

Naturally Connected

Spring/Summer 2024 Issue 1

Your Guide
to life in
Highland

Charter Township of Highland, Michigan



Photo by: Danielle Adkins



Useful Numbers

EMERGENCIES
911

NON EMERGENCY
OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF
248-858-4950

NON EMERGENCY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
248-887-8688

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP
248-887-3791

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP
ACTIVITY CENTER
248-887-1707

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC LIBRARY
248-887-2218

HIGHLAND DDA
248-887-7200

WESTERN OAKLAND
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
248-887-4979

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP
POST OFFICE
248-887-4722



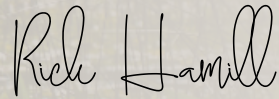
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Spring symbolizes change and rejuvenation, making it the perfect moment to introduce our inaugural Naturally Connected Publication. Following the discontinuation of The Spinal Column, there were worries about the absence of a local newspaper.

We believe that this publication will help fill a gap while also providing vital information to the community.



Highland Township Supervisor

Naturally Connected

Naturally Connected is a bi-annual magazine produced for the residents and businesses of Highland Township, Michigan by the Charter Township of Highland.

EDITORIAL BOARD

- Rick Hamill, *Highland Township Supervisor*
- Cassie Blascyk, *Assistant to the Supervisor*
- Tina Lloyd, *Communications*
- Elaine Krimmel, *Assistant to the Supervisor*

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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

FREE ONE DAY DROP OFF

SATURDAY
June 15th

9am to 2pm
Driver's license or property
tax bill showing Highland
Township address required

2024 Location: Highland Township Hall Enter from eastbound West Livingston Road ONLY

Carpooling is encouraged to reduce traffic backups

Household hazardous waste (HHW) are substances in your home that can be harmful to humans and the environment if not disposed of properly. Many household products require special attention in their use, storage and disposal. A product is considered "hazardous" if it is:

- Reactive (products that can explode if exposed to heat, air, water or shock)
- Toxic or Poisonous
- Ignitable/Flammable
- Corrosive

Entry Time by Last Name
9:00am-10:00am A-E
10:00am-11:00am F-J
11:00am-12:00pm K-O
12:00pm-1:00pm P-T
1:00pm-2:00pm T-Z

To avoid long wait times follow the above schedule

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

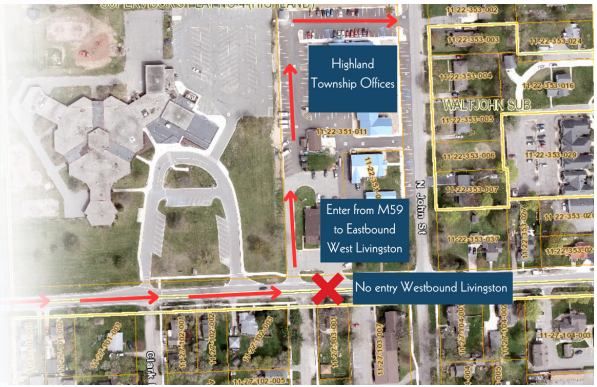
Aerosols Sprays	Fluorescent Lamps	PCB Ballast
Automotive Fluids	Herbicides	Propane Cylinders
Automotive Batteries	Household cleaners & chemicals	Reactive/Oxidizers
Batteries (mixed household)	Miscellaneous Toxics	Small Propane Tanks
BBQ Propane Tanks	Mercury (liquid & devices)	Smoke Detectors
Corrosives	Non-DEA and OTC Medications	Sharps (stored in rigid, puncture resistant containers)
Electronics	Oil Based paint and stains	Solvents/Flammable
Fire Extinguishers	Pesticides	

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Appliances
- Compressed Gas Cylinders (Including foam insulation cylinders)
- Construction Materials
- Commercial Waste
- Explosive/Ammunitions
- Household Trash
- Latex Paint
- Radioactive Materials (except smoke detectors)
- Shock-Sensitive Materials
- Tires
- Weapons
- Yard Waste

Need to dispose of Latex paint?

Remove the lid add kitty litter, sawdust or waste paint hardener. Once it has dried to a solid you can set the can(s) out, with the lid off, with regular trash.



Yard Waste

Spring yard waste pickup begins Friday, April 5th and may be placed at the curb on collection day. You may use brown bags, or cans clearly labeled “yard waste” or “compost”.

Compost stickers are available at the Township Offices. Weight restriction is 50 pounds per container. GFL-USA will not accept the plastic biodegradable bags.

There is no limit to how much yard waste can be set out each week.

Yard waste includes the following items:

- Lawn Debris
- Grass Clippings
- Weeds
- Leaves
- Small Twigs
- Prunings
- Shrub clippings (tied and bundled)
- Tree Branches and logs (less than 3 inches in diameter and less than 4 feet long)

Is broadband service available to you?

