

The Highland Park eNews

October 16, 2017 www.hpboro.com 221 S. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, 08904 732-572-3400

Events & Meetings

Monday, October 16

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

Tuesday, October 17

Borough Council
6:00 p.m., Borough Hall

Wednesday, October 18

Herbal Circle & Knowledge Exchange
6:30 p.m., Environmental Education Ctr.

Wednesday, October 18

Human Relations Commission
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

Thursday, October 19

Breast Cancer Awareness Talk
7:00 p.m., Public Library

Thursday, October 19

Planning Board
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

Monday, October 23

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

Tuesday, October 24

Pumpkin Decorating For Trees
3:00 p.m., Public Library

Tuesday, October 24

Friends of the Library Poetry Night
7:00 p.m., Public Library

Tuesday, October 24

Rehabilitation Screening Committee
7:00 p.m., Borough Hall

Wednesday, October 25

Walk with the Mayor
7:00 a.m., Donaldson Park Entrance

Wednesday, October 25

Sustainable Highland Park
7:30 p.m., Environmental Education Ctr.

Thursday, October 26

Food Pantry Distribution
9:00 – 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Senior/Youth Center

Thursday, October 26

Meditation Circle – Bobbie Ellis
7:00 p.m., Public Library

Sunday, October 29

Halloween Party & Costume Parade
2:00 p.m., High School Gym

Saturday, October 28

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

Saturday, October 28

Water is Life Exhibit
5:00 p.m., Raritan Ave between 3rd and 5th

Monday, October 29

Halloween Party & Costume Parade
2:00 p.m., Highland Park High School

Monday, October 30

Zoning Board of Adjustment
7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

Wednesday, November 1

Paint with the Mayor
6:00 p.m., Senior/Youth Center

Wednesday, November 1

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

Thursday, November 2

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

Memo from Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler



Last month Highland Park kicked off a Feasibility Study for a Microgrid in the Borough with a grant award from the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). Together with the BPU, the Borough is working toward ensuring our electric needs are met, especially during natural disasters. The Highland Park program, named BRITE (Being Resilient in a Temporary Emergency), includes a proposal for a microgrid in a strategically located position behind Borough Hall. During Hurricane Sandy, many of our residents were without power for one to two weeks.. Shortly after power was restored, a fire in an Edison sub-station caused more long term power outages for some Highland Park residents. After these incidents, when residents were labelling us “Highland Dark”, we realized the urgent need for an independent and emergency power source.

Our microgrid would be a local energy grid that can disconnect from the traditional grid during an emergency to enable it to power up critical buildings. Recognizing Highland Park’s history of outages and need for a microgrid, the BPU has chosen us as one of the 13 municipalities in New Jersey in which to fund feasibility studies in preparation for building a microgrid. This would enable key buildings to be available for shelter, storage, and use during a natural disaster. These buildings included in this study are Borough Hall, the Public Safety Building/Police Headquarters, Fire Station, Senior/Youth Center, Bartle School, the Housing Authority building and the Senior Housing building on South 6th Ave. Additional buildings may be added to this during the feasibility study. These buildings would continue to operate on a microgrid in case of emergency, providing vital services for our residents. I am excited about this project, and look forward to reviewing the results of the study in order to move forward on building a microgrid plans.

It’s almost time again for our 4th Annual Park Partners Community Grant program. If you have an idea you would like to bring to Highland Park for improving a)Environment, b)Arts, c)Culture and Diversity, d) Safety or e)Universal Access or Health & Wellness, apply for this grant of up to \$2,000 to execute your program. This is truly a “give-back” program from our municipality to our residents. Applications can be downloaded at www.hpboro.com or picked up at Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Ave. Deadline for applications is December 15th, and the voting session will be held in February.

Please join me on November 1st for a Paint With the Mayor event, 6:00pm, at the Senior/Youth Center. Come for a painting lesson by local artist Reneta Pouleva, and conversation with me and your neighbors about our community! Registration is required and limited, so please RSVP to Stacy Kaplan at skaplan@hpboro.com.



And, of course, you are welcome to join me on my monthly Walk With the Mayor. This month’s walk will be held on October 25th at 7:00am. We will meet up at the entrance to Donaldson Park on South 2nd Avenue. See you then!

Bag It: Is Your Life Too Plastic?

