

THE HIGHLAND PARK NEWS



A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park

WINTER 2017

Millennials Bring Spirit and Passion to Highland Park



It's as if they came out of nowhere, and their presence is making a big, and a positive, impact on the community. Adults ages 20-40, or those born between 1981 and 1997, better known as the generation called Millennials, are flocking to Highland Park in incredible numbers. They are reinvigorating the town with their vibrant, spirited lifestyles.

The evidence can be seen during the day at the local coffee shops like Ruthie's or OQ, where they gather to meet with friends, or bring their laptop to work in a relaxed environment.

And in the evening, the crowds head to Pino's for music, trivia night, or a drink to accompany their take-out dinner.

Why are so many young adults setting up residence in Highland Park? According to Rutgers University, nearly 60% of our residents are affiliated in some way with Rutgers, either as faculty, administration, or mostly graduate students. After students graduate from Rutgers, they cross the bridge to live in Highland Park, enjoying the benefits of the small-town feel of our community, while taking advantage of our close proxim-

ity to the larger city of New Brunswick.

The Millennial generation is characterized in part by their technological savvy, their pursuit of a healthy lifestyle, and their passion for change in the world, which is also why they are attracted to our diverse and progressive community. Highland Park's focus on sustainability, health and wellness, immigration support, and the arts, are in line with this generation's top priorities. Perhaps that is why a recent Niche.com survey ranked Highland Park the #2 Best Place for Millennials, and the #2 Best Place to Live for Millennials in New Jersey.

Highland Park's walkable community, with our Living Room corners, wide sidewalks, and many shops and restaurants, as well as the two large parks that border our town, are ideal for their preferred "non-auto" lifestyle, for both health and sustainability purposes. Highland Park's Complete Streets status and encouragement to residents to "get out of their cars and walk or bike" resonates with this generation, which wel-

comes the ease and accessibility of those options. Our diverse and inclusive community is also a big draw. Many Millennials feel strongly about issues of acceptance and tolerance, and Highland Park's welcoming policies make this group proud to be a part of the community. In addition, they are enthusiastic about the artistic and creative culture of the municipality. Art in any form, whether on paper, spoken, or performed, plays a big part in the quality of life for Millennials (and all generations). That is why our many classical artistic schools, shops, and events, as well as our close proximity to Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts and theaters in New Brunswick, provide bountiful creative venues and opportunities.

As the Millennial demographic represents the largest influx of new residents in the past few years, Highland Park's downtown is also adjusting to their needs and requirements. Recent shops and services that have opened business in town are a reflection of these new patrons. Over the past few years, the downtown has welcomed a trendy juniors clothing store, comic book shop, vinyl record store, art supply store, vintage store and more. And local eth-

nic and healthy eateries, as well as a "quick food" burger spot, appeal to Millennials' desire for diversity in their dining options. The BYOB design in most of our restaurants enables young adults to enjoy a good meal with their choice of drink, at a much lower cost. Millennials came, and the town continues to respond, which is proving to be beneficial to everyone. This generation is bringing a new vitality to the town. Highland Park is responding to their needs and desires, as it does for all of our generations of residents. As we move further into the 21st century, we will continue to explore the needs of this generation for non-auto transportation, safe walking and bicycling, easy access to mass transportation, sensitivity to climate change and sustainability, and utilization of technology to help solve concrete problems such as infrastructure needs, communications, and equal rights.

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Letter From Your Mayor

This past year has been challenging for our country, which has faced devastating natural disasters and political plus social challenges. Despite these challenges, or perhaps because of them, Highland Park has continued to grow and develop as a diverse, harmonious, and welcoming community.

I am proud to lead a community that maintains high standards in areas of sustainability, acceptance, education and more. The programs that have been developed over the past few years to address these standards have been impressive and successful. Sustainable Highland Park recently received a grant to implement a Plastic Bag Reduction Campaign. Working with local merchants and our Stop & Shop supermarket, this committee is raising awareness of the severe damage plastic bags cause to both animals and the environment, and is encouraging residents to use re-usable canvas bags for their shopping needs.

In fact, our local Stop & Shop has been a wonderful neighbor. They donated hundreds of reusable bags for this program and more than \$2000 to our Food Pantry this year alone.

For our youngest residents, "HP Gives a Hoot" has served more than 450 lunches to our children on days when school is not in session and parents are not home to provide lunch. This program has been mostly utilized by young children. This year, in order to reach a teenage population, "HP Gives a Hoot" partnered with the Highland Park High School. Together, they began a peer mentorship program with students in the high school, enabling older students to mentor their younger peers through the challenges they face upon entering high school.

In November we kicked off our Municipal ID program, which enables residents to receive an identification card for use within the Borough. Any resident

may apply for this card, including immigrants and refugees. It is also a great benefit as identification for our seniors who do not drive. You can even use the ID Card as your Highland Park library card! Please come into Borough Hall on Tuesdays, 3-5:30pm or Thursdays 8-11am to get your card.

I am thrilled that Highland Park was chosen as just one of 13 municipalities in New Jersey to explore the feasibility of a microgrid to provide electrical independence in times of an emergency outage. The goal of a microgrid for Highland Park is to maintain power in key buildings throughout the Borough, in case of power outages. These buildings include, but are not limited to, Borough



Hall, the Senior/Youth Center, the Public Safety/Police Building, Fire Station, Bartle School, and Housing Authority buildings. Maintaining power in these buildings would provide shelter and necessary provisions to our residents in case of emergency.

Highland Park is also mak-

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www.hpboro.com

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

Why our School District's Strategic Plan is so Important

Dr. Scott Taylor, Superintendent

John F. Kennedy made clear his intention to couple 1960's America's hard work and good intention with clear goals when on the campaign trail talking about the way forward during the tumultuous cold war era. He said, "Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction."

