

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR VERTREESE

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we lose our freedoms, it will be because we have destroyed ourselves from within.” ~Abraham Lincoln

The acts of insurrection within our Capitol building demonstrates the degree to which we have allowed corruption, greed, tyranny and misinformation to destroy faith in our principles, threaten or destroy lives, and supersede the needs of the people. At a loss of approximately 500,000 lives, the Civil War was the reckoning that set us on the trajectory towards a “more perfect” union. Gaps in education, economy and opportunity has led us to back to a place of reckoning. The pandemic highlighted a myriad of systematic flaws and added stress to the already stressed; however, All Politics is Local. We must stop repeating the same and expect different results.



Democracy fails when deals are made in the shadows by seedy influencers who grift off of any successes and hold zero accountability for abject failures of this town. As Mayor, it is my responsibility to appoint vendors who are qualified and meet open and fair bidding requirements pursuant to State law. As it is my Administration that is held accountable for the performance and/or non-performance of professionals, the Council’s role is only to advise and consent in order to allow the functioning of the town to proceed. For the last 30+ years, the Council’s vehement refusal to embrace their role has come at a hefty cost to tax payers by way of frivolous lawsuits, targeting employees who then implement lawsuits and refusing to pass any budget(s) on time, which for year 2020 came at a \$600k loss in tax assessment revenue.

Over the past few months, Council members were invited to meet and discuss ways to provide better governance to the township; only Councilwoman Mondella and Councilman Epps agreed to meet. Sadly, the first Council meeting of the year only demonstrated its intent to destroy the administration and ignore the mountain of problems we must climb for the duration of 2021. The Council’s decision to forego passing a fully funded temporary budget forced terminations of my staff and the recreation department, both of which have helped me steer communal response and activities. Such actions have prevented the Administration from appointing vendors to start and/or continue necessary infrastructure and development projects. Residents are directly impacted by such decisions when we face sewer backups that due to our deteriorating 100-year-old pumping station(s), experience underground water seeping into our homes and when 30-year-old first response vehicles have broken down when we have needed them most.

Our lack of resources, economic development and sparse financial state precedes my administration, but in all the reasons I ran for Mayor, I forge forward with a belief that good government is possible. I am a believer that facts matter and that Hillside has better days ahead, but only if we are ready to make better decisions for a better tomorrow. My focus remains on doing my job. I am committed to supporting township employees who put the Township First and applaud the hard work performed with minimal staffing and sparse funding. We will continue to have our weekly food distribution, address immediate supports to residents and maintain our diligence regarding response. In my continued effort for outreach and accessibility, please look forward to Virtual Monthly Meetings with Department leaders.

For January 2021, residents will have direct access to Hillside Police Chief Vincent Ricciardi on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, starting at 7:00 p.m. The Chief and other superior officers will engage in a conversation regarding internal improvements, communal opportunities and other services available. The only way for the township to move forward is for the people to be engaged, properly informed, guided by facts and have reasonable access to those responsible for meeting our needs. Business to Business, Person to Person, Block by Block, let’s commit to building our community for our future together.

~ Dahlia O. Vertreese, Your Mayor.

Inside the Issue

UPDATES



FIREFIGHTER CANDIDATES

Last week Mayor Vertreese and Acting Fire Chief Doug Ferrigno welcomed 30-potential future Firefighters at Town Hall. This is the first time the Township will be adding firefighters since 2013. The Mayor gave an introductory speech before turning the program over to Hillside staff, who provided the candidates an overview of what they could expect the next few weeks. Police Captain Lashonda Burgess explained how the process includes a thorough background check, finger-print analysis and residency check. All Hillside firefighters must live in the Township. “We will knock on doors,” Burgess said. “There’s no providing an address that belongs to your grandmother, aunt, or cousin. You must be able to prove you live in Hillside.” Mayor Vertreese emphasized she was proud to see three female candidates and was excited about the diversity of the pool of applicants. “I’m excited you all are interested in supporting and working for our residents,” Vertreese said. “Our firefighters put their lives on the line every day. Our firefighters are the ones who go into homes and transport residents to the hospital. You will be taking people who may have COVID to the hospital. You will be a first-responder and I can’t tell you how much I appreciate our firefighters and everyone who works for the Township.”

