

The Highland Park eNews

January 17, 2017 www.hpboro.com 221 S. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, 08904 732-572-3400

Events & Meetings

Tuesday, January 17
Council Committee
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

Wednesday, January 18
Human Relations
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

Thursday, January 19
Stretch with the Mayor
7:30-8am, Kinetics Flow, 409 Raritan Ave

Thursday, January 19
Poetry Writing Workshop
7:00 p.m., Public Library

Sunday, January 22
Concert with Knockabouts Acoustic Duo
2:00 p.m., Public Library

Sunday, January 22
H.P. Municipal Band
2:00 p.m., Senior/Youth Center

Monday, January 23
Zoning Board of Adjustment
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

Monday, January 23
Library Board of Trustee
7:30 p.m., Public Library

Tuesday, January 24
No-Sew, Sock Snowman
3:00 p.m., Public Library

Tuesday, January 24
Public Information Committee
6:15 p.m., Borough Hall

Wednesday, January 25
Sustainable Highland Park
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

Thursday, January 26
Stretch with the Mayor
7:30-8am, Kinetics Flow, 409 Raritan Ave

Thursday, January 26
Food Pantry Distribution
9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Senior/Youth Center

Thursday, January 26
Meditation Circle
7:00 p.m., Public Library

Saturday, January 28
Food Pantry Distribution
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Senior/Youth Center

Tuesday, January 31
Perler Bead Craft
3:00 p.m., Public Library

Wednesday, February 1
Environmental Commission
8:00 p.m., Environmental Education Ctr.

Thursday, February 2
Commission for Universal Access
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

Thursday, February 2
Redevelopment Agency
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

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

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Memo from Council President Susan Welkovits



Happy New Year! As we begin the new year, the Borough has made some organizational changes on Council. For the past 2 years, I have had the pleasure of serving as Committee Chair of Public Utilities, helping our DPW develop our automated garbage pick-up service, our new salt brine project to assist with snow removal, and more. It has been wonderful working with our professionals at the DPW.

I am equally as enthusiastic to now chair Economic Development and Planning. These departments have some exciting projects on the horizon. Highland Park has been working closely with PSE&G to improve infrastructure and sustainability, and PSE&G will be installing a solar field on a Donaldson Street property that has been underutilized for the past 50 years. This field will store energy, thereby strengthening our grid and improving our infrastructure.

We are also partnering with Sustainable Jersey and Energy Sage to encourage residents to install solar energy in their homes and businesses. Residents can visit the online solar marketplace at www.hpsolar.org to register their homes and communicate with solar installers to receive information and free quotes. EnergySage pre-vets solar install contractors, who respond with competitive bids and affordable pricing.

We are very proud to enter 2017 with the Silver Certification from Sustainable Jersey, the second time in three years. This is the highest honor, and Highland Park earned the highest number of points in the small town category. The application effort helps us focus on reviewing our internal processes in relation to Sustainable Jersey's suggested best practices.

Recycle Coach is a new smartphone app that the Borough will be rolling out this winter, customized with recycling, garbage, and bulk trash information specific to Highland Park and to your neighborhood (North side, South side, Triangle or Business District). A user-friendly search engine allows residents to search for information on how to recycle just about anything. And the new interface with the Borough allows residents to snap a photo of a problem, and send it directly to the Borough.

This spring we will begin a tree re-planting project for Raritan and Woodbridge Avenues, to improve the look and feel of our shopping district and welcome more pedestrian traffic. We've identified more than 20 sites to replant. Funds for this new program come from a designated Tree Fund, and do not use tax dollars.

I'm working closely with our Redevelopment Agency and the Middlesex County Improvement Agency to apply for grants for site remediation on Raritan Avenue. This will encourage redevelopment and growth in the Borough. I look forward to continued advancement in our business district.

I want to wish everybody a happy New Year, and I look forward to my new role on Council, and continued growth and development throughout the Borough.

Park Partners 2017 Voting Session

Once again, the Borough is offering grants to programs which benefit our community. Now in its fourth year, Park Partners received a record number of applications!

Come out to vote for your favorite project! Voting session will be held on Sunday, February 12, 4:00-5:00pm at the Senior/Youth Center, 220 S. Sixth Ave. You must be a resident of Highland Park to vote, and voting is only available in person at the session.

