



Hightstown Crier

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News From Hightstown Borough Hall

October 2002



Message from the Mayor



I want to thank every Hightstown resident and business owner for their patience and support during the past five months of the construction phase of the Downtown Revitalization project. Each and every one of us has endured some type of inconvenience and/or disruption during these five months, and I sincerely appreciate your tolerance to these interruptions, including the noise and changes in traffic patterns you may have experienced throughout this lengthy process. The Downtown Revitalization project is virtually complete, but we can look forward to our Streetscape developments to be ongoing to include a beautiful Victorian style fountain at the Point between South Main and Mercer Streets, holiday lighting in the winter, beautiful flowering baskets hanging from the new Victorian street lamps next Spring, and, most importantly, the addition of TREES! Yes, trees will be replaced in various locations downtown, and the Shade Tree Commissioner and the Environmental Commission are currently deciding on the ideal locations for these trees in our downtown area. Since a variety of trees can only be planted during certain seasons, you will notice them appearing throughout the downtown gradually. The Streetscape improvements will continue to enhance the entire community for years to come. And I didn't forget...if you saved your receipts while shopping in our downtown businesses during the five month construction period, please bring them to the Clerk's Office at Borough Hall.

Now that Main Street has reopened and the Downtown Revitalization project is practically complete, we will be coordinating a **Hightstown Homecoming Celebration**. We are promoting a "Home"coming to bring our visitors and shoppers back to Hightstown, showing off our **new** pedestrian-friendly sidewalks, brick work, street lamps, benches, and roads and reminding them that we are OPEN FOR BUSINESS. This Celebration will include a Dedication Ceremony and Ribbon-cutting, Town Parade, Street Festival, Pet Adoption, and Town-Wide Garage Sale during the weekend of October 17 – 20. Mark your calendars now and watch our website and local papers for updates and details.

On a separate note, the County of Mercer is currently rehabilitating the East Ward Street bridge. The bridge is scheduled to reopen to traffic and pedestrians (a pedestrian bridge will be built and juxtapose the vehicular bridge!) just after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Special thanks to everyone who donated food items during our **September 11th Community Food Drive**. The thoughtfulness of those who made the extra effort to drop off a food donation at Borough Hall or the Police Station is greatly respected. Thank you! Also, I particularly want to thank the employees of Minute Maid and CCL Label for their generous contributions. The additional food items donated from these large corporations enabled the Community Action Service Center to fully replenish their food pantry, which had been depleted by their most needy clients ~ those who have suffered job losses in retail, restaurants, and landscaping due to the decline in the economy since September 11th.

Trick or Treat for Pets. During the entire month of October, the Borough of Hightstown will be conducting a food drive for dogs and cats. All pet food and pet treats collected will be donated to animal shelters that do not perform euthanasia. Kindly drop off a box or can of dog or cat food and/or treats to the Borough Hall by Halloween. Even homeless pets deserve treats. In addition, we'll be collecting pet food at the Rabies Clinic on October 23rd and at the Pet Adoption area during the Hightstown Homecoming Celebration.



Enjoy the Thanksgiving and December holidays, though I hope to see you sometime during the Hightstown Homecoming Celebration in October!

~ Mayor Amy Aughenbaugh



NAME OUR CRIER BOY!

Our little CRIER mascot needs a name!

Suggestions can be submitted by mail (mark your envelope "Crier Boy"), via our website (www.hightstownborough.com), or by e-mail (clerk@hightstownborough.com). The person who submits the winning entry will receive a personalized drawing donated by Crier Boy artist Michael Gallagher. Deadline for entries is Monday, December 2. The winner will be announced in our January Crier!

GARBAGE WILL NOT BE PICKED UP ON THANKSGIVING DAY. THAT PICKUP WILL BE MADE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30.



POLICE LINE

by Chief James Eufemia

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Here are a few tips for Halloween safety:

- ♦ 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 metal or wood.
- ♦ 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.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

CROSSWALKS

One feature of our downtown revitalization is new designated crosswalks for pedestrians. We, as residents and business owners, have to set a good example by crossing Franklin Street, Main Street and Mercer Street within the crosswalks. It may add a few steps when walking to or leaving a business or eating establishment, but it will be much safer for all concerned.

The following statement summarizes two motor vehicle statutes regarding pedestrians and crosswalks: *Motor vehicles shall yield to pedestrians walking in a designated crosswalk, and pedestrians shall not cross a roadway unless using a designated crosswalk.* If we all follow these rules, pedestrian safety will be greatly enhanced throughout the downtown area, and throughout Hightstown.

PERMIT PARKING

The gravel portion of the Stockton Street Municipal Parking Lot is designated as the "permit" parking area. Business owners, their employees, and residents of the downtown area may apply for parking permits at the Borough Clerk's office. Only vehicles with parking permits attached may park in this portion of the lot.

Specifics regarding the application process are available at Borough Hall and on our Borough website (www.hightstownborough.com).



FREE RABIES CLINIC

The Borough of Hightstown will sponsor a free rabies clinic for dogs and cats on **Wednesday, October 23** between 4 and 6 p.m. at the Borough garage, 148 N. Main Street. **We'll be collecting pet food donations at the same time** — see the Mayor's Message on page one for details!

