

# The Highwood Highlights

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### Happy Holidays,

Happy Holidays!

Moving into another winter and heading towards 2018, I am struck by, and proud of, the diversity and community spirit of Highwood. Seems in processing the news of the day it's been a bit of an exhausting year, but things look bright for our little gem on the Lake and I am excited about what is to come in 2018. To keep you updated on what's happening since the last newsletter, listed below are a few hot topics:

- ◆ **Pumpkin Fest 2017:** Kudos! to [Celebrate Highwood](#) for another successful pumpkin fest. While the weather was challenging the first few days, Mother Nature cooperated on Sunday ensuring a wildly successful fest. Thank You to all of the volunteers that continue to give their time and energy to this truly unique festival. See you next year, our 9<sup>th</sup> year, where does the time go!
- ◆ **Audit Complete:** the City is audited annual by an outside accounting firm, [BKD Ltd.](#) The annual audit is a third party examination of the prior fiscal year for any anomalies or irregularities. The Audit also provides the City Council and staff with valuable direction to improve internal controls and to comply with numerous state and federal regulations relative to municipal finance. A few highlights:
  - ⇒ The City's Auditor reported a "clean" audit, meaning the financial statements were "fairly presented the respective financial position of governmental activities". In other words, the financials were accurate and correct.
  - ⇒ Expenses were \$548,016 less than revenues. This indicates a focus on monitoring costs while maintaining an appropriate revenue stream to provide city services.
  - ⇒ The General Fund reported a surplus this year of \$421,723. The Council is committed to ensuring that any surplus funds a returned to the community in the form of capital projects and other long term investments.
- ◆ **Bring on the Snow:** the City is prepared for snow and ice removal. For the last few years the City uses an on-call vendor to clear streets of snow and to provide salting services. This saves the City money in personnel and equipment costs, if you have any issues please contact City Hall immediately!



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- ◆ **Strategic Planning:** the City Council engaged in a three hour strategic planning discussion on November 14. The Council uses these sessions to contemplate the past, present, and future of Highwood and to discuss a road map for achieving community goals.
- ◆ **Highwood Library Parking Lot Paved:** the City Council partnered with the new owner of the church at 107 Highwood, the Church of Redeemer. The Church required parking for its Sunday services, and via a partnership with the City, the Church has fully funded the resurfacing of the Highwood Library Parking lot. A much need improvement that will benefit both the Church and the Community.
- ◆ **New City Engineer:** following a vigorous vetting process, the City has engaged [Christopher B. Burke Engineers](#) Ltd (“CBBEL”) as the new “City” engineer. CBBEL is highly respected municipal engineering firm with a broad range of experience across numerous disciplines. They are already working for the City completing a grant application, assisting with the library lot paving, and starting a community wide pavement condition survey.



Check out our [website](#), [Facebook](#), public meetings broadcast on [YouTube](#), and this newsletter to find out more about new restaurants ([Slyce](#) and GreenWood) and developments (440 Greenbay and Hotel Morraine.) Please feel free to send in your thoughts or attend a City Council meeting. Also, please sign up for notifications on the City’s website!

Have a wonderful holiday season. Live, love, laugh and help others when you can. (Especially shoveling SNOW!) Thanks again, have a great Winter.

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*Charlie Pecaro*

Charlie Pecaro  
Mayor

## STATION UPGRADE - DIGITAL PARKING

The metal cash and coin boxes used to collect parking fees at the Metra train stations have been replaced with [multi-space digital meters](#). These meters allow for credit/debit card use, as well as cash.

The **downtown meter** is on the platform and the **Fort Sheridan station meter** is inside the station to provide users with a more comfortable location to pay the fee. The meters use your license plate number rather than the space number. This will save on the long term costs for signage and stenciling the lots.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Winter Safety Tips

The Highwood Police Department reminds motorists of several basic strategies to stay safe in snowy weather:

- ◆ **Stay Informed:** anytime there is a possibility of power outages, make sure your devices are fully charged.
- ◆ **Take Note of the Local Forecast:** take note of local forecasts and plan accordingly for adverse weather conditions.



- ◆ **Vehicle Preparation:** motorists should ensure that their vehicles are well maintained and properly equipped for winter driving: 1) check the fluid levels, particularly washer fluid

and anti-freeze, 2) tires should be properly inflated and have sufficient tread depth, 3) equip your vehicle with a snow shovel, ice scraper, jumper cables, flares, a flashlight and some warm clothing and blankets, and 4) clear your vehicles of snow and ice prior to driving, including all lights.

