

# GAZEBO EXPRESS

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

## HIGHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT



### Highland welcomes 4 new police officers

Welcome Highland's four newest officers to the force. Joshua Brzezinski (from left), 24, Kade Sapp, 29, Corey Anderson, 35 and Enmalie Wolke, 26, all completed fitness training and began academy training Aug. 2 in Hobart. They will begin patrolling the streets of Highland in November. Town Council President Roger Sheeman said they are already an asset to the town. "At a time when this nation is having difficulty attracting police officer candidates, we are elated to have these recruits," he said. "It is a reflection of the leadership of Chief Pete Hojnicky and his team that we have this group of highly qualified candidates eager to join our department. They are a great fit for Highland." ❖

INFO: Learn more about our new officers at [highlandpolice.com](http://highlandpolice.com).



### 40-year milestone

Congratulations and a big thank you to Asst. Police Chief Pat Vassar, who celebrated 40 years of service in July. Vassar was sworn in as a Highland officer July 13, 1981. He holds the record for the longest serving officer in the history of the Highland Police Department. ❖

## HIGHLAND TICKER

Great weather and throngs of individuals eager to mingle with neighbors and friends made for a blockbuster **FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVAL**, complete with quality entertainment and the town's first-ever beer garden. Plans are in the works for a repeat. Stay tuned. ... A ritual of summer, the town's **MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PROGRAM** is underway. Spraying is taking place Monday through Thursday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. – weather permitting. ... A **TRAFFIC SIGNAL** to provide safer crossing the bike/pedestrian trail at the south border of the municipal lot at Kennedy and Highway avenues is in the works. The Traffic Safety Commission approved the **HAWK SIGNAL**, which will be the second in town. The first Hawk device is located on 45th where Highland's bike trail meets Griffith's. ... Northwest Indiana businesses impacted by the economic downturn during the pandemic can access **FEDERAL LOAN FUNDS** through the US EDA CARES Act. Businesses and organizations can apply for loans of \$10,000 to \$100,000 through the **RECOVER NWI LOAN PROGRAM**, managed by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. Learn more at [nirpc.org/recovernwi](http://nirpc.org/recovernwi). .... Activity is ramping up in **SOUTH HIGHLAND** with ongoing activity at Cardinal Campus, a new development just north of Gordon Food Service and plans for a new owner for the shuttered Old Country Buffet at Highland Grove Mall. ❖

[ RECERTIFICATION ]

Congrats to Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin who has been re-certified with the professional credential of Certified Public Finance Administrator by the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada. This recognizes Griffin for excellence in his field and his work ... “to elevate the level of knowledge of public finance and enrich the performance within the treasury management profession.” Griffin’s proficiency in his field has made Highland well-known for its financial accountability.



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**NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?**

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[ THE END OF LAKE LAVERNE ] Workers replace the old 12-inch storm sewers along Laverne Drive with lines that are double the size to reduce flooding. [photo provided]

## Storm sewer project reducing flooding on Laverne Drive, surrounding neighborhoods

For decades, a decent storm in Highland meant canoes floating down Laverne Drive.

“People used to think we were kidding about rowing down Laverne after a heavy rain,” Public Works Director Mark Knesek said. “It was no joke.”

Last year, the Board of Sanitary Commissioners set aside the funds to stop flooding. A 12-inch storm sewer, which collected rainwater from neighborhoods along Wirth Road bordered by Pettit Park on the west and Arbor Hill Drive on the east, has been replaced with a 24-inch storm sewer that now discharges directly into the Cady Marsh Ditch.

“The large drainage area and the

distance stormwater had to travel contributed to water backing up not only on Laverne, but also on Wirth,” Knesek said. “The new sewer is double the size and was designed with a more direct path to the Cady Marsh Ditch.”

A valve at its discharge point prevents stormwater from the Cady Marsh Ditch from backing up in the street during extreme rainfall.

The project has already been tested — and passed with flying colors.

“In late June, nearly 8 inches of rain fell over 10 days. Both Laverne and Grace remained dry,” he said. “Without additional construction, flooding at the five-way intersection west of Grace at Pettit Park was also reduced.” ❖

**“This Babe Ruth team is made up of extremely talented individuals who play even better as a team. Game on!”**

**HEAD COACH SAM MICHEL**



**(Back row from left) Head coach Sam Michel, Leo Deleon, Mike Perry, Camden Scheidt, Nick Steele, Bryce Ozelie, AJ Reid, Austin Pizer as well as coaches Bryan Gordon and Zak Pizer. (Front row from left) Matt Gonzales, Aerick Tanis, Justin Bogner, Jason Reis, Ryan Smith. Not pictured: Tyler Stewart and Aleksander Havlin. [photo provided]**

# SENIOR BABE RUTH MAKES HISTORY

Head Coach Sam Michel and 16 of his players loaded into a cadre of vehicles and headed south for the 892-mile trip to the games of a lifetime — the Senior Babe Ruth World Series in Mobile, Alabama. It's a first for Highland players. Many of the teams they face had been here before.

