Naturally Connected

Your Guide to life in Highland



Fall/Winter

2026 Issue 6

Highland Township

Highland Downtown Development Authority

Activity Center Highland Township

Fire Department Highland Township

Highland Township Library



Find the owls in this issue, count them (including the one below), and submit your total to the Township Office for a chance to win a prize. Submit total to info@highlandtwp.org.

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

HURON VALLEY
SCHOOLS
248-684-8000

ROAD COMMISSION
FOR OAKLAND COUNTY
877-858-4804

The Highland Township staff and I hope you're enjoying the latest issue of Naturally Connected, our sixth edition! We truly love creating this magazine for our residents, and we're proud of how it showcases the wonderful events, community organizations, and kindhearted residents who make Highland such a special place to call home. Our goal is to keep Highland a community where communication, connection, and positivity come first. Thank you for taking the time to flip through these pages and stay engaged with all that's happening in our township.



Rick Hamill

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

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Keeping Highland Clean
Seasonal Cleanup Guide



FALL YARD WASTE COLLECTION

As leaves begin to fall, Highland Township residents can take advantage of curbside yard waste collection through December 4th.

COLLECTION GUIDELINES:

- Yard waste may be placed at the curb on your regular collection day.
- Use brown paper yard waste bags or containers clearly marked “Yard Waste” or “Compost.”
- Compost stickers are available at the Highland Township Offices.
- Containers must not exceed 50 pounds.
- Plastic biodegradable bags are not accepted.
- There is no weekly limit on the amount of yard waste collected.

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" in diameter and less than 4' long

GOT BIG STUFF TO TOSS? WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED!



Preparing for a seasonal cleanout? Priority Waste makes it easy! Large household items can be placed at the curb for collection on your regular pickup day — no phone call or appointment required.

LARGE ITEM PICKUP GUIDELINES

Limit: 2 large items per week
Where: Place items at the curb on your scheduled collection day
Accepted Items Include:

- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Refrigerators & freezers (doors must be removed for safety)
- Washers and dryers
- Televisions
- Carpet (rolled and bundled in 4-foot lengths)



Priority Waste is the Trash, Recycling & Compost service provider for Highland Township. If you have been missed for service, please contact 586-228-1200

Highland Cemeteries

Highland Township is blessed with two municipal cemeteries. Highland Cemetery located just north of M-59 on the west side of Milford Road and West Highland Cemetery about ½ mile south of M-59 on the east side of Hickory Ridge Road. Our cemeteries play an important role in preserving the history of our Township.

Many of the community's earliest founders are laid to rest here, and their stories continue to shape our understanding of the area's past. A walk through either cemetery especially the first few rows reveals names frequently highlighted in the Highland Township Historical Society's publications.

We also proudly honor two Revolutionary War veterans whose final resting places are West Highland Cemetery and Highland Cemetery, serving as lasting reminders of the Township's deep historical roots.

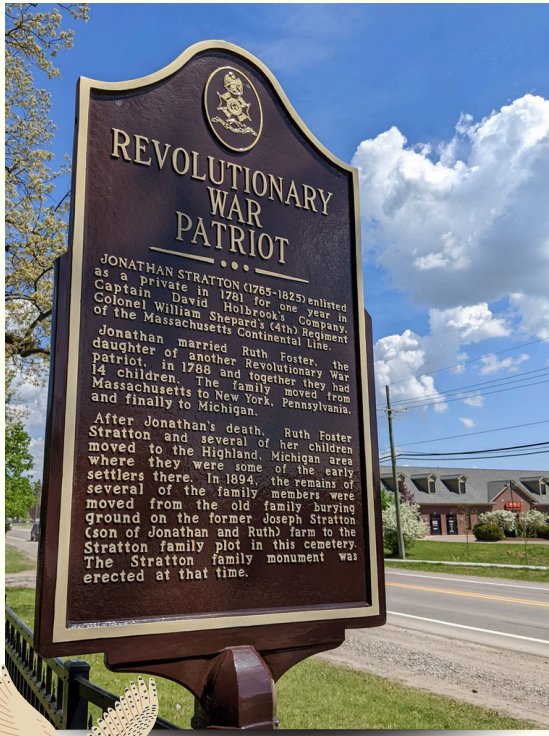
JONATHAN STRATTON

Jonathan Stratton (1765-1825) served in the Massachusetts militia as a private. Jonathan Stratton was born in Sherborne, Middlesex County, Massachusetts on January 20, 1765. Jonathan Stratton died August 23, 1825, and was buried at the Stratton Family Farm in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan. After his death, his wife and several of her children moved to Highland, Michigan. In 1894, his body was moved to the Stratton family plot in the Highland Cemetery located in Highland, Oakland County, Michigan.

