



June 2024

QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park



GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR

When I spoke at the Meet the Mayors forum last month, sponsored by the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce, one of the first things I mentioned about Highland Park is our strong community spirit. I highlight that spirit in the slogan I use for the Borough - "A small town with a huge heart."

You can see this community spirit on display at events throughout the year - at our flag raisings, our Community Center's monthly luncheons, Main Street Highland Park's spring street fair and autumn in the park fair, Sustainable Highland Park's Earth Day Fest, the HPPD's annual National Night Out, and on many other occasions.

In the summer months, this spirit will shine brightly in two major activities.

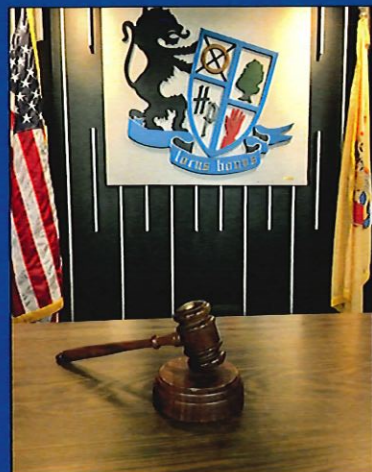
On Wednesday July 3rd we will gather in Donaldson Park, as we do every year, for Fireworks in the Park. The event runs 6:00 - 10:00 pm, with music, food trucks, fireworks at 9:15 pm, and much more. I hope to see you there.

On Thursdays in July and August we'll be holding four (4) free outdoor concerts in Grove 1 at Donaldson Park. On July 18th the concert will feature the Mike Montrey Band (Americana); on July 25th we welcome to the stage Billy (Rock, Punk Bluegrass); on August 15th we'll enjoy the sounds of The Strazzacasters (Rock & Roll, Pop Rock, Instrumental Guitar); and on August 29th we'll dance along to the music of Cliff Westfall (Electrified Honky Tonk). I hope to see you singing and/or dancing along at one or more of these concerts.

All these summer events are coordinated by our Department of Community Services. For more information, please call them at (732) 819-0052.

Wishing you an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

Elsie



UPDATE *from the* BOROUGH COUNCIL

Safe Routes to Schools Public Information Center on June 17th

The Borough will hold a Public Information Center (PIC) on Monday, June 17th for local stakeholders to provide input on the proposed intersection safety improvements being designed for Phase I and Phase II of the Borough's Safe Routes to School projects. The meeting will be in Borough Hall in Council Chambers from 6 PM to 8 PM. The meeting will be in an open house format, so please come at a time convenient for you. You will have an opportunity to review exhibits, ask questions and discuss any concerns with Borough representatives and members of the consulting team from NV₅.

News from the Community Center



Department of Aging

The Department of Aging invites residents to the Senior Prom- "Dancing Under the Stars" - Tuesday, June 18th, 4:00 to 7:00 pm. The event will feature dinner, dancing, entertainment, and voting for our 2024 Prom King and Queen. Dinner will be catered by Zia Lisa Restaurant. Kosher option is available upon request.

Save the Dates:

- Summer Atlantic City Trips - TBA
- Fireworks in the Park - Wednesday July 3rd, 6:00 - 10:00 pm
- Parkstock free outdoor summer concerts in Donaldson Park - July 18th, July 25th, August 15th, and August 29th, all 6:00 - 8:00 pm



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

We post virtual offerings, workshops, and resources available on our Facebook page. Please stay tuned as we post additional programming for the spring and information pertaining to in person programming.

Community Services Outreach and Assistance/Reminders:

Meet with our Social Worker, Nicole Huff, by calling (732) 819-0052 or email 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 - 7:00 pm, and on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, from 9:30 am - 10:30 am. 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 Highland Park Public Library



Adventure Begins at Your Library this summer! Join us for Summer Reading Clubs of all ages in July and August.

- Enjoy **Trivia?** Play at our **Adventure** themed trivia night at Pino's on Tuesday, July 26th at 8pm.
- July 29th will bring the crafters out to Pino's for **Crafterdark** at 6:30pm to transform t-shirts. We will provide shirts, but you're welcome to bring your own too!.
- **Books and Brews** is continuing at Pino's this summer with two discussions on your favorite books at 7pm on June 24th and August 12th. Themes to be announced shortly.

The library is continuing its renovation journey this summer with two additional projects. Our meeting room and public restrooms are getting complete makeovers, and a new outdoor porch will be added near our N. 6th Avenue entrance. These improvements are being funded by a generous donation from the Kushner Legacy Project. In addition, the replacement of the library's flat roof is expected to begin afterwards. Finally, the remaining interior renovations, which were financed by the New Jersey State Library and the Borough of Highland Park, are getting their finishing touches. We thank the residents of Highland Park for their patience and support as the library undergoes this transformation.

LMxAC, our library consortium, is changing their name to STELLA this summer. Along with the name change, STELLA is also providing the library with a new and improved computer system named VEGA. In June, you will start to see changes to the look and usability of our library app and library catalog.

News from the Highland Park Fire Department



In February the Highland Park Fire Department received a most generous donation from the Kushner Legacy Project, to fund the acquisition of a new 2024 Emergency One 2000 GPM Typhoon Pumper fire engine. On March 9th members of the Fire Dept's career staff received training on this apparatus led by a representative from Absolute Fire Protection. And on May 7th members of the career staff put this engine in service. "We absolutely love it & we know the residents of the borough will love it too," stated career firefighter Norm Shamy. The Fire Department last received a new pumper in 2004.

News from the Highland Park Police Department



On May 23rd, Highland Park Police Chief Rick Abrams announced: "It gives me great pleasure to announce that Det. Gaetano Palumbo will be promoted to the rank of Sergeant of the Highland Park Police Department, effective July 1, 2024, and will be joining the Patrol Division as a midnight supervisor. The qualifications, commitment, and level of dedication displayed by all involved made this a difficult decision, and I would like to thank the officers that participated in every phase of the promotional process for their time and effort. All of the candidates did an outstanding job representing themselves and this agency and I am proud of all of them."

We wish Det. Palumbo best of luck on the next phase of his career. Details on a promotion ceremony will be forthcoming.

What's Happening on Main Street

Farmers Market, every Friday, 11 am - 5 pm.

Join us downtown every Friday for Highland Park's renowned Farmers Market! With over three dozen vendors, our market has Jersey fresh produce, plants, mushrooms, pickles, fresh seafood, nuts, sauces, crafts, pet treats, food trucks, live music, monthly festivals and celebrations, local businesses and nonprofits, and more! Don't miss our weekly downtown party, on the Borough Square lot next to 212 Raritan Avenue.

mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket

Outdoor Movie Theater, Saturday nights, May-September.

Approximately every other Saturday night, get your chair and your takeout from a Highland Park restaurant and watch free outdoor movies under the downtown stars!

mainstreethp.org/outdoormovies

Save the date for our **Arts in the Park street festival on Sunday September 8th**, and our **Townwide Garage Sale on Saturday September 14th & Sunday September 15th**.

Check mainstreethp.org for updates and registration information!

Are you feeling out of the loop on local news?

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