

THE HIGHLAND PARK NEWS



A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park

SPRING 2015

Highland Park Encourages Healthy Living



There are just enough hills in the 1.8 miles of Highland Park to make it the perfect place for a good workout. And, on any given day there are a number of people walking, running, or biking those hills. Fitness and healthy living has become a priority for many residents of our town, and the Borough is proud to play a role in keeping our residents healthy.

One of the main goals of our Streetscape program and the Complete Streets certification we recently received was to encourage people to get out of their cars and walk or bike in our downtown and community. The Borough constructed wider and more appealing sidewalks, PSE&G replaced our lights for more night-time activity, and the DMV installed sharrows on Raritan Avenue to encourage cars and bicycles to share the road. The Borough is committed to maintaining and continuously improving conditions for walkers, runners and bikers. And, there are plenty of trails for them to use, as Highland Park is surrounded by beautiful County parks including Johnson Park and Donaldson Park.

"As a sustainable community, Highland Park is committed to caring for our environment. As inhabitants of that environment,

it is equally important to take care of ourselves. A healthy lifestyle goes hand in hand with a healthy environment," said Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler.

Exercise programs in Highland Park have also become a social event for many. It is quite common to see a large group of residents jogging together in the evenings. Their headlights and neon clothing, as well as their commitment to keeping fit, make these groups stand out.

The numerous fitness centers in town also provide a sense of community and a social outlet while encouraging healthy living. Group classes such as Zumba, Pilates, Karate, Kickboxing and more are popular among adults and children in town, and are offered at our numerous fitness centers.

Many of these centers help train and prepare residents for Main Street Highland Park's annual Run in the Park, a 5K walk and run around town on the morning of the Street Fair. Hundreds of residents, including a large number of teens and young children, participate in this event each year, and residents crowd the route with cheers and cups of water to encourage participants. It is another example of the wonderful community spirit that is so abundant in our town.

"Many members of our community as well as people from surrounding areas participate in

our 5K. It's a great way to start off the spring season with a positive, healthy attitude," said Rebecca Hersh, Executive Director of Main Street Highland Park.

Even the Mayor has gotten involved in helping keep Highland Parkers fit. An avid exerciser herself, Mayor Brill Mittler began a series of walks, fondly called "Wednesday Walks with the Mayor". When the weather cooperates, she and a growing group of residents meet in Donaldson Park for a 1-mile walk on Wednesday mornings, during which they keep pace while discussing everything from happenings in Highland Park to healthy and unhealthy sugars. During the winter, the Mayor held "Winter Wednesday Workouts with the Mayor". This early morning stretch class, held at Kinetics Fitness (409 Raritan Ave), was a great way to help residents keep fit during the cold weather.

In Highland Park, healthy living is not only popular with our residents. The Municipal Government also wants its employees to make staying fit a part of their everyday routine, and employees have eagerly joined the bandwagon. In 2013 the Borough created an Employee Wellness Program to encourage healthy lifestyles of employees, offering fitness classes and lunchtime walks in the community. This program has seen an increase in employee gym memberships and health awareness.

In addition to promoting exercise, the local health food store, Greentopia, has been a staple in Highland Park for many years, and offers nutritious alternatives for athletes or those who want to eat healthy. Our many ethnic restaurants offer healthy foods as well, including fish options at Pithari Tavern, salads at Dish Café, vegetarian options at Ruthies, a large vegetarian offering at the new Indus Grill, grilled and healthy choices at The

Bridge, Sushiana's no meat, no gluten menu, and the complete healthy menu at A Better World Café. And, our Mayor's Wellness Committee films healthy cooking episodes in local restaurants. These videos are shown on the town's local cable access station HPTV.

Join Highland Park in 2015 in our goal to eat healthy and get fit! Take a class, join a fitness center, participate in our 5K and Mayor's Walks and Workouts, or tackle the hills on your own. Your neighbors and friends in Highland Park will cheer you on!

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Established by local ordinance, the Highland Park Board of Health works closely with the Mayor and Council and the Middlesex County Health Department to provide for the health needs of Borough residents and businesses, implementing state laws and regulations in accordance with state-wide minimum standards. The Board consists of seven regular members, two alternate members and one or two student representatives. All are volunteers appointed by the Mayor and Borough Council.

Highland Park's Board contracts with Middlesex County for health services such as sanitary inspections of restaurants, retail food distributors and investigations of complaints about lack of heat in rented dwellings and other health-related problems. County health inspectors regularly inspect these establishments and report their findings back to the Board. Additionally, the Board registers vital statistics and maintains records of these.

Highland Park's Board of Health is semi-autonomous, meaning it can pass its own health ordinances. Over the past few years, the Board banned cigarette vending machines in town; defined public nuisances; passed an updated noise ordinance; and banned smoking in workplaces, outdoor entrances to workplaces, and on Borough property.

A major priority for the Board is performing community outreach on health topics and sponsoring community service programs. Through its website, updated monthly, the Board publicizes information about relevant health topics such as preventing mosquito breeding, colds and flu prevention, Lyme disease, and dealing with seasonal health issues such as sun exposure, heat, and cold.

