

LONGEST-SERVING POLICE CHIEF RETIRES AFTER 21 YEARS

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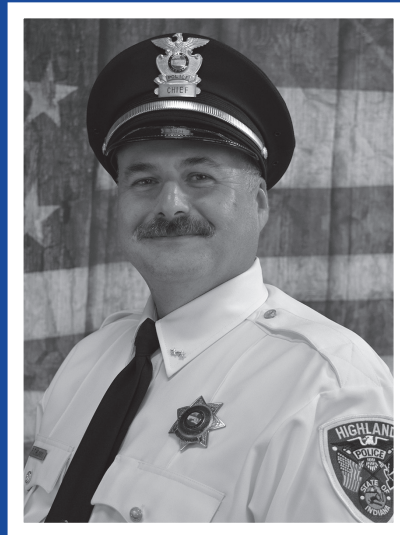
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that kept him working late into the night, Councilman Roger Sheeman said the chief has been an invaluable asset to the town.

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Hojnicky credits his family – wife Linda and children – and faith for the ongoing encouragement.

"Their continued support allowed me to do the job I have always wanted to do," he said.

POLICE MILESTONES

Several initiatives have been implemented throughout Chief Pete Hojnicky's career.

"Our entire team deserves the credit for our many accomplishments," he said. Here's a look at a few:

- ▶ New HPD building
- ▶ Training
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- ▶ Body Cameras
- ▶ Officer Safety Initiatives

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INSIDE: Burglaries lowest on record in 54 years. **Page 3**

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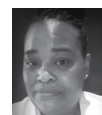
[BOARDS & COMMISSIONS]

The Town Council is looking for residents eager to serve on a board or commission. While vacancies occur from time-to-time, Council President Tom Black said his focus is increasing the number of volunteers on the Community Events Commission.

INTERESTED? Download an application from highland.in.gov and file it with the Clerk- Treasurer's office – either in person or submitted by mail to the Office of the Clerk- Treasurer, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, IN 46322.



WARD 1
BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2
TOYA SMITH
tsmith@highland.in.gov
(312) 719-1928



WARD 3
MARK SCHOCKE
mschocke@highland.in.gov
(219) 207-2075



WARD 4
TOM BLACK
tblack@highland.in.gov
(219) 301-2077



WARD 5
ROGER SHEEMAN
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(630) 673-3363



CLERK-TREASURER
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(219) 838-1080

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HIGHLAND NEIGHBORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY



The town's newest civic group – Highland Neighbors for Sustainability – hit the ground running with its first meeting as an Advisory Associate Partner Organization of the town in January. HNS Town Liaison Cathy Perrin said the group held a winter seed sowing in January, will be hosting a container planting activity for children at Munster's Earth Day event and focused on increasing recycling participation. The group unofficially organized in 2020 at a climate action blitz at Lincoln Center, where the focus was greenhouse gas emissions in the region. Now, as then, she said they are looking to grow the organization. "We are looking for volunteers who share our vision of making Highland more resilient and sustainable," Perrin said. "Our goal is to improve the environmental quality of our community through education and advocacy." **INFO:** To volunteer or learn more about the Highland Neighbors for Sustainability, visit www.highland.in.gov/sustainability or follow them on Facebook. [The Idea Factory photo]

New assistant directors making a difference

SUSAN HALE – ASSISTANT REDEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



When Susan Hale graduated from Indiana University Northwest in May, she focused her job search on Highland. Seven

months later, the Hessville resident joined redevelopment. "I have the opportunity to work with the Redevelopment Commission, Highland Main Street and Neighbors for Sustainability," said Hale, who's currently studying for her Master in Public Affairs at IUN. "Redevelopment Director Maria Becerra and I are trying to make it easier for start-ups to locate in Highland."