JOHN MUDGE

John Mudge (1755-1839) a chaplain and Baptist minister served in the Massachusetts militia, Berkshire Men Militia, as a private in Captains Porter, Stone, and Rowley's Company, Colonel Patterson's Regiment. John Mudge was born in Sharon, Litchfield County, Connecticut on November 21, 1755. After the war, he moved to Michigan and died on June 5, 1839. He was the first veteran to be buried in the West Highland Cemetery.

Information from FindAgrave.com



Assessing Department

New Homeowners

Please make sure to drop off your Property Transfer Affidavit and Principal Residence Exemption forms to the Assessing Department at Highland Township Offices within 45 days of closing.

What stimulates a review of property?

You may have noticed workers from WCA Assessing out reviewing properties this spring, summer and fall. What stimulates a review of property?

- Additions/Losses to a property
- Sales
- Properties need periodic review to update/verify assessment records. (This is independent from Building Department inspections.)

Appraisers have a photo ID visible. If you are not home/present at the time of inspection, they will review the exterior of the property. These reviews are neccessarty to assessing keeping records current.

Reach out to the Assessing Department at 248-887-3791 x148 if you have any questions.

Property Records Notification

through the Oakland County Michigan Register of Deeds

Protect your BIGGEST INVESTMENT



OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN

Property Records Notification allows users to subscribe to FREE email alerts when new documents of interest are recorded at the Register of Deeds.

Users will be notified of any activity happening on their property including alerts to potential real estate fraud.

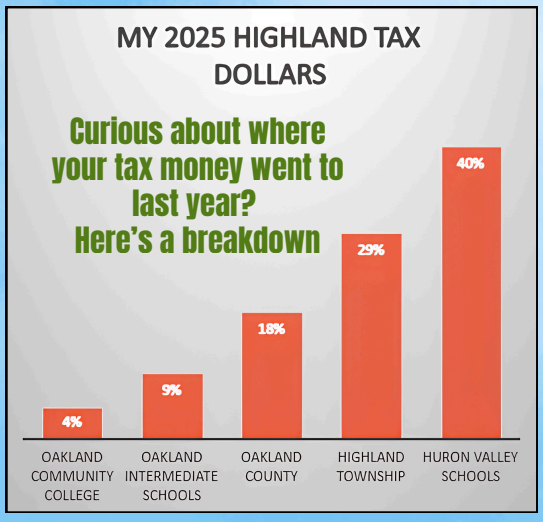
Sign up for FREE at ocmideeds.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL

Oakland County Register of Deeds at (248)858-0561

Treasurer's Department

248-887-3791 x 4
HTtreasurer@highlandtwp.org



Taxing Authorities:	Mills:	% of Total Household Tax:
Oakland Community College	1.4747	4%
Oakland Intermediate Schools	3.1349	9%
Oakland County (Operating, Parks, Transportation)	6.0079	18%
Highland Township: (Police, Fire, Library & Operating)	9.7811	29%
Huron Valley Schools	13.8782	40%
Totals:	***34.2768***	***100%***

Is Your Well Water Safe?

Did You Know You Can Pickup Water Test Bottles at the Treasurer's Dept?



The Oakland County Health Division reminds private well owners that, unlike public water supplies, private wells are not routinely tested for contaminants. Well owners are responsible for testing their own water, and annual testing for bacteria, nitrites, and nitrates is recommended. Additional testing is available for chloride, fluoride, sulfate, lead, copper, and arsenic.

Water sample bottles can be picked up at the Treasurer's Department desk at the Highland Township Offices. For a small fee, homeowners can take samples to the North Oakland County Health Division located at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd. Building 34E Pontiac, MI 48341. Questions? Call 248-858-1312. Testing costs: Bacteriological $12, Partial Chemical $10, and Arsenics $16

Protect Our Water

There is one water, and it is ours to protect

Proper use of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides is important for protecting the health of our watershed. A watershed is an area of land where rainwater drains into streams, rivers, lakes, or groundwater. When these products are applied correctly, they help crops grow while reducing the risk of polluting nearby water.

Using too much fertilizer or applying it before heavy rain can cause nutrients to wash into streams and lakes. This can lead to algae growth, lower oxygen levels, and harm fish and other aquatic life. Pesticides and herbicides can also affect wildlife and beneficial insects if they enter waterways.



Farmers and landowners can protect water quality by following label directions, applying the correct amount, checking the weather before spraying, and keeping untreated buffer areas near streams. These simple practices help keep our water clean, protect wildlife, and support healthy farms. Responsible chemical use benefits both agriculture and the environment.

