

# Naturally Connected

Fall/Winter 2024 Issue 2

Your  
Guide  
to life in  
Highland

Charter Township of Highland, Michigan



Photo by: Dani Adkins  
Free Folk Photography



# 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

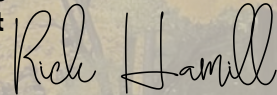
**248-887-4722**



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The Highland Township staff and I hope you have been enjoying the Naturally Connected Magazine. As we begin on our 2nd publishing of this community magazine, we welcome your feedback, suggestions, story ideas and support. It's our goal to accurately depict life in Highland through words and photos. Enjoy the beauty around you this season and take advantage of all that Highland has to offer. I look forward to seeing you around town or at one of our many great events.



Highland Township Supervisor

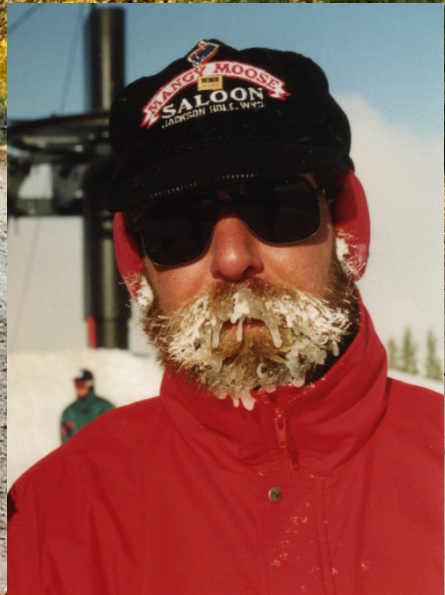
## Naturally Connected

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 Specialist*
- Elaine Krimmel, *Assistant to the Supervisor*

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# Trash and Recycling

*Priority Waste is the Trash, Recycling and Compost service provider for Highland Township.*



- Service Days: Monday–Friday–  
See service map for your day on our website  
<https://www.highlandtwp.net/>
- Compost Pickup: Weekly pick up beginning on the first Friday in April and continuing through the first week in December. Yard paper bags or containers clearly marked yard waste are accepted.
- Bulk/ Large Item Pick Up: Weekly pick up – 2 item limit per week.

## Holiday Pickup Schedule

We observe the following holidays:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

If your pickup day falls on one of these holidays, it will be delayed by one day.

**If you have been missed for service, please contact Priority Waste at 586-228-1200**

## Yard Waste Pickup ends the first week in December

Yard waste 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. Priority Waste 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)

# HOA *Let's keep in touch*

The Supervisor's Department is working on updating our Home Owners Association listings. This information is beneficial for your neighborhood to keep current. The Township and Fire Department can assist you with community safety notices and public announcements to keep your residents notified. Please remember to update the Township when any contact information changes.

Please take a moment to call the Township at 248-887-3791 x 6 or email us at [info@highlandtwp.org](mailto:info@highlandtwp.org) with your current contact information-see below for requested information.

- HOA Name
- HOA Website or Social Media Page
- Contact Name
- Address
- Email Address
- Phone Number



## *We are in search of great photos!*

Naturally Connected wants to feature community photos in our upcoming issues that capture the essence of Highland. Do you have a great shot of The Highland Farmers Market? A summer concert? Your child at the Founders Day Parade or Red, White & Blues Festival? Your family bike riding down one of our scenic trails? A day on the water? We have seen your great shots on social media so we invite you to share them with us. We are assembling a gallery of great shots that we can use in upcoming issues.

We are looking for high resolution photos (300dpi) of a few people or a beautiful Highland landscape that are well-composed, vibrant and interesting. Thank you for helping us make Naturally Connected a useful magazine that beautifully depicts life in our community!

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT TINA LLOYD AT THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND 248-887-3791 X 139 OR [LLOYDT@HIGHLANDTWP.ORG](mailto:LLOYDT@HIGHLANDTWP.ORG)



# Assessing Department

New Homeowners please remember to drop off your Primary Residence Exemption and Property Transfer Affidavit to the Township Offices

## 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 reviews to update/verify assessing record. (This is independent from local 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 necessary to keep assessing records current.



## Looking ahead to February

### Understanding your Notice of Assessment

A Notice of Assessment is mailed to every property owner on an annual basis **at the end of February**. The Notice contains the current year's property information, exemptions and class.

Many tax payers may be inclined to set this Notice aside as it states at the top of the form, in bold letters **THIS IS NOT A TAX BILL** however, it is important to read this Notice because it shows a property's taxable value for the year.

The Notice shows the difference from prior year to current year's values, an estimate of the change in taxes, your right as a tax payer to appeal, how to communicate with the Assessing Department and the dates when the Board of Review will be meeting to hear appeals.

If you disagree with your assessment, note the dates and times at the bottom of the Notice to set up an appointment with the Board of Review. This two week period is the **only time during the year** to be heard. You cannot set up an appointment until you have received your Notice of Assessment **at the end of February**.

**SEE SAMPLE NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT ON FOLLOWING PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**PLEASE PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE HIGHLIGHTED AREAS WHICH SHOW:**

**A:** If the Homestead Exemption has been filed for your property, your notice will say your home is 100% exempt as a “principal residence”. You must **own and occupy** to qualify.