Highland Township is requesting residents to notify the Township if Comcast high speed service is not available to your property.

Please email info@highlandtpw.org your name, address and phone number to report if your property is currently not serviced with high speed internet.

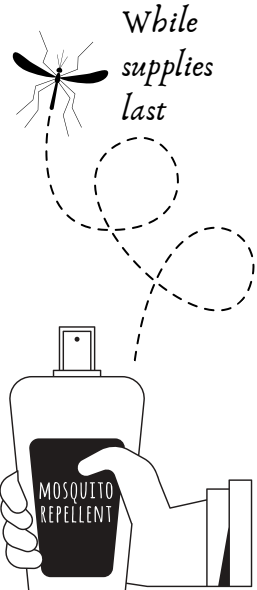
Prevent West Nile Virus Infection

Free mosquito dunks and/or personal insect repellent are available at the Highland Township Offices to help prevent West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses.

West Nile virus (WNV) is primarily spread through the bites of infected mosquitoes. The virus cycles between mosquitoes and birds, with mosquitoes acting as vectors that can transmit the virus from infected birds to humans or other animals.

It's important to note that West Nile virus is not directly transmitted from person to person, or from animals to humans, except through mosquito bites. Additionally, transmission can vary based on geographic location, mosquito species, and environmental factors.

Preventive measures such as using insect repellent, wearing protective clothing, and eliminating mosquito breeding sites (standing water) are essential to reduce the risk of West Nile virus infection.



Assessing Department

Springtime means home sales will be on the rise!

When purchasing a home know some facts before you are surprised:

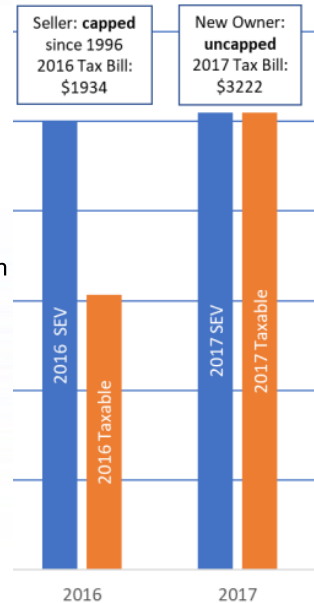
“Uncapping” Explained

During your home-buying process you may have heard, “Your taxes will go up the year after you buy the home, but not by much.” Sometimes that is the case but sometimes it is not.

The leading factor determining if and how much your property taxes will go up is the number of years the previous owner lived there. Here is why that matters:

- Michigan property owners have two values assigned to their home, SEV and Taxable.
- In Michigan, State Equalized Value (SEV) is required to represent 50% of market value. Market value is the price the house would usually sell for on the open market.
- In Michigan, Taxable Value can only increase at the rate of inflation or 5%, whichever is less, unless there are physical changes to the property.
- SEV must stay at 50% of market value and is not restrained by the 5% or rate of inflation rule. In a growing real estate market, SEV rises faster than the Taxable Value.
- The year following a transfer of ownership the taxable value “uncaps” and is reset under the new ownership to equal the SEV. It is then “capped” again and can only rise at the rate of inflation or 5% (whichever is less) each year until the next qualified transfer of ownership occurs.

Normally, the longer the previous owner lived there, the greater the difference between Taxable Value and State Equalized Value. When the home “uncaps” the year following a sale, the tax bill is usually higher than it was for the previous owner. Graph Example: If the previous owner has lived there since 1996 the “uncapping” will be a lot more significant than if the previous owner bought the home in 2014.



New Home Owners:

It is important to be aware of the upcoming change in taxable value following your home purchase. While setting up escrow accounts some mortgage companies do not consider the upcoming increase in taxable value. This can result in an under-funded escrow account when taxes are due. Please contact your mortgage company to make sure they have current taxable value information.



When you close on your home don't forget to drop off your paperwork (Property Transfer Affidavits & Principal Residence Exemption/Homestead) forms to the Assessing Department at the Township Offices. You must own and occupy the property to qualify for the Principle Residence Exemption (Homestead). Having a Homestead will exempt you from paying the school operating tax. You can only claim the Homestead on one home whether it is in Michigan or another state.

While here, you can pick up a new recycling bin, a welcome bag, and gather some fun information on the goings on around town. You may register to vote at your new address at our Clerk's Department as well.



Property Tax Exemptions

You may qualify for property tax exemptions if:

You are a 100% Disabled Vet due to a result of your service in the armed forces, (or a surviving spouse) & can provide a VA letter.

OR

You are living at or below poverty level income guidelines and meet the eligibility requirements.

See our website for more information at highlandtwp.org



Join Us

Invasive Plant Removal Workday Saturday April 6th

10am-2pm

Hickory Ridge Pines Park
3800 N. Hickory Ridge Road
Rain Date April 13th



How do you protect important habitats that has been overrun by invasive species? Join us for our Invasive Plant Removal Workday and learn how to do just that! Come, engage with local experts who are eager to offer advice and techniques on managing this issue effectively!

