

# The Highland Park eNews

January 2, 2019 [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) 221 S. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, 08904 732-572-3400

## Events & Meetings

### Wednesday, January 2

Borough Council Reorganization  
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

### Thursday, January 3

Stretch with the Mayor  
7:30 a.m., Kinetics Flow, 409 Raritan Ave

### Thursday, January 3

N.J. Blood Service Community Blood Drive  
6:30 p.m., Library

### Monday, January 7

LGBTQ 101 – Let's get busy talking  
7:00 p.m., Library

### Tuesday, January 8

HP Gives a Hoot  
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

### Wednesday, January 9

Environmental Commission  
8:00 p.m., Environmental Education Ctr.

### Wednesday, January 9

Shade Tree Advisory Committee  
8:00 p.m., Borough Hall

### Thursday, January 10

Stretch with the Mayor  
7:30 a.m., Kinetics Flow, 409 Raritan Ave

### Thursday, January 10

Arts Commission  
6:00 a.m., Borough Hall

### Thursday, January 10

Board of Health  
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

### Thursday, January 10

Musician Marc Black  
2:00 p.m., Library

### Saturday, January 13

Highland Park Municipal Band  
7:00 p.m., Highland Park Community Center

### Monday, January 14

Books and Brews  
7:00 p.m., Library

All meetings are subject to change, please check the Borough's website at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com) for updates

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## Memo from Mayor Brill Mittler:



You might be surprised to learn how much progress we've made in Highland Park in 2018.

Our plans for **tax stabilization** were boosted by final DEP approval of the PSE&G Solar Field and construction should begin in the spring. The new income generated will be added to Borough revenues. With over \$170,000 in grant money we were able to move forward with new plans for various improvements throughout the Borough. This year saw a settlement agreement reached to put an end to legal expenses from affordable housing litigation that began in 2009. And, smart financial management allowed Highland Park to maintain its AA Bond Rating.

**Downtown Development** is the key to our economic future, and Highland Park remains a desirable location for developers. This year ideas for 3 potential new and exciting mixed use projects on Raritan Avenue, one of which has already been approved and begun off the corner of N. 2nd Avenue. Grant funding allowed us to begin environmental investigation for this Gateway Project, a proposed mixed use development near the entrance to Highland Park by the Albany Street Bridge. A group of community volunteers and our Borough Planner have been working with us on the possible creation of a new Boro Square development adjacent to our municipal parking lot on Raritan Avenue.

Like most of the Northeast, Highland Park's **infrastructure** is old and in need of repair. In 2018, our DPW, along with PSE&G, addressed 10 of our streets and avenues throughout the Borough. Work will continue in the spring. As we move forward, the results of an independent review in 2018 of all of our streets will guide us in a 5-year road repair plan to begin in the spring of 2019. We continue to address significant water and sewer costs which came to light in 2018. I anticipate a new plan for better controls to be completed in 2019. Meanwhile, in early 2019 we will be installing new, state-of-the-art water meters on many of our public buildings, such as schools and senior housing, to more closely monitor usage and control waste. Recycling methods also changed in 2018. In line with Middlesex County's new recycling guidelines, educational materials are being shared throughout Highland Park to help spread the word on new guidelines.

**Quality of Life** improvements for ALL our residents remain essential to all of us. Our staff does a great job addressing the needs of our senior population, and 2018 was no exception. At the request of "new" seniors, our baby-boomer population, the former Senior/Rec Center has been renamed the Highland Park Community Center. In 2018 our teens finally got "a home of their own". The Zone 6 Teen Center opened in the fall and has become a hub of activity for area teens. In 2018 I convened a group of area faith leaders to help me reach and address the issues of the various religions practiced in town. They have already been a great resource, particularly as we address issues of hate and bias. The New Jersey Quality Health Institute and the NJ Mayor's Wellness Campaign named Highland Park New Jersey's "Healthy Community" for 2017-2018. We will continue to promote a healthy lifestyle in 2019 through various programs. Through the efforts of our Arts Commission members, Highland Park partnered with New Brunswick in the public art project "Windows of Understanding" which addresses issues of social justice. In early 2019, we will be expanding this project with Tables of Understanding to allow members of our community to "break bread" together in meaningful, if sometimes difficult conversation. 2018 saw the emergence of the need for a review regarding policing and minorities in Highland Park. An outside, independent organization has been retained to analyze police stops over the last several years. Through the creation of a new Bias-Free Commission we will be addressing the "Use of Force Report" and any ongoing biases between residents, police, and administration.

In the belief that, in fact, everything is local, and that input from our residents is extremely important in governance, 2018 saw an increase to the **transparency** of our communications and actions. We held several open public meetings on important issues such as development and a proposed plastic bag ordinance. In 2018, Highland Park won the League of Municipalities coveted "Innovation in Governance" award for our new "Civics for the Community" program run by volunteers. We hope to continue the series in 2019 to create a better understanding of how government works and inspiring more residents to get involved. The new communications plan adopted in 2018, for execution in 2019, will make more of the Borough's plans and actions accessible. We've already begun adding more information about upcoming meetings to our website, which is scheduled for a revamping in 2019 to make it more user friendly.

We've accomplished quite a bit in 2018 and look forward to even more in 2019. I remain humbled and honored to be serve as your Mayor as we progress through 2019. Here's to a new year of teamwork, peace and progress.