And so does Highland Park's school district harness its citizens' passion for equity and excellence by strategizing and by tapping the power of the community's spirit for justness and its collection of scholarship to give all kids opportunities to realize their life dreams while being immersed in the richest intellectual, socially and emo-

tionally nurturing environment possible.

The Pathway to Excellence, the schools' strategic plan, is in its second year, in full force and already having tremendous impact on our children. The concrete outcomes? The Highland Park School District is seeing a renaissance in accolades having been recently recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best school systems in the country and by the well regarded ranking system Niche.com as an "A+ School District." The College Board listed Highland Park High School in its top 477 school districts in all of North America to have simultaneously achieved increases in

access to Advanced Placement courses for a broader number of students while also maintaining or improving the rate at which AP students earned scores of 3 or higher on an AP Exam.

This has all come about because Highland Park's very hard working teachers, support staff, and leaders and a supportive board of education have instituted the following initiatives as directed by the community-developed strategic plan:

- Restorative practices (approaches everyone in the school use to better relate to each other so they feel a strong connection to the school and to each other).

- Cultural competency (the ability for everyone in the school to interact with each other with enhanced awareness of each other's cultural worldview and cultural differences).

- Highly individualized instruction (an approach to teaching students in specific ways according to their different learning styles and abilities).

- Very rigorous curricula (lesson planning that has teachers compelling students to think critically and creatively).

- Specialized programs through regional partnerships (unique additions to everyday class instruction).

Please take a moment to visit the Highland Park School District website by going to www.hpschools.net. Clicking the "Strategic Plan" link will show visitors a very detailed breakdown of the actions schools are taking to foster equity and excellence.

Want a visual take on what the schools are up to? Follow the district's Instagram account ([highlandparkpublicschools](https://www.instagram.com/highlandparkpublicschools)), Twitter feed (@[hpschoolsnj](https://twitter.com/hpschoolsnj)) and Facebook page (@[highlandparkpublicschools](https://www.facebook.com/highlandparkpublicschools)).

Of course, you can also obtain information by contacting me at 732-572-2400, extension 2813.

What Our Trees Can Tell Us

Studies have shown that seasonal events of nature, such as leaves emerging on trees and shrubs (budburst or budburst) -- occur earlier nowadays than 100 years ago.* Scientific consensus says this is due to climate change.

As climate change progresses, the timing of many natural events will change, ultimately affecting worldwide agriculture

and human population. Areas once fertile may no longer easily sustain life. Extreme weather conditions will increasingly threaten life on earth.

The early budding also affects insects and animals. Each spring the emerging growth of bud-break on trees attracts insects (and those tiny "inch worms" that hang down on "invisible" threads), and soon

migrating birds arrive to eat as many insects they can catch in the trees.

However, while insects may hatch earlier in spring to coincide with earlier bud break, migrating birds don't adapt as easily; sadly they may arrive too late to eat the insects on which they depend.

Early budding is one of the ways that trees communicate

with us about what is happening in the environment. Paying attention to and caring for trees can help us better understand our natural world.

* "Spring Budburst in a Changing Climate" - www.americanscientist.org March-April, 2016.

For Citizen Science projects see Nature's Notebook, Project Budburst, and iNaturalist

REQUEST A TREE!

Street Tree Request Forms are available at Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Ave, and at www.hpboro.com

Karen Swaine
STAC co-chair & member
Environmental Commission

Meadows Trail Update

Residents who have walked through Highland Park's Meadows Trail have noticed a lot of new work and maintenance along the trails. Volunteers of the Meadows Trail Crew have been working to complete multiple projects, which have been funded through a National Recreational Trails grant. The most noticeable is the new entrance, currently under construction. When completed, it will provide safer and easier access to the Meadows area, and make the Trail more accessible to people with handicaps.



the marsh and the Meadows' woodlands.

For the rest of this season the Trail Crew will be completing the new entrance and restoring sections of the trail surface that have been eroded by the spring rains and Trail use. This will ensure the Meadows Trail is ready for cross country skiers again this winter. The Trail Crew has put in nearly a thousand hours of work this year. If you have questions or suggestions to make the Meadows Trail even more enjoyable, feel free to speak to any of the Trail volunteers.

2017 2018 BOROUGH CALENDAR

- Arts Commission Meeting**
Borough Hall, 6:00 pm
December 14; January 11;
February 8 and March 8
- Board of Health Meeting**
Borough Hall, 7:00 pm
December 14; January 11;
February 8 and March 8
- Borough Council Meeting**
Borough Hall, 7:00 pm
December 5
- Commission for Universal Access Meeting**
Borough Hall, 7:30 pm
December 11 and March 19
- Community Food Pantry Meeting**
Senior/Youth Center, 7:00 pm
December 1 and February 7
- Finance Committee Meeting**
Borough Hall, 5:30 pm
December 5
- Environmental Commission Meeting**
Environmental Center
8:00 pm
December 6

BOROUGH HOLIDAYS

Borough Offices Closed:

- Christmas - December 25
- New Year's Day - January 1
- Martin Luther King's Birthday - January 15
- Lincoln's Birthday - February 12
- President's Day - February 19
- Good Friday - March 30

- Housing Authority Board Meeting**
Samuel J Kronman Building
6:30 pm
December 13
- Human Relations Commission Meeting**
Borough Hall, 7:00 pm
December 20
- Library Board of Trustee Meeting**
Library, 7:30 pm
December 18 and January 22
- Planning Board Meeting**
Borough Hall, 7:30 pm
December 14; January 11;
February 8 and March 15
- Public Information Committee Meeting**
Borough Hall, 6:15 pm
December 5; January 23 and
March 13
- Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting**
Senior/Youth Center, 7:00 pm
December 4

