



September 2023

# QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park



## GREETING FROM THE MAYOR

I'm happy to share good news in town.

As the *Home News Tribune* newspaper reported on August 10th, the owners of the property that previously had the Stop & Shop Grocery Store are in negotiations with a reputable supermarket tenant. They are discussing a variety of topics and, if a deal is made, the Borough is ready to help. Please keep in mind that an agreement is not a 'done deal.' But we are hopeful.

I've also learned from the new owners of Highland Pizza that they are determined to bring the popular restaurant back to town, in the same location. They are putting in a lot of work to totally revamp the interior of the restaurant to make it more inviting to customers.

And we've seen expanded service options at a few of our other food service businesses, such as Park Deli, Ellinikon Grocery store & cafe (at a new location, on Raritan Ave.), and Pithari restaurant.

Let me close with a request. The Borough is pleased to have a shared services agreement with the Township of Edison, for animal control and their pet shelter. This saves us money and brings us expertise when needed. Recently Mayor Sam Joshi of Edison informed me that the shelter has taken in a record number of pregnant dogs and cats. If you're looking to adopt a new furry companion, please consider adoption from our local shelter.

Wishing you a fall season filled with family, favorite foods, and fond memories,  
~ Elsie



## UPDATES from the BOROUGH COUNCIL



### Shared Services for 9-1-1 Dispatching Services:

Borough Council authorized a shared services agreement with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, to provide emergency communications and radio dispatching services for 9-1-1 emergency calls. This agreement will be effective as of January 2024 and there will be no disruption to emergency

services. A shared services agreement with Rutgers will leverage their network's infrastructure and provide cost savings for the Borough.

### Upgrades to the Felton Street Tot Lot:

Borough Council authorized a contract with Ben Shaffer Recreation for upgrades to the Felton Avenue Tot Lot. Improvements include replacement of the playground area with equipment appropriate to 2 to 5 year olds as well as a new poured playground surface to improve accessibility and help with maintenance. Following the installation of the playground, the Borough will finish out the project with new landscaping, including a small patio, benches, picnic tables and shade trees. Due to ongoing supply chain issues, the vendor expects work to commence in Spring 2024.

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

## Department of Aging

**Lunch with Friends**, Kosher Meal Program at the HP Community Center with JFS of Middlesex County. Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. Ordering Deadline is the Friday morning "before" for Monday's Lunch and the Monday morning "before" Wednesday's Lunch.

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

**Breakfast with Friends**, Kosher Breakfast Program at the HP Community Center with JFS of Middlesex County.

Friday 9:00 – 11:00 am.

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

**Fall Luncheon** – Tuesday, September 19th, 12:00pm. Featuring lunch, dancing with entertainment provided by Spook Handy. Lunch will be catered by Tastee Subs. Kosher option is available upon request.

**Flu Clinic open** to all Highland Park residents. **Tuesday, October 10th**, 10:00 – 11:00 am at the Highland Park Community Center. Please call (732) 819- 0052 for more details.

**October Luncheon** - Tuesday, October 24th 12:00pm. Enjoy a Mind Reading Game Show presented by Flavian. Zia Lisa will cater lunch. Kosher option is available upon request.

**Thanksgiving Luncheon** - Tuesday, November 20th at 12:00pm. Enjoy Turkey and all the trimmings. Musical Entertainment provided by Jerry Castaldo.

**Holiday Luncheon** - Tuesday, December 12th at 12:00pm. Lunch will take place at Pithari Taverna.



- **Fall Concerts at PNC Bank Arts Center** - September 12th & September 26th
- **Senior Health and Fitness Walk** presented by Middlesex County–Roosevelt Park in Edison on September 20th

## Community Services Outreach and Assistance/Reminders:

You can meet with our Social Worker, Nicole Huff, by calling (732) 712-2025 or email [nhuff@hpboro.com](mailto:nhuff@hpboro.com) to schedule an appointment.

Distributions from the Highland Park Community Food Pantry are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 9:00 – 10:45 am and 6:00 – 7:00 pm, and on Saturdays from 9:30 – 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 reach out to (732) 819-0052 for assistance.

## News from the Woodbridge Ave Neighborhood Preservation Program

Earlier this summer, the Woodbridge Avenue Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) Stakeholder Team hosted an informal open house at Molimock-Graff Park to discuss future plans for renovations to the park with neighbors. The Mayor, members of Borough Council, and members of the NPP Stakeholder Team stopped by to hear residents' ideas and concerns about the park. Look for an online survey being launched in mid-September.

On the commercial front, more than ten businesses have applied for facade grants to improve the curb appeal of their businesses. Each business or property along Woodbridge Avenue is eligible for up to \$10,000 in grant funding, the first \$5,000 of which requires no cash match. An additional six businesses are working with independent consultant Storefront Mastery on various improvements that can be made to improve the customer experience. These consultations with Storefront Mastery are being offered at no cost to business owners and are funded through technical assistance grants from NPP.



Before



After

## at the Highland Park Public Library



Highland Park Public  
Library



This coming fall season there will be a lot of change happening at the Highland Park Public Library. They fully transitioned to their temporary space at 901 Raritan Avenue for the next few months and they are deep in the transformation of their permanent home at 31 North 5th Avenue. From reimaged teen and childrens areas to a new check out desk to enhanced technology throughout the building, we hope you will join them in their transformed space this winter.