- ◆ **Reduce Speed:** snow and ice related crashes are caused by spin-outs and vehicles sliding off the road because they are traveling at speeds too great for the road and weather conditions. Posted speed limits are set for driving under optimal, dry conditions, motorists should operate at a speed well below the posted limit.
- ◆ **Leave Extra Space Between Vehicles:** under optimal driving conditions, motorists should leave at least one car length for every ten miles per hour between them and the vehicle in front of them, increase this distance significantly when driving in bad weather.
- ◆ **Black Ice:** transparent ice may form on the roadway. If you notice ice forming on any objects, assume that it is forming on the road surface as well. Bridges are usually the first surfaces to freeze.
- ◆ **Buckle Up:** ensuring everyone in your vehicle is properly restrained is the single most effective thing that motorists can do to keep themselves and their loved ones safe on the roads.



## Highwood Donates Bikes

The Highwood Police Department released more than 50 bikes to a non-profit organization [Working Bikes](#). These bikes are held by the Police Department for a minimum of one year, and some much much longer. Every effort is made to find the owners, but the bikes are generally found abandoned and disrepair.

[Working Bikes](#) donates to individuals and partner organizations in Chicago, providing transportation to people in transition and youth empowerment programs in our own community.

[Working Bikes](#) also ships thousands of bikes each year to partners in countries throughout Latin America and Africa, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Ghana.



# WATER DEPARTMENT

## Water Billing Delayed and Pending Increase

Water Bills will be slightly delayed, adding an additional week those to bills with a due date of December 28.

Also as noted in the last newsletter, 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.

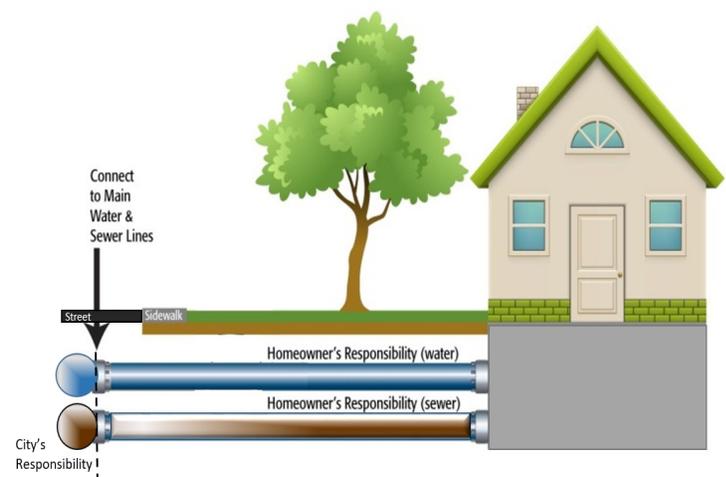
Visit our website at [www.cityofhighwood.org](http://www.cityofhighwood.org) and select

**"online payments"**

## Responsibility for Water and Sewer Lines

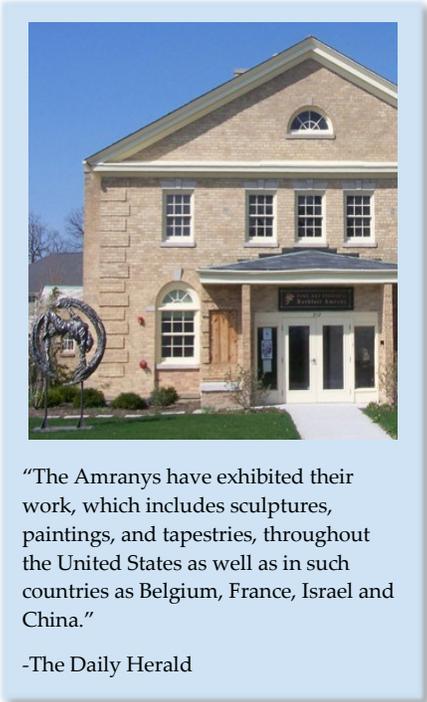
There is often some confusion regarding the responsibility for the water and sewer lines (laterals) that serve your property. In Highwood this is relatively simple:

- ◆ The property owner is responsible for the sanitary sewer lateral (line) from your home/structure to, and including, the connection to the City sanitary sewer main. The City is responsible for the sewer main.
- ◆ Identically, the property owner is responsible for the water service lateral (line) from inside your home to, and including, the connection to the main. The City is responsible for the water main.
- ◆ If there is a leak in the water lateral or if your sewer lateral fails, you are responsible for the repairs and should contact a licensed plumber. You are also responsible for restoration of any infrastructure damage such as; sidewalks, curbs/gutters, landscaping, and the street asphalt. A permit from the City is required for replacement or repair of the water and sewer laterals.