Battling bittersweet, garlic mustard and phragmites....

Phragmites

Removing phragmites is essential for achieving the larger objective of restoring native wetland plant communities and safeguarding fish and wildlife habitats. One effective method, known as "cut-to-drown," involves cutting phragmites underwater. This technique effectively suffocates the plant by depriving it of oxygen.

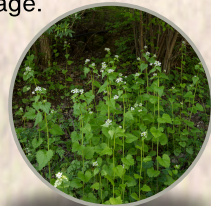


Oriental Bittersweet Vines

Oriental bittersweet is highly invasive, climbing and smothering trees, blocking air and light, and competing for nutrients. Effective management involves hand-pulling small infestations by removing the entire plant, including roots, and cutting climbing vines near the ground.

Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard, unlike certain invasive herbaceous perennials, features a taproot and does not regrow from root fragments. This makes it one of the rare invasive plant species that can be manually controlled through pulling. Keep a close watch and pull out small garlic plants early spring before the flowering stage.



PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

The Highland Township logo embraces our open waters and woods. Some may say that's what we value most. It's part of the rural charm that makes Highland Township a great place to live, work and play. Your Township officials, staff and commissioners recognize that we must work together to protect our waterways.

You may think this means limiting industry or controlling bad actors who pour toxins down the drain. In most communities, the danger doesn't lurk in fluorescent green pools of toxins leaking onto the freeway—the biggest impact is from the everyday actions of residents or businesses like your own. The ways you buy, use and store cleaners, pesticides and fertilizers or the way you care for your lawn, pets and even vehicles can all lead to the health or stress on our lakes, rivers and streams.

Highland Township operates under the conditions of a stormwater discharge permit for the State of Michigan.

Under the conditions of the permit, we undertake many programs and activities dedicated to helping our residents and property owners join the fight for clean water. These include curbside recycling, hazardous waste collection events, and public outreach such as this publication, our website, electronic newsletters and other social media posts. We also practice good housekeeping of our facilities, such as our low maintenance landscaping at Township Hall, designed to limit our use of fertilizers and runoff to the storm sewers on John Street. We have recently revamped our engineering standards to guide new development in Highland Township to safer drainage practices. Don't forget to keep our parks clean using the dog waste bags we supply to clean up after your pets!

If you would like to learn more about what you can do to protect our waterways, visit <https://www.semco.org/protect-our-waterways>



Township Parks

Highland is a vibrant community with a wide array of activities to suit everyone's tastes. Whether you're into hiking or pickleball, basketball or just relaxing and taking in the great outdoors, our parks provide something for everyone. Explore the beauty of our local parks today!



Chill at the Mill
444 Beach Farm Circle

A place for kids and adults to play together in Highland, made possible through grants and donations. Chill at the Mill is a great place to bring the whole family!

Duck Lake Pines
999 Duck Lake Road S.

Covering almost 42 acres, this park is ideal for relaxing walks, family gatherings, and provides sports facilities such as basketball, pickleball, and baseball courts. In addition to the sports facilities, folks can enjoy a beautiful paved trail for birding, walking and jogging. Pavilions are also available to rent.



Hickory Ridge Pines
3800 N. Hickory Ridge Road



Home to the Huron Valley Soccer Club, this park offers numerous soccer fields, a small baseball field, picnic areas, and walking trails. It also features modern restroom facilities and a concession stand managed by the Huron Valley Soccer Club during regular season games and tournaments. Pavilions are also available to rent.

explore Highland

Highland Skate Park
444 Beach Farm Circle



The Highland Skate Park was brought to fruition by numerous dedicated volunteers led by Shane Anderson who generously contributed their time and resources to construct the park. A big thank you to the 70+ donors who made this project a reality! Everyone is welcome, whether you ride skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, or bikes.

Veterans Park
200 W. Livingston Road

This park features a memorial and historical marker honoring veterans. The Sounds Like Summer concert series is hosted here on Tuesday nights during the summer and is a much anticipated weekly event. The park also hosts community festivals and events throughout the year.



PAVILION RENTALS

Spring is right around the corner! Now is the time to book a pavilion for your upcoming event. The pavilions at Duck Lake Pines and Hickory Ridge Pines parks are available to rent! You can rent the pavilions for a \$50 fee. This fee includes the keys to the restrooms. There is also a \$100 deposit required, that will be refunded after an inspection of the site is completed. If you plan on serving alcohol at your event there is an additional form to complete along with an insurance requirement. Please call the Treasurer's Office to make a reservation or with any questions you may have at 248-887-3791 ext. 4



- PICNICS
- BIRTHDAYS
- BABY SHOWERS
- GRADUATIONS
- ANNIVERSARIES
- AND MORE!