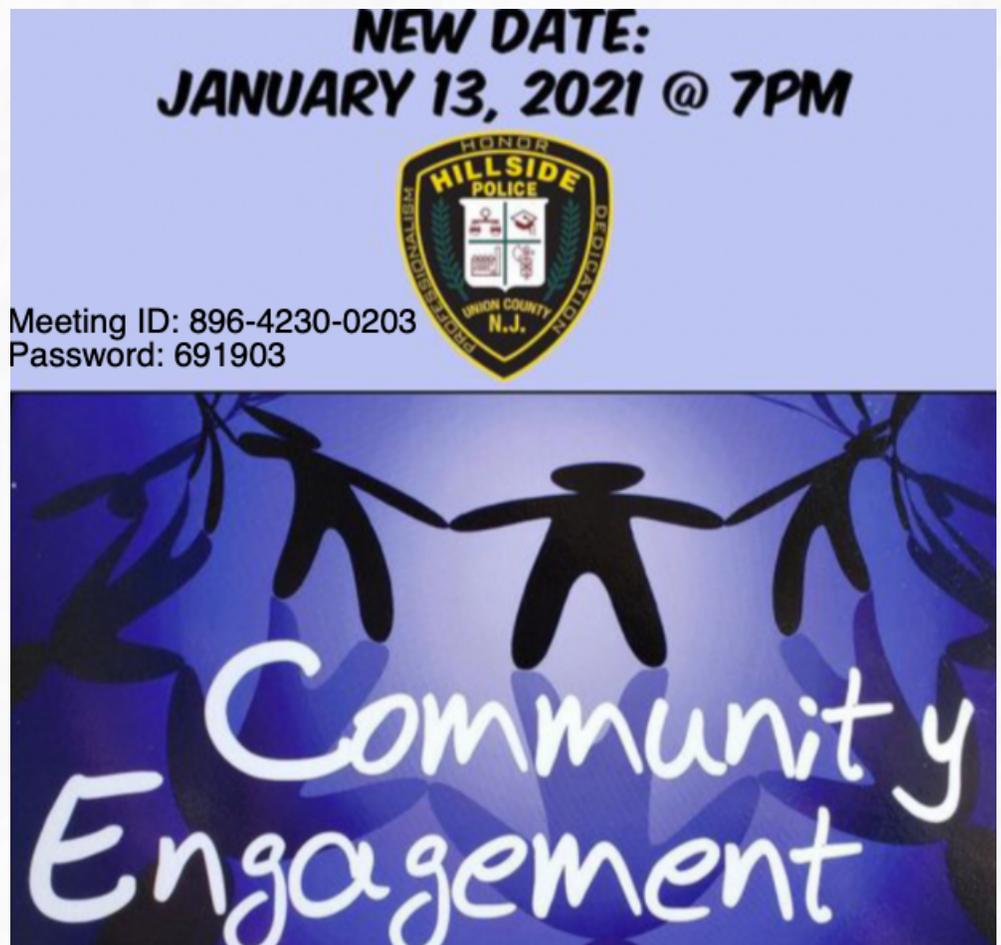
THE TEMPORARY BUDGET SHOULD CAUSE CONCERN

The first Council meeting of the year has already created division among administration and the Council. The Council decided against passing a temporary budget, which will allow Hillside to pay staff and necessary bills for the Township to function until an annual budget could be negotiated. In New Jersey, municipalities normally pass a three-month budget to provide enough time to work out a full budget by the state mandated deadline in March. Unfortunately, for the past two years Hillside’s Council has not followed the proper timeline resulting in the Township being the last community in the state to pass a budget.