- Redevelopment Agency Meeting**
Borough Hall, 7:30 pm
December 7; January 4;
February 1 and March 8
- Rehabilitation Screening Committee Meeting**
Borough Hall, 7:00 pm
December 26
- Safe Walking & Cycling Committee Meeting**
Senior/Youth Center, 7:00 pm
January 10; February 14 and
March 14
- Shade Tree Advisory Meeting**
Borough Hall, 8:00 pm
December 13
- Sustainable Highland Park Meeting**
Environmental Center
7:30 pm
December 20
- Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting**
Borough Hall, 7:30 pm
December 18

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

www.hpboro.com

Spotlight On: HP Gives a Hoot Committee

Highland Park Gives a Hoot™



Over the past few years, residents and businesses in Highland Park have truly proven that they “give a hoot”. In 2015, the Borough created “HP Gives a Hoot”, a nonprofit fund to contribute to the wellbeing of our Highland Park students in need. This fund depends primarily on generous donations, which have helped propel the success of the program.

“HP Gives a Hoot” began by providing lunches to students who would not otherwise have access to a healthy lunch, on days when school is not in session and parents are most likely at work. To date, the fund has served more than 450 lunches. In addition, “HP Gives a Hoot” has also been able to provide 9 scholarships to high school students to attend a peer mentorship camp, and 20 scholarships to elementary and middle school students to attend the Highland Park Summer Recreation camp.

Recently, the program became an official Borough Committee. Led by Chairman Michael Buchman, new opportunities are

being implemented to benefit our young residents in need. This year, in conjunction with the Highland Park High School, they began a mentorship program to help improve academic and social success through peer support and practical guidance. A select group of students in 11th and 12th grades who serve as mentors are paired with two 9th grade mentees each, with whom they meet regularly to help guide them through the challenges many students face in high school.

“Highland Park is a special community because we support each other, and we believe in fairness. We see our cultural diversity as a strength, and our economic diversity as an opportunity to improve all our children’s potential success,” said Michael Buchman, Chairperson.

With the help of generous donations, “HP Gives a Hoot” con-

tinues to grow and benefit the children in our community in a multitude of ways.

To donate to this important fund, send a check to: Borough of Highland Park, 221 South 5th Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904, and write “HP Gives a Hoot” in the Memo section.

For questions about how to donate or volunteer, email IGaveaHoot@gmail.com.

And, follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/hpgivesahoot>.

Vaccinations Aren’t Just for Kids



Beyond Flu Shots: Vaccinations for Adults

It is estimated that vaccinations prevented 1,800 deaths in the 2012–13 flu season. Vaccinations are available at your healthcare provider, pharmacy, local clinic, and County Public Health Clinic.

- **Your childhood vaccines might not be enough.** Protection from some vaccines can wear off over time.
- **Illness puts your life on hold.** You may not be able to work, go to school, or take care of your family or other responsibilities.
- **You can keep others safe.** Don’t give a preventable disease to your loved ones. Infants, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems (like those undergoing cancer treatment) are especially vulnerable.

Here are some vaccines recommended for adults:

Shingles: Adult complication of childhood chicken pox that causes painful, blistering rash with possible fever and pain that can last for many months.

Pneumonia: Infection that causes inflamed air sacs in the lungs which may fill with fluid.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough): Not just dangerous for you—it can be passed to infants, for whom it’s life-threatening.

Tetanus: Bacterial infection that causes painful spasms, muscle stiffness, lockjaw, and can be fatal.

Diphtheria: Serious infection in the nose and throat that can cause breathing difficulty.

Complications from these can lead to serious illness or death. Getting vaccinated as an adult could save your life—or someone else’s.

GET THE FACTS:

<http://www.adultvaccination.org/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/index.html>
 MORE INFORMATION:
<https://sites.google.com/site/hpboardofhealth/home>

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
732-819-3782

Apartment Registration, Business License, Dog & Cat License, Flood Zones (Maps), Garage Sale Permits, Liquor Licenses, Notary Public, Ordinances, Request for Public Record, Street Maps, Used Car Lot Licenses, Taxi 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

PSEG
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
<http://www.hpschools.net/>

TAX ASSESSOR
732-819-3787
Block & Lot, Deed Inquiries

TAX COLLECTOR – FINANCE
732-819-3788
Senior Citizen Tax Deductions, Tax Bills, Veteran Tax Deductions

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

It Takes a Village – Sponsors are Vital to our Recreation Department

In the last issue of the Highland Park News, the Highland Park Recreation Department was featured on our front page. That’s because their programming serves more than 1,800 families in the community each year, making them one of the most utilized organizations in the Borough.

Because of the constant activity throughout the year, the small department staff relies heavily on volunteers. Nearly 150 residents volunteer as coaches, instructors, and more, contributing their skills and time for the benefit of their neighbors.

Many of the programs and events also require the assistance of sponsors. Sponsors help ensure that programs can be provided without adding

additional tax burdens to residents. From sports programs to the annual Independence Day Fireworks Celebration, the Recreation Department depends on these sponsors for the success of these programs and services. They are also vital in providing scholarships to our children for programs or our summer camp.

While there are too many sponsors to list in this publication, all of our supporters are sincerely appreciated. If you or your business is interested in sponsoring a team or an activity or event, please contact Andrea Baay, the Recreation Department Coordinator at 732-819-0052. For a complete list of activities and events, visit the Borough website at www.hpboro.com.

