



November 2022

# QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park



## GREETINGS

*from the Mayor*



The Borough of Highland Park was pleased to host a ribbon cutting on Thursday September 29th to celebrate the formal opening of the nearly \$2 million dollar renovation of the track, turf field, and lighting at the Recreation Complex behind the Highland Park Middle School/High School. The renovation was funded by an allocation from the NJ State FY 2022 budget, which was matched by funding from the

Borough of Highland Park Municipal Budget and the Board of Education of Highland Park.

As I said at this event, "The Recreation Complex at the Middle School/High School is the only large parcel of land owned by the Borough. As such, it has served as the location for different broadly-attended Borough activities over the years. For example, 2020's large protest rally after the killing of George Floyd took place at and near that site. Additionally, during the height of Covid-19 the field and track provided much needed and well-used outdoor, safe activity space for walkers, joggers and others. It became evident that the Recreation Complex was a space ALL Highland Parkers could use and many did.

The demand for the track & turf field is so high at the Middle School and High School that it is not uncommon to have three or four activities going on simultaneously. Prior to the repairs, the track barely passed inspection in 2019 and there was a strong likelihood that it would no longer pass inspection, so it could not be used in competitions."



We are not the only ones to recognize the fine quality of our new recreation complex. In November, the New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers will present a first place award in their Municipal Construction Management Projects 'E' Category to the Borough's engineering firm, CME Associates, for their work on this project. Congratulations CME Associates!

Wishing you a delightful fall,

*Gayle Brill Mittler*



## UPDATES *from the* BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Passage of Ordinance to Establish Pedestrian Mall on So. 3rd Avenue:** After hearing thoughtful comments from residents both for and opposed, on October 19th the Borough Council voted unanimously in favor to adopt the ordinance to establish a Pedestrian Mall, or public plaza, on So. 3rd Avenue at Raritan Avenue. The passage of the ordinance is one of the steps required by the NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT) along with an approved Street Intersection Permit. The Borough prepared a Frequently Asked Questions document to address some of the common questions about the creation of the public space and the related permanent closure of So. 3rd Avenue; this document is available on the Borough's website.

**Return to In-Person Meetings, Nov. 1:** Borough Council meetings returned to Council Chambers in Borough Hall starting on Nov. 1st. Meetings are livestreamed on our HPTV15 YouTube Channel as well as on the Optimum (channel 15) and FiOS (channel 44) cable TV channels. Recordings of Council meetings are archived and can be viewed anytime on the HPTV 15 YouTube channel.

**Property Revaluation Update:** The Borough's revaluation contractor, Professional Property Appraisers, is in town doing field inspections; however, they are a bit delayed due to staffing availability. Residents are encouraged to continue to cooperate and make their properties available so that we can complete the inspections in time for the 2023 tax year.

Office of Aging



### Community Center Thanksgiving Luncheon

Monday, November 21, 12:00 noon.  
Enjoy turkey and all the trimmings with your friends at the center. Musical entertainment by: Jerry Castaldo.  
\* This event is for members of the HP Community Center.

### Senior Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 13 from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm at Highland Park's Pithari Taverna. Celebrate the Winter Holidays and an afternoon on music and dancing.

For more details and to sign up for these events, please contact the Community Center at (732) 819-0052. Please follow us on Facebook or stop in to the center to find out about all our weekly activities, special events and trips!

### Highland Park Recreation

Autumn smells like falling leaves, pumpkin spice and fresh turf to the HP Department of Recreation! Rovers International Soccer Clinics with Spencer Rockman and NFL Flag Football were the first of our programs to enjoy the beautiful and newly refurbished Municipal Recreation Complex Turf Field & Track.

As fall programming wraps up, we are excited to welcome back Winter



## NEW RESOURCE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

Highland Park community members with visual impairments now have a brand new resource that can greatly aid them in browsing the Internet, job searching online, attending Zoom meetings, typing documents, and completing other activities on a computer.



Thanks to local resident Angela Perrone, the Highland Park Community Center's library now has a desktop computer with JAWS (Job Access with Speech) and MAGIC software installed. The two programs work together to create large icons of

available programs and software on the computer monitor and the capability for the computer to read out the different icons as they are selected by the user.

Perrone shared the software with the HP Community Center and the Center staff worked with the Borough's IT consultant to have it installed in early August. Both programs are available for use by any member of the HP Community Center, during regular business hours. Perrone also donated a large type keyboard for use with the computer equipped with the two programs.

"Angela's gift was a real blessing to the Community Center," said Kimberly McGraw, Director of the Borough's Office of Aging Services. "So much of what we do is provide resources, services, and activities to empower residents to take charge of their needs. These new computer programs can give residents with visual limitations broad new capabilities. We are very grateful for Angela's generous donations to the Community Center."



Youth Basketball for the first time in 2 years! In addition to league basketball for 3rd-8th graders, this very missed program will include a special Coaches Only Coaching Clinic by Coaches Choice Select and Youth Clinics for K-2nd graders with former ABA player and youth educator Tony Brewster.

For more information on recreation programs, please see:  
<https://highlandparknj.myrec.com>

## NEWS from the Highland Park Police Department

The Highland Park Police Department urgently needs new crossing guards. Pay starts at \$19.75/hr.

