



The Highland Lakes Newsette

A publication of Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association at Highland Lakes, New Jersey © 2022



Volume 2022 | Issue Number 17 | November 5, 2022



Photo courtesy of Chastity Cortijo

Lakes and Leaves

BRENDA FLANAGAN, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AND STU BLANK, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEE SECTION 7

Autumn graced Highland Lakes with a glorious leaf canopy this year — and the vibrant colors lasted several weeks, for all to enjoy! But the season's now drawing to a close. Aided by wind and rain, leaves are falling fast. And — if you're like most folks around the lakes — you're now holding a rake or blower, and facing a yard filled with piles of fallen leaves.

Question: Where to put all those leaf piles?

Answer: Please, not in the lake! And not in the street, either!

Why? Leaves settle into the lake bottom, where they decay into food for weeds and algae. Remember this summer, when Highland Lakes posted advisories about HABs — Harmful Algae Blooms? If you discard autumn leaves in the water or along the lakeshore — you'll be feeding algae the Club is working so hard to control and eliminate.

"Information from the Clean Lakes Alliance and other sources indicates decaying leaves reduce oxygen levels in surface waters and also release phosphorus, which promotes the growth of algae and harmful algae blooms," explains Club Manager David Martin. "When left in the street, decaying leaves can produce a phosphorus-rich 'tea' which washes down storm drains and into our lakes."

Decaying leaves degrade the environment, adds the Communications Committee's Stu Blank. He notes, as the leaves decompose, they release sulfur dioxide into the air, and we get that rotten egg smell. They also create muck on your shoreline, which is unsightly and unpleasant to swim in. Moreover, that mass of rotting leaves discourages fish from spawning in that area, and impacts microbes on which they feed.

So — how can residents avoid feeding algae leaf snacks and tea, and properly dispose of all the leaves? (And, yes — there's a LOT of leaves in this lovely, wooded lake community!) Former Club President Sue Ross moved here full-time in 1977, and recalls how many Highland Lakes residents disposed of leaves, back then.

"There used to be all sorts of vacant lots. You never thought twice about raking your yard, using a sheet as a tarp — and walking to the vacant lot and spreading those leaves," Ross remembers. "It was such a rural community, you didn't even think about it. Now, you do." And 45 years of development in Highland Lakes significantly reduced the number of open lots.

Lake communities around NJ all face the same dilemma. Municipalities determined to protect and preserve their watersheds have enacted regulations and provided alternate leaf disposal options. The four towns around Lake Hopatcong (Hopatcong, Jefferson, Mt. Arlington and Roxbury) have all passed municipal ordinances which forbid folks from dumping vegetative matter into streams, ponds and the lake.

Martin says, Highland Lakes "has no rule or bylaw which specifically addresses dumping fall leaves into the lakes. There is a rule prohibiting dumping, blowing, or depositing leaves onto Club roads or rights of way. In either case, whether on the roads or in the lakes, the Club considers it to be littering."

Club members do have options. Sussex County will take your leaves, at its recycling facility in Lafayette, near the intersection of Routes 15 and 94. Here's a link with some helpful info: <https://www.scmua.org/cit-e-access/webpage.cfm?TID=121&TPID=11911>.

"The best approach is to remove fallen leaves to a landfill such as the SCMUA Facility in Lafayette (free for up to 110 pounds), or a municipal mulch/recycling bin like those offered by Vernon Township," Martin advises.

Ross adds a note to residents who hire landscapers to handle the leaf problem: please make sure you ask workers to dispose of your leaves properly — not in the lake.

Finally, for folks with enough room and a green thumb, you can start a mulch pile. Rutgers Environmental Science experts write, "One alternative for dealing with leaves is backyard composting. This process involves primarily the microbial decomposition of organic matter.

Compost - the end result - is a dark, friable, partially decomposed substance similar to natural organic matter found in the soil." A very detailed and informative article tells you all about how to do that. Here's a link: <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/fs074/>

Fall leaves can pose a pile of problems — no doubt. But raking them into the lake isn't the answer. The Club fully embraces its responsibility to keep our lakes clean, clear and healthy — and hopes all members can help.



