

The Highland Park eNews

November 16, 2015 www.hpboro.com 221 S. Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, NJ, 08904 732-572-3400

Events & Meetings

Tuesday, November 17

International Film Festival Farewell Party
6:30 pm, Public Library

Wednesday, November 18

Public Information Committee
6:00 pm, Senior/Youth Center

Wednesday, November 18

Sustainable Highland Park
7:30 pm, Environmental Education Ctr.

Monday, November 23

Recreation Advisory Committee
7:30 pm, Borough Hall

Monday, November 23

Library Board
7:30 pm, Public Library

Monday, November 23

Zoning Board of Adjustment
7:30 pm, Borough Hall

Tuesday, November 24

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

Wednesday, November 25

Wednesday Walk With The Mayor
7:00 am, South Adelaide & Raritan Ave

Thursday/Friday, November 26 - 27

Thanksgiving Holiday
Borough Offices Closed

Saturday, November 28

Lights Up The Nights in Downtown – Christmas Tree
6:00 – 8:00 pm, 212 Raritan Ave (Outdoors)

Tuesday, December 1

Films from the 1980's *Ordinary People*
6:30 pm, Public Library

Tuesday, December 1

Council Meeting
7:00 pm, Borough Hall

Wednesday, December 2

Community Food Pantry
7:00 pm, Senior/Youth Center

Wednesday, December 2

Environmental Commission
8:00 pm, Environmental Education Ctr.

Thursday, December 3

Commission for Universal Access
7:30 pm, Borough Hall

Thursday, December 3

Redevelopment Agency
7:30 pm, Borough Hall

Sunday, December 6

Friends of the Library Holiday Concert
2:00 pm, Public Library

Sunday, December 6

Light Up the Nights in Downtown – Menorah
6:00 – 8:00 pm, 212 Raritan Ave (Outdoors)

All meetings are subject to change, please check the Borough's website at www.hpboro.com for updates

Memo from Councilman Josh Fine



In 2015, as Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, I had the great opportunity to work with volunteers who are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our wonderful Borough.

After 8 years as chair of the Highland Park Community Food Pantry (HPCFP), Beth Leech, who enabled the HPCFP to flourish as demand grew, passed the baton to Janice Ballou, who along with the HPCFP Board established a new organizational structure that is successfully providing nearly 10,000 bags of food to more than 300 families each year. Distributions at the Highland Park Senior/Youth Center occur on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month 9-10:45 a.m. and 6-7 a.m. and Saturdays the same weeks 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The Highland Park Board of Health and its Chair Diane Heimlich helped introduce an ordinance banning sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices to people under 21, which was adopted by the Council this past April. The Council amended the Borough Code so that the Board of Health now has a liaison from the Board of Education. The Board of Health also passed resolutions recommending that students get more sleep and recommended a school start time of no earlier than 8:30 a.m., and a resolution recommending a school policy that would require at least 225 minutes of physical activity per week.

The Human Relations Commission, under the leadership of its Chair Ashton Burrell, sponsored a successful Public Forum with the Highland Park Police Department on October 14th, to enhance communication between Highland Park residents and local law enforcement. The Council amended the Borough Code so that the Commission now has liaisons from the Police Department and the Board of Education. The Commission established an Annual 9/11 Day of Discussion Task Force that will seek ways to honor the heroes and recapture the way America came together after September 11, 2001. The task force will be chaired by Greg Trevor and Allison Salerno, who hope that Highland Park's initiative will inspire a National Day of Discussion leading Americans to seek ways to find common ground across political, religious and cultural divides. To participate in this initiative, please contact Greg Trevor at gtrevor1964@gmail.com.

The Commission for Universal Access and its Chair Diane Feldman worked with its liaison from the Board of Ed Catherine Bull to have a necessary light installed near the Bartle School. The Commission passed a resolution recommending that the Council adopt a resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and recommitting to full implementation of the ADA, which the Council did. In recognition of the 25th Anniversary of the ADA, the Commission sponsored an hour of activities with the Police Department at National Night Out this past August.

The Library Board of Trustees and its Chair, Marc Mappen, continue to work to ensure that the Highland Park Public Library is one of the Borough's greatest resources. Redevelopment of Highland Park's downtown by two conditional redevelopers for parcels along Raritan Avenue between North Adelaide and North Second will hopefully include a new home for the Highland Park Public Library with mezzanine space, on the ground floor of a new four-story building, as well as 67 new public parking spaces in the rear of site.

I remain committed to enhancing the quality of life of Highland Park residents, and exploring ways to stabilize property taxes, encouraging mixed-use development in Downtown Highland Park, and focusing on preservation to protect our environment.

Please feel free to contact me at via email at finejoshhp@gmail.com, by phone at (646) 342-0667, and follow me on twitter at <https://twitter.com/joshfinehp>.

Questions? Feedback? We want to hear from you!

