

BLUE TOP HOPPING AGAIN! The iconic drive-in that satisfied the hunger of the likes of Boxer Joe Louis, Actress Katherine Hepburn and the Chicago Bears football team is back in business. Blue Top opened to throngs of fans hungry for a burger and shake the last weekend in July, keeping Highland on the map as one of the few towns in America that still boasts carhops and curbside service.



GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • AUGUST 2014

PRESERVING THE TOWN THEATRE

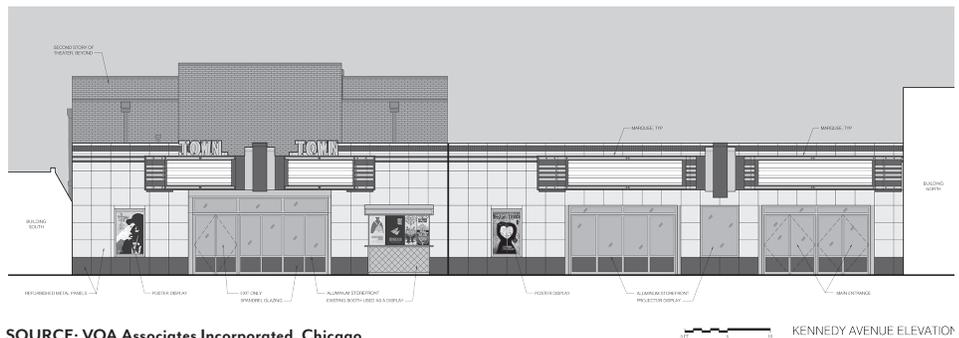
The race is on to determine the future of the shuttered Town Theatre.

Following a community meeting in July that packed Town Hall, the Town Council and Redevelopment Commission plan to meet at 7 p.m. August 18 to advance the discussion.

“We had more than 130 people at the July meeting, the overwhelming majority of whom want to see the Town Theatre reopen,” Council President Dan Vassar said. “It’s time we all sit down and discuss the details.”

To become a functioning theatre again, the Town must be renovated from the screen to the projection equipment and everything in between. Adding to the dynamic is a proposal to purchase two buildings immediately north that would provide access to those with special needs. The expansion would also accommodate small-scale live performances that include theatre, music and dance.

The projected cost is expected to be about



SOURCE: VOA Associates Incorporated, Chicago

\$2 million, \$1 million of which has been pledged by the Redevelopment Commission using existing funds. The town’s share of the project is expected to be further reduced through the procurement of grant funds, fund-raising and donations.

Already, Indiana Landmarks has expressed an interest in helping the theatre land a spot on the national historic register, making it eligible for historic grant funding. 🐦

HOW TO GET INVOLVED ...

Members of Highland Main Street have invested the last two years studying options for the Town Theatre. The group is looking for volunteers to work on the Town, as well as other initiatives that will be necessary to create an arts and theatre district.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Main Street Committee or simply volunteering, contact Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro at cpetro@highland.in.gov or (219) 972-7598.

COME HOME TO HIGHLAND!

TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAUNCHES ENHANCED WEBSITE

Highland has a new website and town leaders can’t wait for you to take it out for a spin!

The new www.highland.in.gov contains all the information you want to know about our town – and more.

While the enhanced business tab focuses on the master plan, economic development zones and incentives designed to attract new businesses, the community tab is all about living in Highland. It contains information on upcoming events, while encouraging residents to share photos and story ideas.

“We love our new web presence,” Council President Dan Vassar said. “Our former site served us well for many years, but it was time to give www.highland.in.gov a new face.

“Since the first site was created more than a decade ago, the town has been transformed, a change reflected in the new site, which will evolve with our community,” he said.

“Whether you live in Highland, own a business or are considering moving here, www.highland.in.gov is the place to discover what is happening in Highland.” 🐦



Visit www.highland.in.gov for the latest community news and events in Highland!

DECODING THE CODE ...

The Town Council passes and modifies laws it believes are in the best interest of the community.

In this and subsequent issues of the Gazebo Express, the town code will be explained. First on the docket is property maintenance.

Law 15:25 defines property and what constitutes property maintenance, along with the intent of the law, which is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community. The law details what constitutes a violation and how violators will be treated. This law also provides for inspections to guarantee that work is completed and in compliance with these laws.

INFO: Learn more about the town code at highland.in.gov/MunicipalCode.

BUILDING & INSPECTION

Building Commissioner Ken Mika has a new number. He can now be reached at (219) 972-7595.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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A COMMANDING PRESENCE



NEW HIGHLAND POLICE FACILITY: Years of planning have resulted in plans for a police facility that will have a commanding presence along Ridge Road, a complement to the town’s mid-century modern look and feel. The Town Council approved the second bid package July 28. Those contracts include the primary construction of the building, from the foundation, walls, floors and ceilings to plumbing and electrical. Councilman Dennis Adams, the town’s liaison for the project, said everything is moving ahead on schedule. “We are right where we want to be,” Adams said. “Construction will take about one year after contractors selected as part of the bidding process begin work.” An official groundbreaking is planned for September.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

HIGHLAND POLICE URGE RESIDENTS TO USE CAUTION

Highland schools are back in session Aug. 12 and Chief Pete Hojnicky says it is imperative that everyone be mindful of the heightened activity in and around the town’s six public and two private schools.