Clerk's Department



Dear Voters,

The Highland Township Election Commissioners, Judy Cooper, Brian Howe and I want to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who assisted with the February 27, 2024, Presidential Primary Election.

Heartfelt appreciation is extended to Huron Valley Schools, Church of the Holy Spirit and Thrive Church for providing outstanding community support by hosting a voting precinct. Honor and recognition extended to the Clerk's Office Staff and our Election Inspectors who worked diligently to ensure every vote was counted. Our workers serve our voters with proficiency and respect and represent Highland Township with excellence.

Something wonderful happens when people come together and share a common goal and this election was marked by the unified effort put forth by everyone in our community.

Warm Regards,
Tami Flowers
Highland Township Clerk



Many poll workers are needed; join the team.

The Clerk's office is always hiring good people to work on Election Day. This is a paid position and all training is provided. Visit the Highland Township Election website or contact the Clerk's office for information and an application. It's a great service to the community and a wonderful way to learn firsthand about voting on Election Day.

Be a voter in the know

Upcoming Elections:

There are three remaining elections in 2024.

- Tuesday, May 7th: Special Election
- Tuesday, August 6: Primary Election
- Tuesday, November 5: General Election



How Proposal 22-2 election changes affect you

Early Voting

Voters have the right to cast a ballot in person nine days prior to Election Day.

Schedule: Early voting is open nine (9) consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday before the election and ending on the Sunday before the election.

Time: Early voting is 8:30 am to 4:30 pm except Thursday when the hours are noon to 8 pm.

Locations:

Regional Site: Highland Township Office, 205 N. John St, Highland
Central Site: Waterford Oaks Activity Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford.

Permanent Mail Ballot List

Please note this is different from the previous Permanent Absent Voter Ballot Application List where you received an application for each election to request a ballot for that election only.

If you sign up to be on the Permanent Mail Ballot list you will automatically receive an absent voter ballot, by mail, for every election. You will need to notify us of your temporary address. Keep in mind that ballots are not permitted to be forwarded with the mail.

Multiple Ballot Drop Box Locations

- Highland Township Office, 205 N. John St, Highland
- New Fire Station 2, 2550 E. Wardlow, Highland

Military and Overseas voters have new deadlines. Please visit FVAP.gov for more information.

Clerk's Office Contact Information

Phone: 248-887-3791 x 5

Email: clerk@highlandtwp.org

Web: highlandtwp.net

Follow us on Facebook at

Charter Township of Highland



Treasurer's Department

Summer tax bills are mailed out on July 1st and are payable through September 14th without interest. Contact us if you do not receive yours. Please keep in mind that failure to receive a tax bill will not waive interest or penalties.

For more information and to view our Financial Dashboard check out the Treasurer's page on our website at highlandtwp.net – Services – Treasurer or call us at 248-887-3791. Ext. 4.

Dog Licenses

Dog licenses are available from December 1st until June 1st, after June 1st you can purchase a delinquent license for an additional fee. Michigan law requires all dogs four months of age and older to be licensed every year. To obtain a dog license, proof of a current rabies vaccination certificate is required.

Fire Chief Nick George's dog Kane



Property Tax Comparisons in Oakland County

*Are you curious what the property taxes are in the surrounding communities?
We did some research and here is what we found.*

The average home prices for 2023 were as follows:

Highland	\$356,552.00
Commerce	\$366,990.00
Holly	\$292,364.00
Milford	\$411,736.00
Rose Twp	\$355,000.00
South Lyon	\$429,678.00
White Lake	\$362,863.00

Here are the approximate taxes you would have paid for 2023 based on a Taxable Value of \$150,000.00 (Home Value \$300,000.00) with 100% P.R.E. Homestead and the 2023 millage rates without local special assessments:

Highland	32.599 mills	\$4,889.85
Commerce	32.7613 mills	\$4,914.20
Holly	31.3534 mills	\$4,703.01
Milford	34.2008 mills	\$5,130.12
Rose Twp	29.3716 mills	\$4,405.74
South Lyon	41.4939 mills	\$6,224.09
White Lake	34.5001 mills	\$5,175.02



Inner VIEWS 45 YEARS

OF DEDICATION

45 years ago Lisa Burkhart walked into the Highland Township Offices for her first day on the job and she's been here ever since. We recently chatted with Lisa about her journey with the township...



A heartfelt thank you to Lisa for her dedication to this community.

What year did you start working for Highland Township and what position were you hired for? I was hired by Supervisor Tom Dunleavy as his secretary. My first day was December 28, 1978. From there I became a "floater"; mainly working with the Zoning Administrator and Ordinance Officer. I really gravitated towards Planning and Zoning and became the Zoning Administrator in 1995.

When you're not working what is your favorite hobby?

I love the outdoors. My husband and I love to camp in our 13 ft. vintage travel trailer. I also love biographies and autobiographies. And guess what? You can read those outside!