MAYOR VERTREESE AND POLICE CHIEF RICCIARDI WILL HOST A COMMUNITY WIDE MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY

Mayor Dahlia Vertreese and Hillside Police Chief Vincent Ricciardi will host a virtual Zoom meeting Wednesday, Jan. 13 beginning at 7 pm. This is an opportunity for residents to hear directly from Chief Ricciardi on the philosophy of the Hillside Police Department. Ricciardi will be joined by members of the police staff who will discuss trending incidents, crime prevention tips and other observations.

There will be time for the residents to ask questions. The event is the first of a monthly series the Mayor will host during 2021 to give Hillside residents an opportunity to hear directly from her leadership team. “It’s critical the community has a chance to not only interact with leaders like Chief Ricciardi, but also get to express their feelings in an environment that allows dialogue,” Mayor Vertreese said.



“This is a chance at an open and transparent forum, and I look forward to many more.”

HILLSIDE WEEKLY UPDATE
Newsletter

SNOW REMOVAL/ STREET CLEANING

The Department of Public Works removes snow several days after a snowstorm. For the effective removal of snow, car owners need to adhere to streets that identify the time when roads should be cleared of vehicles. The same applies to street sweeping. Illegally parked cars will be ticketed and potentially towed. Reminder for property owners that Chapter 265 of the Township code requires property owners to remove snow from their sidewalk within 12 hours of a storm.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

POTHOLE REPAIRS

The Department of Public Works will focus on repairing potholes on Hillside streets the next few weeks. The recent combination of rain and cold weather is a recipe for potholes to impact streets.



STREET SIGN IMPROVEMENTS

The Township is currently replacing street signs to provide an updated and more visual appealing appearance. This is an ongoing process for the DPW department.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COVID UPDATE

As of Jan. 6, 2021, the Township had 1,690 confirmed or probable positive COVID cases and 74 reported COVID related deaths. Following a spike in December which could potentially be attributed to the Holiday Season, Health Director Robin Kaufman stresses everyone wash your hands, wear your masks, practice social distancing, and stay away from large gatherings.

VACCINE UPDATE

Union County has not set a date when the general public will be able to get the COVID Vaccination. Currently, the vaccine is limited to essential workers classified as members of Phase 1-A, however, individuals and sworn law enforcement personnel and fire professionals from Phase 1-B can get vaccinations. Health care personnel eligible under the state's guidelines to receive the vaccine must make their appointments through the county's registration webpage. "As more supplies become available, we will announce locations and procedures in accordance with New Jersey Department of Health regulations and guidance," said County Commissioner Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "We hold the health and safety of those we vaccinate in the utmost regard, and we are ensuring that all protocols are in place as we proceed." For more information about who qualifies under Phase 1A, Union County's vaccine program and scheduling appointments for the vaccine, visit: <https://ucnj.org/covid19/covid-19-vaccination/>.

LICENSE RENEWALS

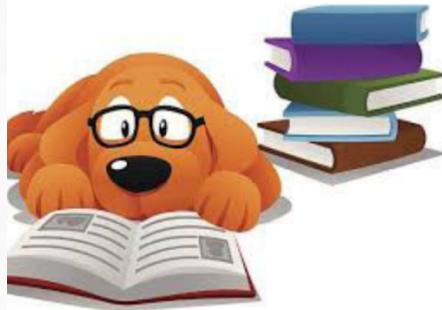
Dog license and Electronic cigarette licenses applications can be found on the Township website at <https://hillsidenj.us/health-department>.

LIBRARY

JANUARY PROGRAMS

Saturday 10 am-4 pm.
The library is still offering no-contact pickup, no-contact drop-off. Residents can call or go online to request books.
Library hours are Mon-Fri. 10 am to 4:30 pm;
Sat. 10 am to 4 pm.
Closed Sunday

For More Information
Call: 973-923-4413. Or
visit hillsidepl.org



www.hillsidepl.org
f @hillsidepl i

Virtual Evening Read to a Dog

Mondays,
Jan. 11 & 25, 2021
6PM-7PM
Ages 5 & Up

To attend this virtual event, please register NO LATER THAN 5pm on Mon. Jan. 11th & Mon. Jan. 25th to receive the Zoom link information.



