

The Highwood Highlights

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

As summer comes to a close, I would like to express my and City Council's gratitude to several folks for all their hard work to make Highwood an exciting place to be. First to Eric Falberg and Donna Walker from [Celebrate Highwood](#) for their tireless efforts to manage our festival season including the Evening Market, Taco Fest, Blood Mary Fest and Garlic Fest. Second, kudos to our City staff and partners for their work in handling the deluge of rain, more than seven inches that pounded Lake County on July 12. Finally, a hardy thank you to **Adrian Marquez** who left Highwood after seven years of excellent service to our community to continue his career in public service for the [City of West Chicago](#). Our loss, but their gain, good luck Adrian.

Hot Topics

As an organization we strive to keep our residents informed via our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), public meetings broadcast on [Youtube](#), and this newsletter. Listed below are some of the hot topics from the previous months and several up-coming items:

Fire House Redevelopment: the transfer of the City's fire services to Highland Park last summer made the fire house at 428 Green Bay Road available for sale and redevelopment. This is an exceptional opportunity for Highwood and to that end, the City Council solicited requests for proposals from parties interested in purchasing the station. The Council reviewed two very desirable proposals and requested input from its residents on these two uses. The overwhelming desire was for a coffee shop/office space use. Acting on this desire, the Council voted to enter into an agreement for the sale of building for \$300,000. As of this writing the developer is finalizing building plans and will soon close on the property.

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Transportation Oriented Development (TOD) Plan: A TOD is name given to development that takes place arounds train stations typically in downtowns. Highwood received free planning services (valued at more than \$40,000) from the RTA via Teska and Associates and the [Plan](#) was adopted in 2014. The Council and Plan Commission have recently begun to look at amendments to the zoning code to implement the direction described in the plan.

Hot Properties: within the downtown there are several properties that are ripe for redevelopment and that have been discussed by the Board on several occasions. These include the Bertucci building which is being considered for development as a theatre and restaurant. The Yiannis Opa property, near the recreation center, has an approved plan waiting for development for a five story condominium project. Finally, the former Swedish church is slated for renovation and use by the Church of the Redeemer. Due to the severally limited parking on that property, the Church will enter into an agreement with the City to resurface the library lot and use those under various conditions.

Street Improvements: thank you to Public Works. the City completed several projects this spring and summer as it continues to work on its capital improvement plan to enhance our neighborhoods. Paving and curb replacement was completed on Exmoor Court, Michigan (from Elm to Pleasant), and North Central.

As you know we are committed to moving Highwood forward and improving the quality of life in our community. We greatly enjoy engaging the community and always appreciate input. Pease feel free to send in your [thoughts](#) or attend a City Council meeting. I hope to see you all at the Pumpkin Fest on October 6-8.

Thank you, have a great Fall.

Charlie Pecaro

Mayor

PUMPKIN FEST

Save the Date for the Annual Pumpkin Fest

Hosted by

MAKE-A-WISH.

And the City of Highwood

October 6, 7, 8, 2017

For schedules & details go to

www.highwoodpumpkinfest.com



WATER DEPARTMENT

Water Rate Increase

For many years, the City of Highwood did not increase water rates. While we all want to keep rates as low as possible, infrastructure projects are always needed in a community as old as Highwood. When critical infrastructure projects were completed on Highwood Avenue, North Avenue and Pleasant Avenue in 2015, rates went up substantially to pay for the loans needed to complete those projects.

After hearing the negative feedback that such large increases are difficult on families the City decided to implement much smaller rate increases on a more regular basis to reduce the impact of larger, more infrequent increases. To this end, starting with consumption in October (with the bill issued in December), the water bills will be increased by 2%. This 8 cents per unit increase will equate to \$0.80 on a minimum bill every two months, or \$4.80 per year.