Andrea Baay
Recreation Department Coordinator
732-819-0052

Visit the Borough website at
www.hpboro.com

From Paintbrush to Chalk, Highland Park's Art Programs Flourish

What do the sides of buildings, a retaining wall, and the Environmental Center have in common? In Highland Park, they serve as the backdrop for some of the beautiful art that adorns our community. And, recently, art is being displayed in unique places!

Art has always been a central part of life in Highland Park, and several new programs are bringing art back to the forefront. In September, the Arts Commission hosted its **2nd Annual Window Art Walk**. More than 40 downtown shops featured

displays in their windows from local artists. The artwork was on display throughout the month, and an Art Walk event invited residents to walk down Raritan to view the artwork, followed by a "meet and greet" reception with the artists at Pino's.

This summer, local resident Judge Barnett Hoffman proposed the idea of a Chalk Art Festival to raise money for his organization ASAP (Adult Substance Abuse Program). Professional, amateur, and budding artists drew magnificent cre-

ations with chalk on the street. Each artist was assigned a large block area for their art, and two blocks were allotted for children to make chalk drawings. The festival, located on South 3rd Avenue, was held in conjunction with the Police Department's National Night Out in August. The event was a huge success, and the Borough is looking forward to making this an annual event.

"The Chalk Art event went from ten invited artists and a student block, to become a fantastic display over over 60 completed



works!" said Arts Commission co-chair John Marron. *"And, it raised \$3,000 to help people addicted to opioids and other substances, which made it a feel-good event as well."*

While art has always been prevalent in the Borough, the addition of these and other artistic programs is bringing new life to art and creativity in our community.

The Arts Commission Looks Ahead to 2018



This Highland Park Arts Commission has enjoyed a successful year, bringing programs such as the Sculpture Walk, Window Arts Walk, Chalk Art, Open Studios, Book Arts and Improv Workshops, to the community. We are excited to share our plans for 2018, during which we will continue to provide arts opportunities for

town residents and local artists.

The Commission is planning various Book-Arts, Acting/Scene Study, Improv, Auto-biography/Spoken Word and Dance workshops during the winter months. Moving into springtime, Open Studios, a town favorite, will present dozens of artists' studios around town. For the summer,

Music on the Corner, on the corner of 4th and Raritan Avenue, will feature local musicians performing live, as a collaboration with Pino's Wine Shoppe. Moving into Fall 2018, the Commission will once again organize the Window Art Walk as well as participate in Arts in the Park.

Other exciting plans include a continuation of the Sculpture Project, a collaboration with New Brunswick's Windows of Understanding project, an archival/arts commission project centering on the work of Roy Lichtenstein, and Music & Poetry Concerts. Everyone in the town is welcome to attend and participate in the Arts Commission's meetings, which take place every 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Borough Hall. We welcome artists and art lovers to lend a hand in making the arts central to daily life in Highland Park.

Book Arts Workshop with Ameer J Pollack



November 2, 2017
6:30-8:30pm

Location
Highland Park Public Library
31 N. 5th Ave.
Highland Park, NJ

Learn the basics of bookmaking by making one structure called a "Keepsake Book" from start to finish in this two-hour workshop with artist Ameer J Pollack.

Pre-registration required. Limited to 20 participants. Ages 8 and up. Materials provided for one book for each participant. Feel free to bring rubber stamps or collage materials to populate your book.

Registration required

Register online at www.hpartscommission.com/bookart

or call Arts Commission Chair Pandora Scooter at 732-718-0134



Keep it Local in December

Despite the dark and cold, downtown Highland Park is still bustling in the month of December. Be sure to support the Highland Park community and shop local for your holiday shopping at our many wonderful retailers and restaurants downtown. Don't know what to buy? A gift certificate to one of our local stores, restaurants, spas, or fitness and wellness facilities always does the trick!

Don't forget that the Highland

Park Farmer's & Artisan Market is still going strong, every Friday from 11:00am - 5:30pm until December 15th, with our farmers and vendors selling fresh local food and other treats -- so be sure to come downtown to shop before the season ends.

And don't miss the downtown menorah lighting party on Tuesday December 12, from 6:00-7:00 pm!



SAVE THE DATES IN 2018...

These are just a FEW of our downtown events planned for 2018!

- **Sunday May 6:** A Run in the Park 5k race, and the annual Spring Street Fair
- **Thursday May 10 & Saturday May 12:** Downtown Planting Days
- **Friday June 1 - Friday December 14:** Friday Farmers Market
- **June - August (dates TBD):** Free outdoor movies downtown in the Highland Park Outdoor Movie Theater
- **Sunday Sept 16:** Arts in the Park arts street festival

- **Wednesday October 31:** Halloween on the Avenue
 - **Saturday November 24:** Small Business Saturday & Downtown Tree Lighting
 - **Sunday December 2:** Downtown Menorah Lighting
- Keep up with everything happening downtown by following us on Facebook ([facebook.com/MainStreetHP](https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetHP)), Twitter (twitter.com/MainStreetHP) or checking out our website, www.mainstreethp.org!

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Letter From Your Mayor



ing great strides in the area of Health and Wellness education. We were named the New Jersey "Healthy Town to Watch" by the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute. They were so impressed with our efforts; they chose to work with us on a new Mayor's Wellness Campaign Plus program. A grant from the Aetna Foundation is enabling them

to help us plan additional wellness education programs in the Borough. The health and wellness of our residents is one of my priorities, so I welcome this opportunity to advance our already strong healthy living programs.

Finally, Highland Park received Honorable Mention in the 2017 Innovation in Governance Award from the New Jersey League of Municipalities. We were honored for our contributions and commitment to the arts in Highland Park, includ-

ing our popular Arts in the Park street fair, Window Art Crawl, Rite-Aid window boxes and murals throughout the community, Open Studio event, Sculpture Walk, and additional art initiatives we offer. Public art enhances life for all segments in our community and we are committed to bringing more art, including visual art, spoken word art, and the written word, to our public spaces. All of this is the result of our creative and hard-working Arts Commission.