### Highland Park Recreation

It's Fall, y'all! The Highland Park Department of Recreation is excited about the upcoming sweater weather and all our Fall programming! Soccer, Flag Football, Wrestling, Basketball, Dance and Theatre will be keeping all our youth participants very busy! We're also welcoming the return of adult fitness and pick-up sports. Keep an eye out for the new addition of Pickleball coming soon!

As we say goodbye to summer, we want to congratulate our amazing summer camp staff on delivering the very best summer ever to our campers. We're already counting the days until next year! Hopefully all the

But for now you can visit the Highland Park Public Library at 901 Raritan Avenue where you can check out books from their boutique collections and use their computers and printing services. You can also catch up with them around town at their various programming partner locations.

**@ The Farmer's Market** - Come check them out on select Fridays throughout the fall.

**@ Pino's** (13 North 4th Ave.) - *CrafterDark* at 6:30pm on the second Monday of every month, where HPPL staff guide participants in creating a unique craft project.

**@ The Pride Center of NJ** (85 Raritan Ave., Suite 100) - *Rainbow Reads Book Group* - Monday October 2 at 7pm. Join them for their Book Group to discuss *Confessions of the Fox* by Jordy Rosenberg.

**Trivia Night at Pino's** - Tuesday November 28th at 8:00 Join HPPL staff as they take over Pino's popular Trivia Night with a literature/library themed trivia contest.

Check their website, [www.hpplnj.org](http://www.hpplnj.org) for more information on upcoming programs.

great memories from Summer Camp 2023 can hold us over until then!



## NEWS from the Highland Park Fire Department



This Oct 29th the Highland Park Fire Department will be participating in a live burn at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The drill will simulate a residential house on fire with victims trapped inside. This is the perfect way for them to sharpen their skills and try different ways to combat fires while practicing safety at the scene.

The Highland Park Fire Department is always accepting applications for Volunteer Firefighters. They can never have enough. If you want to join & help them make a difference or have any questions please call (732) 572-4323.

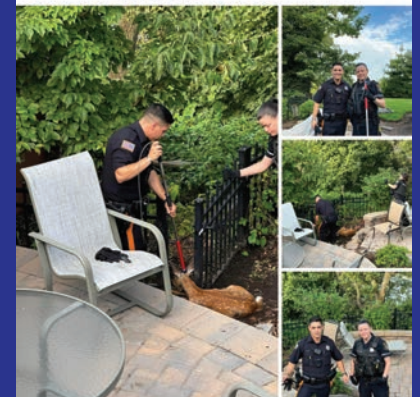
## NEWS from the Highland Park Police Department



Avi Maza is with Harry Glazer and Lauren Maza in Highland Park.

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Big shout out to our own Highland Park Police officers Giles and Laraj who came to the rescue in the early hours to save and free two baby deer that were caught between the grates of our fence. This was an arduous process, which was done with creativity, patient coaxing and utmost compassion for the trapped babies. Thank you for keeping us safe and stepping up to do all of these unusual tasks for our community 🙌🐇🦌





### 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.

And don't forget these upcoming Farmers Market events:

- Friday October 13 from 3:30-5:30 pm for the Apple Pie Contest
- Friday October 27 from 3:30-5:30 pm for pumpkin painting and spooky Halloween live music from The Mike Noordzy Trio!



### NIGHT OWL MARKETS

Highland Park's holiday arts, crafts, and artisan markets are back in October,

November, and December to help you do all your holiday shopping downtown! Market dates are:

- Saturday October 28, 4-8 pm
- Sunday November 12, 12-4 pm
- Saturday November 25, 4-8 pm
- Sunday November 26, 12-4 pm
- Saturday December 9, 4-8 pm
- Sunday December 10, 12-4 pm

Interested vendors should sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/32swnz57>

### HALLOWEEN ON THE AVENUE

Start your Halloween fun downtown for downtown trick-or-treating at businesses all over the downtown, a jack-o-lantern carving contest, and spooky live music from Mike Noordzy

and Sleaze Geaze under the Welkovits pavilion from 3:00 - 5:30 pm.

### DOWNTOWN TREE LIGHTING



Saturday November 25 at the Night Owl Market, at 7pm, join us to light the downtown tree, sing some songs, and spread holiday cheer!

### DOWNTOWN MENORAH LIGHTING

Join us on the first night of Hanukkah, Thursday December 7, to light our downtown menorah, spin dreidels, and eat sufganiyot from Mordy's!



Check out [mainstreethp.org](http://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).

## NEWS

### from the Teen Center | Zone 6

#### Summer vocational/service course

The Teen Center/Zone 6 offered a multifaceted workshop series for Borough teens, led by Teen Center Coordinator Ashton Burrell and Pastor Wanda Burrell, from July 5th to July 25th. The classes ran from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm every weekday and the instructors worked with the students on social justice or community service projects and events, as well as life skills and lessons that they can apply in their lives and the upcoming school year. Each day opened with a moment of reflection and thanksgiving.

The students were able to create resumes as well as network with businesses pertaining to their area of career choices. As an example, two students connected with Cyber Knight technology store to get

internships and more knowledge of their career field in technology. The instructors took the students to the Somerset Patriots stadium in Bridgewater where they met with the team owners and administration. They were personally escorted onto the field to share time there with players and coaches. One student captured interviews with players for their online vlog.



The students got to meet and talk with Mayor Elsie Foster and received career advice as well as information on how their town functions. The instructors helped two students create a financial education program, to help their peers, and were also able to get one student registered to vote. They were also pleased to arrange a visit by the local NAACP president, who came in to spend time with the students.