- ◆ The property owner is also responsible for all interior plumbing connections into and out of the structure. The City owns the water meter, the connection to and from it are the homeowner's responsibility except only when the City is replacing the meters.

# HIGHLIGHTS SPOTLIGHT: ROTBLATT - AMRANY FINE ART STUDIO



## FINE ART STUDIO OF ROTBLATT-AMRANY

In 1992 Omri and Julie opened the [Fine Art Studio of Rotblatt-Amrany, \(912 Lyster Road Highwood, IL. 60040\)](#) an educational center and workplace intended to duplicate the ateliers they had encountered in Europe. In its first two decades of operation, the facility has completed over 200 art commissions, hosted a half dozen exhibitions, and trained and supported over 300 artists, some of whom went on to national recognition.

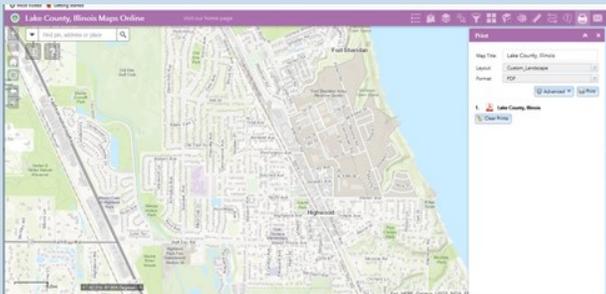


In cooperation with the City of Highwood Julie Rotblatt-Amrany created a bronze and stainless steel piece entitled "Solace", depicting a fireman taking a moment to acknowledge those who perished on 9/11. Located at Highwood City Hall, "Solace" was unveiled on September 11,

In 1994 the Rotblatt-Amranys were commissioned by the Chicago Bulls to create a statue in honor of basketball legend Michael Jordan. The 16-foot sculpture, permanently installed outside the United Center in Chicago, sparked major media interest and drew acclaim for the way a ton of bronze could appear to fly. The sculpture is one of Chicago's most-visited tourist sites. In 2008 Amrany co-founded The Julia Foundation, a not-for-profit organization with the mission of establishing a sculpture garden in historic [Fort Sheridan, property](#). (sources: Wikipedia, homepage)

## LAKE COUNTY MAPPING

Check out the free [mapping services provided by Lake County](#). This is an extremely robust platform that shows property tax information, flood events, trails, historic photos, parcel data, and much much more. You can enter your address in the search bar.



## HIGHWOOD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Consider joining the [Highwood Chamber of Commerce](#). Annual Membership Dues are just \$200.



### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Chamber referrals and networking.
- Marketing/Advertising
- Access to membership mailing list for labels
- Host networking mixers and events at your business.
- Celebrate business anniversaries and ribbon cuttings. Be included in social media and press coverage.
- Have your business included on our website and highlighted in the 2017 Community Guide.



# RECREATION CENTER

## Winter at the Rec Center

Winter is 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!

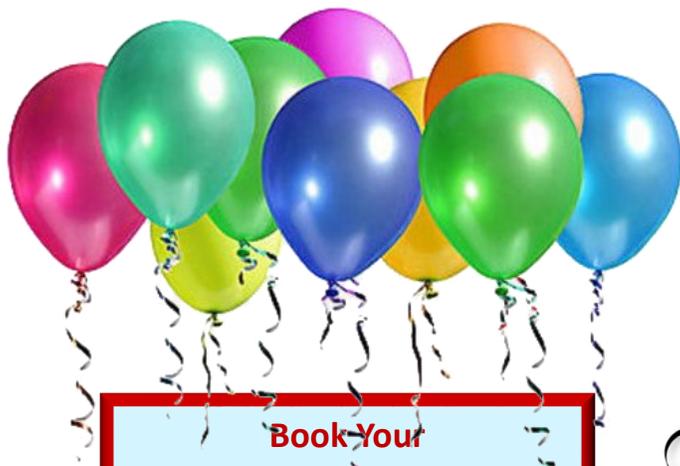
In addition, we are a wonderful venue for birthday parties, baby showers, and most gatherings. Feel free to contact us with any questions about program dates, times, or rental rates, call: **847-432-6633**.

