

THE HIGHLAND PARK NEWS



A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park

SPRING 2014

“PARK IT!” Highland Park Reinvents Itself as a Destination Community

Walk it. Shop it. Live it. PARK IT! Highland Park has it all, and is spreading the word about our incredible community. Whether you like walking, shopping, dining, being creative, or just playing with your family in a park, you can enjoy all your favorite activities in Highland Park!

Over the past several years, Highland Park has made many changes to the aesthetics of our downtown on our way to become a Destination Community. In 2003 we became New Jersey's first Green Community, solidifying our commitment to preserving and protecting the environment, and taking steps to improve the environmental health of our community. Our recent status as a Complete Streets town advanced our efforts to become more pedestrian friendly. Highland Park has so much to offer, and we encourage people to get out of their cars, and enjoy our town by foot or bike. Our town boasts beautiful parks and rivers all around us, and we are home to unique shops such as Gems Galleria, Over The Moon Toys, and Sweets to Nuts, as well as ethnic restaurants like Pithari Tavern and Pad Thai. Our newly designed sidewalks, with our Living Room corners, enhance the beauty of our downtown, and make it a welcoming place to spend time.

To help spread the word about our “PARK IT!” plans, beginning this spring the Borough is spon-

soring a week of themed events – one each month – from April through September, to encourage residents and visitors to experience everything our community has to offer. These events are being planned in conjunction with annual community events sponsored by Main Street and other Highland Park organizations. The

Park,” said Council Member Gayle Brill Mittler. “We are surrounded by two beautiful parks. We have a lively and very walkable downtown. Our unique gift shops and craft shops line both sides of our streets. There's plenty to eat as you stroll down our streets and even an occasional wine or beer tasting.



Borough has enlisted the help of our many volunteers to plan and execute these activities, which will be held in the parks, downtown Business District, Library and public buildings. Don't worry – there's still plenty of time for you to volunteer for any of these events! Just contact Stacy Kaplan at 732-819-3781.

“As residents, we are all aware of the many advantages of Highland

Highland Park is the perfect place to get out of a car and “PARK IT!” the Highland Park way.”

The “PARK IT!” plan will showcase Highland Park as a Destina-

tion Community to our residents and visitors from throughout Middlesex County and beyond. We encourage everybody to

participate in these incredible upcoming programs, and experience the wonderful community of Highland Park.

A complete list of activities during each themed week will be available on the Borough website prior to each week, at www.hpboro.com. We welcome volunteers to help sponsor future events.

SHOP IT.
WALK IT.
LIVE IT.
HIGHLAND PARK
PARK IT!

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Park Partners Results!
Silver Sustainability Status!
Kiosks Are Coming!

These articles and much more in your Highland Park News!

Letter from Your Mayor

Despite an extreme cold front and an abundance of snow this past winter, Highland Park remained as strong as ever, and

continues to develop in many areas. Our Committee members, who are vital to our community, have been busy developing programs for our upcoming Marketing Campaign, and our resident volunteers who received a grant from the Park Partners Community Grant Program are in the process of planning and executing their projects to benefit Highland Park.

As we complete the last details of our Streetscape Project, I have been encouraged by the litany of positive, unsolicited comments by residents and visitors who remark at the beautiful aesthetics of our downtown. Developers and investors have been making inquiries about opportunities to work with us to enhance what we have, while existing property owners continue to reinvest in their properties to increase their value, both visually and financially. With approximately 97% occupancy rate in our

downtown, it's clear that Highland Park is “Open for Business”.

That statement is emphasized further by our new Shop Highland Park Reward Program, which encourages shopping locally by offering financial incentives in many downtown businesses. This innovative program is a true competitive advantage. I encourage all of our merchants to learn more about opportunities to participate, and I encourage our residents to take advantage of this program that can only help us continue to thrive economically.

We continue to see robust programming for our youth and seniors; our camp saw record enrollment this year, with nearly 200 students visiting us from overseas; this not only created a meaningful financial surplus for the camp, but generated a significant cultural exchange opportunity as well. Our recreation programs continue to evolve and expand and I am pleased

that we successfully, officially launched our Mayor's Teen Advisory Committee this past year; they are planning a number of meaningful projects.

Our Library has completed a strategic plan to emphasize upgrades to facilities and technology that will better align the Library with communal needs and usage pattern. This plan enables the Library to continue providing vital services and programs to our community.

Our Mayor's Wellness campaign regularly offers a variety of programs that are good for the body - and the mind. I'd say we are trying to make everyone a little more well-rounded - but I think our goal is to make everyone a little less round - if possible. Sustainable Highland Park led us in achieving the Silver designation for our efforts as a Sustainable Community, and we continue to explore a variety of initiatives to build our portfolio of sustainability-related activities



and programs.

Highland Park continues to have enormous potential as a Borough, because we have the right ingredients – safe and clean streets, a walkable community, a diverse, dynamic, creative and passionately engaged community. We will continue to take advantage of the many wonderful opportunities that will inevitably come our way, while maintaining our focus on pursuing the opportunities that are the most realistic, viable, and appropriate to ensure that we fulfill our communal potential.

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The Highland Park News
221 South Fifth Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSS

STAY UP TO DATE BY FOLLOWING HIGHLAND PARK ON FACEBOOK AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HPBORO AND TWITTER AT 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

BOROUGH OF 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

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

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

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) 819-3788

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) 819-3787
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) 819-3787

Billing & Meter Reading
Sewerage Bills

ZONING

(732) 819-3795

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) 819-3795
Zoning Questions

Highland Park Honored with Silver Level Sustainability

As New Jersey's first Green Community, Highland Park is proud of our ongoing efforts on behalf of the environment. Our Sustainable Highland Park Committee works tirelessly to ensure that our community remains committed to this cause.

In November, 2013, Highland Park was rewarded for those efforts by receiving a Silver Sustainability Jersey Certification from Sustainable Jersey. The Silver level certification is a high honor within the organization, and is reserved for municipalities that have made significant progress toward sustainability. These municipalities are considered state-wide and national leaders in sustainability efforts.

Highland Park was noted for the creation of an innovative

municipal home energy assessment program, which has now been incorporated as a new Sustainable Jersey action for other municipalities to replicate. To date, more than 200 Highland Park households have had assessments done, and approximately 20 percent of those homeowners have moved forward with implementing the improvements to save energy and money.

Teri Jover, Chair of the Sustainable HP Commission, was thrilled to receive this honor at the 5th Annual Sustainable Jersey Award Luncheon in Atlantic City in November 2013.

"It was exciting to see Highland Park get recognized for its efforts to become sustainable – but there is much more to be

done. We're looking forward to improving on the work we've done and tackling some new and exciting initiatives in 2014."

Sustainable Highland Park is a committee of the Borough of Highland Park and serves as its "green team", charged with looking at a broad spectrum of sustainability issues and opportunities for the Borough to implement green strategies. Sustainable Highland Park has public meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Environmental Education Center at 20 River Road in Highland Park.

Sustainable Jersey, launched in 2009, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support and reward



communities as they pursue sustainability programs. The certification program is for municipalities in New Jersey that take steps

to sustain their quality of life over the long term. Certification is based on an extensive review of the municipality's programs and endeavors.

SPOTLIGHT ON Michael Rosenberg, Chair of the Highland Park Environmental Commission

Part of the reason Highland Park is known as an environmentally-friendly community has to do with the dedication and determination of Highland Park's Chair of the Environmental Commission, Michael Rosenberg.

The Environmental Commission has numerous responsibilities to help protect the environment. During building and construction projects, community events, renovations and more, the Commission is consulted regarding the effect the project will have on the environment.

Rosenberg was appointed to the HP Environmental Commission in 1984 by then Mayor Harold Berman. He became Chair shortly after, and has led the seven-member Commission for nearly 30 years. He has worked with six Mayors and numerous Borough Council Members over the years, and he owes the success of his efforts to his positive attitude and non-political agenda. In fact, Rosenberg's sole concern is to make sure our community protects its precious natural resources, including the parks and open spaces, water sources, trees and more.

He is proud of the many accomplishments attributed to the Environmental Commission throughout the past 30 years. Among them are the completion of the Environmental Resources Inventory, trail building along the Meadows Trail and Valley Place Ravine Trail, conservation easement, and numerous clean up days and removal of invasive species. The Commission has also been responsible for the oversight cleanup of contaminated sites within the community. The Commission's website received an award from the New Jersey Association of Environmental Commissions.

In April, 2007, the Environmental Commission got a new home

in which to meet, educate residents, and host events. The Eugene Young Environmental Education Center on River Road has been a welcome addition to the Commission's educational efforts within the community. Dozens of residents and visitors celebrate Earth Day here with a fair-like atmosphere, and presentations and speakers on behalf of the environment are welcome throughout the year.

"The Borough of Highland Park has always been dedicated and compassionate when it comes to environmental issues," Rosenberg said. "Their cooperation, along with the sincere dedication of our many volunteers, is why the Environmental Commission has been so successful throughout the years. We will continue to ensure the safety and security of the environment in our community."

Rosenberg has lived in Highland Park since 1978. He and his wife, Terri, raised three children, Gilah, Reena, and Joshua, in the community. His commitment to Highland Park as well as his strong background in environmental work, have served to benefit the Commission and the community. He received his Master's Degree in Environmental Science from Rutgers University and is a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager. Rosenberg currently works at Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, as an Occupational Safety Officer, where he is responsible for Environmental and Safety compliance at Overlook. Prior to that, he worked for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection Agency, US Environmental Protection Agency, and GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Environmental Commission, or if you are in need of services, visit the Borough's website, www.hpboro.com, or call the Commission at 732-572-3400.



Rosenberg has been on the Commission for 30 years.



One of many clean-up days sponsored by the Commission.

