

The Highland Park eNews

January 4, 2017 www.hpboro.com 221 S. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, 08904 732-572-3400

Events & Meetings

Wednesday, January 4

Environmental Commission
8:00 p.m., Environmental Education Ctr.

Thursday, January 5

Stretch with the Mayor
7:30-8am, Kinetics Flow, 409 Raritan Ave

Thursday, January 5

Commission for Universal Access
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

Thursday, January 5

Redevelopment Agency Reorganization
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

Tuesday, January 10

Build it Workshop
3:00 p.m., Public Library

Thursday, January 12

Stretch with the Mayor
7:30-8am, Kinetics Flow, 409 Raritan Ave

Thursday, January 12

Food Pantry Distribution
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Senior/Youth Center

Thursday, January 12

Arts Commission
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Borough Hall

Thursday, January 12

Board of Health
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

Thursday, January 12

Planning Board Reorganization
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

Thursday, January 12

Food Pantry Distribution
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Senior/Youth Center

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Day
Borough Office Closed

Monday, January 16

Martin Luther King Program
7:00 p.m., Highland Park High School

All meetings are subject to change, please check the Borough's website at www.hpboro.com for updates

Subscribe to this publication at
<http://goo.gl/GZp5Vh>

Memo from Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler



2016 was an unpredictable year for the country, but a successful and rewarding year for Highland Park. I am happy to report on our progress in our four main areas of focus, and an additional area, transparency and community involvement, as well.

Tax Stabilization:

- PSE&G is renting the Borough-owned Upper Meadows to create a solar field, repurposing this unused piece of land and former landfill site.
- Downtown development is the key to our economic future and real estate tax stabilization. To that end, our Redevelopment Agency has been actively working with several interested developers.

Economic Development:

- We have named a Conditional Developer for one of our proposed downtown development projects, and have designated all of Highland Park to be an Area of Rehabilitation, which expands our opportunities for smart growth in town.
- A number of new shops opened in town, including an art supply store, clothing store, vintage shop, mobile phone store and more.
- Rite Aid partnered with Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts to showcase rotating artwork from Mason Gross students, in nine windows facing South 4th Avenue.

Infrastructure:

- PSE&G upgraded a number of gas lines in the Borough, and repaired the roads where the gas lines were upgraded. This work will continue into 2017.
- Once again, we were awarded the coveted Silver Sustainability status from Sustainable New Jersey.
- We introduced a new Tree Dedication Program, in which residents can honor someone by purchasing a plaque for an existing tree. Visit www.hpboro.com for the dedication form.
- To ensure pedestrian safety, we lobbied the Department of Transportation and were able to lower the speed limit on upper Raritan Avenue to 35mph. Additional crossing signage and other new safety devices were installed there.

Quality of Life:

- Our "HP Give a Hoot" program, funded by the kind donations of our residents, has served nearly 400 lunches to our children in 2016. We offered 10 scholarships to our HP Recreation Camp, and sent 4 high school students to a mentorship sleepaway camp last summer.
- We recently passed an ordinance to produce ID cards for all residents, which will be accepted for all municipal services.
- I appointed a new Refugee/Immigrant Task Force to find the best ways to help our new immigrants acclimate to life in Highland Park.
- We broke ground and are working with an architect to finalize plans for our new Teen Center for our high school aged residents.
- Our Police Department hired three new officers to better serve residents.
- Our Senior Center hired a full-time driver to transport our seniors to appointments, as well as to take them on trips.

Transparency/Resident Involvement:

I aim to continue asking residents to volunteer and participate in the municipal government.

- Our award-winning Park Partners Community Grant is in its fourth year, and we have 17 programs for our Community Voting Session on February 12, 3-5pm at the Senior Center.
- We have held a number of Open Public Meetings on key topics throughout the year, which have been successful in helping residents understand new issues and voice their concerns.

We have completed many projects this year, and are just beginning some others. I look forward to our continued progress and development in the coming year, and encourage everyone to get involved and participate in our many programs and volunteer opportunities. Working together in 2017 and beyond, we can make Highland Park even better for all our residents.

Questions? Feedback? We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you think by writing to communications@hpboro.com

Continued on Page 2

Highland Park History Maker

Highland Park History Maker is a special column for 2016 featuring some famous and notable Highland Park natives or residents, past and present. Of course, we are proud of all of our residents' accomplishment (big and small), and we will continue to recognize current achievements in our Highland Marks column.



John Seward Johnson II – (April 16, 1930) is an artist known for his “trompe l’oeil” painted bronze statues of living people, depicting them engaged in daily activities. Johnson, the grandson of Robert Wood Johnson I, was born in New Jersey and lived in Highland Park. He worked for a time for Johnson & Johnson after serving four years in the Navy during the Korean War. Johnson later created the Johnson Stelier Technical Institute of Sculpture, an educational, nonprofit casting and fabrication facility to foster young sculptors’ talents. He is also CEO and chairman of The Atlantic Foundation, which purchased land and founded the Grounds For Sculpture. Johnson is married to novelist Joyce Horton, and they have two children.