Online Payments

You can conveniently pay your utility bills, parking tickets and code violations. Visit our website at www.cityofhighwood.org and select "[online payments](#)"

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Smoke Detectors Available



The [Highland Park Fire Department](#), who provides service to Highwood as part of a cooperative agreement, though Moraine Township, provides **smoke detectors and batteries for low-income seniors or handicapped individuals in single family, non-rental homes.**

If you qualify, call [Moraine Township](#) at **847-432-3240**, and they will notify the Highland Park Fire Department who will schedule the smoke detector installation or battery change, free of charge.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Fall Safety Tips

The Dangers of Leaves on the Roads

- ◆ Slow down if you are driving on a road covered with leaves, especially around turns.
- ◆ Allow yourself plenty of room to stop in an emergency. Keep a greater distance between you and the car in front of you.
- ◆ A pile of leaves raked to the side of the road is an inviting place to a child. **NEVER drive through a leaf pile.**
- ◆ Keep your windshield leaf-free to avoid wet leaves getting stuck under the windshield wiper blades.
- ◆ To avoid the possibility of a fire hazard from the exhaust system or catalytic converter, never park your vehicle over a pile of leaves.

Changing Weather Conditions

- ◆ When driving in fog, set your headlight to low beam. This setting aims the beam of light down toward the roadway.
- ◆ As temperatures drop in the fall, frost often forms on the roadway, causing hazardous driving conditions. Drive slowly and break gently at overpasses and bridges as these areas frost over more quickly than other roadway surfaces.
- ◆ Be aware of areas where black ice forms on the roadway.

Fewer Hours of Daylight

- ◆ In the fading light of dusk, it is more difficult to see the children and pedestrians.
- ◆ Watch for children at bus stops in the morning and as they return home in the afternoon.
- ◆ Halloween is a fun fall holiday. Take special care where children are out trick-or-treating. They may be wearing masks or costumes that limit their visibility.



New Police AWD Utility Vehicles Replace Patrol Cars

The [Highwood Police Department](#) fleet is being converted to all wheel drive (AWD) “sports” utility vehicles. These patrol vehicles are more capable, efficient and have additional room for equipment.



RECREATION CENTER

Fall Programs Beginning at the Rec Center

Fall is almost here! We wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the wonderful programs we have available at the [Highwood Rec Center](#). From basketball to theater, there is something for everyone!

In addition, we are a wonderful venue for birthday parties, baby showers, and most gatherings. Feel free to contact us with any questions about program dates, times, or rental rates, call: **847-432-6633**.

IMPORTANT DATES

Golf Professional's Year End Sale

November 24th - 26th

Winter Break Open Gym

12:00 - 3:00pm

December 26-29 and January 2-5



**Book Your
Children's Birthday
Parties at the Highwood
Rec Center!**



GROUP FITNESS

Zumba with Humberto

Zumba with Mercedes

Bollywood for Children



Please contact the Rec Center for Information

YOUTH SPORTS



Basketball

Finish Strong Athletic-www.finishstrongathletics.com

Highwood Small Fry www.highwoodsmallfry.org



Soccer

Little Legends www.llsoccer.com

Martial Arts

Chu's Dragon Academy Taekwondo,
Contact Master Chu at 312-415-6387

Goju Ryu Karate,
Contact Joe at 847-710-5570



Theater, Drama, and Dance

The Performer's School
www.theperformersschool.com

Office Hours

Monday – Friday

11:30AM - 4:00 PM

847-432-6633

HIGHWOOD LIBRARY

The Highwood Library strives to offer quality services and materials to the community and to be a gathering place for those interested in bonding along common interests. Stop by the library or visit our website for more information and feel free to contact the Director, John Mitchell (director@highwoodlibrary.org), or the President of the Library Board of Trustees, Lucy Hospodarsky (president@highwoodlibrary.org), with any questions, concerns or suggestions. The Board of Trustees meets on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and public comments are taken at the beginning of the meeting.

Book Clubs and Events

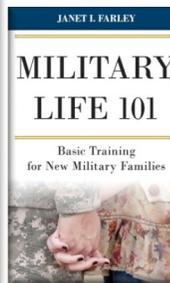
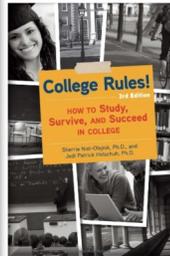
Come **join us** for the following programs and events:

