

HIGH BRIDGE

BOROUGH

Hunterdon County, New Jersey

HIGH BRIDGE'S MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY

The Borough of High Bridge has operated a water utility for many years. By all accounts, the system is close to 100 years old and is in need of numerous upgrades and repairs.

In New Jersey, when municipal governing officials believe selling this asset may be a more prudent option, a process is initiated that seeks proposals from the private sector. Privately owned water companies review the request for proposals issued by the municipality and potentially submit their proposal to the municipal government. Under

State law, the highest responsible bidder must be selected. In July, the Borough Council accepted the bid of New Jersey American Water for \$4.15 million.

The Mayor and Council of High Bridge determined that the option of privatizing the water utility was worth considering. The process outlined was followed and the governing body felt that the voters should make this decision through a binding referendum. High Bridge registered voters will have this opportunity at the General Election on November 7, 2017.

The Borough will host several public

information meetings leading up to November 7th. The dates are listed on the Borough Website along with other information that will be helpful in understanding this issue.

If residents have other questions, please feel free to email them to waterinfo@highbridge.org. Your email will receive a reply as soon as possible and the topics addressed will be incorporated into another section of this Borough website page called FAQs (frequently asked questions) to assist voters in their consideration of this matter.

RATE COMPARISON INFORMATION AND FAQ INFO – PRESENTED AT THE SEPTEMBER 28 COUNCIL MEETING

“How do we know the value of our water system?” and “How do we know that the offers we’ve received are reasonable?”

Our borough engineer and his associates put the value of most aging municipal water systems (like that of High Bridge) at between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per customer. New Jersey American Water's bid of \$4.15 million equates to approximately \$2,819 per customer, based on High Bridge's total customer base of 1,472 ratepayers.

“How much is compliance with the new New Jersey Water Quality Accountability Act really going to cost us?”

This act seems to be primarily aimed at relatively small water systems that currently only act reactively (like High Bridge). This act works to force action to protect water systems and public health before emergencies. It does this by requiring municipalities like us to review their systems, identify weaknesses, repair and upgrade them and then create plans to maintain and upgrade their systems going forward. We believe that this new law will obligate the Borough of

High Bridge to spend \$6-\$10 million in the next 5-10 years.

“How much are we spending each year currently to fix water main breaks?” “What repairs and upgrades do we need to do?”

We are currently spending about \$40,000 each year just to patch water main breaks. That number is likely to increase over the years.

We need an initial overall system assessment which will likely cost \$30-50,000. After that our engineer estimates that, water mains and other pipes, valves and hydrants that need replacing, plus upgrades to our treatment facility will cost a minimum of \$6 million.

Additionally, our two water tanks need approximately \$2.2 million worth of repairs/reconditioning, and installation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system may be necessary in the next few years. This “SCADA” system would cost our ratepayers approximately \$750,000.

It is very unlikely that any of these repairs/upgrades will cost less in the

future if we wait 10-20 years to address them.

“Other concerns if we keep and maintain our water system ourselves”

If we keep ownership of the water system ourselves and have to borrow large amounts of money to do it, Road repairs will have to be put on hold for a few reasons:

One: With the tremendously increased water rates, it is unlikely there would be support for borrowing more money to fix roads.

Two: The road repair schedule will have to be determined by the water main replacement schedule. There's no point in rebuilding a road before you tear it up to replace the water pipes below it.

Three: By the time the \$8 million bond for water system repairs is paid back in 2038, there are likely to be new problems that need to be addressed in our water system, requiring High Bridge to borrow even more money.

“Won't High Bridge have to begin paying for our

HIGH BRIDGE

BOROUGH

Hunterdon County, New Jersey

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

In an ongoing attempt to save on printing and mailing costs, starting in 2018 the Borough will ***no longer provide*** a mailed hard copy of this Newsletter. It will be available online and we continue to welcome your ideas and suggestions for content. For those who still wish to receive a print copy, please send an email to clerk@highbridge.org and provide your name and mailing address.

If you do not have email, please stop by Borough Hall and provide the same information.



908-200-5851 | HIGH BRIDGE, NJ
WWW.GENERALPAVINGSTONES.COM
 NJ HIC# 13VH07306600

- PATIOS & POOL DECKS
- DRIVEWAYS & WALKWAYS
- RETAINING WALLS & COLUMNS
- STAIRS & RAILINGS
- OUTDOOR KITCHENS & BUILT-IN GRILLS
- FIRE PITS & FIREPLACES
- PERGOLAS & PAVILIONS
- RADIANT HEAT SNOW MELTING SYSTEMS
- PERMEABLE PAVERS
- LOW-VOLTAGE LIGHTING & OUTDOOR AUDIO
- LIFETIME WARRANTY ON NEW INSTALLATIONS

BOROUGH CONTACT LIST

Mayor	Mark Desire	638 - 5652	mdesire@highbridge.org
Council President	Chris Zappa	323 - 3069	czappa@highbridge.org
Council	Lynn Hughes	638 - 8887	lhughes@highbridge.org
Council	Keir LoIacono	638 - 6455 Ext. 221	kloiacono@highbridge.org
Council	Adrienne Shipps	638 - 6455 Ext. 221	ashipps@highbridge.org
Council	Mike Stemple	638 - 4246	mstemple@highbridge.org
Council	Steve Strange	638 - 6455 Ext. 221	sstrange@highbridge.org

Administrator	Michael Pappas	638 - 6455 Ext. 226	administrator@highbridge.org
Acting Clerk	Adam Young	638 - 6455 Ext. 221	clerk@highbridge.org
Deputy Clerk	Adam Young	638 - 6455 Ext. 221	clerk@highbridge.org
Chief Financial Officer			
Tax Collector	Bonnie Fleming	638 - 6455 Ext. 223	bfleming@highbridge.org
Tax Assessor	Ann Marie Obiedzinski	638 - 6455 Ext. 225	aobiedzinski@highbridge.org
CCO Officer	Tom Silvia	638 - 6455 Ext. 5	zoning@highbridge.org
Library	Terry Steets	638 - 8231	library71@comcast.net

Construction Code Official	Ralph Price	638 - 6455 Ext. 227	construction@highbridge.org
Zoning Officer	Tom Silvia	638 - 6455 Ext. 228	zoning@highbridge.org
Director of Public Works	Mike Hann	638 - 6588	mhannhbdpw@comcast.net
Water Supervisor	Mike Hann	638 - 6588	mhannhbdpw@comcast.net
Planning Board Secretary	Barb Kinsky	638 - 6455 Ext. 222	pbsecretary@highbridge.org
Board of Adjustment Secretary	Barb Kinsky	638 - 6455 Ext. 222	pbsecretary@highbridge.org

Emergency, Fire or Police	EMERGENCIES	911	
Police	Chief Brett Bartman	638 - 6500 (non-emergencies)	
Fire	Chief Jeff Smith	638 - 6383 (non-emergencies)	jeffreysmith14@msn.com
Emergency Squad	Chief John T. Silliman	638 - 4441 (non-emergencies)	john.t.silliman@hbes.org

Borough Hall

97 West Main Street, High Bridge, NJ 08829
 908-638-6455 | www.highbridge.org
 Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

STAY IN THE KNOW:

To receive emergency information, updates on road closures, and other changes, subscribe to High Bridge's Public Service Announcement email by sending an email to hbpsa@highbridge.org. This will add you to the distribution list. For any questions, please contact our Administrator, Mike Pappas.

WATER SYSTEM cont.

fire hydrants, municipal water use, and other expenses out of our budget if we sell the water system? Won't that increase taxes?"