Come see the film and support our town’s campaign to reduce plastic bag usage. There will be two community screenings of "Bag It! Is Your Life Too Plastic?" over the next week.

October 14, 7pm @ Reformed Church of HP, Parlor
October 17, 7pm @ Irving School, Auditorium

There will also be three broadcasts over the weekend on HPTV. Learn more at: <http://sustainablehighlandpark.org/>

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

Who is My Neighbor? Inc. was awarded an Action Grant from The New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH). The \$20,000 grant will support Highland Park students' efforts to create an archive of personal narratives and short films about the history of the African American community in Highland Park. Who is My Neighbor? Inc. is a nonprofit organization in Highland Park that provides social and educational programs for children and their families, to foster a sense of belonging in our diverse community.

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

Walk With the Mayor



Join Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler for a walk through Donaldson Park! Wednesday, October 25 at 7:00 am (weather permitting). Meet at the Donaldson Park Entrance on South 2nd and Riverview Drive. Get some exercise and talk with the Mayor and your neighbors! In case of inclement weather, please check the Borough's Facebook page for cancellations or changes at www.facebook.com/hpboro.

Highland Park Housing Authority Accepting Applications for Low Income Public Housing

Samuel Kronman Building located at 242 South 6th Avenue in Highland Park is accepting applications for Low Income Public Housing.

Highland Park Residents encouraged to apply!

- If you live or work in Highland Park, you will receive 5 preference points on the waiting list.
- If you or your spouse is a veteran and has an honorable discharge certificate, you will receive 1 preference point.

Eligibility information:

- Head of household must be 62 years of age or older or disabled.
- Gross annual income limits (call for details)

If you are interested in low income housing and meet the above criteria, please call us at (732) 572-4420 immediately and ask for Runi.

Leaf Season

Its Leaf season! The Borough provides biodegradable leaf bags which are currently available for pickup at the Department of Public Works, 444 Valentine Street from 7:00 am – 2:30 pm. Up to twenty 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. Any remaining bags will be available after December 1 on a first come basis.

During November and December, leaves are collected curbside weekly and delivered 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 and causes parking issues and other potential hazards. It is a violation of Borough ordinance and the State of New Jersey Storm Water Management Act. The street sweeper is not designed to pickup piles of raked leaves.

Have you considered backyard composting? Visit the Borough website at <http://www.hpboro.com>. The State mandates that leaves be recycled as well as composted.

Halloween Party and Costume Parade



Come out for our annual Halloween Party and Costume Parade - children Pre K-6th grade, Sunday, October 29 from 2-5pm in the High School Gym. Join us for music, dancing, bounce house, Halloween Safety tips, and refreshments. There will be a Halloween Parade with prizes, giveaways, and more! For more information, call the Department of Community Services at 732-819-0052 or check our facebook @ highland park NJ recreation

Senior/Youth Center Services



The Senior/Youth Center is a meeting place for local senior citizens, with many social, recreation, and educational activities daily. Here's a reminder about some of our services:

- Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm, Friday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Senior In-Town Transportation: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Out of Town Medical Transportation: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

To schedule a ride, please call the center at 732-819-0052.

A monthly Senior Citizens Calendar is available at the center or at www.hpboro.com. Please contact Kimberly McGraw at kimberlymcgraw@hpboro.com or stop by to register for programs. Membership to the Senior/Youth Center is \$10.00/year for in-town residents and \$75.00/year for out-of-town residents.

Make Your Own Keepsake Book!

The Highland Park Arts Commission is hosting a Book Arts Workshop with artist Amee Pollack. Join us on November 2, 6:30-8:30pm at the Public Library, 31 N. 5th Avenue, to learn the basics of bookmaking and make a "Keepsake Book". Pre-registration is required, and space is limited. Workshop is for ages 8 and up, and materials for one book are provided for each participant. Feel free to bring additional collage materials. Register online at www.hpartscommission.com/bookart, or call Pandora Scooter at 732-718-0134.

Herbal Circle and Knowledge Exchange

Raices Cultural Center is seeking individuals with knowledge of herbs and healing practices from different cultures and traditions to take part in our new Herbal Circle and Knowledge Exchange.

Join us for our first meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 6:30-8:30pm at the Environmental Center, 20 River Road in Highland Park. Registration required by calling 732-236-7618 or online at www.raicesculturalcenter.org/herbalcircle. Project is co-sponsored by Sustainable Highland Park.