For a full job description, see:  
<https://www.hpboro.com/Home/Components/JobPosts/Job/1120/1065>

Please contact Sgt. Soden if you have any questions at 732-572-3800 Ext 4260 or [Dsoden@hpboro.com](mailto:Dsoden@hpboro.com)

**NOW HIRING!** Become a **SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD**

A graphic illustration of a school building with a crossing guard standing near a crosswalk with a bicycle.

## at the Highland Park Public Library



Highland Park Public  
Library

The Library's Centennial Celebration continues through the end of 2022! We invite all residents to pick up a copy of our Centennial Bingo Game for a chance to win the grand prize of our raffle drawing—a brand new bicycle from Highland Park's Local Bike Shop—absolutely free of charge! We are so happy to be partnering with the Local Bike Shop in order to enhance your accessibility and ability to travel, supporting an improved impact on the environment and local communities. All ages are encouraged to participate through December 2022.



This winter, the library is beginning a series of in-person and virtual sessions as part of a new Conversation Cafe (Café de Conversación) to allow new English speakers to practice their language skills. As always, there is plenty for our children, teens, and families, including arts and crafts, movies, storytimes, games, and dancing! Please check the library's website for a full calendar and details of all upcoming events. At [www.hpplnj.org](http://www.hpplnj.org), you'll also find access to digital resources and more information about the



variety of services that we offer all year, including Notary service, HP Municipal IDs, free Internet access, printing and copying service, book group support, and more. Visit us in person to check out jigsaw puzzles, movies, books of all shapes and sizes, plus laptops and wireless hotspot devices. We are here for you in-person seven-days a week.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Fall Mocktails**

Monday, November 21, 7:00pm  
Get ready for Thanksgiving with a tasting featuring a selection of seasonal mocktails.

- **Fashions from the 1920s**

Thursday, December 1, 7:00pm  
As we celebrate 100 Years of Learning, discover the history of clothing from the 1920s.

- **Anatomy of a Criminal Court Case**

Thursday, December 8, 7:00pm  
The Middlesex County Court System takes us through the process from an initial arrest through trial in criminal court.

- **CineMusic Series: Coda (PG-13)**

Tuesday, December 13, 6:30pm  
Hosted by the founder of In the Groove Music Club, the CineMusic series focuses on films with music-related themes across a variety of genres. This month's showing is a 2022 Academy Award Winner.

- **Author Talk: Tova Friedman and The Daughter of Auschwitz**

Thursday, January 5, 2023, 7:00pm  
Join us as one of the youngest survivors of the concentration camps talks about her life and writing.



## NEWS from the Highland Park Fire Department

The Borough is grateful to Highland Park Fire Dept firefighters Frank Santore, Montgomery Draper, and Norm Shamy, along with Eugene Perelman and Jennifer Awad of the Middlesex County Fire Marshal's office, who visited three Borough schools in October - The Irving School, Noah's Ark, and the Child Development Center at Parker - and gave the kids fire safety lessons in honor of Fire Prevention Week. Afterwards, the children got to tour the HPFD fire engine and ring the bell.

## NEWS from the Department of Public Works

Biodegradable leaf bags are available for pick-up at the Department of Public Works, Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Up to 20 bags are provided per property and recorded at pick-up. If using a landscape service, please provide a signed letter allowing the landscaper to pick up bags on your behalf.

Please be reminded that the state mandates that leaves be recycled and composted. Please do not rake or blow leaves into the street.



# NEWS

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## from Main Street Highland Park



### Highland Bucks: Highland Park's Local Gift Card Program

Buy a digital HP Bucks Gift Card and support our downtown small businesses! The HP Bucks electronic gift card can be purchased online and used at many downtown stores, restaurants, and services.

<https://app.yiftee.com/gift-card/hp-bucks-highland-park/>

**How does it work?** All you do is select the value of your Highland Bucks that you want to purchase. Then select your recipient (yourself, family, friends, etc.) and send via email or text message. The recipient can use that value to make purchases at participating Highland Bucks gift card merchants.

If you are a business who wants to get involved, email [mainstreethighlandpark@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreethighlandpark@gmail.com) And for a limited time, for every \$40 in Highland Bucks you buy, you get \$10 in FREE extra bucks!

Learn More! Be sure to keep checking [mainstreethp.org](https://mainstreethp.org) and [facebook.com/mainstreethp](https://facebook.com/mainstreethp) for ongoing updates on events and activities in downtown HighlandPark!

# NEWS

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## from the Shade Tree Advisory Committee

Borough Administration and the Shade Tree Advisory Committee successfully applied for and received a \$150,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Urban & Community Forestry Program. The funding will support the services of a professional forester, who will consult with the Borough on its plans, preparation of tree pits, the planting of 90 trees throughout the Borough, and initial maintenance of the new trees (watering and pruning).



The trees to be planted include 20 along Woodbridge Avenue's commercial district, 40 within identified neighborhood zones, and 30 to meet resident requests. The project is an important step toward achieving the goals of the Borough's Community Forestry Management Plan - a thriving community forest that fights climate change, beautifies our streets, and supports strong property values.



### FARMERS MARKET

Every Friday through December 16  
[mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket](https://mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket)



### NIGHT OWL ARTISAN & HOLIDAY GIFT MARKETS

- Saturday, November 26
  - Sunday, November 27
  - Saturday, December 17
  - Sunday, December 18
- [mainstreethp.org/nightowl](https://mainstreethp.org/nightowl)



### DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING

Saturday, November 26



### DOWNTOWN MENORAH LIGHTING

Sunday, December 11