

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • SEPTEMBER 2020



U.S. census workers are visiting Highland households that have not responded. Deadline to be counted is Sept. 30. [US Census Bureau photo]

Let's make it count, Highland!

As the Sept. 30 deadline rapidly approaches, census workers are visiting Highland households that have not responded.

Highland has the 21st highest self-response rate out of Indiana's 566 cities and towns.

"To date, we are outperforming the 2010 self-response rate townwide," said Lance Ryskamp, co-chair of Highland's Complete Count Committee. "But that is only 81 percent of Highland's households. We need to finish strong to ensure Highland receives its fair share of billions of dollars in resources."

For those who have not already done so, please take 10 minutes to respond. "Those 10 minutes equal 10 years of benefit to the Town of Highland," Ryskamp said.

[RESPOND NOW]

Residents still have three ways to self-respond before Sept. 30 census deadline:

1. Respond online at my2020census.gov.
2. Call (844) 330-2020.
3. Fill out and mail in paper questionnaire.

[IN-PERSON VISITS]

Census workers carry a valid government ID with photo, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark and expiration date.

INFO: If you have questions about your visit or want to confirm a worker's ID, please call the regional census center at (312) 579-1500.

BACK ON TRACK

HIGHLAND



[HIGHLAND UPDATE]

As the number of positive COVID-19 cases remain high in Indiana, Gov. Eric Holcomb extended Stage 4.5 through Sept. 25. Turn to Page 3 to learn more about the current Indiana Back on Track plans.

[MASK MANDATE]

The mask mandate also continues through September 25. Gov. Eric Holcomb issued a state mandate that anyone living in or visiting Indiana – ages 8 and older – must wear a mask in public. Face coverings for children ages 2-7 are strongly recommended.

If you are not wearing a mask, and a store or restaurant says it requires customers to wear face coverings, they can refuse to let you shop or eat in their establishment.

[CANCELLATIONS]

As things are rapidly changing, please check highland.in.gov for the latest Highland updates and cancellations.

BACK ON TRACK: HIGHLAND

[PAYROLL CERTIFICATION]

Dawn Kovacich, associate clerk for Payroll and Personnel, is the first in the municipality's history to earn the Fundamental Payroll Certification (FPC) designation from the American Payroll Association. "This further demonstrates Dawn's commitment to professional development and the town," Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin said. "The Office of Clerk-Treasurer and the Town of Highland are tremendously proud of her."



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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[Robin Carlascio photo]

[DOWNTOWN PARKING LOT UPDATE]

After breaking ground in August, the Redevelopment Commission's downtown project to rebuild and enhance the municipal parking lot at the southwest corner of Kennedy and Highway is proceeding on time – and budget.

"We are excited to see this project come to life," Redevelopment Director Kathy DeGuilio-Fox said. "When completed later this fall, it will include not only the repaving of the parking lot, but stamped paving that will provide a walkway through the lot, new lighting, rain garden landscaping, a bike trail that runs along the perimeter of the parking lot and a public restroom facility we are calling The Depot. Infrastructure for electrical vehicle charging stations is also part of the project." Pictured above left to right: Aziz Jafari and John Talbot, of Weaver Consultants Group; Highland Redevelopment Director Kathy DeGuilio-Fox; Town Councilman Roger Sheeman; Redevelopment Commission President George Georgeff; and Bruce Miles of Grimmer Construction.

Fall festivals and events canceled amid pandemic

The 2020 Makers Market, Fall Festival and Fire Department Open House have all been canceled due to COVID-19.

Consideration is ongoing to determine whether other events this fall and winter will also need to be scrapped.

Town Council President Mark Schocke said balancing the desire to host events that are value-added for residents against the public health provided no other choice.

"Town leaders along with the Council of Community Events had high hopes the numbers of those with the virus would

continue to decline, but that hasn't been the case," he said. "Statewide daily positive cases had been in the mid-300s in May. Today, the number of new cases often exceeds 1,000 per day."

Schocke is looking ahead to next year.

"2020 has been a difficult year, tougher than any of us could have imagined," he said.

"Our community has been good about wearing masks and social distancing. Adhering to these precautions now will mean we can get past this and enjoy 2021 as a community."