- ◆ **Caring Through Crafts Club** - a bimonthly program every first and fourth Saturday of the month at 2:15 p.m. Attendees will learn to crochet using their own materials and will be able to work on their own projects with the assistance of the other group members.
- ◆ **Teen Craft Night** - the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. The program is open to teens age 11 to 17. No sign-up is required and all materials are provided by the library.
- ◆ **Story time for children ages 3 and up** - Every Monday and Thursday nights and every other Saturday at 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Craft Saturday** – At 1:30 p.m. on alternating Saturdays when there is no story time
- ◆ **Emerging Readers** - K-9 Reading Buddies, an animal-assisted children's literacy program for children grades 1 through 5. Sign up is required by calling or visiting the library.
- ◆ **Monthly children's movie nights** – Check the [website](#) or postings in the library for dates.
- ◆ **The Chamber of Commerce - Wine and Beer Walk** – Saturday, September 16th. The library will be one of the stops on the walk, offering beverages and snacks.

- ◆ **Kids' Halloween Fest** - Saturday, October 21. Children ages 3 to 10 can get dressed up and come to the library to see a performer, participate in a variety of games, win prizes, and enjoy pizza.
- ◆ December - the **Sherlock Holmes Discussion Group** is planning on offering a program entitled "Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes and Race". Information for these programs will be posted to the library's website as the plans become finalized.

New Offerings

In addition to our usual excellent collection of up-to-date fiction books and DVDs, we added materials that focus on **special patron groups**, like:



- ◆ **High school and college bound patrons** - study guides and college prep.
- ◆ **Military patrons** - books that deal with issues unique to military patrons such as raising families while serving or adjusting to life after service.
- ◆ **Business focused patrons** - instructional DVDs that deal with topics related to business and investing. These DVDs are published by the Great Courses and consist of lectures on the featured subject, a great way to increase one's knowledge and skills without a huge tuition bill.
- ◆ **English language learners** - Great Courses offerings like English grammar and vocabulary and the **Ingle Sin Barreras** kits which contain a series of complete English lessons.

HIGHWOOD LIBRARY – CONTINUED

Building Renovations

The East Building renovation project is in the final stages. All that remains is the installation of the fixtures in the new ADA compliant bathrooms and breakroom and the carpeting of the ramp in the Young Adult Room and a few other finishing touches. We hope that it will be done in the next few months. Once finished, our patrons will have access to a public meeting room and new bathrooms. We are planning a grand opening party to “show off” and introduce our newly renovated space.

HIGHLIGHTS SPOTLIGHT – PATRICK FLAVIN

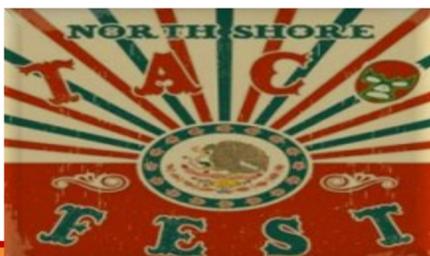
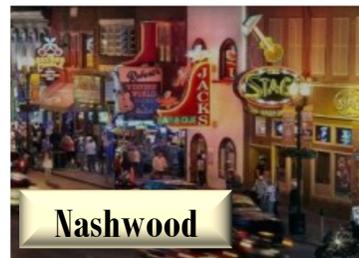


Congratulations to Highwood’s own Patrick Flavin. He added the **Illinois Open** title to last month’s Illinois Amateur triumph at Calumet Country Club, becoming the second player ever to win both championships in a calendar year.



CELEBRATE HIGHWOOD

Celebrate Highwood produces festivals and events to bring people together and build community to establish Highwood as a prime destination for entertainment. All while raising funds for worthy non-profit organizations.



NEW DIGITAL PARKING METERS

The time has come for the City to let go of the metal boxes used to collect parking fees at its train stations. Replacing them will be [multi-space digital meters](#). These meters allow for credit/debit card use, as well as cash, and allow for off-site payment of parking fees through smart phone apps.

The **downtown meter** will be placed on the platform to provide users with a more comfortable location to pay the fee. The **Fort Sheridan station meter** will be inside the station itself. This protects the meter and customers from the weather. Signs will be installed directing customers to the payment locations.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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visit us

www.cityofhighwood.org

[Facebook.com/cityofhighwood](https://www.facebook.com/cityofhighwood)

City Hall
 Hours of Operation
 Monday - Friday
 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

City Offices will be closed Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day and Thursday, November 23, Thanksgiving and Friday, November 24, Turkey Sandwich Day. We wish you safe and happy holidays.