Virtual Little Chef Cooking Class:
Homemade Tortilla Chips with Guacamole
Wednesday,
Jan. 13, 2021
4PM - 4:45PM
Ages 6 & Up

To attend this virtual event, please register NO LATER THAN 3:00pm on Wed. Jan. 13th to receive the Zoom link information.



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$$x-3=7$$

$$1+y=9$$

$$5-x=2$$



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Virtual Pre-Algebra Homework Help

Tuesdays,
Jan. 12 & 26, 2021
4PM - 4:45PM
Grades 7-8

To attend this virtual event, please register NO LATER THAN 3pm on Tues. Jan. 12th & Jan. 26th to receive the Zoom link information.



JANUARY 2021

Happy New Year



Hillside
Public Library
1409 Liberty Avenue
Hillside, NJ 07205
973.923.4413
@hillsidepl

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

Twenty twenty-one

1



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Have
A
Happy

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7

Virtual Yoga
with Ms. Carol
5PM - 5:30PM
Ages: 6-15
Registration Req.

8

Graphic Novel
Book Club
4PM - 4:45PM
Grades: 4-7
Registration Req.

9

2

11

Virtual Evening
Read to a Dog
6PM - 7PM
Ages: 6-12
Registration Req.

12

Virtual
Pre-Algebra
Homework
Help
4PM - 4:45PM
Reg Req. Gr: 7-8

13

Virtual Little Chef
Tortilla Chips
& Guacamole
Ages: 6&Up
4PM - 4:45PM
Registration Req.

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19



20



21

Virtual Yoga
with Ms. Carol
5PM - 5:30PM
Ages: 6-15
Registration Req.

22

Take-Home Crafts
Stanley the
Moose
Workshop Kit
11AM - 4PM
Reg Req. Ages: 6-13

23

2

25

Virtual Evening
Read to a Dog
6PM - 7PM
Ages: 6-12
Registration Req.

26

Virtual
Pre-Algebra
Homework
Help
4PM - 4:45PM
Reg Req. Gr: 7-8

27

Virtual Junior Chef
Baked
Crispy Chicken
Nugget Salad
Ages: 6&Up
4PM - 4:45PM
Registration Req.

28



29



30

1



**Virtual
Junior Chef
Cooking Class:
Baked Crispy
Chicken
Nugget Salad**

**Wednesday,
Jan. 27, 2021
4PM - 4:45PM
Ages: 10-13**

To attend this virtual event,
please register NO LATER THAN
3:00pm on Wed. Jan. 27th to
receive the Zoom link
information.



Hillside
Public Library
1409 Liberty Avenue
Hillside, NJ 07205
973.923.4413

www.hillsidepl.org

@hillsidepl



JANUARY 2021



Hillside Public Library
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Hillside, NJ 07205
973.923.4413

Youth Programs & Events

VIRTUAL YOGA with Ms. Carol (American Yoga Certified)



Thu. Jan. 7 & 21, 2021
5PM - 5:30PM

Ages: 6-15 | *Registration required

Ms. Carol, American YOGA certified instructor will teach the youth simple yoga poses and practice meditation.

*To attend this virtual event, please register **NO LATER THAN 4pm** on Thurs. Jan. 7th & Thurs. Jan. 21st to receive the Zoom link information.

VIRTUAL GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB: "Rapunzel's Revenge," by Shannon Hale



Fri. Jan. 8, 2021 | 4PM - 4:45PM

Grades 4-7 | *Registration required

Join Ms. Stephanie in an ONLINE discussion of the graphic novel "Rapunzel's Revenge" by Shannon Hale. A stunning, hilarious and action-packed graphic novel that re-imagines Rapunzel's story... in the wild west!

