



February 2022

# QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park



## GREETINGS

from the Mayor

2021 was certainly a challenging year. And, while we don't know what lies ahead for us in 2022, I do know that Highland Park has proven that we can stand up to and face any obstacles that get thrown our way.

One year ago, we debated what to do about our eclectic, but vital Woodbridge Avenue commercial corridor. This year, our Woodbridge Avenue corridor was named a participant in NJ State's NPP (Neighborhood Preservation Program) program and received a grant of over \$500,000 over 5 years for improvements to its streetscape and modernization.

One year ago, we pondered whether our eclectic downtown would ever achieve the economic vision and stimulus it needs to modernize and move into the 21st Century. This year a well, thought-out plan for downtown revitalization and redevelopment was finalized and is now awaiting developer opportunities.

One year ago, despite the slowdowns in construction countrywide, Highland Park's newest residential project, The Fredrick condominiums, was an approved project. Today it is nearly completed and almost sold out. This is a testament to the desirability of living in Highland Park.

One year ago, we increased funds in our police training budget and

Chief Abrams' instituted new policies and procedures for our officers. Today, we have seen a 60% decrease in use of force reports, a trend over the last 3 years.

One year ago we approved and vowed to contribute to a grant submission that would provide much needed grant funds to update and repair our Library building, including the roof. Today, I am happy to report that we will receive grant funds of \$472,464 from the NJ State Library Bond Act towards library building improvements and repairs.

### SO, WHAT'S AHEAD OF US FOR 2022?

We will continue to strive to make it economically feasible for folks of all financial means to live comfortably in our community by emphasizing smart

growth and financial management to help stabilize our municipal taxes.

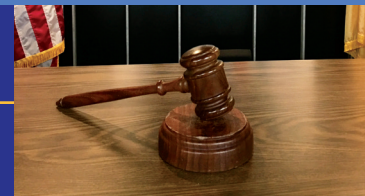
We will continue to move our infrastructure into the 21st Century with help from State and County grants that allow for road repairs and other structural updates and improvements.

We will work with the DEP to research and make improvements to help battle the new epic flooding events we have faced and expect to face due to climate change in the future. And, as we move forward, we will continue to serve as a role model of transparent government.

As we move into 2022, please stay safe and healthy.

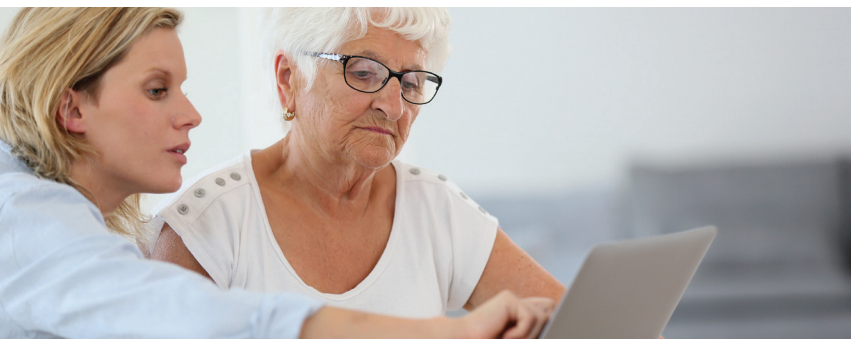
*– Excerpts from the Mayor's State of the Borough Address, January 4, 2022*

## UPDATES FROM THE BOROUGH COUNCIL



**Code Blue:** The Borough has once again partnered with the Reformed Church of Highland Park to provide a Code Blue overnight shelter for Highland Park residents and our neighbors on evenings when temperatures dip below 32 degrees. Due to limited space, access to the shelter is by reservation only and individuals in need of a warm place to sleep should call the police non-emergency line at **(732) 572-3800** to reserve a spot.

**Parking Ordinance:** An ordinance to amend Chapter 7 of the Highland Park Code which governs parking regulations was introduced at the January 18th meeting of the Mayor and Council. The introduced ordinance clarifies where parking is and isn't permitted during snow removal on Lincoln Avenue and Wayside Drive and also removes the no parking restriction on the east side of Lincoln Avenue between Raritan and Walter Avenues. A public hearing on this ordinance was held on Tuesday, February 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the next regular meeting of the Mayor & Borough Council.



### OFFICE OF AGING

Free Tax Assistance is available and open to the public sponsored by the HP Department of Community Services and United Way. If you made less than \$65,000 in 2021, you may file for **FREE** with one of our IRS Certified Volunteers. This service is by appointment only, February 1st thru April 6th. Please call **(732) 819-0052** to make an

appointment and for more detailed information.

