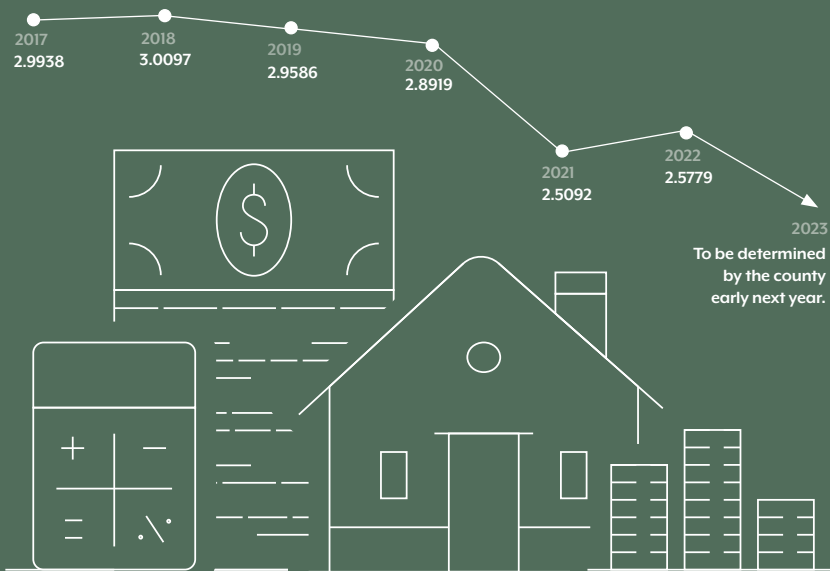


GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • DECEMBER 2022

[GROWTH SPURS PROPERTY TAX RATE REDUCTIONS]

Healthy growth in the Net Assessed Value (NAV) of homes throughout town means savings for property owners in 2023. Whenever the collective value of the town's taxable property increases by more than the prescribed value growth in a given year, property tax rates respond by going down. Here's a look at the Highland Taxing District rate over the last six years.



Highland property tax rate will decrease 9% in 2023

The white-hot real estate market that dominated the news — both locally and nationally in 2022 — has had a positive downstream effect.

Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak said the required tax rate in support of town government in 2023 will decrease by about 9 percent as a result of the NAV growth.

“This year, Highland showed tremendous growth in assessed valuation. It is up 13.27 percent,” Herak said. “By rule, the

community is able to grow by 5 percent for 2023. Since NAV is greater than levy growth, each property owner benefits from property tax rate reductions

Herak said the civil town tax rate may not be the only one impacted.

“Residents could also see a decrease in their tax rates from the School Town of Highland, library, township and other taxing units,” he said.



[SNOW REMINDERS]

With a Northwest Indiana winter predicted to be colder and snowier than normal, Public Works Director Mark Knesek is reminding residents to keep vehicles off the street when ice and snow are predicted.

“I drove through town during our first snow and found cars on nearly every residential street at the same time trucks were out trying to salt,” he said. “We are asking residents to pay attention to weather forecasts and consider the safety of our drivers this winter. The more cars that are taken off the street, the more quickly we can do our job.”



[SNOW PARKING BAN]

All on-street parking is banned when there is more than two inches of new-fallen snow. This allows plows to do their jobs in the first critical hours after snowfall.



[SNOW REMOVAL]

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 neighbors.

[HOLIDAY TRASH PICKUP]

Highland residents are reminded that trash and recyclables will be collected on Wednesdays during the holidays. Christmas week collection will be Wednesday, **December 28**. New Year's Day week collection will be Wednesday, **January 4**.

[TOWN GARAGE CLOSED]

December 17 will be the last Saturday the Town Garage will be open from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m for dumping unwanted items until March 4, 2022.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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RIVER DRIVE – BEFORE



RIVER DRIVE – AFTER

[Photos provided]

River Drive complete with new water main, sidewalks, curbs, trees, milled/paved street

River Drive, this year's Community Development Block Grant project, began this summer and was completed this fall.

The cost of the nearly \$800,000 project was shared by Lake County Urban Development, Highland Water Board and Town of Highland Works Board.