*To attend this virtual event, please register **NO LATER THAN 3pm** on Friday, Jan. 8th to receive the Zoom link.

Virtual Evening READ TO A DOG

Thu. Jan. 11 & 25, 2021
6PM - 7PM

Ages: 6-12 | *Registration required



Put on your PJ's, grab your favorite book and read to a kind therapy dog before bedtime. Sponsored by Creature Comfort Pet Therapy. Every reader will have 10 minutes to read.

To attend this virtual event, please register **NO LATER THAN 5pm** on Mon. Jan. 11th & Mon. Jan. 25th to receive the Zoom link information.

Virtual Evening Pre-Algebra Homework Help

Tue. Jan. 12 & 26, 2021
4PM - 4:45PM

Grades: 7-8 | *Registration required

Join Ms. Jones (B.S in Math). She will help the youth with Pre-Algebra homework problems. Space is limited.

To attend this virtual event, please register **NO LATER THAN 3pm** on Tues. Jan. 12th & Jan. 26th to receive the Zoom link information.

$x-3=7$

$1+y=9$

$5-x=2$

Virtual Little Chef Cooking Class: TORTILLA CHIPS WITH GUACAMOLE

Wed. Jan. 13, 2021
4PM - 4:45PM

Ages: 6 & Up
*Registration req.

Hillside Shoprite Dietitian Ms. Robin, will teach you how to prep and cook a meal. Parent/Guardian supervision is a must.

*To attend this virtual event, please register **NO LATER THAN 3:00pm** on Wed. Jan. 13th to receive the Zoom link information.

Take-Home Craft: STANLEY THE MOOSE WORKSHOP KIT

Fri. Jan. 22, 2021 | 11AM - 4PM

Ages: 6-13 | *Registration required

Pick up Stanley the Moose from the Hillside Public Library. It includes the stuffing, rainbow wish star, birth certificate and carry tote. **One per household. Online Registration required.**



Virtual Junior Chef Cooking Class: BAKED CRISPY CHICKEN NUGGET SALAD

Wed. Jan. 27, 2021
4PM - 4:45PM

Ages: 10-13
*Registration req.

Hillside Shoprite Dietitian Ms. Robin, will teach you how to prep and cook a meal. Parent/Guardian supervision is a must.

To attend this virtual event, please register **NO LATER THAN 3:00pm** on Wed. Jan. 27th to receive the Zoom link information.



TO REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS

Visit www.hillsidepl.org

- Click on the "Events Calendar" icon, then select the program you'd like to attend.
- Complete the form with your information.

NO CONTACT PICK UP & RETURN LIBRARY HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY
10AM-4:30PM

SATURDAY
10:30AM-4PM

*To request a no-contact pick up, please call us and have your library card number available.

*Please check our website for updates regarding reopening



www.hillsidepl.org



SENIOR INFORMATION

SENIOR PROPERTY TAX FREEZE DEADLINE FOR 2019 HAS BEEN EXTENDED

The deadline to apply for the Senior Freeze program has been extended to February 1, 2021. Check if you're eligible today. If you forgot to apply for the Senior Freeze property tax reimbursement, don't worry.

Take advantage of the extra time to get the RELIEF you deserve:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/ptr/index.shtml>



Senior Freeze Program
(Property Tax Reimbursement)

IRS Certified Volunteers Providing **FREE TAX PREPARATION**

IRS VITA/TCE return preparation sites are operated by certified volunteers. Site operating hours and services offered may be limited. In addition, by law, some sites provide priority services to seniors. Please be advised that you may not be immediately served. Your patience and understanding are appreciated.

