

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • JULY 2024



Bonnie Timmer (third from left) is surrounded by the key players – State Rep. Mike Andrade, Highland Rotary President Barry Levin, Highland Fire Chief Mike Pipta, Garber Chevrolet's Craig Blackledge and Rotary Secretary Richard Underkofler – who fulfilled her late husband's mission to have a Safe Haven Baby Box installed at Highland's Main Fire Station.

HIGHLAND EXTENDS SAFE HAVEN FOR PARENTS, NEWBORNS IN NEED

When Highland's Baby Box received both a blessing and dedication June 28, it was ready to receive its first infant.

It was cause for joy and more than a few tears from the family of William "Bill" Timmer, Highland's beloved fire chief who was the inspiration for the project. Chief Timmer died August 14, just 10 months before the project could be completed.

Rotary President Barry Levin, said it was Timmer, who broached the idea, suggesting that a partnership between the Rotary and Fire Department would be key to building the secure infant device and becoming part of the Safe Haven network.

"I had a conversation with Chief Timmer one year ago, asking him how the Rotary could help," Levin said. "His response was immediate: He believed it was essential for our town to have a baby box, where infants could be placed anonymously by parents who simply could not care for them. Using proceeds from our annual Rotary corn roasts and dollars allocated from the Rotary Regional Fund, we were determined to make it happen."

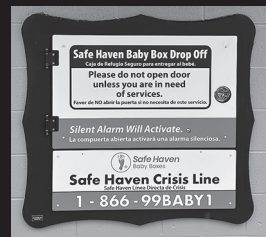
Bonnie Timmer said her husband would have been thrilled to have attended the blessing.

"This was important to Bill," she said. "I know he is smiling proudly today."

>> **MORE ONLINE:** Visit highland.in.gov for additional content and photos.

HOW IT WORKS

A Safe Haven Baby Box is a safety device installed at a fire station or hospital allowing a mother to safely and securely surrender her newborn.



The process involves opening the box's secure door, placing the baby inside, and then closing the door. Once the door is shut, a sensor alerts authorities to retrieve the baby.

244

The number of Safe Haven locations in the United States.

129

The number of Safe Haven locations in Indiana, the highest in the nation. Nine of those baby boxes are in Lake County.

[TOUCH A TRUCK]

This free family-friendly Touch-A-Truck event allows kids – young and old – to climb on board and get behind the wheel of their favorite vehicle while meeting community heroes. Check out the police department’s new all-terrain four-wheelers, as well as SWAT vehicles, town fire trucks, public works rigs, tow trucks and more.

WHEN: 2-4 p.m., **July 26**
WHERE: America’s Antique Mall, 8311 Indianapolis Blvd.
INFO: (219) 237-2386

WARD 1
GEORGE GEORGEFF
 cplgeorgeff@yahoo.com
 (219) 545-8530

WARD 2
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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
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The Gazebo Express is produced by:
 The Idea Factory • www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by Lithographic Communications
 9701 Indiana Parkway, Munster, IN 46321

Meet Highland’s newest police officers

From their aptitude for police work to agility testing results, Police Chief Ralph Potesta is eager to see the department’s four newest hires finish training. Alexis Gerolimos, Vernon Jimerson-Bell and Andrew Kinley began training this month at the Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. Upon completion, they will begin the Highland Police Department field training program before being released for solo patrols. Officer Tim Colgrove began his field training in May.



TIM COLGROVE
 Officer Tim Colgrove, age 25, began his law enforcement career at the Lake County Sheriff’s Department in 2021 and was hired by Highland in May.



VERNON JIMERSON-BELL
 Vernon Jimerson-Bell, age 26, comes from the Federal Reserve Bank and is a sergeant in the Illinois Army National Guard.



ALEXIS GEROLIMOS
 Alexis Gerolimos, age 25, has a master’s degree from St. Louis University.



ANDREW KINLEY
 Andrew Kinley, age 26, is a hometown boy, who was a team lead at Cabela’s in the hunting and firearms departments.

Highland food, fun, live music – alfresco!

It’s a food fest and block party rolled into three great nights this summer, thanks to Highland Main Street.

The organization of downtown businesses opted to expand the monthly restaurant crawls **July 30**, **August 27** and **September 24** to take advantage of what has historically been some of the best weather.

“Closing Highway from Fifth to Kennedy, replacing cars with picnic tables and adding live music makes it all more fun. We enjoy the expanded crawl as much as the public does,” HMS President Rhonda Bloch said. “We encourage folks to mark your calendars and head downtown for some of the best food around.”

[RESTAURANT CRAWL]

Join us for this month’s expanded Restaurant Crawl – with live entertainment and outdoor dining – from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday, **July 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. Enjoy your dinner or dessert at the restaurant or dine one of our many picnic tables along Highway Avenue.

INFO: Visit highland.in.gov or the Highland Main Street Facebook page for latest specials and updates.



In addition to the new Honda Side-by-Sides, Highland's bike unit rounds out the police department's seasonal fleet. Five of the newest biké patrol members – Cpl. Corey Anderson, Officer Devin Watkins, Officer James Glidewell, Officer Kyle Rhein and Officer John Freyek – completed intense training in June. [photos provided]



ALL-TERRAIN PATROL

A pair of snazzy new Honda Side-by-Sides have joined the Highland Police Department. The dune-buggy look-a-likes replace the Polaris Rangers, and have already been put into use in tandem with the department's seasonal bicycle patrols in the parks and on the bike trails.

Administrative Cmdr. Shawn Anderson said both have proven valuable as tools to enhance public safety and fight crime.