**B:** Estimate of an increase or decrease to your tax bill for upcoming year.

**C:** Shows if there was or was not a transfer of ownership of the property in the prior year.

Michigan Department of Treasury,  
1019 (Rev. 11-23)

**THIS IS NOT A TAX BILL**

L-4400

**Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification**

This form is issued under the authority of P.A. 206 of 1893, Sec. 211.24 (c) and Sec.211.34c, as amended. This is a model assessment notice to be used by the local assessor.

FROM: CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF HIGHLAND  205 NORTH JOHN STREET HIGHLAND MI 48357		PARCEL IDENTIFICATION  PARCEL NUMBER: <b>H -11-11-000-000</b>  PROPERTY ADDRESS: 123 PROPERTY HIGHLAND, MI 48356-1758	
OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS/PERSON NAMED ON ASSESSMENT ROLL:  NAME 1234 ADDRESS MAILING ADDRESS, MI		<b>PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION</b> % Exempt As "Homeowners Principal Residence": <b>100.00%</b> % Exempt As "Qualified Agricultural Property": <b>.00%</b> % Exempt As "MBT Industrial Personal": <b>.00%</b> % Exempt As "MBT Commercial Personal": <b>.00%</b> Exempt As "Qualified Forest Property": <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Exempt As "Development Property": <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T3N, R7E, SEC 11			
<b>ACCORDING TO MCL 211.34c THIS PROPERTY IS CLASSIFIED AS:</b> 401 (RESIDENTIAL-IMPROVED)			
<b>PRIOR YEAR'S CLASSIFICATION:</b> 401 (RESIDENTIAL-IMPROVED)			
The change in taxable value will increase/decrease your tax bill for the 2024 year by approximately: <b>\$128</b>		PRIOR AMOUNT YEAR: 2023	CURRENT TENTATIVE AMOUNT YEAR: 2024
1. TAXABLE VALUE:		84,000	88,000
2. ASSESSED VALUE:		153,000	158,000
3. TENTATIVE EQUALIZATION FACTOR: 1.000			
4. STATE EQUALIZED VALUE (SEV):		153,000	158,000
5. There WAS or WAS NOT a transfer of ownership on this property in 2023		<b>WAS NOT</b>	
<b>6. Assessor Change Reason:</b> Market Adjustment			

The 2024 Inflation rate Multiplier is: 1.05

Questions regarding the Notice of Assessment, Taxable Valuation, and Property Classification may be directed to the Following:

Name: Elaine Krimmel/Jenny Angle	Phone: (248) 887-3791	Email Address: info@highlandtp.net
<b>March Board of Review Appeal Information. The board of review will meet at the following dates and times:</b> The Board of Review will meet at the Highland Township Offices Date To Be Determined (TBD) from 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM for an Organizational Meeting Only. Appointments will begin on: Date TBD from 9:00 AM until 12:00 pm and 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Date TBD from 2:00 PM until 5:00PM and 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM. To schedule an appointment IN ADVANCE for the Board of Review, please contact Township of Highland, (248)887-3791 Ext. 3. The Board of Review will accept written appeals through 4:30 Date TBD.		

# Join Us

## Invasive Plant Removal Workday

**November 9th**  
10am-1pm

Hickory Ridge Pines Park  
3800 N. Hickory Ridge Road  
Backup Rain Date November 16th



*Battling bittersweet, garlic mustard and phragmites....*

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

**Thank you to the volunteers who participated in the workday event at Hickory Ridge Pines Park earlier this year. The progress that was made is truly impressive.**





# There is only one water, it's ours to protect.

There are so many reasons why our residents chose to live in Highland Township. Open space, woodlands and water are often noted as key reasons. Living in a rural setting offers more freedom and more responsibility to our homeowners and a greater opportunity to take meaningful actions.

This year, we had a lot of unusual rain events and heard quite a few complaints of short-term, localized, flooding. Sometimes, there are simple things a homeowner can do to help keep stormwater from harming their property and keep contaminants out of our rivers and streams. Or better yet, organize your HOA or neighbors to help. Here's a few ideas from the One Water campaign for you to consider:

***Plant a raingarden where water accumulates.*** Native plants, in a well conditioned bed, can soak up an incredible amount of runoff and keep contaminants from entering lakes and streams.

***Clear stormwater grates in your neighborhood.*** Leaves and debris blocking a storm grate can cause runoff to blow past the intended storm sewer and end up in your yard.

***Direct your downspouts to discharge at least four feet away from your foundation.*** Consider a rain barrel to catch the water off your roof for your irrigation needs.

Many subdivisions have stormwater management systems that rely on lot line swales, driveway culverts and even enclosed pipes to discharge to retention/detention basins in the common space or even a resident's back yard. These systems require continued maintenance and cooperation from all residents to keep the system working well and protect our waterways. The Planning Department has records of many of the plans and maps that show the intended drainage patterns. Never alter the grading on your parcel without understanding how it might impact others. We're all in this together!

*Visit [semcog.com/mionewater.com](http://semcog.com/mionewater.com) to learn more.*

*Photographer: Dan Swanson*



# Let's explore

## The trails of Highland



Highland residents enjoying an afternoon walk at Duck Lake Pines Park.