“We have small windows of time in the mornings and afternoons when we have large numbers of children who are out and about,” Hojnicky said. “They may not always be watching as well as they should. It is our job to be defensive drivers.”

To keep everyone safe this school year:

MOTORISTS SHOULD:

- Stop for flashing lights and stop signs on a school bus, regardless of which direction you are headed.
- Keep an eye on children at bus stops, watching for children who may dart out.

STUDENTS SHOULD:

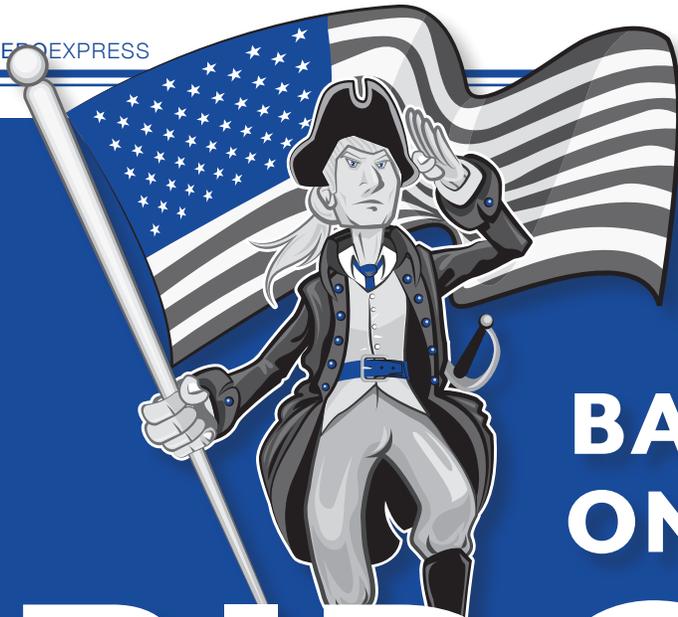
- Stand back from the road when waiting for the bus.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Sit still on the bus.

BY THE NUMBERS ...

- Pedestrians account for 30 percent of all traffic fatalities involving children under the age of 15.
- 22 percent of children ages 5-9 killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians.
- 45 percent of all pedestrian fatalities involving children under age 16 were killed between 3 and 7 p.m.



SOURCE: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration



BATTLE ON THE RIDGE

For nine weekends each summer, John Breslin morphs into a soldier circa 1775 fighting for independence during the Revolutionary War.

Breslin became a member of a local group of re-enactors after his first brush with the group 22 years ago. From the uniforms to the tents and utensils they use to cook their food, members of the Northwest Territory Alliance, a not-for-profit organization that exists to educate contemporary audiences about the realities of the war for independence, demand authenticity.

The Alliance forms an umbrella of regiments, which re-enact significant battles of the war. Breslin is a member of the Second Virginia Regiment. In that capacity, he serves primarily as a soldier and Sunday pastor while wife, Liz, is a camp follower.

"Highland is the geographic center of where we travel," Breslin said. "We travel north to Green Bay, south to Kentucky, west to Iowa and east to Ohio. I think what keeps me doing this is the ability to literally step back into the 18th century."

EVENT INFO

The Highland Council of Community Events presents **Battle of the Ridge** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. August 16 and 17. The event includes authentic 18th Century camps, clothing and crafts with live entertainment by Highland Reign.

BATTLES: 11 a.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

OPENING COLORS: 10 a.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

ARTILLERY DEMONSTRATIONS: 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

WHERE: Main Square Park

FEE: Free admission and parking

INFO: Call Karen (219) 972-1946 or Dawn (219) 923-0514.

POLICE VOLUNTEERS

The town is looking for dedicated individuals who want to work alongside Highland police and help keep our community safe. Training and uniform are provided. Have fun, make new friends, while providing this volunteer service to the community.

VIPs assist police officers by providing a variety of tasks including: vacation home checks, directing traffic, traffic patrols in residential/business/park districts (on foot, bicycle, or vehicle), providing funeral escorts, conducting finger printing, filing, typing, even answering telephones. Tasks and assignments vary per ability and interest. All hours and shifts are available.

INFO: If you are interested, please download an application online at www.highland.in.gov/VIPS or contact VIPS Coordinator Corporal Glenn Cox at (219) 838-3184.

HIGHLAND TAILGATE

With the start of school, fall football and tailgating can't be far behind. The Highland Athletic Boosters will hold their annual tailgate party leading up to a Highland Trojans/Hammond High Wildcats match-up. All proceeds go to support athletic programs in Highland. Get your tickets today!

