target and support actions intended to carry out the objectives of the plan.



## CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Police Chief Pete Hojnicki welcomes residents to sign up for the 13th Citizens Police Academy, which begins Jan. 31. Classes meet weekly for nine weeks and include sessions on topics, such as the judicial system, criminal investigations and firearms training. Applications are available at the Police Department, 3333 Ridge Road or online at [www.highlandpolice.com](http://www.highlandpolice.com).

**WHEN:** 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesdays

**WHERE:** South Fire Station on 45th Ave.

**NOTE:** Participants must be 18 or older and a town resident or employed by a Highland business.

**INFO:** Please Call Deputy Commander John Banasiak or Acting Cpl. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184.



## CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

Choosing a live tree can be a safe as long as you follow a few simple rules.

- Choose the freshest tree, trim the base and keep it watered.
- Keep tree away from heat sources.
- Check the wires to the lights. If they feel warm, they need to be replaced.
- Always turn off lights when you are leaving home or going to bed.



## HOLIDAY SHOPPING TIPS

Highland Police want you to stay safe this holiday season, offering these shopping tips to protect yourself.

- Shop with a buddy.
- Don't carry large sums of money.
- Take only the credit cards you'll use.
- Store your packages in the trunk.
- Park in a well-lit area and remove valuables from view.
- Carry your purse close to your body.

# Holiday Happenings!

## MILK & COOKIES WITH SANTA

Kids of all ages are invited to join Santa for milk and cookies during this magical holiday evening. The event will feature a Christmas story reading by Mrs. Claus, Santa's Secret Workshop, games, crafts, gift baskets, photos with Santa and more!

**WHEN:** 6 to 8 p.m. **DEC. 9**

**WHERE:** Merkley Elementary School, 9340 5th St.

**FEE:** \$5 per child; \$1 off with mitten donation for Christmas tree.

**INFO:** For tickets or for more information, call the school at (219) 922-5640.

## PHONE CALLS FROM SANTA

Santa will talk to good little girls and boys about their Christmas wishes. Highland residents only.

**WHEN:** 6 to 8 p.m. **DEC. 8 and 9**

**REGISTER:** At Lincoln Center by **DEC. 7**

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 or [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org).

## HOME DECORATING CONTEST

Decorate your home for the holiday season and you could be eligible for cash prizes. Enter the contest and let your Park Board be the judge of the best decorated homes. This event is open only to Highland homes. Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center.

**ENTRY DEADLINE:** **DEC. 9**

**JUDGING:** **DEC. 13**

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 or [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org).

## WAG YOUR TAIL WEDNESDAY

Cats and dogs are welcome to take their photos with Santa. One dollar from every purchase will benefit *I Want a Home Rescue*, an organization that finds foster homes for abused, aged, homeless or physically handicapped animals.

**WHEN:** 4 to 7 p.m. **DEC. 14 and 21**

**WHERE:** The Indiana Welcome Center, 7770 Corinne Dr., Hammond

**INFO:** Call (219) 989-7979 or [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com).

## CHRISTMAS STORY EXHIBIT

"A Christmas Story" exhibit features displays from the popular holiday movie.

**WHEN:** Now through **JAN. 8**

**WHERE:** The Indiana Welcome Center, 7770 Corinne Dr., Hammond

**INFO:** Call (219) 989-7979 or [www.southshorecva.com](http://www.southshorecva.com).

## THEATER PRODUCTION

"Another Night Before Christmas" is a witty and tuneful production sure to win laughs from anyone who's ever lost — or found — the holiday spirit.

**WHEN:** Now through **DEC. 18**

**WHERE:** The Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster

**GENERAL ADMISSION ADULT:** \$36

**INFO:** For showtimes, call (219) 836-3255 or visit [www.theatreatthecenter.com](http://www.theatreatthecenter.com).

## NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

As part of the season's Festival of Lights, there will be a fireworks display at Main Square Park on New Year's Eve. Bring the family to enjoy the midnight show. Hot chocolate will be served.

**WHEN:** midnight **DEC. 31**

**WHERE:** Main Square Park

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 or [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org).

## TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

The Holiday Festival of Lights will close with a Twelfth Night celebration. Residents are encouraged to bring their Christmas trees to Main Square to light up the night. Hot chocolate will be served.

**WHEN:** 6 p.m. **JAN. 6**

**WHERE:** Main Square Park

**INFO:** Call (219) 838-0114 or [www.highlandparks.org](http://www.highlandparks.org).