Our borough will have to begin paying for some things that we get for free now (because High Bridge owns the wa-

ter system). But paying off \$4 million of debt will eliminate nearly \$400,000 in loan payments that we currently have to make each year. This reduction in loan payments more than offsets the increased costs associated with paying a

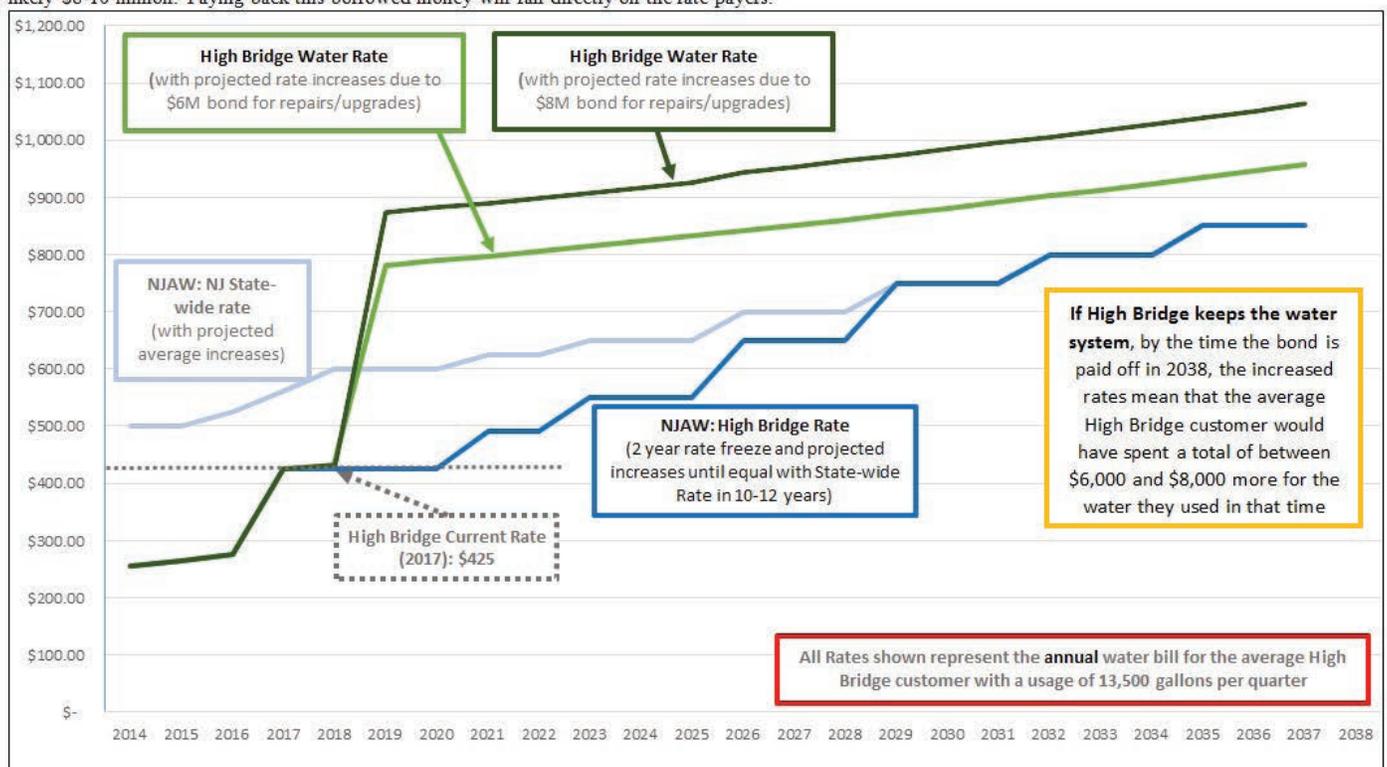
fee for fire hydrants, etc.

This may actually allow us to reduce taxes, accelerate our road repair/maintenance program or to explore other needs within our town.

Just the facts

Whether or not to sell our water system is not a simple question. Many competing concerns and variables have to be considered. But at the top of many people's priority list are concerns about what will happen to our water rates. The graph below compares the likely impacts on our water rates from selling our water system to NJ American Water vs keeping ownership of the system and paying for the necessary repairs and upgrades ourselves.

The repairs and upgrades are no longer optional. Our water system, parts of which are well over 100 years old, is in serious need of major work. Nearly three decades without any upgrades of any sort, and the New Jersey Water Quality Accountability Act, signed into law this past July, combine to make repairs and upgrades a necessity rather than just the responsible option. To pay for this work, the borough will have to bond for at the very least \$6 million, and much more likely \$8-10 million. Paying back this borrowed money will fall directly on the rate-payers.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If the referendum is approved by voters in November, what will actually be sold?

The entirety of the existing system would be sold to New Jersey American Water including water mains, wells, pumps, water tanks, fire hydrants and associated equipment that are attached to these components of the Borough water utility. The State of New Jersey controls the water supply in the state,

including water in the aquifers that supply High Bridge. This would not change should the referendum pass.

What prompted the effort to sell the water utility?

The water system in High Bridge is almost 100 years old. Because of its age and condition, there have been many water main breaks throughout the Bor-

ough. Repairs require shutting down sections of the system that interrupts water service to homes and businesses. Many of these breaks take Borough Department of Public Works staff away from other projects because a water main break must be repaired immediately. When DPW cannot make the repair quickly because of its magnitude, an outside contractor is hired, which

can become a rather expensive cost to the utility. DPW must also then make repairs to the road surface after fixing the breaks, which can take additional time and money. A series of breaks along a single street can result in road conditions that continue to deteriorate. Since January 1, 2016, water line and road repairs have cost the Borough \$74,046.00.

In addition to water main breaks in the distribution system, the Borough will also be burdened by the need to invest in our aging water supply wells, storage tanks, hydrants, valves and meters. Many of these assets are at or very near the end of their useful lives and will need to be rehabilitated or replaced soon at a tremendous expense to the Borough.

Ultimately, the situation in Flint, Michigan has caused many municipalities around the country to focus more on the most efficient and effective way to provide the clean water that communities need to thrive. High Bridge's size and the importance of the most current expertise in water treatment and delivery caused this Borough Council to explore a sale to an experienced water system operator.

What will be the source of the water if the water utility is sold?

The existing five wells that supply the water for the Borough water system would continue to be the source for water system users in High Bridge. These are actually located outside of our municipal boundaries. Four (4) of those wells are sunk in the "Igneous and Metamorphic Rock" aquifer and are treated at the Buffalo Hollow Road Water Treatment Plant in Lebanon Township. The 5th well is sunk in the "Jacksonburg Limestone, Kittatinny Supergroup, and Hardyston Quarzite" aquifer off of Grayrock Road in Clinton.

If approved by voters, how will the proceeds from the sale be used?

State law requires that all proceeds first pay off any debt for the water utility, and then pay down other debt of the municipality.

How much debt is in the water utility?

Currently, the water utility has outstanding debt in the amount of \$132,352.00. Once that is paid, the remaining balance of the sale's proceeds would be required to retire other debt that the Borough holds. Below is the NJ Statute that outlines how municipal water utility sale proceeds must be utilized

40:62-6 Use of proceeds of sale or lease; investment pending use.

All rentals received under any such lease shall be applied by the municipality in the same manner as provided by law for the application of income from such plant while operated by the municipality. The proceeds from any sale shall be used for the retirement of bonds issued for the purposes of such plant, if any, or in case no such bonds are outstanding, then to the retirement of other bonds of the municipality. If no such bonds are outstanding the proceeds or any balance thereof may be used for the general purposes of the municipality. Such proceeds may, pending their use for the retirement of such bonds, be invested in bonds of the Government of the United States or bonds of the State of New Jersey or bonds or notes of such municipality. (Amended by L.1941, c. 412, p. 1059, s. 1)

How can I learn about the company that wants to purchase the water utility?

The Borough received proposals from two privately owned water companies. Under State law, the highest bidder must be accepted, which in this case was American Water Company. The proposal they submitted to High Bridge can be viewed on the Borough website. The company website is www.amwater.com

How will water user fees be impacted?

American Water has committed to maintain the current fee structure for two years. Subsequent to that, they would be required to apply to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities for any rate change or increase. This type of governance currently does not apply to Borough rate changes. Currently American Water rates are \$6.6538/1,000 gallons. The Borough has not yet estimated what rate it might eventually charge in order to alleviate some of the issues with the system.

If sold, where would I call if I encountered a problem with the water system?

American Water Company would be your point of contact for any question or problem that is encountered.

Would the sale of the water system have any impact on property taxes?

In New Jersey, municipally owned water utilities must be financially self-sustaining, which means that water user fees must cover all operating costs. The municipal budget that is raised through the local property tax does not fund the

water utility. It is funded by the system users. Those with private wells do not pay fees into the water utility. Because of the amount of debt that will be paid down, the Borough believes the immediate impact to taxes will be minimal.

Are other items paid for out of the water utility funds?

Yes, other items are paid out of the water utility funds, such as DPW salaries and wages. These costs will go into the General Fund and be paid out of property taxes.

If approved, when would the transfer occur?

If approved by voters this November, the complete transfer will likely take several months to occur.

What happens if the residents vote no and we do not sell the water utility?

The Borough would likely begin formally planning for water main replacements and upgrades. The Borough Engineer estimated approximately \$6M would be needed immediately for critical repairs.

The Borough will also be responsible for complying with portions of the Water Quality Accountability Act, which was signed into law by Gov. Christie in May. Under this new law, as a purveyor of water to over 500 customers, the Borough would have to implement several mitigation policies and asset management planning, comply with increased testing of certain elements of the system, and provide additional reporting and analysis. All of this will take DPW time and could represent increased expenses. The text of the law can be found here: http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2016/Bills/S3000/2834_R1.HTM

Will the golf course and schools pay for their own water?

The Borough will pay for the water usage at the golf course. This is estimated to be approximately \$40,000 annually.

Can the Borough lease the water system to a private sector company such as American Water Company instead of selling it?

The Borough has not been made aware of scenarios when a municipal water utility is leased.

Please visit the website for updated information, contact the Administrator, or visit a Council Meeting or a Town Hall/Open House if you have questions or would like additional information.

TAX & UTILITIES

2015 HOMESTEAD BENEFIT INFORMATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- You were a New Jersey resident; and
- You owned and occupied a home in New Jersey that was your principal residence on October 1, 2015; and
- Property Taxes for 2015 were paid on that home; and
- You met the 2015 income requirements.
- \$150,000 for homeowners 65 or older or blind or disabled; or
- \$75,000 for homeowners under 65 and not blind or disabled.

The filing deadline for 2015 Homestead Benefit applications is November 30, 2017.

If you sold your home, or plan to close on the sale on or before November 30, 2017...

If you no longer own the home that was your principal res-

idence on October 1, 2015, or you plan to close on or before November 30, 2017, you must answer "No" to the question asking whether you still own the property when filing the Homestead Benefit application or you risk losing your benefit.

If you sell your home after filing your application...

The Homestead Benefit will reduce the tax bill of the person who owns the property on the date the benefit is paid. This means that if you indicated you still own the home when filing your application, and later sell it, the only way to receive your 2015 Homestead Benefit is to take credit for the benefit at the closing of your property sale. If you plan to sell your home, discuss these instructions with your attorney or closing agent so they can negotiate on your behalf.

Homestead Benefit Hotline: 1-888-238-1233 | www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/homestead/eligibility.shtml

Property Tax Reimbursement Hotline: 1-800-882-6597 www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/

REMINDER:

HIGH BRIDGE TAX AND UTILITIES DUE

4th Quarter Taxes: November 1

4th Quarter Utilities: November 30

POST DATED CHECKS ARE UNACCEPTABLE

MAIL FORWARDING HAS EXPIRED. If you are making payments on-line through your bank, please update your records to reflect our new mailing address: **97 West Main St., High Bridge, NJ 08829**

Payments are also accepted at:

INVESTORS BANK

55 Old Highway 22, Clinton, NJ 08809

For Credit Card and Electronic Payments, *visit www.highbridge.org*

Property Tax Reimbursement (Senior Freeze) Forms

Filing deadline for 2016 Senior Freeze (PTR) Applications: *Extended to October 18, 2017*

PUBLIC WORKS

LEAF & BRUSH DROP OFF AT THE COMMONS, PICK UP BAGS, TOO

We previously announced that residents of High Bridge can drop off paper bags of leaves or brush at the Commons Park on specific Saturdays beginning this month. The hours are 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM on the following dates: October 14 & 28 and November 4 & 18.

Additionally, the Borough will begin offering 20 free leaf bags if residents wish to rake and bag their own leaves. Once filled, residents will be able to deliver them to the Commons or the bags will be picked up by DPW when the fall leaf pickup

program begins.

Leaf bags can be picked up at the Commons Park on October 14 & 28 and November 4 & 18 between 9:00AM and 1:00PM. Beginning October 4, the set of 20 bags can be picked up at the DPW Garage at 26 West Main St from 8:00 - 8:30AM Monday thru Friday. Residents will need to provide proof of residency to the DPW official distributing the bags.

In areas where curbside pickup is not offered and bagging is required, the allotment will be 30 bags per residence.

PUBLIC WORKS CONT.

For the month of October, two leaf vacuum machines will be operating, traveling through the Borough. When possible, another crew will drive through town and pick up leaf bags. In early November, we will assess the progress made and likely announce a schedule for leaf pickup section by section in the Borough. Watch the website or sign up for the PSA for details.

Options available to residents are:

- Rake your leaves to the curb to be picked up by vacuum
- Fill bags and place them at your curb to be picked up by DPW
- Fill bags and take them to the Commons

There are roads that are excluded from curb side pick-up due to safety concerns. They are Mine Road between Seal Street and Cokesbury Road (due to the extremely narrow

width of the road), the entire length of County Route 513 throughout the Borough (Fairview Avenue - Main Street - Bridge Street - West Main Street from Bridge Street to the municipal boundary), Cregar Road between the NJ Transit bridge and Fairview Avenue, Hart Street, Union Avenue, Central Avenue and Center Street.

The Borough DPW will do its best to pick leaves up in a timely manner, weather permitting. If machinery malfunctions beyond the control of DPW or another emergency takes place, delays may be experienced.

This plan is being undertaken for the first time this year. A learning curve will be needed but constructive feedback is welcome.

If you have questions, please call Borough Hall at 908-638-6455.

EVENTS CONTINUE IN 2017

CELEBRATE THE 275th! - OCTOBER 14th

This year marks the 275th anniversary of the beginning of Taylor-Wharton – the company which the Borough of High Bridge was built around. Our heritage and that of the earliest forges are entwined, and the 275th anniversary gives us a chance to pause and remember as well as celebrate the past and the future of our little town!

A parade, music, exhibits and tours are planned.

275TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAYLOR-WHARTON

On October 14 and 15, High Bridge will look back to its past as an iron town with a two day Foundry Festival celebrating the 275th anniversary of Taylor-Wharton, the company our town was built around.

