



## **BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK**

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the Mayor of Highland Park. This is such a wonderful community in so many ways, and I encourage residents and visitors to experience everything we have to offer.

Highland Park is situated between two county parks that provide us with recreation and relaxation throughout the year, from bike paths and playgrounds to great hills for sledding in the winter. Within our approximate two-mile radius, we are home to a diverse group of residents who appreciate and welcome each other's culture and traditions. Our numerous ethnic restaurants speak of our diversity – we boast Greek, Kosher, Peruvian, Italian and Japanese among others. Our galleries, artisan and unique shops, including a homemade, organic furniture shop, comic book store, jewelry, unique toys and home goods merchants make our downtown a true destination for visitors throughout Middlesex County and beyond.

Highland Park promotes growth and development within our community. In 2008 we became New Jersey's first Green Community, and we maintain a strong commitment to the environment. In 2013 we received the Silver Level of Sustainability from Sustainable New Jersey. We have an active Environmental Center to support our efforts, and we hold numerous environment events here throughout the year. Our designation as a Complete Streets Community solidified our pledge to be a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly town. Along many corners are appealing "Living Room" areas, complete with benches, lighting, and colorful pavers which attract shoppers and employees throughout the day and night. Our wide sidewalks are lined with planters, which are filled with beautiful plants and flowers each spring, and decorated in the holiday spirit each winter. All of these features make Highland Park a great place to "park it" – park your car and walk along our business district and parks. Our free street and municipal parking lot makes it easy and convenient to stop here.

Highland Park is a delightful place to visit, but also a wonderful place to live. Situated between the larger cities of Edison and New Brunswick, our close proximity to NJ Transit and Amtrak train stations make it both convenient and easy to commute to New York or Philadelphia, or travel to Boston or Washington, D.C. We are minutes away from Rutgers University, where many of our residents attend school or work, as well as large corporations such as Johnson & Johnson.

At the same time, our small-town charm provides an oasis among these larger towns. Our quaint neighborhoods with craftsman houses create a peaceful, friendly atmosphere. Our school received a Silver Medal from US News and World Report as America's Best High Schools in 2013. 90% of our high school graduates continued their education at institutions of higher learning. Highland Park has an active youth and senior community. Our Recreation Department hosts intramural sports as well as youth and adult programming, and our Senior Center offers daily activities, in-town bussing services, and special trips for our senior residents. Our Library holds numerous programs for adults and children throughout the year. And every Friday from June through December our downtown hosts a lively and busy Farmer's Market, providing fresh fruit, cheeses, breads and more for residents and visitors.

Highland Park is rich with history and spirit. Our diversity and uniqueness means we have something for everyone. We welcome you to "park it" in Highland Park and see our special community for yourself.

Gayle Brill Mittler  
Mayor