



September 2024

QUARTERLY

A Publication of the Borough of Highland Park

GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR



As we look towards the Fall, I'm encouraged by all the signs of renewal in our business district.

I'm most excited by the long awaited opening of our SuperFresh supermarket. Anticipated for Friday September 20th, the store's opening will be accompanied by a weekend of activities and serious discounts at the store. Please look out for announcements from the store and the borough, for more information on the store opening.

I visited the store in August, as it was preparing to open, and spoke with the top managers, John and Christine, and store manager Luis Lopez. I learned that the store intends to employ 60-70 people and is accepting applications in person, at the store. Residents are welcome to send feedback to the store, via their website at superfreshmarket.com. (Yes, we know that the Highland Park location is not yet listed in the 'Our Stores' pulldown menu. This will be updated very shortly).

I'm also eager to see the reopening of two well regarded restaurants in town - China Lee and Dee Dees (formerly Highland Pizza) - both anticipated in September. And I'm pleased to welcome two new businesses to town - a new barbershop, Slick, on the corner of Raritan Ave. and N. 7th Ave, and a new cannabis shop, Main Street Dispensary, on Raritan between 3rd and 4th Avenues.

There are many promising developments in our downtown. I hope you will join me in celebrating them all.

Wishing you an enjoyable fall.
Elsie



UPDATE *from the* BOROUGH COUNCIL

Capital Ordinance for Roadway Improvements - An ordinance authorizing funding for capital improvements to Highland Avenue, Graham Street (from So. 4th to So. 5th Avenue), and So. 8th Avenue (from Benner Street to Woodbridge Avenue) was introduced at the Mayor and Council meeting on August 13th and a public hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, September 3rd at 7 PM. Road work on Highland Avenue will be re-evaluated in light of the recent work performed by PSE&G related to its ongoing gas main replacement program. The Borough received a grant for \$550,000 from the NJDOT Local Transportation Projects Fund for these improvements.

Request for Proposals for Design Professionals for So. 3rd Avenue Plaza - The Borough Council passed a resolution on August 13th authorizing the Borough Administrator to issue a request for proposals for planning, landscape architecture, and engineering services, for the creation of a pedestrian plaza on South 3rd Avenue. The Borough has been awarded a Fiscal Year 2025 Grant Appropriation from the State of New Jersey for \$1,000,000 in order to design and build a public plaza.





News from the Community Center

Department of Aging

Save the Dates:

- Atlantic City Trip – September 30, 2024
- Fall Concerts at the PNC Bank Arts Center
- Senior Health and Fitness-Walk presented by Middlesex County– Roosevelt Park in Edison on September 25th
- Flu Clinic - Wednesday, October 9th
10:00 am – 11:00 am at the Highland Park Community Center.
Please call (732) 819-0052 for more details.



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 fall.

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.

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 reach out to (732) 819-0052 for assistance.

Highland Park Recreation



All for one and one for Fall! HP Recreation is all fired up to welcome back our Youth Soccer and NFL Flag Football leagues that kick off mid-September. Our Highland Park Youth Theatre Company will be hard at work on their production of Disney's Beauty & the Beast Jr. and hundreds of community members will be engaged in programs like recreation dance classes, chess, table tennis, wrestling, cross country, youth basketball clinics and adult fitness & sports. Don't forget to save the date for our Annual Halloween Parade & Festival on Sunday, October 27th... It's going to be a really gourd time!

News from the Highland Park Public Library



Spooky Happenings This Fall at the Library

901 Raritan Avenue / 31 North 5th Avenue and our partners .

Monday, October 7th and **Saturday, December 7th** sees the return of Rainbow Reads back at the Pride Center at 85 Raritan Avenue, Suite 100 at **7pm**. See our events calendar for topic or book information.

Check our website the **week before Halloween** for a special Halloween-inspired craft program for teens and adults.

Tuesday, October 29th from **8pm-10pm**: get ready to have a scary good time at Pino's Trivia Night. Our theme will be announced the day of the event on the library's Instagram and Pino's Facebook page.

Monday, November 11th and **Monday, December 9th** at **7pm**: Books & Brews will be back at our home at 31 North 5th Avenue. Check our events calendar for themes.

Monday, November 18th & **Monday, December 16th** at **7pm**: join us for a winter holiday-themed CrafterDark.



