



June 2023

# QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park



## GREETING FROM THE MAYOR

We've got a whole lot going on in Highland Park in the next few weeks!

Here's a few of our 'big ticket' activities:

### **Flag raising in honor of Juneteenth, Monday June 19th**

Please join me and The Human Relations Commission of the Borough of Highland for a flag raising in honor of the federal holiday, Juneteenth, at 10:00 a.m. at the Highland Park Community Center parking lot.

### **Flag Raising for Pride Month, Monday June 26th**

We are happy to highlight how LGBTQ Americans have strengthened our country, by using their talent and creativity to help create awareness and goodwill. The flag raising will be held by the flagpole in the parking lot of the Highland Park Community Center, 220 South 6th Ave, starting at 6:00 pm.

### **Fireworks in the Park, Sunday July 2nd (Raindate: Monday 7/3)**

Festivities start at 5:00 p.m. in Donaldson Park with face painting, kid games, music and 18 food vendors. Fireworks begin at approximately 9:20 pm.

### **Parkstock Music Festival, Thursdays - July 20th, July 27th, August 3rd & August 10th**

Highland Park's popular outdoor concert series is back on Thursday nights at Donaldson Park, Grove 1, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm starting in late July. Select food vendors will be there to offer food to accompany the music.

I hope you will join me for one, some, or all of these events.

Wishing you an enjoyable summer,

Elsie

## UPDATES *from the* BOROUGH COUNCIL



### **Adoption of Redevelopment Plan for 420-424 Raritan Avenue**

Following a public hearing, Borough Council authorized the adoption of the 420-424 Raritan Avenue Redevelopment Plan (former Stop & Shop site) by ordinance. Following its introduction at the April 4th meeting, the plan was referred to the Planning Board for their

review for consistency with the Master Plan prior to it being voted on by Borough Council. With the plan now in place, the Borough will be in a better position to work with the property owner to secure a supermarket on the site.

### **Central Avenue Traffic Safety Ordinance**

The Council approved an ordinance to establish Central Avenue as a one-way street, westbound, between South 10th and South 11th Avenues. This change will improve traffic safety in the area around Irving School and is a result of input from community members, the Highland Park Police Department, and the Borough Engineer.

Are you feeling out of the loop on local news?

**SIGN UP FOR NIXLE ALERTS AT HPBORO.COM**

SMS/Text & Email Options Available



# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES at the Highland Park Community Center

## Office of Aging

Our Spring Schedule includes these popular offerings:

- Exercise Classes (Exercise with Nancy Chair Yoga) Weekly 1 x per week on Monday's from 9:15 am - 10:15 am
- ZUMBA Gold Sessions Wednesdays at 9:15 am - 10:00 am & Friday's 11:00 am - 11:45 am
- Tai Chi with Beverly Spool on Thursday's from 11:00 am
- Art & Painting Classes with Cristina – Bi-Monthly
- FREE Blood Pressure Screenings available 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month 11:00 am – 12:00 noon
- On site Podiatry Appointments 4th Thursday of every month at 1:00 pm
- Monthly Tea and Discussion Groups with Social Worker, Nicole Huff
- BINGO Tuesdays at 12:15pm

Tuesday, May 30th 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Please call (732) 819- 0052 for more details.

- **Senior Prom** -“Dancing Under the Stars” Tuesday, June 13th 4:00 pm to 7:00pm. Featuring dinner, dancing, entertainment, voting for our 2023 Prom King and Queen. Dinner will be catered by Zia Lisa Restaurant. Kosher option is available upon request.
- **Senior Lunch Cornucopia** Princess Cruise Trip - Wednesday, July 12th
- **Summer Atlantic City Trips** Coming Soon!

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

### Community Services Outreach and Assistance/Reminders:

Residents are welcome to meet with our Social Worker, Nicole Huff, by calling (732) 819-0052 or email [nhuff@hpboro.com](mailto:nhuff@hpboro.com) to schedule an appointment. Meet Nicole on Friday's this Spring at the Farmers Market from 10:00 am – 11:00 am.

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



## Upcoming Programs &



All events are at the Community Center unless otherwise noted.

- **Lunch with Friends**, Kosher Meal Program with JFS of Middlesex County. Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
- **Breakfast with Friends**, Kosher Breakfast Program with JFS of Middlesex County. Fridays 9:00 am – 11:00 am
- **Community Health Fair** open to all Highland Park residents. Free screenings include: Blood Pressure, Pulse, Body Mass Index (BMI), Cholesterol, Glucose, Stroke Risk Assessment, Bone Density & Skin Cancer screenings.

### Spring Tree Planting

In fall 2022, the Borough was awarded a \$150,000 grant from NJDEP for street tree planting. In May, the first phase of planting commenced and 80 new street trees were planted between So. 1st and So. 4th Avenues as well as in front of more than 30 homes that requested trees. The second phase of planting is expected to take place on Woodbridge Avenue as a joint initiative between the Shade Tree Advisory Committee, Main Street Highland Park, and the Woodbridge Avenue Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP).

If you have an empty verge in front of your home and are interested in a tree being planted there, please fill out a form on the Borough's website. Homeowners that request trees must agree to water and care for them during their first two years as they become established.



## at the Highland Park Public Library



Highland Park Public  
Library

### KIDS SUMMER READING SERIES KICKS OFF

#### "Science Heroes: Saving Earth Together"

The series will start with a party to be held on **June 27th at 3pm in the Community Center**, 220 South 6th Ave. Get there early to save a seat!