Visit www.hpboro.com to preview the complete list of projects.

Questions? Feedback? We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you think by writing to communications@hpboro.com

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Highland Marks

All four of Highland Park’s schools have met the requirements to achieve Sustainable Jersey for Schools certification. To earn certification, schools “...implement sustainability measures that save money, improve the learning environment, and prepare today’s students to address the challenges of tomorrow,” according to Donna Drewes, co-director of Sustainable Jersey. Highland Park schools are among 83 schools that achieved this certification in 2016.

Have you – or someone you know – done something recently that’s particularly noteworthy? Let us know about it and we’ll include it in Highland Marks! Write to communications@hpboro.com

Winter Waterfowls Walk

Join the Environmental Commission for their sixth Wildlife Education Program session - Winter Waterfowls: Walking Tour Looking for Waterfowl. Walk will be Sunday, January 29, 9:00am through Johnson Park. (Meet in the parking lot on Johnson Drive, west of Landing Lane.)

We will provide binoculars, and we welcome adults and children of all ages! For more information contact Daniel Larkings at dwlarkins@gmail.com.

Highland Park Municipal Band



Free Concert! Join us at the Senior / Youth Center to hear the Highland Park Municipal Band Perform on January 22nd at 2pm. Come for the wonderful music played by members of our community and appreciate the talent Highland Park has to offer! It is an event for all ages. Refreshments will be served immediately following the concert.

Free Tax Assistance



If you made less than \$64k in 2016 you can get your taxes done free by an IRS Certified Volunteer provided by United Way. Visit the Borough’s website at <http://www.hpboro.com> for more information. By appointment only! Call the Senior/Youth Center at 732-819-0052.

Do You Need Help Shoveling?



In the event you need referrals for snow removal, you can contact the Police Department at 732-572-3800 Ext. 0 or the Senior/Youth Center at 732-819-0052

Some individuals on the list may volunteer their services and others may charge a fee. The Borough assumes no responsibility or involvement beyond providing a potential list of snow removal people.

Help Highland Park Go Solar!



Sign up for the Highland Park solar installation program, which provides a sustainable clean energy source. Access free online resources, get an instant solar estimate, and engage with highly qualified solar companies. Visit www.hpsolar.org for more information.

Garbage Collection Schedule Change

Borough Offices will be closed on Monday, January 16. The Garbage Collection schedule is as follows;

- **Monday - Borough Offices Closed**
- Tuesday – Business District, North Side & Triangle Recycling Collection
- Wednesday – Business District, North Side & Triangle Garbage Collection
- Thursday – South Side Recycling Collection
- Friday – Business District & South Side Garbage Collection

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards Program Honoree Lt. Gary Panichella

Highland Park Police Lieutenant Gary Panichella is a familiar and welcome face around town. Gary’s grandfather emigrated from Italy to Highland Park nearly 100 years ago, and the Panichellas have been here ever since. He was born and raised here, along with his brother, sister and several cousins, all of whom attended Highland Park schools. The families were also members of the Trinity Church on Montgomery Street. Gary graduated from Highland Park High in 1972 and attended Middlesex County Community College from 1973-1975. In 1978 he was hired as a Highland Park Police Officer.

In 1996, Gary was promoted to Sergeant, and he became a Lieutenant in June, 2007. During his service he has received numerous awards, including being honored twice by the Middlesex County 200 Club for outstanding police action. He was recognized by the Highland Park Police Department, Mayor, and Council for his heroic efforts to rescue a resident. Gary crawled into a house fire to save the unconscious homeowner.

As a Lieutenant, Gary is responsible for traffic control, crossing guards and dispatch. In addition to these duties, he assists with a variety of Borough functions, including operating the Kosher vending machines with Rabbi Kaminetzky at Highland Park’s annual National Night Out every August, and the concession stands and “HP Gives a Hoot” fundraising at the annual Independence Day Fireworks Display. He recently helped the LIVE mentorship organization at their basketball game at the Bartle School, during which they raised funds and collected canned goods for those in need.

Gary is the owner of Studio 808, a local gym which is popular with many residents and out-of-towners, located on Raritan and 8th Avenue. He has operated the gym for 15 years. In his free time, Gary enjoys exercising, teaching karate, and helping others. He currently lives in Edison, NJ.



Lt. Gary Panichella center bottom row