Public events the Board sponsors include the annual free rabies clinic, blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, a local Fun Run, and educational programs on various topics, such as insurance enrollment under the Affordable Care Act.

Letter from Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler



Highland Park, New Jersey's first Green Community, is showing its green. Spring is in the air, the grass is growing,

buds are opening our trees, and our Nature Preserve trail along River Road beckons our walkers. Our downtown shops and restaurants are already seeing more pedestrian traffic, bicyclists are out and about using the new sharrows along Raritan Avenue, and Main Street is preparing for upcoming events such as the HP Street Fair and 5K Run/Walk in the Park. No matter what the season, our Borough is always alive and busy, but spring is an extra special time in Highland Park.

During the winter I had the

opportunity to meet with residents at numerous events, and I appreciate the conversations, ideas, and offers to help in our continuous goal to involve our community members in our future. I also met with many neighboring Mayors and partners to develop projects that will benefit Highland Park. These include discussions about a Rutgers bus through Highland Park. This bus would provide transportation for our residents to New Brunswick and Rutgers University, and it will bring students and visitors to our downtown, helping our business-

es flourish.

Speaking of that, we welcomed several new businesses, including our first Turkish restaurant and a Pakistani eatery, adding to the abundance of ethnic restaurants. Our restaurants represent nearly 15 cultures – all within less than 2 miles. And they are delicious! We also added new shops including a new nail salon, toy and hobby store, and healthcare store.

I encourage you to come out and experience Highland Park this spring, and see all the new things we have to offer.

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HIGHLAND PARK NEWS

WHAT DEPARTMENT DO I NEED?

MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER 732-572-3400

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

800-624-0241
www.state.nj.us/bpu/assistance

BOROUGH CLERK

732-819-3792
Apartment Registration
Business License
Dog & Cat License
Flood Zones (Maps)
Garage Sale Permits
Liquor Licenses
Notary Public
Ordinances
Request for Public Record
Street Maps
Taxi Licenses
Used Car Lot Licenses
Voter Registration
Zone Maps (to purchase)

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

COURT

732-777-6010
Court
Wedding/Civil Union Ceremony by Judge

HEALTH

732-819-3790

LIBRARY

732-572-2750
www.hpplnj.org

MAYOR

732-777-6001

PARKS

732-745-3900
Park Maintenance

PLANNING & ZONING

732-819-3792

POLICE

732-572-3800
Abandoned Cars on Street
Accident Reports (ext. 4211)
Animal Control (Dead or Stray)

Weekends and Evenings

Health Emergencies
Noise Complaints
Snow not removed from sidewalks

PSE&G

800-426-7734
www.pseg.com

PUBLIC WORKS

732-514-1277
Borough Shade Tree
Bulk Trash
Garbage
Leaf Bags
Recycling
Roadway Improvements
Snow Removal

RECREATION

732-819-0052
Recreation/Arts Programs & Events
Registration & Information

SCHOOLS

732-572-6990
School information
www.hpschools.net

TAX ASSESSOR

732-819-3787
Block & Lot
Deed Inquiries

TAX COLLECTOR – FINANCE

732-819-3788
Senior Citizens Taxes
Tax Bills
Veteran Taxes

VITAL STATISTICS

732-819-3782 or
732-777-6014
Birth Certificate
Death Certificate
Marriage License

WATER

732-247-9379
Billing 732-819-3787
Maintenance Only 732-247-9379
Meter Issues/Questions
Sanitary Sewer Back-ups
(Weekends & Evenings) 732-572-3800
Water leaks
Water Quality Issues/Questions