Who have you worked with the longest at the Township?

I've worked with Beth Corwin, the Planning Director, the longest. She started in January of 2001. But even longer than that is my professional relationship with Planning Commission member, Roscoe Smith.

Do you remember what it was like your first day/week/ year?

The first day I was here, the staff was having a potluck. I found out later that doing the dishes was not part of the job description. The Ordinance Officer threw a penny on my desk and said, "now you can't say I never gave you anything." In the first week, the Building Official yelled at me and scared me. But, only for a minute. I didn't cry and asked him to just do his job. We ended up having a great working relationship.

What made you stay for as long as you have/what do you like most about working at the township?

It's the people. Every day is different, and no two days are the same. I love helping people through their projects or concerns. I love my customers!

Oakland County Sheriff's Office Highland Township Substation

"Dedicated to the safety and protection of our Community"



Zero Tax Increase Millage Renewal Vote August 6th, 2024

The Highland Township police millage is specifically allocated for the provision of police services. Since the early 1970s, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office has been responsible for providing police services to Highland Township. The Sheriff's Office Highland Substation oversees the entire 36 square miles of Highland Township, ensuring police protection for its 20,000 residents, businesses, visitors, and commuters. It's important to note that the Highland Township police millage is not a new increase but rather a renewal, aiming to sustain and continue law enforcement services for the township.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office Highland Substation handled

15,660 Calls for Service in 2021

22,551 Calls for Service in 2022

23,710 Calls for Service in 2023

The Oakland County Sheriff's
Office Highland Substation
consists of 21 personnel.

- 1 – Lieutenant
- 1 – Civilian Office Manager
- 1 – Sergeant
- 2 – Detectives
- 1 – School Resource Officer
- 1 – Weighmaster
- 14 – Road Patrol Deputies for 24/7 police protection

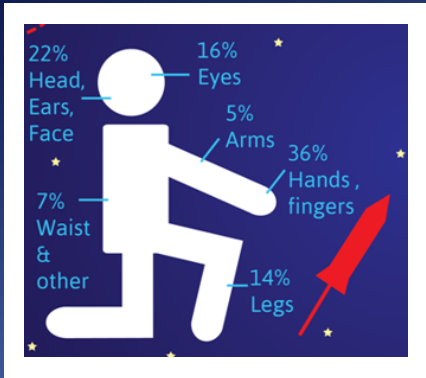
The Oakland County Sheriff's
Office also provides us with
additional services when needed
from the following specialized units:

- Forensic Crime Lab
- SWAT Team
- Auto Theft Unit
- Aviation Unit (helicopter / drones)
- Narcotics Enforcement Team
- Traffic / Crash Reconstruction Unit
- Marine and Water Resue Unit
- Reserve Deputies
- Computer Crimes Unit
- Canine Unit

Fireworks Safety

Have a blast while staying safe
this Independence Day!

Body parts most
commonly injured
by fireworks:



There are

2x

as many fires
reported on
July 4th than any other
day of the year

Sparklers can
burn up to
2,000 °F
making it one of
the most
dangerous
fireworks

Safety Tips

Adults should always supervise

Keep your pets inside

Move back a safe distance
after lighting a firework

Never relight a firework

Keep a bucket of water close

*Never have any part of your body
over the firework when lighting it*



HIGHLAND ACTIVITY CENTER

The Activity Center offers a range of social, recreational, and educational activities, along with various services and resources. Come by and experience our welcoming, invigorating and fulfilling environment from Monday-Friday, 9 am to 3 pm. Connect with like-minded individuals in a pleasant and secure setting.



Come in and check out our newsletter for details on upcoming events, trips, and activities! Enjoy lunch from Monday-Friday between 10am and 12pm for a small fee. Wifi is available!

We strive to provide engaging activities to the diverse group of individuals who visit the Center. Additionally, the Activity Center is open for rental purposes, suitable for meetings and parties.

Upcoming fundraisers:

100 Years at Haven Hill Fundraiser
April 29th at 6pm

Are We Old Yet Fundraiser
May 20th at 6pm

HEALTH FAIR 2024

*Join us Tuesday, October 8th
from 9am to 2pm for our annual
health fair!*

Visual & hearing screening, flu shots, medication disposal. Information about Meals On Wheels services and volunteering in addition to an introduction of benefits and information from multiple community vendors.

FREE event



Highland Activity Center
209 N. John St., Highland Mi
248-887-1707





© CSLP

Highland Library



HIGHLAND Seed Library The **Seed Library** is a free program committed to increasing our ability to feed ourselves wholesome food by offering seeds and education to our local community. Through the time-honored tradition of seed sharing, we make gardening more accessible, nurture locally adapted plant varieties, and foster community resilience, self-reliance and a culture of sharing. The Seed Library operates on the honor system. There are no residency restrictions, all are welcome just check in at the adult reference desk for guidance!

