

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND · JANUARY 2023



<< Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra (right) and Redevelopment Commission Vice President George Georgeff (second from right) present a check for \$20,000 to 45th Street Partners, the owners responsible for façade improvements to Brumm Plaza on 45th Street.



[Josh Carlascio photos]

WATER RATE HIKE BEGINS THIS MONTH

The Highland Town Council has approved a water rate increase designed to support projects that will keep Highland's water supply safeguarded for today – and into the future.

Most Highland water customers should expect to pay about \$6 more per month beginning this month.

Councilman Tom Black said proceeds from the increase will be earmarked for projects to upgrade infrastructure necessary to transmit water from the Hammond/Highland border and on to homes and businesses.

“There is a network we, as residents, never see – pumps and pipes that move hundreds of millions of gallons of water throughout our town,” Black said.

“We have seen what happens in other communities when the water is not adequately safeguarded” he said. “Any contamination of the water supply constitutes a public health emergency.”

Members of the Water Board continually monitor the age and condition of the infrastructure.

“They are already looking at the town's needs for the next five years,” Black said. “They are doing all they can to ensure nothing like that impacts our town.”

HIGHLAND'S THRIVING

Businesses – old and new – are investing in town's retail shopping districts with façade improvements

The Redevelopment Commission is beginning its work in 2023 the way it ended it in 2022 – with key assistance to local businesses who are having a big impact on the local retail landscape.

In the waning days of December, the commission celebrated the new facade throughout the entirety of Brumm's Plaza – an eclectic blend of wood tones and white that showcases the plaza's 10 unique businesses as part of a vibrant retail development that has been consistently full with long-term tenants since it opened more than 40 years ago. Redevelopment Director Maria

Becerra said the Highland Redevelopment Commission was thrilled to contribute \$20,000 through the it's Facade Improvement Program to the 45th Street Partners project.

Next up: the commission will be finalizing the details of two other facade improvement projects with plans to approve grants for Nephilum Studios on Condit and NWI Parkinsons on Jewett.

“It is wonderful to see businesses taking advantage of this very important program,” Becerra said. “These projects change the way people see our town – for the better.”

[CRIME WATCH MEETING]

Join Highland Police Officer Justin O'Malley at 6:30 p.m. **January 18** in the HPD Community Room and learn about crime trends in your neighborhood.

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES!

The HPD is seeking \$5 gift card or certificate donations from Highland businesses. Prizes will be awarded at each Crime Watch meeting to encourage participation.

INFO: Email Sgt. Shawn Anderson at sanderson@highland.in.gov.

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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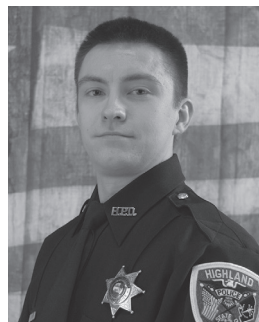
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Highland hires 4 new police officers

At a time when police officers across the country are in high demand and low supply, Highland Police consider it their very own Christmas miracle that they were able to recruit, interview and hire four highly qualified candidates before the end of 2022, bringing the force up to 39 sworn officers. "The officers are eager to get out on the streets of our community," Cmdr. John Banasiak said. "We are thrilled to have them as the newest members of the Highland Police Department family."

**[RAYMOND J. NAVARRO III]**

Highland Police, the Town Council and community are extending a warm welcome to Probationary Police Officer Raymond J. Navarro III. The 26-year-old was sworn in as a police officer Dec. 12 by Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak. Raised in Crest Hill, Illinois, Navarro comes to Highland with four years of law enforcement experience from his work with the Burnham, Ill. Police Department. Navarro is married and has a child. He resides in Griffith.

**[ADDISON P. BARNHILL]**

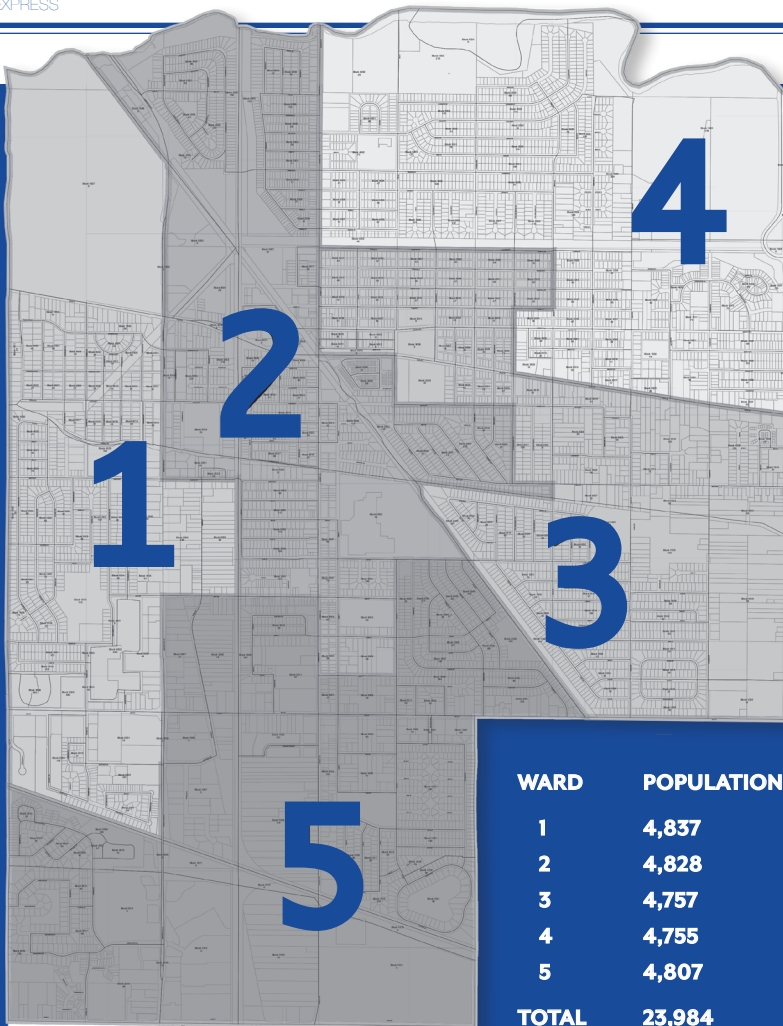
Addison Barnhill is another hometown Highland recruit, hoping to make his way through the ranks in the town where he grew up. The 24-year-old graduated from Bishop Noll Institute in 2017. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Calumet College of St. Joseph. Addison comes to Highland PD after having been employed in Residential Psychology with Franciscan Health for the last year. Addison resides in Highland.

