



Hightstown Crier

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News From Hightstown Borough Hall

July 2004

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

In my travels throughout New Jersey to meetings with other municipal, county, and state officials, I am often asked, "What's happening in Hightstown?" My answer is, "Hightstown continues to hustle and bustle!" The town continues to thrive, building on its history and continuing to plan for its future. Private and public groups are joining together to design and implement exciting plans for the future growth of our town, as a result of and the logical next step following the downtown revitalization project.

There is the renovation to the former Hights Theater at 120 Main Street, with six new spaces for shops and offices, the redesign and reconstruction of the Stockton Street/Rogers Avenue municipal parking lot to accommodate the additional business generated, the planning process to the redevelop the Rug Mill on Bank Street, and the anticipated groundbreaking for The Enchantment at Hightstown (an active adult community on Wyckoff's Mill Road). The planning board has given approvals for construction of five homes at North Preserve at the end of North Main Street and nine townhouses between Monmouth and Williams Streets.

The Historic Preservation Commission is anticipating the state's designation of a portion of Stockton Street as an historic district. They are also researching the old railroad sleeper stones at Railroad Avenue as another important historic site to be protected as part of our town's history.

The beautiful hanging baskets have returned to our downtown thanks to the joint efforts of the business owners, the Garden Club, and Department of Public Works. The baskets enhance our downtown, as well as our successful small businesses with their unique and diversified services and offerings, and contribute to the sense of our town as a "destination." With improvements to the curbs and sidewalks on more and more of our Borough streets, property owners are following suit with their own improvements. The recent garden tour revealed some of Hightstown's hidden treasures, while the tour of historic Hightstown revealed settings and stories of our past. Houses are being refurbished with additions, decks, patios, pools, decorative

fencing and landscaping, front porch furnishings, floral displays, and interior improvements. All give vibrancy and pride to Hightstown.

The Hightstown and East Windsor communities provided another very successful and moving Memorial Day Parade this year. Several thousand area residents attended to pay their respects to those military personnel who sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom. I applaud the efforts of the Apollo Lodge to commemorate the soldiers from the Hightstown area who were killed in action in World War II. The memorial plaque, situated on "the perfect rock" adds to our town's collective memory and will be honored by generations to come.

Planning has begun for the second annual Hightstown-East Windsor "Celebrating Community" festival on October 9th. This year's theme, *Let's Make Music Together*, will showcase our people's diversity. Community spirit abounds in town!

Community members have formed an organization, The Equity Coalition of Hightstown, which is working to identify and address areas of inequity which exist in our town in terms of housing, education, transportation, employment, and cultural awareness. Although we have a good town, there is work to be done to ensure that it's good for everyone. The Community Action Service Center and Better Beginnings are two vital non-profit organizations that have been serving our residents through the volunteer efforts of many community members and businesses. We will be supporting them with this new organization.

Lastly, but not least, I am proud to state that the *Stars and Stripes* can be seen throughout Hightstown. I believe that patriotism and pride in our country must start in the individual, then the home and family, and next in the community in order for us to build respect and honor for the United States of America. I am delighted to tell everyone that Hightstown is hustling and bustling with pride and community spirit.

Mayor Bob Patten



Our 2nd Annual town-wide fair

Celebrating Community: Let's Make Music Together

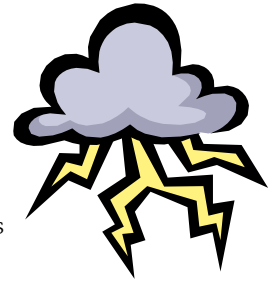
will be held on **Saturday, October 9, 2004** in **Downtown Hightstown** from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Quality crafters are welcome! Share your culture, foods, or music with your townspeople.
Call Phyllis Deal (443-3043) or Kathy Patten (448-6352) for registration details.



What to Do When the Lights Go Out

Whether it's because of high winds, tree branches, lightning or other forces of nature, sometimes your power goes out. Here's what to do in the event of an outage in your neighborhood:



- ♦ **Call your electric service provider** and let them know that your power is out. **Jersey Central Power & Light** provides electrical service to Hightstown residents. Their 24-hour toll-free emergency service number is **1-888-LIGHTSS or 1-888-544-4877**. **Be sure to tell them if someone in your household is on life support or has a special, health-related need for electricity.** They can then make restoring your power a high priority. If you can't get through to JCP&L, call the Borough's police department at 448-1234, or if the situation becomes an emergency, dial 9-1-1.
- ♦ **Turn off major appliances.** Turn off televisions, fluorescent lamps and any appliances that use electric motors. This will prevent damage to your appliances and ease the initial load when power is restored. Leave an incandescent light on so you know when service is restored. Once your power is back on, you can use your appliances normally again.
- ♦ **Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.** Refrigerators and freezers are well insulated, so food will keep for hours if door-opening is kept to a minimum. If an outage becomes lengthy, you can keep food cold longer with dry ice.
- ♦ **Stay cool.** Excessive heat can be dangerous. Drink plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeine liquids, reduce strenuous activities and take cool showers or baths. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing and check frequently on those at high risk (the elderly, children under 5 and those with chronic illness).

