

# GAZEBO EXPRESS



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • APRIL 2021

## Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.

How proper recycling is good for the environment – and saves the town money

Pizza for dinner and the box it comes in goes directly into your recycling cart, right? Not so fast. The top is probably good for recycling, but the bottom with its sauce overflow and grease stains needs to be deposited in the garbage.

Junk mail and documents you no longer want can be recycled in their whole form, but if they've been shredded fuggedaboutit.

Such are the vagaries of curbside recycling. Practices once regaled as being environmentally responsible are being shunned by an industry that has seen wholesale change in what's in – and what's out.

Public Works Director Mark Knesek said Highland households produce 154.9 tons of recycling per month. Trouble is: a good chunk of that paper, plastic and cardboard is determined unrecyclable by the workers whose job it is to separate what's usable from what's not.

### [ HIGHLAND RECYCLING ]

With nearly 25 percent of what we deposit as recyclable – isn't – it's time to catch up on the rules of reuse. It's good for the planet – and our wallets.

Recycling and remanufacturing are 194 times more effective in reducing greenhouse gas than landfills and virgin manufacturing. Using recycled cans to make new aluminum cans produces 95 percent less air pollution and 97 percent less water pollution.

INFO: Turn the page for a list of what's in – and what should be out – of curbside recycling cans.

"Our Republic representative says we are not the worst when it comes to recycling but we're certainly not the best – and that costs us money," Knesek said. "I am calling on all residents to up your education on what we can recycle – and what we can't." It's good for the environment and makes it pay to recycle again."

### [ SPRING CLEANUP ]

Republic Services will schedule extra crews **MAY 11** to collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning. **NOT INCLUDED:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at the Public Works Department, 8001 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

### [ LEAVES & BRANCHES ]

Crews will be running daily routes through **APRIL 16** to collect leaves, which should be raked as close to the street as possible. Branch pickup will continue through October. Please pile branches in front of the property. Please call to schedule a Friday pickup for heavier logs and stumps. Visit [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) for route maps.



The Green Issue



# Recycling Guide

Follow these simple Republic Service guidelines to become a better recycler. Working together, we can make sure recyclable materials don't end up in our lakes and landfills.

## [ KNOW WHAT TO THROW ]

Make sure you're putting the right materials in your recycling container – paper, cardboard, metal cans, plastic bottles and jugs.

## [ EMPTY. CLEAN. DRY. ]

Keep all recyclables free of food and liquid. One dirty item can contaminate an entire truckload, so make sure recyclables are empty, clean and dry.

## [ DON'T BAG IT ]

Never bag or bundle your recyclables. Place in the container loose.

## [ RECYCLABLE ITEMS ]



## [ DRUG RECYCLING ]

Turn in your unused or expired medications to the proper authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out. Highland Police will participate in the drug take-back program from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **APRIL 24** at the police department, 3315 Ridge Road. No needles will be accepted.

INFO: Call Ken Balon in Support Services at (219) 838-3184.

## [ HAZARDOUS WASTE ]

Make your environment safer by bringing your batteries, cleaners, oils, solvents, poisons, gasoline, pesticides, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs to the town garage from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**AUGUST 21.** Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

## [ PAPER ]

Newspaper  
Envelopes  
Junk mail  
Phone books  
Brochures  
Magazines

## [ CARDBOARD ]

Ream wrappers  
File folders  
Poster board  
Frozen food boxes  
Cardboard boxes  
Milk cartons

## [ PLASTIC ]

Water bottles  
Takeout containers  
Soda bottles

## [ GLASS ]

Beverage containers  
Glass food jars

## [ METALS ]

Aluminum cans  
Food cans  
Scrap metal

## [ NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS ]

Aerosol cans • Aluminum foil • Batteries • Ceramic • Clothing • Napkins  
Food waste • Glass windows • Pyrex • Mirrors • Plastic bags • Shredded paper • Stickers • Tissue • Paper towels • Styrofoam

INFO: Visit [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) for a complete list of what you can – and can't – recycle.