Borough Council Updates



GAYLE BRILL MITTLER

COMMUNICATIONS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

book and Twitter postings, Nixle alerts and fliers.

Our new "Park It" Marketing Campaign and brand identification ties into our new Complete Streets designation and our walk-able downtown. Look for our newly adapted logo and motivational slogan. Our "Park Partners Give Back Grant Program" was a huge success. 5 recipients received a grant of \$2000 each to execute a program which will benefit our community.

Our Planning Board has been

hearing plans for development throughout the Borough, and our Zoning Board of Adjustment is working on a variety of proposals and plans regarding zoning issues. Our Redevelopment Agency has seen an increase in interest from developers from throughout New Jersey and beyond.

Our designation as a Complete Streets Community was also reviewed and accepted. Our Committees are looking forward to continuing their work in 2014.

As Highland Park continues to grow and prosper, our many volunteer Committees are essential to the Borough's development. Our Public Information Committee keeps residents informed of both community events and emergencies through their bi-weekly E-news letters available online, in addition to many Face-

(GARY POTTS CONTINUED) nity with programs like a talent show, which raised money for the HP Food Pantry. Our many adult programs continued to attract many participants.

Residents were thrilled with our annual community events, including our Independence Day Celebration and Holiday Dinner. Our seniors were busy with daily activities, local outings and special trips, as well as numerous special programs throughout the year. Our annu-

al "Dancing Under the Stars" Senior Prom was enjoyed by over 140 participants. In 2014, the HP Senior/Youth Center will be using the "MySeniorCenter" Program, which uses personalized key tags to access information and schedules at the center. This will make it easier for seniors to keep track of programs.

We look forward to continuing to provide quality services and programs to enrich the lives of the Highland Park community.



JON ERICKSON

FINANCE

community fund for special projects. Performance-based budgeting will directly tie budgets to the need and participation in a program. In addition to this, they are developing a grant program for small projects in the community. The Park Partners program offers a grant to residents to develop and execute programs that will benefit our community. We hope and believe this program will address the needs and interests of a wide variety of community members.

The Borough's finances are doing well, which enables us to serve our residents and provide the community with beneficial programs and projects. We hope to continue this trend in the next year.

I am pleased with the progress our Committee has made this past year. Our Finance Standing Committee's work has enabled the Borough to stay successfully within the state's 2% spending cap without significantly cutting back on programs. They are experimenting with a Council quarterly review of the Borough's expenditures to alert the Council to any issues in a timely manner.

This Committee has also been working on two major projects; performance-based budgeting, and a



ELSIE FOSTER-DUBLIN

PUBLIC SAFETY

for 5th graders. Their "National Night Out" celebration received a record crowd. Finally, 13 police officers and 2 dispatchers were recognized for honorable service.

Our Volunteer Fire Department celebrated the arrival of a new Fire Truck, and held a traditional "Wetdown" ceremony for the community. They also saw eight volunteers reach the rank of firefighters, and two members receive their Level 2 Instructor certification. Our First Aid Squad began much-needed renovations to the Squad building. This past year

they spend thousands of hours caring for the sick and injured in our community, and continued their state-mandated training.

Our Office of Emergency Management, under the leadership of Jim Polos, established action plans for community events and emergencies. They are re-establishing a Borough Community Emergency Response Team, and welcome volunteers for this program. Our Public Service Committee continues to serve the community with pride and loyalty.

Our Public Service Committee is proud of their accomplishments in 2013. The Police Department broke ground for their new state-of-the-art Headquarters, and they welcomed two new police officers and a dispatcher. Two "Operation Takeback" programs were held, as well as a successful DARE program



SUSAN WELKOVITS

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Park became the first Borough in NJ to pass an Ordinance to ban fracking. Subsequently, Middlesex County Freeholders passed an Ordinance to become the first County to ban fracking.

The Commission for Universal Access developed a free theatre arts program for adults with disabilities. The Commission also advocated for additional accessible curbs in town. In 2013, our Food Pantry acquired refrigerators this year to now provide meats and dairy, and enrolled 100 new families. The Mayor's Wellness Campaign launched Walk the Park, a series of monthly themed walks for improved health and social interaction.

It has been a productive and successful year for the Borough.

Last spring, the Board of Health hosted the Middlesex County Mosquito Extermination Commission to discuss mosquito prevention. They held two Affordable Care Act sessions; first hosting Congressman Frank Pallone to discuss the healthcare legislation, followed by a working session to enroll residents. Highland

The Housing Authority reported the highest level of satisfaction from residents. Recently, the Borough was awarded a generous grant from the NJ Dept of Community Affairs and announced a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build a home in our community.

In January the Human Relations Commission honored Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and in December they worked with Main Street to create the Borough's first Kwanzaa and Kinara Lighting Ceremony.

We are excited about our progress this past year, and look forward to many more successful programs.



PADRAIC MILLET

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PUBLIC WORKS & PUBLIC UTILITIES

System.

Sustainable Highland Park helped the Borough achieve a Silver Certification from Sustainable New Jersey. They were also the driving force behind the Borough's Energy Aggregation Program, which will allow the community to bid for its energy as a whole, with the goal of reducing costs and raising the Green component. Finally, the Shade Tree Commission continued their important work of maintaining and improving the street trees and plantings throughout the Borough. We want to thank all of our Committees and Departments for their dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our community.

All of our volunteers and staff have been working so hard this past year. Highland Park is such a vital community because of their efforts. DPW continued to provide excellent service to the community. They are currently looking into a "One Arm" garbage collection vehicle which will allow one driver to operate the collection alone, thus freeing up manpower.

Code Enforcement performed numerous inspections, and played a vital role in developing our Sidewalk Improvement Program. The Environmental Commission obtained funding for informational signage along River Road, and continued to develop our Meadows Trail



GARY POTTS

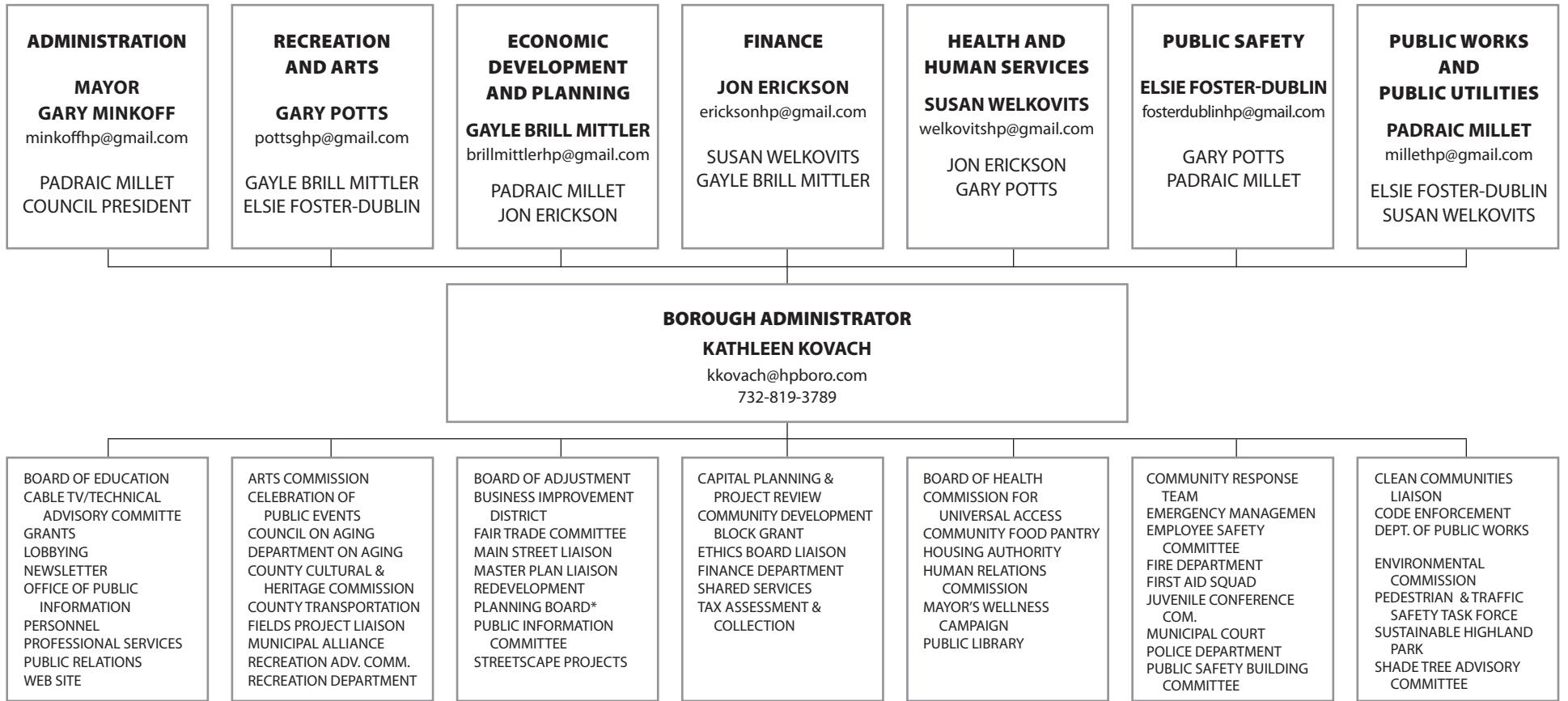
RECREATION & ARTS

There's never a shortage of activities in Highland Park, thanks to our Recreation Department and Senior Center. During 2013, over 1,500 residents participated in our recreational programs and activi-

ties. Our Day Camp and Sports Camp served more than 200 children, and welcomed many students from abroad. The Mayor's Teen Advisory Committee contributed to our commu

(CONTINUED ON THIS PAGE)

Highland Park Borough Council Committee Organization 2014



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.

Spring Forward with Main Street Highland Park!