Upcoming Events

November 5 - Craft Fair
November 19 - Trivia Night
November 26 - Breakfast with Santa
December 21 - Kids Ceramics
December 4 - Holiday Tree Lighting
December 17 - Santa Coming with HL Fire Department

Fish Committee Stocks New Hybrid Bass for Lake Health

LIZ MIKULIK

We have exciting news from the Fish Committee! Earlier this year, we explored stocking a new species of fish in addition to the usual Walleye, Shiners, and Channel Catfish that we add to the lakes. After months of research and discussions, the Committee approved adding 400 Hybrid Striped Bass into Lake 1 as part of a dual-purpose pilot program. Hybrid Striped Bass grow four to six inches per year and can be one of the most exciting fish to catch in a lake. Due to their average size reaching up to eight pounds, and the ferocity of their fight Hybrid Striped Bass are an incredibly fun sporting fish. An equally important purpose of adding this species in particular to our fishery is the benefit they could have for our lakes' ecosystem.

For many years there have been ongoing discussions amongst the Ecology and Fish Committees regarding possible interventions to remediate the health of our lakes. Research and testing over time have proven that the growth of harmful blue/green algae has a negative impact on the health of our lakes, and has resulted in our community's inability to fully utilize them in the late summer months. Hybrid Striped Bass have been introduced and stocked regularly into a growing number of NJ waters as an intervention method to manage an overabundance of the fish species that feed primarily on zooplankton. Maintaining a healthy zooplankton population is of great importance for lake health, as they are responsible for consuming the harmful blue/green algae thus keeping the levels at bay.

This year's stocking in Lake 1 of Hybrid Striped Bass will be instrumental in identifying both the viability of incorporating this species successfully into our fishery for sport, as well as measuring any benefits in lake and water quality during the subsequent 2-3-year period. Should this pilot prove successful, we'd want to continue exploring adding this species to the other lakes. Hybrid Striped Bass have a life expectancy of around 9 years, and due to sterility, they will not develop their own breeding population naturally, so it was an ideal option for this trial.

In order to best test these factors, the Committee and Club ask that the community honors a moratorium on the Hybrid Striped Bass in Lake 1 for a few years. We need to keep this species as "catch and release" so that we can, allow for proper growth, document their ability to thrive in our waters, and test their impact on our lakes' water quality over time. So get ready to add a higher test line to your reel and good luck out there this fall and winter!



Upcoming Meetings

- Buildings and Grounds – Tuesday, November 1 – 7 pm
Clubhouse Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time
Communications Committee – Saturday, December 10 – 10 am
Ecology Committee – Wednesday, November 23 – 8 pm
Fish Committee – Thursday, November 17 – 7 pm
Road Committee – Thursday, November 3 – 7:30 pm
Rules and By-Laws – No meeting scheduled at this time
Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, November 9 – 7:30 pm
Voting Board Meeting – Friday, November 18– 8 pm
- Since all meetings are subject to change, please confirm meeting times by contacting the chairperson of the committee or the Club Office prior to the meeting time.

Voting Board

HIGHLAND LAKES COUNTRY CLUB AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

October 1, 2022 - September 30, 2023

Officer	Name	E-Mail
President	Ray Zimmerman	president@hlcc.org
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Second Vice President	Patty Thompson	secondvp@hlcc.org
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Secretary	Jennifer Ziegler	secretary@hlcc.org
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3	vacant	
4	Janice Fajardo	trustee4@hlcc.org
5	Julia Campbell	trustee5@hlcc.org
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7	Stuart Blank	trustee7@hlcc.org
8	Joan Danaher	trustee8@hlcc.org
9	Thomas Castiglione	trustee9@hlcc.org
10	Madeline Hollingsworth	trustee10@hlcc.org
11	Suzanne Maher	trustee11@hlcc.org
12	Robert Reffelt	trustee12@hlcc.org

Holiday Office Hours

DAVE MARTIN, GENERAL MANAGER

The Club office will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 24, Friday, November 25 and Saturday, November 26. The office will reopen on Monday, November 28 at 9 am, 10 am for visitors.