WATER & SEWER FINANCE

732-819-3787
Billing & Meter Reading
Sewerage Bills

2015 BOROUGH CALENDAR

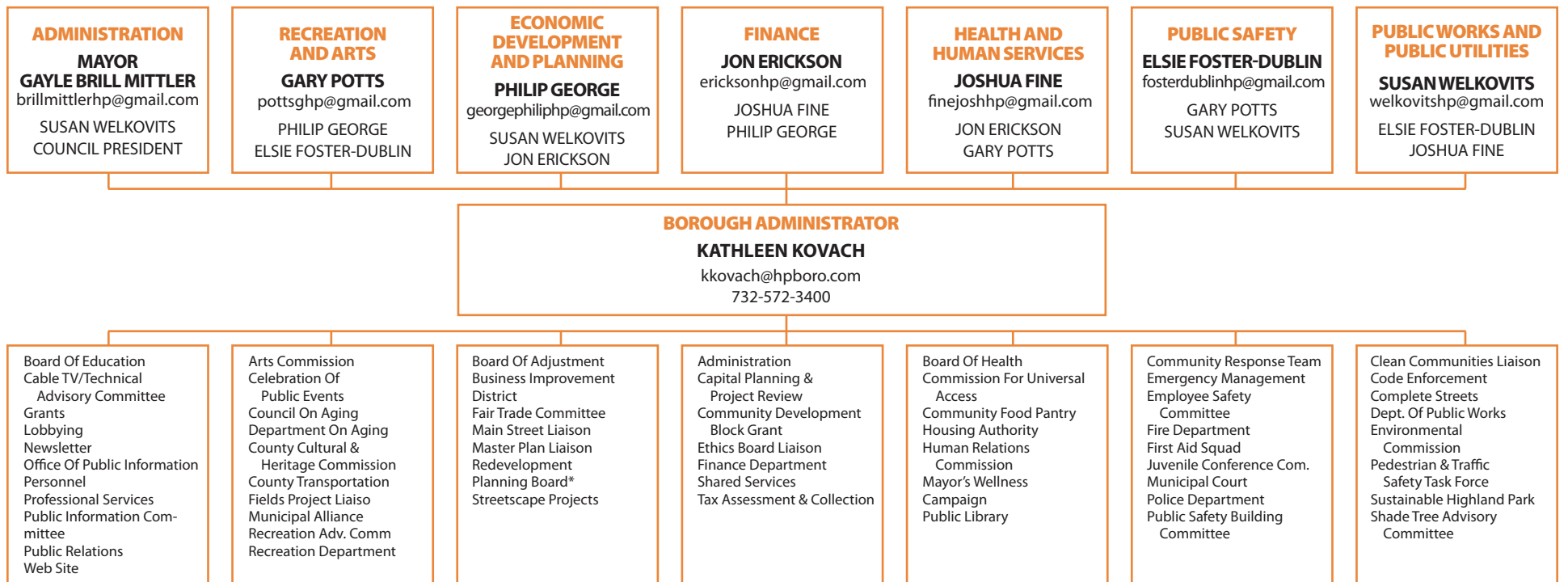
All meetings are subject to change, please check the Borough's website at www.hpboro.com for updates.

Board of Health Meeting	Borough Hall	7:00 pm	March 12; April 16; May 14 and June 11
Council Committee Meeting	Borough Hall	7:00 pm	March 3 & 17; April 14; May 5 & 19; June 9 and July 7
Commission for Universal Access Meeting	Borough Hall	7:30 pm	March 5; April 2; May 7; June 4 and July 2
Environmental Commission Meeting	Environmental Education Center	8:00 pm	March 11; April 1; May 6; June 3 and July 1
Planning Board Meeting	Borough Hall	7:30 pm	March 12; April 23; May 14; June 11 and July 9
Public Information Committee Meeting	Senior/Youth Center	6:30 pm	March 25; April 22; May 27; June 24 and July 22
Redevelopment Agency Meeting	Borough Hall	7:30 pm	April 16; May 7; June 4 and July 2
Shade Tree Advisory Meeting	Environmental Education Center	8:00 pm	March 11; April 8; May 13; June 10 and July 8
Sustainable Highland Park Meeting	Environmental Education Center	7:30 pm	March 25; April 15; May 27; June 24 and July 22
Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting	Borough Hall	7:30 pm	March 23; April 27; May 18; June 22 and July 27

BOROUGH HOLIDAYS – BOROUGH OFFICES CLOSED

Good Friday, April 3; Memorial Day, May 25; Independence Day, July 3

Borough of Highland Park Borough Council Committee Organization 2015



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.

Highland Park's Restaurant Scene Thrives with International Cuisine

With an abundance of choices for shopping and socializing in today's world, having a thriving restaurant scene is crucial to the economic success of a community. The Borough of Highland Park's business owners have not wasted time developing a unique local restaurant scene filled with variety and international flavors.

For a small town like Highland Park (a U.S. Census Bureau statistics estimates the population to be roughly 14,000 people as of 2013), the number of successful businesses in the area has grown substantially in the last decade. From the bottom of Raritan to the top, Highland Park is full of delicious ethnic restaurant choices.

A walk up Raritan Avenue takes you to ethnic restaurants featuring Mediterranean, Kosher, Chinese, Peruvian, Thai, Italian, Turkish, Japanese, Mexican, Pakistani/Indian, American and more. With the addition of several new restaurants this past year, Highland Park's res-



taurants represent nearly 15 cultures – all within a distance of two miles. In addition to these unique cuisines, Highland Park residents flock to neighborhood hangouts like Ruthie's Bagels, OQ coffeehouse and Pino's Lounge.

Main Street Highland Park's



is the rare American treasure of authentic Greek cuisine at Pithari Taverna. Ranked number one out of 35 restaurants in Trip Advisor's listed Highland Park restaurants, Pithari appears to be popular to citizens of Highland Park and New Jerseyans from all over the state alike.

In addition to the unique se-

lection of restaurants Highland Park has to offer, a local Farmer's Market comes to the downtown from June to December, showcasing New Jersey's locally produced produce, honey, flowers, and even local musical talent. At the market, merchants sell fresh fruits and vegetables, breads, cheeses, flowers and more to the delight of residents and visitors.



This spring is the perfect chance to come out and taste the many flavors of the world found right here in Highland Park, NJ. For more information and a complete listing of the local restaurants, visit www.mainstreethp.com.



business overview website states that, "Our Main Street is a success story, as we continue to stimulate commerce and evoke civic pride. We're building momentum, and our downtown shows a difference." The veteran and new restaurants in the area serve as a testament to this growth and development. Both residents and out-of-towners are flocking to the downtown for a variety of food options.