Our **Michigan Activity Pass** program provides Michigan library cardholders the opportunity to discover and explore participating cultural destinations, parks, campgrounds and recreation areas in the state for free or at a discounted rate. Travel Michigan and save money at the same time. Please visit <https://miactivitypass.org/>



Our Storywalk The Highland Library Story Walk is a self-guided reading adventure outside the Highland Library. Enjoy a story in the great outdoors.



Summer Reading
June 1- August 10
Adventure Begins at Your Library
Book giveaway, weekly prizes & incentives, reading challenges & programs.





Get ready for another year of Downtown fun!

Hey there fellow Highland enthusiasts! It's time to get your calendars ready because Highland is buzzing with exciting events and activities that you won't want to miss. From shopping at the Farmers Market to trying new dishes at our Food Fest, we've got it all.

For those less familiar, the HDDA is devoted to enriching our community through a range of initiatives and events, guided by three fundamental principles: enhancing the community, preserving history, and bolstering local businesses within the district. From captivating seasonal displays to impactful revitalization projects, the aim is to cultivate an environment that fosters connection and instills pride in our township.

In tandem, the HDDA tirelessly supports local businesses within the Highland Station District. Through strategic grants and community-centric sales events like Ladies' Day Out and Downtown Highland's Summer Sidewalk Sale, they encourage economic growth and vitality, ensuring that our downtown area flourishes.

The HDDA is delighted to announce Highland's participation in the Detroit Institute of Arts' Inside|Out program, which will bring stunning art pieces to our streets this summer. Additionally, the HDDA is excited to organize the 2024 Founders' Day Parade and The Red, White and Blues Festival on behalf of the Township this summer, promising even more excitement and merriment.

The HDDA cannot achieve these milestones alone. For those interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities and how to get involved, please visit the HDDA website highlanddda.com and explore the 2024 Sponsorship Catalog.





24 EVENTS

APRIL 27	Ladies Day Out Historic Downtown Highland <i>Grab your girlfriends and join us for food, drinks and shopping.</i>
MAY 18	Founders Day Parade/Festival Veteran's Park <i>Join us for Community Parade and Festival.</i>
JUNE THRU AUG	DIA Inside Out Historic Downtown Highland <i>Enjoy masterpieces from the Detroit Institute of Art's collection here on our streets.</i>
JUNE 29	Red, White and Blue Fireworks Festival/Craft Show John Street Field <i>Enjoy live music, kid's activities, food trucks, craft show and a firework show at dusk.</i>
JULY 19-20	Summer Sidewalk Sales Historic Downtown Highland <i>Join the merchants of Downtown Highland for our annual sales event.</i>
SEPT 16-22	Michigan Downtown Days, FOOD FEST Historic Downtown Highland <i>Sample signature menu items at restaurants around town and vote a winner.</i>
OCT 1-31	Haunted Highland Historic Downtown Highland <i>Enjoy skeletal selfies spots at Downtown Highland businesses.</i>
NOV 12	Ladies Night Out Historic Downtown Highland <i>Grab your girlfriends and join us for a night of food, drinks and shopping.</i>
NOV 30	Small Business Saturday Historic Downtown Highland <i>Support local, family-owned, small businesses with specials and discounts.</i>
DEC 1-31	Festival of Trees Historic Downtown Highland <i>Enjoy festive trees decorated along Milford and Livingston Roads.</i>
DEC 1-31	Holiday Photo Spots Historic Downtown Highland <i>Enjoy holiday displays around town for pictures and selfies.</i>
DEC 02	Kris Kringle Market & Tree Lighting Veteran's Park Area, 5:00pm - 9:00pm <i>Join us for caroling and pictures with Santa, plus shop our Kris Kringle Market.</i>

Highland Farmers' market
Every Saturday
New Location!
205 N John Street
10:00am - 2:00pm

SOUNDS LIKE SUMMER
CONCERT SERIES
Every Tuesday
Veterans Park
7:00pm - 9:00pm
JULY AUG 9 - 20

Weekly Events | **THIS SUMMER**



Highland Farmers' market

JUNE OCT
15-5

Every Saturday

New Location!

Highland Twp Complex
205 N John Street
10:00am - 2:00pm



DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND
FOUNDERS' DAY PARADE & FESTIVITIES



- 📅 Saturday
May 18, 2024
- 🕒 9am-4pm
Parade at 10am
- 📍 Veteran's Park
200 W Livingston Rd, Highland



HIGHLAND'S
RED WHITE & BLUES
festival

Saturday, June 29th | 5:00 -11:00pm | John Street Field, 205 N John Street

Highland Township *Highlighting Highlands* Historical Society *unique Architecture*

Back before M-59 was constructed, Livingston Road was the main east-west route between Pontiac and Howell, while Milford Road carried traffic between New Hudson, Milford, Holly and Grand Blanc. As automobile usage increased in the 1920s the intersection of Milford and Livingston roads thus became a natural spot for a filling station. The former Enos St. John house was accordingly modified by replacing its front porch with a cinderblock addition set at an angle to both roads. The interior provided office and storage space while the canopy sheltered the gas pumps.