In the months of February and March we will resume our "Thinking of You" themed goodie bags for our members. Included have been DIY craft projects that can be done at home and special treats. If you are interested in receiving and participating, please reach out to us at **(732) 819-0052**.

## EVENTS ON ZOOM



- Spring Schedule: **Exercise Classes** (*Exercise with Donna Chair Yoga*) Weekly 1 x per week to be held on Monday's from 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Spring ZUMBA Gold Sessions Wednesdays at 9:15 am - 10:00 am
- Tai Chi with Beverly Spool to be held on Thursday's from 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Bi-weekly Afternoon Tea and Discussion Groups

- Free Blood Pressure Screenings, 1st and 3rd Friday's of each month, 11:00 am - 12:00 noon
- BINGO, Mah Jongg & Card Afternoons (weekly) in small group setting with reserved time slots.
- Daytime Outdoor Entertainment – Weather Permitting
- Art & Painting Classes – Weekly
- Spring Planting Projects

We will resume other small outdoor activities and programs to be held under the retractable awnings on the side of the Community Center as well as

in the parking lot as weather gets nicer.

Please join us and like us on **Facebook @ Highland Park Department of Aging**.

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Meet with our Social Worker, Nicole Huff, by appointment only. Please call **(732) 819-0052** or email [nhuff@hpboro.com](mailto:nhuff@hpboro.com) to schedule an appointment.

We can help with **Open Enrollment for Medicare**. 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 month of January - March 2022.

**The 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 the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 9:30 am - 10:30 am. For more information or for food emergencies when food pantry is not open, please call (732) 819-0052 for assistance.

Recreation Coordinator: Kimberly McGraw  
[kmcgraw@hpboro.com](mailto:kmcgraw@hpboro.com)

**732-819-0052, x3117 or 732-819-0411**

Register for recreation programs [www.highlandparkrec.com](http://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](mailto:hprecreation@hpboro.com)

### HIGHLAND PARK RECREATION

We are excited to start our outdoor spring programming. We have a variety of activities for both children and adults, with programs for participants between the ages of 3 and 103!

This spring we will have baseball, softball, NFL Flag football, track, tennis, nature explorers, art, theater, and outdoor basketball clinics! Our adult programming includes soccer, basketball,

and volleyball. We will also be featuring special events at our pocket parks and partnering with other local agencies, such as the library and the teen center, to bring you even more programming and events!

We are also working on summer camp and registration will open by the beginning of March. HP Gives a Hoot offers an annual scholarship program for summer camp; the application period begins on Feb. 1st and ends on March 4th. To apply, please visit [hpboro.com/hpgivesahoot](http://hpboro.com/hpgivesahoot).

To register or to get more information visit us at [highlandparkrec.com](http://highlandparkrec.com) and don't forget to follow us on Facebook at Highland Park NJ Recreation!







Highland Park Public Library



On January 19, 1922, Highland Park's first lending library was established, and we think that's a cause for celebration! This year, we are embarking on a new chapter of library services, starting with an award for state grant funding to support a tremendous future building renovation project!

Join us throughout the year as we highlight the great history of Highland Park Public Library and our community. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram as we highlight historical facts and pictures, share displays and publications, host programs, and much more. Get in on the fun today by stopping by to pick up a copy of our special HPPL Centennial Bingo Board. We can't wait to see what this year brings!

Plus, make sure to take a look at our calendar of events to discover programming for all ages, including storytime, Teen Bullet Journaling, crafts for adults, writers circle, and interactive play readings. Although our building undergoes renovations, the doors are

open and our staff is able to provide extensive services.

Some specific programming you might want to check out include:

- **Having Chest Pain? Is it Really a Heart Attack?** This zoom program will be held on Tuesday, Feb 15 at 11 am in coordination with Hackensack Meridian Health Outreach and the HP Community Center.
- **Crafternoons** is a bi-weekly online gathering complete with show, tell, and idea-swapping!
- **Take-and-Make Crafts** available for pickup for teens on Feb 15 and for kids on Feb 21; free and available while supplies last!

**HOURS**

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

**NEWS** from the Highland Park Police Department

**HPPD SEEKING CROSSING GUARDS!**



The HPPD remains in need of crossing guards. Successful candidates must be able to pass a background check and medical evaluation. Individuals must have availability to cover all of the following shifts:

**Morning:** 7:25 am to 8:10 am  
OR 8:00 am to 8:45 am

**Afternoon:** 2:25 pm to 3:10 pm  
OR 2:35 pm to 3:20 pm

**Delayed Opening:** 9:25 am to 10:10 am  
OR 10:00 am to 10:45 am

**Early Dismissal:** 11:45 am to 12:30 pm  
OR 12:15 pm to 1 pm.

The current pay rate is \$19.75/hr and a typical work week consists of 7.5 hours per week during the school year.