On the outskirts of the downtown diagonally across from the beloved Doughboy statue,



A Better World Café



Nestled in between the two large cities of New Brunswick and Edison, the Borough of Highland Park is a unique and friendly community of approximately 14,000 residents. That small town feel is evident in its creative and diverse shops, numerous ethnic restaurants representing nearly 15 cultures, and welcoming Houses of Worship – all within a two mile radius. Highland Park is the kind of community that is committed to “giving back” to the rest of the world. And for the past five years the Borough has been home to a very special neighborhood ‘joint’ that is beneficial to its patrons and to the community. It’s a tucked away eatery called A Better World Café, and it’s a delicious, nutritious, and valuable asset to Highland Park.

Located on the first floor of the Reformed Church on 2nd

Avenue, A Better World Café is a restaurant partnership between Elijah’s Promise soup kitchen and culinary school based in New Brunswick and Who Is My Neighbor? Inc., a nonprofit organization in Highland Park that provides services to increase quality of life and sustainability. The concept of the café is to provide healthy, tasty and affordable food to the public while promoting sustainability and environmental responsibility. The restaurant was inspired by and is associated with the national organization One World Everybody Eats, based in Salt Lake City, Utah. At A Better World Café, the menu (changed daily) is filled with seasonal foods that are produced by local farms and markets. Included in the daily menu is one complimentary vegan dish to accommodate those who cannot afford a meal, or to supplement a meal without increasing the cost to the customer.

The café serves anywhere from 50-100 people for lunch each day, including Highland Park residents, local employees, Rutgers students and residents from neighboring towns. Pricing is “suggested”, giving customers the option of paying the set price, a higher price, or eating for free. The majority of patrons – approximately 85% - pay at least the suggested price for their meals, and those who pay extra help contribute to the cost of providing complimentary meals.

A sample lunch menu at the café might include Vegetarian Chili, Pumpkin Soup, Turkey Sandwich, Macaroni Salad, Vegetable Quiche, Complimentary Vegetarian Rice and Beans, Apple Crisp and Peanut Butter Cookies. Their signature “A Better World Café Salad” is offered daily. Lunches are prepared by Chef Vito and his assistant, Jim LaSpina, both graduates of the Elijah’s Promise Culinary School, while desserts and the daily quiche is made by the staff at the Better World Bakery. Aside from the chefs, a part-time dishwasher, the remainder of the staff is made up entirely of volunteers. Each week the café welcomes 10-20 volunteers who help serve and clean up, and are treated to a free meal. These volunteers are a vital part of the café operations on a daily basis.

A Better World Café has proven to be a vital source of sustenance for numerous residents, many of whom visit on a daily or routine basis. However, it is also making a name for itself as a quality restaurant in Highland Park, providing appetizing cuisine for its health-conscious clientele. The friendly, relaxed atmosphere contributes to the community spirit which the café hopes to invoke. It is well-worth a visit to the Better World Café – check out daily specials on their Facebook page.

HIGHLAND MARKS

Resident **Chaim Cohen**, an AP computer science teacher at East Brunswick High School, achieved tenure at the district. He has coached students to place highly in many different programming competitions. When he’s not teaching, Cohen, vice chair of the Highland Park Public Information Committee, can be seen around town donning Google Glass.

Highland Park resident **Muffin Lord** has – not surprisingly – earned a spot on the Buzzfeed list “25 People With Better Names Than You” list published in June. Lord’s name was listed as #5 on the list. Lord, the administrative director of the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program, was given the nickname “Muffin” as a child, and has been called that ever since!

The Trustees of the Highland Park Educational Foundation (HPEF) voted unanimously Oct. 21 to include residents **Peter Mickulas** and **Matthew Hersh** to its Board. HPEF is a non-profit organization composed of parents, community, and business leaders to support and sustain the educational excellence of Highland Park’s public schools.

Borough employee, **James Webb**, who has worked in the Department of Public Works for the past 3 years, was proud of his son when he joined the Marines two years ago. He was especially proud when his son, Lance Corporal James Webb, recently received a special award for Military Appreciation from Rutgers University. The elder Webb went to the ceremony to accept the award on behalf of his son, who is stationed in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He received a wonderful surprise when his son showed up to the ceremony as well!

Five students from Highland Park were honored for Academic Excellence with their induction into the Middlesex County College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. Congratulations to **Elissa Birbach**, **Tamara Birbach**, **Kaitlin Kovalchik**, **Jacob Holdowsky** and **Tara Canavera**.

The boys and girls in Mrs. Medine’s Kindergarten class at Irving School held a special Toy and Book Drive for students in need in the New Brunswick area. The class coordinated efforts with the Reformed Church and collected about 25 books and toys to donate.

The Highland Park High School girls’ basketball team scored big against Carteret, displaying their talent in a close but exciting game. Rachel Beyer scored a game-high 13 points, with four assists and three rebounds to lead Highland Park in the victory. Elizabeth Girvan scored six points, Alonna Williams totaled 11 points, and Marielys Lopez scored nine points for the team.

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Honoring a Humanitarian



On January 19, 2015, Highland Park held its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards Program and honored long-time Highland Park resident Frances McDonald for her extensive volunteer work on behalf of the community.

