

# THE HIGHLAND PARK NEWS



A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park

FALL 2013

## A Very Highland Park Celebration – Holiday Lights in the Park

Holidays in Highland Park are always joyful, but this year promises to be spectacular, thanks to a new downtown lighting display in the works.

Last year's combined menorah lighting and tree lighting ceremony was so successful, the Design Team at Main Street Highland Park looked to grow both the event, and the amount of lights in town, to make downtown Highland Park an inviting, attractive and festive place to be this winter.

The timing of Thanksgiving and the beginning of Chanukah is ideal for a very Highland Park kickoff to winter and the holidays. Plans are in process for a second

combined menorah and tree lighting ceremony. The lighting will occur right in the middle of town – in the space next to the Artisan Market and Farmers' Market. Because Hanukkah begins Wednesday night, November 27th, the tree lighting will occur on Friday evening November 30th. In addition, a special Kwanzaa ceremony will commence the following month on December 26th.

This special project has brought together Main Street board members and volunteers alike. "It has really energized people within our community," said James McCrone, executive director of Main Street High-

land Park. "The Board is taking a very active and productive role." Mike Beberman, owner of Cyber Knight Computers and a Main Street board member, has taken the lead in securing a suitable menorah. "I have spoken to a number of HP businesses and organizations that are interested in helping sponsor and obtain a Menorah to be part of our holiday decorations," he said. "So far, I have had great feedback. There is a real desire from people to give back to their community. I'm looking forward to seeing all of the decorations representing our great, diverse community," he added. Main Street board chair, and owner of Over the Moon Toys & Through the Moongate

gifts, Jenni Chapman, is working with a number of musicians, singers and groups from all faiths to make the event even more fun and festive. "What a wonderful way to start off the season," she said. "Music, lights, great shops, and community! All of Highland Park should come out." Jim Polos, Main Street Vice Chair is working with the Design team on a suitable tree for the event.

These fantastic Holiday Lights don't end at the lighting ceremony. "We are looking to string lights on the lamp posts again, as we did last year," said Design team chair Jim Nichols, "and possibly expand the lights to trees and other fixtures. And we are

looking for community help to execute the program."

"Highland Park's extraordinary diversity is woven into the fabric of our community; this enables us to enjoy sharing our traditions and customs to educate and enrich each other. The ability to share our cultures and ideas so readily and respectfully makes our Borough all the more special and unique as a community."

**MAYOR GARY MINKOFF**

If you would like to help out, please contact Main Street at 732-828-8444, or email the director at [jmccrone@mainstreethp.org](mailto:jmccrone@mainstreethp.org).

## Letter From Your Mayor

It has been a busy and productive few months for Highland Park, with many successful events, and the initiation of numerous new programs to benefit our community and residents.

Summer was buzzing with annual events in Highland Park, like our Street Fair, Run in the Park, Memorial Day Parade, Farmer's Market, Independence Day Celebration and National Night Out. We also welcomed new programs such as the Artisan's Market and our Living Room Events.

The Mayor's Wellness Committee began their Walk the

Park initiative to get people up and out, while experiencing much of what Highland Park has to offer. Many residents joined an expert guide to learn about the vegetation, architecture, and trees native to our community. And the walks along the Raritan River in the "Lower Meadows" have already developed a following; I encourage you to take one of the monthly walks and experience a part of the beauty of our Borough few even realize exists.

Our Park Partners Community Grant Program encourages residents to get involved in Highland Park by sponsoring up to five grants for programs to benefit our community. We received some terrific program ideas, and are looking forward to the implementation of these programs.

We are learning about our great neighbors in Highland Park through the Highland Marks column of our biweekly e-news letter, which highlights a noteworthy accomplishment of a Highland Park resident. There are so many terrific achievements to celebrate, and we encourage you to share your news with us.

Our new Communications team at the Borough is working on a bold Marketing plan which will help establish Highland Park as

a Destination Town. We look forward to some exciting new events over the next year. As I write this message, we are about to launch our new Shop Highland Park financial incentive program; participants can shop here in the Borough and receive a percentage of that spending returned to them either as a property tax credit, or a check. Shopping here is literally about to become much more rewarding!

Our downtown is bustling with new shops. We are now at 97% occupancy, an incredible achievement, and our new businesses are a welcome addition to our downtown. Our "veteran" businesses have been having a great six months as well, including Saiff Drug, which just celebrated its 50th Anniversary in Highland Park. Glatt 27, the Kosher butcher, has moved to a beautiful new home at 1177 Raritan, and re-established itself as a full grocery. I'd also like to welcome Unite Pharmacy as well as Minuteman Printing-Highland Park has long been without our own local printer...we wish these businesses much success. We also welcomed Simuel's Closet, MAS design/printing business, and the Grand Opening of BBQ was a major block party in the downtown. We wish all of these businesses well – and if I omitted a recently opened business, please let us know so that we can be sure to alert our readers to your offerings. I have also asked the Main Street

organization to bring our new business owners to Borough Council meetings so that we can introduce them to the entire Borough.

I am also pleased to report that we are being contacted by a number of prospective developers and commercial tenants about office space availability, as well as the possibility of projects that would enhance our business districts.

On a separate note; we have made important changes to our Office of Emergency Management (OEM); longtime Coordinator and former Councilman Jeff Morris has stepped down and I am pleased to report that Jim Polos graciously stepped forward to volunteer his talent and expertise as our new OEM Coordinator. I wish him well and look forward to his leadership in this vital effort.

This summer also saw the "Wetdown"/welcome of our new Firetruck, and construction of our new Police Headquarters continues. I was pleased to participate in an incredibly successful National Night Out; thank you to the many volunteers and professionals who made that evening such a great Borough event. And, thank you to our many merchants and business owners whose boundless generosity adds so much through their donations of prizes and funds to our food pantry.



As our students return to school this fall, our Board of Education welcomes a new Superintendent, Timothy Capone; I look forward to supporting him and the entire Board to do all we can to build on the outstanding tradition of our schools. Our Mayor's Teen Advisory Council has cultivated an important line of communication between the Borough and our young residents. This program, for students in grades 7-12, is a unique opportunity to develop leadership skills, become involved in community projects, make new friends, and advise me and the Governing Body on issues of importance to students in our community. I encourage everyone who is eligible to get involved in this terrific program.

**With best wishes-  
Gary Minkoff**

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Highland Park, NJ 08904

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AND TWITTER AT [WWW.TWITTER.COM/HPBORO](http://WWW.TWITTER.COM/HPBORO).

## WHAT DEPARTMENT DO I NEED?

Main Telephone Number (732) 572-3400

### ANIMAL CONTROL

(732) 777-6013

Animal Service (Dead or Stray) Weekdays

### BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

(800) 624-0241

[www.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance](http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance)

### BOROUGH CLERK

(732) 819-3782

Apartment Registration  
Business Licenses  
Birth Certificates  
Death Certificates  
Dog and Cat Licenses  
Flood Zones (Maps)  
Garage Sale Permits  
Liquor Licenses  
Marriage Licenses  
Notary Public  
Ordinances  
Request for Public Records  
Street Maps  
Tax Map Copies (To Purchase)  
Used Car Lot Licenses  
Taxi Licenses  
Voter Registration  
Zone Maps (To Purchase)  
Wetlands Map

### CABLE TV

(866) 575-8000

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

### CODE ENFORCEMENT

(732) 777-6013

Additions (Inspections)  
Capital Improvements (732) 819-3795

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

(732) 819-0052

Community Events  
Senior Programs, Events & Activities

### CONSTRUCTION

(732) 777-6013

Additions (New)  
Affordable Housing Construction (732) 819-3795  
Construction Permits  
Decks (New & Inspections)  
Demolitions (732) 819-3795  
Pool (Inspections)  
Septic System (Abandonment)  
Street Openings (Including curbs & sidewalks) (732) 819-3795  
Tree Removal Permits

### COURT

(732) 777-6010

Court  
Wedding/Civil Union Ceremony by Judge

### HEALTH

(732) 819-3790

Health Education  
Health Emergencies Weekdays (732) 777-6013  
Noise Complaints Weekdays  
Property Maintenance (uncut grass)  
(732) 777-6013  
Public Health Nuisance  
Public Pools  
Rodent Complaints

### LIBRARY

(732) 572-2750

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

### PARKS

(732) 745-3900

Park Maintenance

### PLANNING

(732) 819-3792

Development Questions  
Economic Development  
Subdivision Applications

### POLICE

(732) 572-3800

Abandoned Cars on Street  
Accident Reports (ext. 4211)  
Animal Service (Dead or Stray)  
Week-Ends and Evenings  
Health Emergencies Weekends and Evenings  
Noise Complaints Weekends and Evenings  
Snow Not Removed from Sidewalks

### PSE&G

(800) 436-7734

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

### PUBLIC WORKS

(732) 514-1277

Bulk Trash Questions  
Garbage Questions  
Leaf Bags  
Recycling Questions  
Roadway Improvements  
Snow Removal  
Borough Shade Tree Issues

### RECREATION

(732) 819-0411

Recreation/Arts Programs  
Registration & Information

### SCHOOL

(732) 572-6990

School Information

### TAX ASSESSOR

(732) 819-3787

Block & Lot  
Deed Inquiries

### TAX COLLECTOR – FINANCE

(732) 819-3786

Senior Citizen Taxes  
Tax Bills  
Veteran Taxes

### VITAL STATISTICS

(732) 819-3782 or

(732) 777-6014

Death Certificates  
Marriage Licenses

### WATER

(732) 247-9379

Billing (732) 819-3788  
Maintenance Only (732) 247-9379  
Meter Issues/Questions  
Sanitary Sewer Back Ups (Weekends and Evenings) (732) 572-3800  
Water - Billing & Meter Reading  
Water Leaks  
Water Quality Issues/Questions

### WATER & SEWER – FINANCE

(732) 819-3788

Billing & Meter Reading  
Sewerage Bills

### ZONING

(732) 819-3792

Abandoned Cars off Streets  
Abandoned Structures  
Additions (New)  
Complaints (Property)  
Driveways  
Fences  
Overcrowding, Illegal multi-family dwellings  
Pools (New)  
Property Maintenance (e.g. trash, litter, weeds, uncut grass)  
Sheds  
Sidewalk maintenance  
Site Plan Copies  
Subdivision Applications (732) 819-3792  
Zoning Questions

## SPOTLIGHT ON Diane Feldman, Chair of the Highland Park Commission for Universal Access

The fact that Highland Park has an abundance of handicapped parking, and accessible entrances at Municipal buildings and schools, is something most people take for granted. In reality, much of that is due to the hard work and dedication of the Commission for Universal Access and its Chair, Diane Feldman.

The Commission works directly with the Borough and Schools to facilitate physical



and social inclusion of individuals with disabilities. With both residents and visitors in need of such services, the Commission is a vital part of our community. Under Diane's leadership, numerous improvements for accessibility have been implemented in Highland Park. For example, in 2009 (and again in 2011) the Commission, working with the Police and the Borough, created the Handicapped Parking Ordinance, providing improved access to handicapped parking.

Additionally, ramps were installed at Borough Hall and the High School, and many local shops have upgraded their facilities to improve access. The Commission is currently working with Main Street to provide an accessible entrance to their current location, and with the Department of Code Enforcement to monitor the sidewalk improvements in Highland Park.