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### 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

#### Group Fitness

**Zumba with Humberto** – Tuesdays,  
Contact Rec Center for Information

**Zumba with Mercedes**- Sundays and Wednesdays,  
Contact Rec Center for Information

**Bollywood for children**- Please contact Rec Center



### PROGRAMS

#### Basketball

Finish Strong Athletic-[www.finishstrongathletics.com](http://www.finishstrongathletics.com)  
Highwood Small Fry [www.highwoodsmallfry.org](http://www.highwoodsmallfry.org)



#### Soccer

**Elite Soccer Futsal:** program contact, dochpe-  
lite@gmail.com

**Little Legends**-[www.llsoccer.com](http://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](http://www.theperformersschool.com)

**Theater camps available!**



#### Office Hours

Monday – Friday

11:30AM - 4:00 PM

# HIGHWOOD LIBRARY

## East Building Update

The East Building renovation project has been completed and the library hosted its Grand Opening Celebration on November 5, 2017. Attendees to the celebration were treated to music by students from the Midwest Young Artists Conservatory and children were entertained by the K9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore. Food and beverages were provided by local businesses including: Longitud315; Marco's Northside Grill; Bent Fork Bakery; La Casa de Isaac; Dunkin Donuts; Heinans, Jewel; Costco; and Target. Decorations were provided by Artquest of Highwood.

In addition to the new, more spacious ADA bathrooms, the project also included the construction of a meeting room which can seat up to 142 people and includes features such as: a projector and screen; a loudspeaker system; and wireless access. Non-profit groups can reserve the room by filling out a Meeting Room Application. To get a copy of the application, meeting Room Policy and list of meeting room features, interested patrons can stop by the library's circulation desk or can go to the library's [website](#). For questions, contact the Director at 847-432-5404 or [director@highwoodlibrary.org](mailto:director@highwoodlibrary.org).



Mayor Pecaro, Nora Loreda (Library Board Treasurer), Lucy Hospodarsky (Library Board President), John Mitchell (Library Director), Patricia Lenzini (Library Board Trustee), Laurie Lenzini (Library Board Vice President), and Catherine Regalado (Library Board Secretary) in the background.



## Watch for Survey!



A short Patron Survey was mailed to all Highwood residents to gather information about how patrons feel about the library and the services it has been offering; time to complete is about 5 minutes. Our preference is for patrons to complete the survey on line via the library's [website](#), or in person at the dedicated survey computer located at the circulation desk. Paper surveys can be turned in to the library at the outside book drop or in the survey box at the circulation desk. The survey is open until December 31. We will use feedback to determine what changes can be made to better serve the Highwood community.

# HIGHWOOD LIBRARY — CONT.

## Santa Claus is Coming To the Highwood Library

Join us for a special story time with Santa Claus on Thursday, December 7th at 5:30 P.M.. Santa will read a special Christmas Story and parents are invited to bring their cameras to take pictures of their child with Santa Claus following story time. Kids of all ages are welcome!



## Children's Department

The Children's Department will be hosting a number of programs during the coming months. In addition to the K9 Reading Buddies, storytimes, and the return of the Movie Nights, the department will offer Teen Craft Nights, a Santa visit, a Mad Hatters visit, and an Easter Egg Decorating event. Visit the website for dates and times.



## Tech Updates

Exciting Technology News to enhance patron services! We have implemented a new circulation system that offers many new features, not just for the library staff but for library patrons as well. Patrons now have better access to

their library account including more control over how they wish to be contacted by the library. Patrons can choose to receive email notifications for such things as overdue notices, notices of items coming due, and reserves. The library is also planning on including text notices as well. To set up these options, select [My Account](#) from the catalog or home page, log in and make the appropriate selections. The catalog also boasts of new features including customized lists of new items and access to electronic items to download to your device from the search result lists. To check out some of these new features visit our [website](#) and click on any of the catalog links. And while you're there, be sure to log in to your account and review your options.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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visit us

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

[Facebook.com/cityofhighwood](https://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.