



Hightstown Crier

Volume 9, No. 1

News From Hightstown Borough Hall

January 2005



Mayor's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2005, another year in the life and times of our great town, Hightstown! It's been two hundred and eighty-four years since John and Mary Hight settled here alongside the Rocky Brook. This 1720's village has grown, changing from an all agricultural center to an industrial community with a railroad, NJ Routes 33 and 130, the New Jersey Turnpike, and Mercer County's Routes 539 and 571 as central Jersey's transportation hub, and now a mix of residences, professional services, retail stores, and houses of worship all continue to meet the needs of people in the heart of New Jersey. How has our town changed during these three centuries? The historic Hightstown Rug Company and the Native Lace Works buildings are standing reminders of our town's industrial past. The former Decker's Dairy plant is now a wholesale floral business. The surrounding farmlands, although much fewer in number, remind us of the thriving agricultural center that once existed in Hightstown.

Now, as we enter the 21st century, we are reminded that the only thing constant is change itself. No longer is there the production of Minute Maid juices; however, consideration for its replacement is a top priority. The old Hights Theater is now a renaissance of new businesses – thanks to the Peddie School. The 141-year-old Peddie School is still providing quality education and the soon-to-be completed, breathtaking new science building will be an envy to all levels of educational institutions.

The once successful farmland on Wyckoff's Mill Road and Shapiro Avenue is now the site of The Enchantment at Hightstown, a soon-to-be active adult community with seventy-eight single-family homes. The former Air Products' property between Monmouth and Williams Streets has been approved for the construction of nine townhouses. The Sun Lawn Nursing Home is gone, but there are five new houses being built on the North Main Street site. We look forward to meeting all our new residents in 2005!

Center Street and Second Avenue have been reconstructed with new curbs, road paving and sidewalks, allowing our children to walk to school in safety. On South Main Street between Main and Ward Streets, we have begun new streetscaping work. The Stockton Street/Rogers Avenue parking lot has been redesigned and constructed with the partnership of the borough and the Peddie School. Our third well has been drilled and will be operational soon; and upgrades to our water and sewer plants are almost completed.

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New Year's Food Drive

Mayor Bob Patten and East Windsor Mayor Janice Mironov are sponsoring a joint New Year's Food Drive during the month of January for the benefit of local individuals and families. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at Borough Hall, 148 North Main Street, or at the East Windsor Municipal Building, 16 Lanning Boulevard, during regular business hours, or at the East Windsor Police Building, 80 One Mile Road, at any time. Donations can also be dropped off at the East Windsor Rescue Squad, District 2, on Twin Rivers Drive. All food collected will be provided to the food pantry at the Community Action Service Center.



News from the Historic Preservation Commission

The Hightstown Historic Preservation Commission has completed a National Register nomination application for a historic district in Hightstown and forwarded it to the State of New Jersey for review. The historic district will be called the Stockton Street Historic District, and includes fifty-six dwellings, twenty-six support structures, one monument, and one church. The District, about 14.35 acres, is approximately four blocks in length along Stockton Street, beginning at the former Railroad Avenue intersection and ending east of the intersection of Summit Street. Also included is a portion of Rogers Avenue from Stockton Street to Outcalt Street.

The Stockton Street Historic District is composed mostly of residential dwellings dating from just prior to the Civil War through the turn of the twentieth century. The boundaries of the Stockton Street Historic District were chosen to create a contiguous district that includes the largest number of historic resources retaining the highest level of integrity. These boundaries contain primarily Federal, Romantic, and Victoria-era dwellings that illustrate the economic growth and architectural trends prevalent in the Borough of Hightstown, predominantly between 1830 through 1915. While some resources predate 1830, the majority of the resources represent the period of time between the introduction of rail service to Hightstown and the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century when rail service began to decline.

The nomination review process takes time, but when the final review by the State's Historic Preservation Office is complete, there will be a meeting held for the residents within the District, hosted by State officials, to answer questions about the impending historic district. The project then goes to the State's Review Board for a formal presentation - the final step in the nomination process. The Historic Preservation Commission hopes to have this extensive project officially completed and approved for the National Register of Historic Places listing in 2005. Stay tuned.

If you have any questions about the Stockton Street Historic District, please call Amy Aughenbaugh, chairperson of the project, at 448-7608.



Upcoming Council Meetings

Saturday, January 1, 2005
(12 noon - Reorganization Meeting)

Tuesday, January 4
Tuesday, January 18
Monday, February 7
Tuesday, February 22
Monday, March 7
Monday, March 21
Monday, April 4

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted, and are open to the public. Meeting agendas and e-packets are available on the Borough's website on the Friday before each meeting.



