

QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park

GREETINGS

from the Mayor



As I see it, one of my primary responsibilities as Mayor is to do all I can to make sure living in this town is meaningful and affordable. And one of the best ways to achieve this goal is through economic development – building an environment that attracts more residents and new businesses to town, which can both increase the number of valued services and products easily available to residents plus provide more revenue to the municipality, which in turn allows us to stabilize property taxes.

Towards that goal, I'm pleased to share that on Sept 14th the Borough Council voted unanimously to adopt a new 21st Century Redevelopment Plan that embraces a new vision for four tracts along our main street, Raritan Ave. This plan was adopted after residents and businesses provided feedback on it at a series of eight public meetings, as well as feedback from the Planning Board.

Under the new Redevelopment Plan, we envision new public spaces, more affordable housing options, improving walkability and transportation, and other amenities that will draw more residents and visitors to our downtown. We are inviting developers to submit proposals to us, to make this vision a reality.

You are welcome to review the full Redevelopment Plan, which is available on the Borough website (www.hpboro.com/redevelopment).

Wishing you a safe, healthy, and happy fall.

Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler



UPDATES FROM THE BOROUGH COUNCIL



Vaccine Action Team:

The Mayor's Wellness Campaign partnered with Highland Park High School to bring a mobile vaccine clinic to town on Friday, September 24th during a Highland Park High School football game. All three vaccines

were available and 32 individuals took advantage of the opportunity to get vaccinated. A second vaccine clinic was held at the HPHS Football game on Friday October 8th. As a reminder, the Borough offers COVID testing at its Community Center on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 am - 6:30 pm and Sundays from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm; appointments can be made online at testnj.online.

Recreation Complex Improvements:

Highland Park was awarded \$750,000 in New Jersey's state budget for improvements to the Recreation Complex at the high school, which is jointly managed by the Board of Education and the Borough. Improvements include replacement of the track & turf field, upgrades to field lighting, and ADA-friendly upgrades to the playground area. The Borough and the Board of Education will cover the remaining cost of the project.

Raritan River Trail Connector:

The Borough was awarded \$250,000 in New Jersey's state budget for a feasibility study of its Raritan River Trail Connector concept that would create a 1-mile long safe, enjoyable, and accessible multi-use trail along the Raritan River, connecting Donaldson and Johnson Parks. This project would also complete an important segment of the East Coast Greenway.



OFFICE OF AGING

Please join us and like our Facebook page, @ Highland Park Department of Aging. We post virtual offerings, workshops, resources, and updates on in person programming, activities and events with information available on our Facebook page. Please contact or stop in to the Community Center (732) 819-0052 to get our monthly calendar and special program & event flyers.

We offer transportation services Monday - Friday. Please call (732) 894-7287 for more details and to schedule a ride.



HIGHLAND PARK RECREATION

The Highland Park Recreation Fall season brought back our Youth Fall Soccer Program, Flag Football, Youth Tennis, and our Youth Theater Company with in-person outdoor programming! Our programs filled quickly. Our theater department will be performing Annie Kids on November 21st at the HP Community Center parking lot. This is an open event and anyone can attend! We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Next up is our winter programming! We will keep you updated at our website www.highlandparkrec.com or follow us now on our Facebook page at [highlandparknjrecreation!](https://www.facebook.com/highlandparknjrecreation) Financial assistance is available for Highland Park residents on all of our 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

Highland Park's social worker, Nicole Huff, is here to assist our residents. Meet with our Social Worker by appointment only. Please call (732) 819-0052 or email nhuff@hpboro.com to schedule an appointment.



Open Enrollment for Medicare. You may still sign up for Medicare Part A and/or Part B (only if you did not sign up when first eligible and if you're not eligible for a Special Enrollment Period) You may switch Medicare Advantage plans or drop out of an Medicare Advantage plan during the months of January - March 2022.



The Highland Park Community Food Pantry is held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, from 9:00 - 10:45 am and 6:00 - 7:00 pm, and on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, from 9:30 - 10:30 am. For more information or for food emergencies



Recreation Coordinator:
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

SERVICE UPDATES

If you have been to the library building recently, you may have noticed something different. While library staff are in-person and available for many services, including hold pickups, municipal IDs, Notary, new card registration and renewals, most of the building itself is inaccessible as a result of ongoing restoration work to repair water damage following Hurricane Ida. On site, we also have limited browsing (particularly of new children's materials) and express computer/printing.

You can also use your HPPL card at all other LMxAC libraries! You can bring your card to other libraries in the region, or you can place holds on materials in the catalog for pickup at HPPL.

Of course, our virtual services remain strong, we are continuing to offer outdoor programming, and downloadable materials and online resources are available 24/7. You can use your card to enjoy an expanded collection of downloadable e-books, audio books, comics, movies, and magazines provided through e-Library and the Libby app as well as Hoopla! (Please remember to select "Libraries of Middlesex Consortium" when choosing your home library.)

Our front lawn has been expanded to include storytimes, teen activities, and family concerts. A full listing and details of programs, services and resources can be found online at www.hpplnj.org.

