

ENHANCING OUR ENVIRONMENT

The community garden next to Fire Station #1 is flourishing. The movement of water into and out of the Heron Rookery has dramatically improved its desirability for nesting herons, egrets, ducks and owls. Around Highland, greening initiatives abound. Here's the latest news:



[BIKE PATH RESTORATION]

With an assist of a \$5,000 NIPSCO environmental grant and \$875 from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the town is moving forward to restore a wetland pollinator prairie on 1.9 acres within the utility right-of-way between 81st Street and Grand Avenue. The pollinator prairie straddles the bike path nearest the Little Calumet River. Councilman Bernie Zemen said that, in addition to flooding that breeds mosquitoes, the land has long been a headache for the Parks Department to mow when rains turn the dry soil into mud. Parks will maintain the newly planted prairie for the next two years. "This is a great idea come to life," Zemen said. "Once the plants are established, the pollinator prairie will require no maintenance."

[DRIVING WISE]

Drive Clean Indiana came to town in June to film a video promoting Highland's sustainability efforts. From the new LED fixtures that light up the downtown while conserving energy to the electric car charging stations, the town is getting a reputation as a community working to reduce its carbon footprint.



[DOWNTOWN RAIN GARDEN]

Highland Neighbors for Sustainability have completed the rain garden at the Municipal Complex between Town Hall and the Highland Police Station. The self-sustaining rain garden is filled with native plants designed to absorb rainwater runoff.

[MANAGING INVASIVE PLANTS]

Highland Neighbors for Sustainability is sponsoring an education talk at 6:30 p.m. August 2 at the Highland Library. Specialist Mandi Glanz will talk about why invasive plants are a problem and how to identify and manage them. Interested? Please register at the library.



[HAZARDOUS WASTE]

Make your environment safer by bringing your batteries, cleaners, oils, solvents, poisons, gasoline, pesticides, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs to the town garage from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, July 29.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: tires, appliances, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, asbestos, 30-gallon or larger containers.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.



WARD 1

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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Highland hires 4 new police officers

The town is welcoming four new officers to the department. Officer Kyle Rhein joined the department May 8. Officers Zachary Buss, Christopher Wanat and Tristan Baker were sworn in June 12. The four officers were presented their badges by Chief Ralph Potesta and Police Commissioner Danny Stombaugh. "These officers will be a great asset to ongoing crime-fighting efforts in our community," Potesta said. "They bring talent and skillsets for police work that will enhance what we are doing to keep crime rates low and advance public safety in Highland."



[TRISTAN BAKER]

After graduating from Fishers High School in 2019, Probationary Officer Tristan Baker, 22, attended Purdue University Northwest, where he graduated in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. While a university senior, he completed his college internship with the Highland Police Department. Baker will attend the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Hobart, which begins July 31.



[ZACHARY BUSS]

After graduating from Lowell High School in 2018, Probationary Police Officer Zachary Buss, age 23, studied Criminal Justice at Ivy Tech College. He comes to Highland Police after serving three years as a Crown Point General Services Officer. Buss will attend the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Hobart, which is scheduled to begin July 31. He is a resident of Lowell.



[KYLE T. RHEIN]

Probationary Officer Kyle Rhein, 26, has already begun his field training. A Lake Central High School graduate, Rhein attended Indiana University Northwest. While serving in the U.S. Air Force for 5 years, he was assigned to Security Forces. Rhein comes to Highland with two years of law enforcement experience as a Patrol Officer with the Valparaiso University Police Department. He resides with his family in Schererville.



[CHRISTOPHER WANAT]

Probationary Officer Christopher Wanat, 26, grew up in Chicago. After high school, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Xavier University in Illinois. Wanat comes to Highland Police after three years with the Cook County Sheriff's Department where he served as a Corrections Officer. Wanat will attend the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Hobart, which begins July 31.

{ DOWNTOWN ESSAY CONTEST }

CONTEST WINNERS TELL US WHAT THEY MOST LIKE ABOUT DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND ...