"While access has improved in town, we continue to try to make it even better. The government and advising bodies place an emphasis on better access for all, and the Commission is there to support them. People's needs change, and we want Highland Park changing along with them."

Diane joined the Borough's Commission for the Disabled in 2001, the organization that later became the Commission for Universal Access. In 2004, she was named Chair of the Commission, presiding over an organization of five full mem-

bers and two alternates. Her motivation to improve Universal Access is personal. As the mother of two Highland Park students (now graduates), she found it difficult to enter her sons' schools. Because of this, she made it her mission to work with the Borough and Schools to provide handicapped access to all Highland Park schools.

Diane also realizes that Universal Access goes beyond physical accessibility. In 2009 the Commission endorsed the Buddy Ball program, which provides children with disabilities an opportunity to participate in recreational sports such as

basketball, soccer and bowling. This past year, the Commission brought a drama program offered by VSA New Jersey to the Senior Center. This allows adults with disabilities to participate in drama exercises and improvisational acting.

"Universal Access means bringing all members of the community into full civic partnership, allowing everyone to participate in opportunities that our town offers."

Diane and her husband, Matt, have lived in Highland Park for nearly 30 years. Diane worked for Bell Labs/Bellcore/

Telcordia for over 20 years, providing software to support telephone company operations. Aside from her work with Universal Access, Diane and her husband formed Park Pedalers, a team that participates in the National MS Society bike-a-thon. Over the past 15 years, they have raised over \$200,000 for the MS Society. In 2010, she was named the Highland Park Volunteer of the Year.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Commission, or if you are in need of services, visit the Borough's website, [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com), or call the Commission at 732-572-3400.



## Highland Park Gets a Makeover Streetscape – By Design



If you haven't walked along Raritan Avenue in Highland Park in a while, you might not recognize it. Over the past two years, the downtown has gone through a dramatic restoration. What was once a typical business district has been transformed into a vibrant, pulsating center of community life.

It began with a master plan and a group of community volunteers, and developed into a landmark change for Highland Park. In 2001, the Borough developed a long-term plan to

grow and advance our community. Soon after, in conjunction with the establishment of Main Street Highland Park, a core group of resident volunteers organized town meetings and plans to revitalize the downtown. The Streetscape Project was born. The project, estimated at \$2.2 million, was funded by state and federal grants and a zero-interest loan secured by Main Street Highland Park.

The goal of Streetscape was to attract residents and visitors to our downtown as a way to increase traffic for our numerous businesses, and to showcase Highland Park as a destination walking and shopping town. The Borough and Main Street recognized the need to improve the aesthetics of the business district to achieve these goals.

The Streetscape Project involved a large-scale makeover for downtown Highland Park. Sidewalks between the curb and storefronts along Raritan Avenue were replaced. The wide, passable sidewalks are engineered to

make walking downtown more pleasant and safe. With the help of community volunteers, approximately 60 trees were planted along the sidewalks, surrounded by decorative gates to accommodate their growth. Suddenly our Green Community was truly green and blossoming. Rain gardens were installed, filtering storm water before it hits the drains, thus filtering out pollution and oils. (strategically placed to intercept water).

To supplement the hospitable atmosphere, attractive bike racks, flag poles, and trash receptacles were placed in central locations. Innovative "living room" areas were placed at the corners between 2nd Avenue and 5th Avenue, embracing the warm, friendly character inherent in Highland Park. The "living rooms," which include new lighting as well as couches and table sitting atop attractive recycled colored glass pavement, are the perfect place for shoppers and local employees to relax, and are ideal locations for special events.

James McCrone, executive director of Main Street Highland Park, the non-profit that promotes the businesses along Raritan Avenue, praised the Borough's stakeholders for making Streetscape a reality. "This couldn't have happened without volunteers, businesses and government working together. It is already creating buzz, and drawing praise. I hear from long-time residents and people who are back visiting friends and family that Highland Park has never looked better," he said.

"There is something special that happens to a community when a municipality, a non-profit, and resident volunteers pull together with a common vision to create a living, shopping, and neighborly downtown. In Highland Park, the common vision for a sustainable, walkable, and profitable shopping area has come to life now that our Streetscape has been completed. You can see it in our busy streets, lively stores and restaurants, filled corner bicycle racks, and corner living room spaces," said Coun-

cilwoman Gayle Brill Mittler, who chairs the Borough's Economic Development Committee.

Moreover, the downtown partners are taking their custodial role seriously. The Borough has received a grant to hire dedicated Clean Communities personnel to address litter abatement, graffiti and illegal hand bills. As part of that cleanup, the Clean Communities personnel are focusing on weeds and maintaining the rain gardens so they continue to enhance the downtown, while the gardens—by design—cleanse the water that flows down the storm drains.

The Streetscape improvement does more than take into account the Highland Park 2020 vision, it is a statement of purpose and an example to follow. Together, the Borough and Main Street will continue to maintain and improve upon the aesthetics of our business district, and promote Highland Park as an ideal destination community.

## MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY

DIAL 1-732 BEFORE TELEPHONE #

**POLICE, FIRE & RESCUE EMERGENCY**  
DIAL 9-1-1

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Gary Minkoff (Mayor)..... 777-6001  
Mayor & Council Secretary.... 819-3782

### ADMINISTRATION

Kathleen Kovach  
(Administrator)..... 819-3780

### BOROUGH CLERK

Borough Clerk..... 777-6014  
Deputy Clerk..... 819-3782  
Borough Hall Fax..... 777-6006

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Aging..... 819-0052  
Recreation..... 819-0411  
Fax..... 819-0047

### CODE ENFORCEMENT/ CONSTRUCTION

Director/Construction  
Official..... 819-3795  
Control Person..... 777-6013  
Housing Inspector ..... 777-6011

### FINANCE

Chief/Financial Officer..... 819-3789  
Tax Collection..... 819-3786  
Water/Sewer Billing..... 819-3788

### HEALTH

Health Inspector..... 819-3790  
Secretary..... 777-6013  
After Hour Emergencies..... 572-3800

### FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Official ..... 819-3791

### MUNICIPAL COURT

Court Administrator..... 777-6010  
Deputy Administrator..... 777-6010

### POLICE

Police Chief..... 572-3800  
EXT. 4215

### PUBLIC WORKS

Superintendent ..... 514-1277  
Recycling/Clean  
Communities..... 514-1277  
Fax..... 247-4844  
Water & Sewer ..... 514-1277

### OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

Animal Control..... 777-6013  
Chamber of Commerce..... 249-3375  
Historians..... 220-6618  
Housing Authority ..... 572-4420  
Library..... 572-2750  
Post Office..... 572-6006  
Tax Assessor ..... 819-3795  
Tax Collector ..... 819-3786  
Vital Statistics..... 777-6014  
Zoning Office..... 777-6011



### MAYOR GARY MINKOFF

#### ADMINISTRATION

Destination Town, and planning new Public Relations and Marketing programs to encourage visitors to our wonderful community. They are utilizing a multitude of media resources, including our Borough website, Facebook and Twitter pages, Nixle and our print newspaper to help get the word out as well.

Mayor Gary Minkoff chairs the Administration Department for the Borough. The Administration is excited to introduce a new Communications program to benefit the community and its residents. This program, which consists of a new on-staff employee in coordination with a strong volunteer Public Information Committee, enables us to better communicate with residents, and helps increase publicity about the wonderful things happening in Highland Park.

In addition to communicating with residents, this team is promoting Highland Park as a

There are many terrific new developments in Highland Park to promote, including the new Park Partners Community Service Grant program, the Mayor's Wellness Campaign "Walk the Park" program, the Mayor's Teen Advisory Committee, the Shop Highland Park Reward Program, and more. Gary encourages residents to get involved in our community and participate in many of these programs, and welcomes new ideas to benefit Highland Park as well.



### GAYLE BRILL MITTLER

#### COMMUNICATIONS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

Gayle Brill Mittler chairs the Committee on Economic Development, which includes being Council Liaison to the Redevelopment Agency, Main Street Highland Park, Zoning Board, Planning Board, and Public Information Committee.

The Redevelopment Agency has seen much growth over the past year, with new appointments and a special orientation meeting for new members that have strengthened the Agency. They have been successful at promoting Highland Park as a flourishing destination community. The Borough and Main Street Highland Park are near completion of its Streetscape Project to enhance the aesthetic of our community, and now features exciting Evening Living Room events at the downtown corners. In addition, we have streamlined the development and construction process for businesses. This has had an enormous impact on the downtown, resulting in a 97% occupancy rate.

The Public Information Committee recently instituted several new methods of online communication, including Nixle as well as Facebook and Twitter pages. Residents can hear about news and learn about the accom-

plishments of their neighbors in the Enews biweekly online publication. In addition, there has been a recent expansion of the HPTV Committee and program origination. The re-institution of a semi-annual Highland Park News has been met with rave reviews and appreciation from many residents.

Our Redevelopment Agency is experiencing new interest from developers and recommendations from professional planners. The Borough and Main Street are launching community marketing programs to promote Highland Park as a walkable destination town, and enhance its position as a sustainable, walkable, bikeable, shopping community. With the aim to add bicycle sharrows, improved handicap accessibility for places like the Main Street building, and a variety of beneficial improvements, Gayle wants to continue the streetscape progress, creating a warm, inviting community for residents and visitors. She also sees great opportunities for the Borough and residents to work together, recently initiating a Community Grant Program, Park Partners, to encourage resident volunteers to plan and execute programs to benefit our town.



### ELSIE FOSTER-DUBLIN

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

celebration of Public Events, Recreation Department and others.

Elsie is pleased with the progress of the new Police Department Complex, scheduled to be completed in April 2014. The new, 10,000 square foot building, will house offices for the Police and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), as well as a Sally Port for safer transfer of prisoners. The OEM has updated its training and procedures manuals to better serve the community. Training for all emergency personnel and CPR training for staff members has also been up-

dated. Public Safety hosted a successful Gun Safety Meeting, and they hope to schedule additional programs in the future.

In her responsibilities with the Celebration of Public Events, Elsie initiated the renaming of Madison Avenue as "Fallen Heroes Way", in dedication for war veterans from Highland Park. She assisted the Recreation Department in organizing a special Immersion Program for Camp Discovery, hosting over 150 students and chaperones from China for the 2013 camp season.



## PADRAIC MILLET

### PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Energy Audit Program, a program aimed at reducing energy costs, saving taxpayer dollars, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, has been completed, and is another example of Highland Park's commitment to protecting the environment.

Padraic Millet serves as Council President and chairs the Public Works which includes Council Liaison to the Environmental Commission, Sustainable Highland Park, and the Shade Tree Commission.

One of Padraic's big projects this year has been the Sidewalk Improvement Program, aimed at making the sidewalks safer for our residents, and residents are responding positively to the program. In addition, he has worked to restore the Catwalks on the North Side of town.

The Public Works and Utilities Committee is working on numerous programs for the coming year, including replacing the Montgomery Avenue water main, launching an Organic Waste Recycling Pilot Program, and implementing a Borough Energy Aggregation program. This program will include bidding as a community for electrical power. Padraic is excited to work with his committee on these programs and more, thus continuing Highland Park's progress as a Green Community.



