

**KUDOS TO OUR FIREFIGHTERS!** September was a busy month for our volunteer firefighters who logged 53 fire calls, alarms, car accidents and mutual aid. As it turned out, October was just as hectic. "I'm proud of this group of firefighters, who never fail to respond when their pagers are activated," Fire Chief Bill Timmer said. "These are good folks who have families and other jobs, but are dedicated to keeping our town safe."



# GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • NOVEMBER 2018



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## NEW BUSINESSES REVITALIZING DOWNTOWN

When the owners of long-time businesses – Thrifty Kleen Cleaners, Highland Sewing Center, The Cobbler Shop, Lincoln's O and more – retired, it left residents wondering about the next chapter for downtown Highland.

Redevelopment Commission President Bernie Zemen said many of those businesses had anchored the Highway Avenue retail corridor since he was a child.

In a matter of months, new storefronts have replaced the old. Downtown now boasts businesses with names like 2 Chicks, a high-end consignment store;

Erna & Co., a vintage clothing store; YaYa Sisters Resale Boutique; and The Green Witch Juice Bar & Cafe.

"The owners of these new start-ups are excited to be here – almost as excited as we are to have them," said Zemen, who is also a town councilman. "I make it my business to go into every new store to introduce myself and learn more about them.

"As we approach the Christmas shopping season, I invite all residents to shop Highland first – especially during Small Business Saturday November 24 – and see all we have to offer." 

### BULT OIL PROPERTY UPDATE

More than 15 years after the Redevelopment Commission acquired the shuttered Bult Oil property, the group is taking steps to make the land available for redevelopment.

Located at First and Condit, the town planted 40 hybrid poplar trees in 2010, relying on their root systems to eliminate contaminants.

Once the Indiana Department of Environmental Management completes a Phase II study, Highland will learn if additional remediation is necessary or if the property and building can be sold.

## PUBLIC WORKS MOVE CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR KENNEDY AVENUE

The Town Council and Redevelopment Department are working to create a bright and prosperous landscape that will spur development along North Kennedy Avenue.

In the short-term, that means finalizing a deal with Iowa-based Russell Group to build a new public works facility between Cline and Kleinman just north of 45th Avenue.

Councilman Dan Vassar said relocating the town garage is a first step in opening up valuable land for development at the Kennedy Avenue gateway to Highland.

"Right now, the property is tax exempt," he said. "As a dare-to-be-great opportunity, this land will be transformed, serving as a catalyst for development up and down Kennedy." 

### WHAT'S NEXT?

The Russell Group is tweaking plans prior to appearing before the Highland Plan Commission and Town Council later this year regarding its senior housing facility and the possibility of a new town garage.

If approved, the group hopes to begin construction in the spring.

## CIRCUIT BREAKER IMPACT

Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin testified before state lawmakers in October on the impact the Circuit Breaker will have on Lake County. Griffin rocked the house with facts about how tax caps are already affecting Highland property tax collections and the crippling impact the state rules will have beginning in 2020. Property taxes pay for: lighting the streets, fighting fires, keeping police on patrol and sending sewage to Hammond for treatment.

## CRIME WATCH MEETING

Join us as a guest speaker from the U.S. Attorney's Office talks about scams at this month's meeting.

**WHEN:** 6:30 p.m. **NOVEMBER 14**

**WHERE:** HPD Community Room

**INFO:** Please call Sgt. Shawn Anderson at (219) 838-3184 or email sanderson@highland.in.gov.



### WARD 1

**BERNIE ZEMEN** - vice president  
bzemen@comcast.net  
(219) 781-1056



### WARD 2

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



### WARD 3

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



### WARD 4

**STEVEN WAGNER**  
swagner@highland.in.gov  
(219) 718-3199



### WARD 5

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

## NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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

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# DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS JOIN HIGHLAND MAIN STREET EFFORTS

Nan Mason-Higgins located her YaYa Sisters Resale Boutique at the corner of Fourth and Highway because of the charm of the downtown and the vitality of the community.