Borough Hall will be CLOSED on the following dates:

Monday, January 3
(New Year's Day observed)

Monday, January 17
(Martin Luther King Day)

Monday, February 21
(Presidents' Day)

Friday, March 25
(Good Friday)

POLICE LINE

When snow falls, it is important that our Public Works department have complete access to our Snow Emergency Route in order to clear the snow in an efficient manner. The streets included in the Borough's Snow Emergency Route are: Academy Street, Bank Street, East Ward Street, Harron Avenue, Morrison Avenue, Oak Lane, Rogers Avenue, South Street, Summit Street, Ward Street and Westerlea Avenue. Any vehicle left on those streets is subject to removal by the police department. Please park in an alternate area until the streets have been cleared of snow. The entire ordinance (7.9) can be accessed on the Borough's website.

Please allow extra travel time when it snows. Accidents occur when motorists fail to use caution on snow covered or icy roads. Make sure that you carry a scraper to clear snow and ice from your windows, and fill your washer reservoir with winter washer fluid. Check the tread on your tires, keep your gas tank full and keep a small shovel in the trunk in case you become stuck in the snow.

- Police Chief James Eufemia



DOG LICENSES

are due for renewal during the month of January. The fee for an altered dog is \$8.20, and for an unaltered dog, \$11.20. After January 31, late fees will apply.

All dogs seven months of age and older must be licensed, and Hightstown ordinances limit the number of dogs per household to two. State health regulations require that rabies vaccinations be valid through at least October 31, 2005 before a 2005 license can be issued. Dog licenses may be renewed in person or by mail.

For more information, visit the Borough's website at www.hightstownborough.com, or call the Borough Clerk's office at 490-5100, Ext. 772.

WINTER TIP: Pay special attention to your dog's paws and footpads during the winter months. Salt and deicers used to keep roads and sidewalks clear can irritate footpads and cause bleeding. Rinse and dry your dogs feet and do not let him lick his paws if he has stepped in salt or deicer.



Mayor's Message

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That was all in 2004! What changes will the new year bring to Hightstown?

2005 already has an agenda for Hightstown.

- ◆ A design plan for the reconstruction of the streetscape on Mercer Street between Rogers Avenue and West Ward/South Academy Streets.
- ◆ A sculptured fountain at the Mercer/South Main Street point.
- ◆ Repaving of Stockton Street.
- ◆ Reconstruction of Oak Lane.
- ◆ The start of redevelopment for the Mill on Bank Street.
- ◆ The start of construction of the recreational Greenway path.
- ◆ The fifth annual Borough-wide garage sale (Saturday, May 7— Save the date!)
- ◆ The third annual community fair (Saturday, October 8— Save the date!)
- ◆ The construction of a much-needed water storage tank at Cranbury Station Road.
- ◆ The application for grant funding to reconstruct the borough's Main Street parking lot and walking bridge over the dam.
- ◆ The ongoing applications for funding grants to improve other roadways and sidewalks such as Clinton Street, Wilson Avenue, and Sunset Avenue.

The vision for Hightstown is clear! Step by step, year by year, decade by decade, century by century, our town is transforming into a better place. Please continue to take pride in our town and participate in its progress as we move Hightstown into the 21st century.

On a personal note, I am thoroughly enjoying my many roles as your mayor, especially getting to know all our interesting residents and business owners. At the close of 2004, I conducted my 114th and 115th wedding in a joint ceremony! This is my most outstanding accomplishment – everyone is still married! There are rewards in this job!

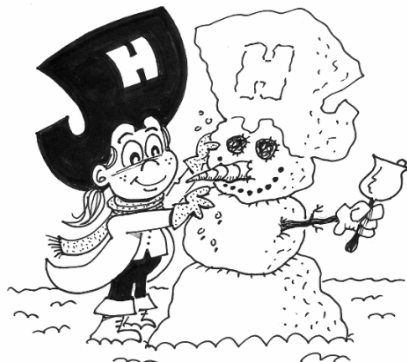
Thank you,

- Mayor Bob Patten

ABOUT THE CRIER ...

The Hightstown Crier is distributed by the Borough of Hightstown each quarter along with water bills. It is designed, edited and typeset by Borough Clerk/ Administrator Candace Gallagher, with articles contributed by many departments. Back issues of the Crier are available on the Borough's website at www.hightstownborough.com.

"Hampton" (the Hightstown Crier mascot) artwork - courtesy of Michael Gallagher.