Highland has so much to offer from lakes to trails to parks and more. Hiking Highland is a favorite fall & winter activity for both locals and visitors.



## Duck Lake Pines Park [1241 N. Duck Lake Road](#)

Located approximately a 1/4 mile south of M-59.

This park is the home of the Huron Valley Youth Baseball and Softball League, our local softball association. The park also provides a number of other recreational activities, including basketball, pickleball, a children's play structure, and walking trails.

The park is equipped with picnic tables, a rentable pavilion, modern bathroom facilities and a concession stand, which is operated by HYBSL during regular season play and tournaments. Head over to Duck Lake Pines Park today and check out all it has to offer!





## Highland Road/M59 Pathway

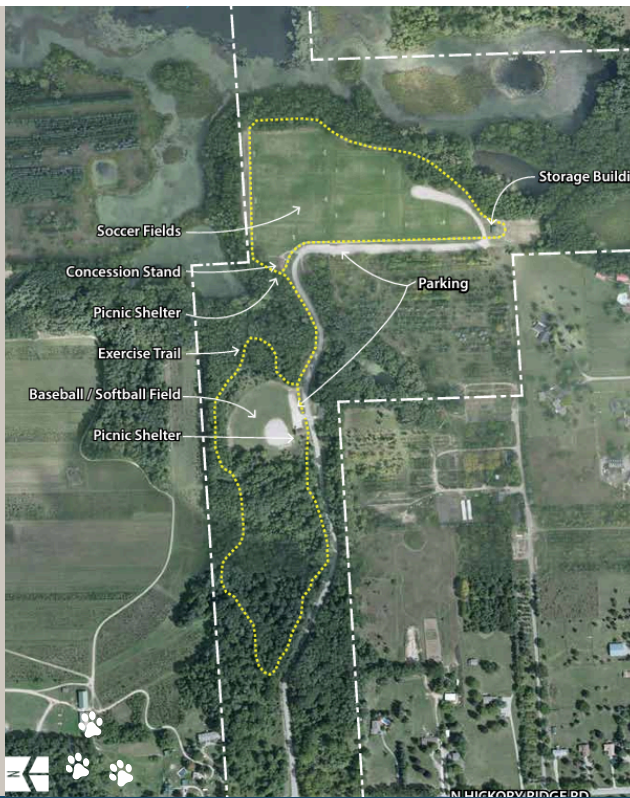
Enjoy over 3.5 miles of the MDOT paved pathway which runs from the Highland Township Public Library to N. Tipsico Lake Road. The pathway is great for walking, jogging and biking.

## Hickory Ridge Pines Park

3800 Hickory Ridge Rd

Approximately 2.5 miles north of M-59. This park is home of the Huron Valley Soccer Club. The park also provides a small baseball field, picnic facilities and walking trails. The park is equipped with modern bathroom facilities, a rentable pavillion and a concession stand, which is operated by Huron Valley Soccer Club during regular season play and tournaments.

The trails are often used by dog walkers, joggers and bikers. Swing on by sometime! This park is here for all to enjoy!



Photographer: Mona Prime

Fall/Winter 2024/2025



Photographer: Judy Cooper

Naturally Connected II

# Inner VIEWS

Interview with  
Shane Anderson

## Highland Skatepark

*The Highland Skate Park was brought to fruition by numerous dedicated volunteers led by Shane Anderson who all 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. We caught up with Shane Anderson recently to get the scoop on this skatepark. We just had to know how it came to be. Here is a bit of the interview....*

**How did this skatepark come to be?** Inspiration and the hard work of local skateboarders and supporters. It's a labor of love! Township Supervisor Rick Hamill has been great to work with.

**How did you dream up this skatepark AND get such great support from the community?** I've been a volunteer at skatepark builds around the country. The value/community building aspect of these projects is real. I knew our hometown would benefit from a community built DIY skatepark. My family has been extremely supportive, and as soon as I pitched the idea, Eric Coponen (local skateboarder/skatepark builder/carpenter) got on board. Local skateboarder Kenny Yager has been there every step of the way. The skatepark builds are truly a good time for all ages so the project draws engagement naturally.

The skateboard community is very supportive, and our early donations came mostly from the Michigan skate family! We've recently started a non-profit (Skatepark Enrichment Group) and are now seeking tax deductible donations from the greater community.

### **When did this project start?**

This is the fourth year of building. 2020 cleared the site. We asked the community and took polls on what features they'd like to skate. Based on that, we designed the park and built a model though it's always morphing as we build.



**How much has this cost to build? How much has been donated?**

We started taking building material donations in 2021 via Highland Skatepark Go Fund Me account. We've been able to build \$100k worth of skatepark for about \$25k thanks to all our volunteers.

**Where did you skate as a kid?** All the Highland neighborhood spots, backyards and all the local street spots. Mom and Dad drove us around a lot. The closest concrete skatepark was in Midland!

**How long have you been skating?** 37 years, but I may have skated in a past life. Got first board when I was 3. Was always a fun and magical object. At age twelve, I identified with the skate community and became a skateboarder.