By Rebecca Hersh, Executive Director, Main Street HP

Main Street Highland Park made the downtown a little less dreary during the dark snowy months of January and February this past winter. The annual Win the Window promotion was a huge success in February, with participating shops donating terrific prizes for display in the Main Street office window. For the whole month, shoppers could visit the participating merchants and fill out a card to try to win *all* the items in the window. Shoppers look forward to this winner-take-all contest every year, and merchants appreciate the extra traffic in their stores after the holiday season is over. Additionally, Main Street helped celebrate New Jersey's 350th anniversary by sponsor-

ing the NJ 350 Pop-Up Shop in February. The temporary sales space in Main Street's office featured a variety of "Jerseyana" merchandise from the NJ State Museum as well as local merchandise from many Highland Park businesses.



And there's a lot to look forward to downtown this spring. Main Street is preparing for the 25th Annual Highland Park Street Fair and annual 5K road race, both on Sunday, May 18th.

The ever-popular downtown Planting Days are coming on Thursday, May 15th and Saturday, May 17th. Starting on Saturday, May 10th and running every other weekend through the end of September, Main Street is hosting its second annual Downtown Movie Nights, free outdoor movies in the Municipal Parking Lot on Raritan Avenue. And, last but not least, the Farmer's Market will return every Friday starting on June 6th!

The Main Street organization is thrilled with the results of the winter programs, and we are looking forward to the spring events. We know that 2014 is going to be a great year for our downtown, and are excited for all of the upcoming programs. We will continue to make downtown Highland Park the place to be in any season.

For information about attending or being a sponsor of Planting Days, the 5K, the Street Fair, Downtown Movie Nights, or the Farmer's Market, visit www.mainstreethp.org, follow the MS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MainStreetHP, email Rebecca Hersh at rebecca@mainstreethp.org, or call 732-828-8444.

MAIN STREET NAMES NEW DIRECTOR



Main Street Highland Park has named Highland Park resident Rebecca Hersh as the new Main Street Executive Director.

In August 2013, Hersh was hired as the Main Street Highland Park Events Coordinator after a number of years serving on the organization's Promotions Committee as a volunteer. An urban planner by training, she has worked at a number of land use planning, policy, and community development nonprofits in the region, including New Jersey Future, Regional Plan Association, and Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association. She also served on Highland Park's Planning Board for two years.

Her leadership experience in planning, public affairs, and community development, combined with her familiarity and commitment to Highland Park, are what motivates Hersh to serve the community. She is looking forward to initiating new programs and ideas for

Highland Park, as well as expanding existing Main Street HP programs.

"We are very excited to have Rebecca lead Main Street. Her experience and dedication to the community are essential to this position. She's got some great ideas for Highland Park for the future, and we are looking forward to the implementation of many of those ideas," said Main Street President Jenni Chapman.

Hersh sees a lot of potential for new Main Street programs for the community.

"Highland Park is a town with so many resources, including a smart and engaged public, great shops and restaurants, and a walkable downtown," she said. "I'm very excited to work with the merchants, the Borough administration, and the community to continue making the town an even more vibrant and walkable hub for shopping, dining, community events, and the arts."

For information about Main Street programs, visit the website at www.mainstreethp.org, follow the MS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MainStreetHP, or call 732-828-8444.

BOROUGH EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

JOAN HULLINGS
BOROUGH CLERK



If you want information about pretty much anything in Highland Park, it's likely Borough Clerk Joan Hullings will have the information – or know where to find it. Hullings has been Borough Clerk since 2005, and has worked in the Borough since 1985. She has gotten to know the Borough's system, and many of its residents, over the years, and is a vital member of the Borough's Administration team.

Hullings was born in the Bronx but raised in Sayreville, NJ, where she currently lives with her husband and three sons, Kevin, Sean and Connor. She attended Middlesex County College, and received her Clerk Certification in April 2003. Hullings also received certification as the Registrar of Vital Statistics in May 2007. Prior to her position as Clerk, she served as Secretary to the Borough Administrator, Parking Authority Secretary, and Secretary to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment.

Give an overview of your position.

As the Borough Clerk, I am the Secretary to the Governing Body in Highland Park. I attend all Council Meetings and prepare agendas and minutes of those meetings. In addition, I write the resolutions and ordinances for the Council. I also issue licenses for residents and business owners, including licenses for dogs and cats, businesses, taxis, wreckers, and used car lots, to name a few.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Highland Park is a forward-moving community, and we have an active Council who works hard for the community. Being responsible for organizing and preparing the meeting agendas each month, as well as writing the numerous resolutions and ordinances, is both challenging and rewarding. Even though it is a lot of work, I appreciate the benefits to the community, and I enjoy being a part of the process. My other responsibility, which involves assisting the residents directly, is equally as rewarding. Throughout the day I assist many residents with their issues or needs. I try to work efficiently and quickly to help the residents or point them in the right direction.

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

I enjoy working in Highland Park because the residents, business owners, and Borough employees are all nice people to work with. I want to continue making things easier for residents, including getting licenses and relevant information. I enjoy making people happy and being able to solve their problems or concerns.

Habitat for Highland Park

From the governing body and administration to the businesses and residents that reside here, Highland Park is deeply committed to maintaining our profile as a welcoming, walkable, and diverse community. "I've been told these are some of the reasons that Habitat for Humanity called me late last year to possibly partner on a building project in Highland Park," said Councilwoman Susan Welkovits, Chair of Health and Human Services Committee.

The Habitat and Borough partnership project has been awarded a rare opportunity for full funding of building costs, about \$133,000. The Borough is making significant donations toward the project and is working with Habitat to create a redesign of their sample home to custom fit the location. The project is moving ahead with generous contributions of professional services, and additional donations and volunteers are needed.

"We are eager to begin work on our first home in Highland Park, and grateful to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for funding this project," said Reverend Jeremy M. Montgomery, Executive Director of the Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity, during Highland Park Middle School's Diversity Day in January where he was Key Note Speaker.

Since 1989, Greater Plainfield Habitat for Humanity is one of nearly 2,000 Habitat affiliates working to create affordable housing worldwide. Habitat offers families a hand up, not a hand out – every partner family devotes at least 200 hours per adult of sweat equity to help build their home and is offered a no-interest mortgage. To donate or volunteer for this project, please contact www.gphabitat.org/highland-park.

Over the years, Highland Park has reaffirmed our commitment to affordable hous-

ing and this new project furthers those initiatives. In 2012, we created the Highland Park Home Improvement Program (HIP). HIP funds are still available, and offer free repairs and upgrades to mid- to lower-income households, income eligibility required. We also promote PSE&G's New Jersey Comfort Partners program that helps low-income customers save energy and money by making homes more energy-efficient, at no cost to the homeowner. For further information on HIP or NJ Comfort Partners, please contact the Borough Clerk.



2014 BOROUGH CALENDAR

APRIL 2014

- 4/02 – Environmental Commission Meeting @ Environmental Education Ctr. – 8:00 PM
- 4/08 – Council Committee Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 4/09 – Shade Tree Advisory Committee @ Environmental Education Ctr. – 8:00 PM
- 4/10 – Board of Health Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:00 PM
- 4/17 – Planning Board Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 4/18 – Good Friday – Borough Offices Closed
- 4/23 – Sustainable Highland Park Meeting @ Environmental Education Ctr. – 7:30 PM
- 4/24 – Public Information Committee Meeting @ Senior/Youth Center @ 7:00 PM
- 4/24 – Planning Board Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 4/28 – Library Board of Trustee Meeting @ Public Library – 7:30 PM
- 4/28 – Zoning Board of Adjustment @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM

MAY 2014

- 5/06 – Council Committee Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 5/07 – Environmental Commission Meeting @ Environmental Education Commission – 8:00 PM
- 5/08 – Board of Health Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:00 PM
- 5/14 – Shade Tree Advisory Committee @ Environmental Education Center – 8:00 PM
- 5/15 – Planning Board Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 5/19 – Library Board of Trustee Meeting @ Public Library – 7:30 PM
- 5/19 – Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 5/20 – Council Committee Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 5/22 – Public Information Committee Meeting @ Senior/Youth Center @ 7:00 PM
- 5/26 – Memorial Day – Borough Offices Closed
- 5/28 – Sustainable Highland Park Meeting @ Environmental Education Center – 7:30 PM

JUNE 2014

- 6/10 – Council Committee Meeting @ Borough Hall – 6:00 PM
- 6/11 – Shade Tree Advisory Committee Meeting/Environmental Commission Meetings – 8:00 PM
- 6/12 – Board of Health Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:00 PM
- 6/19 – Planning Board Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 6/23 – Library Board of Trustee Meeting @ Public Library – 7:30 PM
- 6/23 – Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting @ Borough Hall – 7:30 PM
- 6/25 – Sustainable Highland Park Meeting @ Environmental Education Center – 7:30 PM
- 6/26 – Public Information Committee Meeting @ Senior/Youth Center @ 7:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE
Independence Day Fireworks Celebration, July 3rd, 2014

Department of Recreation, 732-819-0411 Like us on Facebook@Highland Park NJ Recreation

