

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • MAY 2023



Vegetables harvested in the garden are donated to St. James the Less Food Pantry to provide fresh produce to local individuals and families. [Photography by Highland resident Madison Owens]

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Community Garden volunteers are beginning their fourth year growing vegetables for their Highland neighbors with new ideas, partners and dollars to increase summer's bounty.

The inspiration for the garden – Renee Reinhart – said three growing beds are getting TLC from new partners – Fuzzyline Brewing, Green Witch, Jose's Family Restaurant, Maria's Buena Cocina, Sip Coffee House and Tasty Olive.

"These downtown businesses are big supporters of the garden and will be using our home-grown herbs and vegetables in their kitchens," she said.

Reinhart offered a shout out to Highland Neighbors for Sustainability and Tri-Kappa. "These groups work tirelessly to make the garden a success," she said. "Lake County Master Gardeners awarded us a \$150 grant to purchase cattle panels for climbing crops."

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Join us for a planting event from 10 a.m. to noon **May 20**. The community garden is next to Main Fire Station, 2901 Highway Ave. Help provide plants for the garden by purchasing and donating at Zandstra's Greenhouse, 10202 Kennedy Ave. and Scheeringa Farms & Produce, 9436 Cline Ave.

[SPRING CLEANUP DAY]

Republic Waste Services crews will collect trash and rubbish generated by spring cleaning on **Tuesday, May 9**. **Not included:** Construction debris, concrete, electronics, televisions, household hazardous waste and leaves. Televisions, computers and electronics may be recycled at Public Works, 8001 Kennedy.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.



[HIGHLAND SHRED DAY]

Highland will shred your confidential documents for free from 8 a.m. to noon **June 3** at Highland Public Works, 8001 Kennedy. Proof of residency is required.

- » 4 boxes – no larger than 12x18x10 – or 4 brown paper grocery bags per household.
- » No plastic covers, binder clips/ notebooks or spiral notebooks.
- » Please recycle all your nonconfidential documents and other papers bi-weekly in your Highland curbside recycling bin.



[HAZARDOUS WASTE]

Make your environment safer by bringing your batteries, cleaners, oils, solvents, poisons, gasoline, pesticides, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent light bulbs to the town garage from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **July 29**. Items not accepted include tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

[CRIME WATCH]

Join us 6:30 p.m. **May 17** for a Crime Watch meeting following our police memorial at Sheppard Park. Meet K9 Bane and his handler Officer Tony Kowal, a team highly trained in searches for missing individuals, articles and narcotics.

PLEASE NOTE: Attendees are asked to bring their own seating or lawn chair.

INFO: Please email Officer Justin O'Malley at jomalley@highland.in.gov.



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
MARK HERAK
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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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Wachala named Hoosier Resilience Hero for commitment to environment

Highland's very own Connie Wachala has been named a Hoosier Resilience Hero by Indiana University's Environmental Resilience Institute, one of only 13 Hoosiers to receive the honor.

This year's cohort includes professionals and volunteers dedicated to climate change, renewable energy, sustainable development, and other aspects of environmental protection.

A founding member of Highland Neighbors for Sustainability, Wachala has galvanized the sustainability movement in Northwest Indiana. In 2020, she organized a resilience conference and participated as part of a team that lobbied local governments to conduct greenhouse gas emissions surveys. Today, she helps neighboring communities lobby their elected officials to create their own sustainability commissions.

Highland Neighbors for Sustainability members were elated at the news.



"She inspires people to do their very best for the future of Highland, of Northwest Indiana and the world," Highland Neighbor Cathy Perrin said.

ERI Managing Director Sarah Mincey said this year's class of resilience heroes are invested in creating a thriving future for Indiana.

"Through education, policy, advocacy and action, they are making a difference," Mincey said. "In the face of unprecedented environmental change, Indiana is fortunate to have heroes like these in our midst."

Learn more about ERI's 2023 Hoosier Resilience Heroes at eri.iu.edu/heroes.

Remember & Honor ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Mark your calendars for a pair of important observances in May for our fallen police officers and soldiers.

[HIGHLAND POLICE MEMORIAL]

Police Chief Ralph Potesta invites the community to remember Highland's fallen officers during a twilight memorial at 6 p.m. **May 17** at Sheppard Park, 9160 Liable Road.

The service will recognize officers Donald R. Sheppard, who was shot and killed by a prison escapee Nov. 12, 1971; and, Robert J. Markley, who was struck and killed by a drunk driver March 10, 1978.

[MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY]

Join your neighbors and friends in recognizing Highland veterans and fallen heroes at the Gazebo in Main Square Park at 10 a.m. **May 29**.

Hosted by the Council of Community Events, the event will feature military speakers as well as the Hometown Heroes banners lining the streets of downtown Highland. For complete details and program updates, visit highland.in.gov after May 15.

Downtown Highland's

Farmer's Market

From fresh-picked asparagus, rhubarb and peas in early June to ever-so-sweet corn, beets and carrots in the throes of summer, the Downtown Highland Farmer's Market is getting prepped for the growing season.