Will Prepare

- Wages, salaries, etc. (Form W-2)
- Interest Income (Form 1099-INT)
- Dividends Received (Form 1099-DIV)
- State Tax Refunds (Form 1099-G)
- Unemployment Benefits (Form 1099-G)
- IRA Distributions (Form 1099-R)
- Pension Income (Forms 1099-R, RRB-1099-R, CSA-1099)
- Social Security Benefits (Form SSA-1099, RRB-1099)
- Simple Capital Gain/Loss (Form 1099-B) *limited*
- Sale of Home (Form 1099-S) *limited*
- Prior Year and Amended Returns

- Self-Employed Income (Form 1099-MISC, Form 1099-NEC) *limited*
- Gambling Winnings (Form W-2G)
- Cancellation of Debt (Form 1099-C) *limited*
- Health Savings Accounts (Form 1099-SA) *limited*
- Itemized Deductions *limited*
- Education Credits (Form 1098-T)
- Child Tax Credit
- Earned Income Credit
- Health Insurance Statements (Forms 1095-A, B or C)
- Credits for Sick Leave and Family Leave for Certain Self-Employed Individuals (Form 7202)
- Economic Impact Payment (Recovery Rebate Credit)

Will Not Prepare

- Schedule C with loss, depreciation or business use of home
- Complicated Schedule D (capital gains and losses)
- Form SS-5 (request for Social Security Number)
- Form 8606 (non-deductible IRA)
- Form 8814 (child taxed at parent's tax rate)
- Form SS-8 (determination of worker status for purposes of federal employment taxes and income tax withholding)
- Parts 4 & 5 of Form 8962 (Allocation of Policy Amounts, Alternative Calculation for Year of Marriage)

- Form W-7 (application for Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN))
- Returns with casualty/disaster losses



Please see a professional preparer for assistance with complicated returns.

What to Bring

- For married filing joint, both spouses must be present
- Government issued photo identification for you and your spouse (if married)
- Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number documents for you, your spouse, and/or dependents
- Birth dates for you, spouse, and/or dependents
- A copy of last year's tax return
- All Forms W-2 and 1099

- Forms 1095-A, B or C (ACA Statements)
- Information for other income
- Information for all deductions (including charitable contributions)/credits
- Total paid to day care provider and their tax ID number
- For direct deposit of refund, proof of account and bank's routing number
- For prior year returns, copies of income transcripts from IRS (and state, if applicable)
- Notice 1444, Economic Impact Payment 2020 (if applicable)

Mon – Fri 9:00AM – 8:00PM

DROP-OFF SERVICE IS AVAILABLE!

International Rescue Committee • 208 Commerce Place 4th Fl, Elizabeth, NJ 07201

For more info call/text: **(862) 245-7757 (9:00am-5:00pm)**
(201) 500 5516 (5:00pm-8:00pm)

COVID ASSISTANCE

The Senior Center recently received a \$20,000 grant from Rutgers University. The grant will fund the Rutgers-led NJ Heroes Too initiative, a program aimed to understand COVID-19's impact on underserved and vulnerable populations. It aims to develop strategies to reduce the disparities in COVID-19 testing.

The program focuses on Black and Latinx communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 in places where Rutgers academic medical centers are deeply rooted.

A second phase of the grant will provide home-based tests and information on COVID vaccines. For more information, residents should contact Mary Dawkins (862-227-5009) and Dana Farrell (862-227-5113).

SENIOR EVENTS

Mayor Dahlia O. Vertreese
Township of Hillside Senior Center



Join us for a walk

Bring your Water
Social distancing will be
practiced

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
9 AM - 10 AM Rutgers Park
For Information contact Patricia Russell
@908-432-0446 or Hillside Senior Center
@ 908-355-8928



Building Connections For Our Future Together

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Dahlia O. Vertreese. Mayor



HILLSIDE SENIOR CENTER
265 HOLLYWOOD AVE

Vitural

**BOOK
CLUB**

EVERY WEDNESDAY
11:00 AM

Zoom Meeting ID 89321490580
Password 307129

For Information Contact Patrica Russell @
908-432-0446 OR CALL SENIOR CENTER
908-355-8928

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