

HAPPY NEW YEAR! New Year's Day is the closest thing to being the only true global public holiday, often celebrated with fireworks at the stroke of midnight as the new year starts.



GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JANUARY 2012

RAISING THE TOWN ROOF

KORELLIS ROOFING DONATES MANPOWER, MATERIALS TO REPAIR HISTORIC THEATER

When Korellis Roofing owner, Pete Korellis, heard Highland needed some help with a shrinking roof membrane on the Town Theatre, he knew he had to help.

The local theater has long held a special place in Korellis' heart: He took the woman who would become his wife there on their first date more than 25 years ago.

"We have been fortunate these last few years. I work with a great group of people," Korellis said. "When I saw this, I knew this was a way of giving back to the community that has been very good to us."

The crew from Korellis who tended to the roof right before Christmas found a structure that had outlived its life expectancy. The four-man crew patched the leaking corners to preserve the interior from



"Local businesses brought us pizzas and doughnuts," Pete Korellis said. "People were honking their horns in approval. They treated us like rock stars." [BERNIE ZEMEN PHOTO]

further damage until the town completes its purchase of the building in September. Until that happens, the town cannot use public funds to make repairs.

The theater was purchased in a tax sale. As such, the owners have one year to redeem the property for taxes due plus interest.

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro was thrilled with the donation of time and materials from Korellis and Eric Gluth, who inspected the roof at no charge.

Korellis said he and his men have been overwhelmed by the kindnesses that have been extended from businesses and residents in Highland.

"Typically, we don't get a lot of attention for roof repairs, but I have gotten phone calls, post cards and emails thanking us for our donation to Highland," he said. "It was really nice that people took the time to tell us they appreciated what we did." 🐦

FITNESS CENTER GEARS UP FOR GRAND OPENING

When Lincoln Center began signing up new Fitness Center members late last year, Jim Puplava was proud to be first in line.

"I wanted a place to workout that was close to home and had the equipment I was looking for. Lincoln Center will have all that and more," Puplava said.

"I supported the project and was happy when I heard the town was making this investment. I can't wait until it opens. When my two teenagers found out I was signing up, they wanted to, too. It's a place where I know they'll be safe even if I'm not there."

Those are the kind of affirmations Park

Board President Vicki Crowel was hoping for when the board voted to proceed with the project nearly two years ago. Phase I work began in earnest after a ceremonial groundbreaking in August. The gleaming interior of the Phase II work is nearly complete. A grand opening celebration is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 12.

"The transformation of Lincoln Center is nothing short of amazing," Crowel said. "The new space is bright and open and so much more functional than what was there before. We are ready to throw open our doors and invite the community to come out and see firsthand what has been happening inside Lincoln Center." 🐦

NEW FITNESS CLASSES

Although Lincoln Center won't officially open for another month or so, the Park Department is accepting reservations for two new fitness classes that start Feb. 1.

CX30/CXWORKX works your core, tightening the abdominals and posterior while improving functional strength and assisting in injury prevention.

BODY PUMP builds strength, tones and pushes you to the limit using squats, presses, lifts and curls. Great music, awesome instructors and your choice of weights will help you get the results you signed on for – fast!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Jan. 24

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

CRIME WATCH MEETING

Meet Echo, Highland’s only four-legged officer, and learn the latest on canine policing at the next Crime Watch meeting. Echo, a German Shepherd brought from Poland, and his handler, Det. John Swisher, will show the community the social and work nature of this specially trained dog.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. **JAN. 11**
WHERE: Highland Library
RESERVATIONS: Call Officer Shawn Anderson at the Highland Police Department, (219) 838-3184.

TOWN SAVES \$32,000

A decision to switch internet providers from AT&T to Comcast will save the town \$32,000 over the next three years. The Town Council voted to make the switch and thanked IT Director Ed Dabrowski for researching the issue and finding ways to save money.



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



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



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



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



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

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
 gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 381-0634
 www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by CJ Printing
 9445 Indianapolis Blvd. 94
 Highland, IN 46322

2012 COUNCIL EAGER TO ADVANCE TOWN HALL, PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

As the newest president of the Town Council, Bernie Zemen is unabashedly ambitious when it comes to moving Highland forward.

He is filling the docket with projects he believes will propel the town toward prosperity and a stable financial future.

“We are in a very fortunate position. The councilmen that served for the last four years will be the same councilmen that serve for the next four. We have been discussing what needs to be done and are aligned in our beliefs about what is best,” Zemen said. “We have been advancing infrastructure projects and the new Lincoln Center.”