You can learn more about doing your part to protect our waterways by visiting: https://www.semcog.org/about-semcog/what-you-can-do/one-water/

Building Department

Zoning Department

Welcoming New Faces to Highland Township



Jeff Kessler steps in as our new building inspector, taking over from the recently retired Steve Tino. Although Steve leaves behind significant shoes to fill, Jeff brings a unique combination of efficiency, skill, and kindness, making him a fantastic addition to our department. We are thrilled to have him with us!

Recently, Tim Mclean has stepped in as Highland Township's new Zoning Administrator. Tim is integrating seamlessly into the team, demonstrating a strong work ethic, and quickly grasping new concepts. Welcome aboard, Tim! We are so happy to have you here in Highland.





Let's explore HIGHLAND OAKS COUNTY PARK



Visitors can enjoy hiking trails that lead through quiet forests, enjoy peaceful bird-watching spots that showcase seasonal wildlife, or pick up the pace with scenic trail-running routes.
For those seeking a unique way to experience the landscape, designated areas offer horseback riding through open meadows and shaded paths. Whether you're out for fitness, fresh air, or simply a change of scenery, this park provides a refreshing retreat. Oakland County residents can enjoy Oakland County parks free of charge!

Hiking
Birdwatching
Horseback riding
Trail running
Cross country skiing



6555 Milford Rd, Holly, MI 48442
Open daily from 7AM to 8:30 PM





Community Spotlight

A big THANK YOU to Cornerstone Church of Highland!

We extend our sincere gratitude to Cornerstone Church of Highland for their generous contributions of time, resources, hard work, and love towards Hickory Ridge Pines Park on your Good Neighbor Day event. From the freshly painted pavilions to the new trail markers, BBQ grills, and restored baseball fields, everything looks great.
The updates are absolutely fantastic!

Cornerstone's dedication to enhancing our community truly stands out, and we are thankful to have you as a valued part of our community.

If you haven't had the chance to visit this park yet, now is the perfect opportunity! Enjoy fall and winter activities such as cross-country skiing, trail riding, hiking, and much more.



CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Highland Public Library
Township

Highland Township Public Library connects you with people, resources and knowledge to enrich, inspire and empower your life's journey. Located at 444 Farm Circle Road in Highland, our library sits in a beautiful wooded area overlooking a peaceful lake. Enjoy the natural setting and a relaxing walk on our storywalk trail. We offer events all year long for our community to enjoy. Stop by and see us soon, we have so much to share!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mad Hatter's Halloween Party & Spooky Storywalk

Wednesday, October 7th
5pm-7:30pm

Becoming Hockeytown: the Red Wings at 100

Thursday, November 5th
6:30pm
In 1926, the Detroit Cougars played their first game in the National Hockey League. In the century since, the Cougars became the Red Wings. Explore how, Detroit became Hockeytown. Brought to us by the Detroit Historical Society.

After-Hours Family Holiday Movie

Friday, December 11th
4:45pm-7pm
Join us for an after-hours, family-friendly holiday movie on our big screen plus an amazing hot cocoa bar! Please register, then be in the library by 4:45pm. We will lock the doors at our regular 5:00pm closing time. Movie title to be determined.

ProQuest CultureGrams®

New Library Resource: CultureGrams provides concise, reliable, and up-to-date cultural information on hundreds of countries, as well as the U.S. states and Canadian Provinces.

Please visit Highlandlibrary.info for hours

Inner VIEWS
featuring Brenda Dunseth



I have been working at the Highland Library for 19 years. When my children were young, I volunteered in the library at their grade school and loved it. Eventually I got my Master's in Library Science and began working part-time. Before becoming director, I worked in the library's youth department. I love baking bread, gardening, travelling, and, of course, READING.

What initiatives or programs are you most excited about that support the local community?

Many of the programs we offer help people to meet new people and form friendships. We have programs for new parents, intergenerational programs, and programs that allow people who share a hobby, such as photography, to meet others with similar interests.
We also have one-on-one programs that help people navigate difficult topics such as Medicare, taxes, homework, and digital literacy. Sitting down and talking with a real person can save hours of time searching the internet for an answer specific to your situation.

What are the biggest opportunities or challenges you see for the Highland library in the next few years?

I think many people feel confused about AI and how best to use, or not use, it. Librarians are good at organizing, discovering the effective uses of AI, and evaluating AI tools. Keeping the human element involved in selecting high-quality AI resources and verifying AI-generated information is a challenge we will enjoy solving over the next few years.

How do you envision the role of the library evolving to meet the needs of future generations in Highland?