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The Highland Lakes Newsette

Highland Lakes Country Club
and Community Association
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Roe Hall, Administrative Assistant
Judy Norton, Editor
Special Thanks to the
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PO Box 578 - 2240 Lakeside Drive West
Highland Lakes, New Jersey 07422
973-764-4366 / Email: hlcc@warwick.net



November 2022

Highland Lakes Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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6 Private Member Rental	7 5:00 PM Yoga (LR) 6:00 PM Scouts (CR) 6:00 PM Women's Fitness Class (LR) 7:00 PM Ceramics (SR)	8 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM General Election 7:00 PM Scouts (LR)	9 5:00 PM Yoga 7:30 PM Voting Board Wkshop	10 7:00 PM Stitching	11 6:30 PM Bunco 7:00 PM Kids Ceramics	12 Private Member Rental																																																																																											
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Trivia Night is Back

LOUISE STALEY, CHAIRPERSON, CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE AND ROE HALL, ADMIN. ASST. AND EVENTS COORDINATOR

Saturday, November 19 - 7 pm

Do you love going to your favorite bar for Trivia Night? Or do you love going out and being surprised to find the restaurant you're at has trivia? Well Highland Lakes has their own style of trivia. Come to the Clubhouse Lake Room on Saturday, November 19 at 7 pm. Bring your team of 3-5 people or come as a single, and we will team you up with others. Interesting categories and prizes will be awarded for the winner of each round. You only have a few weeks to brush up on your trivia knowledge. Mark your calendars and get a babysitter. Bring your own whatevers!! See you there.

Breakfast With Santa

RAY ZIMMERMAN

Saturday, November 26 - 9am - 11:30 am



Santa will be here on Saturday, November 26, to have breakfast with all the good little boys and girls. So after the big turkey day and a day of rest, come down to the Clubhouse and spend it with Santa and his elves. Come dressed in your holiday attire for a chance to sit on Santa's lap and have a photo taken. If you need some company, feel free to bring your favorite stuffed toy to say hi to Santa too. We will also have supplies for kids to write letters to Santa, so don't forget their list! Tickets are \$10 for adults and children over 10, \$6 for children ages 3-10, and children under 3 years are free.

Holiday Tree Lighting

LOUISE STALEY, CLUBHOUSE CHAIRPERSON

December 4 at 4 pm

We are putting a new spin on this year's tree lighting party. Families are invited to come down to the Clubhouse to participate in Christmas Carol Karaoke! We're setting up the big screen for a fun sing-a-long! There will be a holiday themed craft for the little ones. We will also have a cookie exchange, bring a dozen/take a dozen. Cookies may be purchased for a small donation if you are not a baker. Feel free to bring a cookie tin or treat bag. Hot chocolate will be available for all to enjoy. Come in your best holiday clothes and kick the season off with us.



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Women's Fitness

KERI SCHUNDLER



New Day

The Women's Fitness is switching to Mondays at 6 pm. Starting Monday, November 7, we will be meeting in the Lake Room at 6 pm. Come join me in some bodyweight movements to create stronger bodies and calmer minds. I blend a mix of strength training, Pilates, yoga and light cardio to leave you feeling and looking your best. Please bring a yoga mat and please wear your badge. Find me on Instagram @makeitworkmomma



Playgroup -Under 5 Gang

JESSICA KLIMASH, COORDINATOR

Playgroup has started up again. We are meeting at the Clubhouse on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am. If you haven't joined, come on down and see what's happening. For more information contact the Club office or Jessica Klimash - jklimash@hotmail.com.



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Flags for Heroes

PETER WARREN, TREASURER, ROTARY CLUB OF VERNON

There's still time left to sponsor a flag

The Flags are flying proudly at the Fireman's Pond on Route 515 in Vernon! We would like to express our sincere appreciation for those of you who have provided a generous donation/sponsorship in our "Flags for Heros" fundraiser. We have been fortunate to have 48 of the 150 flags that were purchased sponsored.

We still have 102 flags available for sponsorship. So, for those of you who would like to honor a hero by sponsoring a flag, please fill out the form below and send it to me directly.

A hero can be a veteran, a member of the fire or police department, an EMT or healthcare worker, a mentor, or a teacher; or perhaps someone you wish to acknowledge, a living or deceased loved one.

The Flags will be flying weather permitting sometime through Veterans Day.

Remember, your support allows us to continue as a civic organization to fund a variety of community projects and support our local food banks for those who are in need. Your kindness and generosity make Vernon a wonderful place to live!