Questions? Feedback? We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you think by writing to [communications@hpboro.com](mailto:communications@hpboro.com)

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**Throw it in the trash??  
Yes, the recycling rules have changed**



Many of us want to do right by the environment; we sort our trash and put out for recycling collection anything with the symbol on it, even things that -seem- like they should be recycled.

What DPW leaders in Highland Park and in towns across the county have learned is that the rules for recycling have changed. And now, sadly, fewer items are eligible for recycling.

One big driver of this change is the fact that China, the biggest processor of paper, plastic and other materials for reuse, has cut back on what they accept for recycling. US recycling companies, including the ones used by towns in Middlesex County, responding to the changes in China and the falling demand for recycling materials, have also cut back on what they accept for recycling.

Effective immediately, the following items **are not eligible** for recycling:

- \* Plastic Bags
- \* Styrofoam
- \* Greasy cardboard (such as pizza boxes)
- \* Light plastic containers (items with the number 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 in the recycling symbol)
- \* Aluminum foil
- \* Tempered glass (made to withstand high temperatures) such as bowls, drinking glasses, measuring cups, and cookware
- \* Plastic/Wire Hangers
- \* Light bulbs
- \* Plastic silverware
- \* Plastic toys

These items are still eligible for recycling:

- \* Plastic containers with the #1 or #2 in the recycling symbol
- \* Clean cardboard
- \* Aluminum cans
- \* Glass bottles & jars
- \* Mixed paper (newspaper, magazines, soft cover books, and printing paper)

Details on recycling in Middlesex County can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/ya6hgo8a>

For more information on the background of these changes, please see this November 5th *Star Ledger* newspaper story; <https://tinyurl.com/y7tn8gmz>

**Stretch with the Mayor,  
Thursday mornings @ Kinetics Flow**



Let the Mayor help you keep that New Year's resolution, to get in better shape.

Join Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler for 'Stretch with the Mayor,' Thursday mornings in January and early February, 7:30 - 8:00 am, at Kinetics Flow, 409 Raritan. Starts January 3rd.

For more information and to register, visit [kineticsnj.com](http://kineticsnj.com) or call 732-317-8931

**Municipal Band holds its annual winter concert**

The Highland Park Municipal Band will hold their Winter Concert on Sunday January 13th from 2-3pm at the Highland Park Community Center (formerly known as the Senior / Youth Center) at 220 South Sixth Avenue. This is a free concert - all are welcome! Listen to music played by members of our Highland Park community. Fun for all ages! Refreshments will be served following the concert.

Come join the Band! The Highland Park Municipal Band is made up of members of all ages. They participate in the Community Youth Participation Program, which invites student musicians from various communities to join in with our band, attend rehearsals and perform at concerts. The band looks forward to expanding its program and hopes to grow its youth participation in future seasons.

**Borough welcomes new  
Assistant to Borough Administrator, Emma Missey**



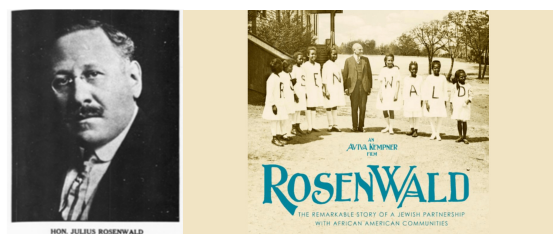
Recognizing the complexity of many issues facing the Borough government, which require thorough research, thoughtful investigation, and consistent follow through on complicated processes, the Mayor and Borough Council authorized the hiring of an Assistant to Borough Administrator Teri Jover. After a rigorous search, the Borough is pleased to introduce the newly hired Assistant to the Borough Administrator - Emma Missey.

In her new role, Emma will work closely with the Borough Administrator on various projects and initiatives. She will also add capacity in the areas of meeting coordination, budget preparation and grant writing and administration. One of her first projects will be to work with Sustainable Highland Park on the Sustainable Jersey recertification in 2019.

Emma is a New Jersey native but took a few years off from the Garden State. She went to school at the University of Maryland and received a degree in communication studies. Upon graduation, she moved across the country to Denver, CO and served as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with Community Resource Center, a nonprofit organization focused on capacity building. During her time with CRC, Emma assisted in the planning and execution of two rurally-based conferences focused on connecting rural nonprofit organizations with Front Range funders.

After her term of service ended, Emma moved to Harrisburg, PA and worked for Team Pennsylvania Foundation, a public private-partnership that facilitates economic development in Pennsylvania. Emma focused on fundraising, board management and stakeholder relations as a member of the staff at Team PA. She returned to New Jersey to be closer to family and begin a graduate degree program at Seton Hall University where she is pursuing a Master of Public Administration.

**Rosenwald: The remarkable story of a Jewish partnership  
with African American communities**



In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of diversity and cooperation, the Mayor, Borough Council, and the Human Relations Commission are pleased to host a screening of *Rosenwald: The Remarkable Story of a Jewish Partnership with African American Communities* on Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the Highland Park Community Center, 220 South Sixth Avenue.

Join us to view this inspiring documentary and learn about an amazing individual, who made a major difference in our world.

This event is sponsored by Middlesex County resident Gary Matoren in memory of his daughter, Debbie Lynn Matoren, and in honor of the diverse community of Highland Park. Mr. Matoren will introduce the film and lead a question and answer discussion afterwards.