



QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park



GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR



If you 'follow' me on social media, or you see when I go to events in town, you'll notice soon enough that one of my favorite things to do as Mayor is to attend the monthly luncheons at the Highland Park Community Center. Community Center staff Kim, Annmarie, Megan, Nicole, Janet, Symone, Joseph, Maria, and Nancy do an **incredible** job of decorating the facility, recruiting talented entertainers, bringing in healthy and tasteful food, and encouraging residents to attend.

Each time I visit the luncheons, I get to talk with dozens (often over 100) residents about their concerns and what's new in Highland Park. These luncheons, for members of the Community Center, are one of the best attended events in town and the ideal opportunity for me to hear from our residents.

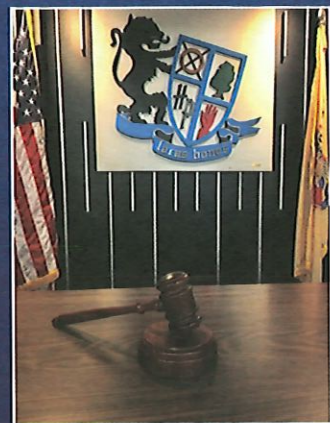
In March, the monthly luncheon will be held on Tuesday March 19th, with entertainment by the Round the House Band. If you'd like more information, to make a reservation, or to join the Community Center, call 732.819.0052.

Another on my list of 'favorite things' is working with our civic partners, to bring more services to our residents. In that spirit, I'm pleased to recognize the efforts of the office of Assemblyman Robert Karabinchak, which worked with my office and the Community Center to bring a NJ Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) Mobile Van to the Community Center's parking lot, Monday March 4th - Friday March 8th. Hours will be 9am - 2pm and the MVC staff will help residents to obtain a REAL-ID or their car registration. Please call the Community Center if you'd like more details.

Wishing you an enjoyable spring,

~ Elsie

UPDATES *from the* BOROUGH COUNCIL



Cooperation Agreements with HP Gives a Hoot and the HP Community Food Pantry: In order to enhance their programming and qualify for a substantial donation from retired Highland Park Police Officer Leonard Kushner's estate, HP Gives a Hoot and the HP Community Food Pantry were incorporated as nonprofit corporations in 2023. The

cooperation agreements between the Borough and these newly established 501(c)3 organizations formalizes our relationship and provides for space for food distribution and other programming in Borough facilities.

Water Meter Replacement Program: Property owners that have not yet had their water meter replaced should contact National Metering Services (NMS) to book their appointment for a meter replacement as soon as possible. NMS has both traditional and 'Sabbath-compliant' water meters available now. NMS can be reached by phone at 1-888-448-0009. This project is a critical component to Highland Park's ongoing efforts to upgrade our aging water infrastructure to ensure the sustainability of the system in the long term. If you have any difficulty making an appointment with NMS, please contact the Borough's Water Department at 732-819-3788. Please visit the Borough's website for more information.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES at the Highland Park Community Center

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 \$70,000 in 2023, you may file for FREE with one of our IRS Certified Volunteers. This service is by appointment only, from now thru March 29th. Please call (732) 819-0052 to make an appointment and for more detailed information. You must have the following information available: 2023 W2, 1099, Photo Identification, Social Security Card and Copy of last year's tax return.



Recreation

HP Recreation invites residents to sign up now for Summer Camp 2024! Registration opened on March 1st and closes on June 4th. Summer camp tracks are: Day Camp – Grades K-5, Leaders in Training – Grades 6-8, Volunteer CITs – Grades 9-10, Sports Camp – Grades 2-8, Musical Theater Camp – Grades 2-9, and Teen Musical Theater Camp – ages 13-19. To register, go to HighlandParkRec.com



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 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.





NJ MVC
New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission

**MOBILE NJ
MVC UNIT
IS COMING TO
HIGHLAND PARK!**

DATE 17 **Date:** March 4 - 8
Time: 9am - 2pm
Location: Community Center
220 South 6th Ave
Highland Park, NJ 08904

Services offered include REAL ID and Registration Renewal appointments!

Questions?
Contact Us!
732-548-1406 or
asmkarabinchak@njleg.org

**REAL ID
APPOINTMENTS** 

**REGISTRATION
APPOINTMENTS** 

at the Highland Park Public Library



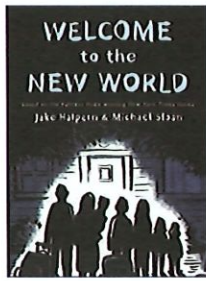
Highland Park Public
Library

Stories of Exile Book Discussion: Welcome to the New World

Monday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor at the Reformed Church of Highland Park (19 S. 2nd Ave., Highland Park).

Join Highland Park Public Library for a discussion of **Welcome to the New World**, by Jake Halpern and Michael Sloan! This is the final discussion in our Stories of Exile series.

After escaping a Syrian prison, Ibrahim Aldabaan and his family fled the country to seek protection in



America. Among the few refugees to receive visas, they finally landed in JFK airport on November 8, 2016, Election Day. Resettled in Connecticut with little English, few friends, and even less money, the family of seven strive to create something like home. *Welcome to the New World* tells the Aldabaans' story.