## JON ERICKSON

### FINANCE

Community. Through the Public Works Department, he helped secure a Sustainable New Jersey Certification, an honor that places Highland Park as a leader in environmental issues. It also provides tools, training and financial incentives for sustainability programs. In addition, he is especially proud of the new food recycling program he helped initiate at the school district, as well as a weekly recycling pick-up.

Jon Erickson chairs the Finance Committee, and is Council Liaison to the Planning Board, Public Works Department, Redevelopment and more. In his work with the Finance Committee, Jon helps maintain existing municipal services while keeping within the State Budget cap.

Jon is committed to continuing Highland Park's efforts as a Green

In the coming year, Jon hopes to work on the budget process by making it more transparent. He also wants to encourage residents to get involved in the community, and hopes to oversee a new grant program for community projects.



## GARY POTTS

### RECREATION & ARTS

tended this year's Prom, held on June 6th at the Senior/Youth Center. Congratulations to Joseph Torrisi and Joy Levine on being named the Prom King and Queen!

Gary Potts serves as the Council Chair for Recreation and Arts, Council Liaison for the Arts Commission, Celebrations of Public Events, Council on Aging, County Cultural & Heritage Commission, County Transportation, Fields Project Liaison, Municipal Alliance, Recreation Advisory Committee and the Recreation Department.

This was a terrific year for events in Highland Park. Our Memorial Day celebration was a beautiful tribute to our Veterans. The crowds lined up to see Veterans and First Responders parade up Raritan Avenue. Our Independence Day Celebration turned out to be a terrific day, with games, music and events during the day, and a spectacular fireworks display at night. Our Council for the Aging planned another wonderful Seniors Prom. More than 100 people at-

The Recreation Department has been extremely busy. Our summer camp program had a record youth attendance this year, and our youth and adult sports leagues continue to thrive. The Mayor's Teen Advisory Committee has been a welcome new program to the Borough. Members participated in Community Service programs and organized a great Talent Show earlier this year. We are eager to grow this program in the coming year. We continue to add new programs to our Arts, Recreation and Sports programs, and look forward to their continued success.

Highland Park offers a wide variety of fun programs and activities especially for our youth and seniors. I encourage you to visit our Borough website or stop by the Senior/Youth Center to find out more about all of the opportunities to get involved in so many fun programs.



## SUSAN WELKOVITS

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

new Walk the Park program from the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. This monthly themed walking program is aimed at getting residents out and moving, while appreciated the beauty of our town. She is excited about the overwhelming response to this program, even adding additional walks each month to accommodate the crowd.

Susan Welkovits chairs the Committee on Health & Human Services, which includes the Board of Health, Mayor's Wellness Campaign, Commission for Universal Access, Housing Authority, Food Pantry, and Human Relations. She is also Council Liaison to the Highland Park Library and Schools.

Susan focuses on the health and wellness of community residents. As such, she has promoted speakers on a variety of health issues, and brought back the popular bike rodeo to Highland Park. Susan is excited about the

Universal Access has developed Act Out!, a theater arts program for adults with disabilities. The Food Pantry was awarded a grant to purchase refrigeration, making it possible to offer dairy, meats, and fresh produce to its clients. The Housing Authority and Parker House received a Leading Age grant to provide weekly activities and a weekly meal for seniors and disabled residents. The Housing Authority and the Borough also signed

a Shared Services Agreement, creating the first Tenant's Association. The Human Relations Commission held a fantastic, successful annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, receiving the largest attendance ever. In addition, a generous grant from Freeholder Jim Polos has allowed the Highland Park Library to install a new HVAC unit, and the Library began its 5-year plan, which includes selecting an architect to redesign the Library floor plan.

Welkovits is excited to continue these successful programs, and bring additional ones to the community, including more health speakers, outreach efforts for the Food Pantry, and a Human Relations program to celebrate the diversity among Highland Park residents.

# HIGHLAND PARK BOROUGH COUNCIL

## TERM EXPIRES

### GARY MINKOFF – MAYOR

*Administration*

732-777-6001 • minkoffhp@gmail.com

1/1/16

### ELSIE FOSTER-DUBLIN

*Public Safety*

732-777-2179 • fosterdublinhp@gmail.com

1/1/15

### GARY POTTS

*Recreation & Arts*

732-745-9117 • pottsgph@gmail.com

1/1/16

### GAYLE BRILL MITTLER

*Communications, Economic Development & Planning*

908-616-7714 • brillmittlerhp@gmail.com

1/1/14

### JON ERICKSON

*Finance*

732- 572-3640 • ericksonhp@gmail.com

1/1/14

### PADRAIC MILLET – COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Public Works & Public Utilities*

732-220-1309 • millethp@gmail.com

1/1/15

### SUSAN WELKOVITS

*Health & Human Services*

732-754-6945 • welkovitshp@gmail.com

1/1/16

## BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION 2013

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b> MAYOR GARY MINKOFF 221 SOUTH FIFTH AVE (O) 732-777-6001 minkoffhp@gmail.com PADRAIC MILLET COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<b>RECREATION AND ARTS</b> GARY POTTS 17 SOUTH ADELAIDE AVE (H) 732-745-9117 pottsgph@gmail.com GAYLE BRILL MITTLER ELSIE FOSTER-DUBLIN	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING</b> GAYLE BRILL MITTLER 7 ELBERT COURT (C) 908-616-7714 brillmittlerhp@gmail.com PADRAIC MILLET JON ERICKSON	<b>FINANCE</b> JON ERICKSON 321 MANSFIELD ST. (H) 732-572-3640 ericksonhp@gmail.com SUSAN WELKOVITS GAYLE BRILL MITTLER	<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b> SUSAN WELKOVITS 433 CEDAR AVENUE (C) 732-754-6945 welkovitshp@gmail.com JON ERICKSON GARY POTTS	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b> ELSIE FOSTER-DUBLIN 408 SOUTH 9TH AVE. (H) 732-777-2179 fosterdublinhp@gmail.com GARY POTTS PADRAIC MILLET	<b>PUBLIC WORKS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES</b> PADRAIC MILLET 325 SUMMIT PLACE (H) 732-220-1309 millethp@gmail.com ELSIE FOSTER-DUBLIN SUSAN WELKOVITS
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**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR** KATHLEEN KOVACH kkovach@hpboro.com 732-819-3789

BOARD OF EDUCATION CABLE TV/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE GRANTS LOBBYING NEWSLETTER OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION PERSONNEL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PUBLIC RELATIONS WEB SITE	ARTS COMMISSION CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS COUNCIL ON AGING DEPARTMENT ON AGING COUNTY CULTURAL & HERITAGE COMMISSION COUNTY TRANSPORTATION FIELDS PROJECT LIAISON MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE RECREATION ADV. COMM. RECREATION DEPT.	BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FAIR TRADE COMMITTEE MAIN STREET LIAISON MASTER PLAN LIAISON REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING BOARD* PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE STREETScape PROJECTS	CAPITAL PLANNING & PROJECT REVIEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ETHICS BOARD LIAISON FINANCE DEPARTMENT SHARED SERVICES TAX ASSESSMENT & COLLECTION	BOARD OF HEALTH COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY HOUSING AUTHORITY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MAYOR'S WELLNESS CAMPAIGN PUBLIC LIBRARY	COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE SAFETY COMMITTEE FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRST AID SQUAD JUVENILE CONFERENCE COM. MUNICIPAL COURT POLICE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING COMMITTEE	CLEAN COMMUNITIES LIAISON CODE ENFORCE MENT DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION PEDESTRIAN & TRAFFIC SAFETY TASK FORCE SUSTAINABLE HIGHLAND PARK SHADE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
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The Standing Committees of the Borough Council are chaired by a member of the Governing Body, and include two other members of the Council, with the exception of the Administration Committee, which is chaired by the Mayor and includes the Council President as a Member. Standing Committee members are listed in the order of their rank on the Committee. Council President serves as liaison to County, State, and Federal elected officials unless otherwise noted. \* By Statute, the Mayor (Class I member) and one member of Council (Class III member) serve as members of the Planning Board. \* Statutes also provide for the Mayor to serve as a member of the Library Board of Trustees and to name an Alternate when unable to attend.

## BOROUGH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### CHIEF STEPHEN RIZCO CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Rizco was appointed Chief of Police for the Borough of Highland Park in February 2008. In December 2012, he also assumed the position of Director of Public Safety.

Chief Rizco has been on the Highland Park Police Department since January 1986, and was previously the Director of Safety and Security for RWJ University Hospital in New Brunswick. He graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Administration of Justice, and subsequently earned his Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall University School of Law. Chief Rizco was raised in Highland Park. He and his wife, Lorin, currently live in Hillsborough, NJ.

#### Give an overview of your position.

As the Chief, I am responsible for our 26 officers and civilians, as well as our dispatch crew and crossing guards. As Director of Public Safety, I oversee the administrative functions of the First Aid Squad, Fire Department and the Office of Emergency Management. I am also responsible for implementing educational training programs, determining department policies, and informing the public on matters of public safety and crime prevention.

#### What is the most challenging part of your job?

Highland Park is a very diverse community and we strive to meet the needs of all of our residents. One way that we accomplish this is through cultural sensitivity training. All of our officers and dispatchers have received training in many different cultures, and we welcome representatives and clergy from all denominations to help educate our officers in the traditions and needs of their respective communities. It is important to us to be understanding and considerate of all the different cultures.

#### What are some of the long term goals you have to enhance the community?

I am committed to continuing and furthering the professional reputation of the Police Department and to enhancing the level of service to all of our residents. With the building of our new facilities, I hope to gain accreditation for our department, which would help foster our professional development.

## 2013 BOROUGH CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 2013

- 10/15 – Council Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 10/17 – Planning Board Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 10/23 – Sustainable Highland Park Meeting @ Environmental Education Ctr. – 7:30 PM
- 10/28 – Library Board of Trustees Meeting @ Public Library – 7:30 PM
- 10/28 – Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM

### NOVEMBER 2013

- 11/06 – Council Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 11/06 – Environmental Commission Meeting @ Environmental Education Ctr. – 8:00 PM
- 11/07 – Universal Access Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 11/11 – Veterans Day Observed – Borough Offices Closed
- 11/14 – Board of Health Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7 PM
- 11/18 – Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 11/19 – Council Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 11/20 – Sustainable Highland Park Meeting @ Environmental Education Center – 7:30 PM
- 11/21 – Planning Board Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 11/25 – Library Board of Trustees Meeting @ Public Library – 7:30 PM
- 11/28 – Thanksgiving Day Observed – Borough Offices Closed
- 11/29 – Day After Thanksgiving – Borough Offices Closed

### DECEMBER 2013

- 12/03 – Council Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 12/04 – Redevelopment Agency Special Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 12/04 – Environmental Commission Meeting @ Environmental Education Ctr. – 8:00 PM
- 12/05 – Universal Access Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 12/12 – Board of Health Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7 PM
- 12/16 – Library Board of Trustees Meeting @ Public Library – 7:30 PM
- 12/17 – Council Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 12/18 – Sustainable Highland Park Meeting @ Environmental Education Ctr. – 7:30 PM
- 12/19 – Planning Board Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 12/25 – Christmas Day Observed – Borough Offices Closed

ALL MEETINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, PLEASE CHECK THE BOROUGH'S WEBSITE AT [WWW.HPBORO.COM](http://WWW.HPBORO.COM) FOR ANY UPDATES.