Mason-Higgins is one of a new group of downtown merchants working as part of Highland Main Street to add zing to the Highway and Jewett commercial corridors.

HMS President Dawn Diamantopoulos couldn't be happier – or more excited.

“Our group has been made up of concerned citizens since the group has formed,” she said. “Having some of our downtown business leaders involved will ensure that what we are doing really benefits them and the community.”

Following the incredibly successful Festival of the Trail that was coupled with a sidewalk sale and Fire Department open house, the group is already working on a raised community garden and merchant networking.

“The networking would be all about business owners referring customers to other downtown merchants,” Mason-Higgins said. “The whole idea is to create a group of satisfied customers who see the benefits in shopping local.”



Established in 2011 as part of the statewide program, Highland Main Street helps restore, revitalize and promote the downtown business district. Using a focus on structures, attractions, business and landscape, HMS serves as a catalyst to make the downtown district stronger and more vibrant for residents, visitors and business owners. Here's a look at the group's latest Highland initiatives:

- Expansion of Public Art
- Last Call For Summer
- Façade Improvement Program
- Cash Mobs and Sidewalk Sales
- Festival of the Trail
- Downtown Car Cruise
- Creation of a Community Garden
- Poet Laureate

## HIGHLAND GROUP SEEKING BETTER OPTIONS FOR PADDLING, KAYAKING ON LITTLE CALUMET

A group of Highland residents is looking for options for recreation on the Little Calumet River.

Although there is already a non-motorized boat launch on the Hammond side of the river west of Kennedy and just south of the Indiana Welcome Center, Councilman Bernie Zemen said paddlers are looking for a better location east of Kennedy.

“The ramp is at a place where the river has little flow most of the year making it difficult to launch any type of watercraft,” Zemen said.

Council President Mark Herak wants to discuss options with Dan Repay, executive director of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission. “We want to talk to Mr. Repay about what they can do to improve opportunities for recreation on the Highland side.”

### ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The Little Calumet River Indiana Flood Control and Recreation Project began in 1986 and was completed in 2017. Lake County taps residents for \$45 a year in property taxes that are used to:

- Keep the Little Calumet River navigable from the Illinois state line east to Martin Luther King Drive.
- Protect 22 miles of levees and flood walls in Hammond, Highland, Munster, Gary and Griffith.
- Maintain 16.8 miles of trails that connect recreational developments while creating additional access to the river and adjacent greenspace.



Register now for the 43rd Annual Pumpkin Plod  
– a USATF-certified 10K flat and fast course through Highland.

**What's new? Both the 5K and the 10K will be timed this year.**

Pumpkin pies will be awarded to top three runners in each category and all participants will receive a long-sleeve shirt. Walkers are invited to join an unofficial 5K noncompetitive fun walk that begins after the last runner.

## THANKSGIVING DAY • NOVEMBER 22

10K STARTS AT 9 AM • 5K STARTS AT 9:15 AM

**WHERE:** Race begins at Kennedy and Highway and finishes at Lincoln Community Center.

**FEE:** \$20 for runners and \$15 for walkers before November 19, \$25 for runners and \$20 walkers on race day.

**EARLY REGISTRATION:** Register online at [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or mail in a form by November 19.

**INFO:** For registration forms, divisions, shirts and awards, visit [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or call (219) 838-0114.

### SNOW REMINDERS



**SNOW PARKING BAN:** All on-street parking is banned whenever there is more than one inch of new-fallen snow. This allows snow plows to do their jobs in the first critical hours after a snowfall.



**SNOW REMOVAL:** Please remember the Highland noise ordinance bans the use of snowblowers and snowplows in residential neighborhoods between midnight and 6 a.m. If you contract for snow removal, please ask the company to schedule your service between 6 a.m. and midnight to avoid disturbing your neighbors.

### CHRISTMAS COPS & KIDS

The Highland FOP Lodge #122 is seeking donations for its annual Christmas Cops and Kids shopping event in December.

Last year, the FOP took 75 Highland children shopping at Meijer, where they spent more than \$6,000 including a large donation from the store. The owner of The Sheet People also donated free sets of sheets for every child. After shopping, the families were treated to breakfast at Blue Top Drive-In.