The festival starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday with a Street Fair along Main Street and iron-making demonstrations. Food trucks will open on the Commons at 11 a.m. At 1:30 p.m., there will be a parade with over 200 participants from local organizations and businesses, floats and fire department and emergency squad vehicles. Following the parade, there will be music in the Commons, the Street Fair and iron-making demonstra-

tions will continue, and there will be a model railroad exhibit. Later in the day, there will be a welcome by Mayor Desire, followed by a mix of short talks, music and films showing what Taylor Wharton made over the years, and a short film about Custom Alloy which now owns the former Taylor-Wharton steel plant.

On Sunday, the festival will spread out across town, with numerous exhibits bringing out the history of our town and various walking tours. Walking tours will be along Main Street, Columbia Trail to the TISCO Office building and to Railroad History sites. Tours of the Reformed Church and parsonage, Host Masonic Lodge, and some historic

homes will be available. Solitude House will be open for tours and fun activities for kids. History exhibits will be set up by the Historical Society, American Legion, High Bridge High School Alumni, the Boy Scouts, Host Masonic Lodge and others. A model railroad exhibit will be operating Central Railroad of New Jersey trains. A collection of Taylor-Wharton films from the 1930s and 1940s and other historic films will be shown. Most of these Sunday events and activities will be from 1 - 4 p.m., others at different times. Schedules with times and locations will be available on Saturday.

HIGH BRIDGE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 2017

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Environmental Committee Meeting - Borough Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Council Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017
Recycling Pickup - South East of Town

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017 - 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Commons Natural Recycling Center

OCTOBER 14TH AND 15TH
275th Taylor Wharton Celebration

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Culture & Heritage Commission Meeting - Borough Hall

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Special Council Meeting - High Bridge Elementary School

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Events Committee Meeting - Borough Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Recreation Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017
Recycling Pickup - North West of Town

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Council Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017
Recycling Pickup - South East of Town

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2017 - 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Commons Natural Recycling

TUESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2017 - 5 P.M. - 8 P.M.
Trick or Treat

**Description: Trick or Treaters should remember to only go to houses with their porch light on.

November 2017

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2017
Recycling Pickup - North West of Town

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017 - 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Commons Natural Recycling

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Economic Development Committee Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2017
Recycling Pickup - South East of Town

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2017 - 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Commons Natural Recycling Center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Environmental Meeting - Borough Hall

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Events Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Recreation Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017
Recycling Pickup - North West of Town

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2017 - 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.
Commons Natural Recycling

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Culture & Heritage Commission Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2017
Recycling Pickup - South East of Town

December 2017

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017
Recycling Pickup - North West of Town

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Economic Development Committee Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017
Recycling Pickup - South East of Town

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Environmental Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017
Recycling Pickup - North West of Town

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Culture & Heritage Commission Meeting - Borough Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017 - 7:30 P.M. - 9 P.M.
Events Committee Meeting - Borough Hall

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21, 2017 - 7:30P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Recreation Meeting - Borough Hall

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017
Recycling Pickup - South East of Town

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - HIGH BRIDGE PAINT OUT

October 28 - November 5

FREE ANNUAL RABIES CLINIC FOR DOGS AND CATS

SAT., NOVEMBER 11, 2017- 9 A.M. - 11 A.M.

HIGH BRIDGE
EMERGENCY SQUAD BUILDING
95 WEST MAIN ST. HIGH BRIDGE, NJ

ANY QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL 638-6455

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE & TRUNK OR TREAT

On October 28, the Halloween Costume Parade and Contest and Trunk or Treat at the Commons will be taking place on Main Street! Prizes for best costumes by age group, parent/child pair and Best Decorated Trunk will be awarded! The Trunk or Treat starts at 2 p.m. (set-up begins at 1 p.m.) and the Contest is at 3 p.m. Please come and enjoy a safe Halloween Event with your child! (Note: this does not take the place of regular trick-or-treating on Oct 31).

SPEAKER SERIES & SOLITUDE HOUSE OPEN HOUSE

High Bridge Culture & Heritage Committee

On behalf of the Cultural and Heritage Committee, the Speaker Series' is back and will be held on the 4th Monday evening of the month, at 7:30 pm, in the Emergency Squad building.

The next two dates are:

- Monday, October 23, 2017
- Monday, November 27, 2017

SOLITUDE HOUSE OPEN HOUSES - 2017

Date(s)	Event	Feature	Time open to the public
Sunday, October 08, 2017*	Open House	T-W Products; Tours	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 15, 2017**	275th Anniversary	T-W Products; Tours	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 12, 2017*	Open House	TBD	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 10, 2017*	Christmas	Decorations, gift shop	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 17, 2017**	Christmas	Decorations, gift shop	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Regular open house dates are the second Sunday of the month.

**Other open house dates

PLEASE RECYCLE

High Bridge Environmental Committee

The State Department of Environmental Protection requires us to reach a 50% recycling rate. High Bridge's 2016 residential recycling percentage was 25% for curbside recycling and 30% brush collection. When you add in other vendors who collected from recycling events and road projects, the rate increased to a 75% recycling rate.

The Environmental Committee asks all our residents to please help us continue to reduce the amount of recycling that goes into our garbage collection. In addition to helping us meet the mandated recycling goals, you can generate grant income to the Borough, all while you are helping our environment.

Did you know that we are eligible for state recycling grants based on the amount of our annual recycling tonnage reports? The DEP's recycling tonnage grant program is intended to provide municipalities with incentives to reduce trash disposal and increase recycling. It is funded through a state-imposed fee added to waste transfer station tipping fees.

The grants are based on annual recycling tonnage reports submitted by municipalities and determined by the fees collected statewide. This revenue is used to offset borough recycling expenses. It is utilized in the annual budget to cover the cost of cleaning up the commons natural recycling area, i.e. tub grinding and the labor costs associated with this project. Your local government uses this grant money to continue to build even stronger recycling programs as we all work to improve our recycling efforts. High Bridge has recycling ordinances in place. Check them out on our town web site.

Reminder: curbside recycling is a service our town provides for its residents. Please take advantage of this

service to boost our recycling percentage and to cut the amount of solid waste we generate.

To make recycling as convenient as possible, we provide curbside collection every other week. We also list the recycling dates in the town newsletter. Take a few minutes to copy the dates on your monthly calendar as a reminder.

All recyclable material, including newspapers, magazines, junk mail and cardboard, may be commingled and combined with other recyclable items, including unbroken glass of any color, aluminum, tin, paper and plastic #s 1 – 7, any size and any shape. These commodities do not have to be separated and can be mixed in open or closed containers of your choice. Please rinse out items and remove lids and bottle caps. Labels can remain. **Non-acceptable items:** aluminum pie plates, ceramic cups, mirror & window glass, light bulbs, drinking glasses, plastic flower pots, styrofoam, plastic bags, oil jugs, scrap metal. **No Pizza boxes.**

There are three options to prepare commingled and combined recyclables for collection:

1. Place commingled recyclables in a single, reusable container, securing the contents in the container so they cannot blow out of the container*
2. Bag commingled recyclables in clear plastic bags, or
3. Tie separated paper product recyclables in bundles as follows: cross-tie newspapers, magazines, single-ply cardboard (such as cereal boxes and gift boxes), corrugated cardboard, and junk mail (not shredded) in separate bundles 8 to 12 inches high placed next to other recyclables, in containers, or in clear plastic bags

*IMPORTANT: The recycling collector will NOT pick up loose items in the street. Residents are responsible for picking up any items that blow out of their containers.

Place recycling out the night before your pickup day. Collection begins early in the morning. If your recycling is put out late and you find the truck has gone by, do not leave it at the curb, please bring it back into your yard. It will not be picked up until the next scheduled pick-up collection day.