**When will the park be complete?** Hopefully never, building is half the fun! The park is always open during construction.

**Do you have any events planned for spring/summer 2025?**

Bi-weeklyish build/skate/bbqs April through October. Free skate lessons usually available on build days! Please ask! The *Little Free Skateshop* is on site. It is open on build days. We accept and give out used skateboard parts and other skate gear.

**How can the community better support you? How can one donate time or money?**

Money for building materials, equipment rentals, and feeding volunteers is crucial. This has been 100% funded through individual donations. There is a GoFundMe link to donate in our @highlandskatepark Instagram bio.

Also accepting checks made payable to Skatepark Enrichment Group.

You can also reach us at skateparkenrichmentgroup@gmail.com



# Highland Kindness

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.

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 keep spreading kindness.

**ALWAYS  
CHOOSE  
KINDNESS**

*Share your stories on social media and use the hashtag*

**#HighlandKindness**

## To our Veterans: A humble thank you for all you've done

As we celebrate Veterans Day, we extend our deepest gratitude to the brave men and women who have served our country with unwavering dedication. Your sacrifices, courage, and commitment have safeguarded our freedoms and shaped our nation. Today, and every day, we honor your service and acknowledge the profound impact you've had on our lives and our liberty.

To all our Veterans: Thank you. Your bravery does not go unnoticed, and your legacy of strength and sacrifice continues to inspire us all. We stand united in our appreciation and respect for all that you have done and continue to do for our country.

### *Veteran's Day Ceremony*

This year's dedication ceremony will be held

**November 11th at 12pm**

at Veteran's Park located at  
200 West Livingston Road

# Treasurer's Department

Your 2024 Winter property tax statements will be mailed December 1st, and they are due, without penalty, by February 14, 2025.

2025 Dog Licenses are available starting December 1, 2024. Please remember to bring proof of current rabies vaccination.

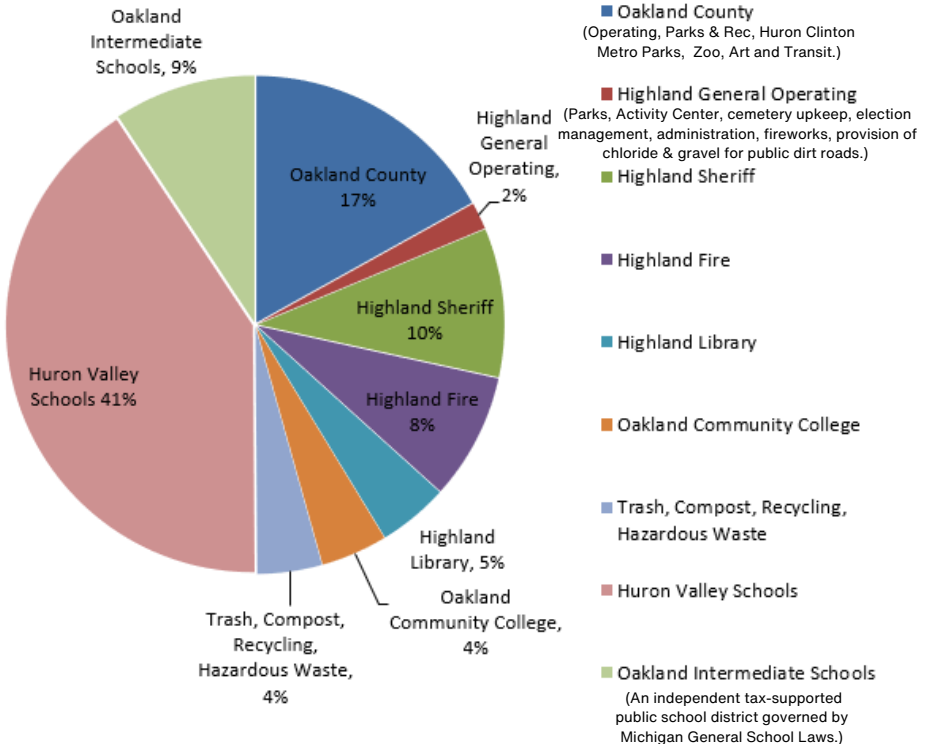
You can contact us at 248-887-3791 ext. 4 or email us at [treasurer@highlandtwp.org](mailto:treasurer@highlandtwp.org)



Treasurer Jennifer Frederick and her puppy Maggie

## Where do my tax dollars go?

In 2023, Highland residents paid an average of \$4,250 in property taxes. Those with homes valued above \$250,000 typically paid more, while those with lower valued homes paid less. Of the total amount paid, \$1,200 (28%) went directly to Highland covering Highland General Operating, Sheriff Services, Fire Services, Public Library and Trash Services.





# Clerk's Department

## *Ready to vote November 5th?*



*Election day is coming fast, so we want to provide you with some important information to ensure you can vote the best way that fits your needs.*

*Precincts will be open on November 5th from 7am until 8pm.*

*You can preview your ballot at [Mi.gov/Vote](https://mi.gov/vote).*

Absentee Voting is well underway. If you applied for a ballot, and haven't received it yet, contact our office as soon as possible. It is important in the last two weeks before the election, anyone who didn't receive or still needs to request an absentee ballot visit the Clerk's Office in person to avoid mailing delays. We encourage absentee voters to return their ballots as early as possible, but **NO LATER THAN 8pm on Election Day (November 5th)**. Ballot envelopes must be signed for the ballot to be counted.