FOOD SAFETY TIPS

The Centers for Disease Control advises that, if the power is out for less than 2 hours, and you have kept refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible, the food will be safe to consume. If the power is out for longer than 2 hours, follow their guidelines below:

- ♦ For the Freezer section: A freezer that is half full will hold food safely for up to 24 hours. A full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Do not open the freezer door if you can avoid it.
- ♦ For the Refrigerated section: Pack milk, other dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, gravy, and spoilable leftovers into a cooler surrounded by ice. Inexpensive Styrofoam coolers are fine for this purpose.
- ♦ Use a digital quick-response thermometer to check the temperature of your food right before you cook or eat it. Throw away any food that has a temperature higher than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.



IF YOU COME UPON A DOWNED POWER LINE:

- ♦ **DON'T GO NEAR THE WIRE, or anything it is touching.** It is extremely dangerous.
- ♦ Warn others to stay away and keep pets at as safe distance.
- ♦ Call 9-1-1 and report the downed line.
- ♦ **If a power line falls on your car, you should stay inside the vehicle.** This is the safest place to stay. Warn people not to touch the car or the line. Call or ask someone to call the local utility company and emergency services.

The only circumstance in which you should consider leaving a car that is in contact with a downed power line is if the vehicle catches on fire. Open the door. Do not step out of the car. You may receive a shock. Instead, jump free of the car so that your body clears the vehicle before touching the ground. Once you clear the car, shuffle at least 50 feet away, with both feet on the ground.
- ♦ Do not try to help someone else from the car while you are standing on the ground.

New Jersey's New Stormwater Management Rules

Water from rain, snow melting and sprinkler systems that flows off buildings, homes, parking lots and streets is known as stormwater. This water, all called runoff, travels along gutters, into catch basins and through storm drain pipes and ditches, and eventually discharges into our streams and rivers untreated. Along the way, the runoff picks up trash (fast-food wrappers, cigarette butts, Styrofoam cups, etc.) and toxins (used motor oil, antifreeze, fertilizers, pesticides, pet droppings, etc.). The transport of these pollutants into local water bodies can result in the destruction of fish, wildlife, and habitats; threats to public health due to contaminated food and drinking water supplies; and losses of recreational and aesthetic values.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has recently adopted Stormwater Management Rules that will require New Jersey municipalities to amend their ordinances as needed in order to comply with the new regulations. In addition to a comprehensive municipal stormwater management plan, regulations must be in place regarding the disposal of pet waste, improper disposal of waste into the storm sewer system, litter control, the feeding of wildlife on public property, illicit connections to the storm sewer system, and the containerization of yard waste.

YOU CAN HELP KEEP OUR WATER CLEAN

Simple changes in YOUR daily lifestyle can make a tremendous difference in the quality of New Jersey's water resources. Here are just a few ways you can help:

LITTER: Place litter, including cigarette butts, in trash receptacles. Never throw litter or cigarette butts in the streets or down storm drains. Recycle as much as possible.

FERTILIZERS: Avoid the overuse of fertilizers and do not apply them before a heavy rainfall.

PESTICIDES: Many pesticides are toxic to humans, animals, aquatic organisms and plants. Follow label instructions carefully, and use alternatives whenever possible.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS: Many common household products (paint thinners, moth balls, drain and oven cleaners, to name a few) contain toxic ingredients. Do not discard these with your regular household trash. Use natural and less toxic alternatives whenever possible. Watch our website for information regarding household hazardous waste collection days in Mercer County.

MOTOR OIL: Used motor oil contains toxic chemicals. Do not dump it down storm drains or on the ground. Dispose of it by bringing it to the motor oil recycling area at Borough Hall.

CAR WASHING: Wash your car only when necessary, preferably at a car wash that recycles its wash water. If washing your car at home, use a non-phosphate detergent.

PET WASTE: Use newspaper, bags or scoopers to pick up after pets and dispose of wastes in the garbage or toilet.



Healthy Hightstown

- Sharon Lane, RN

West Nile Virus Surveillance

The Hightstown Borough Health Department will continue prevention and monitoring efforts for West Nile Virus during the 2004 season. The virus can be transmitted to humans via bites from infected mosquitoes. Most people who become infected have no symptoms or symptoms which are mild to moderate, such as fever, headache, body aches, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. In a small percentage of cases, severe symptoms may occur, including headache, high fever, neck stiffness, muscle weakness, disorientation, convulsions, paralysis, coma and, rarely, death. The elderly, young and those in poor health are most susceptible.