The Awards Program was a huge success, with more than 150 people in attendance, including Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler, Council President Susan Welkovits, Council Members Elsie Foster-Dublin, Gary Potts and Phil George, Senator Peter Barnes, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin, Middlesex County Sheriff Mil-

dred Scott, and Bruce Morgan, President, New Brunswick Area Branch of NAACP.

The program began with an introduction by Council President Susan Welkovits, who has been Council Liaison to the Human Relations Commission for the past three years. Deacon James Jones of the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Garden recited the invocation, followed by the singing of “Lift Every Voice”. Performances by the Reformed Church of Highland Park, soloist Jarell Johnson, and Body and Music School of Performing Arts were enjoyed by the crowd. Guest speaker Bill Davis, Adjunct

Professor at Rutgers University and Founding Director of Epic Vision Academy Mentoring Program spoke eloquently about income inequality and the other difficulties facing minorities and the working class.

Honoree Frances McDonald, a 27-year resident of Highland Park, received the Humanitarian Award. McDonald has been an active volunteer in Highland Park and Middlesex County for more than two decades, serving as a representative on the Middlesex County Democratic Committee for 14 years, and the Commissioner of the Redevelopment Committee as well as a member of the Interviewing Committee for several Mayors and Borough Council Members. She has also been involved in the Highland Park Schools and served on the Search Committee.

The Human Relations Commission, now in its 65th year, attempts to foster goodwill, cooperation and conciliation among residents of the Borough and eliminate all types of discrimination. They were awarded a proclamation by the NJ Senate and General Assembly to honor their 65th Anniversary.

Highland Park Welcomes Habitat for Humanity House

Highland Park is getting ready to welcome a Habitat for Humanity House in our town and provide a special home for a family displaced or affected by Hurricane Sandy.

In 2014 the Borough donated property at 236 South 10th Avenue to build a Habitat home. Funds for building of the home are provided by the Neighborhood Enhancement Program under funds administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Construction of the home is a cooperative effort, involving both volunteers and future homeowners. Homeowners are required to commit 300 hours toward the construction of the home.

A Groundbreaking Ceremony for the construction is scheduled for late April and volunteer opportunities will begin in early May. Volunteers aged 16 or older are welcome to help build this special home for the deserving family.

Habitat for Humanity International was founded in 1976 by Millard and Linda Fuller. After vis-

iting a small community outside of Americus, Georgia, they developed the idea of “partnership housing”, centering on those in need of shelter working together with volunteers to build houses. The Borough of Highland Park is proud to be partnering with this worthy organization.

“It’s been a goal of mine to work with an organization like Habitat for Humanity, and bring this community-wide volunteer opportunity to directly improve the lives of a family in Highland Park. With all the new development in town, it is important to continue our Borough’s long-standing commitment of affordable housing for our residents,” said Council President Susan Welkovits.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield and Middlesex County is a nonprofit, equal opportunity, Christian housing ministry dedicated to helping low and moderate income families in the Greater Plainfield area and Middlesex County improve the conditions in which they live by building affordable homes.

FREEHOLDER CORNER



H. JAMES POLOS

We often read about the struggle of local volunteer First Aid Squads and Fire Departments to maintain adequate emergency service staffing levels. The fact is that due to the need for families to have two incomes to survive in today's economy coupled with the ever increasing training and education requirements for volunteers which are mandated by the state, there simply is little time to dedicate to emergency service volunteerism.

The loss of emergency service volunteers in our communities would be devastating. The heartfelt care, dedication and concern exhibited by our neighbors who place themselves in harm's way to help us cannot be duplicated by a simple paid service. In addition, if volunteer services had to be replaced by paid services the effect on the local taxpayer would be devastating. I believe that elected officials at

all levels of government need to focus attention on this issue and collectively develop strategies which can reverse the dwindling volunteer trends.

This year I will be promoting a new county initiative entitled, "The Year of the Volunteer". This is the culmination of focus group meetings with volunteers from around the county where we explored ways to retain existing members and attract new members to the ranks. We will soon be announcing new incentives to help communities retain and attract new members while assisting local departments promote the value of being an emergency service volunteer. We are blessed to have a strong, experienced and committed volunteer force here in Highland Park providing exceptional Fire and First Aid services. We owe them our support and thanks as well as our collective commitment to do whatever we can to assist them with maintaining and growing their volunteer forces. Also, I encourage you to think about becoming a volunteer fire fighter or first aid member. I am a former Highland Park First Aid Squad Captain and continue to serve our Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator and I can say without hesitation that the reward of volunteering for our local emergency services is immeasurable.

Main Street Minute



The Highland Park 5k is Back for its Seventh Year! Join Main Street Highland Park for a day of fun starting with the 7th annual Run in the Park 5k on Sunday May 3 at 9:00 am. The course begins and ends at the High School track this year, heading downhill toward New Brunswick and winding its way through the historic streets of Highland Park.

