



July 2021

QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park



GREETINGS

from the Mayor



Thank you to all our residents who have taken their Covid-19 vaccinations. Our numbers, through June 14th, indicate that 64% of our adult population got

both shots and another 10% got at least had one shot. This totals 74% of our adult population completed or on their way to protecting themselves, their children, and their neighbors from the spread of this virus. Speaking of children, 73% of our young population aged 12-17 have had at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Good work Highland Park! The vaccine is our best form of protection against the Covid-19 virus. Let's get those vaccination numbers up!

As our town reopens and recovers from the pandemic precautions, I encourage you to support our local businesses. Please visit our restaurants, shop in local stores, and meet with friends in our three 'Town Tables' areas (N. 4th, S. 3rd, and by the Welkovits Pavilion).

To help support our local businesses, I've given the stipend I receive for serving as Mayor to establish a Mayor's Fund offering small grants to businesses that are making improvements to better attract and serve customers. The fund is being managed by Main Street Highland Park. For more information on this fund, see: www.mainstreethp.org/mayorsfund

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and happy summer.

Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler



Updates from the Borough Council

Microgrid Initiative

At its May 4th meeting the Borough Council authorized an agreement with the NJ State Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) to participate in Phase II of the Microgrid Design Incentive Program. The Borough was awarded \$196,450 to expand upon 2019's feasibility study that explored ways to provide resiliency in the event of an extended power outage in the grid, as was the case after Hurricane Sandy.

Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance

Highland Park will resume enforcement of its "Bring Your Own Bag" ordinance on Sunday, August 1st. At the beginning of the pandemic, the governing body elected to pause enforcement due to the global shortage of paper bags, which has since subsided. As of August 1st, retailers with more than 1,000 ft will no longer be permitted to distribute plastic bags at point of sale and must charge customers \$0.10 per compliant paper bag.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

at the Highland Park Community Center

Office of Aging

2021 Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program - For ages 60+ Only. The Office of Aging is currently in the process of accepting applications for residents meeting the necessary criteria and income requirements to receive vouchers for the Farmers Market. This year each eligible older adult will receive five \$6.00 vouchers for a total of \$30.00. All eligible couples will each receive \$30.00 for a total of \$60.00 per couple. Please contact the Community Services Department at (732) 819-0052 to make an appointment. You must show proof of residence and bring an ID to your appointment. Only (100) vouchers will be available.

Please join them for our newly formed "Talking Journeys" Walking Group. This activity takes place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month weather permitting. Residents gather in front of the Community Center at 10:00 am to start their journey to a predetermined location.



Penstock Coffee graciously provided refreshing drinks to the group on one of their walks, as they enjoyed the beautiful weather on the avenue. Special guest Maria Austin, our Community Services Driver, led this walk.

The Office of Aging is happy to announce that they are resuming small outdoor activities and programs to be held under the recently installed retractable awnings on the side of the Community Center as well as in the parking lot (weather permitting);

- Summer Schedule - Exercise Classes (Exercise with Donna Chair Yoga) Weekly on Mondays from 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Tai Chi with Beverly Spool to be held on Thursdays from 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Art & Painting Classes - Weekly
- Bi-weekly Afternoon Tea and Discussion Groups
- Summer Planting Projects

- BINGO, Mah Jongg & Card Afternoons (weekly) in a small group setting with reserved time slots.
- Daytime outdoor entertainment

Please stay tuned for updates and more information pertaining to in-person programming.

They will continue to post virtual offerings, workshops, and resources available on our Facebook page.

Each month they have been sending out "Thinking of you" themed goodie bags to our members. Included have been DIY craft projects that could be done at home and special treats. If you are interested in receiving and participating, please reach out to us!

OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE/REMINDERS:

- ✓ Meet with our Social Worker, Nicole Huff, by appointment only. Please call (732) 819-0052 or email nhuff@hpboro.com to schedule an appointment.
- ✓ 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 the food pantry is not open, please reach out to (732) 819-0052 for assistance.
- ✓ Medicare Open Enrollment will take place from October 15th - December 7th if you need assistance please reach out to Nicole Huff to schedule an appointment.

Highland Park Recreation

The Highland Park Recreation summer season is packed with fun! They have our three summer camps currently running at Donaldson County Park. We have our day camp running July 5th through August 13th. This is a staple for our Highland Park community. They offer music, arts and crafts, recreation, science, and nature activities that keep our campers happy and engaged!

They have a sports camp featuring coaching experts in the field. This year they are proud to present football, speed, and agility, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, track, and baseball! Last but not least they have our musical theater camp that will run Moana Jr.!

Their camp counselors are the backbone of our summer camp and consist of local teachers as well as past campers, returning college students, and high

school students. They are lucky to have a strong connection to our community and it shows how special our camp is to our employees, campers, and parents!