What can you do to help?

- ◆ Eliminate stagnant water around the home in discarded tires, blocked gutters, unclean birdbaths, poorly maintained pools, flower pots and any type of receptacle with decaying organic matter.
- ◆ Report stagnant water to the Health Department.
- ◆ Inspect and repair loose or damaged window and door screens.
- ◆ Limit outdoor activities at dawn, dusk and in the early evening, if possible.
- ◆ When outside, wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and insect repellents. *Please read labels and precautions carefully! Some products are not safe for use on children.*
- ◆ Report dead or sick crows to the Borough's Health Department at (609) 490-5100, Ext. 617. Crows are extremely susceptible to WNV and therefore serve as an early sentinel for the virus, alerting officials to the presence of the virus in the community. When you report a bird, you will be asked its exact location, condition of the bird, size and color of its eyes. In some circumstances, the bird will be picked up for testing; the other birds may be discarded in your household trash. Although WNV cannot be transmitted directly from the bird to humans, please use sanitary precautions when disposing of any dead animal.

Ongoing mosquito control efforts in Hightstown Borough are performed by the Mercer County Mosquito Control Division. This agency monitors mosquito activity and treats for the adult insects and their larvae. Their website is an excellent resource: www.mercercounty.org/mosquito/. Should you have the need for additional information, please direct any questions to the Hightstown Health Department at (609) 490-5100, Ext. 617.



Kitty Corner

CAT LIMIT REPEALED!

Cat licenses are due for renewal during the month of July. In the past, households were limited to two cats per household, but a recent change to Borough ordinances has lifted that restriction. Residents may now own an unlimited number of cats; however, **ALL cats – whether they live indoors or outdoors -- must be licensed with the Borough and vaccinated against rabies.** Rabies vaccinations must be up-to-date in order for a cat to be licensed. Failure to license your cat is a violation of Borough ordinances.

License fees are \$7 for a spayed or neutered cat and \$10 for an unaltered cat. The maximum license fee per household, regardless of the number of cats licensed, is \$25. Late fees of \$5 per month per license will apply after July 31.

LOW-COST SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

The Borough of Hightstown encourages the spaying and neutering of all pets. SPAY/USA, a program of The Pet Savers Foundation, is a nationwide network and referral service for affordable spay/neuter services. You can reach them toll-free at 1-800-248-SPAY between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EST, or online at www.spayusa.org. Upon registering, they will mail you a spay/neuter referral slip/certificate to redeem the low rate at a local veterinarian or program.

P O L I C E L I N E

All of us as drivers need to be aware of pedestrians crossing the street in marked crosswalks. We **MUST** yield to these pedestrians, especially downtown, or face the possibility of receiving a summons.

Those of us that walk downtown **MUST** use the crosswalks when crossing the street, or wait for the "walk" signal before crossing at a traffic signal.

Now that the weather has changed, many of our residents have opened windows and begun spending time sitting on their porches. Let's all keep that in mind when we drive by listening to our favorite music. Remember, it may not be everyone's favorite music. Please keep the volume at a reasonable level.

When hiring a contractor, roofer, lawn service, etc. don't allow them to begin work too early. Your neighbors will appreciate it. Enjoy your summer!

- Police Chief James Eufemia

Upcoming Council Meetings

- Tuesday, July 6
- Monday, August 2
- Tuesday, September 7
- Monday, September 20

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Meeting agendas and "virtual meeting packets" are posted on the Borough's website and available at Borough Hall on the Friday before each meeting.



Borough Hall will be **CLOSED** on the following dates:

- Monday, July 5
(Independence Day observed)
- Monday, September 6
(Labor Day)

TWO RAFFLES BY OUR NEIGHBORING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers of the East Windsor Township Rescue Squad, District 1, will be holding two raffles soon.

A 50/50 Raffle will be held during the Independence Day celebration at Etra Lake Park on Saturday, July 3. Tickets will be sold between 5 and 9 p.m. at \$5 each. The winning ticket will be drawn at 9 p.m., and the winner must be present to claim the prize.

Between July 1 and November 5, the Squad will be selling raffle tickets for a 51" Hitachi HDTV Monitor/Projection Widescreen Television and a Sony 6-speaker Home Theater system with 5-disc DVD player. Tickets cost \$10 each, and can be obtained from Squad members. The drawing will be held on November 5 at the Squad building, 47 One Mile Road, East Windsor.

For more information, call The East Windsor Township Rescue Squad, District 1, Inc. at 448-6321.



Community Cultural Calendar

AT THE PEDDIE SCHOOL:

(for information or tickets, call 490-7550)

September 19
2 p.m.

CAPPS Light Sundays Series
Ann Hampton Callaway