**DONATIONS:** Make checks payable to Highland FOP #122, P.O. Box 1743, Highland, IN 46322 or drop them off at the police department.

**INFO:** Please contact FOP President Randy Stewart at (219) 838-3184.

### BE IN THE KNOW ...

Like the Highland Police Facebook page (@highlandindianapolice) and sign up for Nixle Notifications ([nixle.com](http://nixle.com)) to keep abreast of Highland news. In the event of an emergency, police send out details via text message, email – or both.

## VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Join our veterans and the Daughters of the American Revolution as they salute those who have served our country. This year's guest speakers include North Township Trustee Frank J. Mrvan, Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin and Highland Poet Laureate Alaina Polen.

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. Sunday, **NOVEMBER 11**

**WHERE:** Highway of Flags

**INFO:** Call Sue Yamtich at (219) 614-3499.

## FATHER & SON LEGO EVENT

Fathers and their sons - ages 5 to 12 - are invited for an evening of activities, games, pizza and best of all - LEGOs!

**WHEN:** 6 to 7:30 p.m. **NOVEMBER 16**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEES:** \$20 residents / \$25 nonresidents / \$10/\$12.50 for each additional child

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

## COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you have stuff you'd like to sell? Join the community garage sale in conjunction with the Card & Comic Show. Register to sell your items now!

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **NOVEMBER 17**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**VENDOR FEES:** \$33 for 10' X 10' interior space or \$54 for 23' x 6' wall space. Table, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

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

## CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR FAIR

Grab your holiday shopping list and head to our annual fall show featuring candles, jewelry, clothing, handbags, home décor, skin care, gourmet dips and more.

**WHEN:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **NOVEMBER 24**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**VENDOR FEES:** \$43 for 10' X 10' interior space and \$70 for 23' x 6' wall space.

Table, chairs, extension cords are not provided. Merchant certificate is required

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

## SUPPORT OPERATION SOS

Operation SOS - Support Our Service members - will hold a packing party to prepare care packages for overseas. Anyone wishing to help pay for shipping should make a check payable to: Operation SOS, P.O. Box 9308, Highland, IN 46322.

**WHEN:** 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **NOVEMBER 25**

**WHERE:** Wicker Park Social Center.

**INFO:** Email aguirrecolleen@yahoo.com or find us on Facebook @operationsos46322.

# Highland Holiday Happenings

## Festival of Lights

### Santa's March

Parade with Santa through downtown Highland ending at the Main Square Park Gazebo. Hot chocolate will be served. Parade applications are at Town Hall and Lincoln Center.

**WHEN:** 4:30 p.m. **NOVEMBER 24**

**WHERE:** Downtown Highland to Main Square Park Gazebo

### Tree-lighting Ceremony

Join us for the lighting of Main Square Park for the holiday season. Santa will have treat bags for good boys and girls. Food and beverage concessions will be available.

**WHEN:** 5 p.m. **NOVEMBER 24**

**WHERE:** Main Square Park

### Small Business Saturday

Get a jump on your Christmas gift list and support our businesses by shopping on Small Business Saturday. #ShopSmallHighland.

**WHEN:** Saturday, **NOVEMBER 24**

**WHERE:** Throughout Highland

### Phone Calls from Santa

Santa will call your child if you register at Lincoln Center by November 30.

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

**WHEN:** 6 to 8 p.m.  
Dec. 6 and 7  
(your preference)

### Home Decorating Contest

Decorate your home for the holidays and you could be eligible for prizes. Enter our contest and let the public be the judge of the best decorated homes. Entry forms are available at Lincoln Center and must be submitted by December 3. Highland residences only. Winners will receive a gift certificate - \$100 for First Place, \$75 for Second, \$50 for Third and \$25 for Honorable Mention.

**CAST YOUR VOTE:**

December 5-12  
at highlandparks.org

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED:**  
December 13

**MORE INFORMATION**  
(219) 838-0114 or  
highlandparks.org

