

# The Highwood Highlights

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

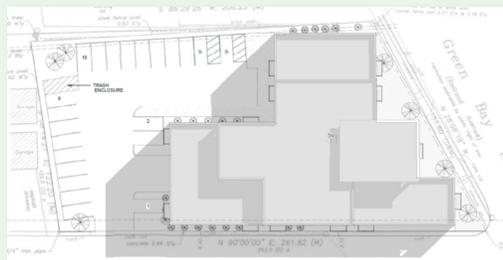
### Happy Holidays,

As an early Christmas present, for the fourth consecutive year, the City of Highwood has frozen the City and library tax levies while appropriately funding the City's pension obligations. When this is combined with our strong property value growth, many Highwood property owners will pay less property taxes to the City than in 2015! Moreover, since 2015, the City increased investment in infrastructure, beautification projects, and enforcement of property maintenance codes to improve the appearance of our community.



Our financial health is due in large part to welcoming wonderful new businesses to Highwood including [Greenwood Restaurant](#), [Tala Coffee Roasters](#), [Slyce](#), [Chicago Mike's Ice Cream](#), [Beermiscuous](#) and soon [28 Mile Distillery](#). These new businesses have increased our sales tax receipts, property tax base, and complement the wonderful existing restaurants and businesses that have energized our business district over the last decade.

In this same vein, I am very happy to report that the Council has approved a planned unit development at 246 Green Bay Road, the former Bertucci property. This project is an exciting four story, 31 unit condominium building, with 6,347 square feet of first floor retail space and 38 parking spaces. Along with 246 Green Bay Road, the Webster Place condominiums have made significant progress. These projects are bringing exciting new housing options, and new residents, to our community.



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Along with new housing coming to Highwood, the City will be looking to assist current and future residents to eliminate code violations and improve home values throughout our community. The City, through its brand new, **Housing Improvement Program (HIP)** is offering matching grants to incentivize new and existing owners to **eliminate dilapidated and non-conforming residential units and structures**. For more information see the next section.

A few other hot topic items:

- ◆ The City will be paving Ashland Avenue this coming spring.
- ◆ The [City Audit](#) was completed and accepted by the Council. The Audit was “clean” with no irregularities noted.
- ◆ The [Everts Park Master Plan](#) is being deigned and we will hold a community meeting in mid-January. Please monitor our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) for more information.
- ◆ The City will begin a redesign of its [website](#) in early 2019, keep an eye out for a better experience on mobile phones and some new features.

I am looking forward to a busy and fruitful 2019 for Highwood. As usual, feel free to contact the City or come to a City Council meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month starting at 6:00pm.

Best of Luck to you in 2019!

*Charlie Pecaro*

Your Mayor, Charlie Pecaro



# NEW: HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANT

*Consider a City of Highwood Housing Improvement Grant!*

1. Are you buying, or do you own a home, that is broken down, gutted, or damaged?
2. Have you been issued citations for zoning or building code violations?
3. Does your property have a non-conforming structure or apartment on it?

- ☑ The **Housing Improvement Program (HIP)** is a City of Highwood grant program providing matching funds to incentivize new and existing owners to **eliminate dilapidated and non-conforming residential units and structures in the community**.
- ☑ **Eligible Projects.** Projects must eliminate zoning and building code non-conformities or violations. Grant funds can be used for materials only, labor will not be funded, nor will converting single family homes to duplexes.
- ☑ **Cash Match and Payment.** Each project application must include a cash match contribution. The minimum match is 50% of the requested project funding.
- ☑ **Grant Application.** To have your project considered, please submit an HIP Grant Application form. You can find the application form and contact information at [cityofhighwood.org](http://cityofhighwood.org).



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Winter Safety Tips

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving criminals a better chance to do their dirty work. Homes jam-packed with glittering gifts. People rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. It's enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy. Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

### If You Are Traveling

- ◆ Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- ◆ Ask a neighbor to watch your home, shovel snow, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- ◆ Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.

### If You Are Out for the Evening

- ◆ Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home.
- ◆ Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- ◆ Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

### If You Are Shopping

- ◆ Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- ◆ Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- ◆ Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- ◆ Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't

overburden yourself with packages. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.

- ◆ Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.



### Protect Your Vehicle

Loading up on all those gifts is a sign of progress in the holiday shopping. But if those packages are left out in the open after they're in the car, your car has become a likely target for thieves. Remember the old cliché "Out of sight, out of mind?" Always lock your vehicle and store all items out of sight. Breaking into an empty car isn't worth a thief's time. However, anything left in plain view may tempt a thief. Lastly, although it's cold, never leave your vehicle running while you run inside your home or a store, even if for only a minute or two.



### After You've Opened the Gifts

Burglars know that many households have new, and oftentimes expensive, items in their homes following the December holidays. In too many cases, residents make it easy for burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that identify their new gifts in plain view with their other garbage.

- ◆ Break down any boxes you are throwing out.
- ◆ Think about keeping broken-down boxes inside in the garage until the evening before your regular garbage pick-up.
- ◆ If you see someone suspicious or If you see a burglary in progress, call the Highwood Police Department.

### Holiday Package Theft

Track deliveries online and confirm delivery has occurred. You can sign up for email notifications to track your packages from initial shipment to its arrival at your home, or the recipient's address if you have the gift delivered directly. If you know a family member or neighbor will be home, ask them to pick up the packages as soon as they are delivered. Reward them with fresh baked cookies. Switch delivery location to work where it can be received by someone and not left on the porch.

## WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Water Billing Pending Increase

As noted in the last newsletter, after hearing the negative feedback that 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 November (with the bill issued in January), 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 about \$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"**

## HIGHLIGHTS SPOTLIGHT — HIGHWOOD BOCCE

The [Highwood Bocce Club](#) was established in 1969 and has been growing and improving ever since, giving generations of players the opportunity to enjoy the finest courts and equipment. Recently, they brought in the firm of Aurelio Colleoni from Gorgonzola, Italy to install world-class surfaces on all our indoor courts.

They have hosted the U.S. National championships, and were chosen to be the site of the first World Cup event ever held in America. When visiting Chicago to sing at the Lyric Opera, tenor and bocce-fanatic Luciano Pavarotti made sure to come to the courts to play a little bocce. The objectives of the HBC are to:

- promote the game of bocce and to disseminate information pertaining to the same;
- educate the public about the game of bocce;
- provide social activities for the members;
- create awareness of Italian Heritage and Culture.

See the [recent profile on WTTW](#).



# RECREATION CENTER – WINTER FUN!

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 26-28 and January 2-4  
\$4.00 per person

### Life Line Screening Stroke Prevention

March 25th from 8:30am – 5:30pm

### Highwood Small Fry Basketball Tournament

March 9 & 10 and March 16 & 17th 2019



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



## GROUP FITNESS



**Zumba with Humberto**—Tuesdays

Contact Rec Center for Information

**Zumba with Mercedes**—Sundays and Wednesdays

Contact Rec Center for Information

**Powercore Pilates**—Saturday

Contact Dave at [Dave.cycle.pilates@gmail.com](mailto:Dave.cycle.pilates@gmail.com)

## PROGRAMS



### Youth Basketball

Finish Strong Athletic-[www.finishstrongathletics.com](http://www.finishstrongathletics.com)

Highwood Small Fry [www.highwoodsmallfry.org](http://www.highwoodsmallfry.org)

### Martial Arts

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

**NEW!!!! Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu** – Contact Marcos

Escobar at (630) 398-6515 **NEW!!!**

[www.brasahighwood.com](http://www.brasahighwood.com)

### 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  
847-432-6633

# HIGHWOOD LIBRARY

The [Highwood Public Library](#)'s mission is to be a sustainable resource that enriches, empowers, and embraces the community it serves. The Library recently adopted a new strategic plan, which can be found on the library's website. The strategic priorities are helping to guide the search committee as they recommend a new director to begin soon.

You can access your library account through the website to manage reserves and renewals. We have implemented auto-renewal for your books - no need to come in or call the library to extend your loan period. The website also offers access to a number of electronic resources:

- ◆ [RB-Digital](#), has thousands of audiobooks and a large collection of magazines for your PC or Mac. Audiobooks can be streamed in a browser or downloaded to your computer with additional software. Magazines can be read directly in your browser. 
- ◆ [Axis 360/ E-read](#) Illinois allows patrons to check out e-books online from the library's collection and read them on any device. The app also allows users to check out audio books on selected devices. 
- ◆ [Biblioboard](#) is a multi-media database featuring historical content on a wide variety of topics. Thousands of pages of primary source content (maps, letters, pamphlets, documents, diaries, photos and images), as well as historical books and articles, and streaming audio and video content, expertly organized into anthologies. 

We have programming for both children and adults. Programs include [Children's Story Times](#), [Adult Craft Time](#), [Baby and Me](#), [Prenatal Group Class](#), and [English conversation group](#). Children's movie nights are held every last Thursday of the month. Monthly Current Events discussions provide updates on today's political scene, and there are two Book Clubs and a Sherlock Holmes discussion group that meet at the library.

## [K9 Reading Buddies of the North Shore:](#)

Register your child in grade 1-5 to read to a trained therapy dog team to reinforce a positive, non-judgmental reading experience. Reading can be more fun when reading to a dog! Dates are the **3rd Tuesday of the month** (1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 4/16), 4:15pm-5:15pm in four, 15 minute slots.



## [Mad Hatters Children's Theater](#)

**Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 1:30 pm.** Junior League of Chicago volunteers will entertain children ages 3 to 9 by telling stories with flair and using festive hats. This will be a 30-minute program of fast-paced stories, rhymes, and songs with audience participation.



# HIGHWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Mission of the [Highwood Historical Society](#)

The purposes for which the Society is organized are to encourage education and civic involvement, including, but not limited to the following:

- Bringing together those people interested in the history of Highwood, Illinois and vicinity.
- Educating the public as to the history of Highwood, Illinois and vicinity;
- Discovering, recovering, collecting and preserving any material of historical significance that is relevant to Highwood, Illinois and vicinity;
- Sharing such materials with the public in an appropriate and responsible manner;
- Owning and operating a museum, storefront, or any other location for displaying such material,
- Disseminating historical information via media and public venues, including an internet web site and newsletters; and
- Engaging in any and all activity that may promote or be related to any of the above purposes.

The goal of the Highwood Historical Society is to engage the community's interest in our history and in each other in a positive and productive way. [Click Here](#) to become a member of the Highwood Historical Society today!



**WE WANT YOU!**



### Visit our Historical Society Museum

122 North Avenue, Highwood to see the many donated items that are on display. Hours:

*Sunday* – 12 noon to 4 p.m.

*Tuesday* – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Wednesday* – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Call 847-682-9039 for more information

visit our [website](#) and



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### City of Highwood

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