Sometimes our collector has a problem and cannot finish all the streets on the collection day. If they haven't been to your street at all, leave your materials curbside and they should be by the very next day to pick them up. Check the borough web site for updates.

Please call Borough Hall 638-6455 to report any recycling problems.

Additional recycling opportunities may be found on the town web site: highbridge.org

Recycling remains one of the best hands-on ways for individuals to protect their environment. Thank you for making an effort to recycle! You will make a difference!

Environmentally,
The High Bridge
Environmental Committee
Lynn Hughes Council Liaison

908.638.5006

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STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

High Bridge Environmental Committee

Do you know where the majority of water pollution comes from?

You may think it comes from factories or large tankers, but that is incorrect. In fact, over 60% of New Jersey's water pollution comes from "people pollution"! This type of pollution is called nonpoint source pollution.

Think of a rainstorm and your street like waterfront property. As the water hits your house, lawn, driveway, and street, it can pick up dirt, oil, pesticides, fertilizers, and litter. The water and its "luggage" (these potential pollutants) then goes to the closest storm drain and into a series of pipes that lead directly to the river.

Many people believe that the water is treated before emptying into the river, but this is not true! The water

that runs into the storm drains in High Bridge goes directly into the South Branch of the Raritan River.

The High Bridge Environmental Commission is working to increase community awareness of storm drain pollution. Look for storm drain markers in your neighborhood with the message: "No Dumping, Drains to River". These markers will serve as a reminder that our storm drains lead directly to the South Branch of the Raritan River and that we all play a part in the solution to water pollution.

Here are a few simple solutions to ensure a clean water supply for years to come:

- Pick up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in the garbage.

- Pick up litter in the street.
- Do not put grass clippings in the street (compost them instead)
- Do not let motor oil drain on the street (take motor oil to a recycling center)

What can you do to help?

It's simple! Dump nothing on your property, on the street, or down the storm drain that you wouldn't swim in or drink!

High Bridge has ordinances in place for Stormwater Pollution

Chapter 338-2

CAUGHT BEING GREEN

High Bridge Environmental Committee

The Environmental Committee is looking for environmentally responsible residents. Please submit the name and the environmental action of any HB resident you have observed going out of their way to be environmentally responsible. Check out past Green Award recipients on the environmental committee page of our town web site at highbridge.org.

The environmental committee presents this Green Award yearly. We have two nomination categories: one for adults or organizations and the other for youth. Nominations for the annual Green Award should be sent to lhughes@highbridge.org.

Environmentally,
Lynn Hughes Council Liaison

FOR HOMEOWNERS WITH ASH TREES

All ash trees in New Jersey should be considered at high risk for the Emerald Ash Borer. Homeowners should work with a Certified (Licensed) Tree Expert or Approved Consulting Forester to help determine the condition of the ash trees on your property. They will inform you on whether or not your ash trees are good candidates for a treatment program or whether tree removal is the most appropriate response. As a reminder, tree permits are required from the Borough of High Bridge before cutting down trees.

For more Emerald Ash Borer information go to Emerald-dashborer.nj.gov

HUNTING AWARENESS

High Bridge Environmental Committee

HUNTING SEASON

The Environmental Commission would like to remind everyone that hunting season typically begins in September. While New Jersey has an extremely low incidence of hunting-related accidents, please keep in mind that High Bridge has open space properties in which hunting is a permitted activity. The following properties have been designated Borough Wildlife Management Areas with hunting by permit only: only bow hunting is allowed.

- The Dewey Avenue Property; Block 31 Lot 14.02; Acres 44.3;

- The Pfauth Property; Block 19 Lots 32; Acres 3.11;
- The Springside Farm Property; Block 40 Lot 4; Acres 36.54;
- The Nassau Property; Block 37 & 40 Lots 1 & 2; Acres 82.66;

To view more on the exact locations, please refer to the Wildlife Management Application online at www.highbridge.org and our Tax Map available online for specific information.

Deer hunting season typically runs from September through February. Permits shall be valid only during

the applicable State-approved deer hunting season, as said dates may be amended by the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Council. Sunday bow hunting for deer is now legal on wildlife management areas and on private property ONLY. The legislative change does NOT include any firearm hunting on Sundays.

Applications and approved permits may be picked up at the Clerk's office during regular office hours.

THE PIZZA BOX

High Bridge Environmental Committee

Many people assume that pizza boxes are recyclable. In fact, most boxes have recycling symbols on them and are traditionally made from corrugated cardboard. They are, in and of themselves, recyclable.

However, what makes parts of them non-recyclable is the hot, tasty treat that comes inside them, specifically, the grease and cheese from pizza that soil the cardboard.

Food is one of the worst contaminants in the paper recycling process. Grease and oil are not as big of a problem for plastic, metal and glass, as those materials are recycled using a heat process. But when paper products, like cardboard, are recycled, they are mixed with water and turned into a slurry. Since we all know

water and oil don't mix, the issue is clear.

Grease from pizza boxes causes oil to form at the top of the slurry, and paper fibers cannot separate from oils during the pulping process. Essentially, this contaminant causes the entire batch to be ruined. This is the reason that other food related items are non-recyclable (used paper plates, used napkins, used paper towels, etc).

Many people admit trying to "sneak" their pizza boxes in with cardboard boxes and such. In reality, this does more harm than good as the contaminated cardboard could ruin the whole recycling batch.

Please keep pizza boxes out of the recycling stream.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Walk facing the flow of traffic
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing any street.
- Make sure drivers see you before crossing in front of them.
- Be aware that sun glare reduces driver visibility.
- Wear white clothing, reflectors or carry a light when walking at night.
- When driving, be especially alert in residential neighborhoods and school zones. Be on the lookout for bikers, walkers or runners who may be distracted or may step into the street unexpectedly.
- Reminder: when walking through the Arches tunnel, stay close to the side as it is difficult for drivers to see walkers in the tunnel.

For more pedestrian safety information visit www.harttma.com

IDLE FREE BOROUGH

High Bridge Environmental Committee

Idling your vehicle for more than 3 minutes is against the law in New Jersey.

That's because vehicle exhaust not only pollutes our air (it is the leading source of hazardous air pollution in New Jersey (*source: NJDEP*), but also puts people, especially children, at risk for asthma and other respiratory ailments, allergies, and possible long term problems. In addition, vehicles release potent greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

IDLING FACTS

- Idling for more than 10 seconds actually uses more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Tests show that no more than 30 seconds is needed to circulate engine oil.
- The best way to warm up your vehicle is to drive it.
- Idling can actually damage engines since it is operating not at peak (or high) operating temperatures. It causes incomplete combustions and more harmful pollutants to be released into the air. Fuel residues also form and contaminate engine oil and damage engine parts. In addition, water can condense in vehicle's exhaust.
- Modern vehicles don't require any idling to warm them up.

(*Source: Office of Energy Efficiency, Natural Resources Canada*)

HEALTH IMPACTS

- Vehicle related air pollution can cause asthma and other respiratory problems and allergies, especially in children who breathe at a faster rate than adults. Air toxics also contribute to heart disease and attacks, as well as higher cancer rates in high traffic areas (*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*).
- Asthma is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15 (*Source: American Lung Association*).
- Up to 25% of NJ's school age children are asthmatic-the leading cause of school absenteeism and increased visits to the emergency room on hot summer days (*Source: NJ Department of Environmental Protection*).
- Diesel vehicles emit numerous cancer causing chemicals, including benzene and formaldehyde; all vehicle gas emissions account for as many as half of all cancers attributed to outdoor air pollution (*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*)

Take the No-Idling pledge!