As they approach the fall season they are looking forward to their fall programming. They will open registration for flag football, soccer, and tennis in August. On October 24th, after a year of quarantine, they will bring back their Halloween Costume Party and Parade so save the date! As the season gets close they will make more announcements on added programming.

They also have financial assistance available for Highland Park residents for all of their programs. All Highland Park families that qualify for free and reduced lunch are eligible for a 40% discount on all programs offered by the borough. Contact the office for more information on this program!

Community Services Asst/Recreation
Kimberly McGraw
kmcgraw@hpboro.com
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



Join the Highland Park Library for their **Tails and Tales** Summer Reading Program, where all ages will enjoy special virtual and outdoor programming including take-and-make crafts, book discussions, writing circle, author talks, crafternoons, concerts, story times and games. And of course, the chance to win prizes! Starting now through August 31, 2021, children as young as infants can enroll in Summer Reading Games.



Teen Reading Games are for students in grades 6-12. And adults have their own reading programs and games as well. Visit or contact us at the library to receive a game board to participate!

Check the library's calendar for a complete listing of events, but make sure to save the date for their **outdoor concert with Mr. Ray** on Friday, July 23 at 2:00pm (for all ages), and **The Discovery of a Rodin Masterpiece in New Jersey** virtually on Thursday, July 15 at 7:00pm for a true tale of a world class art mystery.

Visit the library to browse for books and movies, and assistance with all of your research and technology needs. Let them know if you would like to take advantage of contactless pickup of your items. Find more information and full listings of programs, services and resources available at www.hpplnj.org, call 732-572-2750, or email library staff at highlandparklib@gmail.com.

SUMMER HOURS	
Monday	10am-9pm
Tuesday	10am-9pm
Wednesday	10am-5pm
Thursday	10am-9pm
Friday	10am-5pm

Department of Public Works News

The Borough's bulk collection by-appointment program continues and pick-ups may be scheduled on Wednesdays during the months of September and October. To make an appointment or if you have questions, please call the Department of Public Works at 732-247-9379.

Each household may request up to two bulk collections per year. An additional pick-up date may take place in September or October to coincide with the townwide yard sale weekend.

Details on the program, including what constitutes acceptable bulk waste, can be found on their website here: <https://www.hpboro.com/bulkcollection>



NEWS from the Highland Park Police Department

Highland Park is an attractive and desirable place to live, work, and visit. Highland Park is also one of the most progressive in Middlesex County; however, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual/Ally (LGBTQ+) residents and visitors still experience crimes and discrimination related to their identities. HPPD is committed to the safety of all LGBTQ+ residents and visitors.

Highland Park Police Department (HPPD) SAFE PLACE is a signage program being implemented around

the Borough, where local supporting community members, businesses, schools, and organizations have the opportunity to visibly display their support for the LGBTQ+ community and work closely with the Highland Park Police Department in an effort to encourage reporting and reducing anti-LGBTQ+ crimes.

Participating entities will serve as locations supporting safe and secure places for LGBTQ+ victims to go when they experience crimes, discrimination, or harassment. Calling 911 and waiting

for police to respond is imperative for suspect accountability, reducing crimes of hate, and showing a borough wide "no tolerance" policy toward discrimination.

In addition to the 911 police response to these type of incidents, HPPD has a LGBTQ+ liaison officer, Officer Caitlyn Dean, who promotes the partnership efforts between the Highland Park Police Department and the LGBTQ+ community. Officer Dean can also be a resource in answering questions you may have. Please use Officer Dean's email, cdean@hpboro.com.



Dozens of people came out to the Block Party celebrating the Zone 6 Teen Center, on Sunday June 6th, for a lively afternoon full of music and fun for families. The heat did not discourage community members of all ages from showing support for the HP Teen Center and event organizer Zone 6 Teen Center Coordinator Ashton Burrell pulled off a fantastic event!



The event was attended by current members of the Teen Center, as well as Center alumni, showing what a great community the Center cultivates.

Thanks to all those who came, and keep an eye out for more events like this!



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.

News from Around the Borough



FARMERS MARKET

The Highland Park Farmers Market is every Friday from 11:00 am - 5:30 pm, through December! Keep up with the latest Farmers Market vendors, live music schedule, and activities -- including the return of their market contests -- at mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket.

NIGHT OWL MARKET

Coming this fall, stay tuned for an evening artists, crafter, and artisan market. Check mainstreethp.org for the vendor application and market dates.



OUTDOOR MOVIES

Check out the lineup at facebook.com/HighlandParkOutdoorMovieTheater.

WINDOW ART WALK & ART SHOW

Coming in September! Check mainstreethp.org for info.



TOWNWIDE GARAGE SALE

October 2 & 3. Learn more and sign up to host a sale at mainstreethp.org.

AND THERE'S MORE TO COME!

Keep checking Main Street's Facebook page (facebook.com/MainStreetHP) and website (mainstreethp.org) for updates and information on upcoming events and business activities downtown.