

Hightstown Crier

Volume 5, Issue 4

News From Hightstown Borough Hall

October 2001

Message from the Mayor



On September 11, 2001, our world changed. The horrendous images of the destruction wrought on thousands of innocent people, some of them our friends and neighbors, will stay with us forever. There are no words to express the depth of our grief for those who were lost and their families... or of our tremendous pride in the many heroes who died while making a difference, including many in our own community... or of our gratitude to those who have worked long and tirelessly in the recovery effort. I am heartened by the groundswell of patriotism and unity that has resulted from this ungodly act, and by the recognition of our common enemies - hatred, religious intolerance, fear and anger. I am confident that our great nation, along with others, will rise to this occasion, and that the world will be a better place when the dust settles, and this war on terrorism is won.

As New York City begins the process of rebuilding, the Borough will begin the process of our downtown revitalization, and I plan to include a monument in our downtown area as a memorial to those we have lost, and as a tribute to the heroism and strength of spirit that our nation's citizens have demonstrated.

I hope each of you will participate in our democracy on **November 6** by voting in the general election. If you have not yet registered to vote, you can pick up a voter registration form at the Borough Clerk's office. The deadline to register is October 9, and we will be open until 9:00 p.m. that evening to accommodate last-minute registrations.

This year, I am joining more than 100 other Mayors and elected officials across New Jersey in support of **Take Your Kids to Vote/New Jersey**. I will be designating Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2001, as **Take Your Kids to Vote Day** in the Borough. As children, many of us remember going to the voting booth with our parents. By doing so, we learned how to vote at an early age, and it is important for us now to continue that tradition. I hope you will make voting a family affair this year by bringing your children to the polls on November 6.

I have recently appointed a **Historic Advisory Committee** whose first task will be to work towards the designation of a portion of Stockton Street as a National Historic District. If you have experience or knowledge that would be helpful in this effort and are interested in serving on this committee, please contact me by mail at 148 N. Main Street, Hightstown, NJ 08520, or by e-mail at Mayor@hightstownborough.com.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you that we have two very informative sessions planned for our upcoming **Senior Citizen Advisory Committee** meetings. On Friday, October 5, Diane Gerofsky, Mercer County Surrogate, will speak about wills and "homebound" programs for seniors, and on Friday, November 2, Salvatore Bronti, Community Development Specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will present a program on housing rehabilitation opportunities for low-income seniors. The programs are free and open to the public, and will be held in Council Chambers at Borough Hall, 148 North Main Street, beginning at 2 p.m.

I wish you all a safe and healthy holiday season.

- Mayor Amy Aughenbaugh



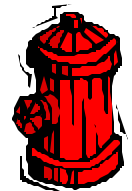
Playing with Fire

Fire Official Tim Murray offers these tips for a safe (and cozy) autumn.

- Although chiminaras (outdoor fireplaces) are not covered under the Fire Code for private homes, it's a good idea to keep them at least 15 feet from your home to avoid accidental fires or melted vinyl siding.
- You should have your heating system serviced and your chimney cleaned to ensure that the products of combustion are venting properly to the exterior. Make sure you have installed a carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Make sure that any portable heating units you use are UL-approved and that safeguards are built in, such as tip-over protection. Do not use extension cords with portable heaters, as they may overheat and cause a fire.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, including the basement. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms both inside and outside the sleeping area. Also, smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling or 6 to 8 inches below the ceiling on side walls. Since smoke and many deadly gases rise, installing your smoke alarms at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

The Borough of Hightstown will be conducting its semi-annual water hydrant flushing between October 15 and October 26. Flushing will take place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. You may experience some discoloration during this time. Do not be alarmed—your water is safe to drink, and it should clear up shortly.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Sean McGuire, Water Plant Operator, at 490-5117.



Senior Citizen Corner

Upcoming meetings of the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee:

- **Friday, October 5, 2 p.m.**
Diane Gerofsky, Mercer County Surrogate, will speak about wills and "homebound" programs for seniors.
- **Friday, November 2, 2001**
Salvatore Bronti, Community Development Specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will present a program on housing rehabilitation opportunities for low-income seniors.

Meetings are held in Council Chambers at Borough Hall, 148 North Main Street, beginning at 2 p.m. They are free and open to the public. For more information, call the Borough Clerk's office at 490-5100.

Don't forget to get your flu shot this year! See "Healthy Hightstown" below for information!

Healthy Hightstown

- Sharon Lane, RN



"Get the Flu Shot and the Pneu Shot"

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 which may cause them to be hospitalized.

Getting the flu shot before the 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 flu 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 pneumococcal shot. Most people need to get the shot only once.

You can get the shot at the Annual Flu and Pneumonia Clinic at East Windsor Municipal Building on Wednesday, October 31, 2001 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by appointment only. **The annual flu shot is free for residents of Hightstown who are over 60 years old.** Call the East Windsor Health Department at 443-4000 to schedule an appointment.



FREE RABIES CLINIC

The Borough of Hightstown will sponsor a free rabies clinic on **Wednesday, October 10** between 4 and 6 p.m. The clinic will be held in the Borough garage at 148 N. Main Street. For more information, call Kathy Warnebold at 490-5125.

LEAF PICKUP



Leaves are falling once again! On most streets, the Public Works department will pick up leaves which have been raked to curbside. However, if you live on State Route 33 (Franklin Street or Mercer Street), leaves are picked up by appointment only, and must be placed in open bags or containers. Call Donna Syx at 490-5115 for an appointment or for more information.

