

Events and Notices

REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Please protect our waters. Report anyone dumping chemicals, trash, or anything but clean water into a storm drain or directly into our rivers.

Report a Polluter
Highland Public Works
(219) 972-5083

Lake County Household Hazardous Drop off Days

Saturday, April 07, 2018

9:00 AM - 2:00PM
Lake County Fairgrounds, Crown Point

Saturday, May 05, 2018

9:00 AM - 2:00PM
Hudson Campbell Center, Gary, Indiana

Saturday, June 02, 2018

9:00 AM - 2:00PM
Hobart Public Works, Hobart, Indiana

HHW

What Can I Dispose of?

- Aerosols**
- Ammunition**
- Antifreeze**
- Automotive Fluids**
- Batteries** (household only, NO car batteries)
- Compact Fluorescent Lights** (CFLs in a sealed bag)
- Corrosives**
- Diesel**
- Flammable Liquids**
- Fluorescent Tubes**
- Fungicides**
- Gasoline**
- Herbicides**
- Insecticides**
- Kerosene**
- Latex Paint** (if usable and more than half full)
- Medication** (expired and unwanted)
- Mercury-Containing Products**
- Oils and Other Fluids**
- Oil Based Paint**
- Pesticides**
- Poisons**
- Sharps** (medical needles in a rigid container)
- Solvents**
- Thermometers** (in a sealed bag)
- Thermostats** (in a sealed bag)
- Thinners**
- Waste Fuels**



TOWN OF HIGHLAND

SPRING EDITION

QUARTERLY

SPRING IN THE HIGHLAND ROOKERY A NATURAL TREASURE IN HIGHLAND INDIANA

Highland has a great natural wetland treasure in the Highland Rookery. The wetland has had 120 different species of birds spotted within its borders. Especially in this highly urbanized area, this natural wetland shines brightly as an important natural area that provides habitat to birds, reptiles, and amphibians. One of the most prominent birds being the Great Blue Heron, a majestic bird with up to a six foot wingspan which you can see nesting on top of tall trees

in the wetland. You can't miss them in the spring when the Heron's prepare to nest. They noisily build fresh nests or refurbish old ones in the tall treetops along the Little Calumet River adjacent to Interstate 80/94 and along the corridor of Cline Avenue. These colonies of nests are called "Rookeries"

Just as the wetland provides a safe place to nest, it also provides ready access to food. The Great Blue Herons will feast on fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, insects, and other birds. They grab smaller prey in their strong mandibles (beaks) or use their dagger-like bills to impale larger fish.

Nest building begins in the latter part of winter and early spring where male Great Blue Herons will collect nest material. They will gather sticks and present them to the female. She will weave a platform and create a bowl-shaped nest, lining it with soft materials, such as pine needles, moss, reeds, or dry grass. Nest building can take from 3 days to up

to 2 weeks. When it is finished it may be a simple platform or an elaborate structure reaching four feet across and up to three and a half feet deep.

The Great Blue Heron relies on clean water and an unpolluted habitat. These birds along with many others have seen population declines especially in areas where there are high levels of mercury and chemicals such as DDT (pesticide), and PCBs (utility coolant). DDT and PCBs were once widely used in the United States and also poorly disposed of. Now those chemicals remain a persistent toxin in the environment to people and wildlife. Other lesser know chemicals present in the environment may also be a factor in declining heron populations.

The Highland Rookery is easily accessible from Kennedy Avenue, turn east onto LaPorte Avenue and proceed to cross Liable Street to the NIPSCO substation. Or take Cline Ave. and turn west onto Highway Avenue and then north onto Liable Street to the rookery.



Lily Center for Lakes & Streams Art Contest Winner 2017

IT'S SPRING IN NORTHERN INDIANA

We know it is becoming spring, when we see that last snowfall come and then melt away. We begin to see the green return and the emergence of spring flowers and plants.

There is no better time to do something positive for our planet and ourselves. Planting a tree is one activity that helps improve our water and air quality.

DID YOU KNOW?

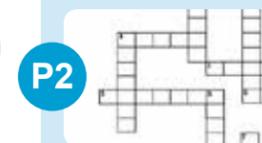
TWO DAYS TO CELEBRATE THE EARTH IN APRIL

Arbor Day is an annual observance that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. The First Arbor Day was in Nebraska in 1872. Now it is recognized in all fifty states and celebrated on the 4th Friday in April. This year Arbor Day will be on April 27th.

Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970. It marks the start of the modern environmental movement. The idea for a national day to focus on the environment was the brainstorm of Gaylord Nelson, a Senator of Wisconsin, who witnessed the effects of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. And "on April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories, raw sewage, pesticides, loss of wilderness, and wildlife extinction suddenly realized they shared common values." (earthday.org) It is celebrated every year on April 22nd.



TAKE A LOOK INSIDE



2 Kids Corner
Stormwater Crossword



3 Plant a Tree for
Cleaner Water and Cleaner Air



4 Spring in the
Highland Rookery
A Natural Treasure

NEXT ISSUE:

Local Water Recreation

The Summer Issue will highlight recreational opportunities in the area to enjoy our local waterways.

MEDICINES



DON'T FLUSH MEDICATIONS

Sewage treatment does not remove medications from wastewater.

Flushed medications end up in the Little Calumet River and Lake Michigan where it can harm fish, other aquatic wildlife, and people if it becomes part of their drinking water.

Please drop off unused and unwanted medication at the
Highland Police Dept.
3333 Ridge Road, (219) 838-3184

Thanks for doing your part to protect our water.

DO NOT FLUSH

DROP OFF UNWANTED OR BROKEN ELECTRONICS

Residents may drop off their electronics for recycling at:

Highland Public Works
8001 Kennedy Ave.
Highland, IN

Monday - Friday
Hours: 8:00-3:30

&
Saturday: 8:30-2:30
(219) 972-5083

CLEAN WATER STARTS WITH YOU!

SCOOP THE POOP

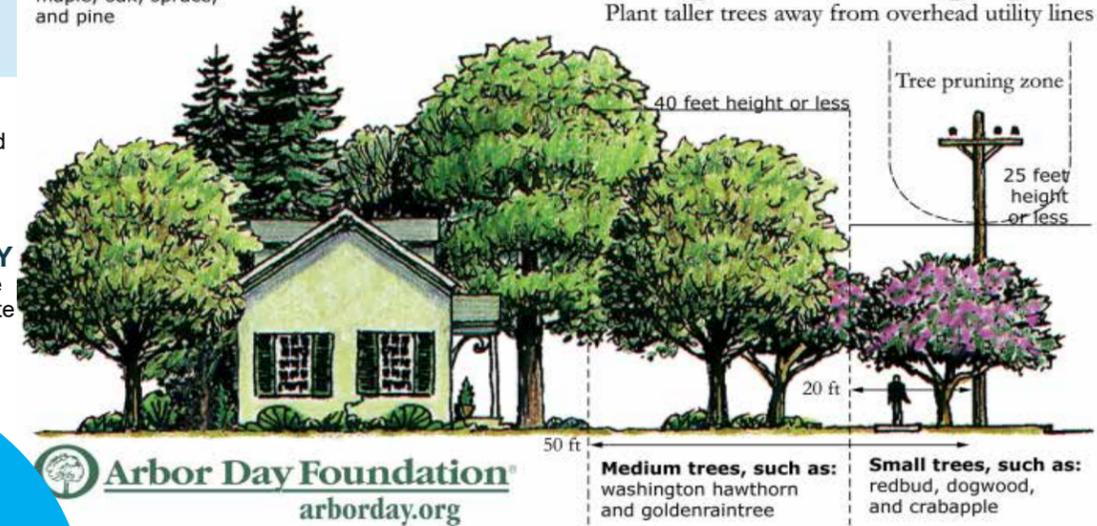
Poop pollutes drinking and recreational waters. Pick up and dispose of pet poop.

DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS PROPERLY

Dispose of chemicals only at the local Household hazardous waste drop off.



Tall trees, such as: maple, oak, spruce, and pine



Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines

PLANT A TREE for CLEANER WATER AND CLEANER AIR

Planting trees and shrubs are good for water and air quality. They are natural filters, filtering pollutants out of the air and out of the water. A mature tree can soak up 100 - 400 gallons of water a day and put it back into the atmosphere. It can also provide oxygen for up to four people.