**Remember we now have 24/7 drop boxes available for returning ballots:**

Township Office (front of building or inside front entrance): 205 N. John St  
Fire Station #2 (front of building): 2550 E. Wardlow Rd (drive up box)

During the last two weeks before the election, it's recommended to use the drop boxes instead of mailing due to the unpredictable delivery times.

**Absentee voters have a NEW option this year:** You can tabulate your own absentee ballot at either the early voting site or at your election day precinct.

**Early voting will be open for 9 straight days at the Township office:**

Saturday, October 26th – Sunday, November 3rd. The hours are 8:30am-4:30pm except on Thursday, October 31st when the hours are Noon – 8pm.

*Whether you vote early, vote absentee, or vote on election day, it's important to make your voting plan in advance!*

The Clerk's Office will be open for the full early voting schedule to assist voters with registration and absentee ballot needs. We are always happy to answer your voting questions:

Call 248-887-3791 x 5

Email: [Clerk@HighlandTwp.org](mailto:Clerk@HighlandTwp.org)

Visit: 205 N. John Street

Click: [HighlandTwp.net](https://HighlandTwp.net) and

navigate to the

"Voter Information" page





# Cemetery News



Highland Township is fortunate to have 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.



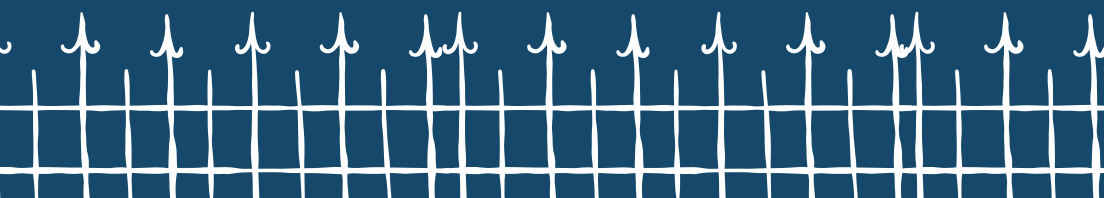
Highland residents are able to purchase grave sites in either cemetery for a reduced rate of \$500 per site. To purchase, contact our cemetery sexton, Mike Willenberg for assistance with making selections. Mike also takes care of burials, grave marker sales and installation, and maintenance of the grass. Mike can be reached by calling 248-887-6700.

The Township Clerk's Office maintains the records of the cemetery. Contact the Clerk's Department for assistance with transfers of grave ownership or assigning burial rights.

The Township Supervisor's Office plans and carries out improvements to the cemetery properties. Recent projects include new fencing along the southern side of Highland Cemetery and a large sign at West Highland Cemetery.

Our cemeteries are a part of our Township history, being the place of burial for many of the founders of our community. Visiting either cemetery – especially the first few rows of graves, you will see the names that are discussed in Highland Township Historical Society's publications. Visit [highlandtownshiphistoricalsociety.com](http://highlandtownshiphistoricalsociety.com) to learn more. Another good source for learning about the founding community members buried in our cemeteries is a website called [Find-a-grave.com](http://Find-a-grave.com).

Township Clerk, Tami Flowers will be planning some community events to clean and restore some of these historical grave markers in spring and fall of 2025. Watch for announcements in the coming issues to get involved.



# Oakland County Sheriff's Office Highland Township Substation

*"Dedicated to the safety and protection of our Community"*



## COUNTY OF OAKLAND OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



Dear Highland Township Residents,

On behalf of the Oakland County Sheriff Highland Substation Deputies and myself, I would like to say, "thank you" for your support with the recent renewal of the Police Services Millage. We have always felt support from the Highland Township community, and it is a honor and pleasure to serve you.

The Highland community has always shown support for their Deputies. We are your Deputies! We have been providing law enforcement services in Highland Township since the 1970's. Your everyday gestures, from a simple thank you, the generous food that is dropped off, families and their children stopping by to thank us, back windows rolling down at intersections to have children wave to us, and many more examples. We feel fortunate to work here and serve this community. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Matt Snyder  
Highland Station Commander  
165 N. John St.  
Highland, MI 48357  
(248) 887-6240



# Highland Fire Department

Township



## spotlight

**Tyler Martin**



We recently stopped by the Highland Fire Dept. to chat with paramedic scholarship winner 23 year old Tyler Martin about his journey to become a Highland Fire Fighter and Paramedic. Recently Tyler has also been added to the Oakland County Technical Rescue Team so in the near future his days off will be spent attending additional classes and trainings.

**Tell me about your journey to where you are today.**

I struggled with a career choice immediately out of high school. I knew I didn't want to go to college and was very interested in a trade. I settled on becoming an electrician until I applied at the fire department. I instantly fell in love with the job and knew I wasn't going to do anything else.

**Where are you from originally?**

I moved to Highland when I was 3 years old. I've lived here my whole life but just recently moved to Waterford.