Next on the agenda are a new Town Hall and public safety facility.

The plan is to swap the downtown Fire Station and government offices housed at 3333 Ridge Road. The result would be a joint police/fire facility along Ridge Road and a new Town Hall on Highways Avenue at Fourth Street.

Zemen sees a new Town Hall as government offices – with a twist.

“I’d like to see a multi-purpose facility that would house our Town Hall as well as the Chamber of Commerce, the Historical Society and maybe even a little coffee shop,” he said. “I want it to be more of a destination and not simply a place to pay your water bill.”

In addition, Zemen said the council is researching what can be done to encourage business owners to move shuttered properties.

“Nothing makes me madder than to have prime properties sitting vacant because the owners want more than the properties are worth,” he said. “I’m going to ask our attorney to research what we can do, governmentally, to get the buildings back up and occupied.”

Also on the agenda for 2012: new laws for rental properties. The Town Council began crafting a law last year. They opted to table the proposal until they finished researching the issue.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COUNCILMAN: BERNIE ZEMEN

FROM ATHLETIC RACES TO POLITICAL RACES, THIS COUNCILMAN LOVES TO RUN

As a youth growing up in Highland, most people knew Bernie Zemen because of his running prowess: He was a highly decorated cross-country and track star, capturing local, regional and state titles.

What many people never knew was that Zemen was a regular then at the Town Council when he would attend meetings with his dad.

When the opportunity presented itself many years later, the retired steelworker didn’t think twice before signing up to run for a coveted spot on the council.

That was in 2003. Eight years later, the wedding-photographer and radio host, is having the time of his life. The show, which airs the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month on WJOB, gives Zemen an opportunity to talk about issues of import to Highland.

“There was nobody running on the Democratic ballot in 2003, so I decided to give it a shot,” Zemen said. “I won by 12 votes – the closest election in town history.”

Zemen no longer runs competitively. He is known best as a man with an easy smile who never takes himself too seriously.

Passionate about making Highland a better place than it was when he was elected, Zemen has a vision for making it happen.

“It was depressing when the Town Theatre closed,” he said. “I was one of those who would have loved to take it over and get it up and running again. I am really excited to see what we are going to be able to do with it. I’d like to see it turned into a combination movie theater/comedy club. And, that is just for starters.”

Shop local! Buy local!

Rex Blankenship moved with his family to Highland in 2004 because he had heard it was a great town to raise a family.

He soon discovered it held just as much potential as a wonderful locale to own a small business.

The one-time owner of Highland Downtown Deli closed that business to open Underdog Hotdogs in the former Sweet Tooth on Jewett Avenue near Fifth Street.

With 20 different varieties of Vienna's best hot dogs as well as Italian Beef, homemade soups, Tater Tots and elephant ears, Blankenship said he has found a ready following among his friends and neighbors.

Having residents who make the effort to shop locally is one of the things Blankenship said makes Highland a special place to live – and work.

"I love to shop in town and make a point of it. So does my family," said Blankenship, the married father of four. "Shopping local makes a huge difference when it comes to the quality of a community."

Mary Luptak, executive director of the Highland Chamber of Commerce, said it has been heartening to see so many business start-ups locating in Highland.

"We have been fortunate," Luptak said. "We have a lot of activity with new businesses in town despite the national economy."

With 215 members, the chamber has long championed the benefits of shopping local. With so many more options available than there were even 10 years ago, Luptak said the need to raise awareness on the import of shopping local has never been greater.

BY THE NUMBERS ...

A thriving business community does more than simply fill storefronts. It creates a vitality and supports a quality of life that extends beyond the shopping district.

"Our businesses support our youth sports and activities. Our business owners are active in our churches, our schools and in our community. Many of them choose to live in Highland, as well as operate their businesses here," Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said. "The only way our businesses can survive and thrive is through the support of the community."

The 350 Project, a national organization that seeks to strengthen local commerce, reports:

\$ If half of the employed population spent \$50 each month in locally owned, independent businesses, it would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue.

\$ For every \$100 spent in locally owned, independent stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures.

\$ For every \$100 spent in a national chain, only \$43 stays here.

\$ For every \$100 spent online, nothing comes home.

SOURCE:
the350project.net



LICENSE RENEWAL

It is time for all business owners to renew their town license for 2012. Applications are available online at www.highland.in.gov or at Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road. The fee is \$25 if paid before March 1. On or after March 1, the fee is \$50.

INFO: Call Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin at (219) 838-1080.

POP-UP GALLERY

Enjoy the fine art of photographers Peter Doherty and Susan Henshaw at the next Pop-Up Gallery event. All art showcased at the event is available for purchase. Refreshments will be served.