Adults and teenagers are warmly invited to participate in the discussion! Several copies of the book are available at the library. Place a hold on the book, or borrow

it at HPPL Express (901 Raritan Ave.)! The Yiddish Book Center's "Stories of Exile" Reading Groups for Public Libraries is a reading and discussion program to engage adults in thinking about experiences of displacement, migration, and diaspora. In this program, librarians organize reading groups to discuss three books of Yiddish literature in translation, and one book related to the experience of a community served by their library.

New Social Work Intern



The Borough joins the Highland Park Public Library in welcoming Rutgers University School of Social Work undergraduate student Jennifer Raymondi as a social work intern in the library this semester.

From mid-January to mid-April, Jennifer will be providing assistance by appointment at HPPL Express, located at the corner of North 9th and Raritan Avenues.

Jennifer can help provide information and application assistance for:

- Financial needs
- Food aid (SNAP & food stamps)
- Health insurance
- Education (K-12 and higher education)

And other resources.

Appointments are available Mondays and Thursdays, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. To make an appointment, please call 732-572-2750 ext. 1106, email jraymondi@hpplnj.org, or visit HPPL Express.

Jennifer grew up in Piscataway and graduated from Piscataway High School in June 2020. She looks forward to attending the MSW program in the Rutgers School of Social Work and is interested in the community/policy track.

Please note:

- Assistance will be provided by an undergraduate Rutgers School of Social Work intern under the supervision of the SWILIBS-NJ team OR Rutgers School of Social Work and library supervisors.
- The intern will provide "one-stop" information and referral services. The library social work intern is not a licensed social worker. We do not provide clinical social work services (i.e. therapy and counseling) or case management.

- The library social work services are free of charge and are not limited to Highland Park residents.
- If a private room is not available, assistance may be provided in a public space. Assistance will be provided as discreetly as possible, but confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.
- The information shared with the library social work intern will be kept as private as possible; however, information may be discussed with the SWILIBS-NJ team for supervision purposes.
- The internship is part of the Social Work Informed Library Services in NJ program, a partnership between the Rutgers University of Social Work and the New Jersey State Library.

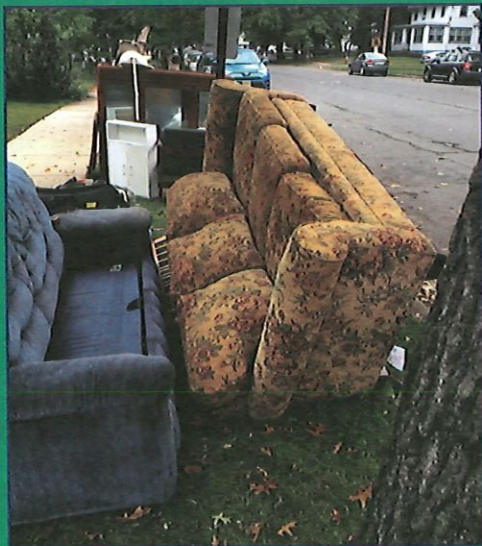
Bulk pick-up by appointment program

The Department of Public Works offers bulk waste collection 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.

The week after the townwide garage sale (Tuesday - September 17th & Thursday - September 19th) there will be a bulk pick-up. No appointment is necessary. Note: Recycling will not be collected during the week of September 16th - September 20th.

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.



Acceptable Items

The following items are examples of acceptable bulk waste and are not collected with the regular garbage collection:

- **Furniture** - sofas, chairs, tables, clothing dressers, bookshelves, mattresses, and box springs.
- **Fixtures** - toilets, tanks, tubs, sink basins
- **Carpet** - rolls under four feet in length, tied securely in bundles not to exceed 18 inches in diameter
- **Home Improvement Materials** - small amounts of material from **self improvement projects only: Contractor generated material will not be accepted.** Material will be accepted with the following limits:
 - Four small bundles of wood, under four feet in length, tied securely in bundles not to exceed 18 inches in diameter, nails removed
 - Two doors
 - Five window frames, with glass removed
 - Bundles of sheet rock or paneling, securely bound or one container of broken sheet rock, with a 50 lb weight limit for bundle or container

Unacceptable Items

DPW does not collect/accept at any time the following:

- Dirt
- Concrete
- Roofing materials
- Hazardous materials
- Automotive parts or scraps

Recycling Reusable Items

Instead of recycling expensive Bulk Pick-up, civic-minded donors are providing goods to individuals, organizations and businesses and diverting trash to reuse, thereby cutting municipal expenses and extending the life of local landfills. If you have Reuseable Items to donate, please check the Middlesex County Reuse-It book; a guide to area locations where Middlesex County residents can donate their unwanted goods for reuse.

Recycling information at your fingertips!

Download the FREE **Recycle Coach™** app

I'm from Highland Park, NJ
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Shoutout to DPW workers today. I was outside shoveling my sidewalk when they came around to collect the recyclables. One of them takes my shovel and proceeds to shovel very quickly and efficiently part of my sidewalk while his partner was picking up the recyclables at the next stop.

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