The need for information is universal; how we satisfy needs changes. We have older folks come into the library, sit in a cozy spot and read a newspaper. Young people get their news from digital sources and download our books and magazines using Libby or Hoopla apps. However, they also like to pull up a chair at the library. If they work from home, they visit the library for a change of environment, to get away from distractions, or simply to enjoy chatting with staff about the latest bestseller.
The library will continue to adapt with the culture. One thing that will not change is our commitment to having staff, not just tech, to help our patrons navigate the changes.

Clerk's Department

ELECTION INFO.

November 3, 2026 (GENERAL)

Early Voting: See schedule at Mi.gov/Vote

Voters can vote early for 9 days at all elections. Visit Mi.gov/Vote for details.

VOTE EARLY IN PERSON OCT 24TH – NOV 1ST

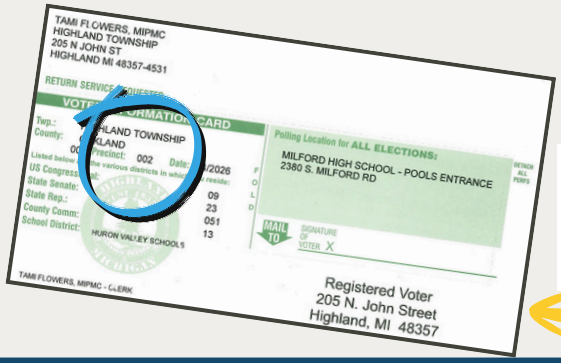
During the 9 days of early voting, from 8:30am-4:30pm except for Thursday, which is 12pm-8pm

Election Day Voting: 7a – 8p

NOTE:

ALL PRECINCTS VOTE AT
MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL
2380 S. Milford Rd., Highland, MI 48357

Scan for directions in Google Maps to MHS



Check your voter info card! Your precinct number was updated this year.

PLEASE CONTACT THE CLERK'S OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY ELECTION QUESTIONS: CALL 248-887-3791 EXT 5 OR EMAIL: HTCLERK@HIGHLANDTWP.ORG

Clerk's Department

HIGHLANDTWP.NET

SERVICES > CLERK > VOTER & ELECTION INFO

248.887.3791 EXT. 5
HTClerk@HighlandTwp.org

SAMPLE BALLOTS

Sample ballots will be available at Mi.gov/Vote and the Clerk's Office a month before each election.

Absentee Voting: Apply Early / Return Ballot Promptly

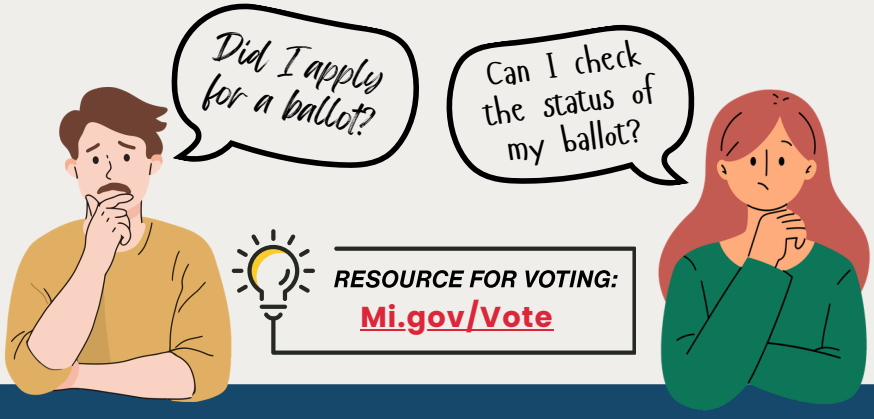
VOTE BY MAIL

Ballots go out about a month before each election. Ballots can be returned by mail or put in a drop box or brought to in-person voting (early voting or election day precinct).

For best results, hand deliver ballot to our drop box or office.

PRO TIP: Bring your ballot to tabulate during EARLY VOTING OR at the PRECINCT on election day

If you do not receive your ballot at least 15 days before election day, please call the Clerk's Office.



Ballot Status: MI.GOV/VOTE

All registered voters can track their application and ballot status by looking up their information in "Your Voter Information" section of mi.gov/vote and by subscribing to electronic notifications.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office Highland Township Substation

"Dedicated to the safety and protection of our Community"

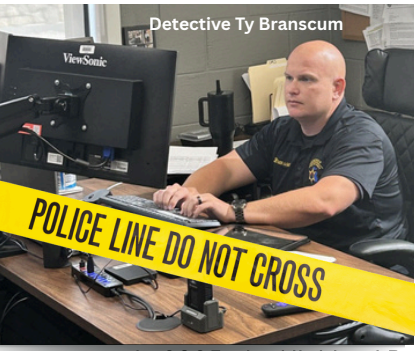
The Oakland County Sheriff's Office Highland Substation Detective Bureau

When a crime is reported, the initial response is often only the beginning of the process. After patrol deputies secure a scene and gather preliminary information, detectives take on the work of turning those first observations into a complete investigation.