Kids Races & Post-5k Fun: Refreshments will be available after the race. At 10am there will be Superhero Kids Races on the track, sponsored by Yellow Brick Road preschool. Awards will also be given to winners in different age groups. Race Proceeds to benefit the Borough of Highland Park Police, Fire, First Aid, Library, Main Street, and Recreation. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food donation for the Highland Park Food Pantry on the race day. To register for the 5k and/or

the Kids' Races and to view the course, visit <http://runinthepark.org>

Spring Street Fair

After the 5k, stick around town for the annual Spring Street Fair, Sunday, May 3 from 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. The annual Spring Street Fair is one of Highland Park's signature events, and features something for everyone. It has crafters, vendors, artists, music, food, games, kids rides, and more. Admission is free!

Outdoor Movie Nights Are Back!

In partnership with the Highland Park Outdoor Movie Theater, there will be a lineup of eight outdoor movies this summer: May 16, May 30, June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, and August 22. Interested in supporting Highland Park's summertime outdoor mov-

ies, getting a cool t-shirt, and having a vote in what movies are shown this summer? Email hpoutdoormovies@gmail.com today!

Downtown Planting Days

Main Street's annual Downtown Planting Days are back for two more fun-filled days of downtown beautification! Come out to fill over 150 downtown planters with beautiful plants and flowers along Raritan and Woodbridge Avenues. Planting Days will be Thursday May 14, 4pm-7pm, and Saturday May 16, 10am -2pm. Come to the Main Street offices on either day to pick up your plants, your planter assignment, and get your free Planting Day t-shirt while supplies last!

Save the Dates: Upcoming events to look out for - **Farmers Market** - Friday, June 5 and **Arts in the Park** - Sunday, September 20

Park Partners 2015



Park Partners 2nd year had a terrific start! Nearly 350 residents came out to vote for the 12 competing programs. Five grants of \$2000 each were awarded to winners in the categories of Arts, Environment, Health & Wellness or Universal Access, Culture & Diversity and Safety.

The winning programs for 2015 include:

Arts- The Highland Park High School and Middle School Orchestra will compete in the National School Orchestra Championships in Lincoln Center. Throughout the year they will also perform in the community to encourage music appreciation.

Environment- The Environmental Club of Highland Park High School will organize Enrich HP, a series of movie screenings and speaker engagements to celebrate the environment and help educate the public.

Culture & Diversity- Discussion groups are being developed to bring people from diverse cultures together to learn about each other, using Touchstone Discussion Group books and materials.

Health & Wellness- CuttingOut-Hunger won for a second year! This organization uses donations and coupons to provide food and supplies to the local Food Bank.

Safety- Highland Park's Family Den will create a "Healthy Active Kids" program, purchasing safe tumbling and play equipment for young children.

In November Park Partners was awarded the prestigious Innovation in Governance Award by the New Jersey League of Municipalities. Highland Park values its many volunteer residents who help make our community so unique and special. For more information about the program contact communications@hpboro.com

Highland Park Public Schools: Home of the Owls

By Israel Soto, Superintendent

The Highland Park Schools have been thriving this year, and we are proud to report on some wonderful programs at each of our schools.

IRVING: Our elementary students celebrated the 100th day of school with classroom projects. It is wonderful to see how much our students have been learning and growing throughout the year.

BARTLE: Students embraced the creative projects their teachers prepared for them after winter break, including New Jersey Sustainable Schools Project activities (an initiative to encourage students to engage the process of sustainability in their community), Martin Luther King, Jr. programs and so much more!

MIDDLE SCHOOL: Highland Park's Middle School Student Congress Members not only work to benefit their fellow students,

they also pride themselves on giving back to the community and beyond. This year our students made a large donation to the Food Pantry, raised over \$1000 to the Make A Wish Foundation Walk, prepared Halloween gift bags for children at RWJ Hospital for the holiday, supported Veterans by contributing to the GI Go Fund, and collected toys for the Toys for Tots program. Upcoming events include a Pennies for Patients Fundraiser to benefit children with Leukemia, participation in the Middlesex County's Emergency Food Network Food Drive in March, and Student Congress will be running their second annual Talent Show with proceeds to benefit Charity: Water.

HIGH SCHOOL: The student clubs at our High School are continuing their tradition of excellence. DECA raised nearly \$4000 for the Make A Wish Foundation, with 30 of 36 students placing in the regional competition. Our Model UN and Model Congress

students attended a conference in Philadelphia in February, and a group of these students is preparing for the Mock Trial competition.

In our continuous efforts to grow and benefit our students, we are building strong relationships with Rutgers University, enabling us to utilize their numerous resources to build a stronger school system. We are working with the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers to prepare for the new computer-based assessment of the Common Core Standards. We are also implementing a professional development model that uses Professional Learning Communities, after-school workshops, in-class modeling and coaching. We are excited about our progress so far this year, and look forward to more developments in the spring season at the Highland Park Schools!