BACK ON TRACK: HIGHLAND

[HIGHLAND BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT]



[Black Label photos]

Black Label on the cutting edge

Against a backdrop that included a vision to create an above-the-bar haircutting experience amid a national pandemic, Luis Medina and Victor Limas are bucking the trend for new businesses.

“We started building at the corner of LaPorte and Kennedy in November,” Medina said. “The first week we opened, we had to close because of the COVID-19 crisis. We reopened in May to people waiting to come in and get their hair cut.”

Black Label, though, is no typical barber shop.

From the back bar equipped with complementary adult beverages, soda, coffee, teas and water to the finished haircut, the shop has been created to be an experience.

“We have been blessed to have a great following,” Medina said.

“We pride ourselves on offering every customer a quality experience.”

Black Label Cut Parlor
8501 Kennedy Ave. Highland
(219) 237-2368

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
For more information: blacklabelcutparlor.com



[BACK ON TRACK STAGE 4.5]

The Back on Track Stage 4.5 and mask requirement continues through Sept. 25 with no changes in capacity restrictions for restaurants, bars and entertainment venues. Gov. Eric Holcomb will continue monitoring the COVID-19 crisis and update Indiana's Back on Track plans during his weekly press conferences. Visit the town website – highland.in.gov – for updates.

[CONTACT TRACING]

If you receive a call or a text from the Indiana State Department of Health, please respond. Contact tracing identifies those who may have come into contact with an infected person and slows the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Helping those who may have been exposed to get tested
- Asking people to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 or quarantine if they are a close contact

[ELECTION 2020]

Secretary of State Connie Lawson has recommendations for Hoosiers who want to make sure their ballot is counted for the Nov. 3 election:

- **Don't procrastinate:** Those looking to cast a mail-in ballot should apply now. The last date to request a mail-in ballot is Oct. 22. Only ballots received by noon on Election Day will be counted.
- **Take advantage of early in-person voting beginning Oct. 6.** Locations closest to Highland include: Wicker Park Social Center, Munster Town Hall and Schererville Town Hall. A complete list of locations and hours can be found online at highland.in.gov.

BACK ON TRACK: HIGHLAND

[LINCOLN CENTER SPOTLIGHT]



[FITNESS MEMBER CELEBRATES 96 YEARS]

Any day of the week – save Sunday and a few major holidays – you will find Margaret Joyce zipping around the track at Lincoln Center for a heart-healthy two miles. She has made plenty of friends at Lincoln Center during her two decades as a Highland resident, but prefers to keep up her paces by walking alone.

It's been the decades-long routine for the newly minted 96-year-old and one of her secrets to staying healthy. "It takes a lot of energy to get going some days but I'm always glad I came," Joyce said. "I never imagined this would be my routine at my age. I thank the good Lord every single day to be able to do what I do. I tell everyone to keep moving. It's the secret to staying young – and healthy."

[PARKS & RECREATION]

Looking for something to do while safely social distancing? Highland Parks and Recreation has a few fall classes, activities and outdoor concerts to consider:

[SECOND SUNDAYS]

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park **September 13** for an acoustic performance from Pete Berwick (The "Johnny Cash" of FOLSOM) from noon to 1:15 p.m. and MELLENCUGAR (John Mellencamp Tribute and more) from 1:30-3 p.m.

[BIDDY BOWLING]

Biddy Bowling is a non-instructional five-week program for boys and girls ages 4 to 11. Join us for a game of bumper bowling from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, **September 12-October 10** at Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy Ave. Fee is \$36 for residents, \$39 for nonresidents. Register by September 11 at Lincoln Center.

[COUPLES CANVAS PAINT]

Enjoy a date night out with your special someone from 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, **September 24** at Lincoln Community Center. Our trained instructor will show artists – ages 16+ – how to paint an 11" x 14" Moonlit Landscape on canvas. No experience is required. Fee is \$38 per resident couple, \$42 for nonresident couple. Register at Lincoln Center by September 17.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Learn more about Highland Parks & Recreation programs, activities and events at highlandparks.org or call the park office at (219) 838-0114.