Detective Andy Moldenhauer

At the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Highland Township Substation, that responsibility falls to detectives assigned to the substation's Detective Bureau. The Highland Township Substation is one of the substations operated by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Patrol Services Division.



Detective Ty Branscum

Currently assigned to the Highland Detective Bureau are Detective Andy Moldenhauer and Detective Ty Branscum. Together, they handle a wide range of investigations and work to bring cases to a conclusion while providing follow-up and investigative support to the community and patrol deputies.

A Significant Caseload

The numbers demonstrate just how much work takes place behind the scenes.

In 2025, the Highland Detective Bureau was assigned 270 cases and successfully closed 253 of them. That represents a closure rate of approximately 94% of the cases assigned during the year. So far in 2026, Moldenhauer and Branscum have been assigned 143 cases year-to-date and have already closed 103. That means the bureau has closed approximately 72% of the cases assigned so far this year, while continuing to work the remaining investigations.

Continuing the Work in 2026: With 143 cases assigned and 103 already closed in 2026, Detectives Moldenhauer and Branscum continue to manage a substantial investigative workload.

The 2025 numbers show the bureau's ability to move a high volume of investigations toward resolution. The 2026 year-to-date numbers demonstrate that the workload remains significant, with investigations continuing to come in throughout the year.

Highland Fire Department
Township

Fall Is in the Air – Time to Get Ready!

With the smell of Fall in the air, it's time to start tackling those leaves!
If you rake your leaves, they must be mulched or bagged and placed at the curb for collection. Do not rake leaves onto neighboring properties or into the street, even if they came from your neighbor's tree. Please remember that burning leaves is prohibited at all times under Highland Township ordinance.

As temperatures begin to drop, Fall is also the perfect time to prepare your home for Winter. Replace your furnace filter and schedule a tune-up with a licensed heating and cooling contractor to ensure your heating system is operating safely and efficiently. It's also a good idea to have your home checked for carbon monoxide.

If you use a portable space heater, follow these important safety tips:

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn, including furniture, curtains, bedding, and clothing.
- Place heaters on a stable, level, non-combustible surface—never on furniture or countertops.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use extension cords or power strips, which can overheat and create a fire hazard.
- Turn space heaters off whenever you leave the room or go to bed.
- Keep children and pets away from operating heaters.
- Choose a heater with automatic tip-over protection and an overheat shutoff feature.

Finally, make sure your home is protected by installing and testing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Test them monthly, replace batteries as needed, and replace the entire unit according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms provide critical early warning and can save lives.
A little preparation this Fall can help keep your family safe, warm, and ready for the Winter season.



Highland Activity Center

The Activity Center is a warm & welcoming space for those seeking companionship and a variety of engaging activities. We offer classes, exercise opportunities, movies, lunch, card games, and much more. Our daily programs are tailored for the vintage community, including individuals with special needs.

SAVE THE DATE

HALLOWEEN PARTY
OCTOBER 15

MICHIGAN'S LIGHTHOUSE PRESENTATION
October 19

THANKSGIVING PARTY
NOVEMBER 13

THE PEOPLE OF THREE FIRES
NOVEMBER 30

CHRISTMAS PARTY
DECEMBER 18

Activity Center Highland Township

Meals On Wheels
Livingston & Western Oakland County

Day Trips
Casino Trips
Holiday Parties
Dinner Presentations

FOLLOW US



Activity Center
Highland
Township

AT THE HIGHLAND ACTIVITY CENTER WE EMBRACE THE BELIEF THAT WHEN YOU WALK IN THE DOOR, YOU'RE FAMILY



Join us for an outing! We have SO MUCH FUN

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer positions available for both Highland Activity Center and Meals on Wheels call 248-887-1707 to learn more!

Senior Services

AARP

Free basic tax preparation with AARP. By appointment only.

AgeWays

Provides Services for Elderly Citizens
Oakland/Livingston County:
248-357-2255
Genesee Valley Area:
810-259-7671

Facility Rental

The Highland Activity Center is available for rent. Great for graduation parties, showers, seminars, classes, birthdays, holidays, and more! Dates fill up fast!
For more information
Call 248-887-1707

Located at

209 N. John St.
Highland, MI 48357
Phone: 248-887-1707
Hours: Monday- Friday 9am-3pm
www.highlandtwp.net



Highland Downtown Development Authority

Building Momentum

Through Grants, Awards and Community Investment

As we continue working to strengthen and enhance downtown Highland, we are proud to share several recent accomplishments that recognize our commitment to economic development, community partnerships, and thoughtful investment in our downtown district.