These advances and efforts are some of the reasons Highland Park was named #2 in the entire state of New Jersey for "Best Place to Live for Millennials" - and "Best Place for Millennials" in general (Niche.com). Actually, Highland Park is a wonderful place for people of all ages to live, work, shop and play. Speaking of shopping, I look forward to seeing you in our downtown, as you shop for holiday gifts for friends and family. With an abundance and large variety of shops throughout the downtown, you can find a spe-

cial gift for everyone on your list!

In addition to all of the wonderful things Highland Park has to offer, I am so proud to report that the Borough has the 3rd lowest violent crime rate in New Jersey (NJ.com, November 2017). Our Police and First Responders are dedicated to ensuring the safety of our residents, and their commitment to the community is unwavering and sincerely appreciated.

Have a healthy and happy holiday season.

“All the World’s a Stage” – Including Downtown Highland Park!

On June 6, 1933, Richard M. Hollingshead, Jr. opened the first drive-in movie theater in the U.S., in Camden, NJ. For decades, eager movie-goers sat in their cars to watch the latest films.

Today, it’s hard to find a drive-in theater. Highland Park, however, has its own “walk-in” theater. Saturday nights each summer, dozens of residents flock downtown to watch their favorite flicks – outdoors!

Highland Park resident Brian Onken created the Summer Outdoor Movie Series in 2013. Recognizing the municipal parking lot on Raritan between 2nd and 3rd Avenue (where the Farmer’s Market is held from June through December), as an ideal location, he proposed showing outdoor movies there. With assistance from Main Street Highland Park, Onken showed the first films in the summer of 2013.

A grant from the Park Partners

Community Grant Program in 2014, and generous donations from local merchants and individuals, has enabled Onken to increase the quantity and quality of movies. Approximately 100 residents attend each week, and licensing agencies have started contacting Onken to get screening licenses.

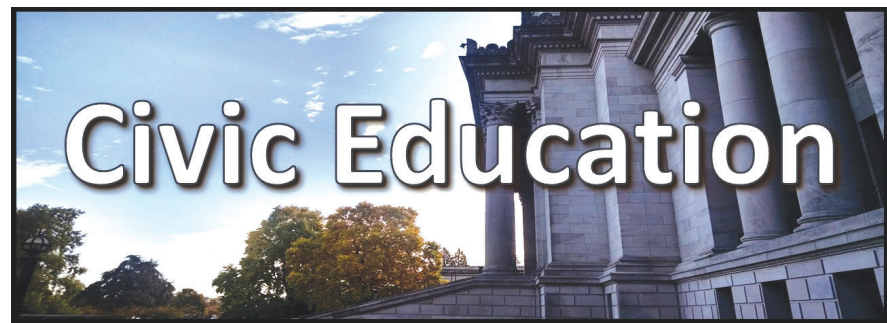
Thanks to the tremendous support of Main Street Highland Park, which bought a projector and PA system and helped with the purchase of a new big screen (previously Onken had used a home-made screen sewed together by his wife), the annual budget for the summer series averages approximately \$2,500, much of which is covered by sponsors and donors.

Stay tuned for next summer’s schedule, and join your fellow neighbors for Saturday night movie nights in Highland Park!



Government and You –

Civics for the Community Committee Teaches Residents How Government Works



Following the recent presidential election, Highland Park resident Beth Stevens realized that people on both sides of the political spectrum had gaps in their understanding

of how local and community governments work, both separately and together.

“I wondered how we could get knowledge to our residents

about how our government works,” said Stevens, who is Chair of the Civics for the Community Committee. *“I thought that if residents were better informed about local and state governments interact, then they could better understand how it affects their lives.”*

This realization led to conversations with Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler, resulting in plans for a Civic Education for the Community

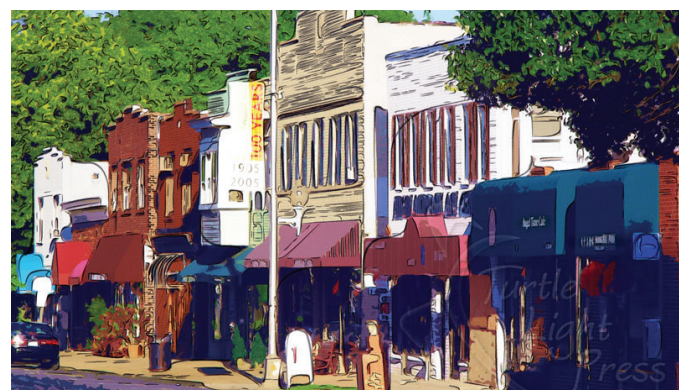
workshop series. This free, non-partisan series will assist people in gaining a more complete understanding about how government works and how citizens can interact with government to advocate for themselves and their needs.

“We want to get more enthusiastic and educated voters,” emphasized Stevens. *“We want to help people understand why voting is important. These sessions are nonpartisan and no matter what party residents belong to, they learn how they can work with the government.”*

The sessions, scheduled for November 2017- April 2018, cover topics such as government structure, budgeting and taxes, and the interactions and collaborations within the different governing levels. Each session will include either a speaker or panel, as well as time for questions. Sessions will take place at the Senior Youth Center and/or one of Highland Park’s local schools.

Other committee members involved in the Civic Education for the Community series are Abby Stern-Cardinale, Hagit Mano, and Matthew Hale.