## The Department of Community Services, Office of Recreation - Senior/Youth Center (732) 819-0052

PROGRAM	AGE	DATES	DAYS	TIME	FEE
<b>HIGHLAND PARK DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION</b>					
<b>Chess Class:</b> 5 week sessions for beginners and advancing beginners. Taught by Alexander Braylovskiy	6-12 Years	09/12 to 10/10 & 10/17 to 11/21	Thursdays Two 5 week sessions. HP Senior / Youth Center	5:00-6:00pm	Per 5 week session: \$30 HP Resident \$36 Non-Resident
<b>Theater Program:</b> 9 week program ending with a show. No experience necessary. The focus of the program is on fun and learning. Taught by Tova Halpern	8 to 14 Years	September-November	Thursdays 10 week session HP Senior / Youth Center	4:00-6:00pm	\$75 HP Resident \$90 Non-Resident
<b>Teen Table Tennis:</b> Work on your game play, shots and fundamentals. Taught by Howard Lee.	Kids & Adult Sessions	September-November	Sundays 8 week session HP Senior / Youth Center	Kids: 8:30-9:30 Adults: 9:30-10:30	\$40 HP Resident \$48 Non-Resident
<b>Monday Night Football:</b> Open football session to learn the basics and work on game play. Learn new skills and techniques. Taught by Coach Rich McGlynn	6-8 Grade	September-October	Mondays 8 week session High School Turf Field	6:00-7:30pm	NO FEE Registration Required
<b>Adult Turf Soccer:</b> Open pick-up games at the HP Turf field.	Adults	September-November	Sundays 10 weeks High School Turf Field	9:30-11:30am	\$20 HP Resident \$30 Non-Resident
<b>Mens 30+ Basketball:</b> Open pick-up games for men 30+	Adults	September-November	Wednesdays 10 weeks Bartle School Gym	8:00-10:00pm	\$20 HP Resident \$30 Non-Resident
<b>Mens Basketball (18 to 29):</b> Details to come	Adults	September-November			
<b>Volleyball:</b> Adult volleyball pickup games with instruction	Adults	September-November	Mondays 10 weeks Bartle School Gym	8:00-10:00pm	\$60 HP Resident \$80 Non-Resident
<b>Israeli Dance:</b> Traditional dances arising from Jewish religious and cultural celebrations with line and circle dances.	Adults	September-November	Mondays 10 weeks HP Senior / Youth Center	8:00-10:00pm	\$75 HP Resident \$90 Non-Resident
<b>Wild Wacky Women Workout:</b> Fun and challenging exercises using steps, dumbbells and more.	Adults	September-November	Mondays & Thursdays 10 weeks HP Senior / Youth Center	7:00-8:00pm	\$125 HP Resident \$150 Non-Resident
<b>Tai Chi:</b> Beginner and Advanced groups. Will use gentle traditional techniques connecting mind and body.	Adults	September-November	Mondays 10 weeks HP Senior / Youth Center	6:00-7:00pm	\$40 HP Resident \$45 Non-Resident
<b>Fall Soccer:</b> Play with a team and participate in skills clinics. Work on basics and learn about game play. Coaches needed!	K to 6 Grade	September-November	Games on Sundays. Practices during the week.	12:00-4:00pm	\$60 HP Resident \$80 Non-Resident Registration Due Aug. 15
<b>Youth Basketball:</b> Play with a team or in a skills clinic for the younger children. Coaches needed!	K to 8 Grade	November-March	Games on Sundays & during the week. Practices during the week.	12:00-6:00pm	\$60 HP Resident \$80 Non-Resident Registration Due Nov. 1
<b>Winter Soccer Clinics:</b> Two sessions with Coach Spencer Rockman! Work on skills and having fun!	3 to 12 Years	January-March	Clinics will be held one night a week.	6:00-9:00pm	\$40 HP Resident \$60 Non-Resident
<b>Flag Football:</b> The Highland Park Varsity Coaches instruct the kids in games to teach the fundamentals of football. No contact.	3 to 8 Grade	March-April	Tuesdays & Thursdays	6:00-7:30pm	\$40 HP Resident \$60 Non-Resident
<b>Teen Advisory Committee:</b> This program is to explore issues related to teens and facilitate teen involvement in the borough.	7 to 12 Grade Members Adult Mentors Needed	Year Long Program	Monthly Meetings	TBD	FREE OF CHARGE
<b>Recreation Advisory Committee:</b> Members offer suggestions and input on current and future activities designed to enhance the lives of the residents of highland park.	Adult Volunteers with Teen Advisors	Year Long Program	Four meetings a year with special meetings when needed.	TBD	FREE OF CHARGE

## Department of Public Works Information

Residents are encouraged to visit the Public Works and Recycling webpage's, located under the "Departments" heading at the Borough's homepage at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com), where they can access collection schedules, guidelines and contact information.

### 2013/2014 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

\*\* Please note that there will be **NO RECYCLING** collections performed during Thanksgiving week. Only household garbage and bagged leaves will be collected.

#### OCTOBER 14 (MONDAY) COLUMBUS DAY

Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection will be on Wednesday Oct. 16th

#### NOVEMBER 11 (MONDAY) VETERANS DAY

Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection will be on Wednesday Nov. 13th

#### NOVEMBER 26 (TUESDAY)

Business District, North Side & Triangle recycling collection skipped, will be picked up on Tuesday Dec. 3rd

#### NOVEMBER 28 (THURSDAY) THANKSGIVING DAY

South Side recycling collection skipped, will be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 5th

#### NOVEMBER 29 (FRIDAY) DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

Business District & South Side garbage collection will be on Wednesday Nov. 27th

#### DECEMBER 25 (WEDNESDAY) CHRISTMAS DAY

No services impacted by holiday observance

#### JANUARY 1 (WEDNESDAY) NEW YEAR'S DAY

No services impacted by holiday observance

#### JANUARY 20 (MONDAY) MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection will be on Wednesday Jan. 22nd

#### FEBRUARY 12 (WEDNESDAY) LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

No services impacted by holiday observance

#### FEBRUARY 17 (MONDAY) PRESIDENT'S DAY

Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection will be on Wednesday Feb. 19th

#### APRIL 18 (FRIDAY) GOOD FRIDAY

Business District & South Side garbage collection will be on Wednesday Apr. 16th

### 2013 BULK WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

#### BUSINESS DISTRICT

October 2nd, Wednesday  
December 4th, Wednesday  
February 5th, Wednesday  
April 2nd, Wednesday

#### NORTH SIDE & TRIANGLE AREA

October 2nd, Wednesday  
December 4th, Wednesday  
February 5th, Wednesday  
April 2nd, Wednesday

#### SOUTH SIDE

October 3rd, Thursday  
December 5th, Thursday  
February 6th, Thursday  
April 3rd, Thursday

### LEAF BAG DISTRIBUTION & COLLECTION

Leaf bag distribution will begin on Tuesday, October 15th. Residents must go to the DPW garage, located at 444 Valentine St., between 7:00 am and 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday, to receive their bags. Residents will be given (1) bundle, of (20) bags, per property. After December 1st, residents may receive additional bags, if any are still available.

In November and December, leaves are collected and delivered to a compost facility operated by Middlesex County. Residents may use biodegradable leaf bags or garbage cans for leaf collection. Residents are asked to place their material at the curb on Sunday evening. Each street will be collected at least once a week during leaf season.

### SNOW REMOVAL

When snow is in the forecast, the Public Works Department would like to provide some useful suggestions to assist in the department's snow removal efforts. Please keep in mind that these suggestions are designed to make the streets as safe as possible following a snow event.

- If you live on a street designated "No Parking When Road is Snow Covered", please make sure your vehicle is parked on the proper side of the street when snow is in the forecast.

- "No Parking When Road is Snow Covered" means you can no longer see the paved road, due to the presence of snow. Vehicles parked on these streets, when the pavement is snow covered, are no longer "legally parked" and are in violation of Borough ordinance.

- The parking prohibitions remain in effect after the snow has ceased until the streets have been plowed sufficiently and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

- Park your cars in the driveway, instead of the street, when space is available. With fewer vehicles in the street, the snow can be plowed more efficiently and safely.

- Please remove all basketball hoops and other items from the street that may be damaged by snow plows during snow removal.

- It is illegal to shovel or plow snow into the roadway. When clearing your sidewalk and driveway, shovel or direct your snow blower to put the snow onto the right of way or lawn area. If you have a contractor or other person performing your snow removal, please advise them of the Borough's policies.

- When clearing out the driveway apron, it is recommended that residents wait until the snowfall

has stopped and the plows have cleared the street before shoveling. This way you'll only have to shovel once and snow will not be pushed back into your apron.

- Residents may return to parking their vehicles in the street once the snowfall has stopped and the snow plowing operation has been terminated. As a rule of thumb, snowplowing generally continues approximately two to three hours after the end of a snowfall to allow for sufficient clearance of the roadway.

### E-WASTE RECYCLING

E-Waste recycling is mandatory in New Jersey and is available as a drop off service to residents. Residents are required to bring their items to the DPW building, located at 444 Valentine St. between the hours of 7:00 am thru 2:00 pm., Monday thru Friday.

**Examples of E-Waste:** computers, monitors, printers, scanners, routers, keyboards, cables, televisions, radios, phones, stereo components

**Examples of bulk waste:** speakers, vacuums, toaster ovens, fans, dehumidifiers, irons, microwaves, curling irons, electric shavers, smoke detectors

\*\* If you're not sure if your item is recyclable, call before you load it in your car.

**Fluorescent lamps** are now accepted with E-Waste Recycling. The DPW will accept the following devices:

- CFLs (compact lamps) – each lamp **MUST** be individually packaged in a sandwich bag

- Tubes – up to 8 foot length. Tubes **MUST** be taped in groups of the same length, in quantities of 4 or less.

- U-Shaped bulbs

- Bulbs must be intact/unbroken to be recycled. Broken bulbs (shattered, gas has escaped the bulb) may be disposed of in the regular trash.

### RIGID PLASTIC RECYCLING

In May 2013, our recycling vendor, Colgate Paper Stock Co., informed us of changes to the rigid plastic recycling program. **They will now only accept rigid plastic items that are made from HDPE #2 plastic.** Items that contain additional material that is not plastic or items that are faded, dirty or contaminated with mud or other debris will not be accepted. Rigid plastic items should be placed at the curb with **your weekly household garbage collection**, not the weekly recycling collection.

Some examples of acceptable items include, but not limited to: Lawn furniture, children's toys, carts, crates, buckets, baskets, bins

Some examples of unacceptable items include: Agricultural pots, chemical containers, coolers, PVC items, baby car seats, vinyl siding, battery operated or plug in items, automotive plastics (bumpers, bed liners, etc.)

As a result of this change, if you need to dispose of a baby car seat or an item that is small enough to fit in a garbage can, it may be disposed of with your regularly scheduled household garbage collection. All other items will be considered bulk trash items and will be only collected on bulk trash dates.

If you have items you are unsure if they are recyclable, please call or e-mail the Public Works prior to putting the items out at the curb.

## Arts in the Park – Highland Park's Celebration of Creativity

It was another terrific celebration at this year's Arts in the Park this past September. Now in its ninth year, this outdoor, juried art show featured fine arts and crafts from throughout New Jersey, and once again highlighted a defining quality of Highland Park as a creative, multi-culture, dynamic community.

