

# The Highland Park eNews

May 16, 2017 [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) 221 S. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, 08904 732-572-3400

## Events & Meetings

### Tuesday, May 16

Borough Council  
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

### Tuesday, May 16

Poetry Night with Wanda Praisner and Open Mic  
7:00 p.m., Library

### Wednesday, May 17

Walk with the Mayor  
7:00 a.m., Donald Park Entrance (South 2<sup>nd</sup> & Riverview)

### Wednesday, May 17

Human Relations Commission  
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

### Thursday, May 18

Life Story Workshop – Outline Your Life Story (Memoir)  
7:00 p.m., Library

### Sunday, May 21

Sustainable Living Workshop Series – Seed Saving  
11:00 a.m., Environmental Center, 20 River Road

### Monday, May 22

Library Board of Trustee Meeting  
7:30 p.m., Library

### Monday, May 22

Zoning Board of Adjustment  
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

### Tuesday, May 23

International Film Series - Illusionist  
6:30 p.m., Library

### Tuesday, May 23

Rehabilitation Screening Committee  
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

### Wednesday, May 24

Sustainable Highland Park  
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

### Thursday, May 25

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

### Thursday, May 25

Meditation Circle with Bobbie Ellis  
7:00 p.m., Library

### Saturday, May 27

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

### Monday, May 29

**Memorial Day**  
**Borough Offices Closed**

### Monday, May 29

Memorial Day Parade  
11 am in New Brunswick and ends in Highland Park

### Thursday, June 1

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

### Thursday, June 1

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

All meetings are subject to change, please check the Borough's website at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) for updates

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## Memo from Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler



Highland Park is a wonderful place to live. Our school system was just given an "A" from the Niche school and neighborhood rating service. We have active resident participation in many of our programs because Highland Park cares about things like our environment, education, arts, and each other.

We are also a community that enjoys being with our neighbors. That was certainly evident at our annual 5K and Street Fair on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Thousands of residents and visitors came to our Street Fair, which featured crafts, music, information booths and entertainment. Congratulations to Elliot Mason, our overall winner of the 5K, and to Ethan Bull, the overall winner for ages 18 and under.

I have been actively supporting programs that can help curb gun violence in New Jersey and elsewhere. On June 2, the Borough will commemorate national Gun Violence Awareness Day by encouraging employees and residents to wear orange. There will be several events throughout the day sponsored by the Middlesex County chapter of the Brady Campaign and Million Mom March organization. This chapter is headquartered right here in Highland Park.

Many residents are involved in organizations that support our various programs and important community life needs. We celebrated the 300+ Highland Park volunteers at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Your municipal officials could not accomplish what we do without these amazing individuals. It was my honor to celebrate the individual honorees from each of our working committees, boards, and commissions. Additionally, I want to wish very deserving congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year, Planning Board President Kim Hammond. Kim has been involved with the Borough and our schools for many years. Kim is a model resident and volunteer, and we were thrilled to honor her with this award.

At our May 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting, we passed an inclusive communities resolution to protect all Highland Park residents, especially our newest residents who came to Highland Park to start a new life. As a diverse and caring community, Highland Park respects all populations, including those who have faced a history of discrimination. This resolution deems Highland Park a welcoming place for all people. We began our efforts toward inclusion with the passage of our Municipal ID program several months ago. That program avails ALL Highland Park residents of a Highland Park ID card for usage when registering at our Borough programs, including our recreation programs, and many other places in our municipality. The Immigration and Refugee Task Force that worked so diligently on this resolution will soon become an ongoing Borough Committee, to continue to address issues faced by our recent immigrant and refugee residents, and to aid them in their adjustment to life in Highland Park.

Earlier this month, I reported that this year, once again, we presented a budget that meets our goal of stabilizing municipal taxes for our residents. This year's 2.2% municipal tax increase, or \$65.00 on the average Highland Park home, reflects what smart growth can help us achieve without any reductions in our services to residents. In fact, once you separate out contractual expenses, or expenses that fall beyond our control, the increase in our budget is almost \$500,000 below the 2% cap we are statutorily allowed to increase our budget. You can read more about this year's budget by visiting [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com)

Though surrounding communities are rich in corporate rateables, with a lack of taxable corporate rateables in Highland Park, the tax burden falls on our residents. We can use smart downtown development as a replacement for the corporate rateables surrounding communities (like Edison, Metuchen, New Brunswick, and Piscataway) enjoy. This will not only result in better quality of life for our residents and businesses, but will help spread this tax burden. Last year, several new developments created a net-positive, new tax revenue of nearly \$500,000 for the Borough. This helped to offset our continued loss in state funding, including the loss of over \$5 million in Energy Tax Rebates. These Energy Tax Rebates were designated for the Borough of Highland Park based on our energy usage, but kept by Trenton instead of flowing back to municipalities as required.

I ask you to join me in making Highland Park a beacon of smart, responsible and welcoming community living in the center of Middlesex County.