Interested parties can apply through the Borough's website, at [www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com), or contact Sgt. David Soden at [dsoden@hpboro.com](mailto:dsoden@hpboro.com) or call (732) 712-2481.

**NEWS**

from the Department of Public Works

**BULK WASTE PICK-UP BY APPOINTMENT PROGRAM**



The Bulk's bulk waste collection is now by appointment. Pick-ups will be scheduled on Wednesdays during the months of April, May, June, September and October. To make an appointment, please call Public Works at (732) 247-9379.

Each household may request up to two collections per year. There will be an additional bulk pick-up on September 13, 2022.

Materials may be placed at the curbside no sooner than one hour before sundown of the day prior to scheduled pick-up. Materials not properly secured/bundled and unacceptable items (see list below) will not be collected. Materials put out for collection, without a scheduled appointment or on the wrong date, will not be collected.

For information on acceptable and unacceptable items for bulk waste pick up, please see: [www.hpboro.com/departments/public-works/bulk-waste-collection](http://www.hpboro.com/departments/public-works/bulk-waste-collection)

For additional information please call (732) 247-9379.

# NEWS

from the Highland Park Fire Department



The Highland Park Fire Department (HPFD) took many strides in 2021 to improve their services and are continuing the momentum into 2022.

In 2021, the volunteer firefighters continued to train and drill to improve

their skills by taking classes at Middlesex County Fire Academy. During Hurricane Ida, HPFD members responded to 40+ calls, rescued several stranded civilians and mitigated issues within town. Throughout 2021, the HPFD had over 500 calls including 30 fires, and 80+ hazardous conditions.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Highland Park Fire Department, either email the Fire Chief at [fire@hpboro.com](mailto:fire@hpboro.com) or call (732) 572-4323 to set up a meeting.

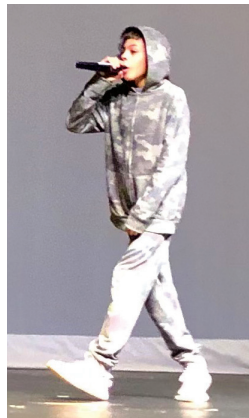
# NEWS

from the Teen Center



Reflecting its mission to provide strong role models for Borough youth and to offer meaningful activities to engage them, Zone 6/Teen Center held a spirited Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration event on Monday January

17th that was live streamed on Facebook. The event featured a welcome by Zone 6 Coordinator Ashton Burrell, greetings by Councilwoman Elsie Foster, words for Dr. King by Shariff Stubbs of Alpha Phi Alpha



Fraternity Inc. (Dr. King's fraternity), a spoken word performance by Borough teen Amiri 2X, a dance performance by Jordan Jackson (Jackson Dance Company), and inspiring remarks by guest speaker Frederick Williams, superintendent of the Middlesex Public Schools. The event concluded with awards presented to Zone 6 partners HP Gives a Hoot, NAACP New Brunswick, Janel Powell, Kyla Ryan, Dance Mogel Magazine, John Wenz, and Theta Psi Lambda of Alpha Phi Alpha.

# ESSENTIAL

Services

## HP GIVES A HOOT

"HP 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. 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 [www.hpboro.com/hpgivesahoot](http://www.hpboro.com/hpgivesahoot) or email [igaveahoot@gmail.com](mailto:igaveahoot@gmail.com)



# NEWS

from Main Street Highland Park

SAVE THE DATES FOR DOWNTOWN FUN!



## FARMERS MARKET:

The Highland Park Farmers Market is returning earlier than ever this year, starting on Friday April 1 – and that's no joke! Learn more at [mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket](http://mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket)



## 5K RACE & STREET FAIR:

The Highland Park 5k race and annual Spring Street Fair are returning in 2022 on Sunday, May 1. Details on both events can be found at [mainstreethp.org](http://mainstreethp.org).



## PLANTING DAYS

Planting Days are back! Save the dates, Thursday May 26 and Saturday May 28. Visit [mainstreethp.org](http://mainstreethp.org) for more info.

And there's more to come all year long, including outdoor movies, festivals, markets, business promotions, and more! Check Main Street's Facebook page ([facebook.com/MainStreetHP](https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetHP)) and website ([mainstreethp.org](http://mainstreethp.org)) for updates and information.