Flags for Heroes The Vernon Township Rotary



The Vernon Rotary Club is promoting our "Flags for Heroes" fundraiser by flying our Flags proudly at the Fireman's Pond on Route 515 in Vernon - from November 5th through mid-November - weather permitting.

A hero can be a veteran, a member of the fire or police department, an EMT or health care worker, a mentor, or a teacher; or perhaps someone you wish to acknowledge, a living or deceased loved one.

If you wish to sponsor a flag, please fill out the form below & mail your hero's name, a 2x3" photo if you have one, including their branch of service and rank (if in the military), or any other designation. The photo and information will be placed in a Heroes Medallion, attached to one of our flags.

Remember, your support allows us to continue as a civic organization to fund a variety of community projects and support our local food banks for those who are in need.

Your kindness and generosity make Vernon a wonderful place to live!
Thank you on behalf of the Vernon Rotary.

Please fill in the information below:

QR CODE:



Name of Sponsor _____
Date _____
Address (city, state, zip) _____

Phone _____ email _____

Your Heroes

Hero's Name <small>Please print</small>	Deceased <small>Yes/No</small>	Friend <small>Or Relative</small>	Branch of Service, <small>or brief description</small>

Total # Flags _____ x \$50. Each = Total Contribution \$ _____
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Peter Warren @ 862-354-2753 email: vernonrotaryclub@gmail.com
Please make checks payable to Vernon Rotary and mail to: 5 Oak Hill Drive, Sussex, NJ 07461

Conservation Club Installs Bird Houses

RANDY MOWRY, CONSERVATION CLUB

If you have recently driven across the dam of the main lake or on Cherry Ridge Road, or if you have visited Beach 1, you may have noticed bluebird nest boxes. This is a project of the Conservation Club of Highland Lakes. On Saturday, October 8, Bob Reffelt, Janice Fajardo, Owen Hyland and myself put up 5 bluebird nest boxes. Two were placed on the downside of the main lake dam. Two were placed on the dam for Lake 4, and one near Beach 1 on Lake 1. Using rebar and electrical conduit to make poles, the bluebird houses were mounted. The goal is obviously to attract bluebirds to these open areas of Highland Lakes. The bird house hole is too small for starlings to use, but house sparrows can enter. The boxes will be monitored regularly during breeding season to prevent house sparrows from using them. It is also possible that tree swallows will use the boxes. Though they are not our goal species, it is acceptable for tree swallows to use the boxes (they eat lots of insects, including mosquitoes). The only remaining task is to mount baffles to prevent predators such as snakes, squirrels, and raccoons from raiding the nests. This step will be completed before the spring.

The team also placed a screech owl box on a tree along the Sawmill Pond Trail. For this installation we needed a tall ladder and someone intrepid enough to climb it. Our fearless climber was Owen.

A wood duck box will be installed on the south end of the main lake. Wood duck males are very colorful. I saw a pair hunting for a nest cavity in the woods behind my house during the spring of 2022. It would be great if we could attract a pair to take up residence on our lake.



Photos courtesy of Randy Mowry.



Communications Committee Meeting Review

SUE ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee met on October 8 to review upcoming feature articles and editorial assignments for the Newsette as we prepare for this year's final publications. The remainder of our meeting focused on an event that we are hoping to organize with the help of several other committees. Still in the infancy of our planning stage, there is not much to report about the event itself except for the fact that Stu Blank and Karen Vogel, both active committee members, have agreed to co-chair the event. The tentative date is April 22 and the primary goal of the afternoon's activities will be to educate and empower members to be active stalwart stewards of our lakes. More news on this to follow in the coming months as our plans unfold!

One final note, after serving as the chair of this committee for three years, I am happy to announce that Climeen Wikoff will be taking over my position. Cly has been an active member of the committee for many years and while serving in this capacity was also an active Voting Board member. Her professional background in communications and her devotion to our community coupled with her understanding of our history, makes her an ideal woman for the job!

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Annual Fish Stocking

MIKE EWASKO, CHAIRMAN, FISH COMMITTEE

Phase one of this year's fish stocking of our lakes took place on Thursday morning October 27 with the tank truck from Zetts Fish Farm of Drifting, PA arriving on time to the awaiting volunteers and guests of the fish committee.