Upcoming Council Meetings

- Monday, October 7
- Monday, October 21
- Monday, November 4
- Monday, November 18
- Monday, December 2
- Monday, December 16
- Wednesday, 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 14**
(Columbus Day observed)
- Monday, November 11**
(Veterans' Day)
- Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29**
(Thanksgiving)
- Wednesday, December 25**
(Christmas Day)
- Wednesday, January 1, 2003**
(New Year's Day)



Healthy Hightstown

- Sharon Lane, RN

ANNUAL FLU AND PNEUMONIA CLINIC

The flu is a serious illness that causes symptoms which include fever, aches and pains, sore throat, runny nose, and chills. When people 65 and 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 shots at the Annual Flu and Pneumonia Clinic to be held at the East Windsor Municipal Building on Wednesday, October 30, 2002 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.



OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH!

Fire Official Tim Murray encourages you to follow these Fire Safety Rules:

- ◆ **Know two ways out of every room.**
- ◆ **Plan and practice fire exit drills.**
- ◆ **Test all smoke detectors every month and keep spare batteries on hand.**
- ◆ **If the door feels hot, do not open it. Find another way out.**
- ◆ **If the room is filled with smoke, stay low where the air is clear to breathe.**
- ◆ **Never return into a burning building.**
- ◆ **Have a central meeting place once out of the house.**
- ◆ **Report all fires.**
- ◆ **Always keep a fire extinguisher on hand, and remember "PASS" – Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep.**

TRICK OR TREAT FOR PETS

Pet food donations are being accepted at Borough Hall during the month of October. All items received will be donated to feed homeless animals at "no-kill" animal shelters in the area. See the Mayor's Message on page one for more details!



DON'T FORGET YOUR PERMIT!



In recent months, we have experienced a surge of home improvements in town which require permits; however, permits are not being obtained.

As a homeowner, it is your responsibility, when making arrangements to have work done on your home through home improvement companies such as Home Depot, Sears or Lowe's to have their contractors contact the Hightstown Code Enforcement Office to obtain the proper permits PRIOR to starting work. The only exception to this rule is for emergency service work or replacement of furnaces, air conditioners or water heaters. The homeowner or contractor has 72 hours from when the work was done to contact this office for appropriate permits after an emergency replacement.

Please call our office at 490-5125 if you have any questions or are not sure if you or your contractor needs to obtain a permit. We are here from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will be happy to assist you! Thank you for your trust.

- Construction Official Harry Wetterskog

HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Borough of Hightstown will be conducting its semi-annual water hydrant flushing during October. Dates and times will be announced on our website and in the local press. If you have questions or concerns, contact Sean McGuire, Water Plant Operator, at 490-5117.

HELP KEEP OUR SEWER LINES CLEAN!

Please don't pour ANY grease or cooking fat down the drain! It accumulates in our sewer lines and creates costly maintenance problems. Use a separate container to collect grease and fat, and dispose of it in your regular garbage.





Autumn Events

Historical Society's Annual House Tour

Sunday, October 6 1—5 p.m.

Six lovely older homes will be featured on this year's tour, sponsored by the Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society. Tickets (\$15) are available at the Ely House on the day of the event. Advance tickets (\$12) are available at selected locations. Call Shirley Olsen at 448-8388 for more information.



Homecoming Celebration & Borough-wide Garage Sale

October 17, 18, 19 and 20

We'll be celebrating the completion of our downtown revitalization project with a homecoming parade, ribbon cutting ceremony, sidewalk sale, and Borough-wide garage sale, along with many other events. Mark your calendars, and watch our website and the local papers for details of this exciting weekend!



Halloween Parade

Saturday, October 26 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 travel down Morrison Avenue, ending at Dawes Park.



Hightstown Safety Camp for Children

Saturday, November 16 9 a.m.— afternoon

Our Fire Company, Police Department and First Aid Squad will conduct this all day Safety Camp for children in the second and third grades. Lunch is included, and space is limited! For information or to register, call Jim Sidelinger at 371-2644.

Santa Parade and Tree Lighting

Friday, November 29 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.



Community Cultural Calendar

AT THE PEDDIE SCHOOL:

(for information or tickets, call 490-7550)

- October 5 8 p.m. Signature Series Awadagin Pratt, Solo Piano
- October 7 10:15 a.m. Family Theater To Kill a Mockingbird
- October 11 8 p.m. Jazz Fridays Series Kenny Barron.
- October 16 7:30 p.m. Dramatists Workshop Series Two staged readings: Bernard and The Windfall
- October 24, 25, 26 8 p.m. Peddie Theater Department The Miracle Worker
- November 1, 2 8 p.m. Peddie Theater Department Underclassmen Our Town

November 10 2 p.m.

Signature Series Sharon Isbin

November 15 8 p.m.

Jazz Fridays Series Ted Nash and Odeon

November 20 10:15 a.m.

Family Theater The Merry Adventures of the Nutcracker



DID YOU KNOW ...

According to Section 18-1.13 of our Borough ordinances, your garbage may not be placed at the curb before 5:00 p.m. on the day before collection, and all containers must be removed by 8:00 p.m. on the collection day. By doing your part in complying with this Ordinance, you'll be helping to keep our Borough looking its best.