SPRING 2014 RECREATION PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	AGE	DAYS	TIME
Chess Class: 5 week session for beginners and advancing beginners. Learn the basics or improve your game! <i>Taught by Alex Braylovskiy</i>	6-12 years	Thursdays Two 5 week sessions @HP Senior Youth Center	5:00-6:00pm
Theater Program: No experience necessary. Participants provided with a fun, creative environment to explore their dramatic talents! <i>Taught by Tova Halpern</i>	7-16 years	Thursdays 10 week sessions @HP Senior Youth Center	4:00-6:00pm
Teen Table Tennis: Work on game play, shots and fundamentals. <i>Taught by Howard Lee</i>	Kids: 8-11 years Adults: 12+	Sundays 4 and 8 week sessions @HP Senior Youth Center	Kids: 8:30-9:30am 12 & Up: 9:30-10:30am
Flag Football: Work on fundamentals and gain experience in game situations in a non-contact format. <i>Taught by Rich McGlynn</i>	3rd-5th Gade 6th-8th Grade	Tuesdays & Thursdays 5 weeks @ Municipal Recreation Complex Turf Field	3rd to 5th: 6:00-7:30pm 6th to 8th: 6:00-8:00pm
Spring & Summer Tennis: Enjoy outdoor tennis at Donaldson Park! Learn basic skills or improve your game! <i>Taught by Howard Lee</i>	April-Aug	@ Donaldson Park	High School/Adults: 7:30-8:30am Grade 4th to 8th: 8:30-9:30am
Art Classes for Children: Come show your creative side! The class will focus on graphic arts, covering drawing and painting. <i>Taught by Alan DiGaetano</i>	3rd-5th Grade	TBD @HP Senior Youth Center	TBD
Juggling Club: All skills welcome! Improve your coordination, concentration and confidence with Juggling. <i>Taught by Louis De Lauro</i>	8-16 years	Wednesdays 10 week sessions @HP Senior Youth Center	6:00 to 7:15pm
Adult Turf Soccer: Open pick-up games at the Municipal Recreation Complex Turf Field	Adults	@ Municipal Recreation Complex Turf Field	9:30 to 11:30am
Mens 30+ Basketball: Open pick-up games for men 30+	Adults 30+	Wednesdays 10 weeks	8:00 to 10:00pm
Mens Basketball League: Teams are formed and play in a formal spring league.	Adults 18+	TBD	TBD
Volleyball: Adult volleyball pick-up games with instruction. <i>Instructor Ehab</i>	Adults	Mondays 10 weeks @ Bartle School Gym	8:00 to 10:00pm
Israeli Dance: Traditional dances arising from Jewish Religious and cultural celebrations with the line and dance circles.	Adults	Mondays 10 weeks @ HP Senior Youth Center	8:00 to 10:00pm
Wild Wacky Women Workout: Fun and challenging exercises using steps, dumbbells and more.	Adults	Mondays & Thursdays 10 weeks @ HP Senior Youth Center	7:00 to 8:00pm
Tai Chi: Beginner and Advanced groups will use gentle traditional techniques connecting mind and body.	Adults	Mondays 10 Weeks @ HP Senior Youth Center	6:00 to 7:00pm
Teen Advisory Committee: This program is to explore issues related to teens and facilitate teen involvement in the Borough.	Teens & Adult Mentors	Meetings Once a Month @ HP Courtroom	Like us @ Highland Park Teen Advisory Committee
Recreation Advisory Committee: Members Offer Suggestions and input on current and future activities designed to enhance the lives of the residents of Highland Park.	Adult Volunteers & Teen Advisors	Four Meetings a Year with special meetings when needed.	TBD
Womens Softball League: Womens softball league that takes place in Johnson and Donaldson park on weeknights throughout the summer.	Adults	Tuesdays Johnson or Donaldson Park	6:30
Coed Softball League: Coed softball league that takes place in Johnson and Donaldson park on weeknights throughout the summer.	Adults	Thursdays Johnson or Donaldson Park	6:30
Highland Park Summer Camp: Come enjoy your summer break with the HP Summer Camp counselors! Spend your summer at the pool, playing sports and taking awesome day trips!	Children & Teens Grades K-12	July-August	Weeks TBD

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INFORMATION

Residents are encouraged to visit the Public Works and Recycling web pages, located under the "Department" heading on the Borough's homepage at www.hpboro.com, where they can access collection schedules, guidelines and contact information.

2014 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

APRIL 18 (FRIDAY) GOOD FRIDAY

Business District & South Side Garbage collection will be on Wed. April 16th

MAY 26 (MONDAY) MEMORIAL DAY

Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection will be on Wed. May 28th

JULY 4 (FRIDAY) INDEPENDENCE DAY

Business District & South Side garbage collection will be on Wed. July 2nd

SEPTEMBER 1 (MONDAY) LABOR DAY

Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection will be on Wed. Sept. 3rd

OCTOBER 13 (MONDAY) COLUMBUS DAY

Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection will be on Wed. Oct. 15th

NOVEMBER 11 (TUESDAY) VETERANS DAY

Business District, North Side & Triangle recycling collection will be on Wed. Nov. 12th

NOVEMBER 28 (FRIDAY) DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING

Business District & South Side garbage collection will be Wed. Nov 26th

*****Please note there will be no recycling collection during the week of the Thanksgiving Holiday*****

2014 BULK WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

BUSINESS DISTRICT

April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1, December 3

NORTH SIDE & TRIANGLE

April 2, June 4, August 6, October 1, December 3

SOUTH SIDE

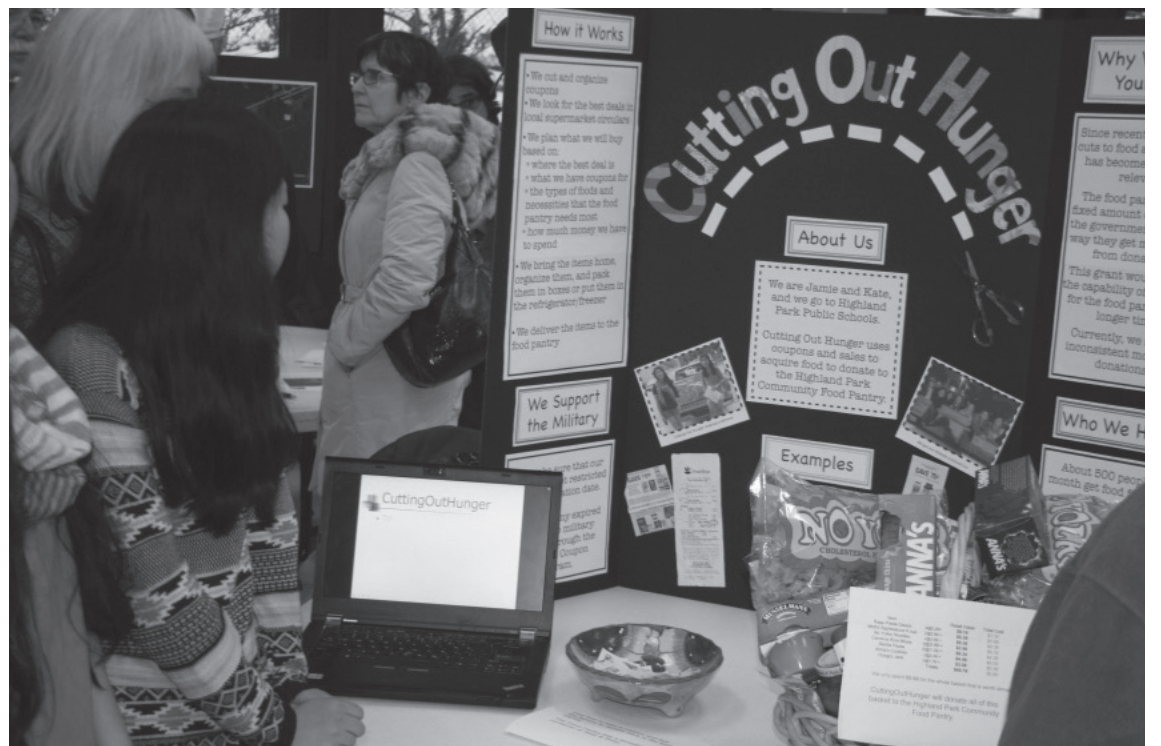
April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2, December 4

CHOMETZ/CHAMETZ – The DPW will have a truck available at the Public Works building, located at 444 Valentine St., for residents to dispose of their leaven products on **Monday, April 14th, between 7:00 am thru 1:00 pm.** The DPW will accept garbage and recycling only; materials must be separated as garbage and recycling. NO bulk waste will be accepted.

PAPER SHRED – The Paper Shred Event will be held on **Friday, May 9th**, in the parking lot of the Community Services building, 220 S. 6th Ave., between **9:00 am and 12:00 noon.** This event is sponsored by the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste. As per the County, the event is open to all Middlesex County residents and there is a limit of a maximum of 5 file boxes or up to 100 pounds (in manageable containers) to each event.

For further information about DPW Schedules or Guidelines, visit www.hpboro.com or contact the DPW at 732-512-1277.

Park Partners Program Winners!



The results are in – and the benefits are beginning! Highland Park's **Park Partners Grant Program 2014** is in full swing, and the winning grant recipients are already planning their programs to help enrich our community.

Park Partners is a community service grant program sponsored by the Borough of Highland Park. Residents were asked to develop an idea or project which would benefit our community. Five grants, valued at up to \$2000 each, were made available to help execute these projects. Grant categories included: Environment, Arts, Culture & Diversity, Safety, and Universal Access or Health & Wellness.

Participants were required to fill out an application and create a presentation for a public vote. On February 9, 2014, residents were invited to a "science-fair" type exhibition at the Senior/Youth Center, during which they listened to presentations by the applicants and voted by ballot for one project in each category. The winning projects have one year to implement their program.

The Fair was a huge success, with more than 170 residents in attendance to vote on their favorite programs. The Borough plans to make this an annual program, and encourages residents to get involved in our community.

The grant recipients and programs for 2014 are as follows:

ENVIRONMENT

Raritan River Walking Trail. A walking trail of approximately 900 feet will be built at the Native Plant Preserve/Environmental Education Center along the bank of the Raritan River. Sustainable HP will build and be responsible for maintaining the trail. This project will provide a new destination for residents to view the Raritan River and appreciate nature, and will encourage appreciation of Highland Park's Open Spaces.