When asked what makes downtown Highland special, nearly 60 students from Highland's schools weren't bashful about ticking off what they like best about the landmark shopping district.

Hosted for the second year by Highland Main Street, HMS President Alex Robertson said he was surprised by the insight expressed so eloquently. "They talked about favorite restaurants, shops and festivals. Some loved the atmosphere," said Robertson, himself a homegrown Highland boy. "What was touching was reading the essays of those who wrote about forming lasting memories focused on family and friends. It was clear downtown is more than our shops. It is a place where our children form memories and relationships that will last a lifetime."

HERE'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ...



" I like to do theater and I've done two shows in Highland over the past two years. It's pretty cool because I love to dance and sing. I'm in The Little Mermaid and I played a mini red crab. My favorite part was being chased ... by the chef when he was trying to feed Ariel. Maybe you saw me? "

– 3RD GRADE STUDENT AMELIA M.



" The shops are the Disneyland of Highland. The restaurants all throughout Downtown Highland are amazing, the food is mouthwatering, flavorful, and absolutely scrumptious. The experience is all the better, the service is awesome, and everyone is always so kind. "

– 8TH GRADE STUDENT EVAN Y.



" Michael's Resale and Consignment ... is a used-furniture store and it is a spot that my grandma and I always visit whenever we spend an afternoon together. They have stunning jewelry there, as well as furniture ... I always buy at least one thing wherever I stop into the store. "

– HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANNAH T.



"Downtown Highland offers fairs, restaurants, little shops, events, and even beautiful lights during the holidays. It has a small town feel that makes it enjoyable for everyone."

– HIGH SCHOOLER KAYLEE G.

[2023 WINNERS]

Each winner received a gift card. Visit the Highland Main Street page on the town website – highland.in.gov – to read their winning essays.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1st place: Ingrid H. – 4th Grade

2nd place: Amelia M. – 3rd Grade

3rd place: Isabella T. – 3rd Grade

MIDDLE SCHOOL

1st place: Evan Y. – 8th Grade

2nd place: Kayla P. – 7th Grade

3rd place: Sloane Z. – 8th Grade

HIGH SCHOOL

1st place: Hannah T.

2nd place: Kaylee G.

3rd place: Evan B.

[FISHING CONTEST]

Contestants will participate in a catch-and-release tournament at Meadows Park Pond. Prizes will be awarded for various categories. Bring your own fishing pole, hooks and bobbers. Limited amount of bait will be provided.

WHEN: 8-10 a.m. Saturday, **July 15**

WHERE: Meadows Park Pond

FEE: \$10 resident | \$13 nonresident

INFO: (219) 838-0114 or highlandparks.org. Deadline to register is July 10.

[ROTARY CORN ROAST]

Join us for all the corn you can eat plus two hot dogs or one sausage, chips, drink and dessert. Proceeds benefit Highland scholarships and park, fire and police departments.

WHEN: 4:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, **August 4**

WHERE: Main Square Park

TICKETS: \$8 in advance at the chamber, Cakes by Karen and Lincoln Center or \$10 at the park.



[WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE]

New Life Christian Reformed Church invites the community to attend its free family picnic. The event includes games and other fun activities including inflatables.

WHEN: Wednesday, **August 9**.

Picnic is from 5-6:30 p.m.

Games and activities from 5-7 p.m.

WHERE: New Life Church, 3010 Ridge Road, Highland

INFO: Call (219) 838-0506 or visit www.newlifecrc.com.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

CRAFT & RETAIL VENDORS

CAR SHOW

BEER, WINE & CANNED MIXERS

FAMILY GAMES

LIVE MUSIC



• LET'S CELEBRATE •

BEER • MUSIC • FOOD

“Just like at home, you’ll enjoy family games, good barbecue, music, beer, cornhole and more!”

5-10 PM FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

2-10:30 PM SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Interested food, craft and retail vendors should contact the Highland Council of Community Events at HighlandCCE@gmail.com.

The Highland Council of Community Events is always looking for volunteers with great ideas! Help plan our next community event. Visit our Facebook page or email HighlandCCE@gmail.com.