This cultural festival draws crowds of Art enthusiasts, local residents and visitors from Highland Park and the Central Jersey region.

Arts in the Park has grown over the years, attracting nearly 10,000 Art enthusiasts, local residents and visitors from

throughout the Central Jersey region. The event presented work from more than 50 artists and crafters, as well as demonstrations of works in progress and musical performances. Many downtown restaurants participated by transforming into French-style sidewalk cafes for the day, and Pino's Wine Cellar featured craft brews and artisan spirits, and sponsored a wine and beer garden. A kid-Zone interactive and kids' art display was a big hit with families and children.

With its high quality art and great restaurants, it was a great day out, with something for everyone and the whole fam-

ily. Residents and visitors agree that the Arts in the Park festival strikes the right balance of people watchers and art lovers; to paraphrase from The Picture of Dorian Gray—"there are neither so many people that you can't see pictures, nor are there so many pictures that you can't see the people."

Arts in the Park is a juried show, with cash awards given to the best artists in 7 categories. Congratulations to this year's winners: Photography: Gene Pembroke, Sculpture: Ellen Rebarber, Mixed Media: Chelsea Villegas, "Green"/Repurposed: Fred Cole, Fine Crafts: Don Bradford, Graph-

ics/Drawing/Printmaking: Les Hardley, Painting: Jonathon Horowitz.

Arts in the Park is a Main Street Highland Park event, sponsored by Unity Bank and is funded in part by Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission with the assistance through a grant provided by New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept of State. Main Street Highland Park is a non-profit 501(c) (3) community and economic development organization, dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of downtown Highland Park.



Artists, entertainers and vendors made the day fun for the record crowd.



## DON RISH:

40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Highland Park's reputation as a clean and beautiful town can be largely credited to the man who has helped keep in that way for the past 40 years. Donald Rish celebrates his 40th year in the Department of Public Works for Highland Park.



His extensive career with the Borough began in 1972 as a Laborer. After working his way up to Foreman, he was elevated to Supervisor in 2004. Currently, as Superintendent, Rish is responsible for the up-keep of our town, including street maintenance, sanitation and recycling, shade coverage and snow removal. During emergencies such as floods or snowstorms, he manages the clearing of drains and streets to protect our residents.

In fact, Rish has spent the past four decades ensuring the safety, cleanliness and care of our community. He has done so with enthusiasm and a sincere commitment to Highland Park and its residents.

"Forty years goes by fast," Rish said as he reminisced about his career. "But I enjoy the work and the challenge. It's exciting being able to make improvements in Highland Park."

Throughout the years, Rish has witnessed numerous changes in the way the department operates in Highland Park. "This job certainly isn't as easy as it used to be, when we would just throw everything into one truck. There have been many changes in the laws, especially environmental laws. It's tougher on the workers, but much better

for the environment and our community." Both state and national laws have dramatically altered the sanitation collection process, and requirements for record-keeping have gotten more stringent.

However, the extra work doesn't bother Rish, who is happy to continue the progress that has been made, and intends to keep things moving in a positive direction. In fact, he has no plans to slow down anytime soon, and says retirement is at least five years down the road.

"I work with some incredible people who not only support me, but are hard-working and dedicated to their jobs and this community," Rish said. "My staff and team in the Department of Public Works make my job enjoyable, so I'm happy to be here."

Congratulations to Superintendent Rish for his outstanding work throughout the past 40 years, and thank you for continuing to keep Highland Park clean and safe for all of its residents.

## Highland Park Welcomes Our New Fire Truck



The Highland Park Fire Department welcomed a new addition recently, with the purchase of a fire truck. The new truck, originally purchased in April 2012, arrived at its new home at 220 South Fifth Avenue in November 2012.

This new model replaces a 1986 truck, which the Borough subsequently sold. The new, up-to-date equipment will help the Fire Department perform its duties more effectively. Currently, the Fire Department has three engines and one truck. While an engine has a pump, a water tank, and hose, a truck includes a rig with Aerial ladder, making it a more specialized piece of equipment. The truck is useful for structure fires, and is often the first to be sent to a scene.

"We are very excited about this latest piece of equipment," said Fire Chief Mike McMahon. "Our volunteers are committed to helping our community, and the new truck will help us perform our duties better."

The decision to purchase a new truck began in 2010, at which point the Fire Department submitted a resolution and began determining what type of truck they required. After receiving several bids, 1 Company was chosen to build the new piece of equipment. They delivered the truck on November 2, 2012.

A traditional Wet Down ceremony was held on August 17, 2013. The tradition of a Wet Down dates back to when horses were used to carry equipment to

a fire, and they were wet down to cool off after the fire. Today, firefighters from neighboring towns inaugurate the new equipment by spraying it with water from their own equipment.

The Highland Park Fire Department was established in 1899. They are a volunteer department, with 45 members consisting of volunteers, part-time employees and life members. Each year firefighters respond to an average of 500 calls, and supply aid to neighboring towns in major emergencies. They also assist with motor vehicle accidents, water emergencies, downed electrical wires and community fire prevention activities.

## Progress on the Highland Park Police Building

The new Highland Park Police Building, under construction on South Fifth Avenue, is a long-awaited and much-anticipated addition to our community. After 58 years of a joint Police/Fire Department Building, this new structure will provide better service and updated facilities for the Highland Park Police Department.

The 10,000 square foot building, expected to open in April 2014, will house all Police Department offices, including the Chief, Captain, Detectives, Administration, and Records. It will also contain an Office of Emergency Management Command Center as well as a Sally Port, making the transfer of prisoners smoother and safer for the public. A mul-

tipurpose room, storage garage and lunchrooms will provide the Police with a more comfortable, modern facility.

"I, personally, am excited that we'll have the kind of facility that will support our first responders," said Council Member Elsie Foster-Dublin. "Our Public Safety team plays a critical role in keeping our residents safe, and the new building will ensure that they have the equipment they need to protect our community. Moreover, with the various departments housed in one area, the lines of communication will be clear, ensuring a more efficient coordination during an emergency."

The architectural firm Goldstein Partnership developed an environmentally-friendly struc-

ture, in accordance with Highland Park's commitment as a Green Community. The building is LEED certified, with solar panels on the roof, as well as a solar ray over the Fire Department parking lot. They also worked with the Highland Park Universal Access Commission to ensure handicapped accessibility in all areas of the building.

Groundbreaking for the new building began in August 2012, at which point the Fire Department Building was renovated to better suit the needs of the Fire Department. When the old Police Building was demolished, 90% of the old building was recycled. Construction of the building is being managed by H&S Construction and Mechanical Inc.

## Residents Flock to National Night Out

In 1984, police departments throughout the nation wanted to show people how to have fun – safely. They created a special program, National Night Out, to entertain their communities in a secure environment. This year marked the 30th Anniversary of this popular program, and the Highland Park Police Department was thrilled to participate once again.

On August 6, the HP Police and hundreds of Highland Park residents gathered to celebrate National Night Out, America's

Night Out Against Crime. The event featured a DJ, food and a variety of fun activities for the whole family, in addition to free raffles and giveaways.

Highlights of the evening included an antique car display, dunk booth and rock-climbing wall. Police and emergency vehicles, as well as a monster truck, were also available for the crowd to see. This year's event drew record crowds, who came out to support the Police Department and the community while enjoying free food and fun.

## Obtain your Accident Report Online

The Highland Park Police Department is pleased to announce a new service to obtain motor vehicle accident reports online.

This service, beginning July 17, 2013, is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It allows individuals to download their report in a convenient, easy process. Simply log on to one of the following sites: [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) or

<http://highlandparknj.policereports.us/>

To search for an accident report, enter either the case number, date of accident, or last name of driver. The cost is \$.05 per page and a \$5.00 convenience fee.

Electronic distribution of accident reports enables the Highland Park Police Department Records Staff to work more effi-

ciently and provide a higher level of customer service. This method creates ease of access for the community and insurance companies, saving time and effort when resolving accident issues.

Online reports are available any time of the day or night. Reports are also available in person at Borough Hall during their normal business hours.

## DARE PROGRAM

On June 11, 2013, Sgt. Joseph Olarra, Detective Donald Newton and Detective Nicole Young of the Highland Park Police Department hosted their 22nd annual DARE Graduation at Bartle School. One hundred and one fifth grade students participated and graduated from the ten week program that educated the students about the dangers of consuming alcohol, smoking tobacco and marijuana and how to make healthy decisions.

## Highland Park Public Library

### A MESSAGE FROM JANE STANLEY, DIRECTOR OF THE HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

This Fall we are offering many exciting programs at the library including a poetry reading by Pulitzer Prize Winning Poet Paul Muldoon in October and a year long 1960s Film Series with Dr. Robert Knoll. New electronic applications have expanded our services to your home. By visiting our website at [www.hpplnj.org](http://www.hpplnj.org) you can learn a new language with Mango Languages, download free ebooks and audio books from eLibrary NJ, and access data base to support job searches. You can even access your library account with your smart phone at [hppl.boopsie.com](http://hppl.boopsie.com). We look forward to seeing you at the library for film series, informative talks, author signings, poetry readings, parent programs, events for children, teens, and concerts for every age group. Each month we feature different artists in our meeting room and display cases. Don't forget to check out our selection of books, DVDs, and magazines. Along with our Internet Access computers and free WIFI, we also offer a Career and Educational Center. In the center you can work on your resume, search for jobs, and research your term papers.

### FALL 2013 PROGRAMS

#### ADULTS

Films From the 1960s	Film & introduction with Dr. Robert Knoll Film to be Announced	Sept. 1	6:30pm
Community Blood Drive	Conducted by New Jersey Blood Services for anyone at least 17 years of age & in good health	Sept. 12	1-7pm
Live Radio Play	Raconteur Radio presents The Great Gatsby performed by professional actors.	Sept. 19	7:00pm
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Featured Poet Wanda Praiser - Open Mic Follows	Sept. 24	7:30pm
Films From the 1960s	Film and Introduction with Dr. Robert Knoll. <i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i>	Oct. 1	6:30pm
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Featured Poet Adele Kenny - Open Mic Follows	Oct. 8	7:30pm
Friends of the Library Foreign Film Series	To Be Announced	Oct. 15	6:30pm
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Featured Poet Paul Muldoon	Oct. 22	7:30pm
Poetry Writing Workshop	Conducted by Gail Fisher Gerwin	Oct. 29	7:00pm
Films From the 1960s	Film & Introduction with Dr. Robert Knoll <i>The Innocents</i>	Nov. 12	6:30pm
Poetry Writing Workshop	Conducted by Lauren Schmidt	Nov. 14	7:00pm
Friends of the Library Foreign Film Series	To Be Announced	Nov. 19	6:30pm
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Ed Romond -Open Mic Follows	Nov. 26	7:30pm
Films from the 1960s	Film and Introduction by Dr. Robert Knolls <i>The Manchurian Candidate</i>	Dec. 3	6:30pm
Friends of the Library Foreign Film Festival	To Be Announced	Dec. 17	6:30pm