What’s Next for Redevelopment in Highland Park



This is an exciting and critical time for development in Highland Park. Aside from several new residential developments being built (and quickly occupied), the Borough is working on plans for downtown development projects to promote a robust retail environment and lower the property tax burden for our residents.

Redevelopment efforts in the Borough began in 2005 with the

adoption of its redevelopment plan, designed to encourage smart growth, historic preservation, economic revitalization and diversity. Projects such as Rite Aid and Park Eye Center are examples of some of our successful redevelopment projects.

The Mayor and Borough Council recognize the importance of redevelopment in the Borough.

“Redevelopment is critical to Highland Park’s economic sta-

bility,” notes Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler. *“Redevelopment will help strengthen our tax base and bring new vitality to Raritan Avenue.”*

Our Redevelopment Agency, under Chairwoman Rosie Baruh, and new Borough Planner, James Constantine, have been diligently addressing the issues we face. The recent designation listing Highland Park as an Area in Need of Re-

habilitation increases our flexibility with developers interested in renovating properties. Two new projects planned for mixed-use retail/apartments on either side of Raritan between 1st and 2nd Avenues, are progressing through the redevelopment process.

Additionally, this year the Redevelopment Agency was awarded a \$150,000 state grant for brownfields site remediation,

the underlying cause which has heretofore hampered the redevelopment process in the area.

“I’m very proud to have worked with our new Redevelopment Agency team to earn this grant. This is the first time in our Borough’s history that we’ve been able to pull in the kind of funding necessary to further redevelopment in our downtown,” stated Council President and Chair of Economic Development Committee, Susan Welkovits.

These continued development projects are not only vital to the economic stability of our community, but will revitalize our downtown as we welcome new residents and visitors from throughout Middlesex County and beyond. Look for more information about these projects and others in the near future, which promise to make Highland Park an even better place to live, work, shop and play!

The Department of Community Services

Senior Programs Winter 2017/2018

The Department of Community Services Office
on Aging - Senior/Youth Center

(732) 819-0052

SENIOR LUNCHEONS & PARTIES

All Programs will be held at the Highland Park Senior/Youth Center, Free of charge, unless noted.

Senior Holiday Party
Monday, December 11th
11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Musical Entertainment
Provided by: Gordon James
Location: Highland Park's
Pithari Taverna
Cost: \$10.00 per person

**Annual Lion's Club Holiday
Party & Luncheon**
Saturday, December 16th
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Entertainment provided by:
Lion's Club

**Celebration Luncheon New
Year & Chinese New Year 2018**
Tuesday, January 23rd, 11:30 am
Special Chinese Presentation
& Entertainment

SENIOR TRIPS

All trips depart from the
Highland Park Senior/Youth
Center, unless otherwise noted.

Valentine's Luncheon
Tuesday, February 13th
12:00 noon
Entertainment TBA

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
Tuesday, March 13th, 11:30 am
Musical Entertainment
Provided by: Ian Gallagher

Spring Luncheon
Tuesday, April 17th, 12:00 noon
Entertainment/Presentation: TBA

Out of Town Shopping Trips
Every Wednesday
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Departs from Senior/Youth Center,
FREE (See Center for weekly listing)

**Hunterdon Hill Playhouse -
Dinner Theatre**
Tuesday, December 5th, 11:00 am
\$82.00 per person Includes: Full
Course Meal & Desserts, Show
Tickets & Transportation

Jersey Shore Premium Outlets
Thursday, December 7th
9:00 am **\$10.00 per person**
Transportation Fee

Please check our Monthly
Senior Center Calendars for
Upcoming Trips to Atlantic
City, Longwood Gardens, NYC
Broadway Show Trips and
many more...

PROGRAMS All programs will take place at the Senior/Youth Center

CAMEO Lunch Program
Hot & Nutritious Kosher
Lunch, Includes: Entrée,
Salad & Dessert
Every Tuesday & Thursday,
12:00 noon
\$5.00 contribution per meal

Painting with Flowers
Workshops
Wednesdays
9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Exercise with Donna
Monday's, Wednesday's &
Friday's, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Cost: \$1.00 per class

Senior Yoga
Monday's & Friday's
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm
Cost: \$1.00 per class

Tai Chi
Thursdays, 2:00 pm
Cost: \$1.00 per class

Healthy Bones
Thursdays, 9:30 am

Knitting & Crochet
Monday's, 10:00 am

BINGO
Tuesday's & Thursday's 12:30 pm

Bridge
Monday's, Tuesday's &
Thursday's, 1:00 pm

Cards/Mah Jongg
Tuesday's, 1:00 pm

Ping Pong Instruction with Sean
Tuesday's, 4:30 pm

Chorus
Tuesday's, 10:00 am

Piano Instruction
Tuesday's, 11:00 am

Painting Class
Monday's, Thursday's &
Friday's, 10:00 am

Yiddish Group
Wednesday's, 10:30 am

Podiatrist
2nd Tuesday of each month,
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Please bring your insurance
card and any information you
would bring with you to a
Doctor's office visit.

**Monthly Blood Pressure
Screening**
1st Thursday of each month,
9:30 am - 12:00 noon

"Mike the Barber"
2nd Thursday of each month
12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Cost: \$7.00

Monday Movies
Monday's, 1:30 pm
Refreshments provided

Computer Class
2nd & 4th Friday of each
month, 10:30 am
Learn the Basics, Internet, Word
& Excel Programs

**Afternoon Tea & Discussion
Group (See Monthly Senior
Calendar for listing)**
Refreshments provided

**Monthly Educational &
Health Related Presentations
& Workshops (See Monthly
Senior Calendar for listing)**

HIGHLAND PARK Department Of Recreation

ALL Programs
require a minimum
enrollment to run!

