



Hightstown Crier

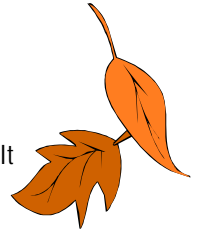
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News From Hightstown Borough Hall

October 2003



Mayor's Message



With the fall and winter holiday season approaching, this is always the time of year to be thankful for the good in our lives. This includes a number of unsung heroes— people and organizations who continue to make our town special.

Under the leadership of Borough Administrator Candace Gallagher, the department heads and chairpersons of our boards and commissions were able to reduce the proposed municipal portion of the tax rate without reducing the quality of borough services. Thank you all for your sincere commitment to Hightstown and the long hours you put into this effort.

A third well has been drilled to a deeper aquifer which will provide a much needed increase in water supply and allows us another source of water if the current aquifer becomes a problem in the future.

Another capital improvement project to our water system has been approved by the council. A new water storage tank will be constructed in the Wyckoff's Mill Road area within the next year. This tank will ensure proper water pressure to properties in that area and will give the required water volume to suppress structural fires. Another storage tank is proposed for the same reasons at the southern part of town near the Peddie Golf Course. Thank you to Larry Blake, Superintendent of Public Works and Water, Borough Engineer Carmela Santaniello and the members of the Water and Sewer Committee for their proactive stance on these very important public issues.

The flower baskets hanging on the light fixtures in the Main Street area are the result of a cooperative effort by the Rocky Brook Garden Club, the Greater Hightstown-East Windsor Improvement Project organization, local business owners, and other contributors. These private town members have raised the level of community spirit. I am most appreciative for their continued commitment to make Hightstown a better place in which to visit and live. Thank you, also, to the Public Works Department for hanging the baskets, fertilizing them, and making sure that the automatic watering system operates properly.

Our neighborhoods are looking better because of the efforts of our Code Enforcement Official, Harry Wetterskog, who has been busy enforcing the Borough's property maintenance and housing codes. No longer is there a vacant, boarded-up house on South Academy Street, and there are fewer uncut lawns, piles of junk in yards, construction debris at curbs, and unregistered motor vehicles parked on properties. With his ongoing commitment to our town, the quality of life is improving for all Hightstonians. For all of our townspeople, I thank you, Harry Wetterskog.

The New Jersey Department of Transportation deserves a big thank you for its funding of the reconstruction of Center Street and Second Avenue. Construction will be taking place this fall. The project includes new road surfacing, curbs and sidewalks. This residential area will look better and pedestrians (particularly school children) will be able to walk more safely.

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DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4!

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you are not sure where to vote, call the Borough Clerk's office at 490-5100.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

Be sure to check your smoke detectors!

For detailed information on smoke detectors, visit the Borough's website at www.hightstownborough.com.



POLICE LINE

Now that school is in session, we as motorists must be extra careful when driving through town. Be sure to watch for pedestrians in crosswalks, obey the directions of our school crossing guards, and come to a complete stop at every stop sign. Share the roadway with bicyclists, and be courteous to other drivers. Most importantly, **DRIVE SLOWLY!**



THESE HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS BEAR REPEATING:

- Give and receive wrapped or packaged candy only. Have children bring their treats home for parental inspection before they are consumed.
- Accompany small children and elementary school age children when they are trick-or-treating, and send older children in groups.
- Go trick-or-treating during daylight hours, and bring a flashlight in case of delay.
- Choose flame-retardant costumes, and use make-up or face paint instead of masks. If a mask is used, be sure that the mask fits properly and has holes large enough for eyes and mouth.
- Make props out of cardboard rather than wood or metal.
- If trick-or-treating after dark, wear light-colored clothing and/or costumes, making certain that they are short enough to prevent tripping. Add reflective tape or reflectors to dark costumes. Make every attempt to trick-or-treat before sundown.
- Have children stay within their neighborhood; only visit homes of people you know.
- Look for our police officers; they will be handing out multi-colored glow sticks to help increase visibility.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

- Police Chief James M. Eufemia

HELP KEEP OUR SEWER LINES CLEAN!

Please dispose of cooking oils and grease properly, by pouring it into a coffee can or similar, heat-proof container and disposing of it with your trash.

Where does grease come from?

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter
- Food scraps
- Baking goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products
- Margarine

The results can be:

- Sewer backups at home, causing overflows
- Expensive and unpleasant cleanup paid by homeowner

- Raw sewerage overflow into parks, streets and yards
- Potential contact with a disease-causing organism
- Increased cost to the Borough in cleaning of sewer lines and removal of blockages, and possibility of costly fines by NJDEP for discharge of grease and oil to Rocky Brook

Never pour grease in sinks or toilets. Scrape grease and food from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils and grills. Dispose of it in a can, and put it in your garbage.