**[SHANE M. GERINGER]**

At age 29, Shane Geringer is a hometown boy who wants to serve in the town where he was raised. The 2012 Highland High School graduate has an Associate's degree in Accounting from Indiana Wesleyan University. Shane arrives at Highland Police via the Calumet City Police Department, where he has been working as a dispatcher for the last four years. He resides in Highland with his girlfriend and two sons.

**[JOSHUA A. KEMPK]**

Joshua Kempke is 29 years old. Raised in the Calumet Region, he graduated from Whiting High School in 2012. He went on to serve in the United States Army for eight years before being honorably discharged while holding the rank of Sergeant. Joshua comes to the HPD after having been employed with the Lake County Sheriff's Department as a Corrections Officer for the past 6 years. The young father resides in Crown Point with his daughter.



Highland adopts new ward map

The Highland Town Council adopted new ward district boundaries that went into effect Jan. 1. Voters will feel the impact with the municipal primary elections scheduled for May 2.

Redrawing ward maps happens prior to the first municipal election held after U.S. Census statistics have been released. The goal: to realign the council wards to keep the population within each as consistent as possible.

Under Indiana law IC 36-5-2-4.1, the town legislative body must create voting wards that:

- » Are contiguous except for territories that are not contiguous with any other part of the town.
- » Are reasonably compact.
- » Contain as nearly as is possible equal population.
- » May not cross a census block boundary except when following a precinct boundary line.
- » May not cross precinct lines except as provided.



[IT'S SNOW SEASON!]

The Christmas ice and snow that was followed by bitter temperatures so cold region residents actually freed ducks and geese alive but encased in frozen blocks of water was winter's opening salvo.

It won't be the last.

In between storms, there are opportunities to seal drafts, fix shovels, replace car batteries and sharpen snow blower blades.

Prepare while you still have time.

The Farmer's Almanac accurately predicted Northwest Indiana's December bone-chilling and stormy cold. They are forecasting January could bring the coldest outbreak of arctic air in several years.



[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.

[TABLE TENNIS]

Drop in to play other competitors and improve your game! All ages welcome. Those 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

WHEN: 5-9:30pm Mondays and Wednesday

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Banquet Hall

FEE: \$6 drop-in | \$72 for 18 visits

[CARDIO DRUMMING]

Clink drumsticks overhead and on exercise balls to upbeat and energizing music. Constant choreographed movements to the beat revs your heart rate while working your core. Loads of fun, all while working out!

WHEN: 6:30-7:30pm Tuesdays, **January 10-31** and **February 7-28**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Banquet Hall

FEE: \$22 resident | \$24 nonresident
DROP-IN: \$9 resident | \$10 nonresident

[SPECIAL DRUMMING CLASS]

Join us for our Girls Just Wanna Have Fun Cardio Drumming Night as we take it back to the '80s in our neon and drum the night away!

WHEN: 6-7 p.m. Friday, **February 3**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center Banquet Hall

FEE: \$9 resident | \$10 nonresident

[BIDDY BOWLING]

Escape the snow and head over to Plaza Lanes for a day of family fun! Biddy Bowling with the Highland Parks and Recreation is open to children ages 4 to 11.

WHEN: noon to 1 p.m. Saturdays, **February 11-March 11**

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy

FEE: \$38 resident | \$41 nonresident
REGISTER BY: **February 10**

NEW**[GROUP EXERCISE FLEX PASS]**

This pass – \$50 for residents and \$55 for nonresidents – allows for flexibility to take classes at a time that works for you or drop in on that new class you've been wanting to try! Passes, which include 10 visits per pass – are available for the following in-person group classes at Lincoln Community Center:

[R.I.P.P.E.D.] 9-10 a.m. Saturdays

This total body program utilizes free weights, resistance bands, and body weight to strengthen your core and other major muscles. R.I.P.P.E.D.™ also combines the individual components that give the program its name: Resistance, Intervals, Power, Plyometrics, Endurance and Diet. Suitable for any fitness level.

[BODY SCULPT] 5-5:55 p.m. Wednesdays

Tone up with weights, resistance bands, exercise balls and your own body weight! Includes plyometric exercises with modifications for every level.

**[BODY PUMP] 4:55-5:55 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays
8-9 a.m. Saturdays**

This revolutionary barbell workout challenges all major muscle groups. Tone and define your entire body through squats, presses, lifts and curls. Determine your level by choosing appropriate weights in this team environment!

[ZUMBA FITNESS] 6-6:55 p.m. Wednesdays

A high energy Latin dance inspired workout. No dance experience required. Have fun and burn calories!