A year or so after the station opened Asa R. Smith and his wife, Jeanie, came to Highland in 1928 and assumed its management. The couple soon became two of Highland's best known and beloved citizens. Residents knew to fill up their car by Saturday, since Sundays would find Asa serving as usher and bell ringer at the Methodist Church. He also found time to serve as Township Treasurer and chief of the Highland Fire Department. Jeanie was a teacher at the old Grubb School at the corner of East Livingston and Duck Lake roads. She also served on the Library Board and as Secretary of the Huron Valley Schools Board of Education. After 40-plus years in business Asa closed his station in the fall of 1971, but the building has been lovingly preserved by the couple's son, Roscoe Smith.





If you love the smell of dirt in the spring and can't wait to see ANYTHING bloom – this could be the group for you. Our members love nothing better than sharing ideas and talking plants. The Highland Garden Club partners with Highland Township, Highland DDA and the Highland Library to spruce up a few projects around town as well as some seasonal special touches. We also sponsor speakers and the seed library at Highland's beautiful public library – all this keeps us on top of the latest trends and techniques. Spring also brings our annual plant sale full of favorites from member gardens.

Does any of this sound like fun? We'd love to get to know you – come join us at any of our local events or contact Judy Cooper for more information – judy.cooper@highlandtpw.org. Plant, dig and socialize with us, not necessarily in that order.

Highland Garden Club
Spring / Summer 2024

Upcoming Events

Master Gardener Ellen Zimmerman on Pruning Basics

Monday, April 8th at 6pm
Highland Library
444 Beach Farm Circle

Annual Highland Plant Sale

Saturday,
May 18th
9am-12pm
Veterans Park



Trees: Health, Structure and Pest Issues & How YOU can Help

Monday, October
14th at 6pm
Highland Library
444 Beach Farm Circle



COMMUNITY SHARING *Outreach Center*

Need Help?

Financial difficulties may contribute to hunger and malnutrition. We are ready to assist qualified individuals and families. Contact us today at 248-889-0347

Participate

Participate to help us continue providing services. Attend a fundraiser, grow extra produce, hold a drive - there are so many ways. Find one that works for you.

Donate

There are many ways you can donate to help individuals and families in need. Donations of cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products, cash donations, non-perishable food and personal care items are always welcomed and appreciated immensely.

400 Beach Farm Circle
Highland, Mi
248.889.0347





WHAT'S HAPPENING

ALL ACTIVITIES are at HVCA, 205 W Livingston Rd, Highland. Concert events start at 7pm unless otherwise noted. Gallery events are from 6-8pm

Jan 26-March 2 - in the gallery Paradigm Quilt Artists (art quilts)

March 2-Jordan Hamilton & Seth Bernard-Acoustic cello and guitar

March 8- April 10 in the gallery Milford HS Student Art Exhibit

March 21-VanGo Belle Isle Aquarium w/lunch stop

April 18-VanGo Filipo Marc Winery Wine Tasting

April 19-May 4 - in the gallery CSA Elementary Art Show

April 13-Cliff Monear Trio Jazz Show w/Stephanie Monear piano and drums

April 30 -9am-5pm Ladies Day Out-Visit The Art Shop

May 3 & 4 - Spring Art Market White Lake Library

May 7-VanGo Tulip Festival Dutch Lunch / Dance Performance

May-VanGo DIA Free member concert

May 8 Flower Arranging Workshop

May 24 Matt Ball- Boogie Woogie FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Summer Series Center Street Gazebo Milford 7-9pm

May 10 Author Luncheon at Bakers of Milford

May 10- June 1 in the gallery: Brighton Middle School Art Show

May 18 Highland Founders Day

June 7- July 20 Nickie Gunning Ceramics Mixed Media

June 20-VanGo Toledo The Glass Pavilion and lunch at Tony Packo

Jun 28 Bear Berends FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Summer Series Center Street Gazebo Milford 7-9pm

Jun 29 Red White & Blue Highland Fireworks and craft fair

July-VanGo The Royal Eagle Russian Tea Room and garden

Jul 26-Aug 31 4th Annual Members' Exhibit

Jul 26 The Shake Ups FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Summer Series Center Street Gazebo Milford 7-9pm

Aug 22-VanGo Detroit Princess Cruise

Aug 23 Unknown Artist FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Summer Series Center Street Gazebo Milford 7-9pm

Sep 6-Sep 28 Jan Youd: Memorial Exhibit

September 23-VanGo Historic Churches of Detroit Bus Tour

Oct 4 - Nov 2 in the gallery Handmade Unique Poetry Books

Oct 22-24 in the gallery Watercolor Workshop

Oct 26 Hauntings- A book event with Michele Rogers and others

Nov 8 - Nov 23 in the gallery Kindness Exhibit

Nov 23-24 Arts & Greens Holiday Art Market Bogie Lake Greenhouses White Lake, MI

Nov 29-Dec 20 Handmade for the Holidays One-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your shopping list.

