

## CITY OF HIGHLAND

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## WEATHER WARNING SIRENS

As March unfolds, spring temperatures will begin to rise. As weather fronts come and go, the contrast between warm and cold air masses can create atmospheric instability and increase the chances for severe weather. We must remind ourselves of basic measures to protect our families in the event of damaging storms.

The City of Highland activates warning sirens whenever a storm with damaging capabilities is about to impact Highland. This could mean a tornado has been sighted in the area, or it could mean that the storm contains large hail and/or is producing damaging straight-line winds. The Police Department is responsible for activating the warning sirens. A lot of information gathering goes into the decision of when to activate these warning sirens.

Some people say these sirens are activated too often. If it alerts people to a possibly damaging storm and gives them a chance to seek shelter for their safety, how can it be "too often?" This is what the system is for, to provide advanced warning of a potentially dangerous situation, giving people as much time as possible to seek shelter. Thankfully, more often than not, we don't see the serious damage that these storms are capable of inflicting. We can't, however, let that lull us into a false sense of security. Each and every warning should be taken seriously with protective measures taken.

Some other common sense reminders include:

- Never call 911 to find out why the sirens are sounding. Assume a potentially dangerous situation is approaching and take appropriate precautions.
- Never seek shelter from a storm under a tree. Trees tend to attract lightning and you will end up being struck also if you are under a tree when lightning strikes it.
- Stay away from windows during a storm in case high winds break the glass or send other objects through the window.
- Seek shelter in a basement or centrally located interior room without windows if at all possible. Closets or bathrooms often do not have windows.
- Keep a flash light with fresh batteries handy in your area of shelter. Also, keep some jackets handy since rain and cold fronts could change conditions as the storm moves through and you could find yourself exposed to the elements if your home is damaged.
- Take your cell phone with you in order to call for help if you are unable to get out of your home after a storm. First responders will be moving through damaged areas checking for anyone injured or trapped as soon as possible. Even if that happens quickly, it will seem like hours for those needing help.
- If serious damage is outside of your home following a storm, remain indoors if possible until responders assure that it is safe to come out. Trees, limbs or other debris could be unstable and fall on you. Energized electrical wires may be on the ground or tangled in trees / limbs, which could present an electrocution hazard.
- If serious damage occurs in other parts of town, please refrain from going to that area to "see what's going on." You do not want to impede emergency responders who will be moving in, out and around in those areas trying to help victims. Even well intentioned people who want to help can overwhelm first responders and accidentally make a situation worse, especially if they end up getting hurt during their efforts. If volunteer assistance becomes necessary, first responders will coordinate those activities.
- City personnel will be immediately working to assist people in damaged areas. With limited personnel and equipment, help will be prioritized by responding to the areas of worst damage first and then moving to the areas of least damage later. Outside assistance from undamaged communities will likely be sought, but it will take them time to arrive in Highland as well. In short, it may take some time to get help to everyone.
- What nature can damage in seconds can take our crews days or weeks to rebuild or restore. We will need your support, patience, and maybe even your help during the recovery period from any such incident. This is when our neighboring communities will see what makes Highland so special as the community pulls together during that recovery effort.

Please be safe and enjoy the warming weather and the abundance of sunshine that it brings. Just remember to pay attention to weather forecasts and always have an escape or shelter plan no matter where you are!



The Highland Police Department's participation in the "Coffee with a Cop" program is based on a national effort that began in Hawthorne, CA in 2011. It has proven to be one of the most successful community policing programs to date.

The simplicity of the interaction is the key to its success. There are no lectures, set agendas, or political direction. Police officers show up to a location and are available to sit down and talk to citizens one-on-one about concerns, issues, or just to get to know one another.

The Highland Police Department had its first "Coffee with a Cop" at Michael's coffee shop on January 24<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended and hopefully set the stage for many more to come. The events are going to be held every quarter at different coffee establishments around Highland.

**The next Coffee with a Cop will be held at:**

Nudge Coffee Shop  
1007 Washington St.  
April 9 7:30–8:30 a.m.

## SPRING BLOOM FESTIVAL



The annual Spring Bloom Festival will once again be held on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Silver Lake Park from 9:00am – 2:00pm. This year a variety of events are being planned including a portable saw mill and petting zoo. In addition there will be exhibits, gardening and environmental information available. This is a free, family event that celebrates Mother Earth.

CITY OF HIGHLAND

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

# HIGHLAND HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2018

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Our nation was again devastated by the recent school shooting in Florida. It makes each one of us realize that we must do everything that we can to make our schools safer. I have asked Chief of Police Terry Bell to inform our readers what our police department does to work closely with school officials on combating these heinous acts of violence.