Most recently, we were awarded a $34,554 SEMCOG Planning Assistance Program (PAP) Grant to complete preliminary planning and engineering for a proposed safety path extension along Milford Road. This study will prepare engineering drawings for extending the existing sidewalk from Colasanti's Market to the Milford High School campus, an important step toward improving pedestrian safety, increasing accessibility, and strengthening connections between downtown, local businesses, schools, and neighborhoods.

We were also honored to receive a $20,000 Main Street Momentum Grant through the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, in partnership with Main Street Oakland County. This grant provides flexible funding that can be used for business support initiatives, property improvements, or organizational capacity-building projects. Our Board is currently evaluating opportunities to ensure these funds have the greatest long-term impact on our downtown district.

Board members and business owners attending the Main Event Awards event June 2026



In addition to securing these grants, we were recognized with several Main Street Oakland County Awards celebrating excellence in downtown revitalization.

Our Commercial Property Open House received the Best Small Business Retention & Attraction Award for connecting prospective business owners with available commercial spaces and showcasing opportunities to invest in downtown Highland.

Our local business, Earth-N-Soul, received the Main Street Resilience Award for their unwavering commitment to Highland and their ability to build a successful business while overcoming challenges, including the impacts of COVID-19. Their creativity, adaptability, and dedication to the community represent the strength and resilience of Highland's small businesses.

We were also proud to receive the Outstanding Partnership Award for the Highland Station Boardwalk project, recognizing the collaboration between the Highland DDA & Highland Township. The Boardwalk has become a signature destination that enhances recreation, celebrates our natural resources, and encourages residents and visitors alike to explore and support our downtown businesses.

These accomplishments build upon the Highland Station Boardwalk's statewide recognition as the recipient of a 2025 Michigan Downtown Association Award, honoring the project's innovative design, strong partnerships, and lasting contribution to downtown revitalization.

These grants and awards represent much more than recognition; they reflect what can be accomplished when community partners, volunteers, businesses, Township leadership, and residents work together toward a shared vision. We remain committed to pursuing new opportunities, securing outside funding, and investing in projects and programs that strengthen our downtown, support our local businesses, and continue making Highland a vibrant place to live, work, and visit.



Visit us online at highlandDDA.com

HIGHLAND'S HISTORY

Highland Winter Pastimes..... article by Jake Lloyd

SINCE THE EARLY DAYS, HIGHLAND RESIDENTS HAVE FOUND WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE LONG MICHIGAN WINTERS.

While the early settlers, who came to the area beginning in the 1830's, found little time to enjoy the snowy and icy splendor of Michigan winters, by the end of the century there was a new outlook on winter. As was noted in Highland's seminal history, Our Highland Heritage, published in 1986 by Clara Mae Beach, the Milford Times reported in January of 1894 that "Skating is the rage.



Photo credit: The Westrick Family



Photo credit: Alec Hill

Old men and ladies, young men and maidens are putting in their afternoons at this pleasant pastime. Snow is no impediment. Twenty shovels and as many brooms soon cleared the north end of Pettibone Lake." While early residents lacked the synthetic materials of modern clothing, the toggery of the time typically included heavy knickerbockers of waterproofed tweed, knitted caps, and multiple layers of wool undergarments, which kept winter-goers warm and dry. The wealth of lakes in the Township has for a long time offered a unique opportunity for winter recreation.



Throughout the 20th century, a new outlook on the recreational advantages of Highland's abundant lakes came into being, replacing the earlier mindset that lakes, swamps, and wetlands were mere wastelands with little to no value to farmers. In addition to skating, new winter sports were gaining popularity such as hockey, which became a staple of local activity by the early 1900s.

HIGHLAND, MICHIGAN

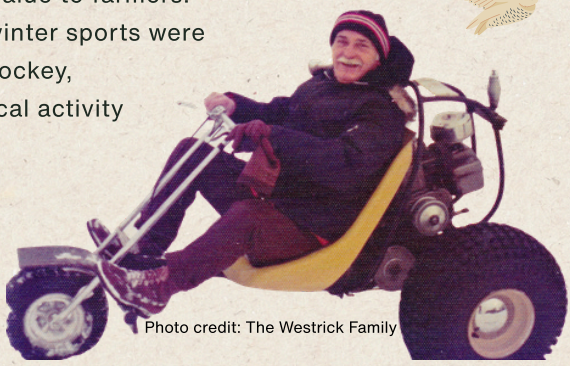


Photo credit: The Westrick Family

The sport was largely an extension of an earlier sport known as "roller polo" played on roller skates, which evolved into a winter version known as "ice polo," which was played on ice skates, gaining considerable popularity in the Upper Peninsula late 19th century. A December 1913 edition of the Milford Times highlights "hockey sticks" as one of the top popular Christmas presents at the time.