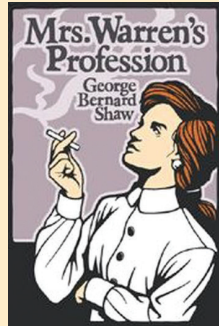


Library Programming

Throughout the fall, HPPL invites you to enjoy programming for all ages on various topics. A full listing and details of programs, services and resources can be found online at www.hpplnj.org. Here are a few highlights:

A new monthly **Bullet Journaling Club** for teens: Learn what bullet journaling is, how to do it, and then meet up monthly to stay on track with your journaling.

Improve Your Brain Health: Virtually with RWJ Barnabas Health Institute (co-sponsored by the HP Community Center) on Monday, November 15 at 1pm: What can you do and what foods can you eat to improve your memory and keep your brain healthy? Presented by FEMA Hope & Healing Program. (Email valeri84@hpplnj.org for Zoom information.)



This month, the library's virtual **Play Reading Series** features George Bernard Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession* on Thursday, November 18 at 6:30pm: Join in on the performance of the breakthrough 1902 play about a woman who rose to be a successful madame after beginning her career as a prostitute. Performance leader Steve Eisdorfer says, "It is witty, dramatic, highly topical, and still a little shocking!"

(Registration required; email: raritanriver@yahoo.com.)

HOURS

Monday.....	10am-9pm
Tuesday.....	10am-9pm
Wednesday.....	10am-5pm
Thursday.....	10am-9pm
Friday.....	10am-5pm

NEWS



from the Department of Public Works

The Borough provides biodegradable leaf bags which are now available for pick-up at the Department of Public Works, 444 Valentine Street from 7:00 am - 2:30 pm.



Up to twenty bags are provided per property.

If using a landscape service, please provide a signed letter allowing the landscaper to pick up bags on your behalf. Any remaining bags will be available after December 1 on a first come basis.

During November and December, leaves are collected curbside weekly, which we then pick up and deliver to a compost facility. Leaves must be placed curbside in either biodegradable paper bags or loosely in garbage cans. Leaves placed curbside in plastic bags or cardboard boxes will not be accepted.

Please place leaf bags/cans at curbside on Sunday evening. Each street will get a pick-up at least once per week. Neighborhood start points will be rotated throughout town for the season.

Do not rake or blow leaves into the street; it is considered littering, causes parking issues, and other potential hazards. It is a violation of Borough ordinance, as well as the State of New Jersey Storm Water Management Act. The street sweeper is not designed to pick-up piles of raked leaves.

The State mandates that leaves be recycled and composted.

NEWS

from the Highland Park Police Department

The Police Department reminds everyone to use the sidewalk when one is available. IF you chose to walk in the roadway, please remember:

- Never assume that a driver has seen you.
- Establish eye contact or adjust your activity to make sure drivers are aware of your presence.
- Wear light-colored clothing and add reflective material to increase visibility – especially when walking at night.



Want a radar/speed counter on your street?

Highland Park Police Department's goal with this radar trailer is to continue our focus on roadway and public safety through traffic enforcement and education. Our officers will be in this area monitoring traffic speed and safety.

Want this sign on your street?

Contact Pedestrian and Traffic Safety officer, Sgt. Soden at **732-572-3800 Ext 4260** or **Dsoden@hpboro.com**

NEWS

from the Teen Center



TEEN CENTER/ZONE 6 FORMS PARTNERSHIP W/FLIGHT SCHOOL

The Highland Park Teen Center/Zone 6 is pleased to announce a new educational opportunity for local teens that will let them set their sights on the skies. Working with



Photo caption: Ashton Burrell, left, stands with Micah E. Clark, President of Alpha Aviation.

Alpha Aviation, the Teen Center now offers training in drone operations, pilot certification classes, discovery flight lessons, and more. A "Fly Day" where students experience a once in a lifetime airplane ride will be held at the end of this month. Formal classes at Alpha Aviation run all year round but visits to the training site, and introductory flight experiences, will be held in the fall winter and spring. Nine Highland Park teens have already expressed interest and there is space for six others; if a local teen wants to explore these options, please ask them to contact Ashton Burrell, Teen Center coordinator, at **aburrell@hpboro.com**.

Alpha Aviation is an MWBE Certified Company with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. For more information on Alpha Aviation, see: **<https://alphadronesusa.com/>** **alpha-aviation-inc.com/** or send email to **info@alpha-aviators.com**

NEWS

from Main Street Highland Park

There's a lot going on in downtown HP! See below and visit **mainstrethp.org** for more details.



NIGHT OWL MARKETS:

Join us in downtown Highland Park for four "Night Owl" outdoor markets featuring local artists, artisans, and crafters! #ShopSmall and do all your holiday shopping downtown. Join us in the public square by the pavilion next to 212 Raritan Ave. Markets are October 16, October 30, November 27, and December 11, from 4-8pm.



Photo by Nastya Dulhiera on Unsplash.com

DOWNTOWN NUTCRACKER:

In partnership with the American Repertory Ballet, we will be bringing two outdoor Nutcracker performances downtown on Saturday November 13. Stay tuned for updates