If you are going to be idling more than 30 seconds, turn off your vehicle.

COMMONS MULCH AREA

Being able to bring your yard brush to the commons is a service that the Borough provides to our residents. Only brush and tree branches (3 in or less in diameter) may be brought by residents to the area behind the fence at Commons Park on designated Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Check the calendar on our website for dates and details. November 18, 2017 is the last open date for this year. The area will be closed from November 19, 2017 through March 9, 2018. The new schedule will be posted on the town website and published in the Spring Borough Newsletter.

Please do not leave items in plastic bags. No pieces of lumber/wood. No grass clippings or leaves.

It is against the law to dump any other items and subject to a fine up to \$1000 / 90 days jail/ community service. Ordinance No. 2006-3; 2011-21; 2011-23

We ask if anyone observes illegal dumping at the Commons to report the day, time, type of material and the vehicle license plate number to the High Bridge Police: 638-6500

By: Councilwoman Lynn Hughes

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

If you missed our annual April electronic recycling event, check the Hunterdon County website for dates and times of any future county events or other means of recycling old electronics.

Reminder: computers and televisions, as well as white goods, cannot be recycled curbside and are not allowed in weekly trash collection.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Saturday, November 11, 2017

11 AM at Veterans Memorial Park

World War I officially ended on June 28, 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. The actual fighting between the Allies and Germany, however, had ended seven months earlier with the armistice, which went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. Armistice Day, as November 11 became known, officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12

years later. On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their service, to acknowledge that their contributions to United States national security are appreciated and to underscore the fact that all those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty.

Please bring a chair and join us as we honor our veterans.

Veterans Memorial Park is located at the intersection of West Main St. and County 513. Next to the NJ Transit commuter parking lot.

VETERANS PARK SIGNAGE VISIBILITY

If your borough organization has an event sign to display, please place the sign to the side of Veterans Park rather than directly in front. Signs should not be up longer than a week before the event and should be taken down right after the event. This area is for nonprofit organization signs only. Private business signs will be taken down. Thank you for being respectful of this special area.

INFORMATION ABOUT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

This park was made possible by a generous donation of land by Mr. and Mrs. Chat Hoffman. (Chat's dad was a charter member of Post 188 and an army veteran of WWI) The park was created through the efforts of American Legion Post 188 and Eagle Scout Robert Batch. Post 188 also accepts monetary donations to help with the upkeep of this special area.

WWII VETS OF POST 188

The following members were recently made Honorary Life members of Post 188 as of June 2017:

- Michael Barber: U.S. Navy
- Henry Hagen: U.S. Navy
- Alfred Patane: U.S. Navy
- Sanford "Sandy" Groendyke: U.S. Army Air Corp

Honorary Life members' dues are paid by Post 188.

The following members are Paid For Life (money paid by the members themselves):

- Lee Blehl: U.S. Army
- Frank Klemm: U.S. Navy
- Robert Roll: U.S. Navy
- James Tate: U.S. Army

HIGH BRIDGE REFORMED CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

DECEMBER 2, 2017
9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

VENDORS WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS,
BAKED GOODS, LUNCH AND OTHER
ORGANIZATIONS

*A portion of proceeds to benefit
High Bridge Emergency Services*

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- I. innovator
- R. risk-taker
- L. leader

Interested in Learning More?

Come Chat With Us!



HIGH BRIDGE BOY SCOUTS

The High Bridge Boy Scouts consists of boys of all ages from the local area. Does your son enjoy the outdoors, helping the community, and having fun with his peers? If so, the Cub Scout pack and Boy Scout troop are open for boys to sign up today, ages 6 - 18, to join us. All you have to do is simply come to a meeting and sign up! For more information, including meeting times, how to join, our activities calendars and more, please visit our websites.

Skills and activities that the scouts participate in include:

- **Leadership Development**
- **Community Service Projects**
- **Scoutcraft (Knots, Fire Making, Navigation, Cooking)**
- **Camping, Hiking, Backpacking, Biking, Canoeing**
- **US Flag Retirement** (*If you have a flag that needs retirement, please contact us*)

Our Fall Food Drive to benefit the Open Cupboard Food Pantry will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017. Bags will be dropped off a few weeks prior to pick-up so please look for them. Please consider helping by placing a bag of food out for collection.

The Pack and Troop will both be marching in the upcoming Taylor-Wharton 275th Anniversary Parade on October 14th. Please come out to the parade and support the scouts, as well as the other community organizations marching, to help celebrate the Taylor-Wharton company and its historical importance to this town.

CUB SCOUT PACK 149

To fund our activities for the year, Pack 149 raises money with its Annual Popcorn Fundraiser (September 1st – October 31st). We are a self-supporting, volunteer led, community youth organization and without the money raised by popcorn sales, we wouldn't be able to do all the fun things that help the scouts grow and learn each year. The cub scouts will be coming around town this fall selling popcorn. Please help the pack out by placing an order.

This fall, we have a variety of events planned! We will be operating our Monkey Bridge at Community Day, family camping at Teetertown, sponsoring several local families with Thanksgiving dinners, go on a hike to The Pinnacle on the Appalachian Trail, and we'll see a holiday laser show at the RVCC Planetarium! We can't wait.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 149

The troop, which celebrates its 105th anniversary this year, has a special connection to Taylor-Wharton dated back to 1912 when Knox Taylor helped create the troop with his Taylor-Wharton Superintendent Sam Buck, who became Troop 149's first Scoutmaster. Over the last century, the troop has had 30 Scoutmasters who have helped hundreds of local boys (including 34 Eagle Scouts) learn to love the outdoors, the value of community service and to gain and utilize leadership skills through scouting. We look forward to continuing to help local boys with these skills as we move forward. For more troop history, please visit our website.

The troop also has a great year planned. We'll camp, hike and/or bike every month of the scouting year. This fall, we'll be practicing some boating skills at Spruce Run, participating in a Survival Camporee at Round Valley, and we'll be doing a 50 mile bike camping trip in West Virginia, which will end with a day of spelunking in the Bone-Norman Cave System.

Thank You,

Frank Vaccaro

Pack 149 Cubmaster

highbridge.pack149@gmail.com

www.highbridgepack149.wix.com/pack-149

Judd Corley

Troop 149 Scoutmaster

highbridge.troop149@gmail.com

http://www.orgsites.com/nj/troop149/index.html

ENJOY OUR OPEN SPACE

The Environmental Commission invites you to take advantage of our varied open space areas.

- Walk or bike the Columbia or Nassau Trail.
- Relax with a good book in the quiet area of the Commons.
- Take the kids to Union Forge Park for active recreation.
- View the Solitude Falls from the sitting area off the Columbia Trail.
- Follow the well-marked Taylor Steel Workers Historic Trail to the historic Forge

MEALS ON WHEELS IN HUNTERDON

HOME DELIVERED - A program designed to deliver a hot meal and assurance check each weekday between the hours of 11 am to 1 pm to the homebound. Our Weekend Home Delivered Program offers cold bag lunches which are delivered on Friday for the weekend consumption.

CONGREGATE - A program designed to meet the social needs of the independent senior. A nutritious meal is served Monday through Friday between 11:45 am and 1 pm at the Lambertville site and with educational recreational programming at the Flemington Site.

LUNCH N LEARN - A nutritional education program designed to discuss healthier eating while enjoying a meal at the Flemington Café.

COUNSELING - A program for specific diet or healthy eating plans designed by Karen Fivek, Registered Dietician.

TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS - Call 908-284-0735 or visit our website: www.mowih.org or visit us on [facebook.com/mealsonwheelsinhunterdon](https://www.facebook.com/mealsonwheelsinhunterdon).