The project was initially undertaken to replace a deteriorating four-inch water main. When complete, Public Works Director Mark Knesek said the defective main was replaced with one twice the size, expanding water capacity.

The town didn't stop there. Defective curbs and sidewalks were replaced. Trees were removed and replaced and the road was milled and paved.

"Projects like these are not glamorous, but they are necessary to maintain quality services in every area of town," said Councilman Tom Black, liaison to the water board. "It's what people expect when they pay their taxes."

Despite supply chain issues that made acquiring some materials difficult to obtain, the project was completed on time and under budget.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR PET, BUSINESS LICENSE

[BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL]

Every Highland business is required to get a business license and renew it annually. Visit the town website – highland.in.gov – to download a business license form. Complete the application and submit it along with the appropriate fee to:

**OFFICE OF THE
CLERK-TREASURER**
Highland Town Hall
3333 Ridge Road
Highland, IN 46322

Make checks payable
to the Town of Highland.

QUESTIONS?
Call (219) 838-1080.



[ANIMAL LICENSE RENEWAL]

All dogs and cats that call Highland home need a license. Registering is a one-step process that begins and ends at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 3333 Ridge Road. Forms require contact information as well as pet name, breed, sex, color, spay/neuter and vet. All pets must be up-to-date on their rabies vaccination. The owner will then be given a registration tag the pet is required to wear.



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year the town reunites several pets and their owners through the license program.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit highland.in.gov for the current fee schedule.

[COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT]

Enjoy the sounds of the season at the Highland Community Band's annual Christmas concert.

WHEN: 7-9 p.m. **December 15.**
Doors open at 5 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
Banquet Hall

INFO: The band rehearses at 7 p.m. Wednesdays in the band room at Highland High School. To join, please email Director Greg Jasek at maestroflute@att.net.

[RESTAURANT CRAWL]

Join us for our popular Restaurant Crawl from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, **December 27** in downtown Highland. 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: highland.in.gov for updates



[CHRISTMAS TREES]

Wondering what to do with that live fir after the tinsel, ornaments and lights have been packed away? You have two options: Haul it yourself to Main Square Park or, simply leave it at the curb and let Public Works haul it to Main Square for you. Either way works and stokes the fires for the beloved Twelfth Night Celebration – the tradition of burning discarded Christmas trees – on **January 6**.

[CRAFTS, COOKIES & COCOA]

Children – ages 6 to 10 – will get into the holiday spirit making a holiday craft, decorating some cookies and enjoying hot chocolate!

WHEN: 6-7:30 p.m. **December 14**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$12 residents | \$15 nonresidents

REGISTER BY: **December 11**

INFO: highlandparks.org

[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 for eight weeks,

December 20 - February 7

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

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED:
6:30-7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$90 residents | \$95 nonresidents

MATERIALS FEE: \$12 for music book and \$3 per week keyboard rental, paid directly to instructor.

REGISTER BY: **December 13**

INFO: highlandparks.org

[IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE]

Join us via motor coach to the beautiful Beef and Boards Dinner Theater in Indianapolis, where we'll see the holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life."

WHEN: **December 21** – departing Lincoln Center at 8 a.m. and return approximately 4 p.m.

FEE: \$175 residents | \$185 nonresidents – includes round-trip transportation, show ticket and buffet meal.

INFO: highlandparks.org

**[NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS]**

Ring in the new year with a fireworks display at midnight **December 31** at Main Square Park. Bring the family to enjoy the midnight show and fireworks spectacular!

[TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION]

We'll wrap up the holidays at 6 p.m. **January 6** with a Twelfth Night celebration. Bring your Christmas trees to Main Square Park to light up the night.

[SUPER SMASH BROS]

Are you the best player around? This tournament consists of a round-robin format followed by double elimination. Only top pool finishers will be eligible for the bracket. Trophy and prize awarded to the winner.

WHEN: 6-9 p.m. **December 16**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$15 residents | \$18 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org

[BUNCO FOR SENIORS]

Seniors – ages 55 and older – are invited for an afternoon of Bunco. Sign up to play this old dice game and you will be treated with pizza and coffee. Prizes awarded to winners. Beginners are welcome!

WHEN: 11:30 am.-2 p.m. **December 20**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$11 residents | \$13 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org