ARTS

The Highland Park Outdoor Movie Theater. Last year Highland Park began showing films in the Municipal Parking lot at Raritan Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. The program was very successful, attracting large crowds for the viewings. Due to copyright and licensing issues, the availability of movies was limited. With the Borough's Park Partners grant, the sponsors will be able to offer a more diverse and exciting calendar of movies this summer, for all residents to enjoy.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS OR HEALTH & WELLNESS

CuttingOutHunger. Jamie and Kate Atshchinow, students at Highland Park High School and Middle School, began a program in which they collect and use coupons to buy food and goods at a minimal cost for the Highland Park Food Pantry. They also send expired coupons to military families, who are able to use them to cut their grocery costs. From June – October 2013, they donated \$3200 worth of food items to the Food Pantry, using only \$400 in cash donations. The grant money will help to help offset the already minimal cost of their donations, and will allow them to increase their donations.

SAFETY

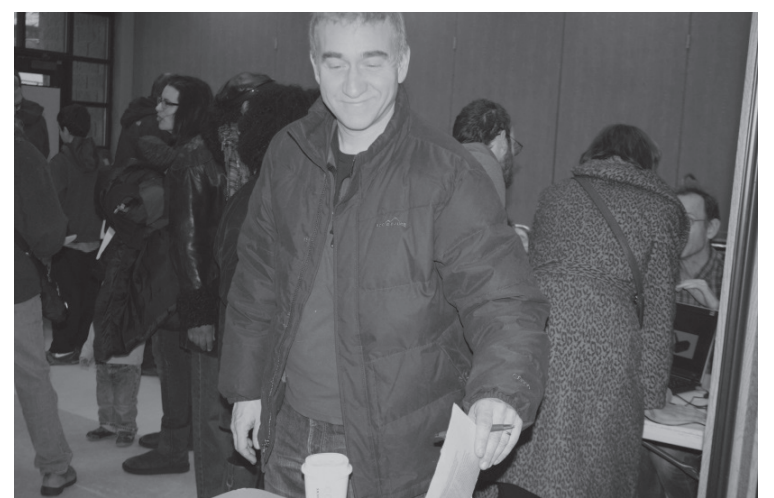
Stay Informed – Red Cross Emergency Radios. The Park Partners grant will enable this program to purchase approximately 55 Red Cross Emergency Solar-Powered

Radios to give to disabled and senior residents in the community. These radios, which can be used during emergencies such as power outages, are able to receive AM/FM Radio, NOAA weather band channels and alerts, can charge a cell phone and can be used as a flashlight and emergency flashing beacon. This program is especially relevant to our community. During Hurricane Sandy and the recent power outages due to a harsh winter, we learned the importance of identifying alternative means of communication to residents without internet or cell phone access. Providing solar-powered radios will be a huge benefit to many of our residents.

CULTURE & DIVERSITY

Think HP. Think HP is an exploration of race. It hopes to foster critical consciousness and enhance the discourse on issues of race through a three-part campaign: I AM is a transmedia photo project that pairs photography and Q&A exchanges to facilitate candid conversations about race. COLOR CODES is a public forum for the community to share and think about their views on race. Interactive discussions, including panels, lectures and performances by community activists, academics, etc. will be held in April.

We look forward to seeing the results of these wonderful programs, which will help make Highland Park a vibrant, continually developing community.



Something's A-Buzz In Highland Park

If you notice your flowers blooming a little better this year, it may be the work of some very special Highland Park bees, and the work of two very special Highland Park residents, Udi Shorr and Ora Gourarie.

After reading about the importance of bees to our environment, and the current dangers to bee colonies, Udi, a freelance writer, and Ora, a psychologist, developed an interest in bee-keeping. They attended a meeting of the Raritan Valley Bee Keepers Association, where they met bee-keeper Frank Loche, who became their mentor and guide in their new endeavor.

The following spring, Udi and Ora purchased two colonies of bees, housing them on the second story landing of their home in Highland Park. When they learned that a neighbor was allergic to insect stings, they realized the need for a more perma-

nent – and safe – home for their bees.

Working with Council Member Gayle Brill Mittler and the Highland Park Environmental Commission, they proposed a new home for their bees at the Eugene Young Environmental Education Center on River Road in Highland Park. Plans for the proposed installation were reviewed by New Jersey's state apiarist (a Department of Agriculture expert who inspects hives throughout the state). The plans were then approved by the Highland Park Council and Udi and Ora donated their hives to the Environmental Center. They, along with several other local volunteers, continue to maintain and care for the bees at their new home.

This location, they acknowledged, has been beneficial to both the bees and our community. The bees have a safe, comfortable home along the



A presentation for children during a visit with Who is My Neighbor?

river, and receive proper care. For the community, there is an environmental and educational benefit. Since bees have a two-three mile flight range, these pollinators help the beautiful flora grow and spread throughout Highland Park. For students and residents in our community, having the bees here is a terrific opportunity to learn about these important insects and see them in action. Honey from the two beehives will be donated to the Elijah's Promise community soup kitchen.

"It says a lot about our town that the Council set aside space for these beehives. Local gardeners benefit. And parents and kids can just walk over to see how a real-live beehive works," said Shorr.

Udi and Ora have made a number of presentations to local children and backyard campers through Who Is My Neighbor? Inc. Children learned about the many tasks bees must manage. Each demonstration concluded, naturally, with a taste of fresh honey.

Udi and Ora enjoy teaching others about their somewhat unusual hobby. The most common question they are asked, of course, is if they ever get stung.

"Well, yes, we get stung," said Ora, "just as carpenters hammer their thumbs from time to time. And although it's not pleasant, it's part of the experience. We feel this work is important, so we don't mind."

For information about opportunities to learn about bees and beekeeping, contact Udi Shorr at 732-819-9850.

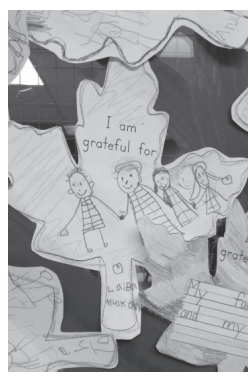
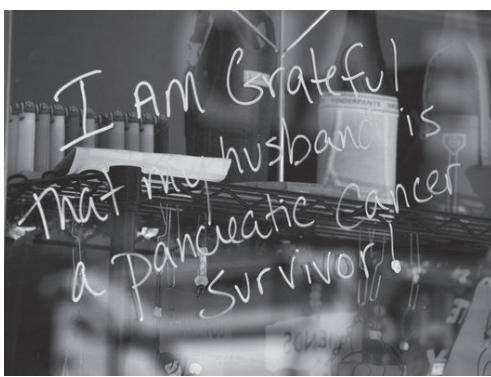


Udi and Ora give presentations to educate the public about the importance of bees.



The bees are enjoying their new home at the HP Environmental Education Center.

An Artful Way to Show Gratitude



"I am grateful for..." were four very popular words last autumn, scrawled across storefront windows, the Library, school entrances, places of worship, and throughout Highland Park. They were the key words in The Gratitude Graffiti Project in Highland Park – 33 days of expressions of gratitude in our community, from the end of October until Thanksgiving Day.

The Gratitude Graffiti Project, begun in Maplewood in 2012, was embraced by Highland Park residents and the numerous participating merchants. The project's mission is to encourage people to express their appreciation for anything in their lives through messages or artwork on storefronts and

buildings within towns. Using erasable markers, passersby were welcome to visit the Graffiti Stops and write or draw their message of thanks. More than 30 locations in Highland Park participated in the program, and the project received attention from local and national media.

"The goal of the project was to create an attitude of gratitude throughout our community, so that people might think more often about what they are grateful for and consider ways to express it in their daily lives. We were thrilled with the positive response from all of Highland Park," said Jacquelyn Juricic, President of Who Is My Neighbor? Inc."

Messages such as "I am grateful for my family," to "I am grateful for a roof over my head," were displayed throughout the town, invoking a special holiday spirit during the month before Thanksgiving. The project was a huge success, and plans are underway to make it an annual event.

The Gratitude Graffiti Project in Highland Park was sponsored by Who Is My Neighbor?, Inc., a non-profit organization in Highland Park that works with the community to improve the quality of life for individuals and families through programs that provide local and global neighborly care.

CODE RED EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Highland Park has a new Emergency Notification System to inform residents of emergency situations.

The new system, called **CODE RED**, replaces the Global Connect system which has been used in the past. The system works the same way – in case of emergency, residents will receive an alert via a phone call.

A CODE RED message will have a caller ID number of 866-419-5000. If you subscribe to caller ID on your home phone, this will be the number displayed along with name "Emergency Communications". Message recipients may dial the toll-free number displayed on their Caller ID to hear the last Code Red message delivered to that phone number. Residents who have subscribed to receive the emergency messages on their cell phones are encouraged to program **866-419-5000** as a new contact and use "CODE RED Emergency" as the contact name.

Our current database will be transferred from the old system to CODE RED. However, we highly recommend you register with the new system to ensure proper notification. This will not result in duplication of numbers.

Further information on Code Red is available on the Borough website at www.hpboro.com. Click the "Emergency Phone Alerts" link located on the left side of the home page. A list of frequently asked questions is available along with a link to the Code Red registration page where residents can create an account to register their phone numbers.

If you have any questions, please contact Captain Scott Golden at 732-572-3800, extension 4202 or sgolden@hpboro.com.