“The vehicles are a great asset to the town for special events and park patrols. We can access those areas far more easily than

a patrol vehicle,” Anderson said.

The side-by-sides are ideal in all-terrain vehicle searches for missing and endangered individuals.

“We had an elderly person, who had been missing in late June for more than 24 hours,” he said.

“We used one of the vehicles to search in the parks and along ditches – areas that are difficult in the best of circumstances, but often where missing individuals are found. We were able to complete the search in a more timely manner than if we had to cover those miles on foot.”

[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. **August 2**

WHERE: Main Square Park

TICKETS: \$8 in advance at Cakes by Karen and Lincoln Center or \$10 at the park on the day of event.



[HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL™]

Disney High School Musical™ comes to life during Highland's summer musical production! Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High must deal with issues of love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extracurricular activities.

PREVIEW: 7 p.m. Friday, **July 19** at Lincoln Center. Tickets are \$5 – first come, first served (limited seating)

SHOW DATES: 8 p.m. **July 25, 26, 27** and **August 1, 2, 3** at Main Square Park Gazebo. VIP front row seating is \$3 a ticket in advance at Lincoln Center or \$5 a ticket at “door” – if available. All other seating is free.

INFO: highlandparks.org



[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 27**. **Items not accepted:** tires, appliances, asbestos, ammunition, explosives, medical/radioactive wastes, 30-gallon or larger containers.

INFO: Call (219) 972-5083.

[MOVIE IN THE PARK]

Join us at dusk for an evening in the park to watch “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” on the big screen. Please bring your own lawn chairs or blankets for seating and snack under the stars. Concessions are available.

WHEN: 8:30 p.m. Friday, **July 12**

WHERE: Main Square Park

NOTE: If inclement weather, movie will be shown at Lincoln Center.

INFO: highlandparks.org



[SUMMER CONCERT SERIES]

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park for live music. All shows are 7-9 p.m. Here's the lineup:

JULY 17: Crawford Band
60s/70s music

AUG 7: Stingrays
Swing and 20s-50s music

AUG 14: Eddie Korosa Jr.
Polka music

WHERE: Main Square Park

NOTE: If inclement weather, concert may be moved to Lincoln Center.

INFO: highlandparks.org



[CAKE DECORATING]

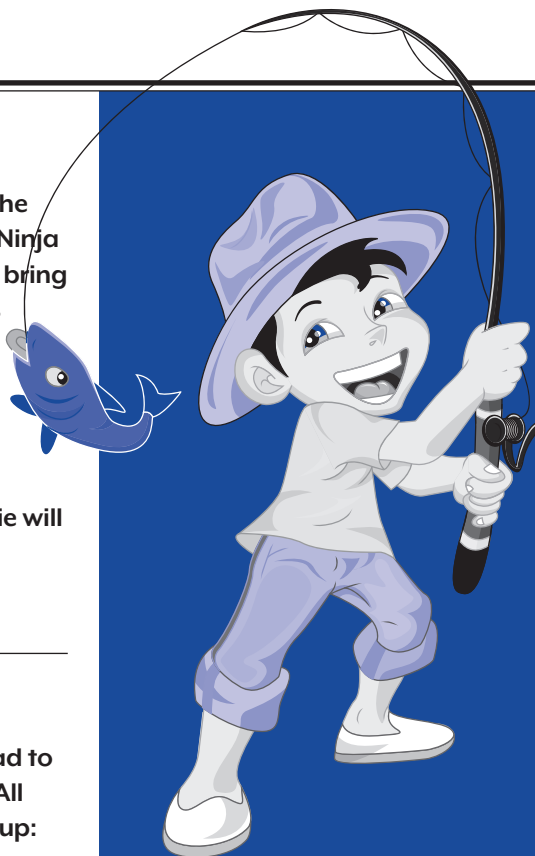
Join us as Jaaleon, from JaaCakes, teaches the fundamentals of decorating cakes using buttercream frosting. Participants – ages 12 and older – will get a step-by-step guide from an award-winning baker/cake decorator. This month's theme is “Ice Cream Social.” You will leave class with a decorated cake. No experience needed.

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. Friday, **July 26**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$45 residents | \$50 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org



FISHING CONTEST

Meadows Park Pond

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 13**

WHERE: Meadows Park
Pond

FEE: \$10 residents
\$13 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org

[DARTS AFTER DARK]

NEW

Nerf Guns are not just for kids. This is an adrenaline filled activity – for players 18 and older – lets you suit up with your safety glasses, equip yourself with your chosen Nerf Gun (soft darts, no ball darts) and take cover as your prepare for battle. Games include Attack and Defend, Capture the Flag, Civil War and more.

WHEN: 7-9p.m. Friday, **July 26**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

FEE: \$20 residents | \$22 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org



[NERF WAR]

Players – ages 7-13 – will compete in teams of four in a capture-the-flag tournament. Prizes awarded to top teams. Please bring one NERF gun and NERF N Strike foam darts. Required protective eye wear provided. Foam darts only!

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. Friday, **August 2**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Banquet Hall

FEE: \$20 residents | \$22 nonresidents

INFO: highlandparks.org



[HIGHLAND MARKET]

Grab your sneakers and a tote before heading downtown for the Highland Market. Hosted by Highland Main Street, the market features food, crafters and more!

WHEN: 3-7:30 p.m. Thursdays
through **September 26**

WHERE: The Municipal Parking Lot,
2730 Highway Ave.

INFO: For more information or to participate as a vendor, please contact HMS President Rhonda Bloch at (219) 306-0980.