Special Programs or Events

Holiday Dinner
12/25/2017 1pm to 3pm at
the Senior/Youth Center, 220
South Sixth Ave.
Enjoy a special complimentary
Holiday Dinner with music,
food, fun and a visit from Santa.
If you would like to volunteer
or donate to this event please
contact the HP Department of
Community Services at 732-
819-0052.

**Recreation Advisory
Committee**
Meets quarterly throughout
the year.

The purpose of this committee
is to offer suggestions and input
regarding future and current
programs and activities that
would enhance youth and
adult recreation and the arts in
Highland Park. Currently there
are 3 openings. Please call for
more information. 732-819-0052

Adult Programming

Fitness for All
This class uses step, balance
balls, dumbbells and exercise
tubing to get you in shape.
This program runs all year.
**The next session will start in
January. All levels welcome.**

Tai Chi
This class uses gentle movements
that can help reduce stress,
increase flexibility and improve
muscle strength, energy and
agility. Beginner and Advanced
classes are offered. This program
runs all year. **The next session
will start in January.**

Israeli Dance
Israeli Dance is a traditional
dance arising from Jewish
religious and cultural celebrations.

Volleyball
Runs Mondays starting in
January.
All skills welcome to come and
play in organized matches
focusing on fun and fundamentals.

Indoor and Outdoor Soccer
The next two sessions start
on Sundays in January and
April.

Winter soccer will take place
indoors and will run for 10
weeks. Spring soccer will start
in April and will take place on
the turf. This program is run in
a pick-up format. This program
runs all year.

Basketball
This session starts
Wednesdays in January.
This is a 30+ men's program
that runs in a pickup format.
This program runs all year.

Softball Leagues
Adult Program that runs from
April to August.
Women's (Tuesdays) and Coed
(Thursday) Teams can register
for this program by contacting
the Highland Park Recreation
Department.

Youth Programming

Basketball- K-8th grade.
Runs December to March.
K/1 are clinics only with
2-8th playing Sunday and
weeknight games.

This is a parent coached
program with assigned teams.
Practices will take place on
weeknights. No experience
necessary.

Art
3-6th grades.
Learn to paint simple items and
scenes. All skill levels welcome.

Chess
6-12 year olds.
Learn the basics or improve
your game. This program runs
for 5 weeks.

Engineering for kids
k-5th grade.
NEW! Fun basics of engineering
and robotics. This program
runs for 6 weeks.

Winter Soccer Clinics
3-12 year olds.
Spencer Rockman and Rovers
staff coach to all skills levels to
provide maximum enjoyment
and skill building.

Youth Theater
8-16 year olds.
Participants will be
provided with a fun, creative
environment to explore their
dramatic and musical talents.

Flag Football
K-8th grades.
Join this 5v5, fast paced, non-
contact game of flag football
run by AIFL instructional
football league. This program
is coed and is for all skill levels.

Baseball
K-5th grades.
Runs March to June. Games
are played on Sundays and
midweek with practices held
mid-week by Coach/field
availability. No experience
necessary.

Track and Field
3rd-8th grades.
Runs April to May. This
program includes lessons on
starts, running form, speed and
agility and field events.

**Youth and Adult Table Tennis-
Two sessions available.**
Kids (3rd-12th grade) and
Adult Classes run from
January to March.
Students will work on the
games, shots, fundamentals
and game play strategies.

**Buddy Ball-Currently running
soccer.**
Takes place on Saturdays
9:30-11am at the HP Middle
School or the turf field.
Buddy Ball teaches sports to
buddies (special needs children
ages 6-18) with Pals (volunteer
teens 12-18).

The Office of Recreation offers various programs, activities and events throughout
the year that appeal to a wide range of people throughout our community. We offer youth
sports, art programs, adult sports, fitness classes, activities and community events.

Mail information to: 220 South Sixth Ave, Highland Park, NJ 08904

Visit us at www.hpboro.com • Visit us on Facebook at [highlandparknjrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/highlandparknjrecreation)

Highland Park Public Library

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

We look forward to seeing you at the library this winter. We have lots of exciting new programs for adults that include health and wellness events, meditation circles, film series, art workshops, poetry readings, and concerts. For children and teens we have story times, clubs, art programs, game days, films, and performances. To receive updates of events, go to the library website at www.hpplnj.org.

Enjoy a day at the museum on us. Learn about our new Museum Pass Program at the Reference Desk or go to the library website at www.hpplnj.org.

You can continue to have unlimited access to NYTimes.com on any device during your visit to the Library. Ask a librarian for more information.

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 data-

bases provided by the NJ State Library. Hoopla provides download and stream free videos, music, audiobooks, comics, and ebooks on mobile devices and computers.

You can also access our catalogue and your library account with our smart phone app www.hppl.boopsie.com



Highland Park Public Library
31 North Fifth Avenue
Highland Park, NJ 08904
732-572-2750



2017-2018 WINTER-SPRING PROGRAMS

ART EXHIBITS

DECEMBER

Meilun Lee
Portraits, Cats, Dogs and Beyond: Oil Paintings
December 2017, Meeting Room

Daniel Shifrin
Pharmacy Stamps
December 2017
Main Hall Display Case

JANUARY

Middlesex County Arts Middle and High School Students
Paintings, Drawings, Photographs
January 2018, Meeting Room And Main Hall Display Case

FEBRUARY

Mayu Burr
Paintings
February 2018, Meeting Room And Main Hall Display Case

MARCH

Joyce Browning and Art Exploration Group
Paintings
March 2018, Meeting Room

APRIL

Shelley Phillips
Paintings
April 2018, Meeting Room and Main Hall Display Case

MAY

Kenn Krasner
Photos
May 2018, Meeting Room And Main Hall Display Case

Barbara Drach
Memorial Art Exhibit
A Lifetime of Painting
June 2018, Meeting Room and Main Hall Display Case