**How long did it take to train for this position?**

I went to a full-time fire academy which was 11 weeks. EMT academy was approximately 5 months. And paramedic class which was 18 months. So all in total just over 2 years.

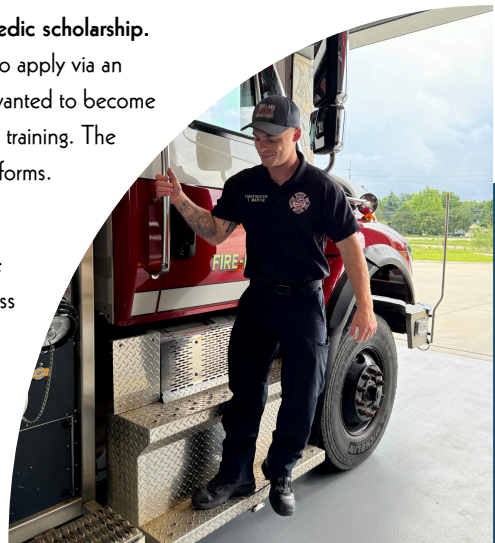
**Tell me about how you were awarded the paramedic scholarship.**

To get the scholarship for paramedic class we had to apply via an application along with an essay regarding why we wanted to become paramedics and what we were going to do with that training. The scholarship covers the cost of class, books, and uniforms.

**How do you handle the stress of this job?**

Communication is a huge part of this job. We have a few people who are professionally trained in stress management, but I have found the best way to deal with it is to talk to co-workers, close friends and family.

**We're so proud to have you and the rest of the crew as such an important part of this community. Thank you Tyler!**





The Activity Center offers a range of social, recreational, and educational activities, along with various services and resources.  
 Stop by Monday-Friday, 9 am to 3 pm.  
 209 N. John Street, Highland, MI  
 248-887-1707



# 2024 HEALTH FAIR

## Tuesday

### October 8th 2024



*Vendors include:*



## Upcoming Events

- 10/25 Halloween Party
- 10/30 Michigan Princess Cruise
- 11/7 Bronner's/Frankenmuth
- 11/15 Thanksgiving Party
- 11/18 Made in Michigan
- 12/2 & 12/3 Crafting with Greens
- 12/4 Broadview Farm
- 12/10 Meadowbrook
- 12/12 Cookie Swap
- 12/17 Ford Mansion
- 12/20 Christmas Party



*Come in or check out our newsletter for upcoming events, trips and activities.*

*Enjoy lunch Monday - Friday between 10am and 12pm for a small fee. Wifi is available!*

*We strive to provide engaging activities to a diverse group of individuals who visit the center.*

# Highland Township Library



The Highland Township Public Library is one of the most beautiful libraries around offering events throughout the year. Stop by and experience the StoryWalk, grab a book and snuggle into a chair by the fireplace or sign up for one of their many events that are offered year round.



LIBRARY

## New and Noteworthy

Don't know what you want to read? Take a look at what is new at the library. Whether you want books, movies, games or tech items you can see what has recently been purchased for you to take home.



## Brainfuse

Students, of all ages, can take a step towards better grades by using the Highland Library resource Brainfuse. Experienced tutors will help students learn at their own pace, any day, anywhere. Free access with a Highland Library card.

READ

## Parent/Son Book Club

Boys ages 8 - 12 years of age, solve a mystery, survive an adventure, and laugh yourself silly? Bring a parent or other adult guest. We will be reading mystery, fantasy, adventure, classics and humor.

Books will be available about a month before each meeting, pick up the book early and join us! Please email David at [dschwanger@highland.lib.mi.us](mailto:dschwanger@highland.lib.mi.us) or call us at 248-887-2218 x4 for dates and if you are interested in joining the club.





# From Frightful to Festive!

The Highland Downtown Development Authority (HDDA) is dedicated to fostering economic growth, preserving Downtown Highland's history, and enhancing the quality of life in the community. By supporting local businesses, organizing community events, and driving redevelopment projects, we strive to make Highland a vibrant and thriving place for everyone.

Over the past year, the Highland DDA has made significant strides in enhancing the downtown area. We have awarded three facade/sign grants to downtown businesses, helping to improve their curb appeal and attract more visitors. Additionally, we've unveiled a beautiful new mural at Veterans Park, adding a splash of color and a touch of history to the community space. This year also marked our first time organizing Highland's Annual Founders Day Parade & Festival, and the Red, White & Blues Festival & Fireworks; both of which were a resounding success and brought the community together in celebration.

As the community transitions from the warmer days of fall to the festive winter season, a lineup of exciting events awaits. Throughout October, residents and visitors can enjoy the spooky sights of the Haunted Highland skeleton display. November brings Ladies Night Out on the 12th, a perfect opportunity for shopping and socializing, followed by Small Business Saturday on the 30th, encouraging everyone to support local merchants. December is filled with holiday cheer, starting with the Festival of Trees and Holiday Photo Spots display. The festive season culminates on December 2nd with the Tree Lighting Ceremony & Kris Kringle, a magical evening to kick off the holiday celebrations.

The Highland DDA invites everyone to join in celebrating the heart and spirit of Highland this fall and winter!