Trees absorb water, reduce ponding in the yard, and cause less stormwater runoff to go to our lakes and rivers. Trees and plants also filter pollutants out of water making our lakes and rivers cleaner.

Follow a few simple tips to place your tree in the right place and reduce conflict with utilities:

- Trees planted near power lines should have a mature height of no taller than 20 feet.
- Trees that grow into and touch power lines are also at high risk of causing outages.
- Stay away from buried water, sewer, and electric lines. Trees can grow into sewer pipes looking for water and cause blockages.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG



Call Indiana 811 to determine where buried utilities are. It is the law to call before you dig!

Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to entire neighborhoods, and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

FIX AUTOMOTIVE LEAKS

Automotive fluids are toxic. Keep fluids from washing into storm drains.

COMPOST YOUR WASTE

When yard waste enters storm drains and local waters, its nutrients feed algae and result in dead zones in the lake.

PREVENT SOIL EROSION

Sediment is the number one pollutant of water in the United States. Sediment clogs fish gills and can suffocate fish. Protect against erosion by planting deep rooted native plants.

USE LESS FERTILIZER

Fertilizer is made to be an easy meal for plants, but nitrogen in fertilizer can make water unsafe if it leeches into your water supply.

USE TREES AND SHRUBS TO FILTER RUNOFF

Trees and shrubs soak up water and stabilize soil.

MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

Get your septic system serviced at least every 2 years.

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

KIDS CORNER

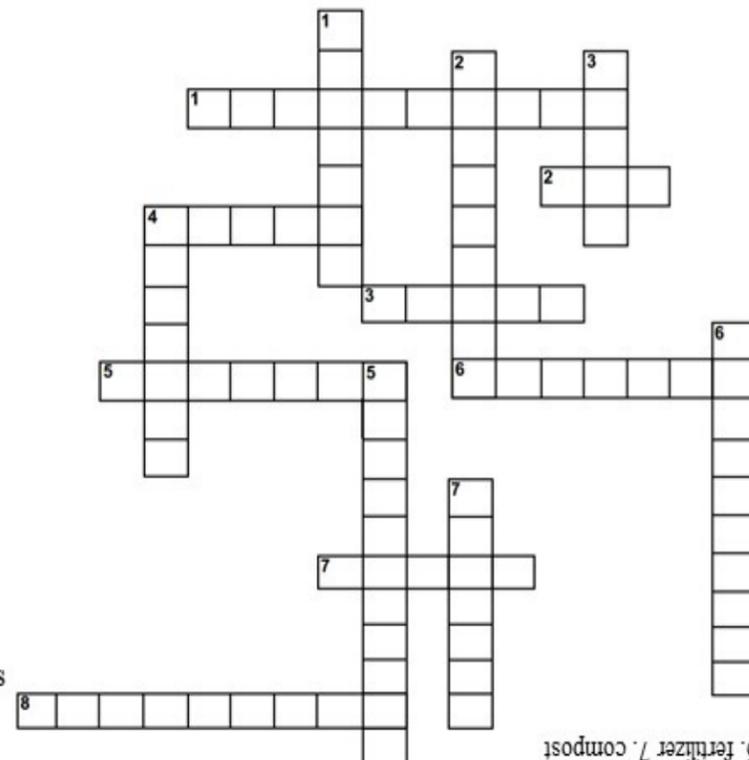
ACROSS

1. Topic of the crossword
2. You change this out of your car
3. This must be disposed at a hazardous waste collection facility
4. Large bodies of water
5. If you don't want to throw an item away, you can do this instead
6. The things you throw away are also known as this
7. Water may become this when it is contaminated with soaps or is churning and mixing a lot of air.
8. There are many different types of this including air, water, noise, and trash.

DOWN

1. If your vehicle is dirty, take it here
2. If you work with flowers, you're doing this
3. Keep trash and grass out of this
4. In Autumn, these fall off trees
5. Trash and dirty water can hurt this
6. Use this sparingly when working on your lawn or garden
7. Make this out of grass clippings

STORMWATER PUZZLE



Answers:
Across: 1. stormwater 2. oil 3. paint 4. lakes 5. recycle 6. garbage 7. foam 8. pollution
Down: 1. carwash 2. gardening 3. drain 4. leaves 5. environment 6. fertilizer 7. compost