# New Highland is going green...

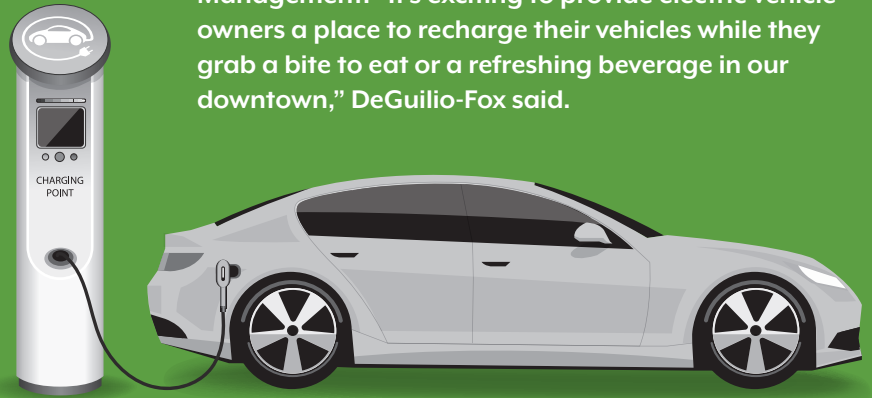


## [ LED STREET LIGHTS ]

Environmentally friendly LED streetlights are reducing Highland's carbon footprint while saving the community an estimated \$8,700 per year in energy costs. The switch from obsolete metal halide lights to LEDs was made possible by a \$40,000 grant from the Indiana Office of Energy Development. "We couldn't be happier to add energy-efficient lighting to our downtown," Redevelopment Director Kathy DeGuilio-Fox said. "It brightens the streets while shaving our costs."

## [ ELECTRIC CAR-CHARGING STATIONS ]

Installation of electric vehicle charging equipment is part of downtown parking lot renovations thanks to funding from Indiana Department of Environmental Management. "It's exciting to provide electric vehicle owners a place to recharge their vehicles while they grab a bite to eat or a refreshing beverage in our downtown," DeGuilio-Fox said.



## [ TREE CITY USA ]

Highland is getting a little bit shadier every summer thanks to Community Canopy Project, which began in 2016 as a way to expand species diversity and the number of trees following the devastating scourge of the emerald ash borer. Highland received its second "Tree City USA" recognition for its tree planting endeavors in 2020. Fifty trees were planted in the spring along the watershed of the Little Calumet River. In the fall, 100 trees were planted along streets, in parks and elementary schools. These operations were assisted by grants from the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission's CommuniTree Program and the Student Conservation Association, an affiliate of the U.S. Forest Service.

## [ BIKE TRAILS ]

Did you know the Erie Lackawanna Trail that bisects Highland is conserving energy and reducing harmful carbon emissions? Many of the 400 daily users say they opt for a bicycle or their favorite walking shoes instead of a car to grab a meal, shop and even return materials to the library. Friendships and friendly rivalries have started on the trail. Their decision to opt for a healthier body reduces carbon emissions by a whopping 260 grams – or more – per person per kilometer. Bike on, Highland!



# In brief

## [ EARTH DAY – APRIL 22 ]

Show your support by planting a tree, walking or riding your bike instead of taking a car, reducing your consumption of non-recyclable goods and recycling where you can.

## [ LIGHTNING ALERTS ]

April showers bring May flowers — and thunderstorms, too! Six of the town's parks — Sharp Athletic Complex, Main Square, Homestead, Sheppard, Markley and Meadows — are equipped with devices that activate a siren/strobe light when lightning is detected within 10 miles of town.

## [ HIGHLAND SHRED DAY ]

The Town of Highland will shred your confidential documents for free from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **JUNE 5** at Highland Public Works, 8001 Kennedy Ave. Proof of residency is required.

- 4 boxes – no larger than 12x18x10 – or 4 brown paper grocery bags per household.
- No plastic covers, binder clips/ notebooks or spiral notebooks.
- Please recycle all your non-confidential documents and other papers bi-weekly in your curbside recycling bin.



# Park Pride Day

Join Highland Parks and Rec for the 20th annual community park cleanup day from 9 to 11:30 a.m. **APRIL 24**. Everyone is welcome, especially community groups and families. You will be assigned a park for cleanup. Bring gloves, rakes and energy! Immediately after, meet us at noon at Main Square Park to receive your free T-shirt and lunch.

INFO: Individuals and groups must register at Lincoln Center. For more information, please call (219) 838-0114.