WHEN: 5 to 7 p.m. **AUGUST 29**

WHERE: Highland High baseball field
INFO: Call Event Coordinator Michelle Coon at (219) 670-7796.

OUTDOOR STREET MARKET

Enjoy the warm summer weather at the annual outdoor market featuring fresh produce, cheeses, breads, teas, coffees, spices, tamales and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through **OCTOBER 18**

WHERE: Main Square Park
INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

PARKS & RECREATION LAUNCHES ONLINE CLASS REGISTRATION

Beginning August 23, residents will be able to sign up for programs at the Highland Parks and Recreation Department without ever leaving home.

Online registrations are being accepted with a majority of the programs that will be available as part of the autumn offerings. In the works for the last six months, park staff had training in June with a target of launching online registration with the mailing of the fall brochure.

"We were looking to add additional convenience for people who use Lincoln Community Center as well as other parks-and-recreation programs that are offered at locations throughout town," Recreation Director Dave Byers said.

"Whether it's youth basketball, fitness programs, art classes or ballroom dancing, you'll be able to sign up for it online and pay with a credit or debit card. It's that simple."

HOW TO REGISTER

To access the online parks and recreation registration system, visit register.highlandparks.org. You must already have an email on file with HPRD in order to register for classes.

Questions? Call Recreation Director Dave Byers at (219) 838-0114.

SUMMER COMMUNITY THEATER

Join us for the classic tale of the "Wizard of Oz." Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and bug spray. Concession stand will be open. All proceeds help offset the cost of production.

WHEN: 8 p.m. **AUGUST 7-9**

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

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

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Join us for the Lego Movie™ on the big screen. Popcorn and soft drinks are available at the concession. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Movie will be shown at Lincoln Center if it rains.

WHEN: Dusk (around 8:30 p.m.) **AUGUST 22**

WHERE: Main Square Park

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

SAT PREP COURSE

This 18-hour course will help you prepare for basic concepts and sight-unseen questions.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **AUGUST 23 - SEPT. 27**

WHERE: Lincoln Center - Room 113

FEE: \$325 residents / \$335 nonresidents

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

GETTING FIT WITH H-I-I-T

High-intensity interval training will put your body through the ultimate combination of ballistic cardio and grueling strength training.

WHEN: 8 p.m. Thursdays, **AUGUST 28 - OCT. 16**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics

FEE: \$50 residents / \$55 nonresidents

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

ADOLESCENT CONDITIONING

Learn safe training and conditioning methods to increase 10- to 17-year-old's endurance.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursdays, **AUGUST 28 - OCT. 16**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics

FEE: \$50 residents / \$55 nonresidents

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

NFL PUNT, PASS & KICK

This free event – held in conjunction with the Highland High School Tailgate party – is open to boys and girls ages 6-15.

WHEN: 5 p.m. **AUGUST 29**

WHERE: Highland High School baseball field

REGISTER: By Aug. 26 at Lincoln Center or at www.nflppk.com. Birth certificate required.

NOTE: Tennis shoes only; no cleats.

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

BEGINNER THEATER CLASS

Learn how to prepare for an audition and get involved in local theater groups.

AGES: 10 and up

WHEN: 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, **SEPT. 3 - OCT. 1**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$50 residents/\$55 nonresidents

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

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

Join the Highland Council of Community events for its first Labor Day Festival featuring arts & crafts, rides, food and live entertainment at this end-of-summer extravaganza.

FESTIVAL DETAILS

AUGUST 29: 5 p.m. to midnight

AUGUST 30: 1 p.m. to midnight

AUGUST 31: 1 p.m. to midnight

SEPTEMBER 1: 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call President Kelly Bridges at (219) 670-0764 or Secretary Dawn Wolak at (219) 923-0514.

MUSIC HEADLINERS

AUGUST 29: 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Allen Wronko Band

AUGUST 30: 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Tonal Attitude

AUGUST 31: 9:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Who's Who

SEPTEMBER 1: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Mr. Blotto



FALL SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Register now for Parks and Recreation's fall softball league. It's a 14-game round-robin season. Rosters are limited to 20 players. Highland Parks and Recreation reserves the right to place teams in the proper division. Cash awards will be given in each division!

SEASON: Runs **SEPTEMBER 3 - OCTOBER. 30**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

TEAM FEE: \$560 due by **AUGUST 18**

SEED MEETING: A manager's seed meeting will be held at 6 p.m. **AUGUST 22** at Lincoln Center.

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

SWIM CLUB REGISTRATION

The Highland Hurricanes Swim Club, a competitive swim team for youth ages 5-18 in Highland and surrounding communities, is conducting registration for its fall/winter season, which begins Sept. 2. A copy of a birth certificate is needed to complete registration.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **AUGUST 23** and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. **SEPTEMBER 2-5**

WHERE: Highland High Natatorium, 9135 Erie St.

FEE: Varies depending on age and level.

Payment plans are available.

INFO: (219) 595-9357 or highlandhurricanes.net.