Sip Coffee House owner Rhonda Bloch, who is coordinating the weekly event for Highland Main Street, said she is still looking for produce and product vendors who want to participate for one Thursday event – or for the full season, which begins June 1.

“During the market, we will also host a beer garden and entertainment in one convenient location at the downtown municipal parking lot at the corner of Kennedy and Highway,” Bloch said. “Many of our downtown businesses will also be staying open late on Farmer's Market nights.”

4-9 PM

THURSDAYS

JUNE 1 – OCTOBER 26

NEW MUNICIPAL LOT
2730 Highway Avenue

VENDORS

All food vendors must obtain a permit from the Lake County Health Department. Interested? Please call Rhonda Bloch for pricing and details at (219) 306-0980 or email her at RhondaBloch@yahoo.com.



[COMMUNITY YARD SALE]

Highland's next Communitywide Yard Sale will be held **May 13-14**. Participants can sign up for Saturday only or both days. All participating addresses must be located in Highland. Residents are solely responsible for setup/removal of sale items, method of payment and assume all responsibility/liability for their location participating in the event.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov or Highland Council of Community Events on Facebook to register.



[ST. JAMES FESTIVAL]

The St. James Festival is back! This family-friendly event, which features live entertainment, food, a beer garden and a kid's zone – will be held 4-10 p.m. **June 15**, 4-11 p.m. **June 16** and 2-11 p.m. **June 17** at St. James the Less Catholic Church, 9640 Kennedy Ave.

INFO: Visit stjameshighland.org.



[CHAMBER GOLF OUTING]

Join Lance Ryskamp and the Highland-Griffith Chamber of Commerce team as they tee off at the 2023 chamber golf outing.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. shotgun start **July 13**

WHERE: Wicker Park Golf Course

FEE: \$125 per person includes breakfast, lunch, golf, cart, drink tickets, and \$25 cash prize at every hole. Door prizes and cash payoffs for 1st and 2nd place teams. Driving range available before golfing.

INFO: Visit hgchamber.org to register, become a sponsor or learn more about this and other upcoming events. **Questions?** Please call (219) 923-3666.

[SUMMER CAMP]

Join us for games, crafts, songs, drama, sports and field trips.

WHEN: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, **May 30-August 4**. Pre-camp is from 7:30-8 a.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEES: \$120 | \$140 weekly, \$30 | \$35 daily, \$7 | \$8 pre-camp and \$10 every 15 minutes past 5 p.m. late fee

NOTE: Mandatory parent meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. **May 22**.

INFO: highlandparks.org



[MIDWEEK MUSIC]

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park on Wednesdays for live entertainment through September. Opening acts perform 4:30-5:30 p.m. and headliners 5:45-8 p.m. Here's the upcoming lineup:

May 10: Dueces Wild (Acoustic/Pop/Country) | Mellencougar (John Mellencamp Tribute)

June 14: D'Kobie (Jazz Vibraphonist) | Calumet Ridge Jazz Ensemble (Swing)

July 12: Jack Cunningham (Acoustic Variety) | International Polka Association Band

August 9: Amy McCormick & Aaron Harris (Pop/Rock) | Hurricane Reggae

September 13: LeAnn Stutler (Country/Pop) | Jessi & Fizz (Dance/Pop Covers)

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: highlandparks.org

[FOOD VENDORS WANTED]

Seeking food vendors to complement Midweek Music series. Tables, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

WEEKLY FEE: \$26 (electric add \$7)

SEASON FEE: \$105 (electric add \$25)

INFO: highlandparks.org

TOUR DE
HIGHLAND
-GRIFFITH

MAY 20

THE DETAILS

Join the chamber for a family-friendly bicycle ride through Highland and neighboring Griffith.

Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. at Wicker Park Pavilion. The bike ride starts at 10 a.m. and is expected to last about 60 minutes. Cookout will begin after riders return.

Register online using the "Upcoming Events" tab on the chamber website at hgchamber.org.

\$20 per rider and \$5 for children aged 12 & under. Cost includes lunch and drawstring bags while supplies last.

Call (219) 923-3666 for more information.

[COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE]

Do you have items you would like to resell, but don't want to invite people into your home to show your products? Join the community garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, **May 20** at Lincoln Community Center!

VENDOR FEES: \$36 for 10' x 10' interior space or \$58 wall space. Tables, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

INFO: highlandparks.org.



[TRACK & FIELD]

Designed to introduce you and your child to the many disciplines of Track and Field, boys and girls – ages 4-14 – compete separately in four events within their age group. At the conclusion of our season, you and your child will have a better understanding of sprints, distance, relays and field events. Team T-shirt included. Register by **May 24**. New this year, fee includes a registration code for the American Mile Run on July 3.

WHEN: 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning **May 31** and continuing **June 14, 15, 21, 22, 28; July 12, 13 (off), 19, 20; August 2**.

WHERE: Highland High School track

FEE: \$60 residents | \$70 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org.



[RESTAURANT CRAWL]

Join us for our popular Restaurant Crawl from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, **May 30** in downtown Highland. The concept is simple: participating restaurants feature a special for \$7 or less, so that visitors can "eat their way through downtown," stopping at their usual haunts and discovering new ones along the way. Retail businesses will also be open late.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov.