

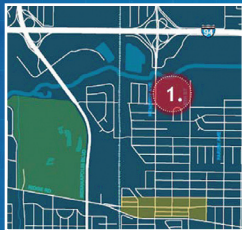
# GAZERO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • AUGUST 2026

## Gateway Corridors

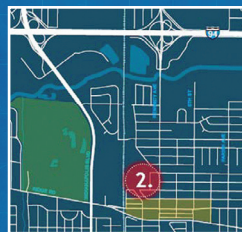


Imagine being tasked to create economic opportunities for Highland by focusing on two parallel roadways – Indianapolis Boulevard and Kennedy Avenue. The two share enviable access to the Borman Expressway where Hammond and Highland meet at the Little Calumet River. Kendig Keast Collaborative, hired by the Redevelopment Commission, took the assignment and ran with it. Here's what they found.



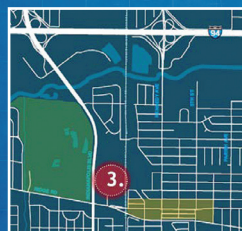
### Public Works Site (Kennedy Avenue Gateway)

Moving the Town Garage – already under discussion – will free up an estimated 11 acres less than a half mile from the entrance and exit ramps to I-80/94. The corridor plan suggests the land could be better used for mixed commercial, professional office space, a technology park or water park hotel.



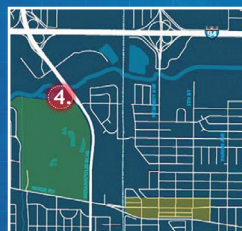
### Former Town Theatre Block (+ EMCOR)

At nearly 4.5 acres, a full square block once anchored by the Town Theatre is ripe for development that would visually – and functionally – expand the downtown north along the west side of Kennedy. The vision is to construct mixed-use buildings with commercial spaces streetside and residential units above.



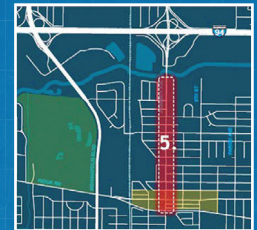
### Former Ultra Site

In 1961, developers constructed one of Highland's first retail centers along Indianapolis Boulevard just north of Ridge Road. Traffic counts show as many as 36,000 vehicles per day pass the 12-acre property, making the land suited for scattered-site apartment and mixed-use commercial development.



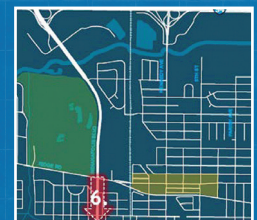
### Former Coach USA Site

The former Tri-State Coach Lines property along Indianapolis Boulevard poses unique opportunities – and challenges to development. Planners suggest maximizing visibility through construction of a "signboard" pedestrian bridge at the gateway to Highland and buildings that exhibit high design quality.



### North Kennedy

As the town's primary north-south spine, Kennedy will benefit from transportation investments, new lighting, textured crosswalks and tree-lined medians.



### Indy Boulevard

Planners suggest a number of improvements that will expand the appeal – and safety. Suggestions include pedestrian bridges on the north and walkability of neighborhoods that about the highway central and south.

**MORE INFORMATION:** View the full Gateway Corridors plan at [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov).





### [ NEW POLICE OFFICER ]

Highland Clerk-Treasurer Mark Herak swore in Highland's newest police officer July 27.

Officer Ryan Hussey took the oath of office in front of family, friends and several members of the Highland Police Department.

Hussey, who grew up in Frankfort, Illinois, graduated from Lincoln Way East High School and attended Joliet Junior College.

The 21-year-old is attending the Northern Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Valparaiso for 16 weeks of training.



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## Kennedy Commons project advances to final round of Legacy grant process

Redevelopment Commission President Alex Robertson had high hopes when he submitted a proposal for funding through the Legacy Foundation's Love Where You Live grant program.

"From our plans to turn an abandoned property into a multi-use pedestrian space along a key corridor into town, I thought our chances of advancing to the final round were good," Robertson said. "I was thrilled to see that Highland made the cut."

From 55 projects, the foundation gave the nod to 12 organizations with an invitation to submit a full application and give a 30-minute presentation to the grant committee.

The foundation is planning to award \$4 million to winning projects.

"We have already started fine-tuning our proposal and will continue adding until we reach the deadline," Robertson said. "Kennedy Commons is an exciting project that checks so many boxes in the ways it will benefit Highland and the quality of life for our residents."



### [ GRANT TIMELINE ]

**August 7:** Highland's full Kennedy Commons grant application is due to the Legacy Foundation.

**October 13-14:** Twelve organizations will give in-person presentations detailing their projects to the Legacy Foundation selection committee.

**October 30:** Final awards will be announced.

## Town establishes designated drinking area

With approval from the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission in hand, the town is installing signs at 16 locations that identify the boundaries of the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area in downtown Highland.

In addition to signs, participating businesses will display a decal that identifies them as an approved vendor selling DORA beverages.

The designation allows individuals to purchase two beverages at a time, which they may consume within the designated boundary in non-breakable DORA cups or containers. Businesses

### [ DORA CONTAINER LIMITS ]

**Beer/Malt:** Up to 16 ounces

**Wine/Cider/Hard Seltzer:**  
Up to 12 ounces

**Mixed Drinks/Liquor:** Up to 10 ounces  
with a maximum of 2 ounces of liquor

that are not participating will display signs indicating DORA beverages are not allowed.

Redevelopment Commission President Alex Robertson said he expects all signage and decals to be in place for the Big Restaurant Crawl August 25.



### [ LIVE FROM THE SQUARE ]

Grab a comfy lawn chair and head to Main Square Park from 2-9 p.m. Saturday, **August 15** for live entertainment featuring The Sharks (2-4 p.m.), Carlton & the Soul Entertainers (4:30-6:30 p.m.) and Pawnz (7-9 p.m.).

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org)



### [ COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ]

Find the latest bargain or ultimate treasure at the Communitywide Garage Sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, **August 21** and Saturday, **August 22**. Participants can sign up for Saturday only or both days. Residents are solely responsible for setup/removal of sale items, method of payment and assume all liability for their location.

**INFO:** Visit [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) or Highland Council of Community Events on Facebook to register.



### [ BACKYARD BBQ FESTIVAL ]

You're not going to want to miss this year's Backyard BBQ Festival **September 24-27** at Main Square Park. Come for the food, beer garden, carnival rides and crafts. Stay for live entertainment, featuring:

**Thursday, September 24:**

Mr. Countryman | Nawty

**Friday, September 25:**

John M. featuring Ray Stoll & Friends | Hairbangers Ball

**Saturday, September 26:**

Morning Glories | Dave & Dave | Mr. Funnyman | Echoes of Pompeii

**Sunday, September 27:**

Dirty Buoys | Crosstreads | Jump

**INFO:** Visit [highland.in.gov](http://highland.in.gov) or Highland Council of Community Events on Facebook for updates.

## Big Restaurant Crawl

**4-9 p.m. • Tuesday • August 25**

Join us as we shut down Highway Avenue for a special Downtown Restaurant Crawl featuring live entertainment, shopping specials – and, of course – soul-satisfying eats.

**food specials • live entertainment  
craft vendors • shopping deals**

We'll have live music all night!

Take a magical music tour back to the 60s and 70s with Little Giant from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and then the 70s, 80s and 90s with Big City from 7-9 p.m.



**[ INDOOR 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 Parks and Recreation from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, **August 15** and reserve a booth at its indoor garage sale at Lincoln Community Center.

**VENDOR FEE:** \$45 for 10' x 10' interior space or \$70 wall space. Tables, chairs and extension cords are not provided.

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org)

**[ MOVIES IN THE PARK ]**

Join us at dusk (around 8:30 p.m.) Friday, **August 21** for an evening at Main Square Park to watch Hoppers on the big screen. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and snack under the stars. If inclement weather, the movie will move to Lincoln Community Center.

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org)

**[ PIANO LESSONS ]**

This piano course will teach budding musicians – ages 8 and older – how to play an electronic keyboard, read music, play songs as well as tackle hand positioning and basic chording.

**WHEN:** Tuesday evenings, **August 25-October 13.**

**BEGINNERS:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**ADVANCED:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**FEE:** \$90 residents | \$95 nonresidents | Register by **August 18**

**MATERIALS:** \$12 for music book and \$3 per week keyboard rental, paid directly to instructor.

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org)



**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 22**

**LINCOLN COMMUNITY CENTER**

Join us for a high-energy **Pickleball Day of Play!** Enjoy organized open play for all skill levels, music, food vendors and a social atmosphere that brings the pickleball community together.

**HALF-DAY TICKET • 9 AM – 1 PM • \$12**

**FULL-DAY TICKET • 9 AM – 6 PM • \$18**

**DAY-OF TICKET • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • \$20**

Participants will receive a wristbands for in-and-out access!

**[ GIRLS MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL ]**

Girls – grades 6-8 – compete in this league to learn the fundamentals. Teams are coached by a parent/volunteer (always needed) and play an eight-game round-robin season. Teams are drafted by coaches following an assessment. T-Shirt included. Please note: Boys league will take place in the spring.

**WHEN:** Assessment is 6 p.m. Tuesday, **September 1.** Games are Tuesday evenings, **September 22-November 17.** Coach picks weeknight for practice.

**FEE:** \$70 residents | \$77 nonresidents | Register by **August 28**

**INFO:** [highlandparks.org](http://highlandparks.org)