Have you – or someone you know – done something recently that’s particularly noteworthy? Let us know about it and we’ll include it in Highland Marks! Write to communications@hpboro.com

Christmas Tree Collection



Collections of Christmas trees will take place in January. Trees will be picked up curbside for composting. Please put them out with your regular garbage.

Trees must be free of tinsel, ornaments and decorations. Please do not put Christmas Trees into plastic bags.

HPTV Highlights for January 2017

Channel 15 (for Cablevision/Optimum customers)
Channel 44 (for Verizon FIOS customers)

Monday

10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. – Public Domain Domain – Old Time Radio
12:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. – Highland Park Update/Showcase
12:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. – Talk of The Town
1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. – Aging Insights
1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. – Health Talk
2:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. – Classroom Close-Up/School Talk
8:30 p.m. – Board of Education Meeting

Tuesday & Thursday

10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. – Public Domain Domain – Movies
12:00 p.m. – Highland Park Update/Showcase
12:30 p.m. – Highland Park Borough/Schools Update
1:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. – Borough Council Meetings
2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. – Spotlight on Middlesex County
2:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. – Access New Jersey
3:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m. – Not Just Rock & Roll

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. – Board of Education Meeting
1:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. – Aging Insights
1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. – Health Talk
3:00 p.m. – Classroom Close-Up/School Talk
4:00 p.m. – Public Domain Domain – Movies

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

10:00 a.m. – Public Domain Domain – Old Time Radio
12:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. – Highland Park Update/Showcase
12:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. – Talk of The Town
1:00 p.m. – Borough Council Meetings
2:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. – Aging Insights
2:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. – Health Talk
3:30 p.m. – Classroom Close-Up/School Talk
4:00 p.m. – Board of Education Meeting
8:30 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. – Public Domain Domain – Movies
10:00 p.m. – Valley Homegrown Music

Welcome New Council Member - Matthew Hersh



Matthew Hersh is proud to serve as the newest member of the Highland Park Borough Council, having formerly served as the founding chair of the Borough's Public Information Committee as well as a former Commissioner of the Highland Park Housing Authority. In 2017, Matthew will chair the Borough's Health and Human Services Committee, which comprises housing, health and human relations.

Recently, Matthew was part of the team, first as a volunteer and later as a Councilman, assembled to outline and implement the Borough's municipal ID program and in 2017, Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler has appointed Matthew to chair a task force on community inclusion and social equity.

A former community journalist and freelance writer, Matthew has worked with several nonprofit organizations throughout New Jersey on key policy issues facing our communities, including homeownership, rental housing and affordable housing, transportation and transportation equity, and public information. As a member of Council Matthew said his goal is make sure municipal government serves as a "critical tool to achieve socially, culturally, and economically equitable, accessible communities."

In addition to his municipal volunteerism, Matthew currently serves on the Citizen Campaign's City Storytellers Council as well as Sustainable Jersey's Civic Engagement Task Force. Both entities exist to engage communities and promoting open, transparent government by way of easily accessible public information.

Matthew Hersh and his wife, Christine Hersh, are proud public school parents with their 2nd grade son at at Bartle and their Kindergarten daughter at Irving. Their youngest son is still in daycare!

Please contact Matthew at matthewhershhp@gmail.com

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards Program

The Highland Park Human Relations Commission is hosting its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards program on **Monday, January 16**, from 7:00-9:00pm, at the Highland Park High School Auditorium, 102 N. Fifth Ave. The program honors a resident who volunteers their time and services to benefit our community. The 2017 Humanitarian Award recipient is Highland Park Police Lieutenant Gary Panichella, who has served the Highland Park community for more than 30 years as a police officer, volunteer, and friend to many residents.

Juanita Collier, Highland Park's longest living African American resident, will be the Keynote Speaker, and the event will include presentations by Rabbi Esther Reed, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, and dancer Jordan Jackson. Refreshments will be served, and there will be door prizes.

The Human Relations Commission is a Borough-sponsored organization that attempts to foster, through community effort or otherwise, goodwill, cooperation and conciliation among the groups and elements of our inhabitants.

Enter the Magical World of *Beauty and the Beast* in Highland Park

The enchanting world of *Beauty and the Beast* comes to life with two performances by the Highland Park Youth Theatre Company (HPYTC) at the Highland Park High School Auditorium. Performances will be on **Thursday, January 12 at 6:30pm and Sunday, January 15, at 3:00pm**. There is a suggested donation of \$2.00. The Highland Park High School Auditorium is located at 102 North 5th Ave, Highland Park, NJ 08904.

This magical production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast, Jr." is a classic musical where young actors take on the roles made famous by the animated movie. It features original music by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, and is a perfect show for the young and young-at-heart.

The HPYTC operates through the Highland Park Department of Recreation. The program is open to children ages 8-16 years old. The HPYTC produces three musicals each year, including one at the town-wide Independence Day Fireworks celebration. Contact the Highland Park Recreation Department at 732-819-0052 for more information.