Highland Park Public Library

Contact: Valeri Drach Weidmann

732-572-2750 • Highland Park Public Library • 31 North Fifth Ave.
Highland Park, NJ 08904 • 732-572-2750 • www.hpplnj.org

Library Schedule & Hours

WEEKDAYS

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

WEEKENDS

Saturdays 10–5
March: 8, 22 • April: 5, 19
May: 3, 17, 31 • June: 14, 28
Sundays 1-5
March: 2, 16, 30 • April: 13, 27
May: 11 • June: 8, 22

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Fri. April 18 - Good Friday
Sun. April 20 - Easter Sunday
Sat. May 24 - Memorial Day Weekend
Sun. May 25 - Memorial Day Weekend
Mon. May 26 - Memorial Day

From: Jane Stanley, Director of the Highland Park Public Library

This spring we are offering many exciting programs at the Library including a poetry reading by award winning Poet Maria Mazziotti Gillan in April 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 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. We look forward to seeing you at the Library for our film series, informative talks, author signings, poetry readings, parent programs, events for children, teens, and concerts for every age group. Teens enjoy clubs, art programs, game days, special events and a book club. 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.

SPRING 2014 PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Program	Description	Date	Time
Time of Transition: Films in the Sixties	Film and introduction with Dr. Robert Knoll. <i>Dr. Strangelove (1964)</i>	Tuesday, March 4	6:30 PM
International Film Series	<i>The Attack (2012)</i> In Arabic and Hebrew. One hour, 35 minutes	Tuesday, March 18	6:30 PM
Poetry Writing Workshop	Poet Maxine Susman will lead.	Thursday, March 20	7:00 PM
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Cool Women Poets	Tuesday, March 25	7:30 PM
Wizard of Oz Staged Radio Play	Raconteur Radio	Thursday, March 27	7:00 PM
Time of Transition: Films in the Sixties	Film and Introduction with Dr. Robert Knoll. <i>Bonnie and Clyde (1967)</i>	Tuesday, April 1	6:30 PM
International Film Festival	<i>Amour (2012)</i>	Tuesday, April 8	6:30 PM
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Maria Mazziotti Gillan	Tuesday, April 22	7:30 PM
Time of Transition: Films in the Sixties	<i>The Producers (1968)</i>	Tuesday, May 6	6:30 PM
International Film Festival	Fill the Void (2012)	Tuesday, May 20	6:30 PM
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Jill Stein, Nancy Scott, Open Mic	Tuesday, May 27	7:30 PM
Time of Transition: Films in the Sixties	<i>Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)</i>	Tuesday, June 3	6:30 PM

SPRING 2014 PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Program	Description	Date	Time
Nursery Rhyme Time	Songs, rhymes, and reading for 6-23 month olds accompanied by an adult. Please register.	Wednesdays, Jan. 15-Feb. 26	10:15 AM
TNT (Twos and Threes)	Stories, finger plays, and crafts for two – three year olds accompanied by an adult. Please register for only one session	Tues, Jan. 14-Feb 26 or Wed, Jan. 15-Feb 26	10:30 AM 11:00 AM
Book Break	Story time for ages 3-5 year olds	Mon Jan. 13-Mar. 3	3:30 PM
Dance Party	Fresh Theatre Arts will lead a creative movement experience. For Kindergarten through 3rd Graders	Monday, March 10	3:30 PM
Author Talk: Two Jens Talk About Their Road to Publication	Jennifer Mann, children's book author of Sunny Sweet is So Not Sorry and Jennifer Doktorski, young adult book author of Famous Last Words and How My Summer Went Up in Flames	Sunday, March 30	2:00 PM
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.	Thurs, Jan. 23-Mar. 13	6-7 PM

HIGHLAND MARKS

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR RESIDENTS

HARRY LANDIS

Harry Landis was named a Star Ledger Athlete of the Week on September 26, 2013. Landis, a senior at Highland Park High School, is senior captain of the HP Soccer team.

CELIA DIAMOND

Celia Diamond celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at 92 years old! In October, she stood before the congregation at the Bristol Jewish Center in Bristol, PA and read from the Torah, fulfilling a life-long dream of having a Bat Mitzvah.

MARY POMERANTZ

Mary Pomerantz, owner of Mary Pomerantz Advertising in Highland Park, won an American Graphic Design Award for her company's work on the logo for American Repertory Ballet's 50th Anniversary performance of *The Nutcracker*.

EDWARD GUTTENPLAN

Edward Guttenplan was named a 2013 Top Managing Partner by Accounting Today, the national magazine for Senior Public Accounting and Tax Professionals. Guttenplan is Managing Partner and Co-founder of Wilkin & Guttenplan.

FRANCO JURICIC

Franco Juricic honored his five-year survival mark from pancreatic cancer by fulfilling his long-postponed goal of running in the NYC Marathon in 2013. Juricic remains committed to helping others by volunteering for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

KAAN AKYOL & KARENANN AKYOL

Kaan Akyol and Karenann Akyol completed basic training requirements for the Army National Guard, at Ft. Jackson, SC. Both will be returning to Highland Park in the Spring and hope to continue their service as volunteer firefighters for the HPVFD.

TARA CANAVERA

Tara Canavera achieved the Middlesex County College Fall Dean's List in January. Canavera is in her second year at the college, as well as an active volunteer for the Commission for Universal Access in Highland Park.

Highland Park Kids Just Want to Have Fun!

There's never a dull moment for young residents in Highland Park, thanks to the abundance of Recreation activities offered by the Borough's Recreation Department throughout the year. Between old favorites like Basketball and Track, and new programs such as Chess and a brand new Juggling Club, there's something for almost every child.

The Recreation Department, under the leadership of Andrea Baay, caters to our diverse community by offering a wide variety of activities and programs.

"Sports have traditionally been the most popular programs," Baay said, "But our new activities, like theater and our Teen Advisory Council, are gaining momentum among kids of all ages, which is exciting."

Recently the Recreation Department began a twelve week Theater Program for 8-13 year olds. The participants are eagerly anticipating their debut performance of Aladdin in May, and the entire community is encouraged to come out and see our young and talented residents perform.

Another new and entertaining program has been the Juggling Club. Kids ages 8-16 are learning to juggle while improving their coordination, concentration, and confidence. The ten week class taught by Juggling Life Inc. founder Louis De Lauro has been a big hit among the kids, who have a great time

learning and encouraging each other to improve their juggling skills.

This past winter's Chess Class for kids 6-12 was also well-received, and activities like Teen Table Tennis, Youth Track Club and Sports Conditioning saw increased participation.

"The Highland Park Recreation Program has so much to offer, and we are thrilled that so many young people take advantage of these programs. These kids build friendship with other kids their age in the community in a safe and fun environment. Our broad range of activities also helps introduce diversity into their lives," said Baay. "We try to offer different programs based on interest among our residents, and we always welcome ideas and suggestions."

The Recreation Department is pleased with the Mayor's Teen Advisory Council, a group of community-service-minded teens who plan programs for teenagers in Highland Park and offer council to Mayor Minkoff on behalf of our young residents. Their input benefits the community and teaches them the importance of community service and leadership.

For information about any of the Highland Park Recreation activities, visit the website at www.hpboro.com under Recreation Services, or call 732-819-0052.

THE CAVE: An Underground Haven

It's fun, it's convenient, it's helpful, and it's free! It's a great new place for Highland Park students to spend their afternoons in town, and it's called The Cave.

The Cave is a free after-school drop-in center for kids in grades 6-8. Students from all public, private, or home schools in Highland Park or surrounding areas are welcome to attend this underground haven, which offers daily programming and homework help, as well as a fun atmosphere for kids to hang out and socialize.

Every day represents a different theme - from "Monday Funday" to "Friday Film Day". Kids can participate in the daily programs, play games like Wii or air hockey, or just be with their friends. A snack is provided, and the staff of

The Cave is available for help with homework.

The Cave was started in 2004 by Who Is My Neighbor? Inc., and is now run as a partnership of WIMNI and the Reformed Church of Highland Park. The program is run by Justina Otero, a senior at Rutgers University studying Sociology and Political Science. In addition, six graduate-student interns from Rutgers University and Princeton University are on staff.

The Cave is open Mondays thru Fridays, 3:00 - 5:15 pm. It is located in the basement of the Reformed Church of Highland Park, at 19-21 South 2nd Avenue. For matters related to The Cave, please call Lisa (732) 249-7349, Lara (732) 379-0897 or Justina Otero (908) 217-4564.

Community Services Office on Aging, 732-819-0052

SPRING/SUMMER 2014 SENIOR PROGRAMS

Special Programs	Description	Age	Requirements	Dates	Time	Place	Fee
Monthly Senior Luncheons & Parties	Join us for Lunch and Enjoy a Presentation or Entertainment	55+ years	Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY	2/14, 3/17, 4/11 & 5/19		Senior/Youth Center	FREE
Wednesday Out of Town Shopping Trips	Afternoon Outings to Local Malls & Shopping Centers	55+ years	Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY	Every Wednesday		Depart From Senior/Youth Center	FREE
New Jersey Flower & Garden Show Trip	Enjoy an Afternoon of Beautiful Floral & Garden Displays & Shopping	55+ years	Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY	Thurs. Feb. 13th, 2014		Depart From Senior/Youth Center	\$10.00/per
Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Dinner Theatre Trip	Enjoy a full course meal and the Hilarious Comedy "Busybody"	55+ years	Pre-registration is required. Open to ALL.	Thurs. April 24th, 2014		Depart From Senior/Youth Center	\$65.00/per
NYC SHOW TRIP The Rockettes All New Show "Heart and Lights"	Enjoy an afternoon show, lunch and free time in NYC	Open to All	Pre-registration is required. Open to ALL.	Thurs. May 1st, 2014	TBA	Depart From Senior/Youth Center	\$149.00/per (Includes: bus, ticket and lunch)
Duke Farms Estate Trip	Spring Trolley Tour through Beautiful and Scenic Property	Open to All	Pre-registration is required.	May 2014 (Check Center for date)	TBA	Depart From Senior/Youth Center	\$20.00/per
Peddler's Village, P.A.	Day trip to Buck's County for Shopping & Fall Displays	55+ years	Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY	June 2014 (Check Center for date)		Depart From Senior/Youth Center	\$20.00/per
Atlantic City Trips	February: Showboat Casino	Open to All	Pre-registration is required. Open to ALL.	Feb., May, July, Sept. & Nov. (Check Center for date)	TBA	Depart From Senior/Youth Center	\$35.00/per (\$30.00 back in slot cash)
90's Birthday Bash	Join us for Middlesex County's Annual Bash to Celebrate Seniors 90 and above	90+ years	Pre-registration is required.	Wed. May 14th, 2014	TBA	Depart From Senior/Youth Center	FREE
Middlesex County Senior Health & Fitness Week	Stop by the week of May 9th to check out all the Exercise & Fitness Programs that our center has to offer & much more...	55+ years	Pre-registration is required.	May 9-23, 2014	TBA	Senior/Youth Center	FREE
Senior Prom "Dancing Under The Stars"	Join us for a Magical Evening of dancing, Candlelit dinner & Crowning of the 2014 King & Queen	55+ years	Pre-registration is required. Open to Members ONLY	Thurs. June 26th, 2014		Senior/Youth Center	FREE

SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAMS

*All Programs are held at the Highland Park Senior/Youth Center, 220 South 6th Ave, Highland Park, NJ 08904

Programs	Age	Dates	Days	Times	Fee
FREE TAX ASSISTANCE Provided by United Way By Appointment ONLY	Open to all (Must meet guidelines)	Jan 27 – Apr 14 (Tax Season)	Mon & Wed	9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	FREE (Call for guidelines)
ARA Meeting (Alliance for Retired Americans)	55 Years +	Year-Round (except July/Aug)	1st Thurs. of each month	1:00 p.m.	ARA Membership Dues
Body Recall	55 Years +	Year-Round	Mon, Wed, Fri	9:30 a.m.	\$1.00/class
Exercise with Donna	55 Years +	Year-Round	Mon, Wed, Fri	11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	\$1.00/class
Senior Yoga	55 Years +	Year-Round	Mon, Wed, Fri	12:30 p.m.–1:00 p.m.	\$1.00/class
Tai Chi	55 Years +	Year-Round	Thursdays	2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	\$1.00/class
Healthy Bones	55 Years +	Year-Round	Thursdays	9:30 a.m.	Membership Fee
Health Ease	55 Years +	Year-Round	Thursdays	11:00 a.m.	FREE
Knitting & Crochet	55 Years +	Year-Round	Mondays	10:00 a.m.	FREE
BINGO	55 Years +	Year-Round	Tuesday & Fridays	12:30 p.m.	FREE
Bridge	55 Years +	Year-Round	Mon, Tues, Thurs	1:00 p.m.	FREE
Bridge/Cards/Mah Jongg	55 Years +	Year-Round	Tuesdays	1:00 p.m.	FREE
Ping Pong	55 Years +	Year-Round	Thursdays	1:00 p.m.	FREE

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

Programs	Age	Dates	Days	Times	Fee
Woodcarving	55 Years +	Year-Round	Tuesdays	9:30 a.m.	FREE
Chorus	55 Years +	Year-Round	Tuesdays	10:00a.m.- 11:00a.m.	FREE
Piano Instruction	55 Years +	Year-Round	Tuesdays	11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m	FREE
Painting Class	55 Years +	Year-Round	Fridays	10:00 a.m.	FREE
Yiddish Group	55 Years +	Year-Round	Wednesdays	10:30 a.m.	FREE
Podiatrist	55 Years +	Year-Round	2nd Thurs. of each month	2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	FREE
Monthly Blood Pressure Screening	55 Years +	Year-Round	1st Thurs. of each month	9:30a.m. -12:00 p.m	FREE
Play Reading Group	55 Years +	Year-Round	Thursdays	1:00 p.m.	FREE
Monday Movies	55 Years +	Year-Round	Mondays	1:30 p.m.	FREE
Computer Class	55 Years +	Year-Round	2nd & 4th Fri. of each month	10:30 a.m.	FREE
Conversation English (Russian)	55 Years +	Year-Round	Wednesdays	10:30 a.m.	FREE
Conversation –English (Chinese)	55 Years +	Year-Round	Tuesdays	11:00 a.m.	FREE
Afternoon Tea & Discussion Group	55 Years +	Year-Round	Tues. (see monthly calendar for listing)	1:30 p.m.	FREE
Karaoke Afternoons	55 Years +	Year-Round	Fri. (see monthly calendar for listing)	2:30 p.m.	FREE
Jewelry Making Workshops	55 Years +	Year-Round	(see monthly calendar for listing)	2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	\$5-\$8/class
Kraft's with Kim Workshops	55 Years +	Year-Round	(see monthly calendar for listing)	1:00 p.m.	\$5.00/class
Blood Sugar Screenings & Health Counseling	55 Years +	Special Event	(see monthly calendar for listing)	10:00 a.m.	FREE
"Healthy Eating" Nutrition Talk by: Saint Peter's University Hospital	55 Years +	Special Program	Mon. Feb 10	1:00 p.m.	FREE
Monthly Educational & Health Related Workshops	55 Years +	Special Program	(see monthly calendar for listing)	TBA	FREE

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. For further info, please contact The Dept. of Community Services or Kimberly Perkins, Senior Program Coordinator, at 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.

Shop Highland Park Reward Program

SHOP LOCAL SAVE BIG!

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 launched a new tax-incentive program that encourages shoppers to save money

by shopping local in downtown Highland Park – a win-win for both shoppers and merchants in town.

The Shop Highland Park Reward Program allows Highland Park homeowners, renters, and visitors to shop at many of our downtown businesses using a reward card to

receive a percentage of the purchase amount back as a property tax credit. Not a homeowner in town? Don't worry – renters and visitors who use the reward card will receive a yearly rebate check for the savings amount.

Each individual participating business determines the tax reward amount 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 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 shopping in local businesses. The Borough and Main Street are excited to bring this economic development program to town, and hope to expand both the number of participating businesses as well as the number of regis-

tered shoppers in the coming year.

For questions about the program, please contact Main Street at 732-828-8444, www.mainstreethp.org, or FinCredit Inc. (Program Administrator) at 732-946-0919, www.propertytaxcard.com.

Party Like It's 1869



By Gary Leslie

For one night last June, it was 1869 again in Highland Park.

Ghislaine Darden and John Caputo, owners of an historical house that was built on Benner Street that year, celebrated their home by throwing an 1869 ball.

Each guest came as a character of the time. Sitting Bull came. So did Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, President Grant, General Sherman, George Custer and many other not-so-famous but important characters. Ghislaine and John came as the original owners of their home, William and Julia Anne Neal, who bought the house for \$2,000 down with a three-year, \$1,500 mortgage.

The costumes, dance, food, music and activities all created an authentic 19th century experience. And when it got dark, there was only candlelight.

"I really wanted people to immerse themselves in 1869," Ghislaine said. "I wanted every-

one to understand how they lived."

A resident of Highland Park since 1985, Darden spent over a year preparing for the party. "It's easy to research on the internet," she said. "People kept diaries that are available to read. There was Ken Burns' Civil War documentary. I found tons of information about how to put costumes together. I contacted reenactment groups across the state. I found out all sorts of information."

In advance of the party, she put together a booklet to help guests prepare. It listed short biographies of 50 possible characters to choose from, as well as instructions on how to find costumes, how to learn the dances of the time, and some background information about the time period.

As guests arrived to the ball, they were officially announced to the crowd, each to a great ovation.

There was an icebreaker activity, where guests asked each other questions to try to guess the character they were playing.

A 19th century marketplace was recreated. Each character got an envelope with the amount of money they would have earned (as that character) in 1869. Then they had to see

how much that would buy in the market. "I wanted everyone to see just how difficult it was for people to get along at the time," Ghislaine said. "All these things were part of the experience."

The food was from authentic 1869 recipes. A lot of the food was, well, different from today's recipes. As a warning, Ghislaine told people "they'd better eat a meal before they come."

The dances were authentic waltzes and polkas. "One thing we learned was that after about seven minutes of these dances, you really can get tired."

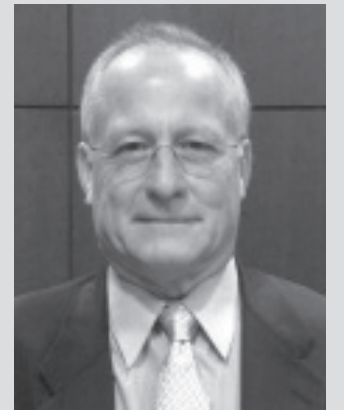
All in all, everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about the times.

Highland Park TV will have a program on the reenactment party, which was broadcast in March (and available on YouTube in the same timeframe).

Next up on the agenda? Ghislaine will be helping Highland Park's effort to establish a Revolutionary War re-enactment. If anyone has an interest in participating in the planning for this event, please contact Stacy Kaplan at 732-819-3781.



FREEHOLDER CORNER



CHARLES TOMARO

Charles Tomaro considers Highland Park a leader in Middlesex County, and is proud to work with our community as a Middlesex County Freeholder and the Chair of the Infrastructure Management Committee.

He was impressed by Highland Park's efforts to become the first Borough in New Jersey to ban fracking, and he submitted an ordinance making Middlesex County the first county in New Jersey to ban this process. Currently, Tomaro is working on the creation of a dog park in Edison, and is looking at Highland Park's dog park as inspiration.

Tomaro, who has been a Freeholder since 2011, has assisted Highland Park in a variety of ways. He helped secure grant money for infrastructure work at the Library and drainage work at Borough Hall. Recently he supported a resolution for PSE&G to upgrade their electrical systems throughout the County, especially due to the recent power outages within the community. He appreciates the input and commitment of our residents with this issue and other programs and projects.

"It is a pleasure working with the residents of Highland Park," Tomaro said. "They are dedicated to their community, and always looking for ways to improve their town."