Attention Restaurants:

Please assist the Borough by complying with Grease Trap Ordinance 2002-10. Clean your grease traps at least every 90 days and dispose of the grease properly. Annual inspections are in progress.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Tuesday, October 7
Monday, October 20
Monday, November 3
Monday, November 17
Monday, December 1
Monday, December 15
Thursday, January 1, 2003
(12 noon - Reorganization Meeting)

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Meeting agendas are posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall on the Friday before each meeting.



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

Monday, October 13
(Columbus Day observed)

Tuesday, November 11
(Veterans' Day)

**Thursday and Friday,
November 27 and 28**
(Thanksgiving)

Thursday, December 25
(Christmas Day)

Thursday, January 1, 2003
(New Year's Day)

The Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant is requesting your assistance to help prevent pump failures at the Pumping Stations.

Please do not flush down the toilet, or put into the sewer, any of the following types of products:

- Cloth or plastic diapers
- Washcloths or any cloth product
- Any wet or dry wipe product
- Any disposable or other rags

Please call the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant at 490-5120 with any questions you may have.

- Biff Searing
AWWTP Superintendent

help us lower your property taxes!

There is a great deal that you, as property owners and taxpayers, can do to help keep the Borough's costs down.



Healthy Hightstown
- Sharon Lane, RN

Flu and Pneumonia Shots Available

The flu is a serious illness that causes symptoms which include fever, aches and pains, sore throat, runny nose and chills. When people 65 or older and those with chronic health problems get the flu, they are more likely to develop serious complications requiring hospitalization.

Getting the flu shot before flu season is the best way to protect yourself. A new flu vaccine is made each year because the flu virus tends to change each season. For this reason, it is important to get the flu shot every year.

To protect yourself from pneumococcal disease, adults who are 65 or older should get the pneumonia shot. Most people need to get the shot only once.

You can get the shots at the Annual Flu and Pneumonia Clinic at the East Windsor Municipal Building on **Wednesday, October 15, and Wednesday, October 22, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by appointment only**. The annual flu shot is free for residents who are over 60 years of age. Call the East Windsor Health Department at 443-4000 to schedule an appointment.

- **R-E-C-Y-C-L-E!** Borough ordinances require that paper, glass, plastic and metal be recycled, and by fully complying you can help save tax dollars. We pay more than \$100 per ton for the disposal of garbage (amounting to nearly \$250,000 per year), but there is no cost for the disposal of recycled goods. Please do NOT throw recyclable goods into your garbage. When you do, the Borough pays needlessly for their disposal.
- **Keep your garbage covered!** Water adds a tremendous amount of excess weight to garbage, bulky items and grass clippings. Please be sure to cover all garbage and other items put out in order to keep it dry. Bear in mind that our ordinances prohibit the placement of garbage at the curb prior to 5 p.m. on the day before collection.
- **Consider composting!** If you are a gardener, take the time to learn about the benefits of composting. Food waste, leaves and grass clippings can be recycled in this way, eliminating the Borough's disposal costs, and you will reap the benefit of a rich source of nutrients for your plants and flowers. The Internet is a great source of information about this process. You may also contact our Public Works Department for more information.
- **Donate large items.** Before you dispose of a large item, such as a piece of furniture or used appliance, find out whether it can be donated instead to a charity. Sleep sofas are one item that some charities will pick up at their expense and provide to a needy family. If your item may be useful to someone, please think twice before disposing of it. Donations can be a tax deduction for you and a cost savings for the Borough. For assistance in finding a home for your used item, contact the Borough Clerk's office at 490-5100, ext. 772.
- **Contribute to the Borough's Wish List!** The Borough is in the process of compiling a "Wish List" of needed items which could be donated by individuals, businesses or organizations that have surplus equipment or supplies. Check our website for a complete list. By receiving donated items, we can save in purchasing costs.

Remember, every penny counts! By following the guidelines above, you'll help the Borough contain costs and keep taxes as low as possible.

- Candace Gallagher
Borough Clerk/Administrator

CARBON MONOXIDE - THE SILENT KILLER

State law now requires that all single- or multi-family homes be equipped with carbon monoxide detectors. In the past year, ten New Jersey residents have died after being exposed to the lethal gas.

Carbon monoxide, also known as "the silent killer" is a by-product of combustion in fuel-burning appliances such as gas or oil furnaces, fireplaces, water heaters, ovens, and clothes dryers. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur when these appliances malfunction, are not properly vented, or are poorly maintained.

Please make sure that your home is protected by properly maintaining all fuel-burning appliances and installing a carbon monoxide detector. For more information, contact the Borough's Construction Office at 490-5100, ext. 617.

DID YOU KNOW ...