Meals on Wheels in Hunterdon is always in need of volunteer drivers. Please contact us if you are interested in delivering meals to homebound seniors. We request a once a month commitment to drive, with the delivery route taking approximately one to one and a half hours. Please call or visit our website for more information.

DONATE YOUR ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

The High Bridge Business Association is looking for as many artificial Christmas trees as possible to line Main Street this holiday season. If you have an artificial tree of any size that you are willing to donate, please reach out to info@HBbusiness.org, or stop in to see Christina Whited, President of HBBA, at Inside/Out on Main Street.

HBBA also needs strands of outdoor white lights, extension cords, plug strips and timers as donations. Anyone who might like to volunteer to help set up the display is encouraged to reach out as well. Many hands make light work! HBBA hopes to make a truly spectacular display along Main Street during the holidays.

Hawk Rock Yard Works
(908) 391-3608 High Bridge, NJ 

<> Planting <> Trimming <> Edging <> Mulching
<> Removals <> Minor Grading / Surface Drainage
<> Lawn Repair <> Storm / Seasonal Cleanup <>

License #13VH08559800



HIGH BRIDGE WOMEN'S GROUP

Holiday Events

The High Bridge Women's Group is happy to announce that Cookies with Santa will return on December 9, 2017. Santa will once again welcome children for a visit at the Rescue Squad Building from 1 - 3 p.m. Cookies and punch will be served. Please feel free to bring your camera for a great holiday photo opportunity.

The Women's Group will also be helping Santa with some of his holiday chores. Santa's mailbox will be in front of the High Bridge Library from the Saturday after Thanksgiving through December 17th. Any letter received that has a return address listed will receive a handwritten response from Santa before Christmas.

For more information, please contact President Chris Marx at 638-4146 or email csmarx@comcast.net.

HIGH BRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brett J. Bartman / Chief of Police



§ 343-35. Snow and ice removal.

The owner or tenant of land abutting upon the sidewalk of any street or avenue shall remove all snow and ice from such sidewalk within 12 daylight hours after same shall have formed or fallen thereon. If the sidewalk is covered with snow after it has been cleared, by forces other than nature, it is the responsibility of the owner or tenant to ensure that snow is removed.

§ 343-36. Treatment of ice.

The owner or tenant of land abutting or bounding upon the sidewalks of any street or avenue shall, when such sidewalks may become icy or otherwise slippery, place thereon calcium chloride, sodium chloride, ashes, sand, cinders, sawdust or other material designed to prevent pedestrians from slipping and falling, and shall at all times keep such sidewalks in a safe and passable condition.

Ordinance 184-19 and Ordinance 184-36 subsection 1. d & e are hereby vacated and Ordinance 184-36 subsections 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 are amended to read:

184-36. Snow Emergency Routes (SER) Subsections 1.b., 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

1.b. Snow Covered shall mean snow accumulation >2 inches as measured at the High Bridge Police Department

2. All roads in the Borough of High Bridge are hereby designated as SER

4. Vehicles parked on SER shall remove their vehicles from the designated route within 2 hours of the start of a snow event.

5. Vehicle owners are hereby put on notice they are responsible for their vehicle and to be aware of any potential snow events.

6. Vehicles may park in the Commons Parking lot, if parking spaces are available, for the duration of the snow event and shall be removed within 36hrs from the end of the event..

7. Failure to remove vehicle in compliance with this section shall result in the vehicle being deemed a nuisance vehicle under subsection 184-20

Failure to remove permitted vehicle in compliance with this section shall result in the vehicle being deemed a nuisance vehicle under subsection 184-20

Violations and Penalties:

a. First Offence - \$25.00 fine and Cost of Tow

b. Second Offence - \$100.00 fine and Cost of Tow

c. Third and subsequent offenses - \$500.00 fine, Cost of Tow,

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR RESIDENTS REGISTERED WITH THE NJ REGISTER READY (SPECIAL NEEDS) DATABASE.

Please check your information on the web site and update as needed. The data is reviewed on a regular basis by local Emergency Management, especially at the onset of high risk events or when hazardous weather warrants it. If you are listed on the database as archived the address listed may not get a wellness visit from our Police Department during height-

ened conditions. With limited responder resources, we want to ensure that each response is an effective use of these resources. Presently most registrants are classified as archived.

Select reactivate if you continue to require emergency assistance or select delete to remove your information. <https://www13.state.nj.us/SpecialNeeds/>

FROM OUR SCHOOLS

High Bridge School District is excited that the start of another year of school is underway. We would like to welcome back all our returning staff as well as welcome the following teachers to the district:

- Brittany Horvath, Middle School PE teacher
- Christin Cosgrove, Elementary School special education teacher
- Kathy Fulse, BSI elementary school teacher
- Jana Brown, Middle School special education teacher

Our custodial staff did an excellent job getting our buildings ready. We also completed some facility improvements, including resurfacing the elementary school roof, adding additional security cameras in both buildings and removing a number of unsafe trees at the elementary school. We are very proud to have earned the Sustainable Jersey for Schools Bronze level certification at the elementary school as we work toward the same award for the middle school.

The district is working with town officials and Hunterdon Area Rural Transit (H.A.R.T.) to ensure our students have a safe routes to school. We pride ourselves on our service projects especially within the High Bridge Community.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The High Bridge Board of Education is pleased to report to the residents of High Bridge the achievements of several noteworthy accomplishments during the 2016-2017 school year. These included the successful implementation of the next generation science standards at the Middle School, as well as completing preparations for the implementation of these standards in grades K-5 for the 2017-2018 school year.

The district successfully met its goal to expand literacy skills for all students. We continued to improve and expand communications with all stakeholders. We also developed a budget for the 2017-2018 school year based on reasonable, fully supported forecasts of expenditures, thereby promoting fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency.

The High Bridge Board of Education invites and encourages members of the public to attend our monthly meetings which are held at High Bridge Elementary School in the Library. Meetings are generally scheduled to be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month and are always advertised on the district website.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This year, the Elementary School's theme is "Kindness, Just Show It" and our students are already fully embracing it. Our older students are helping younger students find their way and students are seen helping one another more and more every day. We are so proud of our older students helping younger students find their way and we hope to see this continue each day.

We are continuing to embark on our new adventure with our participation in "International Walk to School Week" in conjunction with our partners at Safe Routes To School. On October 3rd students will be challenged to "Be a hero - walk to school!", this will be the kick off to our year-long commitment to encourage students to walk safely to school.

All students will also participate in our school wide "Only One You" project. Each student will get to design and paint a rock to represent themselves as individuals. The project will proudly be displayed near our playground. We are gearing up with partners in our community including the Mayor and Borough council, the PTO and HBTA, and local emergency services for our annual community day. This is always an exciting day for the students and community alike.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The staff of High Bridge Middle School is enthusiastic to begin another exciting school year. This year promises to be filled with opportunities for all of our students as we strive to find ways to challenge our students.

This year we've strived to expand the opportunities available for all of our students. **Some of the highlights include:**

- Adding an Intramural Sports elective one period per week
- Expanding our Enrichment for All program to include Makerspaces as a means of bringing together design, engineering and education
- Providing for a period of Career and Study Skills to cultivate students' executive functioning

skills (including time management, goal setting, note-taking, and study strategies) as well as expose students to compatible modern-day careers

- Adding a new Spanish Fun option during Activity Period for 7th and 8th grade students
- Building a Character Education program for our 5th and 6th grade students
- Continuing the L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program for our 5th grade
- Expanding our field trip plan to include at least 2 field trips per grade level.

