

# The Highland Park eNews

March 16, 2015

[www.hpboro.com](http://www.hpboro.com)

221 S. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, 08904

732-572-3400

## Events & Meetings

### Monday, March 16

Only in America – Scenes from a Play  
7:00 pm, Public Library

### Tuesday, March 17

International Film Series – Le Chef  
6:30 pm, Public Library

### Tuesday, March 17

Council Committee  
7:00 pm, Borough Hall

### Tuesday, March 17

Friends of the Library  
7:00 pm, Public Library

### Wednesday, March 18

Human Relations Commission  
7:00 pm, Senior/Youth Center

### Saturday, March 21

Poetry Writing Workshop with Jim Haba  
1:00 pm, Public Library

### Monday, March 23

Library Board  
7:30 pm, Public Library

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Zoning Board  
7:30 pm, Borough Hall

### Tuesday, March 24

Friends of the Library Poetry Night Series  
7:30 pm, Public Library

### Wednesday, March 25

Public Information Committee  
6:30 pm, Senior/Youth Center

### Wednesday, March 25

Sustainable Highland Park  
7:30 pm, Environmental Education Center

### Tuesday, March 31

Community Blood Drive  
7:00 pm, Public Library

### Wednesday, April 1

Environmental Commission  
8:00 pm, Environmental Education Center

### Thursday, April 2

Commission for Universal Access  
7:30 pm, Borough Hall

### Friday, April 3

**Good Friday - Borough Offices Closed**

## Memo from Mayor Brill Mittler



**Volunteer Appreciation Event** – Highland Park is well-known for it's committed, involved residents. These volunteers help our community grow and make it the wonderful place it is. In appreciation of all our volunteers' efforts, we are having a special celebration. Please join us in honoring all of them at our Volunteer Appreciation Event, Wednesday, April 15 at 7pm, in the Senior/Youth Center, 220 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Thank you to our Department of Public Works** – This was a long winter for everybody, and it's nice to finally see some grass again! This winter was particularly busy for our hard-working DPW crew. Their shifts often begin while the moon is still up in the sky and the rest of us are still fast asleep. Not only are they busy with garbage pickups and recycling, but this past winter we saw more snow storms than usual. Plus, of course, the requisite winter water main breaks added to their time on the streets of Highland Park on our behalves. No one can be perfect, but our DPW team did a terrific job staying on top of every situation.

**Habitat for Humanity House** – Our first Habitat House in Highland Park is off to a great start! Nearly 35 people attended the meetings and registered for consideration to receive the home. Groundbreaking for construction is scheduled for April, and we encourage residents to volunteer their time and skills to help build the house.

**Highland Park Annual Street Fair and 5K** – Now that spring is in the air, Main Street is in full gear preparing for our annual Street Fair and 5K. The events will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Don't forget to register for the 5K and come out for activities, booths, food and fun throughout the day! Contact the folks at Main Street Highland Park for more details at 732-828-8444 or visit their website at <http://www.mainstreethp.org/>

**Wednesday Walks and Workouts with the Mayor** – Over the winter we moved our walks indoors and offered residents a free "Anti-gravity Stretch Class" at Kinetics on Raritan Avenue. Many thanks to Kinetics Fitness for the use of their facilities during the winter and for Metra Lundy who led the classes. Those of you who participated in these classes had a real treat! As part of our emphasis on health and well-being, our Wednesday Walks with the Mayor are resuming on Wednesday mornings, 6:30 am beginning in April 8<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information for the meet-up location on our website, Facebook and Twitter.

**Welcome New Restaurant** – I am thrilled to welcome our latest ethnic restaurant – El Sol – featuring Mexican cuisine! El Sol in the former location of Sunrise Diner, 304 Raritan Avenue. The menu is extensive PLUS there's a whole page of vegetarian options! We are happy to add authentic Mexican to our list of ethnic restaurants, and wish them much success.

**Questions? Feedback? We want to hear from you!**

Let us know what you think by writing to [communications@hpboro.com](mailto:communications@hpboro.com).

## Highland Marks

Highland Park native Dahlia Moyal has always enjoyed exercise and working out, but she never expected to be a power lifting champion. Moyal, a fitness instructor in the Israel Defense Force who trains soldiers in Maglan (the Special Forces), recently won her first major weightlifting championship by squatting an incredible 265 pounds! Moyal is a graduate of Highland Park High School, and her parents and grandparents still live in Highland Park. Moyal's power lifting career began at a local gym while visiting her parents. A trainer told her that her bench-press skills were competitive for women in her weight group, and encouraged her to compete. Now she competes and helps write strength-training workouts on her base.