Healthy Hightstown

- Sharon Lane, RN

WHEN A BABY CRIES — WHAT YOU CAN DO

All babies cry. Some babies cry a lot! While crying can be irritating and frustrating, crying is the only way a baby can communicate needs and wants. Some reasons for babies crying are hunger, the need to suck, pain or illness, discomfort, being overtired or over-stimulated, colic, or stress.

Some things you can do when your baby cries:

- ◆ Check for sickness
- ◆ Care for physical needs
- ◆ Feed her slowly, burp her often
- ◆ Offer him a pacifier
- ◆ Hold your baby against your chest
- ◆ Rock the baby gently
- ◆ Take him for a car or stroller ride

No matter how frustrated you feel, NEVER SHAKE YOUR BABY. Shaking a baby can be dangerous, even deadly. Shaking a baby out of anger or frustration can cause Shaken Baby Syndrome.

How to prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome:

- ◆ Never shake a baby for any reason.
- ◆ Always provide support for the baby's head.
- ◆ Make sure all family members know the dangers of Shaken Baby Syndrome.
- ◆ If you or someone else shakes your baby, take him to an emergency room immediately for early treatment. It can save your baby's life.

*Excerpts from "Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey"

MORE ABOUT SNOW...

- ◆ Our Borough Code requires all property owners, occupants or tenants, both residential and commercial, to remove snow from their sidewalks within 12 hours of the snowfall. If it is impossible to remove ice, it must be covered with sand or other abrasive material.
- ◆ Our Code also prohibits the throwing or placement of snow in the street. When shoveling sidewalks and driveways, do not move the snow into the street. It is against the law, and can result in fines and penalties.
- ◆ Portable basketball hoops must not be left in the street or parking lanes. They risk damage to and from our snowplows.



**IS YOUR HEATING SYSTEM OUTDATED?
IS YOUR ROOF LEAKING?
DO YOU NEED NEW WINDOWS?**

Help is available from the Hightstown Neighborhood Housing Repair Fund!

If you live in Hightstown, own your own home and your total household income falls within the program's income guidelines, you may be eligible to participate.

Up to \$16,000 is available to eligible homeowners for approved repairs. Funds are provided as a no interest (0%) six years forgivable loan. There are no monthly payments and the loan is forgiven if the homeowner maintains title and occupancy for a six year period following the program's rehabilitation work. Funds are also available for rental units. Landlords should call the Program Administrator for additional information regarding the terms for rental units. Eligible home repairs include fixing or replacing the roof, electrical system, heating system, plumbing system and sanitary plumbing (includes sewer and water connections). Repairs to help weatherize your home, repair its foundation and make accessibility improvements for residents with disabilities are also eligible.

Act now! Contact the Hightstown Neighborhood Housing Repair Fund by calling Community Grants & Planning at 609-371-1937.

DO YOU KNOW...

HOW TO DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES?

According to the Mercer County Improvement Authority, recent studies have found that alkaline batteries no longer possess the percentage of lead and mercury that would deem the batteries hazardous and would warrant their removal from the waste stream.

Batteries may now be disposed of along with your regular garbage.

ABOUT THE BOROUGH'S SUMP PUMP REGULATIONS?

Sump pumps must be discharged to the outside of the building. The interior portion of the discharge system must be a rigid pipe connection to the outside of the building. Sump pumps may not discharge into the Borough's sewer system. The discharge must be directed to a point on the property of the owner of the dwelling, and may not create a water or ice hazard or nuisance on public or private property.

(Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, Section 19-3.1)

WHEN YOUR GARBAGE MAY BE PLACED AT THE CURB?

Borough ordinances prohibit placement of garbage at the curb before 5 p.m. on the day before collection, and cans must be removed by 8:00 p.m. on the collection day.

Compliance with this law is important in keeping our Borough looking its best, and violations may result in fines.

(Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown, Section 18-1.13)



Community Cultural Calendar

AT THE PEDDIE SCHOOL:

(for information or tickets, call 490-7550)

January 14 Mariboe Gallery Exhibit Opening
6:30—8 p.m. **Kym Kulp**

February 4 Mariboe Gallery Exhibit Opening
6:30—8 p.m. **Catherine Robohm Watkins**

February 17-19 Peddie Theatre and Music Departments
8 p.m. **The Wiz**

February 26 Signature Series
8 p.m. **Eroica Trio**

March 4
8 p.m.

March 6
2 p.m.

April 1
6:30—8 p.m.

April 2
8 p.m.

Jazz Fridays Series
Cesar Camargo Mariano & Roberto Lubambo

CAPPS and RAP Special Event
The New Jersey Saxophone Quartet Plays the Music of Mark Zuckerman

Mariboe Gallery Exhibit Opening
Ross Bleckner

Signature Series
Yujia Wang