### CITY PARTNERS WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO INCREASE SAFETY OF STUDENTS

The City of Highland police department and the Highland school district have been partnering over the past several years to increase the safety of the students and staff. In the absence of a school resource officer, an extra effort was made to provide programs that would increase the well-being of everyone in the district.

Every teacher and staff member in the district has completed active threat training conducted by the police department. The police training officers are nationally certified to provide classroom and scenario-based training that simulates how a violent encounter may play out. This has been a very effective way to equip police, teachers and staff with tools to respond to a situation and identify students with potential violent tendencies or challenges. This includes red flags relating to bullying.

The police have also been providing education relating to methamphetamine and opioid abuse, driving under the influence issues, and working on emergency response drills.

The school and city's public safety administrators meet on a monthly basis to discuss training effective-



Joseph R. Michaelis  
Mayor

ness, emergency protocol, and future partnering opportunities. Re-establishing a school resource officer has been consistently discussed as well.

## ALL-ABILITIES PLAYGROUND

City staff has been meeting and planning with volunteers over the winter for a new all-abilities playground for Rinderer Park. Although the playgrounds in Highland are ADA compliant, this playground has been designed to exceed the minimal standards for people of all ages with all abilities.

Every facet of equal play has been thought of with wheel chair access to the entire play system and features. One of

the highlights is a dual zip-line with a harnessed seat and one that can be stood on. Additionally, a merry-go-round that allows wheel chairs to roll onto it as well as more unique equipment like the roller slide that is designed for people with cochlear implants will be included.

Of course such a playground comes with a hefty price tag and so a pass-through fund has been established at the Highland Area Community Founda-

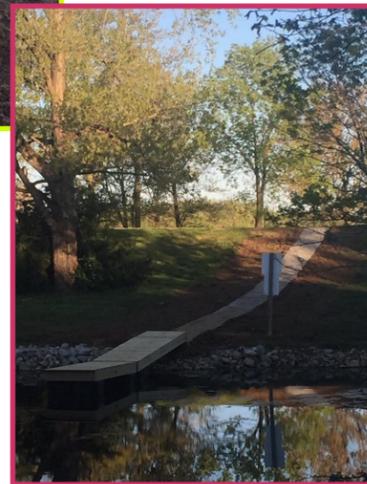
tion that people willing to donate or sponsor a piece of equipment can make a tax deductible donation to. People can drop off their donation at the Foundation's office or drop it in the mail to: Highland Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 571, Highland, IL 62249

For additional information, please call the Highland Parks and Recreation Department at 651-1386.

## YOUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Aaron Schwarz
- Neill Nicolaides
- Peggy Bellm
- Rick J. Frey

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT TIMELY FOR SPRING BOATERS**



With warmer temperatures around the corner, and thoughts turning to the outdoors, canoeists and kayakers wishing to utilize Old City Lake should be pleased to find the most recent improvement there.

Recently, Gavin Kohlbrecher, in an effort to find an Eagle Scout project, approached the Parks and Recreation Department to discuss potential service projects that park guests would find useful. Because the city council approved non-motorized watercraft on Old City Lake in Silver

Lake Park, and because Gavin has a passion for the outdoors, he took on the task of building a boat dock and installing a sidewalk to access it.

Although Gavin did much of the work himself, requirements for achieving Eagle Scout also include such things as organizing a work force and recruiting volunteers. The city of Highland and the Parks and Recreation Department are extremely satisfied with Gavin's project which has given our citizens and guests to our community one more convenience to enjoy.

**ANNUAL BOATING FEES**

Type	Non-Motorized	Trolling—25 HP	26—50 HP
Highland Resident	\$10	\$25	\$50
Non-Resident with Highland Zip Code	\$15	\$50	\$75
IL Resident w/out Highland Zip Code	\$20	\$75	\$100
Out of State	\$125	\$200	\$500

**DAILY BOATING FEES**

Type	Non-Motorized	Trolling—25 HP	26—50 HP
Highland Resident	\$5	\$10	\$15
Non-Resident	\$10	\$15	\$20
Out of State	\$15	\$25	\$35

**WEEKEND BOATING FEES**

Type	Non-Motorized	Trolling—25 HP	26—50 HP
Highland Resident	\$10	\$15	\$20
Non-Resident	\$15	\$20	\$25
Out of State	\$20	\$30	\$40

**FEMA FLOODPLAIN MAP UPDATE**

The City of Highland continues to pursue the reduction of the proposed increase in the 100 year flood maps proposed by FEMA.

