



April 2021

QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park



GREETINGS

from the Mayor



As I write this report (Monday March 21st) Middlesex County reports that since tracking positive Covid-19 cases in Highland Park when the pandemic began, our municipality has had 905 positive cases. That equates to about 6.5% of our population.

From March 15 - March 21, Highland Park had 39 new cases of Covid-19 reported. With more than one week left to complete this month, the positive March cases to-date in Highland Park are already at 104. I fear that total March 2021 cases will exceed even our highest monthly total (187 cases in January 2021) since the pandemic began. The average age of positive cases since we began tracking in March of 2020 is now age 39.

Our Community Center staff members are working very closely with a dedicated and amazing group of volunteers to help residents get vaccine appointments. This joint effort has had great results. If you need help getting a Covid-19 appointment, please reach out to Kim A. McGraw at 732-819-0052. She, or a volunteer, can assist you.

Additionally, the Rite-Aid in Highland Park is now a vaccination site. Appointments may be made at <http://ritea.id/newjersey>.

Spring is coming and with it comes the return of our wonderful Farmers' Market, outdoor recreational programming, outdoor Library events, and so much more. Don't forget to order take-out food from our many local restaurants, and enjoy socially distanced, outdoor meals with friends and family at home, or at our Town Tables on North 4th and South 3rd Avenues. And, when you are not eating, please mask up.

Meanwhile, please don't let your guard down. We must stay vigilant against this pandemic. Wear a mask whenever you are in public. Wash your hands often. Stay 6' apart from others. Get vaccinated. Get tested. We've come so far, let's not ease up against the virus yet. Together, as a caring community, we can beat this!

Wishing you an enjoyable spring.
Mayor Gayle

Updates from the Borough Council

Spring Tree Planting

Sunset Creations will return to Highland Park this spring for our annual spring tree planting. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee identified dozens of sites in the Triangle area for plantings and property owners were notified by mail in February if their home was selected to receive a tree. If you would be interested in having a tree planted in front of your home, please fill out a shade tree request form (<https://tinyurl.com/u6hcbz8w>) to be considered for the fall tree planting.

PSEG Gas Line Repairs

PSEG is returning to Highland Park to resume their Gas System Modernization Program. They will be replacing old gas pipes with new piping in an effort to ensure the continued safety and reliability of your gas service. Impacted households will be contacted directly by PSEG via door hangers, emails, and phone calls. The areas to be effected by this work are portions of the following streets: Aurora St., Columbia St., Crowells Rd, Duclos Lane, Exeter St., Franklin St., Inza St., South 10th, South 11th, and Woodbridge Ave. For more information, please see: <https://tinyurl.com/5rfwb85>.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

at the Highland Park Community Center

Office of Aging

Please join us weekly at our newly formed Virtual Highland Park Social Club. Open to all and held on Wednesdays thru June 2021 from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm. Sponsored by the Highland Park Department of Aging and NJ Hope and Healing. Don't miss this weekly social event!



Topics include meet & greets, weekly discussions on current events and interests, special guests, virtual field trips and more! For more information or to join a session email: drahmel@mhanj.org or go to the Zoom link- <https://tinyurl.com/ssw5p3js>. Please "Help Connect a Friend" and ask about a Zoom "How to session".

We thank the Highland Park Conservative Temple for their generous donations of soup from their Sisterhood Soup Project.

The homemade soup was distributed and delivered by the Department of Aging to several of our senior residents. The recipients of this kind and thoughtful gesture were genuinely appreciative of this thoughtful and delicious gift.

We can assist residents who would like to register to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. If you, or someone you know does not have access to a computer or needs help navigating the registration process, or need help to schedule an appointment we are here and happy to assist! Please call our office at 732-819-0052.

Free Tax Assistance is still available and open to the public sponsored by the HP Department of Aging and United Way. If you made LESS than \$65,000 in 2020, you may file for FREE with one of our IRS certified volunteers. This is by appointment ONLY and the service is extended thru May 6 (Last drop off). Please call 732-819-0052 to make an appointment and for more detailed information. You must have the following information available: 2020 W2 and 1099, Photo Identification, Social Security Card and Copy of last year's tax return.

OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE/REMINDERS:

- ✓ Meet with our Social Worker by appointment only. Please call 732-819-0052 or email nhuff@hpboro.com to schedule an appointment.
- ✓ Please join us and like us on Facebook @ Highland Park Department of Aging.
- ✓ Highland Park Community Food Pantry is held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month 9:00 am – 10:45 am and 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm and on Saturdays from 9:30 am – 10:30 am on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. For more information or for food emergencies when food pantry is not open, please reach out to 732-819-0052 for assistance.