# What's Happening around town?



DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND'S  
**HAUNTED HIGHLAND**

Join us as we transform Downtown Highland into a spooky spectacle, with captivating skeleton selfie displays set to adorn the town.  
On display throughout October.

DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND

*Ladies'*  
**NIGHT OUT**

November 12th, Tuesday, 4-8pm

DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND



**HOLIDAY PHOTO SPOT**

Local businesses and organizations have created fun holiday photo spots for the community to enjoy.  
On display throughout December.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY® IS ON NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup>**



SHOP SMALL WITH AMEX



The 2024

**TREE LIGHTING**

DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND

Monday  
**DECEMBER 2ND**  
**KRIS KRINGLE MARKET 5-9 PM**  
**TREE LIGHTING 7 PM**

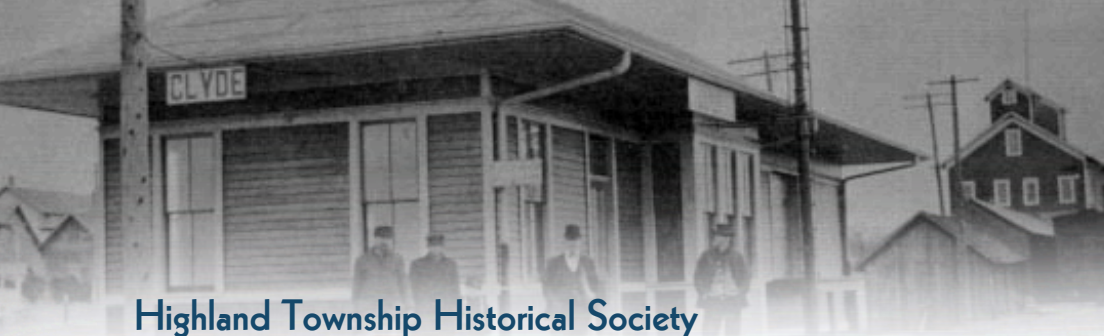
DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND

**FESTIVAL of TREES**

Stroll along our city streets and enjoy festive trees decorated by local businesses, organizations and families.  
On display throughout December.



Visit us online at [www.highlandDDA.com](http://www.highlandDDA.com)



## Highland Township Historical Society *Highlighting the "Village of Clyde"*

Little remains of the Village of Clyde, located in the northeast part of Highland Township, yet this quiet community once seemed poised to rival Highland Station in importance. Once a depot was built in 1871, Clyde became the shipping point for grain grown in northern Highland, western White Lake and southern Rose township. It also did a considerable business in flour milled at Parshallville.

The community was initially called "Wheeler" after a prominent local family, but when the post office was established in May of 1872 the name was changed to "Clyde" since there was already a "Wheeler" in Gratiot County. That same year Lyman Johnson purchased thirteen acres west of the railroad tracks which he surveyed into lots served by five new streets (Railroad, Johnson, Bishop, Meribah and Sherman.)

By 1875 Clyde had numerous homes, a Methodist church, butcher shop, shoemaker, harness maker, blacksmith, hotel, and dealers in implements; produce, grain and lumber. Over the years still more businesses and industries sprang up, including two large general stores, a grain elevator, cider mill, creamery and stockyard. One promising business was the "Clyde Novelty Works" which manufactured various wooden products. In 1891 it reportedly made and sold 25,000 screen doors and 5,000 step ladders.



1920's



Present Day



Such success was short-lived, however, since the factory burned in May, 1892, and was never rebuilt.

Clyde's growing prosperity was accompanied by a growth in civic pride. By 1890 it had its own "correspondent" to the Milford Times who regularly reported the local news. In addition to births, marriages and deaths, frequent mention was made of the "Clyde Coronet Band," composed of local men who performed at various functions in their ornate custom-made uniforms. Another source of pride was "Johnson's Opera House;" a large auditorium on the second floor of Lincoln Johnson's store. (Note: "Opera House" was a euphemism for the less reputable term "theater.") The venue hosted plays presented by Highland's various "dramatic clubs," along with concerts, lectures, dances, ice cream socials and lodge meetings. Its importance to Clyde's sense of identity is illustrated by an item in the Milford Times from October, 1897, boasting that "The show at Johnson's Opera House Monday evening was well attended and deservedly so, as the entertainment would have done credit to a much larger town."

The advent of the automobile, however, signaled the start of Clyde's slow decline since locals could travel by car to shop at Highland Station or Holly, while trucks began carrying goods formerly shipped by rail. Fire claimed the grain elevator and the village's two major stores both closed. One business that did survive for a time was a small grocery and "lunch room" run by Wilson and Edith Baker on the north side of Milford Road just west of the tracks. It attracted customers from miles around for its hamburgers and ginger ale floats. After Baker's death in 1928 his widow continued to run the business until her remarriage to Charles Hubbell in 1931.

By the late 1960s, however, Clyde had lost the last remnants of its identity. After eight decades the Methodist Church closed and its congregation merged with that at Highland Station in November, 1967. Finally, on February 23, 1968, the Clyde Post Office was discontinued, leaving only the quiet streets to mark the site of this once-thriving village.