By mid-century, an expanding economy fueled by the post-World War II economy led to the widespread expansion of lakefront cottages in Highland and the surrounding region. Our family, like countless other local Highland families, came to the area in the 1950s and established a family cottage on White Lake. While intended primarily a summertime retreat from the city, the family cottage inspired a whole new generation to make Highland their year-round homes. Like any new generation, new sports were invented.



During the early 1970's, during a generally cold, but snowless winter, motorcycle ice racing gained momentum. The lack of snow inspired family and friends to outfit the tires on their dirt bikes with hundreds of sheet metal screws, giving the bikes traction that was said to be on par with hard dirt or even asphalt surfaces. Today, motorcycle ice racing remains a popular sport and can be observed on White Lake in late January and early February when the weather permits the development of hard ice.



Photo credit: Agnes Seefriex



Photo credit: Susan Morosky

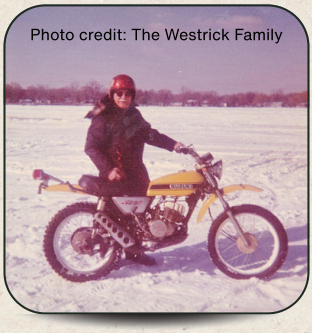


Photo credit: The Westrick Family

During snowier winters, other sports gained traction beginning in the late 1960's and 1970's, including ice fishing, cross country skiing, downhill skiing, and my favorite – snowmobiling. By the early 1970's, Michigan had an estimated 250,000 registered snowmobiles, fueled by cold winters and numerous manufacturers of the newly evolving machines. With an abundance of vacant former farmland, lakes, and Highland's recreation areas, snowmobiling gained considerable popularity with local residents. Frequent stories from that time recount the Great Blizzard of 1978, when nearly a foot of snow and blowing winds led to unprecedented drifting and the closure of many local Highland roads. It was the perfect coalescence of good winter weather and a willingness to get out and explore that led to the heydays of winter sports, when many family memories were made during the long cold months of winter.



Photo credit: The Westrick Family

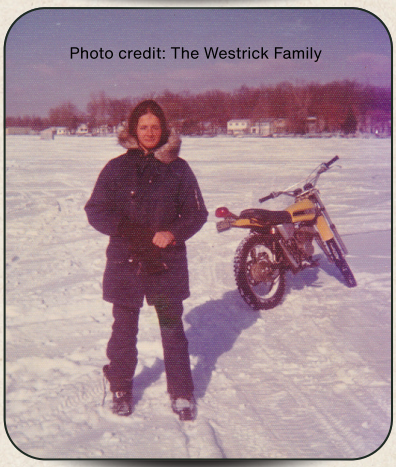


Photo credit: The Westrick Family

HIGHLAND GARDEN CLUB



THE HIGHLAND GARDEN CLUB PROMOTES GREENER COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, COMMUNITY PROJECTS, AND SOCIAL CONNECTIONS. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

And you thought Fall & Winter was time for gardeners to hibernate. Not so . . . . .We take the "down time" to learn & dream for another year full of beauty – maybe, just maybe better, prettier, even tastier than last year. Come join us for the learning part of Fall 2026. HGC's speakers will be at Highland Township Library, downstairs in the Community Room. Doors open at 6pm for treats and some socializing. Speakers begin at 6:30pm.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS . . .

Monday, October 12
Doors open at 6pm, the presentation begins at 6:30pm in the Highland Library Community Room.
Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash will present "Benefits of a Native Plant Garden." Learn how native plants can help reduce flooding from storms, support local ecosystems, and even enhance property values.

Monday, November 9
Doors open at 6:00pm, the presentation begins at 6:30pm in the Highland Library Community Room.
Jan Bills, owner of Two Women and a Hoe, will share practical advice in "Comfort, Ease & Simplicity in the Garden." Discover tips and solutions to make your gardening experience more enjoyable and easier to maintain.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER, CONTACT COOPJUDY@HOTMAIL.COM. WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US AND CONNECT WITH FELLOW GARDENING ENTHUSIASTS!


hva
HURON VALLEY ARTS
Season of Creativity at HVA
the art shop
Art, community, exhibits, and seasonal shopping in Highland.
OCTOBER–DECEMBER EVENTS
Sept 11–Oct 9 | Rocco Pisto Art Exhibit
Oct 20–22 | Highland Watercolor Workshop
Nov 6–20 | Highland Kindness Exhibit
Nov 21–22 | Arts & Greens
Nov 28–Dec 22 | Handmade for the Holidays
Dec 1 | Kris Kringle Market
SHOP LOCAL. SUPPORT THE ARTS!
Together we create more creative, connected communities.
Stop In. Stay Awhile. Belong Here.
205 W. Livingston Rd. Highland, MI 48357
248–889–8660
HuronValleyArts.org
Where creativity meets community.