Tomaro has enjoyed working on many of the improvements. He helped create a safe and fun place for children to sled on South 2nd Avenue, and has been a strong supporter of maintaining the beauty of Donaldson Park for residents and visitors to enjoy. He looks forward to continuing these efforts on behalf of Highland Park in the future.

Remembering Our Heros: Join Highland Park's Memorial Day Parade

Their memories are represented in the freedoms we enjoy on a daily basis. But on one special day each year we celebrate as a nation to honor the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in order to ensure our safety and freedom. Memorial Day is an opportunity to pay respects to those who lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Highland Park is honored to be among the many communities throughout the nation that sponsor a Memorial Day Parade. Our local veterans are an enormous source of pride for our community, and the parade is a wonderful way to pay hom-

age to those incredible men and women.

The Memorial Day Parade in Highland Park is a favorite among residents and visitors. Dozens of veterans, first responders, and Borough officials walk up Raritan Avenue to the Doughboy statue at Veterans Park, displaying their flags and symbols with honor.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to walk with the first responders in this year's Memorial Day parade. It is a special way for the family to pay respects to our fallen soldiers. The parade begins Monday, May 26th, in New Brunswick at 11:00, and arrives in Highland Park at 12:00.



Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

Print, Email, Facebook, Twitter...the list of communication outlets goes on and on. Over the past few years, Highland Park has been determined to utilize as many outlets as possible to keep our residents informed about upcoming events, alerts, advisories, and information about our continually developing community.

Our communication process has expanded thanks to our Public Information Committee (PIC), in conjunction with our Borough Communication staff. The PIC, under the leadership of Highland Park resident Matthew Hersh, was established to ensure that residents receive news about our community in an efficient, convenient, and timely manner.

With a diverse community of residents, the PIC uses as many resources as possible to spread the word. Last year saw the return of the Highland Park News, our print newspaper, which is distributed bi-annually to every

home, apartment complex, and business. In addition, a bi-weekly E-news letter reports on happenings within our town. Residents can receive the E-news letter directly via email or view it on the Highland Park website.

Our Nixle alerts, which residents can receive via text or email, alert residents to upcoming events or advisories, and our Facebook and Twitter pages enable the Borough to communicate with the residents, as well as receive direct feedback regarding issues or programs. For emergencies, the Borough initiates their Reverse 911 system which makes direct calls to residents, and the Code Red alert system is also available for emergency situations.

The abundance of online communications services has enabled the Borough to reach a large number of residents quickly and efficiently, and we are continuously seeking up-to-date technological outlets in which to communicate.

At the same time, there's nothing like an old-fashioned message board, and this spring the Borough is installing two permanent Information Kiosks in town. These message boards will house fliers for upcoming events and relevant community information. The online E-news will be posted behind the glass enclosure bi-weekly. These Kiosks will be placed in two convenient locations within town – one will be on Raritan Avenue and one will be on Woodbridge Avenue. They will be updated on a regular basis, and will provide yet another means of communication for residents to utilize.

We welcome suggestions and comments regarding additional communication outlets, and will continue our efforts to reach as many residents as possible. Highland Park has so many wonderful things to offer, so spread the word!



Highland Park Public Schools: Home of the Owls

Achieving Vision Through Involvement, Communication and Collaboration

By Daniel J. Ross, Board President

Public education can be a great equalizer. As someone who comes from a long line of educators, I have always believed that students have a right to be treated respectfully and taught effectively within the school walls. In my professional life, I continually urge my colleagues to consider whether their actions are the best for their students, and I frame my work with teachers with that axiom as fundamental.

The last few months have been a challenging time for public education in Highland Park, and there will likely be continued challenges ahead. State and federal mandates related to an expanded testing regime, teacher evaluation tied to student test scores, and increased strains on our budget have and will continue to affect the education landscape. Our own local concerns continue to permeate within this framework, and it is our responsibility to meet all of these challenges while maintaining our integrity and our core beliefs.

With these and other challenges in mind, the Board set four district goals for the 2013-2014 school year, and we will continue to frame our work based on these objectives. They are:

1. To ensure the success of students and nurture their capacity

to become well rounded and engaged members of society.

2. To create a positive learning environment for all students and staff.

3. To promote our schools and programs to the broader community.

4. To develop long-term plans for the district

As the Board continues its work during this school year and into the future, I ask for your continued input, questions and support. The decisions made by the Board affect all of our children, and we must always remember to act with the interest of all students in mind. With dedicated involvement, clear communication, and ongoing collaboration, we can ensure our success for years to come.

Your Partner in Education,

Daniel J. Ross

President

Highland Park Board of Education

Highland Park High School

Dr. Frederick D. Williams, Principal

The faculty, students and ad-

ministration of Highland Park High School are pleased to share a few of our recent accomplishments.

We were recognized by The College Board with the distinction of 4th Annual AP Honor Roll Placement. This achievement was bestowed upon 477 school districts in the United States and Canada for expanding access to Advanced Placement Courses and improving student performance on Advanced Placement Examinations.

Additionally, 214 students earned Honor Roll or High Honor Roll at the end of the first marking period. Students and parents were invited to a breakfast to celebrate their academic excellence. We look forward to acknowledging their efforts every marking period as a means of encouraging academic diligence among our students.

Highland Park Middle School

Michael Lassiter, Principal

A real signature of the 2013-14 academic year so far has been the Middle School's commitment to community service. Just to name a few highlights:

- The MS Life Skills program sponsored a gift-wrapping fundraiser for their programs and the students did a fantastic job wrapping the gifts in gold and silver wrapping paper for no more than \$2 a present. They raised nearly \$100 with this fundraiser.

- The student congress sponsored a "Toys for Tots" collection and poetry and art creation for the Homelessness vigil in town on December 21, 2013. We filled

two large crates with toys for this fundraiser.

- Finally, we are collecting "Box Tops for Education" throughout the year to help raise funds for student activities.

The Middle School is incredibly grateful for the funding provided by the HPEF for our fifth annual Diversity Day in January in which the entire school participated. The event featured various speakers, performers, and organizations focused on the theme of celebrating our diversity.

Another highlight this year was the Board of Education honoring our students who participated in the "Bystander" anti-bullying performance and our student volunteers for "Owl fest," which was designed to promote community involvement in our school. Additionally, two students were recognized for achieving highest honors from the Johns Hopkins Student Talent Search!

While all of our students participate in wonderful academic lessons and activities throughout the year, it should be noted that nearly 200 middle school students achieved honor roll status for marking period 1 and received certificates for free sundaes at Applebee's!

We pride ourselves on providing a great education to our students and will work to continue these efforts daily.

Bartle Elementary School

Lauren Fraser, Principal

Bartle School is enjoying a successful year. Prior to the win-

ter break Bartle was recognized by the USDA as a bronze level recipient in the Healthier US School Challenge winning \$500 and bragging rights. This award was based on the breakfast/lunch and physical education/health programs, which jointly promote an understanding of a healthy lifestyle and the opportunity to begin it here in elementary school. Bartle, along with the other schools in the district, are also participating in the Healthy Schools Program led by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

In addition, Bartle students are working hard at their academics and achievements. We had six 5th-grade students whose essays were chosen and published in an essay contest sponsored by Creative Communications. The students were Miranda Dobkin, Samantha Parelus, Olga Pidruchna, Katerina Smondyrev, Ellie Sweeney-Benson, and Chris Lee. Taking the job of student seriously has been the focus this year and 184 of Bartle's students received the first ever Principal's Recognition Award recently for doing just that. The qualities of good character also play into achievement and to date a total of 580 awards have been given out for traits including caring, responsibility, respect, social harmony, courage, perseverance, and honesty and integrity.

Bartle students also demonstrated a concern for those beyond the school walls this year. Over 100 students attended the ceremony at Raritan Avenue on Veteran's Day while our S.T.A.R. program (Students Taking An Active Role) sent letters and cards to those in the Edison Veteran's Home. S.T.A.R. also created cards and raised money for St. Peters

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Hospital's pediatric patients, sent holiday cards to Japanese children in the Tohoku region in response to their earthquake/tsunami two years ago and held fundraisers for Hats off for Cancer and Join Hands Against Cystic Fibrosis.

Finally, according to the School Performance ranking provided by the state Bartle was shown to have very high performance, which is the highest ranking one can get, in the area of growth when compared both to peer schools and all schools in the

state. We ranked in the 89th and 82nd percentile respectively.

Irving Primary School

J. Nancy Romano, Principal

This has been a very exciting year at Irving so far! In November, our students were very excited to honor the Veterans at the annual Highland Park Veterans Day Parade. Classes walked to Raritan Avenue and lined the sidewalks to show their support.

Each student was given a small flag to wave as they watched the parade march through—some students even wore Patriot hats! The presence and enthusiasm of the children was a wonderful and inspiring sight for our Veterans.

Beyond just showing support, however, our Pre-K students also honored local Veterans by taking up a collection of food, including baked goods that were donated to residents of the Highland Park Veterans' Housing.

In October, Irving School hosted its annual Halloween

Sing-along and school-wide parade. Students were dressed in their costumes while they sang fun Halloween and fall-themed songs.

Irving is also "gratified" to have been a part of the Highland Park Gratitude Graffiti Project—a 40-day initiative of purposeful appreciation of life through interactive art. This important project engages the community to contemplate a source of gratitude in their lives as well as provide an outlet to express that thoughtfulness. You probably saw those inspiring messages on storefronts all over town. I know

I enjoyed reading them!

In addition to understanding the importance of respecting one another through our Week of Respect, "Socking it to Bullying," and so much more, we take pride the Irving provides the right tools to be great students and great citizens. Keep up the great work!

HAPPENINGS IN HIGHLAND PARK



WALK IT. SHOP IT. LIVE IT. **HIGHLAND PARK** PARK IT!