#### TEENS

Teen Craft - Locker Decoration	Create a magnet, message board or frame	Sept. 10	3:00pm
Gaming Afternoon	Try out the X-Box Kinect	Sept. 10	3:00pm
Banned Book Book Week	Read a banned book and receive a prize!	Sept. 23-27	Library hours
Smoothie Making	Make and enjoy a delicious smoothie	Sept. 24	3:00pm
DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Stamp	Make Your Own Stamp at the library or pick up a kit to make at home	Oct 1 & 4	
Keys To Unlocking Financial Aid	Rana Slosberg of Slosberg College LLC will be giving a talk on college financial aid for teens and parents.	Oct. 7	7:00pm
Gaming Afternoon	Play games on the X-Box Kinect	Oct. 17	3:00pm
Anime/Manga Club	Watch Anime, read Manga, discussion & crafts	Oct. 21	7:00pm
Teen Craft - Cookie Pop Making	Make a cute & delicious cookie pop with Oreos & chocolate	Oct. 22	3:00pm
Teen Craft - Mini Pumpkin Decorating	Mini Pumpkin Decorating	Oct. 29	3:00pm
Anime/Manga Club	Watch Anime, read Manga, discussion & crafts	Nov. 4	7:00pm
Teen Craft - Bird Seed Hangers	Make a beautiful hanging bird seed ornament	Nov. 12	3:00pm
Anime/Manga Club	Watch Anime, read Manga, discussion & crafts	Nov. 18	7:00pm
Sneaky Art Kit	Learn how to surprise people with little art projects	Nov. 22	3:00pm
Teen Book Club	Come to the first meeting of the brand new Teen Book Club. Pizza too! Registration is required.	Nov. 26	3:00pm

#### CHILDREN

Nursery Rhyme Time	Songs, rhymes, and reading for 6-23 month olds accompanied by an adult. Please register.	Oct. 2- Nov. 20	10:15am
TNT (Twos and Threes)	Stories, finger plays, and crafts for 2-3 year olds accompanied by an adult. Please register for only one session.	Oct. 1- Nov. 19 Oct. 2- Nov. 20	10:30am 11:00am
Book Break	Story time for ages 3-5 years	Oct. 2- Nov. 20	2:30pm
Kindermusik with Amy	A musical program for 2-5 year olds lead by Amy Shaman certified instructor.	Oct. 22	10:30am
SALTA! Jump into Spanish	Representatives from Salta will discuss raising children to be bilingual. Following the talk, demo for children especially two-eight years old. Registration is required.	Oct. 8	3:30pm
Read to Belle The Library Dog For children who need practice reading.	Sign up for a 10-15 minute session. Belle loves to listen! Registration is required.	Oct. 3- Dec. 12	6-7pm

## Belle the Reading Buddy – Certified Therapy Dog and Canine Good Citizen

By Valeri Drach Weidmann

A refrigerator magnet that Geoffrey Goyette gives out when Belle the Reading Dog comes to the Highland Park Public Library reads, "Belle the Reading Buddy – Certified Therapy Dog and Canine Good Citizen."

Belle, a golden retriever has certainly lived up to all expectations.

According to Children's Librarian Fran Lee, since the fall of 2008, Belle has helped children in kindergarten through second grade, practice their reading, in weekly fifteen minute sessions.

"Belle's owner Geoffrey, learned about a program that made children more confident readers," Fran said. "It sounded funny to me at first, children reading to a dog. But what happens is, that children who are afraid of making a mistake, don't feel that they are being judged by the dog."

In fact, Fran and the 25 parents who have children in the program since 2008 have noticed wonderful changes.

"Hesitant and reluctant readers, who were once afraid of making a mistake, are now confident and enjoy reading," Fran reported. "Children begin associating reading with Belle, who is a friendly, loving golden retriever. The children actually look forward to reading!"

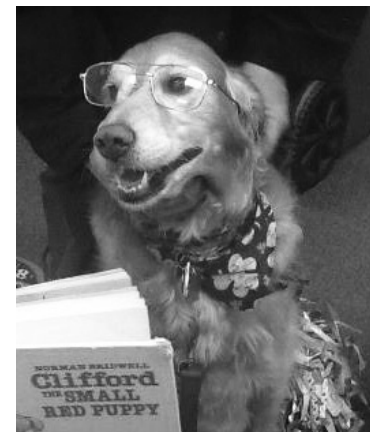
Donna DiStefano was one of the first to sign up their children to read to Belle in 2012.

"When my daughter Karoline was in kindergarten, I felt this would be a relaxing way for her to practice her reading skill," Donna said. "Her connection with the dog got her over the hump. Her reading skills improved so much the year she read to Belle. She continues to love to read!"

### The Story of Belle the Reading Dog

As told by Geoffrey Goyette, Her Best Human Friend

Belle and I chose each other after my two previous dog partners passed away 8 1/2 years ago. I wasn't looking for a dog; but, saw a picture of a 4 month old dog and was curi-



ous about her...she had this very quiet, pensive look about her...unusual for a young dog. When I went to meet her she came rushing out of a pack of puppies to greet me and that is how we started. Since she was my therapy dog to help me recover from the loss of my 2 previous dogs, we decided to become a therapy team and try to help others.

We were looking for an entry level, less stressful environment to start and felt that a reading program would be a good place to begin. Through another librarian we heard about Fran Lee at Highland Park Public Library and contacted her.

Belle and I both enjoy the family orientation of the "neighborhood" library in Highland Park and the diversity of the people we have met. We both enjoy watching children come in to read who are at first very shy, not-so-comfortable with dogs, and nervous about reading, blossom to enthusiastic readers over a few weeks. The smiles are priceless.

The highlight of the program is Belle who is quiet and who patiently listens to every child. She has been climbed on, poked, prodded, and of course petted with never a waver from her calm demeanor. When we are still blocks from the library she will often times sit up in the car and started whining excitedly. She will walk in the library door and bark to announce that she has arrived. It is very funny.

Frankly, this program is one of the highlights of our week. We truly love doing it and we actually feel that we are making a difference in these young reader's lives.

**CONTACT** Valeri Drach Weidmann • 732-572-2750

**LOCATION** 31 North Fifth Ave. • Highland Park, NJ 08904 • [www.hpplnj.org](http://www.hpplnj.org)

#### WEEKDAYS

Monday 10-9  
Tuesday 10-9  
Wednesday 10-5  
Thursday 10-9  
Friday 10-5

#### WEEKENDS

Saturday 10-5  
(Oct: 5, 19, Nov: 2, 16, 30, Dec: 14, 28)  
Sunday 1-5  
(Oct: 13, 27, Nov: 10, 24, Dec: 8, 22)

#### HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Mon. Oct. 14, Columbus Day  
Tue. Nov. 5, Election Day  
Mon. Nov. 11, Veteran's Day  
Thur. Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day  
Fri. Nov. 29, Day After Thanksgiving  
Wed. Dec. 25, Christmas Day

## HIGHLAND MARKS

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR RESIDENTS

**ZOE TATINAR** graduated last summer with a degree in business from Georgia State University in Atlanta. She currently works at Starwood Hotels and Resorts, an international hotel chain. Zoe is a 2009 graduate of Highland Park High School.

**AVI BODZIN** earned his Second Degree Black Belt in June 2013. Avi, a thirteen year old student at Yeshivat Netivot Montessori, has been taking Karate since he was four years old, flying through the Kinder System and Junior Black Belt before he was nine. At ten he earned his First Degree Black Belt for adults.

Highland Park celebrated a group of young girls, ages 9-11, who completed a 5K in June. These girls are members of **GIRLS ON THE RUN**, a national organization which encourages young girls to embrace their individual strengths, and successfully navigate life experiences. The girls met for ten weeks to exercise, communicate, and work together for the community. They also trained for the Somerville Girls on the Run 5K, which was their "graduation" event.

**KARIN RABE** received one of the highest honors in the scientific community with her election to the National Academy of Science, a prestigious society consisting of the top scientists, engineers, and medical professionals in the nation. Rabe, a Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Rutgers University, was recognized for her research on the properties of materials, focusing on techniques to design new electronic devices for use in energy conversion and information storage and processing.

**KAYLEIGH SHANGLE**, a senior at The College of New Jersey, was named Swimmer of the Year by the New Jersey Athletic Conference, and James Shangle, a freshman at TCNJ, was named Rookie of the Year. The siblings have both had incredible accomplishments in their swimming careers, and have made a big impact on the TCNJ Swim Team.

**MARC MAPPEN** has published his sixth book, Prohibition Gangsters: The Rise and Fall of a Bad Generation. The book will be a featured selection of the History Book Club and the Book of the Month Club. Mappen's latest work tells the story of a generation of gangsters during the Prohibition era, from 1920 to 1933, who came to power with the initiation of the Eighteenth Amendment banning the manufacture, sale, and transportation of alcohol.

**MAVERICK LIN** won the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament in May. The tournament, held in Thomas Edison Park in Edison, NJ, featured top high school tennis players in Middlesex County. Lin has been playing tennis since he was twelve years old and has been an important member of the Highland Park High School tennis team. This was his second year in the GMC Tournament.

**OSCAR LEE** was named a Bezos Scholar for his outstanding volunteer effort in the community. Lee, a senior at Highland Park High School, was among twelve public high school juniors last year to receive this award and attend the Aspen Ideas Festival in June. At the festival he met with leaders and experts in a variety of fields, and is in the process of planning a community service project to benefit Highland Park.

**DR. JILL LEWIS-SPECTOR**, a professor of literacy education at New Jersey City University, has been elected to a three-year term as an officer of the International Reading Association (IRA), beginning with a Vice Presidency and concluding with the position of President of this 70,000 member international organization. Dr. Lewis-Spector, a former public school teacher, has served on numerous literacy councils and organizations, and has been on the IRA Board of Directors since 2004.

**HOPE EISDORFER**, a former Highland Park High School student, was awarded a Master of Social Work by the Fordham University School of Social Work in May 2013. Hope is the Executive Director for the Coming Home Program at Riverside Church in Manhattan, a program for ex-offenders that she co-founded as a social work intern.

Highland Park residents **JAMIE AND KATE ATSCHINOW** paired their concern for the community with their interest in saving money, and created a program to help those in need. CuttingOutHunger, begun in June 2013, accepts donations to buy food for the Highland Park Food Pantry. The girls then purchase grocery items, using numerous coupons to save money. During the first two months, they donated nearly \$2000 worth of food at a cost of only \$182, thanks to the use of coupons. After seeing how much their work has helped local residents, they hope to continue and increase their efforts in the future.

Highland Park resident **DAVID A. BEARDSLEY** has published an "e-single", The Ideal of The Odyssey. The story analyzes Homer's Odyssey based on the "hero's quest" myth. Beardsley is the author of The Ideal in the West, and is currently teaching a course on that topic at the Rutgers Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The new e-single is available for download on Amazon Kindle at <http://www.amazon.com/Ideal-Odyssey-ebook/dp/B00EBGBQP2>.

*We want to hear about your accomplishments! Write to [mjackson@hpboro.com](mailto:mjackson@hpboro.com)*

## Walk the Park



Get up and out – that's the goal of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign this year. And, we want to make it fun and easy for Highland Park residents to do just that.



Therefore, the Campaign developed a new Wellness series – Walk The Park – to encourage residents to exercise and appreciate our community at the same time. Each month the Campaign sponsors a themed walk through a different section of Highland Park. These walks, taking place on weekday evenings, are an enjoyable, easy way to exercise after work!

Our first walk was Environment in the Park in July. This one-hour walk was hosted by generous members of the Environmental Committee, who guided residents on an easy hike through the Meadows Trails, and talked about the many varieties of plants and vegetation in our community.