ONGOING: Watercolor, wood carving, writing, and more. Visit huronvalleyarts.org for current classes, meetups, and workshops.

THE ART SHOP
Fine art & gift gallery by local artists



COMMUNITY EVENTS
huronvalleyarts.org

Facility Rental:
The historic Steeple Hall is available to rent.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.
Please give us a call to find out more.



205 W Livingston Rd, Highland, MI 48357
(248) 889-8660

HuronValleyArts.org





HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP?

- *Access to a variety of networking events including coffees, lunches and social events*
- *Free advertising in our newsletter & reasonable rates to advertise to our database*
- *Community events and fundraisers to help support local charities*
- *Multiple educational events with content developed to help businesses*
- *Many sponsorship opportunities to help promote your business*

SAVE THESE SUMMER DATES!

MAY 10TH, JUNE 14TH & JULY 12TH - NETWORKING COFFEES

MAY 15TH, JULY 17TH AND AUGUST 14TH - SOCIAL LUNCHES

VISIT WWW.HWLBA.COM
FOR ALL EVENT DETAILS

Join Today
Email Ann at
info@hwlba.com

Ride WOTA



Hours:

Monday—Friday: 6 am—9 pm

Saturdays: 8:00 am—4:00 pm

Cost is \$2.00 per stop.



WOTA's service area covers over 500 square miles.



WOTA can take you anywhere in our service area for any reason—employment, doctor's appointments, grocery shopping, or visiting friends, we can do it!



Riding WOTA is easy! Register today online or by mail. Schedule your ride—please call at 248-887-4979 at least 48 hours in advance.





Everyone desires independence, yet for many, transportation can pose a significant barrier. Western Oakland Transportation Authority (WOTA) offers a solution to this challenge. Since its inception in 2020, WOTA has been dedicated to providing reliable transportation services, enabling seniors and adults with disabilities in Highland Township to achieve independence.

In 2022, thanks to the Transit Millage passed by Oakland County voters, WOTA underwent significant expansion. This expansion included reaching new communities, extending service hours and days, and introducing a pilot program in Highland Township to provide rides to anyone over the age of 18. Over the past four years, WOTA has facilitated over 120,000 rides, ensuring access to essential destinations such as doctor's appointments, workplaces, grocery stores, restaurants, recreation, and more.

Our commitment has helped riders maintain healthy, safe, and independent lives. WOTA is thrilled to expand services in Highland and look forward to assisting you on your journey towards continued independence!

(248) 887-4979

RideWOTA.org



#HighlandKindness

The Highland Kindness campaign is designed to spotlight kindness that exists in our community and share acts of kindness to build on our pride and closeness.

The campaign will bring together residents, businesses, schools, non-profits and others, who will be asked to do acts of kindness and report kind acts they witness on the Highland Matters web page. There will be a special graphic on the page to identify the kindness message. People will be invited to react to the acts with encouraging words. Schools, businesses and non-profits will be asked to share kindness acts within their organizations, including patrons and students, and name monthly Kindness Ambassadors. Working together, we can commit to putting kindness first in Highland.

Random acts of kindness take place in Highland every day – and we want to hear about them. Whether its paying it forward in the coffee shop line, or having kindness shown to you from a friend or stranger, stories of Highland Kindness can spread far and wide.

Highland is a great place to live.

Let's make it better.



Kindness MATTERS!

#HighlandKindness

Share your story of Kindness

Share your random act of kindness story, photo, video, or even your favorite quote by using #HighlandKindness on social media or by using the form below. Your submission could be featured on Highland's social media channels.

Simply complete the form below and submit to:

Highland Kindness
205 N. John Street
Highland, MI 48357
OR email Info@highlandtwp.org

Name:

Phone/Email:









Charter Township of Highland
205 N. John Street
Highland, MI 48357

NATURALLY CONNECTED

ISSUE NO. ONE
SPRING/SUMMER
2024

Our Bi-Annual magazine combines publications from Highland Township, The Highland Activity Center, The Highland Downtown Development Authority, The Highland Township Public Library, The Highland Township Fire Department, The Oakland County Sheriff-Highland Substation, The Highland White Lake Business Association, The Huron Valley Council for the Arts and The Western Oakland Transportation Authority.



Highland residents cooling off at the annual Red, White and Blues Festival with assistance from the Highland Township Fire Department.

Photo by: Cassie Blascyk