FILMS FOR TEENS AND CHILDREN

Kids Afternoon Movie
Leap! (PG)
One hour, 30 minutes, Tuesday, December 22, 1:00 PM

FOR ADULTS

Clarinet Choir
Clarinet Players Saturday,
December 2, 3:00-4:00 PM

Friends of the Library Holiday Concert and Refreshments
String Quartet
From Rutgers Concert Bureau
Sunday, December 3, 2:00 PM

Sewing Machine Workshop
Stephanie McIntyre will introduce the sewing machine and participants will make a Draw string bag.
Please Register. Thursday, December 7, 6:30 PM

Art Reception
Portraits, Cats, Dogs and Beyond: Paintings by Meilun Lee
Saturday, December 9, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Meditation Circle
Bobbie Ellis, Soma Center,
Will lead Simple Embodied Meditation, Thursday, December 14, 7:00 PM

International Film Festival
Mia Madre, Rated R.
One hour, 47 minutes. Tuesday, December 19, 6:30 PM

Spook Handy Concert
Ninth Annual Holiday Concert With the Library Community
Thursday, December 28 2:00 PM

Winter Blood Drive for Area Hospitals
New Jersey Blood Services
Will conduct a blood drive Tuesday, December 26, 1:00 PM-7:00 PM

Life Story Workshop
Write an Outline for Your Memoir - Donna Atkins
Thursday, January 11 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Creative Writing Workshop
Write a first draft - Elizabeth Pallitto
Saturday, January 20 1:30 PM-4:30 PM

Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series
Joel Allegretti - Open Mic
Tuesday, March 13, 7:00 PM

Friends of the Library International Film Festival
A United Kingdom
PG-13, 1 hour, 51 minutes.
Romantic Drama
Tuesday, March 20, 6:30 PM

Friends of the Library International Film Festival
Frantz
PG-13, 1 hour, 53 minutes.
Drama
Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 PM

Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series
Paul Muldoon - Book Signing
Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 PM

Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series
Edwin Romond - Book Signing, Open Mic
Thursday, April 26, 7:00 PM

FOR CHILDREN

Go Game
Jessica Wu, a HPHS student will teach Go to Grades 1-5.
Please Register.
Mondays, December 4 - December 11, 6:30 PM

Chess Club
Thomas Yang will teach technique for Grades 3-5.
Please register.
Fridays, December 1- December 29, 3:30 PM

Glow at the Library
Students from HPHS's Glow program will lead children through a craft and movement activity.
For ages 3-5.
Please register. Tuesday, December 12, 10:10 AM



Department of Community Services/Office on Aging

The Senior/Youth Center is open:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(Please refer to Summer Hours Schedule July 3rd through September 1st)

Senior In-Town Transportation is available:

Monday- Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday's: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. & Fridays: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Out of Town Medical Transportation is available:

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 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 McGraw**, Senior Program Coordinator, at

kimberlymcgraw@hpboro.com or stop by the Senior Center to inquire about registering for programs. Limited enrollments for some programs. Space is 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

Public Works Schedule 2017

December 2017 through April 2018

Christmas Day

Dec. 25 (Monday) – Closed Christmas Day
 Dec. 26 (Tuesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle recycling collection
 Dec. 27 (Wednesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection
 Dec. 28 (Thursday) South Side recycling collection
 Dec. 29 (Friday) Business District & South Side garbage collection

New Year's Day

Jan. 1 (Monday) – Closed New Year's Day
 Jan. 2 (Tuesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle recycling collection
 Jan. 3 (Wednesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection

Jan. 4 (Thursday) South Side recycling collection
 Jan. 5 (Friday) Business District & South Side garbage collection

Martin Luther King's Birthday

Jan. 15 (Monday) – Closed Martin Luther King's Birthday
 Jan. 16 (Tuesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle recycling collection

Jan. 17 (Wednesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection

Jan. 18 (Thursday) South Side recycling collection
 Jan. 19 (Friday) Business District & South Side garbage collection

Lincoln's Birthday

Feb. 12 (Monday) – Closed Lincoln's Birthday

Feb. 13 (Tuesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle recycling collection

Feb. 14 (Wednesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection

Feb. 15 (Thursday) South Side recycling collection

Feb. 16 (Friday) Business District & South Side garbage collection

President's Day

Feb. 19 (Monday) – Closed Lincoln's Birthday
 Feb. 20 (Tuesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle recycling collection

Feb. 21 (Wednesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection

Feb. 22 (Thursday) South Side recycling collection

Feb. 23 (Friday) Business District & South Side garbage collection

Good Friday

Mar. 26 (Monday) Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection

Mar. 27 (Tuesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle recycling collection

Mar. 28 (Wednesday) Business District & South Side garbage collection

Mar. 29 (Thursday) South Side recycling collection

Mar. 30 (Friday) – Closed Good Friday

Apr. 4 (Wednesday) Business District, North Side & Triangle bulk trash collection

Apr. 11 (Wednesday) South Side bulk trash collection

**STAY UP TO DATE
BY FOLLOWING
HIGHLAND PARK**

Visit Our Website
www.hpboro.com

FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/hpboro

TWITTER
www.twitter.com/hpboro

INSTAGRAM
<https://instagram.com/hpboro>



PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Chaim Cohen, Chair; Abby Cardinale; Ana Pairet Vinas, Beth Stevens; Laurel Kornfeld; Mason Resnick; Valeri Drach Weidmann

BOROUGH STAFF: Stacy Kaplan, Monica Jackson