Are you one of “those people” who love nothing better than the smell of dirt in the Spring? Are you looking for some like-minded folks who speak plants, good books, recipes, gardening tips and tricks, and have occasional craft afternoons or day trips?

Would you like to be a part of making your community all it can be and a little bit more beautiful ??? – Join us! We absolutely dig Highland! Send us your email and we’ll put you on our email list. [judy.cooper@highlandtwp.org](mailto:judy.cooper@highlandtwp.org)

Save  
T.W.E  
DATE

## Arborist Julie Stachecki

**TREES: HEALTH, STRUCTURE & PEST ISSUES, AND HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Learn about the most common issues facing Michigan trees, some of which are the most overlooked, most consequential and often preventable.

Learn about the impact of insects, diseases and structural issues in your landscape and what you can do about them.

**Monday, October 14**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**@ Highland Library**

# Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels helps homebound seniors who are unable to prepare their own meals. It can be an absolutely essential service for many older adults, providing a hot meal, a friendly visitor and someone to check in on them every weekday.

We recently stopped by the *Highland Activity Center* to meet the wonderful crew that make *Meals on Wheels* run so smoothly. Anne Seebaldt, the Meals on Wheels coordinator here in Highland, was kind enough to show us around and answer a few of our questions.

## **Who makes all the food for Meals On Wheels?**

“The food is made at our Brighton-based main office. Our kitchen staff, including Chef Ed, make the meals, which are sealed and brought to us hot (or cold, depending on the dish) as well as daily hot soup and prepared salad toppings. Onsite, or ‘congregate’ meals are also served daily. Some items, such as hot meals and sack lunches, which also can be bought onsite, need to be ordered by noon the preceding business day, either in person or by calling 248-887-1707.”

## **How many volunteers do you have?**

“We have 25 active volunteer drivers for the Highland site; some do a regular route and others substitute; at times with short notice. We appreciate all of our drivers.”

## **How does someone take advantage of your program? How does someone qualify?**

Call Meals on Wheels at 810-632-2155 and they’ll walk you through the process; generally speaking, it’s for homebound seniors over the age of 60 in our service area.”

## **What is the best part about working for the program?**

“Meals on Wheels America and our local program are America at its best. Dedicated volunteers pack meals to go to our sites, take calls and conduct many necessary activities in order to ensure that both our home delivered meals and our on-site congregate meals get where they need to be.”



Anne Seebaldt  
and volunteer Earl Smith



# HURON VALLEY COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS 2024

October 4-Nov 2- GALLERY-Handmade Artist Books

Oct 26- Tales of Suspense & Mayhem  
A book event w/ Michele Roger and others

November 8-23 Highland Kindness Exhibit  
featuring Huron Valley Elementary Students

Nov 23-24 Arts & Greens Holiday Art Market  
in Bogie Lake Greenhouse

Nov 30-Dec 20 Handmade for the Holidays

December 5- VanGo- Home for the Holidays Tour  
Edsel Ford Christmas Home Tour

## 2025

Jan 18-The 4+ Jazz Quintet  
Paul Price

March 15- Movies Melodies  
Kelly & Darryl Roenicke

March 1 - Gala of the Arts  
Fundraiser for HVCA

March 7-April 9-GALLERY- Milford High School Art Exhibit

March 27-VanGo- EPIPHANY GLASS STUDIOS



[www.huronvalleyarts.org](http://www.huronvalleyarts.org)



Fred A. and Barbara M.  
Erb Family Foundation





***Join Today!***  
Email Ann at  
[info@hwlba.com](mailto:info@hwlba.com)

## **GET CONNECTED TO HIGHLAND AND JOIN THE HIGHLAND WHITE LAKE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION!**

### ***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 to help businesses***
- Many sponsorship opportunities to help promote your business***

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH - SECOND ANNUAL HARVEST DANCE**  
**VISIT [WWW.HWLBA.COM](http://WWW.HWLBA.COM) FOR UPCOMING SOCIAL AND NETWORKING EVENTS!**



*"Being a member and winning the HWLBA Business of The Year Award has provided The Red Poppy with increased visibility and invaluable networking opportunities. We are deeply grateful for this honor and look forward to leveraging these benefits to achieve even greater success in the future."*  
**- Lynne Johnson- Benaglio, Owner The Red Poppy**



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. Today, we have expanded our services to include anyone 18 years and older.

If you require help with transportation, WOTA can assist. Not only do you have access to our service area but we can get you to the SMART fixed routes or connect with other local providers so you can explore the entire county. WOTA is thrilled to expand services in Highland and look forward to assisting you on your journey towards continued independence!

**Register today and let your journey begin!**  
**(248) 887-4979**  
**RideWOTA.org**



# Ride WOTA



Driving Hours:

Monday-Friday: 6am-9pm

Saturdays: 8am-4pm

Scheduling Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4pm



WOTA's service area covers over 500 square miles so you can schedule essential and recreational trips!



Cost per stop:

\$2 for seniors, adults with disabilities, and low income individuals.

\$4 for general public (18+)



Register today online or by mail.

To schedule your ride head to

**rideWOTA.org** for more information.



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

# NATURALLY CONNECTED

FALL/WINTER  
2024  
ISSUE 2

*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.*



Photographer: Tina Lloyd