Spring 2015 Recreation & Senior Programs

The Department of Community Services, Office of Recreation - Senior/Youth Center (732) 819-0052			
Program	Age	Days	Time
Chess Class: 5 week session for beginners and advancing beginners. Learn the basics or improve your game! Taught by Alex Braylovskiy	6-12 years	Thursdays - Two 5 week sessions @HP Senior Youth Center	5:00pm - 6:00pm
Theater Program: No experience necessary. Participants provided with a fun, creative environment to explore their dramatic talents! Taught by Tova Halpern	7-16 years	Thursdays -10 week sessions @HP Senior Youth Center	4:00pm - 6:00pm
Table Tennis (Adults and Youth): Work on game play, shots and fundamentals. Instructor: Howard Lee	Kids (8-11) & Adults (12 & up)	Sundays - 4 & 8 week sessions @HP Senior Youth Center	Kids - 8:30am-9:30am 12 & up - 9:30am-10:30am
Flag Football: Work on fundamentals and gain experience in games situations in a non-contact format. Coach: Rich McGlynn	3rd-5th grade 6th-8th grade	Tuesdays & Thursdays - 5 weeks @ Municipal Recreation Complex Turf Field	3-5th - 6:00pm - 7:30pm 6-8th - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Spring Soccer Clinics: Learn from Spencer Rockman and the Rovers Professional Coaching Staff!	PreK-5th grade	Donaldson Park & the Municipal Recreation Complex Turf Field - Tuesdays, Girls & Thursdays, Boys	6:00pm - 7:15pm
Spring Track and Field: Lessons on starts, running form, speed and agility, and field events. Instructors: Keith Roig and Eric Davis	3rd-8th grade	8 week session @ Municipal Recreation Complex Track	5:30pm - 7:00pm
Juggling Club: All skills welcome! Improve your coordination, concentration and confidence with Juggling! Instructor: Louis De Lauro	8-16 years	Tuesdays - 10 week sessions @HP Senior Youth Center	6:30pm - 7:30pm
Adult Turf Soccer: Open pick-up games at the Municipal Recreation Complex Turf Field	Adults	@ Municipal Recreation Complex Turf Field	9:00am - 11:00am
Mens 30+ Basketball: Open pick-up games for men 30+	Adults 30+	Wednesdays - 10 weeks	8:00pm-10:00pm
Mens Basketball League: Teams are formed and play in a formal spring league.	Adults (18 & up)	TBD	TBD

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

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	2/20, 3/16, 4/10 & 5/8	12:00pm	Senior/Youth Center	FREE
Valentine's Celebration Luncheon & Chinese New Year Celebration	Come out to celebrate Valentine's Month with your friends at the center & Join us for a special program to Celebrate The Chinese New Year Live Musical Entertainment	55+ Years	Pre-Registration is Required. Open to Members ONLY	Friday, Feb. 20, 2015	12:00pm	Senior/Youth Center	FREE
St. Patrick's Day Celebration Luncheon	Join us at our monthly luncheon and enjoy a traditional Irish lunch & Musical Entertainment by: John Gallagher	55+ Years	Pre-Registration is Required. Open to Members ONLY	Monday, March 16th, 2015	12:00pm	Senior/Youth Center	FREE
Spring Luncheon	Join us for a luncheon to celebrate the Spring Holidays	55+ Years	Pre-Registration is Required. Open to Members ONLY	Friday, April 10, 2015	12:00pm	Senior/Youth Center	FREE
Mother's Day Luncheon	Join us for a Special Luncheon to Celebrate Mother's Day	55+ Years	Pre-Registration is Required. Open to Members ONLY	Friday, May 8, 2015	12:00pm	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	12:30 pm - 3:30 pm	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	Friday, Feb. 13, 2015	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	Depart from Senior/Youth Center	\$3.00 per person
Atlantic City Trips	March Trip Casino: Caesars	Open to All	Pre-Registration is Required. Open to All.	March 31, 2015 (Check Center for May, July & September dates)	TBA	Depart from Senior/Youth Center	\$35.00 per person (\$30.00 back in slot cash)

HIGHLAND PARK SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Highland Park Borough Senior Outreach Program provides information and assistance to seniors 60+, disabled adults, and anyone who lives in Highland Park. The Outreach Coordinator is here to listen and respond to your urgent needs. She will help arrange for various services such as meals, housing options, home energy, immigration, transportation, social security, Medicare, food stamps, and home care. Our Outreach Coordinator will actively work with you to assist with forms and applications for programs and benefits, and will advocate on your behalf if a problem or glitch arises. Best of all, our services are free of charge and confidential.

Due to the increasing number of people seeking outreach services, we ask that you call to make an appointment ahead of time. Appointments are available Monday – Friday between 8am-4pm. Homebound persons may call to request a home visit. Please call to schedule an appointment at 732-819-0052 between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. General enrollment period for Medicare part B is January 1- March 31. Another reminder that fall and winter is upon us this is the time to apply for energy assistance. LIHEP applications are accepted from October 1- April 30th. The sooner you apply the better.

* Chinese/Mandarin translators desperately needed. Your help is needed and we will accommodate your schedule. Please ask for Kim or Nicole, Highland Park Senior Center, 732-819-0052.

Visit the Borough's website at www.hpboro.com for complete events and programming.