*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](mailto:communications@hpboro.com)*

## Commuters Survey

Do you work in New Brunswick or do you catch a bus or train from New Brunswick to get to work? The Borough of Highland Park would like to hear from you about your daily commuting habits!

One of many things that makes Highland Park an attractive destination for residents is its proximity to job centers like Rutgers and Johnson & Johnson, as well as its easy access to mass transit.

In Highland Park, we are constantly trying to find new opportunities to leverage our existing transit assets in order to make our downtown more desirable and more accessible for commuters coming in and out of the area. Ultimately, we are looking for opportunities that will make our town more economically sustainable.

Part of that effort is to continually survey the public, as well as to work closely with our partners at Rutgers to examine our town's demographics and traffic patterns.

We ask that you take just a few moments to complete this survey in order to present Highland Park with new opportunities in the name of a more sustainable Highland Park. If you have already taken the survey, we ask that you please take it again here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2697NF2>.

## Highland Park Board of Education (Budget Planning Dates)

- March 23 – Discussion of the School Budget
- April 20 – Formal Budget Hearing and Adoption of Final Budget

For additional information, please contact the HP Board of Education at 732-572-4100 or visit the school website at <http://www.hpschools.net/>

## 2015 Spirit of a Hero Scholarship

New Jersey Heroes is offering a \$5,000 scholarship for NJ high school seniors to use towards their post-secondary education. The scholarship is for students who demonstrate a commitment to volunteerism and community contribution. Applications are due March 20th. To apply, visit <https://newjerseyheroes.org/index/2015-spirit-of-a-hero-scholarship-application-form>.

## What's With All the Water Main Breaks?

Water companies throughout New Jersey are seeing an increase in water main breaks, something Highland Park has fallen victim to numerous times. The reason for these continuous issues is a combination of old cast iron pipes, including pipes that may be more than 100 years old, combined with freezing weather conditions. When the cold weather hits, water mains expand and contract, causing these breaks.

This winter NJ American Water crews have repaired nearly 550 mains throughout the state – a 5% increase over the same period last year, and Middlesex Water has experienced a high volume of calls about frozen pipes and meters.

Water companies are addressing the problems with old pipes, but the aging underground infrastructure remains a problem. Throughout the country, 30% of water pipes and systems are between 40 and 80 years old, according to the EPA, and about 10% of those are older.

Highland Park works continuously to improve our infrastructure, working closely with water companies to make necessary upgrades and repair or replace problem areas.

## The Main Street Minute

**Sign Up for the Highland Park 5k & Kids Races Today!**  
**Sunday May 3, 2015, 9:00 am**

The Highland Park 5k race is back for its seventh year! Come take a run around Highland Park, all for great causes. Race proceeds to benefit the Borough of Highland Park Police, Fire, First Aid, and Recreation departments; the Highland Park Public Library; and Main Street Highland Park. Online registration, plus a map of our new course, can be found here: <http://runinthepark.org/>. Visit the Main Street website to check out sponsorship opportunities.

**Save the Date for the Spring Street Fair**  
**Sunday May 3, 2015, 11:30 am – 4:30 pm**

The Annual Highland Park Spring Street Fair is one of Highland Park's signature events, and features something for everyone. It has crafters, vendors, artists, music, food, games, pony rides, a petting zoo, and inflatable rides. Admission is free! Vendor applications can be found at [www.mainstreethp.org](http://www.mainstreethp.org). Vendor fees have been reduced for Highland Park businesses this year! Don't miss the chance to be part of the fun.

**Downtown Planting Days**  
**Thursday May 14, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm; Saturday May 16, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Main Street Highland Park's annual Downtown Planting Days are back for two more fun-filled days of downtown beautification!

Every May, Main Street Highland Park organizes and sponsors planting days along Raritan and Woodbridge Avenues where volunteers come out to fill over 150 downtown planters with beautiful plants and flowers supplied by Main Street.

Come to the Main Street Highland Park offices on either day to pick up your plants, your planter assignment, and get your free Planting Day t-shirt while supplies last!

Does your business want to sponsor this great event? Contact us at [rebecca@mainstreethp.org](mailto:rebecca@mainstreethp.org) for more information on sponsorship opportunities!

**Learn more about these events and more at [www.mainstreethp.org](http://www.mainstreethp.org) or [www.facebook.com/MainStreetHP](https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetHP)**

**NOW HIRING: Maintenance Manager**  
**Fax Resume to the HP Housing Authority at (732) 726-0321**