

GAZEBO EXPRESS

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



FRIGHT RIDE

Thinking it might be time to put that bicycle in storage for the year? Think about putting it off a little while longer.

Parks and Recreation is inviting you to join neighbors and friends for Highland's first-ever Fright Ride – a nearly eight-mile trek, traversing the bike trail, heron rookery and more.

Riders will find spooky scenes for their enjoyment along the way.

The inspiration of Recreation Director Dave Byers, who has long thought an October nighttime ride to celebrate the beautiful fall weather and Halloween was too good of an opportunity to pass up. That it's planned for Friday the 13th was a bonus.

"Highland Police will lead the way and assist with traffic control," Byers said. "People are getting excited about Fright Ride and we couldn't be happier. This is a ride designed for fun."

[EVENT DETAILS]

Join us on a spooky 7.75 mile community bicycle ride after dusk. This all-ages, family-friendly event features food vendors and music from 5-10 p.m. at Main Square Park.

When: 5-6:45 p.m. check-in and 7 p.m. ride **Friday, October 13** – rain or shine!

Route: Start and finish at Main Square Park.

Registration: Online only before October 13 at bikesignup.com/highlandfrightride. Cash only and onsite the night of the ride at Main Square Park.

More Info: highlandparks.org

[HALLOWEEN EVENTS]

Learn more about the **Halloween Home Decorating Contest**, **Trunk-or-Treat activities**, **Trick-or-Treating Hours** and the **new Pumpkin Smash** inside this newsletter on page 3.

[LEAF COLLECTION]

Leaf collection begins **Monday, October 9** and ends **Friday, December 1**. The insert in this issue contains dates for leaf pickup in your neighborhood.



[FALL CLEANUP DAY]

If getting rid of excess stuff has been on your to-do list, let the purging begin. Republic Waste Services will schedule extra crews **Tuesday, October 10** to collect additional trash and unwanted items as part of fall cleanup day. Construction debris, concrete, household hazardous waste, paint, pool chemicals and leaves are NOT included.

[DRUG TAKE BACK]

Turn in unused or expired medications to the authorities instead of flushing or throwing them out. No needles are accepted. Highland Police will be participating with the Drug Enforcement Agency as a drop-off site for medications from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturday, October 28**. The Highland Police Department is located at 3315 Ridge Road. Please note: All medications will be incinerated by the DEA, so you do not have to remove labels. **QUESTIONS?** Call Ken Balon at (219) 838-3184.

[NO BURNING LEAVES]

Open burning of leaves, twigs or other yard waste is prohibited within the corporate limits of the Town of Highland. According to Title 12.15.050 of the Highland Municipal Code, "No person shall openly burn or ignite refuse, garbage or rubbish." The law was created to keep residents and structures safe.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov/MunicipalCode to learn more.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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Region restaurateur to carry on traditions

A month after Traditions Restaurant sustained significant damage in a fire believed to have started in a bathroom fan, owner Ruben Ibarra is waiting on a report from a structural engineer to determine next steps.

"My wife, Tania, and I are hearing it might be six months or a little longer to repair the damage," he said. "I want to thank the entire Highland community for supporting us when we took over and supporting us now."

It was the people of Highland who regaled Ibarra with anecdotes about what they loved about the restaurant and stories of how they grew up dining at the eatery that convinced him to extend the history of Traditions.

"It was our plan to open another El Mariachi, like the one we have owned and operated in Calumet City for the last 29 years," he said. "After talking with customers, we decided to keep the menu the way they like it."

Highland proposes \$19.75 million budget – an additional \$500,000 for local roads

The Town Council gave a preliminary thumbs up on a spending plan for 2024 that includes money for employee raises, health insurance increases and buffers to ensure there are funds to pay the day-to-day costs of running the town, including necessities, such as gas, diesel fuel, road salt and utilities.

After several years of modest increases in employee health insurance, Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak said the town will pay 8.2 percent more next year, about the same increase as in 2023.

The budget also includes \$500,000 earmarked for Local Roads and Streets funds that can be used for Indiana's Community Crossing

WHAT'S NEXT?

The proposed 2024 civil town budget is \$19.75 million. Of that, a maximum of \$11.3 million will come from property taxes paid by residents, businesses and industry. The budget is slated for adoption at 6:30 p.m. **October 23.**

program. Matched dollar-for-dollar, the town funds set aside will buy \$1 million in street construction next year. Public Works Director Mark Knesek lobbied for the council to reconsider a wheel tax, a proposal President Tom Black and Councilwoman Toya Smith said was a non-starter because of the impact it would have on residents.

Halloween



HOME DECORATING CONTEST

DEADLINE TO ENTER: OCTOBER 17

Ghosts and witches and creatures of fright! Don't miss the call of Halloween night. Do you love to decorate for Halloween? We have seen so many creative homes decorated that we are adding a Halloween Home Decorating to our programs — open to Highland homes only!