This year saw a special introduction of a fish species new to Highland Lakes... the Hybrid Striped Bass. Approximately 400+ Hybrid Striped Bass in the 4"-5" class were successfully released into Lake 1 along with 1000+ Shiners as bait fish.

Hybrid Striped Bass are a cross between Striped Bass and White Bass and will make available to our members an angling experience like no other packing a load of power to the end of a line. Time will tell. Lakes 2, 3, 4 and 5 also received the annual stocking of Channel Catfish in the 4"-5" class along with additional Shiners as baitfish.

In the next week or two Phase 2 of our stocking program will be the release of 4"-5" Walleye into Lakes 2,3,4 and 5, one of the more popular species we offer our anglers.

Thanks to the HLCC Fish Committee volunteers who aided in the transition of the fish from the tank truck to our lakes. And a special thank you to Roe and staff at the club office for handling the paperwork and permits necessary and to General Manager, Dave Martin, for his aid in our budget approval.

The HLCC Fish Committee meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month in the Lake Room at a NEW TIME of 7:00 PM.



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Spotlight on Jr. Photographers

CHASTITY CORTIJO, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The seasons change and give opportunity for new perspectives of familiar places and things. The Jr. Photographers are still working on their challenges and this one was to capture shadows of themselves and the color orange.



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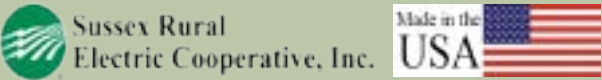
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Halloween Highlights

ROE HALL AND ANDREA COTTRELL

Adult Halloween Dance and Trunk or Treat

Saturday night, October 29, the adults came out to party. The Clubhouse was transformed into a ghoulish feast for the eyes. DJ Ryan kept the crowd dancing all night. Everyone had a great time. Some of the costume contest winners were friends of Highland Lakers which included: Best Couple, Jenny and Forrest Gump, Best Overall, some scary cowboys, Most Original, Mona Lisa, Best Group, the 70s and 80s couples and Scariest, Hawaiian dancer (inside joke).

On Sunday, October 30, 2022, we welcomed kids of all ages (as well as those who are kids at heart) to join in our annual Trunk or Treat at Beach 1. This year we hosted over 40 trunks with candy and fun for all. Best trunk this year went to our Paw Patrol crew (complete with real pups). Kids had fun hunting for “gold” and winning prizes. We hope everyone had a frighteningly good time, and we see even more of you out next year!





Halloween party, Halloween Trunks Photos courtesy of Andrea Cottrell, Roe Hall

November Pickleball

KATHI TAYLOR

Autumn pickleball is always interesting. We have had warmth, cold, wind and rain and yet we continued to push through, dry the courts, blow off the leaves and keep playing. November brings another challenge, loss of daylight. Our new schedule of play for November is:
Monday and Wednesday: 2 pm; Friday: 10 am
It is always sad to lose our night play since many of our players are unable to play during the day. We will miss you all and want to remind you that if you feel a mental health day coming on from work, pickleball is a great way to improve your health, both mentally and physically. Sessions are open to all members. Wear sneakers and your badge. See you on the courts! Questions? Call Kathi Taylor 973-303-2689 or Peggy Warner 973-764-5126



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Vernon Township Housing Market Report - September 2022

"Having grown up in Highland Lakes, I understand the value in this thriving, active community. Contact me today to discuss a no-cost comparative market analysis for your property."

# Beds	Avg. Sales Price	Avg. Days on Market	Sale / Listing Price
1	\$139,400	63	94%
2	\$211,963	42	99%
3	\$364,424	48	102%
4	\$440,900	65	97%
5+	No Sales	No Sales	No Sales
TOWN	\$311,697	48	100%

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Classified Ads

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JP ELECTRIC: Free estimates, insured and bonded. Serving HLCC since 1986 license and permit #8521. Brian Boeren 973-670-4175. 7/16/23

MOUNTAIN CHIMNEY SWEEP: Since 1977. We clean, repair, reline and inspect chimneys. Also repair heatilators, replace dampers, chimney caps and repointing. Fully insured, call 973-764-3125. 10/22