KIM WEBB – ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR



Kim Webb brought 18 years of financial experience with her when she started in Public Works five years ago. Most recently, Webb

was promoted to assistant director of Public Works. The department is responsible for all facets of keeping Highland streets, water, sanitation and sewers up and running. "As assistant director, I am in charge of budgeting and the money side of managing projects and day-to-day operations," she said. "When it snows and it's all hands on deck, I get to drive a snowplow, too. I love my job"

Keeping Highland safe

The Highland Town Council, Metropolitan Police Commission and Police Department Administration want to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the men and women – sworn, civilian and volunteer – who make the Highland Police Department a pillar of excellence among its peers in law enforcement.

"They are all heroes for making Highland a safe place for our residents, visitors and businesses," Highland Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. "Their accomplishments in 2022 – both individually and collectively – are directly related to the low crime rates we experienced again this past year.

"Our staff acknowledges their responsibility to the community and are held accountable for their actions," he said. "This philosophy is the foundation of a solid police department."



[2022 HIGHLAND CRIME STATISTICS]

"Even though we've seen spikes of criminal activity in our neighboring communities, Highland was able to maintain a relatively low crime rate," Police Chief Pete Hojnicky said. "When comparing statistical data over the past 54 years, we find ourselves again at, or near, record lows across several categories,"

CATEGORY	2022	HIGHEST	LOWEST
Homicide	0	2 (1986/2001)	0 (most years)
Rape	0	6 (2005)	0 (most years)
Robbery	4	35 (2005)	2 (2018/2020)
Assault	86	157 (1976)	10 (1969)
Burglary	13	185 (1980)	13 (2022)
Larceny	288	1,008 (1997)	203 (1971)
Vehicle Theft	26	258 (1991)	17 (2019)
Vandalism	114	577 (2006)	91 (2021)
Theft from Vehicle	79	249 (2009)	63 (2020)
Total NIBRS*	421 (2022)	1,389 (1975)	422 (1971)

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* National Incident-Based Reporting System (formerly UCR-Uniform Crime Report) is the total criminal activity recorded annually by the FBI from municipalities nationwide. Note: The Total NIBRS is determined by certain categories. Not all are listed here.

[BRICKS 4 KIDZ]

This is not just a playtime session. It's an investment in your child's mind! Each of our models is designed to help your child put their STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education into practice while having fun!

WHEN: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays, **February 9-March 2** as well as **March 9-April 6 (off March 30)**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$60 residents | \$65 nonresidents
INFO: 219-838-0114 | highlandparks.org

[STAND-UP COMEDY]

Learn how to write and deliver jokes just like the pros! Each week you will learn a new technique and come back the following week to show what you've written. The experience will culminate in a showcase where students – 17 and older – can perform their material.

WHEN: 3-6 p.m. Sundays, **February 19-March 26**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$75 residents | \$85 nonresidents
INFO: 219-838-0114 | highlandparks.org

[YOUNG REMBRANDTS]

Our elementary-age curriculum (ages 6-12) is designed to teach basic to advanced drawing skills, art techniques and vocabulary. We believe that drawing is the bedrock skill required for future artistic success. We give your student the skills to express their creativity and believe that all children can – and should – learn to draw. You'll see increased art abilities, learning skills, self-confidence and self-esteem.

WHEN: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Fridays, **February 10-March 10**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$47 residents | \$52 nonresidents
INFO: 219-838-0114 | highlandparks.org

3-8 P.M. FRIDAY
MARCH 3

10 A.M.-7 P.M. SATURDAY
MARCH 4

10 A.M.-3 P.M. SUNDAY
MARCH 5



[ABOUT THE EXPO] The Northwest Indiana Fishing and Outdoor Expo is a fun event for the whole family. Visit with local vendors, get trade tips for regional lakes from community experts, sample food from neighborhood restaurants, test your skill at the kids casting pond, or take a break to watch a demonstration in the larger-than-life fish tank.

LINCOLN COMMUNITY CENTER

[TICKETS & MORE INFO] Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for Military, Veterans, and Senior Citizens, and \$3 for kids 12-6. Kids 5 and under are free. We'll also be offering discounted early-bird pricing online at nwioutdoorexpo.com.

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