For students entering 7th and 8th grade our main focus will be to prepare the students for high school.



Fall has arrived and the 38th season of High Bridge Youth Soccer has commenced. The goal of our organization is to provide an affordable, safe and fun activity for the children of High Bridge and surrounding towns, and to foster a love for the game of soccer.

High Bridge Youth Soccer is only possible because of the year round support and planning of its board members. Our officers are: President - Alan Schwartz; Co-Vice Presidents - Mike Estrella and Stephen Strange; Secretary - O'Brien Speckin; our Treasurer, Jeremy Groover. Our Trustees: Dave Kinsky; Jake Krushinski; Allison Roberts; and Jenny Crespo. Our other board members are: Fernando Columbro; SueEllen Vaccaro; Amy Babich; Keir Loiacono; Raul Ventura; and Kris Wagner.

In addition to the board members there are many others who provide support by volunteering to coach our teams, line the fields, work the snack stand, order equipment, uniforms and schedule team activities. Each task is critical to a successful season for the kids and we thank you all for your dedication!

HBYS is also supported through the generosity of our Sponsors; businesses and people whose financial contributions make it possible to purchase equipment such as goals, nets, balls, uniforms, first aid kits, etc., without having to raise player registration fees. Our sponsors, listed below are recognized for their integral role in the success of HBYS; please remember to patronize our Sponsorship Partners!

HBYS extends its thanks to our Platinum Level Sponsors: Ameriprise Financial – Steve Croghan; Roselle Savings Bank; High Bridge Hills Golf Club.

HBYS extends its thanks to our Gold Level Sponsors: Fox Lumber; Hilltop Deli; Investors Bank; ShopRite of Hunterdon County; The Knotts Company; AmeriGas.

HBYS extends its thanks to our Silver Level Sponsors: Deni Law Group LLC; Glassman High Voltage; J&M Manufacturing; Riley & Jake's Restaurant & Bar; Silver Oaks Learning Center; The UPS Store – Clinton.

HBYS extends its thanks to our Bronze Level Sponsors: High Bridge Stone Co.; Clinton Family Eye Care; Johnson & Johnson; Fernando Columbro; and Pete Kallgren.

Additionally, a sincere thank you is extended to Mrs. Riley's for providing HBYS with space each month for our board meetings.

Thank you for helping to ensure the continued success of High Bridge Youth Soccer!

HIGH BRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL PICNIC

The High Bridge Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that came out this past July to support our Annual Picnic Fundraiser. We hope that everyone had a great time and enjoyed the live entertainment. We hope to see you at next year's picnic. As always, please remember to purchase your tickets in advance as they will sell fast!

USED CLOTHING SHED

There is a used clothing shed located in the rear of the parking lot at the Fire Department. Acceptable items include gently used clothing, sneakers, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillow cases, drapes and stuffed toys. Donations go a long way helping those in need. All donations are tax deductible.

FALL/WINTER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

As the weather outside turns cooler, please remember to keep the following in mind:

1. If you use your fireplace frequently, it is important to have a chimney sweep done once a year. The burning of wood in your fireplace creates a compound called creosote which can ignite and start a chimney fire. When you burn wood, make sure it's dry and seasoned so that it produces more flame and less smoke.
2. Remove space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard. Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire. Do not plug any other electrical devices into the same outlet as the heater and keep the space heater away from any fluttering fabrics such as curtains or tablecloths.
3. Be sure to test your carbon monoxide and smoke alarms to make sure they are properly functioning. Additionally, make sure that you have had your furnace inspected and serviced within the last year.
4. Please ensure that fire hydrants on your property are clear of snow and ice. This will help us and your neighbors in the event of a fire. You may also see some of our members going around and clearing hydrants after a snowstorm to ensure that there are no delays in accessing water for a fire related incident.
5. Please remember to keep driveways easily accessible for emergency vehicles and keep them clear of any snow and ice.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

This year's National Fire Prevention Week will be held October 8th-14th and the campaign will be "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" The campaign's main focus this year is to reinforce why everyone needs to have an escape plan.

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week please visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week-2>

HOLIDAY DECORATING

While decorating your home for the upcoming holiday seasons, please take these tips into account to help keep your home safe!

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HIGH BRIDGE BOROUGH KICKS OFF STREET SMART PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN



Main Street, High Bridge

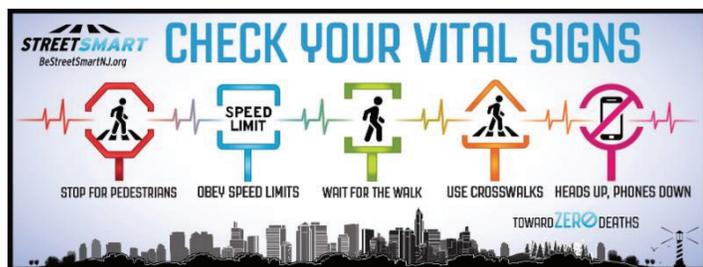
Mayor Mark Desire announced that the High Bridge Police Department will be conducting a “Street Smart NJ” pedestrian safety education campaign aimed at reducing pedestrian-motor vehicle crashes in the Borough of High Bridge.

Street Smart NJ is a collaborative effort between public, private and non-profit organizations, funded and managed by the **North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)**.

High Bridge kicked-off its Street Smart NJ campaign on Monday, October 2, 2017.

The Police Department will work in collaboration with HART TMA, the local nonprofit transportation management association, as well as the High Bridge business, residential, and school communities to encourage four key behaviors to improve safety:

1. “Heads Up; Phones Down”
2. “Use Crosswalks”
3. “Wait for the Walk”
4. “Obey Speed Limits”
5. “Stop for Pedestrians”



From October 2-October 29, signs, posters, banners, tip cards and other safety messaging materials will be distributed throughout the community to reinforce these messages. E-blasts, social media, and community presentations will be used to raise additional awareness about pedestrian safety. There will be a Street

Smart Pedestrian Safety booth at the Foundry Festival Street Fair on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

“Keeping residents and visitors safe while on foot is important to High Bridge,” said Mayor Desire. “High Bridge is a walking town. Our children walk to school, to our park and ball fields. Residents and commuters walk to local destinations, including the NJ TRANSIT train station,” said Mayor Desire. “Visitors come to High Bridge to enjoy our many community assets, including historic landmarks and downtown businesses, restaurants, and the Columbia Trail,” he adds.

“Police Officers will be enforcing town speed limits and interacting with motorists to make sure they know and obey the law and stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk”, said Police Chief Brett Bartman. “We’ll be reminding pedestrians to use crosswalks, cross at intersections, and not jaywalk.”



Borough Council Meeting, 9/28/17

The campaign comes at a significant time. New Jersey is ranked 6th in the nation in pedestrian fatalities, according to 2014 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The

federal government has designated New Jersey a “focus” state - placing an extra emphasis on aiding the state in combating its higher-than-average pedestrian fatality rate and providing funding for this campaign.

“Street Smart NJ is an important initiative that is making New Jersey streets safer for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists,said Hunterdon County Freeholder Matt Holt, who serves as Second Vice Chairman on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Board of Trustees. “Street Smart not only saves lives, it’s good for the local economy in towns like High Bridge. When people feel safe, they are more likely to walk our downtowns and use public transit. This is a great program and I encourage all of our towns to participate.”

Businesses, organizations and individuals interested in helping to promote the Street Smart NJ message in High Bridge may contact Tara Shepherd, executive director, HART TMA, 908-788-5553 or tara@harttma.com. To learn more about the statewide campaign, visit www.bestreetsmartnj.org.

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