Highland Park Public Library

Highland Park Public Library • 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: 7, 21, April: 4, 18,
May: 2, 16, 30, June: 13, 27.*
Sundays 1–5
*March: 1, 15, 29, April: 12, 26,
May: 10, 31, June: 7, 21*

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday
Saturday, May 23, Sunday, May 24
& Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day
Friday, July 3, Saturday, July 4, &
Sunday, July 5 - Independence Day

Message from Jane Stanley, Director of the Highland Park Public Library

We look forward to seeing you at the library this spring. We have lots of exciting new programs for adults that include informative talks, film series, workshops, poetry readings, and concerts. For children and teens we have clubs, art programs, game days, films, and special events.

Each month we feature different artists in our meeting room and display cases. In addition to our public computers with internet access and free WIFI, we also offer a Career and Education Center where you can work on your resume and search for jobs. Visit our website www.hpplnj.org to access online services such as Mango Languages, downloadable ebooks and audiobooks from eLibraryNJ, as well as databases provided by the NJ State Library. You can also access our catalogue and your library account with our smart phone app www.hppl.boopsie.com



Highland Park Public Library Spring 2015 Adult Programs

Program	Description	Date	Time
Hollywood's Second Golden Age: Films in the Seventies	Film and introduction with Dr. Robert Knoll. <i>Jaws</i> (1975)	Tue. March 3	6:30pm
Community Blood Drive	New Jersey Blood Services will conduct a blood drive in the library meeting room.	Tue. March 31	1:00pm - 7:00pm
Scenes from a play with young actors from Studio J Theater	<i>Only in America</i> By Robert E. Lee and Jerome Lawrence Directed by Stacy Greenblatt	Mon. March 16	7:00pm
Spring International Film Festival	<i>Le Chef</i> (2014) French Rated PG13	Tue. March 17	6:30pm
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Norman Stock	Tue. March 24	7:30pm
Hollywood's Second Golden Age: Films in the Seventies	<i>Manhattan</i>	Tue. April 7	6:30pm
Spring International Film Festival	<i>Ida</i>	Tue. April 14	6:30pm
Holocaust Remembrance Day Program	Rabbi Dr. Bernard Rosenberg	Thurs. April 16	7:00pm
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Wanda S. Praisner	Tue. April 21	7:30pm
Spring International Film Festival	<i>The Lunch Box</i> (2014)	Tue. April 28	6:30pm
Hollywood's Second Golden Age: Films in the Seventies	<i>Dog Day Afternoon</i> (1975)	Tue. May 5	6:30pm
Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series	Sam Friedman	Tue. May 26	7:30pm
Hollywood's Second Golden Age: Films in the Seventies	<i>Network</i> (1976)	Tue. June 2	6:30pm

Highland Park Public Library Spring 2015 Children Programs

Program	Description	Date	Time
Nursery Rhyme Time	Songs, rhymes, and reading for 6-23 month olds accompanied by an adult. Please register.	Tuesdays, March 3-10	10:30am
TNT (Twos and Threes)	Stories, finger play, and cradts for two-three year old accompanied by an adult.	Wednesdays, March 4-11	10:30am
Book Break	Story time for ages 4-5	Mondays, March 2-16	4:00pm
After School Specials	Stories, creative drama, and art for children in kindergarten through second grade.	Wednesdays, March 4-11	4:00pm
Thursday Specials for Older Children	March 5 - Wishing Wands & March 19 - Lego Day	Thursdays, March 5 & 19	3:00pm
Read to Belle the Library Dog for Children Who Need Practice Reading	Sing up for a 10-15 minute session. Belle loves to listen! Registration is required.	Thursdays, March 5-26	6:00pm - 7:00pm

Spring 2015 Meeting Room Art Exhibits

March	Miriam Lefkowitz	Painting
April	Joyce Browning	Painting
May	Mort Farrah	Painting

HIGHLAND PARK NEWS

Public Works

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

APRIL 3 (FRIDAY) – Good Friday - Closed

• Business District and South Side household garbage will be collected on April 1 (Wednesday).

MAY 25 (MONDAY) – Memorial Day - Closed

• Business District, North Side & Triangle household garbage will be collected on May 27

(Wednesday)

JULY 3 (FRIDAY) – Independence Day - Closed

• Business District and South Side household garbage will be collected on July 1 (Wednesday)

UPCOMING EVENTS, HOSTED BY MIDDLESEX COUNTY:

MARCH 15 (SUNDAY) – HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

• Event will be held at Middlesex

County College (Edison)

MAY 8 (FRIDAY) – RESIDENTIAL PAPER SHRED

• Event will be held in the parking lot of the Highland Park Community Services Building, 220 S. 6th Ave., 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, or until the truck is filled, whichever occurs first. Residents are limited to 5 file boxes or 100 pounds per vehicle.

MAY 16 (SATURDAY) – HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

• Event will be held at Middlesex County Highway Division garage (North Brunswick) Events are sponsored by the Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Management. If you should need additional information, you can contact them at (732) 745-4170.

The Department of Public Works is located at 444 Valentine St. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 3:00 pm. The DPW can be reached by calling (732) 247-9379 or (732) 514-1277. If there is a problem

to report when we're closed, please notify the Highland Park Police Department on their **NON-EMERGENCY** number (732) 572-3800. They will then make notification to DPW representatives to address the issue.

SHOP IT.



BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK: Monica Jackson - Communications Coordinator, Stacy Kaplan - Communications Coordinator

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