About the Crier

The Hightstown Crier is published quarterly by the Borough of Hightstown and mailed with water-sewer bills. It can also be viewed online at the Borough's website, www.hightstownborough.com. The Crier is designed, edited and typeset by Borough Clerk Candace Gallagher. Comments and suggestions are welcome and can be directed to Candace at 490-5100, or by email to Clerk@hightstownborough.com.

CALL BEFORE YOU CURB!



Please help keep our Borough clean and beautiful by calling Public Works **BEFORE** you place bulky items at the curb for pickup. These items are picked up **by appointment only** and should not be placed at the curb until the morning of the scheduled pickup. For information or appointments, call 490-5115.

GARBAGE WILL NOT BE PICKED UP ON THANKSGIVING DAY. THAT PICKUP WILL BE MADE ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21.

Exercise your
right to

VOTE

on
November 6

- **NEW HOURS:** Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- In order to vote in this election, you must be registered to vote in Mercer County no later than October 9, 2001. The Borough Clerk's office will be open until 9:00 p.m. on that evening to accommodate late voter registrations.
- If you are registered to vote and are unsure of the location of your polling place, call the Clerk's office at 490-5100 for assistance.

Have you found a stray cat or dog, or would you like to adopt one? The following agencies can help with adoption or spaying/neutering:



ALTER, Princeton, NJ
609-443-0016

Animal Allies, Trenton, NJ
609-394-2474

Animals in Distress, Trenton, NJ
609-586-4995

S.A.V.E., Princeton, NJ
609-921-6122

Spay USA
800-248-7729



Autumn Events



Classic Car Show

Thursday, October 4 5 to 9 p.m.

Downtown municipal parking lot near Peddie Lake. Sponsored by Businesses for a Better Hightstown.



Halloween Parade

Saturday, October 27 10:30 a.m.

This is an annual event of the Junior Friday Club, and features children in their Halloween costumes. It will begin at the Walter C. Black School and

Santa Parade and Tree Lighting



Friday, November 23 6:30 p.m.

Join us for our Annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony! Santa will ride up Main Street in a fire truck, ending at the Firehouse where he will turn on the Borough's Christmas lights.



Beware of Radon!



Question -- What's a five letter word for something that is in your home, is invisible and can cause lung cancer?

Answer -- **RADON**. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas that is found in all homes, but in some homes reaches high levels that can be a health hazard. If you haven't already tested for radon, protect your family by testing now. Test kits can be purchased in many hardware stores and health departments, or call the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Radon Program at 1-800-648-0394 for a list of certified companies who provide testing services and kits.

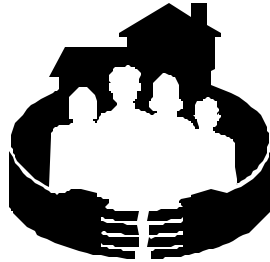
Consider Volunteering for ...

The Family Mentor Program

The Family Mentor Program of Mercer County is one of the many programs provided by Family and Children's Services of Central New Jersey. The program matches a family in need of support with a volunteer (mentor) from the community. Families are voluntary participants and are provided the service at no cost to them. The program's mentors, after an interviewing and training process, commit one to three hours a week to their families in order to form a relationship with them and address their specific needs. For instance, some families need assistance with parenting, budgeting, nutrition and accessing community resources, while others are looking for emotional support and a patient, nonjudgmental ear. Participation in this program is an extremely positive and fulfilling experience for both families and mentors, and is an important asset to the community.

Currently, the Family Mentor Program has a severe shortage of mentors, and is actively recruiting volunteers. If you have the time and ability to help, please consider joining the program as a volunteer mentor. A mentor must be at least 21 years of age, with a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle.

For more information, call Family and Children's Services of Central New Jersey at (609) 448-0056.



For the latest Borough news and information, visit our website at www.hightstownborough.com.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Monday, October 1

Monday, October 15

Monday, November 5

Monday, November 19

Monday, December 3

Monday, December 17

Tuesday, January 1

(Annual Reorganization, 12 noon)

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. Meeting agendas are available at the Borough Clerk's office and on the Borough's web site. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and include the opportunity for public comment.



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

Monday, October 8
(Columbus Day observed)

Monday, November 12
(Veteran's Day observed)

Thursday & Friday
November 22 - 23
(Thanksgiving)

Tuesday, December 25
(Christmas Day)

Tuesday, January 1, 2002
(New Year's Day)
except for Reorganization Meeting

Chief Eufemia's

Halloween Safety Tips

- Use make-up or face paint instead of masks. If you decide to use a mask, make certain that the mask fits properly and has holes large enough for mouth and eyes.
- Choose flame-retardant costumes.
- Wear light-colored clothing and/or costumes at night, making certain that they are short enough to prevent tripping. Add reflective tape or reflectors to dark costumes if you will be out after dark. Make every attempt to trick-or-treat before sundown, and bring a flashlight in case of delay.
- Make props out of cardboard rather than metal or wood.
- 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.
- Have children stay within their neighborhood, and only visit homes of people you know.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

From the Tax Office

The tax sale for this year will be held on October 23, 2001 in the Courtroom at 10:00 a.m. Delinquencies for the year 2000 will appear in the newspaper on September 27, 2001. Once your name appears in the newspaper, it will remain for the entire four weeks. I encourage you to make every effort to bring past due amounts for tax, water and sewer to current status. If you have any questions, please call the tax office at 490-5108.

- Mary Testori, Tax Collector
- Arlene O'Rourke, Deputy Tax Collector