Architecture in the Park, our August walk hosted by architect Steve Buzbee, was an eye-opening lesson about the variety of architecture throughout Highland Park. Between our arts and crafts

style homes and houses that date back to the 1800's, Highland Park is a center for architectural diversity.

Due to the popularity of this program, in addition to themed walks, the Wellness Campaign is sponsoring monthly walks in the Meadows Trails. "I'm thrilled with the incredible response to this program," said Council Member Susan Welkovits. "It's a great way to exercise, and a wonderful opportunity for residents to learn about our community and meet their neighbors."

To register for the themed walks (registration limited), please email the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Walk the Park program at [walktheparkmwc@gmail.com](mailto:walktheparkmwc@gmail.com). No registration required for the Meadows Walks. Please include a contact number in your email; in case of inclement weather, we will contact you with a rain date.

## Highland Park Kicks Off Park Partners Community Service Grant Program

### Highland Park Awarding Up To 5 Community Grants To Residents

Highland Park prides itself on being a community of cooperation, as our residents and the Borough have a long history of working together on projects and programs.

It was this idea that inspired the Borough to initiate "Park Partners", a community service grant program that encourages residents to volunteer on behalf of the community. Park Partners, launched in July 2013, is a grant program sponsored by the Borough. Residents are encouraged to develop ideas to help benefit Highland Park, and the Borough provides support for these programs. The programs are meant to enhance our community, benefit our residents, and encourage volunteer participation.

Residents were given five categories in which to develop their programs: Environment, Arts, Culture & Diversity, Safety, and Universal Access or Health & Wellness. The Borough Council is offering up to five grants, one in each category, valued at up to \$2,000 each. After completing an application, resident participants will create a presentation display for their idea. All presentations

will be gathered for resident review, and Highland Park residents will vote on the winning idea in each category.

The winners of these grants must complete their program within one year of grant approval. The Borough will assist grant recipients with a financial grant of up to \$2,000 for one winner in each category, as well as consulting and completion of permits. Residents are encouraged to recruit volunteers to help execute their programs.

"This is a great opportunity for the Borough and residents to work together to enhance our community," said Council Member Gayle Brill Mittler. "We look forward to this partnership and to building a bright future in Highland Park."

Grant winners will be announced on the Borough website, Nixle, Facebook and Twitter. A complete list of winners and programs will be available on the Borough website at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com). To volunteer to help with one of the programs, contact the Borough Clerk at 732-819-6014.

## The Borough of Highland Park Department of Community Services Office on Aging

### FALL/WINTER 2013 SENIOR PROGRAMS

ALL PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT THE HIGHLAND PARK SENIOR/YOUTH CENTER, 220 SOUTH 6TH AVE, HIGHLAND PARK, NJ 08904

**ARA MEETING**  
(Alliance for Retired Americans)  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
(except July/Aug)  
**DAYS:** 1st Thursday of each Month  
**TIME:** 1:00pm  
**FEE:** ARA Membership Dues

**BODY RECALL**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Mon. Wed. Fri  
**TIME:** 9:00-10:00am  
**FEE:** \$1.00 per class

**EXERCISE WITH DONNA**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Mon. Wed. Fri  
**TIME:** 11:30-12:30pm  
**FEE:** \$1.00 per class

**SENIOR YOGA**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Mon. Wed. Fri  
**TIME:** 12:30-1:00pm  
**FEE:** \$1.00 per class

**TAI CHI**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Thursdays  
**TIME:** 2:00-3:00pm  
**FEE:** \$1.00 per class

**HEALTHY BONES**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Thursdays  
**TIME:** 9:30am  
**FEE:** Membership Fee

**HEALTH EASE**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Thursdays  
**TIME:** 11:00am  
**FEE:** FREE

**KNITTING & CROCHET**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Mondays  
**TIME:** 10:00am  
**FEE:** FREE

**BINGO**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Tuesdays & Fridays  
**TIME:** 12:30pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**BRIDGE**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Mon. Tue. Thurs.  
**DAYS:** Mondays  
**TIME:** 1:00pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**BRIDGE/CARDS/MAH JONGG**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Tuesdays  
**TIME:** 1:00pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**PINGPONG**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Thursdays  
**TIME:** 1:00am  
**FEE:** FREE

**WOODCARVING**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round

**DAYS:** Tuesdays  
**TIME:** 9:30am  
**FEE:** FREE

**CHORUS**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Tuesdays  
**TIME:** 10:00-11:00am  
**FEE:** FREE

**PIANO INSTRUCTION**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Tuesdays  
**TIME:** 11:00-12:00pm  
**FEE:** FREE



**PAINTING CLASS**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Tuesdays  
**TIME:** 10:00am  
**FEE:** FREE

**YIDDISH GROUP**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Wednesdays  
**TIME:** 10:30am  
**FEE:** FREE

**PODIATRIST**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** 2nd Thursday of each Month  
**TIME:** 2:00-4:00pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**MONTHLY BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** 1st Thursday of each Month  
**TIME:** 9:30-12:00pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**PLAY READING GROUP**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Thursdays  
**TIME:** 1:00pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**MONDAY MOVIES**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Mondays  
**TIME:** 1:00pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**COMPUTER CLASS**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** 2nd & 4th Friday of each Month  
**TIME:** 10:30am  
**FEE:** FREE

**CONVERSATION ENGLISH (RUSSIAN)**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Wednesdays  
**TIME:** 10:30am  
**FEE:** FREE

**CONVERSATION ENGLISH (CHINESE)**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Tuesdays  
**TIME:** 11:00am  
**FEE:** FREE

**AFTERNOON TEA & DISCUSSION GROUP**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Tuesdays  
(See Monthly Calendar for listing)  
**TIME:** 1:30pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**KARAOKE AFTERNOONS**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Fridays  
(See Monthly Calendar for listing)  
**TIME:** 2:30pm  
**FEE:** FREE

**JEWELRY MAKING WORKSHOPS**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013  
(See Monthly Calendar for listing)  
**TIME:** 2:30-4:00p  
**FEE:** \$5.00-\$8.00 per class

**KRAFT'S WITH KIM WORKSHOPS SOAP MAKING**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Year-Round  
**DAYS:** Thursday, Sept. 26, 2013  
(See Monthly Calendar for listing)  
**TIME:** 1:00pm  
**FEE:** \$5.00 per class

**BLOOD SUGAR SCREENINGS & HEALTH COUNSELING**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Special Event  
**DAYS:** Tuesday Sept. 17, 2013  
**TIME:** 10:00am  
**FEE:** FREE

**BALANCE & FALL PRE-VENTION PRESENTATION BY: VNA HEALTH GROUP**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Special Event  
**DAYS:** Monday Sept. 23, 2013  
**TIME:** 10:00am  
**FEE:** FREE

**BALANCE & FALL PRE-VENTION PRESENTATION BY: VNA HEALTH GROUP**  
**AGE:** 55+  
**DATES:** Special Event  
**DAYS:** Friday Oct. 25, 2013  
**TIME:** 11:00am  
**FEE:** FREE



### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

#### MONTHLY SENIOR LUNCHEONS & PARTIES

Join us for Lunch and Enjoy a Presentation or Entertainment

**AGE:** 55+  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY.  
**DATES:** 9/17, 10/21, 11/25 & 12/16  
**TIME:** 12:00pm  
**PLACE:** Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** FREE

#### WEDNESDAY OUT OF TOWN SHOPPING TRIPS

Afternoon Outings to Local Malls & Shopping Centers

**AGE:** 55+  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY.  
**DATES:** Wednesdays  
**TIME:** 12:30-3:30pm  
**PLACE:** Depart From Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** FREE

#### NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDENS

Trip to the Gardens & Lunch At Mario's Restaurant

**AGE:** Open to All  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to ALL.  
**DATES:** Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2013  
**TIME:** 10:00am  
**PLACE:** Depart From Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** \$97.00 per person

#### DUKE FARMS ESTATE TRIP

Trolley Tour through Fall Foliage and Scenic Property

**AGE:** Open to All  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY.  
**DATES:** Sept. 2013  
**TIME:** TBA  
**PLACE:** Depart From Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** \$20.00 per person

#### WEST POINT TRIP

US Military Academy Tour & Lunch at Historic Thayer Hotel

**AGE:** Open to All  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to ALL.  
**DATES:** Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013  
**TIME:** TBA  
**PLACE:** Depart From Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** \$85.00 per person

#### PEDDLER'S VILLAGE, P.A.

Day trip to Bucks County for Shopping & Fall Displays

**AGE:** 55+  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY.  
**DATES:** Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013  
**TIME:** 9:00-4:00pm  
**PLACE:** Depart From Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** \$20.00 per person

#### ATLANTIC CITY TRIPS

Casino: Showboat

**AGE:** Open to All  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to ALL.  
**DATES:** Sept. & Nov. (Check Center for dates)  
**TIME:** TBA  
**PLACE:** Depart From Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** \$35.00 per person (\$30.00 back in slot cash)

#### NEW YORK CITY LIGHTS TRIP

Lunch at Bucca di Beppo Tour of NYC Lights & Rockefeller Center

**AGE:** Open to All  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to ALL.  
**DATES:** Dec. 2013  
**TIME:** TBA  
**PLACE:** Depart From Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** \$79.00 per person

#### JERSEY SHORE PREMIUM OUTLETS

Visit 120 outlet stores for all of your Holiday Shopping! Free VIP booklet

**AGE:** 55+  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required.  
**DATES:** Thursday, Dec. 12, 2013  
**TIME:** TBA  
**PLACE:** Depart From Senior/Youth Center  
**FEE:** \$10.00 per person

#### SENIOR HOLIDAY PARTY

Join us for lunch & Enjoy Entertainment to Celebrate the Winter Holidays

**AGE:** 55+  
**REQUIREMENTS:** Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY.  
**DATES:** Monday, Dec. 9, 2013  
**TIME:** 11:30am-2:00pm  
**PLACE:** Highland Park Italian Bistro  
**FEE:** \$7.00 per person

The Senior/Youth Center is open Monday- Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Senior In-Town Transportation is available Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Out of Town Medical Transportation is available Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. To schedule a ride, please call the center at (732) 819-0052. A monthly Senior Citizens Calendar with detailed program information and more is available at the Senior/Youth Center or online at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) For further info, please contact The Dept. of Community Services or Kimberly Perkins, Senior Program Coordinator, at [kperkins@hpboro.com](mailto:kperkins@hpboro.com) or stop by the Senior Center to inquire about registering for programs. Limited enrollments for some programs. Space is also limited on some senior trips.

**The Senior/Youth Center Serves as a meeting place for local senior citizens. It offers a wide variety of Social, Recreational, and Educational Activities daily for the benefit and enjoyment of Highland Park Seniors.**

All activities, programs, luncheons, trips & transportation are available to members of the Highland Park Senior Center. **The Yearly fee is \$10.00 for In Town Residents and \$75.00 per year for Out of Town Residents** The Department of Community Services, Office on Aging - Senior/Youth Center (732) 819-0052

## Downtown Gets Comfortable with New Living Rooms

The addition of "living rooms" to the Streetscape has served to reinforce Highland Park's downtown district identity as a place where people want to spend time and interact with friends and family. With a couch, table and lamp, the living rooms are enticing to residents, employees and visitors. Far from discouraging congregation, the living rooms facilitate interaction. And, increasingly, they are becoming the place for planned and spontaneous events in the downtown.