CATEGORIES: Scariest, Best Effects and Best Overall Theme.

Entry forms are available at Lincoln Community Center. Have your home fully lit up and decorated **October 11-12**. Voting **October 20-24**. Winners announced on **October 25**.

HIGHLAND TRUNK OR TREAT

10 AM – NOON | SATURDAY | OCTOBER 21

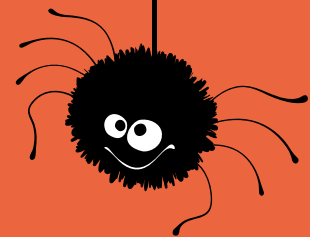
The Highland Council of Community Events invites trick-or-treaters to this free event at Main Square Park. Those looking to participate as a decorated trunk or tent/booth, must register at highland.in.gov. Costumes and decorated vehicles are encouraged.

QUESTIONS? highlandcce@highland.in.gov

PUMPKIN SMASH

10 AM – 1 PM | SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 4

Highland Neighbors for Sustainability invite you to bring your pumpkins to Main Square Park and aim them at our bullseye! Children's activities. Composting tips. Pollinator plant seed giveaways. Pumpkin remains will be taken to feed animals at a farm sanctuary. Please note: No painted pumpkins. Remove candles and other non-food items.



TRICK-OR-TREATING

Highland's trick-or-treating hours are from **5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 31** for all ghouls and goblins!

Don't forget to stop by Mission Bible Church, 41st Street across from Highland Middle School, while trick-or-treating through the neighborhood. They'll have trunks in the lot, treats in the halls and a photo op in the gym from **5 to 7:30 p.m.**

[COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE]

Do you have stuff you'd like to sell, but don't want people in your home? Join the community garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **October 21** and **November 18** at Lincoln Center. Register to sell your items now! Vendor fees are \$36 for 10' X 10' interior or \$58 for 23' x 6' wall space. Table, chairs, cords not provided.
INFO: Highlandparks.org

[YOUTH BASKETBALL]

Boys and girls play a 10-game season while learning the fundamentals of basketball. The league will consist of three divisions: Kindergarten-1st Grade, 2nd-3rd Grade, 4th-5th Grade. Games are on Saturdays and practice on weekdays. Teams determined by a player draft. All players receive a T-shirt. Deadline to register is **November 6**. Fee is \$60 for residents and \$66 for nonresidents. Practice begins the week of **November 13**. Season runs through February 17 at Lincoln Center.
INFO: Highlandparks.org

[PUMPKIN PLOD REGISTRATION]

Early bird pricing – \$25 for runners and \$15 for walkers – ends **October 12** for the 48th Annual Pumpkin Plod 10k run/5k walk. Register today!
INFO: Course map and more info available at runsignup.com/highlandpumpkinplod.

[NERF WAR]

Players – ages 6-13 – will compete in teams of four in a capture-the-flag style tournament from 6-8 p.m. Friday, **November 3** at Lincoln Community Center. Prizes awarded to top teams. Please bring one Nerf gun and Nerf N Strike foam darts. Required protective eye wear provided. Foam darts only! Registration deadline is **October 30**.
INFO: highlandparks.org

THE HIGHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS ...

Ernie Strack and Nick Van Til

The first Strack & Van Til Superstore

LET'S GO SHOPPING!**HISTORY OF GROCERY AND FOOD MARKET IN HIGHLAND**

Highland was just hitting its stride when Ernie Strack partnered with Nick Van Til in a shared vision to feed the healthy appetites of our growing families. The flagship store at Cline Avenue and 45th was located just beyond Highland's southern farms where both Strack and Van Til believed neighborhoods would sprout.

Join us for a vital piece of Highland history. Listen as Guest Speaker Sam Van Til walks us through the evolution of smaller grocery and food markets to the founding of the Strack & Van Til mega-grocery. Sam, who has a career in the business, will help us learn more about how residents in our booming town got the food to nourish their families and how this industry has evolved.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, **October 19**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center – Room 108-109

ADMISSION: Free and includes refreshments

[CRAFT SHOW & VENDOR FAIR]

Join us for our annual Spring Craft and Vendor Fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **October 14** at Lincoln Community Center. You'll find a variety of items, including: candles, jewelry, clothing, handbags, handmade items, gourmet dips and more. Vendor fees are \$43 for 10'x10' interior space or \$70 for 23'x6' wall space.
INFO: Call (219) 838-0114 for details.

[CRAFT & VENDOR MARKET]

The St. James Women's Guild will host a Craft & Vendor Market from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **November 4** at the church hall, 9640 Kennedy Ave.
INFO: Interested vendors should contact Janis Theil at (219) 742-3004.

[FARMERS MARKET]

The Farmers Market continues 4-8 p.m. Thursdays through **October 26**.