



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Ilyse Strongin  
[ilyse@ripplepublicrelations.com](mailto:ilyse@ripplepublicrelations.com)  
312.285.7702 cell  
847.432.6000 office

**LINKS:**

[www.celebratehighwood.org](http://www.celebratehighwood.org)  
<http://www.facebook.com/celebratehighwood>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

~ *Photography Available* ~

**CALLING ALL TACO AND HOAGIE ENTHUSIASTS!**  
**CELEBRATE HIGHWOOD ANNOUNCES TOAGIE (TACO+HOAGIE) FEST**  
**Including Highwood Days Carnival, Live Music, Booze Tent and**  
**Toagie 5K Fun Run, Walk & Stroll Benefitting North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic**  
**July 15-18<sup>th</sup>, Downtown Highwood Metra Station Parking Lot**

**HIGHWOOD, IL (JULY 15-18, 2021)** – Celebrate Highwood invites you to the new Toagie Fest, offering mouth-watering food from both taco *and* hoagie-centric restaurants, caterers and food trucks! Formerly known as North Shore Taco Fest, Toagie (taco+hoagie) Fest will be combined with the 54th Annual Highwood Days, the City's most celebrated festival in its history complete with carnival rides, live music and more! Toagie Fest will be held in the Downtown Highwood Metra Station parking lot from Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

“Toagie Fest is all about celebrating the eclectic taste of tacos and hoagies and the culinary diversity of Highwood. There is something for everyone with the combination of great food and drinks, live music and a carnival,” says M. Brad Slavin, President of Celebrate Highwood. “We love hosting events that both kids and adults can enjoy and are thrilled to be hosting outdoor events again throughout the year.”

Toagie Fest will offer tacos and hoagies from over 20 different vendors, a booze tent featuring Cuervo Traditional tequila and margaritas and a variety of beer from Ravinia Brewing Company, live music, carnival rides and much more!

After sampling an array of tacos and hoagies, attendees will enjoy casting their vote for the People's Choice Award in three categories: Out of the Ordinary Taco, Most Authentic Taco, and Favorite Hoagie. Who will win? It's up to you to decide! The winners will be announced at the stage on Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The winner in each category will receive a trophy and bragging rights. The 2019 contest winners in each category were:

- **Best Authentic:** Taco Vida from Deerfield for their Carne Asada Taco
- **Best Unique Taco:** The Otherdoor from Lake Bluff, for their Duck Confit Taco
- **Best Healthy Taco:** La Casa De Isaac, Highwood/Highland Park, for the Salmon Mole Taco

Toagie Fest will take place rain or shine, Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 5-11 p.m., Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, noon–11 p.m., and Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, noon – 9 p.m. The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Highwood Days Carnival will feature carnival rides and games throughout the fest with \$25 unlimited ride specials on Thursday from 5-9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 1-5 p.m. and special \$30 prime time unlimited ride specials on Friday from 5-9 p.m. and Saturday from 6-10 p.m.

In addition to the wide selection of flavorful food, Celebrate Highwood is hosting the Toagie 5K Run, Walk & Stroll on Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m., benefitting North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic, that has been a beacon of hope for those in need of access to justice, providing trusted, accessible and free legal services in the areas of domestic violence, housing and immigration. The public is invited to put on their sneakers, grab their family, friends, strollers and pets and join the fun. The start/finish line will be at the intersection of Waukegan and Walker Avenues.

Runners and walkers can sign up HERE or at [www.CelebrateHighwood.org](http://www.CelebrateHighwood.org) now through midnight on Friday July 16<sup>th</sup>. The registration fee for the Toagie 5K Run, Walk & Stroll is \$35 per participant (stroller kids are free).

### **TOAGIE FEST LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE:**

#### **Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 p.m. - TBA

8:00 p.m. - The Black Diamond Sessions (Blues) <https://www.facebook.com/The-Black-Diamond-Sessions-306398569959900>

#### **Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m. - TBA

8:00 p.m. - Pino Farina Band (Covers & Originals) <https://www.pinofarinaband.com>

#### **Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 p.m. - TBA

5:30 p.m. - The Luxmen (Classic Covers) <https://www.facebook.com/luxmenChicago>

8:00 p.m. - Deja Vu (Party Band) <http://www.dejavuband.com>

#### **Sunday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 p.m. - TBA

5:30 p.m. - Saturday June Band (Covers & Originals) <http://www.saturdayjune.com/Home.html>

8:00 p.m. - Eric & The Dynamos (Eric Clapton/Derek & The Dominos)

<https://www.facebook.com/EricandtheDynamos>

“Our Celebrate Highwood events are powerful – they bring people together and create a sense of community which is needed now more than ever,” says Slavin. “We are optimistic and enthusiastic about our 2021 event season and will continue to listen to public health experts and local officials to ensure the safety for all of our vendors and attendees.” As with all events during this time, modifications to events can happen at any moment.

A special thanks to our Toagie Fest sponsors: Cuervo Traditional, Leaf Guard, Performance Factory Training, Power Home Remodeling, Power Up Premium Trail Mix, Ravinia Brewing Company, Simple Slices, and Windy City Dispensary.

For more information on Toagie Fest and the Toagie 5K Fun Run, Walk & Stroll, visit <https://www.celebratehighwood.org/toagie-fest-and-highwood-days/>. For more information on all of Celebrate Highwood’s 2021 series of family friendly festivals and events, please visit <https://www.celebratehighwood.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/celebratehighwood>.

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**ABOUT CELEBRATE HIGHWOOD:**

Celebrate Highwood is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity established in August 2016. Managed and operated by volunteers, our mission is to bring community together to raise funds for local and national charities. Through producing events that cater to the citizens, businesses and visitors of Highwood, our goal is give back, build strong community spirit, and establish Highwood as THE prime entertainment destination for dining, festivals and events on the North Shore. For more information on all of Highwood's festivals, please visit [www.CelebrateHighwood.org](http://www.CelebrateHighwood.org), [www.facebook.com/celebratehighwood](https://www.facebook.com/celebratehighwood), or call 847-432-6000.