WHEN: 4:30 to 8 p.m. **JAN. 12**

WHERE: 2645 Main Street, Suite C, located between Kennedy Avenue and Indianapolis Boulevard.

INFO: Call Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro at (219) 838-1080.

ART DONATION

Following the annual Highland High All Alumni Reunion of 2011, organizers received \$2,500 in donations, which they have given to further the arts at Highland High School.

BIG SELL COMPETITION

If you have the next great idea or product, Purdue University Calumet is looking for you. The university's School for Entrepreneurship Success is inviting entrepreneurs of all ages to enter the second annual Big Sell competition. The Top 50 entrepreneurs will be invited to present their ideas to an audience at an all-day event March 31 at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza. The top three winners will share an estimated \$30,000 in cash and prizes. There is no cost to enter. Online submissions only.

ENTRY DEADLINE: 5 p.m. March 2

INFO: Visit www.thebigsell.org.

SENIOR HOT LUNCH

A nutrition site is offered for seniors aged 60 and older at Lincoln Center. Hot lunches are served at 11:30 a.m. for a \$2 donation.

RESERVATIONS: Call (219) 838-0114 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

January Pursuits

I LOVE WORDS!

This creative writing course, based on the "I Love Words" activity book by Francoize Boucher, will have you playing with words and inventing new ones. You'll turn yourself into a spelling super hero, build your own bookstore, write poems and even make a talking cake.

AGES: 8 and older

WHEN: 4 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 17 to March 6

WHERE: Lincoln Center

FEE: \$45/\$48 (Materials Included)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Jan. 10

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

TEXAS HOLD 'EM

The Highland Elks will host a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament for the first 120 players to register. Register by 10 p.m. Jan. 19 and earn \$500 bonus chips. Sandwiches, chips and beer are included. Must be 21 to attend.

AGES: 21 and older

WHEN: 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21

WHERE: Highland Elks Lodge 981, 3120-45th Ave.

FEE: \$60 with limited rebuys

INFO: Call (219) 922-8253.

TABLE TENNIS

Want a place to play table tennis? The Lincoln Center hosts a table tennis program that is open year-round. Participants are welcome to drop in and play other competitors.

WHEN: 5 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays

WHERE: Lincoln Center

FEE: \$3 per visit without membership;

\$35 for six-month membership;

\$64 for 12-month membership

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

KINDERMUSIK

Designed to introduce children to music, each Kindermusik unit provides a variety of activities that encourage creativity, exploration, language, movement and social development. With Kindermusik, children can experience the magic of music without the pressure to perform.

All classes meet for 45 to 60 minutes and are divided into four age groups:

Village: newborn to 2 years with parent/caregiver

Our Times: 2 to 3½ years with parent/caregiver

ABC Music & Me: 3 to 4 years; parent participation not required

ABC Music & Me: 4 to 6 years; parent participation not required

Tuition is paid to Highland Parks and Recreation. Materials fee is paid to instructor Nancy Hehemann.

AGES: newborn through age 5

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Times, themes and fees vary. See class schedule for details.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Feb. 1

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

REGISTER NOW!



HIGHLAND LITTLE LEAGUE

Boys and girls can register now for the following divisions: T-Ball, Rookie, Minor B, Minor A and Majors.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 21 and 28; Feb. 11 and 18.

WHERE: Lincoln Center

NOTE: Players MUST turn 4 by April 30, 2012 and reside in Highland to be eligible.

INFO: Call HLL President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945.

HIGHLAND YOUTH SOFTBALL

Spring and summer sports seasons are just a few short months away and sign-ups are already scheduled.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 21 and 28; Feb. 4, 11 and 25; 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 7.

WHERE: Lincoln Center

REGISTRATION FEE: \$95 includes team shirt and visor.

NOTE: Black softball shorts are mandatory and may be purchased at registration. All equipment is provided except for a required glove.

INFO: Call HYS Secretary David Bedka at (219) 680-7729 or visit www.highlandyouthsoftball.com.

HIGHLAND SOCCER CLUB

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays, Jan. 14, 21 and 28

WHERE: Lincoln Center

INFO: www.highlandsoccer.org

TRAVEL TEAMS: All players must provide a wallet-sized picture. New players must show proof of age and purchase a uniform from the club.

IN-HOUSE TEAMS: These teams play all of their games in town. The standard uniform is a T-shirt (provided by the club) and black shorts and socks (you provide). Shin guards are required. Soccer shoes are optional.



PLAY BALL!