This past summer, the living rooms featured story time led by Grace Puleo, owner of Yellow Brick Road, music and singing from Kindmusik, Spanish-language readings and music performances by several local artists.

In addition, numerous people found them a great place to relax with an ice cream or a latte, or just sit and people-watch. No one has set up their home office in one yet, but really, it's only a matter of time....



## 5K Run in the Park

The clouds were low, but the spirit was high for the 6th annual Run in the Park on Sunday. More than 400 runners gathered on Raritan and 8th to participate in the 5K run through Highland Park.

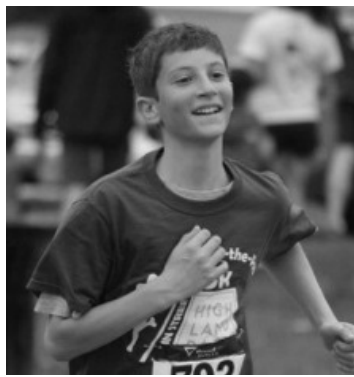
A group stretch led by Kinetics owner Metra Lundy energized the crowd. Then the bullhorn sounded, and the race began. The overall winner, 17 year old Joe Ambrosio, reached the finish line in 18:42 minutes.

Despite the overcast weather, dozens of residents lined the streets in support of the runners, some handing out water, others playing music and cheering. "The weather was actually nice to run," one participant noted. "It wasn't too hot, so it made running easier."

Proceeds from the 3.1 mile (5K) race benefit the Highland Park library, volunteer fire department, first-aid squad, police and the Office of Recreation.



Elliot and Sophie Ostrove of Highland Park, NJ



Zack Kaplan, Son of HP Communications Editor, Stacy Kaplan



Metra Lundy, owner of Kinetics Fitness in downtown Highland Park, led runners in a pre-run warm-up.

## Get Rewarded for Shopping in Highland Park!

This year, paying taxes will be a little less painful for residents and visitors who shop in Highland Park. In September, 2013, the Borough of Highland Park and Main Street Highland Park initiated a new tax-incentive program to benefit local residents and businesses, as well as visitors to our community.

The Shop Highland Park Reward Program allows residents to shop at many of our downtown businesses using a reward card, and receive a percentage of the purchase amount back as a property tax credit. This means shopping in Highland Park equals a reduc-

tion in property tax liability. Visitors who participate in this program will receive a yearly rebate check for the amount of savings, subject to a \$7 processing fee.

Individual businesses determine the tax reward offered to customers, which will be processed at the point of sale. Rewards are accumulated in an escrow account until the end of the shopping year (May 1st through April 30th), and will be credited to the resident's third quarter tax period. Participating businesses will have a Shop Highland Park window cling clearly displayed.

This program has proven to be highly successful in several other communities, both as a savings to residents, and as a way to encourage increased shopping in local businesses. The Borough and Main Street are excited to be offering this opportunity, and encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the benefits of the Shop Highland Park Property Tax Reward Program.

For questions about the program, please contact Main Street at 732-828-8444, [www.mainstreethp.org](http://www.mainstreethp.org), or FinCredit Inc. (Program Administrator) at 732-946-0919, [www.property-taxcard.com](http://www.property-taxcard.com).

HANDMADE  
HIGHLAND PARK

## Upcoming Events

FRIDAYS through Dec 20:  
Farmers' Market and Artisan Market

ARTS in the PARK, Sunday Sept 29

AUTUMN in the PARK, Sun Oct 27

Downtown Trick or Treating, Thurs Oct 31

HOLIDAY LIGHTS begins Wed Nov 27

HIGHLAND PARK  
MAIN STREET  
MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Hey Highland Park ~  
What are YOU grateful for?

Watch for details...

The Gratitude Graffiti Project is coming soon!

## Local Muralist Gives Back by Brightening the Town Canvas

By Matthew Brian Hersh

After graduating from Highland Park High School in 2000, Jonathan Jacob Schwartz noticed an artist deficit in town. Fellow artists were taking their talents to purported greener pastures like Brooklyn and Jersey City, leaving Highland Park's pastoral canvas untouched.

That's changed.

These days, anyone living in or visiting Highland Park will instantly see Horowitz's artistic legacy, indelibly stamped on buildings once emblazoned with nothing but mortar or vinyl. Look at the Park Town Center building on Raritan Ave, or in the alley next to White Lotus Home, or on the side of the Main Street Highland Park building.

"We had this abundance of talent in Highland Park, but it seemed very little of it was being invested back into our own town," Horowitz said. "We have people going out achieving great things in arts and entertainment, and many of them were leaving because there was no local organized effort to retain talent."

So how to best get people's attention and get artists involved? "I think artists and the community get the most excited through public art, and that's what we're trying to do here."

Through Paz culture system, the art collective he helped start with several local artists, Horowitz feels he's found a mechanism to build and organize a robust local arts scene. "This is obvious, but sometimes all you need is to go out and make a 50-foot painting to get the ball rolling," he said.

But it's not just about keeping local artists in local, it's also about having them be part of the community, Horowitz said.

"We believe that the fine art



community and community-based arts communities like ours aren't really connected," he said. "You're either doing art street festivals or gallery shows—you're never really doing both. But I felt it was important to fuse the two."

Marrying those two once-disparate ends of the art spectrum is important, Horowitz said, because gallery artists can teach community-based artists about good business models and provide marketing sensibilities, and, in turn, community-based artists can teach gallery artists about making art for the masses.

At the end of the day, it's about "pursuing a career in art

and sustaining a career in art, while providing something good for your community," Horowitz said.

Providing something good is not only about aesthetic and for public enjoyment, it's refreshingly municipal in nature as well. Horowitz said public arts could help support Highland Park's master plan and redevelopment plan, promoting economic viability downtown by way of arts initiatives.

"With my art I want to help support those ideals for the downtown, and that's a big part of the collective's approach," he said.

The Paz culture system is not

only about Highland Park, however. Horowitz and his cohorts envision a regional collective that harnesses artistic talent throughout Central Jersey. For example, Global Fiesta, the 64-foot-long mural alongside the Park Town Center building (along the Stop & Shop driveway), was assisted by local art students who were hired by Horowitz. In the process, Paz guided these aspiring professionals through the steps necessary to realize such a large project.

Horowitz also hired Highland Park High School students to help with other aspects of the project, including fundraising.

For Horowitz, including the community in all aspects of pub-

lic art is essential to building a local and regional movement.

"Instead of being part of someone else's movement we need to create our own movement," he said.

"Public art achieves immediate results, transforming the public space to facilitate efforts striving to depict Highland Park as a town teaming with artists, intellectuals, and other individuals proud of their cultural capital," explains Jonathan Horowitz. "In just a couple of months we can dramatically transform the downtown landscape to make Highland Park even more appealing as a arts and culture destination."

## FREEHOLDER CORNER

### Blanquita Valenti

Blanquita Valenti is a Freeholder who is quite familiar with Highland Park. A resident of New Brunswick for more than 50 years, she shops and visits our community frequently, and has been involved in numerous programs in Highland Park.

Valenti is currently the Deputy Director of the Board of Freeholders. Previously, she was Chair of the Department of Aging and the Department of Human Services. She has continued her involvement in these committees because

of her deep commitment to people and the community.

Valenti was a key figure in the establishment of homeless veteran housing in Highland Park. Working with Reverend Kaper-Dale, she helped the First Reformed Church on South 2nd Avenue convert ten apartments into housing for homeless veterans. This significant development in 2009 left a big impact on Valenti, who often speaks of her respect for the Reverend and her pride in Highland Park for being such a welcoming and caring community.

"Highland Park has always been a great neighbor to New Brunswick. We have maintained a nice relationship throughout the years," Valenti said. "Highland Park is a great place to be, for its diverse shops and friendly residents."

She hopes to continue developing programs and promoting Highland Park as a wonderful place to visit and live, and looks forward to working with the Borough and its residents in her role as Deputy Director.



Blanquita Valenti

# THE 7 WONDERS OF HIGHLAND PARK

Many of the things that make Highland Park a terrific place to live and raise a family, as we all know, reveal themselves over time and sometimes in unexpected ways. In this first installment of an ongoing series, we hear from residents on what makes Highland Park “wondrous.” We know it’s subjective, but that’s the point. Everyone has a different take, a different perspective, and a different reason that illustrates why our town is great.

THIS EDITION’S GUEST CONTRIBUTOR:

**TIM COYLE**

FORMER HIGHLAND PARK ZONING OFFICER

1

With the many trees in Highland Park my favorite time here is early spring, when the buds start popping and warmer days are right around the corner.

2

The beautiful vistas of the Raritan River from some of our taller buildings on S. Adelaide Avenue and River Road. As an inspector I had the opportunity to get the birds-eye view to see only what the tenants on the top floors get to see.

3

The different restaurants and the so many choices one gets to pick from, depending upon the type of food and country you want to eat in that day.

4

The Greek olive oil and the fresh dried oregano at The New Athens Corner Inn.

5

All the friendly people you meet on a daily basis. Proving a point, that nice matters.

6

Going down to Donaldson Park at lunch in the summer time and watching the many boats and wave riders launched from the dock. Some techniques very good, some very funny.

7

The short cut to get from River Road, over to North 8th Avenue, the back way. Sorry if you don’t live here or know what I am talking about, I can’t tell you, you have to find it for yourself.

Want to list your 7 Wonders of Highland Park? Write to [mjackson@hpboro.com](mailto:mjackson@hpboro.com) with your name, address, list of 7 Wonders, and a sentence on why it’s wondrous to you and we’ll publish it either in the Highland Park News or the Highland Park eNews.

## Highland Park Camp Discovery Immersion Program

For a culturally diverse community such as Highland Park, hosting students from around the world is a natural fit. That’s probably why the Highland Park Camp Discovery Immersion Program has been such a successful program.

Camp Discovery is Highland Park’s community summer day camp program. Open to children ages 5 to 18, the camp includes five weeks of fun activities such as sports, arts and music, trips, cooking and special events. The camp, which started in 2010, attracts more than 200 local children each year, with rave reviews from both kids and parents.

In her work with the Highland Park Recreation Department, Council Member Elsie Foster-Dublin saw an opportunity to infuse some cultural diversity into Camp Discovery. She created a cultural exchange and immersion program with schools in other countries. Students and adult chaperones travel from their home country to our community to share five weeks of camp with children in Highland Park.

This past summer, Highland Park had the honor of welcoming 158 students, 20 teachers, and 1 parent from various communities in China, Spain and Florida. Participants stayed

with host families in Highland Park and surrounding towns, and attended camp with local children. The program allowed these students to experience many aspects of American culture during their visit.

Wu Jiancheng, Vice President of the International Education & Cultural Exchange Center in Beijing, said, “This is a great beginning and I hope the program will continue – each year more Chinese friends will visit Highland Park and live with more American families.”

The Immersion Program helped bridge a cultural divide. The students and chaperones returned to their homes with positive feelings about America, and special memories of Highland Park.

“We love Highland Park,” many of the members said. “We want to attend school in Highland Park, and we want to come back to camp here next year.”

Housing was arranged by Aunt Elsie’s Homestay, a program established in 2007 which provides nationwide housing opportunities for foreign students with caring families in America.



# HAPPENINGS IN HIGHLAND PARK