Highland Park Recreation

HP Recreation is preparing for 2021 Summer Camp! They will be offering 6 weeks of camp, beginning July 5! Sign up for Day Camp, Sports Camp, Theater Camp or a combination of all three! Day Campers have fun with cooking, sports, science, art, and more! Sports Camp learns and plays a different sport each week. Theater Camp will learn and perform a musical review! Join your friends and neighbors for a super-fun summer, filled with play, learning, and creating together! All campers receive lunch as part of the USDA Summer Lunch Program. Scholarships of 60% off are available for all families who are eligible for free/reduced lunch. Registration opens on April 12!

Are you looking for a summer job? Do you enjoy working with children and your fellow counselors? Do you

have fun teaching art, music, nature, recreation, and leading group projects and activities? HP Recreation is hiring for their Summer Camps! Please see the positions listed on the Borough's website. <https://www.hpboro.com/i-want-to/apply-for/employment>

The staff at HP Recreation are so glad to serve the community of Highland Park! If you have any questions, suggestions, or need further information, please contact them.



Recreation/Arts Coordinator
Andrea Costas
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732-819-0052, x3113 or 732-819-0411

Community Services Asst/
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Kimberly McGraw
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732-819-0052, x3117 or 732-819-0411

Register for recreation programs
www.highlandparkrec.com

Join us on Facebook @
[highlandparknjrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/highlandparknjrecreation)

To be included in our future email correspondence for recreational programming, please email
hprecreation@hpboro.com

at the Highland Park Public Library



Highland Park Public
Library

Spend the Spring with Us

Sunlight and balmy breezes are calling to us all, and Highland Park Public Library plans to once again take advantage of the beautiful outdoors alongside their ongoing virtual programs and services. Local musicians will again strap on their guitars, pack their drum kits, and sing with us in front of the library building. Join them for the kick-off of the Friday Outdoor Concert Series on May 7 at 2:00 pm when they welcome songwriter and singer Tommy Strazza. As crocuses break through the soil, you'll find carts of brightly colored books and DVDs sprouting across our front lawn. And of course, they'll continue to share story-times and book discussions, writers' circles and poetry readings, historical talks and community conversations, crafts (for all ages!) and more.

The popular Books and Brews Book Discussion will meet via Zoom every fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm April 22, May 27 and June 24. Plus, they're continuing to provide online holds on materials, downloadable ebooks and audiobooks, and assistance with all of your research and technology needs! Find more information and full listings of programs, services and resources--available in-person and online--at www.hpplnj.org. Library staff can also always be reached by email (highlandparklib@gmail.com) and by phone at 732-572-2750. Their year-round weekday hours are Monday & Thursday 10:00 am - 9:00 pm and Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.



Department of Public Works News

DPW tackling potholes and minor road repairs throughout Borough

Over the past few weeks DPW had devoted dozens of hours to filling potholes and repairing roads. Residents should see improvements on South 4th Ave, North 10th Ave, South 1st Ave, and streets around Highland and Lexington Avenues.

DPW prioritizes road repairs where there are dangerous conditions to drivers or pedestrians.

DPW invites residents to identify road repairs that need attention. To do so, please use the "Report a Concern" function on the Borough's website, at <https://www.hpboro.com/i-want-to-report-a-concern>. Residents can also call DPW at 732-514-1277.

Bulk Trash

Bulk waste collection by appointment begins in April. Pick-ups can be scheduled for Wednesdays in the months of April, May, June, September, and October by calling Public Works at 732-247-9379. Each household may request up to two pick-ups per year. Individuals who have already booked their appointments are reminded to review the guidelines on the Borough's website regarding when to put out their items and what items are acceptable.

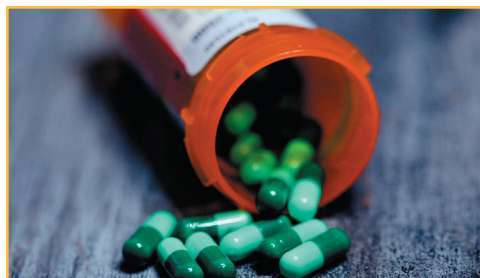
NEWS

from the Highland Park Police Department

National Prescription Drug Take Back Event Last weekend in April

Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue. According to the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 9.9 million Americans misused controlled prescription drugs. The study shows that a majority of abused prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinets.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day enables residents to clean out their medicine cabinets and turn in - safely and anonymously - unused and unwanted prescription drugs. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.