**Questions? Feedback? We want to hear from you!**

Let us know what you think by writing to [communications@hpboro.com](mailto:communications@hpboro.com)

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## Highland Marks

Highland Park High School senior **Congxin (Angelina) Li** was awarded Honorable Mention in the prestigious 2017 Sixth Congressional District High School Arts Competition. Li was one of only 15 honorable mention winners from Middlesex and Monmouth Counties. Her painting was entitled "Sleeping Girl".

**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](mailto:communications@hpboro.com)**

## Garbage Collection Schedule Change

The Garbage Collection schedule is as follows for the week of 5/29 – 6/02;

- **Monday – Holiday**
- Tuesday – Business District, North Side & Triangle Recycling Collection
- Wednesday – Business District, North Side & Triangle Garbage Collection
- Thursday – South Side Recycling Collection
- Friday - Business District & South Side Garbage Collection

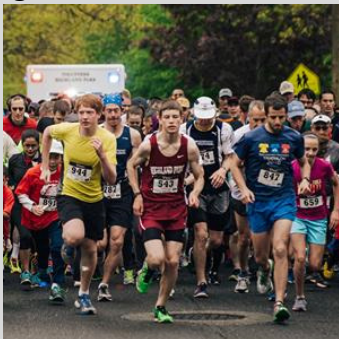
## 2017 Police Unity Tour



Members of the Highland Park Police Department are once again participating in the annual Police Unity Tour. As in previous years, they will be riding with Chapter 1, the founding chapter of the Tour. This year's participating officers are Patrolman Brian O'Mara, Detective Sean McGraw, and Patrolman Kevin Shiffner. Officers ride in memory of a fallen officer, and this year the Highland Park officers will ride in memory of Orange, NJ PD Inspector Kieran Shields, who was killed in August 2006 while chasing a suspect, NYPD Detective Angel Creagh, who died from an illness he contracted during the rescue efforts at the World Trade Center after 9/11, and Wayne State University PD Sergeant Collin Rose, who was killed while investigating a suspicious person on the university campus. In addition, the officers will always have our Hometown Hero, NJ State Police Trooper Anthony Raspa, in mind as they cycle to Washington, D.C.

The Police Unity Tour rides from Northern New Jersey to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum in Washington, D.C. The mission is to raise awareness of Law Enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty, and raise funds for the memorial and museum.

## Highland Park 5k/Street Fair



Once again, Highland Park held its annual 5K Run in the Park and Street Fair on Sunday, May 7th. The clouds didn't keep the crowds away - the 5K was packed with runners and walkers of all ages, who streamed through the streets of Highland Park, cheered on by residents offering encouragement or water. Following the event, thousands of residents and visitors spent the day on Raritan, enjoying the activities, booths, food, and entertainment at the Highland Park Street Fair. Both events are sponsored by Main Street Highland Park.

## Highland Park Welcomes New Borough Administrator



The Borough welcomes our new Borough Administrator, Teri Jover. Teri came to Highland Park from New Jersey Future, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes sensible growth, redevelopment and infrastructure investments and policies.

She served as the Deputy Executive Director there, focusing on implementing smart growth at the local level, with a special emphasis on downtown redevelopment issues.

Within Highland Park, Teri was the Chair of Sustainable Highland Park for 7 years, leading the Borough's certification efforts with Sustainable Jersey; most recently achieving Silver-level status from the program. She also served on the Highland Park Zoning Board from 2003-2010 and the Planning Board from 2010-2013.

"Highland Park is a great community with so much potential," said Teri. "I am so excited to be a part of the team working to make good things happen."

Teri and her husband Gary have lived in Highland Park since 2001. Their son, Gregory, attends Irving School.

## Volunteer of the Year



Congratulations to Highland Park's 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Kim Hammond. Kim is Chair of the Highland Park Planning Board, and volunteers her time for a number of Borough and school activities. Kim was presented with an award on May 9th at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.

## Annual Memorial Day Parade



Support our Veterans at Highland Park's annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29. Parade begins at 11:00 a.m. at Monument Square in New Brunswick (corner of Livingston Avenue and George Street) and proceeds up Raritan Avenue to the Doughboy Monument in Highland Park. A short ceremony will take place honoring our Veterans and troops overseas.

We encourage residents to come out and line the streets to honor those who sacrificed their lives to keep us safe. Refreshments will be served. For additional information, please call 732-819-0052.

## Highland Park Police Department Award

The Highland Park Police Department has been nominated by the Attorney General's office for an award for the Outstanding Community Policing program. Highland Park is receiving this award for their cultural diversity training. With the knowledge acquired by these programs, officers are better equipped to understand, respect, and serve the needs of the many different types of people they encounter.

## JFK Medical Center Health Fair at the Library

The Highland Park Library and JFK Medical Center are sponsoring a Health and Wellness Fair in the library on Sunday, May 21 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.

For more information call the library at 732-572-2750 or go to the website at [www.hpplnj.org](http://www.hpplnj.org).