HIGHLAND WHITE LAKE
Business Association

Save the dates for our Fall Coffee Hour!
October 9th, November 13th & December 11th.
Visit www.hwlba.com for more information

GET CONNECTED AND JOIN THE HIGHLAND WHITE LAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION!

We proudly offer discounted membership rates for nonprofit organizations and home-based businesses. Visit www.hwlba.com to learn more about membership benefits, pricing, and how to get involved.

ENJOY ALL THESE GREAT BENEFITS!

- 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 for businesses.
- Variety of sponsorship opportunities to help promote your business.







Harvest Dance 2026 will be November 7th at The Lift at STS. We've made some exciting changes to the event!



WOTA is here to get you there

Western Oakland Transportation Authority (WOTA) is a door-to-door, demand response public transportation service for residents 18 and older with priority given to seniors age 55+, disabled adults age 18+ and veterans of our service area.





Regardless of your mobility, WOTA can take you where you need to go as all of our vehicles are lift-equipped.
WOTA is funded by the Oakland County Transit Millage passed by voters in November, 2022.



WESTERN OAKLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Western Oakland Transportation Authority

Adults 18+: $4.00 per stop
Seniors and adults with disabilities: $2.00 per stop.
Veterans (and family): Free
Companion Riders: Free

Riders must have exact fare (our drivers do not carry change), check or pre-purchased punch card.
Punch cards may be purchased by calling 248-887-4979, mailing a check to, or visiting the office at 250 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, MI 48357.

Hours of Operation
Scheduling Hours: 8:00 am - 3:45 pm
Dispatcher: 8:00 am - 9:00 pm
Driving Hours:
Monday to Friday 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Check out our new website!
ridewota.org



Thank you Sponsors!

The Highland DDA extends its sincere appreciation to the sponsors and community partners whose generous support helped make this Founders Day, the Red, White & Blues Fireworks Festival and the Sound's Like Summer Concert Series events possible. We are grateful for their continued investment in our community and for helping make these events possible for Highland residents and visitors to enjoy.

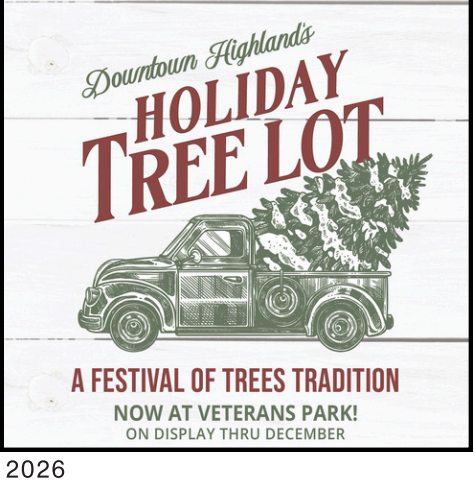
- Tony Serra Highland Nissan
- Highland Township
- Vandrey Self Storage
- Highland Township Activity Center
- Oakland County Board of Commissioners
- Michigan Legacy Credit Union
- Highland Township Fire Department
- Oakland County Parks
- Genisys Credit Union
- West Oakland Transportation Authority
- Giffels Webster

Upcoming Events











HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP PRESENTS

Talk of the Town

SPECIAL COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

FIRE MILLAGE

with **FIre Chief Nick George**

October 20th 2026
6pm-7:30pm
Highland Township Auditorium
205 N. John Street, Highland MI

Learn about the Highland Township Fire Department and Fire Millage

This is an opportunity for Highland residents to learn more about the Fire Millage, the services it supports, and the role it plays in providing fire and emergency services to our community.

Come learn, ask questions, and hear directly from the Highland Fire Department about:

- What the Fire Millage funds
- How funding helps provide local fire and emergency services
- Current Department needs
- Future Challenges

Our goal is to provide clear information and an open conversation so residents can better understand the Fire Millage and the services that help keep Highland safe.

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP FIRE RESCUE
Serving & Protecting since 1941

Have a question? Bring it with you–we want to hear from you!

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

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, Huron Valley Arts and The Western Oakland Transportation Authority.



NATURALLY CONNECTED

FALL/WINTER
2026
ISSUE 6