After engineers reviewed the proposed new elevations, they found an extended culvert smaller

than the original culvert built in the 1800's. The city has been working with CSXT on a solution and CSXT has agreed with the city's plans to remove the undersized upstream culvert section and replace it with a new segment that matches the downstream

culvert section, as long as it is sufficient to retain the existing fill that is needed for a potential second track.

The city has submitted the reduced flow rates to IDNR, which would reduce the flood elevation upstream of the railroad to

within two feet of the 1986 FIS.

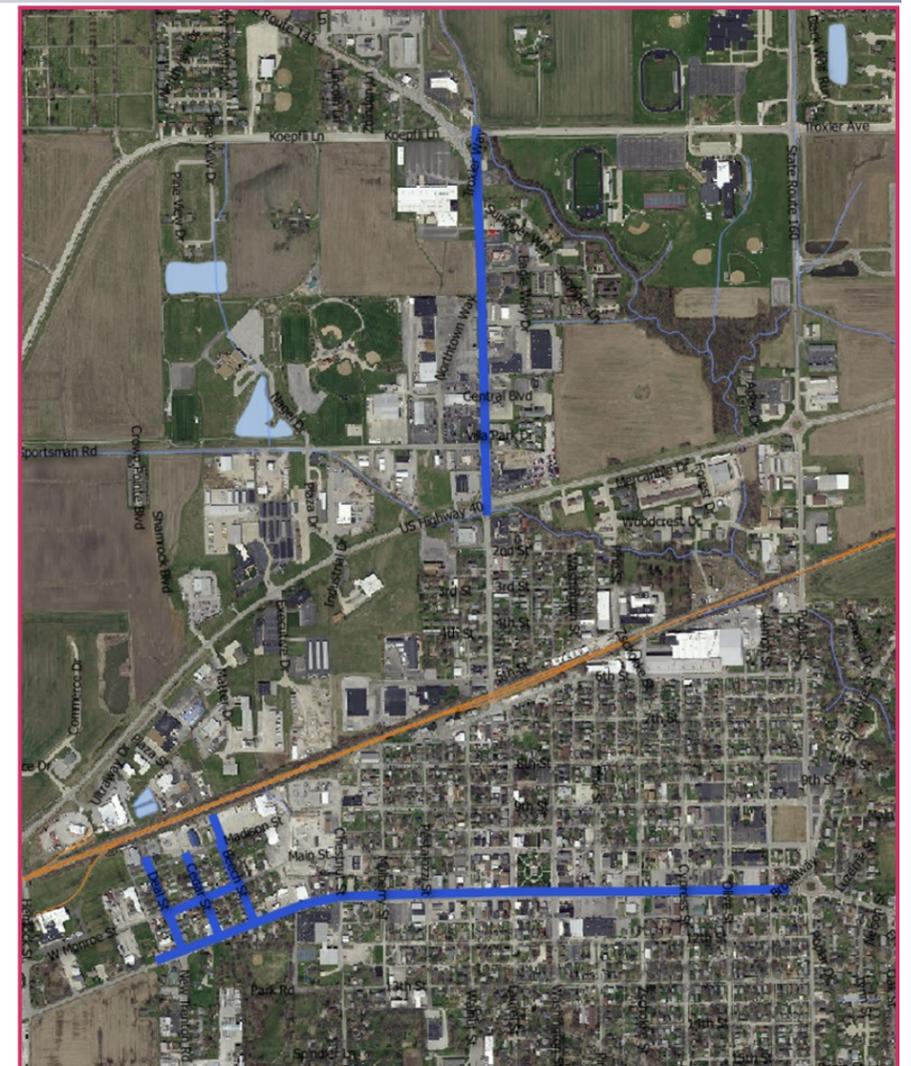
A meeting with Congressman John Shimkus resulted in a commitment by CSXT to work with the city to meet the deadline on September 1, 2018 to start construction on this project.

**WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE WORKS**

The city council will move forward on a project to replace water mains in three areas of the city with the most water main breaks. Targeted mains are along IL 143 (Troxler to U.S. Hwy. 40), Broadway (IL 160 to Poplar St.), Beech St., Cedar St., Deal St., and Monroe St.

City staff and Hurst-Rosche, Inc. professional engineers presented plans for future programs and identified critical mains for immediate replacement. These areas cause the most inconvenience and disturbance for businesses and residences with interruption in service and boil orders.

The project has an estimated construction cost of \$1.7 million. Construction is planned for later this year.



**NEW CITY HALL HOURS**

**8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Monday - Friday**