It is the homeowner's responsibility to dispose of all construction debris when undergoing improvements, renovations or construction. This includes, but is not limited to, carpeting, sheetrock, lumber, roofing materials, cabinetry, plumbing fixtures, railing, windows and doors. These materials will not be picked up by the Borough. Before beginning your project, you should arrange with your contractor or installer for their disposal.

Mayor's Message

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Kudos to the municipality's finance department, led by Arlene O'Rourke. With new personnel employed this year, that office is providing even more efficient and professional services to the public. Our Municipal Court runs very smoothly, thanks to the skill of our Court Administrator Nancy MacLean. And Sharon Lane, our Public Health nurse, is a true professional and an asset to our community. To all of you, thank you for the outstanding work!

In 2002, Phase I of the Downtown Revitalization was successfully completed. It has made a great difference to the Main Street area's businesses and to the positive impression our town as a whole. Now, with the help of funding from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Phase II has begun. It includes the redesign of the municipal parking lot between Rogers Avenue and Stockton Street. The plan addresses the need for more parking spaces, safer and more efficient routing of vehicles, a greenway or recreational path, and a more friendly environment with landscaping, lighting, and pedestrian patterns.

Thanks to a Peddie School business initiative, the old Hights Theater building at 120 Main Street is being redeveloped into several specialty shops, offices, and other businesses. Peddie School deserves much credit for taking the underutilized property and turning it into an economically viable asset to our commercial district.

Four vital components of any municipality are water, public works, sewage treatment, and public safety. I am proud to recognize the extraordinary professional leadership of the Superintendent of the Advanced Waste Water Treatment Plant, Bill "Biff" Searing; the Superintendent of the Water Plant and the Department of Public Works, Larry Blake; Water Plant Operator Sean McGuire; Chief of Police James "Mickey" Eufemia; First Aid Captain Terry Lidke; Fire Chief John Archer; Fire Official Tim Murray; and Dean Raymond, Emergency Management Coordinator. Hightstown, with its 1.2 square miles is a comprehensive and self-sufficient town with over sixteen miles of streets, sewer, and water lines, over 1,600 houses and businesses, and 5,200 residents. These unselfish leaders and their staff are a vital part of Hightstown. We appreciate them!

Lastly, the Borough of Hightstown is celebrating the 150th Anniversary of its incorporation! A downtown block party will be held on Saturday, October 11 from 10:00 a. m. to 4:00 p.m. Rain date is October 12. Come join the celebration, which will include fine arts and crafts, organization displays, food, entertainment, games, antique cars, and much more. Thank you to Council President Nancy Walker Laudenberger and her committee which has been working all year to make this event another part of Hightstown's memorable history.

All in all, Hightstown is moving forward into the 21st century thanks to the efforts of Borough employees, town volunteers, business people, and our council members who really care about our town. Thank you all, and enjoy the change of the seasons and the holidays.

- Mayor Bob Patten

"Hampton" (our Crier mascot) drawings courtesy of local artist Michael Gallagher



Autumn Events

Saturday, October 4 Tri-County Parade

1 p.m. *Celebrating Fire Prevention Week and hosted by the Fire Companies of East Windsor (#1 and #2) and Hightstown.. Visit our website for details!*

Wednesday, October 8 Free Rabies Clinic

4 - 6 p.m. *The Borough's semi-annual rabies clinic provides free vaccinations for dogs and cats of Borough residents. Held at the Borough garage, 148 N. Main Street.*

Saturday, October 11 Big Birthday Block Party

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. *A downtown birthday bash, featuring food, music, fine arts and crafts, antique automobiles, a vintage fashion show and more! Come to Memorial Park on Peddie Lake for a day of festivities celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Hightstown's incorporation!*

Friday, November 28 Santa Parade

Time TBA *Once again, Santa will ride a fire truck through town and turn on our holiday lighting! Watch our website for details.*



Community Cultural Calendar

AT THE PEDDIE SCHOOL:

(for information or tickets, call 490-7550)

Oct 4 *Signature Series*
8 p.m. **Moscow Chamber Orchestra**

Oct 10 *Jazz Fridays Series*
8 p.m. **Lynne Arriale Trio**

Oct 15 *Dramatists Workshop Series*
7:30 p.m. **The Lighthouse** by Richard Lloyd

Nov 9 *Light Sundays Series*
2 p.m. **On Common Ground**

Nov 14 *Jazz Fridays Series*
8 p.m. **Luciana Souza Quartet**
(pre-concert chat with artist at 7 p.m.)

The Borough will be conducting its semi-annual **water hydrant flushing** during the month of October. Watch our website and local papers for details. If you have any questions, contact Sean McGuire, Water Plant Operator, at 490-5117.

*** G A R B A G E ***
will not be picked up on Thanksgiving Day.
That pickup will be made on **Friday, November 28.**