Let us know what you think by writing to communications@hpboro.com

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Highland Marks

Highland Park resident **Sharice Richardson** was honored last month by the New Brunswick Area Branch NAACP when she received the Mary McLeod Bethune Educator Award for her work on educational equity. In 2014 she founded the HP Parents of Students of Color, an organization that promotes respect and empowerment for students of color within Highland Park Public Schools. Richardson is an Assistant Dean for Academics at Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

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

Garbage Collection Schedule (for the week of 11/23 – 11/27)

Borough Offices will be closed Thursday (11/26) and Friday (11/27). The Garbage Collection schedule is as follows;

- November 23 (Monday) – Business District, North Side & Triangle garbage collection
- November 24 (Tuesday) – Bagged leaves collection
- November 25 (Wednesday) – Business District & South Side garbage collection
- November 26 (Thursday) – **Thanksgiving Day** – Borough Offices Closed
- November 27 (Friday) – **Day After Thanksgiving** – Borough Offices Closed

Highland Park Schools Awarded Grants from Sustainable Jersey for Schools

In its efforts to advance sustainable practices, all four Highland Park schools were awarded capacity building grants of \$2,000 each. The funds will be used for:

- Highland Park High School: Nature Explore Outdoor Environment
- Highland Park Middle School: Going Green Through Education and Action
- Bartle School: Outdoor Learning Environment
- Irving School: Sustainable Water System/Pollinator Planting Project

Highland Park High School and Middle School also received Health and Wellness grants from Sustainable Jersey for Schools in the amount of \$4,000 to install water bottle refilling stations and purchase refillable water bottles to distribute to students and staff. Students will be encouraged to use the convenient water bottle refilling stations, helping reduce the use of disposable water bottles and reduce the purchase of sugary juices and sodas. Also, decreasing plastic bottle usage conserves nonrenewable resources and protects the environment.

All four Highland Park schools are working on Sustainable Jersey for Schools bronze certification, a certification program for New Jersey public schools that want to go green, conserve resources and take steps to create a brighter future. Green teams, established at each school, identify actions that can be taken to earn points toward certification. Members of the green team can be teachers, staff, students, parents and community members.

The Main Street Minute



LIGHT UP THE NIGHTS
IN DOWNTOWN HIGHLAND PARK

Downtown Tree Lighting
Saturday November 28
6-8 pm

Join us outside 212 Raritan for tree lighting, music, hot chocolate, candy canes, and Santa

Downtown Menorah Lighting
Sunday December 6
6-8 pm

Join us outside 212 Raritan for music, donuts, gelt, dreidels, hot chocolate, craft projects, and menorah lighting

[MainStreetHP.org](http://www.MainStreetHP.org)
[Facebook.com/MainStreetHP](https://www.facebook.com/MainStreetHP)
[Twitter.com/MainStreetHP](https://twitter.com/MainStreetHP)

HIGHLAND PARK

For more information visit www.mainstreethp.org.

Veteran's Day Parade



During the brief service prior to the parade, Highland Park Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler urged all those in attendance to honor those who have served not just today, but everyday.



 **Anita Bansal, Deputy Tax Collector – 19 Years**

 **Diane Reh, Mastercode Enforcement – 26 years**



Diane Reh

When I think about the 25 plus years that I've been with the Borough I think of the many changes I've seen and the way that this town continues to move forward. It has been a pleasure and honor to work with the colleagues and professionals that I've come to know over many years; but the most rewarding part of my work has been working with residents. Some say that it's a bad idea to work in local government in the town where you live, but truthfully it hasn't been so in my experience. It's been great to work side by side with my friends and neighbors to make the borough a better place for everyone.

I guess the most important lesson I've learned working for the town is that everything matters and each entity, the Borough agencies, the schools, the volunteers, the political leaders, the infrastructure, the downtown, the housing stock all contribute to what makes Highland Park "A good place." I'm very optimistic about the future of Highland Park and I know it will continue to be a great place to live and to work and it will continue to change.

When I thought about retiring I was reminded of a college essay I read about a part time job that was intended to provide a little extra spending money, but turned out to be an opportunity to learn skills that seemed outside of reach and to meet people who would become friends for life. That certainly has been my experience. I'm leaving my work at the Borough but I'm not leaving Highland Park, I'm sure I will find ways to stay involved with this community that means so much to me.

Park Partners Grant Program

Highland Park is continually working to make improvements and increase development and growth throughout the town, and residents are encouraged to participate in its growth. If you have a great idea for a program to benefit Highland Park, the Park Partners Grant Program can help you make that idea a reality! The Borough will provide up to \$2,000 to help you execute your project. Projects can be in the following categories: Environment, Arts, Culture & Diversity, Safety, Universal Access or Health & Wellness. Fill out an application available online at <http://www.hpboro.com/DocumentCenter/View/1313> or pick up one at Borough Hall, and help make a difference in Highland Park! Deadline is December 15, 2015.