For more up-to-date information on our grand opening celebrations and all other events, please see our website www.hpplnj.org

News about Redevelopment in Highland Park



At their meeting on July 16th, The Borough Council approved a resolution authorizing the Planning Board to undertake an investigation to determine if specific properties on the corner of So. 2nd and Raritan Avenues, commonly referred to as Sunoco, B-B-B shopping center, and Tract B, meet the criteria for an area in need of redevelopment with condemnation, pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law. The Borough Council passed another resolution authorizing the Planning Board to undertake an area in need of redevelopment with condemnation study for 125 Raritan Avenue, also known as Classic Cleaners, which is located in the Tract A within the 2019 Downtown Redevelopment Plan for Tracts A-D. The Borough Planner, LRK, Inc., was authorized to conduct the studies.

Are you feeling out of the loop on local news?

SIGN UP FOR NIXLE ALERTS AT HPBORO.COM

HIGHLAND PARK

SMS, Text & Email Options Available

I'm from Highland Park, NJ
Diane Wasserman Feldman · 3h · 📍

In early April, I reported to the town that the sidewalk along South First Avenue, next to Park Deli, was dangerous and inaccessible. Scott Brescher (Director of Code Enforcement) worked with the landlord and look what I saw today.
Good job by all to keep us safe.

👍👍 Scott Brescher and 60 others · 8 comments

👍 Like 🗨 Comment 📩 Send ➦ Share

What's Happening on Main Street

* **Townwide Garage Sale, September 14 & 15, 9 am - 6 pm.** Don't miss the annual townwide garage sale, where Highland Park residents and businesses sell their stuff on their sidewalks and stoops, and others come to scoop up all the great bargains! People will be selling all over town as well as at the downtown Market Square lot (at the Welkowitz Pavilion next to 212 Raritan Avenue).

Learn more here: [facebook.com/share/Ewe97aNoUBCW4duA/](https://www.facebook.com/share/Ewe97aNoUBCW4duA/)

* **Garage Bands at the Garage Sale, September 14, 1 pm - 6 pm.** On the Saturday of the Garage Sale (rain date is Sunday), we'll also be hosting Garage Bands at the Garage Sale from 1 pm - 6 pm at the downtown Market Square lot (at the Welkowitz Pavilion next to 212 Raritan Avenue. Shop 'till you drop...and then rock 'till you drop. We've got: QUIZ SHOW (Montclair), THE DRACU-LAS (Jersey City/Brooklyn), PAUL CRANE & THE OVEREND WATTS (W. Orange), THE MAKE THREE (Highland Park). Learn more here: [facebook.com/share/8XGT1Pfbx1V8foVT/](https://www.facebook.com/share/8XGT1Pfbx1V8foVT/)

* **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! We've got THREE more movies this season:

-- September 14: Vansploitation double feature: "Vannin'" and "The Van" with a Q&A with Jason Coffman

-- September 21: "Get Lamp: The Text Adventure Documentary" with Q&A with Director Jason Scott

-- September 28 "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"

Click here to learn more: [facebook.com/HighlandParkOutdoorMovieTheater](https://www.facebook.com/HighlandParkOutdoorMovieTheater)

* **Window Art Show & Window Art Walk, Sunday September 22, 3 pm - 6 pm.**

Main Street Highland Park, the Highland Park Art Collective, and the Highland Park Arts Commission have teamed up to bring you the artwork of local artists in Highland Park storefronts for the 9th year in a row! The Annual Window Art Show pairs local artists with local shop owners to showcase the artists' artwork and downtown businesses. Artwork is on display in September and October. The artist-led walking tour of the artwork is Sunday September 22; it starts at 3pm at Garden Party (60 Raritan Ave), and ends around 5:30 at Pino's (13 North 4th Ave). Walking tour participants will get a drink ticket and food at the end of the walk! Click here to

learn more: [facebook.com/share/5RD93QUaRueBFtoq/](https://www.facebook.com/share/5RD93QUaRueBFtoq/)

* **Halloween on the Avenue: Thursday October 31, 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm.** Join us in Highland Park for another year of Halloween fun! Featuring pumpkin painting, downtown trick-or-treating, free tote bags stuffed with treats and local business coupons, a jack-o-lantern contest, live music, and and more! Keep checking

[mainstreethp.org](https://www.mainstreethp.org) for more details.



* **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! Upcoming fun includes a pumpkin carving contest and a gingerbread house contest. Don't miss our weekly downtown party, on the Borough Square lot next to 212 Raritan Avenue. [mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket](https://www.mainstreethp.org/farmersmarket)

* **Owl Markets, November & December:** Join us in downtown Highland Park for our outdoor markets featuring local artists, artisans, and crafters! #ShopSmall and do all your holiday shopping downtown. Join us in the public square by the pavilion next to 212 Raritan Ave.