CATERING: Family & Friends Catering : Don't let the cooking ruin your holidays, be your own guest. Place orders early for pickup, ask about our free pasta and dinner rolls - heat and serve - 973-600-2647 12/22

HIGHLAND GENERAL STORE: One-stop shopping on the mountain! From a box of nails in our Hardware Department, to a delicious Italian sub in our Deli. Monday - Saturday 9 am-7 pm and Sunday 9 am-5 pm 973-764-4541 12/22



Sailing News

MARK BURUCHIAN, SAILING FLEETS
COORDINATOR

A very special thank you goes out to the Lawrence family of HL, as they donated a sunfish sailboat to the Junior Sunfish Sailing Fleet. We are very appreciative of this act of kindness and will put the boat and equipment to good use. Thank you again from the HL Sailing Community for your generosity.



Next Newsette: December 3, 2022

Newsette articles should be submitted on the Friday before the week of publication at noon. Under no circumstances will submissions be accepted after noon on Monday of the week of publication. Typed submissions must be emailed to the Club office at hlcc@warwick.net. Sorry - we can only print photographs submitted as .jpg files with a minimum of 150 dpi. Thanks!



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Lantern Walk photo courtesy of Andree Stolte

The Mighty Seniors

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLUB

DOWN, DOWN, YELLOW, RED, BROWN, THE LEAVES ARE FALLING ALL OVER TOWN.

The trees are stunning in their autumnal finery, and we drink in the sheer beauty of this hand-painted season. Then there's the raking! Oh, well. It's bound to happen and there are some great HL teens who want to help clean up your yard. Call the Clubhouse office for more info about these community kids.

Well, here's a quick recap of October events from The Mighty Seniors. If you missed the Lantern Walk...oh, oh. I'm so thrilled to tell you that Steve Hastie, my wonderful buddy, joined his family, Carol (my Gal Pal), Cheryl (my adopted daughter), Master Clayton (AKA Ball of atomic energy) in the walk around Beach 1 that night. For those who may not be aware, Steve had a heart transplant about 2 months ago! What a blessed miracle! He was made the "Grand Marshall" of the Lantern Walk! Silly? - you bet.

We had the New Jersey Lighthouse Society guest speakers at a soup

and sandwich luncheon. How very interesting and entertaining were the husband and wife team. I'd love to invite them back for our whole community in 2023...maybe feed them, too.

October wouldn't be right without an OKTOBERFEST luncheon. Good cooks in our Clubhouse kitchen prepared a yummy fall feast for 50+ S/C members. Lots of "gemutlichkeit" look it up.

The Pumpkin Carving and Pot Luck Supper brought out a fine crowd and equally yummy fare. "Feed them, and they will come!" And they did. Then some beautifully carved downright artistic jack-o-lanterns were created and put on display. Each one lit w/a candle inside and placed on the front table for all to ooh & aah over. Very cool.

Here comes November: our ANNUAL AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR on Saturday, November 5 from 10-3 in the Clubhouse. Many many talented crafters and vendors bringing all kinds of items to purchase. Holiday shopping list getting prepared? What a perfect

time to begin the hunt for the right gift.

The Mighty Seniors will be hosting their November luncheon on Wednesday, the 16th at 12 pm in the Lake Room. Homemade luncheon fare, desserts and BYOBeverage. "Hope you signed up." Forgot? I'll call you to check if you want to attend. I've got your back.

SPECIAL PROJECT: Christmas cards for the military on active duty. If you have at least 5 new Christmas cards, jot a sincere message inside to a service person. We're so proud of them! Don't give your name and address. You may sign your first name and say HL Senior Club, if your wish.

Drop them off ASAP to the card box at the Craft Fair or to myself - we'll make certain we get the cards out there to our military.

Questions about The Mighty Seniors? Call me anytime. A sincere welcome to our newest members, and we miss spending time with our old friends who've missed some events. We're thinking of you. Love ya, Joyce H. - 845-544-3749.



A birthday surprise for Joyce! Cake, candles and song from the mighty seniors at the Wine and Cheese gathering. Photo courtesy of Andree Stolte



Great night creating ghoulish pumpkins. Photo courtesy of Sue Buruchian