The Highland Park Police Department is participating in National Drug Take Back Day at the Highland Park Community Center (220 S 6th Ave.), from 10:00am until 2:00pm on Saturday April 24, 2021 and Sunday April 25, 2021. Please bring unused or expired prescriptions, over-the-counter medication, and any unwanted E-Cigarette & Vaping Devices (batteries must be removed). Needles and other "sharp" items will not be accepted.

HPPD Youth Police Academy in July

The Highland Park Police Academy will hold its popular Youth Police Academy this year on July 12-16, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. This academy offers pre-teens and teens entering 6th-11th grade the opportunity to learn about law enforcement in an academy setting. In the past they have had guest speakers from the FBI, DEA, NJ State Police, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, and many other local, state, and county agencies. As always this is a free academy, but space is limited. If you are interested applications can be picked up at the police station and on the HPPD's Facebook page.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Youth Officer Brian O'Mara, by email bomara@hpboro.com or phone, 732-572-3800 x4262



Zone 6 has been creating new alliances in the community and connections with businesses, to increase support to their members in 2021. They are focusing on new opportunities for their students including a partnership with Alpha Aviation Flight School as well as Edison Job Corps. Their most recent fundraiser was for their new proposed Lending Library focusing on authors of diverse backgrounds. They look forward to their unveiling ceremony in May.



They are currently gearing up for their annual Zone 6 Day event celebrating their members, mentors and family members with an outdoor festival on June 6th. They continue to provide free internet for their students. Their Food Pantry distribution, in conjunction with HP Gives a Hoot on Tuesdays from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm at their center, 600 Benner Street, is open to all residents. They also offer free haircuts for members by appointment only. Visit them at 600 Benner Street for more information or follow them on Facebook at Zone 6 HP Teen Center.



Main Street Highland Park

FARMER'S MARKET

The Highland Park Farmers Market is returning early this year, starting on Friday April 23. Hours will initially be 11:00 am-4:30 pm, although they might be expanded later in the summer, depending on the Covid safety situation. Masks are required to enter the market, as well as 6 feet of distance between shoppers! Learn more at mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket.

PLANTING DAYS

Planting Days are back! Save the dates, Thursday May 27 and Saturday May 29.

News from Around the Borough

Highland Park Borough offers residents in-town COVID-19 testing option

As it may take months for many of us to receive the vaccine, COVID-19 remains a real danger so easy access to testing is essential.

Recognizing this, Highland Park located a reputable vendor, Ridgewood Diagnostic Lab, who agreed to provide COVID tests in the Borough. Technicians are stationed at the Highland Park Community Center and offer quick COVID-19 tests, at no cost, to Borough residents. While Ridgewood suggests that people seeking tests register in advance, at (<https://testnj.online/reg.aspx>), they readily accept walk-ins as well.

The testing site is now available:
Mondays 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Tuesdays 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Wednesdays 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Fridays 10:00 am - 6:00 pm



For more information on this testing site, and for answers to frequently asked questions, please see: <https://www.hpboro.com/covid19testing>.

Readers Quiz

Can you name four F/T employees who work at either Borough Hall, the Highland Park Community Center, the Teen Center/Zone 6, or the Police Department? (first and last names). Be one of the first five people to correctly answer this question and send it in (to hglazer@hpboro.com or 732-819-3781) and you will receive a small prize.

ESSENTIAL

Services



Highland Park Gives a Hoot is a nonprofit fund created by the Borough of Highland Park to contribute to the wellbeing of our children in need. They provide summer camp scholarships to the Highland Park Summer Camp and weekly groceries to families in need of support. Teens can pick up groceries, every Tuesday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Zone 6 Teen Center, 600 Benner St., Highland Park, NJ.

To make a tax free donation, please mail or drop off a check to the Borough of Highland Park, 221 South 5th Ave, Highland Park, NJ 08904. Please write "HP Gives a Hoot" in the memo line.

For more information about our programs please visit <https://www.hpboro.com/hpgivesahoot> or call Monica Jackson, Borough Communications Coordinator, at 732-819-3786.

The Highland Park Community Food Pantry is a volunteer run organization that was established in 2000 to provide non-perishable food to anyone in need of food or who is food insecure.

If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation, please email highlandparkfoodpantry@gmail.com or Nicole Huff at 732-819-0052, x3115.

For more information, please visit our website at www.hpboro.com/foodpantry.

To access the food pantry, visit the Highland Park Community Center, 220 South 6th Ave, Highland Park, NJ on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 9:00-10:45am/6:00-7:00 pm and on the second and fourth Saturdays from 9:30 - 10:30am.

If you have an emergency food situation outside of normal distribution days/times, please contact Nicole Huff at 732-819-0052 during normal business hours. Outside of regular business hours EMERGENCIES ONLY call 908-410-7618.