Participate in an action-packed story of two unlikely heroes working together to save their town from a super-polluting mastermind! At the program, you will be able to sign up for the summer reading clubs, and find out about summer activities for children at the library.



### Highland Park Recreation



HP Recreation is now gearing up for our 2023 Summer Camp programs. Traditional Day Camp, Leaders in Training, Sports Camp and Theatre Camps will run from June 26th and August 18th. We can't wait for another summer of fun in the sun,

### LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Coming this summer— a brand new virtual series of three programs for those looking for leadership roles in their workplace. This virtual workshop will help you to understand your leadership style and how to most effectively lead yourself and those around you. Tim Perseo, who will conduct the workshop, is a team and leadership coach based out of Highland Park. For more information about registering for the series, send email to [vweidmann@hplnj.org](mailto:vweidmann@hplnj.org).

Individual sessions will be:

#### **Liberating Leader**

Thursday, July 13 at 7:00pm

#### **Know Yourself to Lead Yourself**

Thursday, July 20 at 7:00pm

#### **Maximizing Influence**

Thursday, July 27 at 7:00pm

Please stay tuned for information on their website [www.hplnj.org](http://www.hplnj.org) about our upcoming library building renovation project.

Contact the library at 732-572-2750 or via their website at [www.hplnj.org](http://www.hplnj.org)

on the turf, in the gym and in the theatre!

Registration is already open for many of our Fall 2023 programs. For more information and to register go to [highlandparkrec.com](http://highlandparkrec.com).



## NEWS from the Highland Park Fire Department



Members of the Highland Park Fire Department career staff often train members of the Department's volunteer staff in an effort to improve effectiveness at fire scenes. Last month's Fire Training was a "Hands On" training on pump operations. Pictured is Career Firefighter Frank Santore and Volunteer Firefighter Quinten Moore going over pump operations at the corner of South Adelaide Ave and Skyview Terrace. The pump operators are usually the "Unsung Heroes" but without them there would be no water going on the fire. Training at the Fire Department is done monthly.





The Highland Park Police Department will hold its annual FREE Youth Academy this summer, July 10-14. The Youth Academy is the perfect opportunity for kids to learn about the different aspects of law enforcement, and to meet many of the officers who work in Highland Park. In past years we have had

officers from the FBI, DEA, Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, New Jersey State Police, US Marshals, NJ Parole, and New Brunswick Police. If you are interested, please contact Officer Brian O'Mara at [bomara@hpboro.com](mailto:bomara@hpboro.com) for an application.

In early August the HPPD will hold their annual National Night Out event over at the Irving School playground. National Night Out is a national community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships. Residents and visitors can enjoy several food trucks, a bounce house, and check out police and fire equipment. There will also be several community groups on hand to share information about their programs.



On Thursday May 4th Teen Center Coordinator Ashton Burrell took a dozen Borough teens for a visit with New Jersey Attorney General

Matthew Platkin and encounters with top staff in the different divisions of the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety in Trenton. The students spent five hours learning about the operations of the department, made numerous networking contacts, and learned about internship opportunities. They also got to see the rooftop helipad where the Governor's helicopter arrives for visits, which was pretty neat.

Ashton is planning another visit for Borough teens to the New Jersey



# NEWS

from  
Main Street  
Highland Park

### FARMERS MARKET

Join us downtown at Market Square next to 212 Raritan Avenue for our weekly Farmers Market every Friday from 11:00 am - 5:30 pm, from April 7 - December 22. For more info, see: <https://www.mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket>

### OUTDOOR MOVIES

Free outdoor movies all summer long at Market Square next to 212 Raritan Avenue! View the schedule here: <https://www.mainstreethp.org/outdoormovies>

### ARTS IN THE PARK

Save the date for Highland Park's biggest event of the year, our annual downtown arts street festival and juried art show. Sunday September 10, 11:30-4:30. Go here for info and vendor registration forms: <https://www.mainstreethp.org/artsinthepark>. Check out [mainstreethp.org](https://www.mainstreethp.org) for details, or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/mainstreethp](https://facebook.com/mainstreethp), or on Instagram at [instagram.com/mainstreethp](https://instagram.com/mainstreethp).

Department of Law and Public Safety in Trenton and invites inquiries from interested teens (or their parents). He can be contacted at [aburrell@hpboro.com](mailto:aburrell@hpboro.com)

### Woodbridge Ave Neighborhood Preservation Program

The Woodbridge Avenue Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) is moving full steam ahead to improve the Woodbridge Avenue commercial corridor and the adjacent neighborhood from So. 6th - Edison. The NPP program is coordinated by a Borough staff person who is advised by a dedicated volunteer committee of Woodbridge Avenue residents and business representatives.

NPP launched its Commercial Facade Grant Program in February to provide grants of up to \$10,000 to business and property owners along Woodbridge Avenue for facade rehabilitation, ADA upgrades, and technical support. Siding, painting, new windows & doors, signage, porch renovations, etc. are all eligible improvements covered by this grant opportunity. Business and property owners interested in taking advantage of this funding can contact [evonthun@hpboro.com](mailto:evonthun@hpboro.com) for more information.

Other projects that are currently in the works or on the priority list for 2023 include improving Molimock-Graff Park (between Karsey and Hilton Streets), conducting a Parking Study on Woodbridge Avenue, and installing more public art to brighten up the district.