For Michel, who coached each of these players for multiple years as they grew as human beings and talented baseball players, 2021 has been a year of blessings — few injuries and great baseball.

“I had an inkling this group of high schoolers was that good even before the season started. They played together as they were coming up through the ranks,” he said. “Each game proved just how good they are.”

The tournament began July 31 with 10 teams split into two pools. The top three on each side will advance to the playoffs Aug. 5.

“I'm competitive and so are they,” he said. “We're going to Alabama to play the best baseball we know and understanding this is our last series as a team.” ❖

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

**INFO:** Call (219) 972-5083.

## [ COMMUNITY YARD SALE ]

Highland's next Communitywide Yard Sale will be held from **8 A.M. TO 3 P.M. SATURDAY, AUGUST 28** and **SUNDAY, AUGUST 29**. Participants can sign up for Saturday only or both days. Deadline to register is August 16 to be included in map and address list distribution.

**INFO:** Visit the town website – [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) – to register.

## [ RESTAURANT CRAWL ]

Highland Main Street continues its popular Downtown Restaurant Crawl from **4-8 P.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 31**. The concept is simple: participating restaurants feature a special for \$5 or less, so that visitors can “eat their way through downtown,” stopping at their usual haunts and discovering new favorites along the way. Several retail businesses will also be open late so diners can shop in between courses or while waiting for food.

**INFO:** Visit Highland Council of Community Events on Facebook or [highlandcce@gmail.com](mailto:highlandcce@gmail.com).

## [ SECOND SUNDAYS ]

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park **AUGUST 8** for live entertainment. Opening act **Leann Stutler** will perform at noon and headliner **IPA Polka Band** will perform at 1 p.m.

## [ MOVIES IN THE PARK ]

Join us at dusk **AUGUST 13** for an evening in the park to watch "Tom and Jerry" on the big screen. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. If it rains, we'll move to the Lincoln Community Center Fieldhouse.

## [ PIANO LESSONS ]

This piano course will teach budding musicians – ages 8 and older – how to play an electronic keyboard, read music, play songs as well as tackle hand positioning and basic chording.

**WHEN:** Tuesdays, **AUGUST 17-OCTOBER 5**

**BEGINNERS:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCE:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center.

**FEE:** \$90 resident | \$95 non-resident

## [ CANVAS PAINT WORKSHOP ]

Our trained instructor will show artists – ages 13+ – how to paint a 16" x 20" canvas. No experience is required for this fun, no stress experience. You will leave with your creation at the end of class.

**WHEN:** 6:30-9:30 p.m. **AUGUST 12**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$25 resident | \$30 non-resident

## [ ROCK 'N' ROLL FOR THE TINY SOUL ]

This music class – for newborns to 4-year-olds – will focus on singing, lap bounces and simple instrument play with rhythm sticks, shakers and drums. We will also have tons of movement, bouncy balls, bubbles and parachute time.

**WHEN:** 9:30-10:15 a.m. Wednesdays,

**AUGUST 11-SEPTEMBER 15**

**WHERE:** Lincoln Community Center

**FEE:** \$80 | \$85 per session



**WHEN:**  
5-6 p.m. Tuesdays

**SESSIONS:**  
September 7- 21  
September 28-October 12

Learn the fundamentals of skateboarding or elevate your riding with group instruction from nationally ranked competitive riders while connecting with local skateboarders and making new friends. Anyone with a skateboard is welcome! Build proficiency in balance, pushing and riding, agility, ollies, and use of park obstacles. Deadline to register is the day before each session.

**AGES:** 4 and up

**WHERE:** Sheppard Park Skate Park

**FEE:** \$35 residents/\$45 nonresidents

## [ HIGHLAND FALL PRESCHOOL ]

Classes are structured to teach proper school behavior. Children should bring a healthy snack and drink to each class, along with a backpack to carry home class projects. Children must be fully potty trained and able to leave parents for the full two hours. Preschoolers will work on sharing, learning ABCs, shapes, numbers, colors, cutting with scissors, making crafts as well as working on listening skills and attention span.

**3-4 year olds:** Tuesday and Thursday **AUGUST 17-DECEMBER 9**

**4-5 year olds:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday **AUGUST 16-DECEMBER 10**

For more information on these and other classes, visit [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org) or call (219) 838-0114.