



The Highland Lakes Newsette

A publication of Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association at Highland Lakes, New Jersey © 2023



Volume 2023 | Issue Number 1 | February 4, 2023

Winter Activities

CLIMEEN WIKOFF, CHAIRPERSON, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The first winter we lived in Highland Lakes, the Main Lake froze solid and clean, with very little snow cover. New friends took us ice fishing, something my husband and children had never done before, and we skated up and down the lake. It was a wonderful day, cold and crisp but sunny, and we had a terrific time with thermoses of hot chocolate to warm the kids and something a little stronger for the adults. We continued skating that winter and for many winters after, often helping to clear and maintain a rink on the beach side of Lake 1. Now, I am more likely to watch the skating as I walk around the lake and worry about the thickness of the ice as others skate, but for those with more energy and ambition there is plenty to do in Highland Lakes in the winter, both indoors and out.

Skating and ice fishing are very popular outdoor activities once the lakes freeze but there's also ice boating for those brave and daring enough to give it a go. It's fun to watch but, wow, do they ever go fast! Sledding is another possibility that happens on many hills throughout the community, especially on the weekends or when school is cancelled for a snow day. There are also hikers and snowshoers in our community who make use of nearby trails. Our annual Winter Carnival is a jam-packed, fun-filled day scheduled this year for February 18, which will include a family ice fishing derby, weather permitting. There will be outdoor activities as well as indoor crafts and games.

Rumor has it that pickle ball continues year-round with portable nets on the courts at Glen Wild Way, depending on the weather.

The clubhouse is home to many indoor events during the winter, with activities for adults and children in addition to Board and Committee meetings. A quick look at the calendar shows exercise and yoga classes, games such as darts, chess and bunco, and crafts including stitching and ceramics. There are scout meetings and an Under 5 Playgroup for the kids that occur regularly and special activities such as Kids Ceramics that are one-time events. This year, there is a Cabin Fever Dance scheduled on February 4 for adults, and a Teen Valentine Party on February 12.

Things may have quieted down now that the holidays are over but there is still plenty to do.



Ice Boating - a HL tradition - photo from 2004



Iceboat flying by on rare smooth black ice. Skipper is Bill Giannini. Taken December 28, 2022, after bomb cycle storm.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUE BURUCHIAN

Upcoming Events

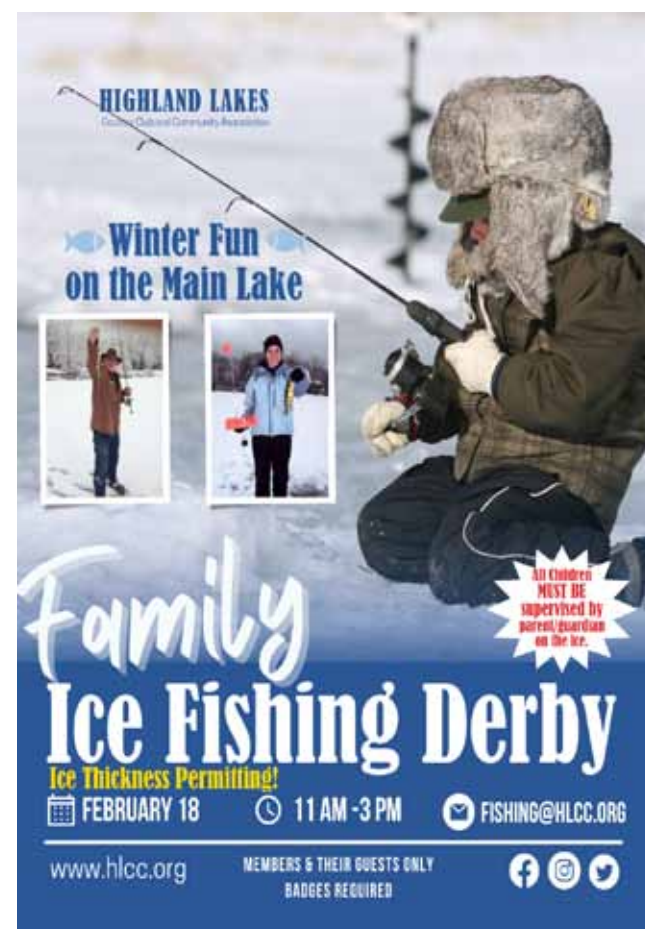
February 4 - Cabin Fever Dance

February 12 - Valentine's Party

February 18 - Winter Carnival and Ice Fishing Derby

March 4 - Dr. Seuss Day

March 17 - St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Show



No Parking on Roads During Snow and Ice Operations

Please be aware that Rule No. 16 of the Club's Rules and Regulations, adopted April 22, 1994, reads as follows:

Whenever snow has fallen or roads become covered with ice and the accumulation is such that it covers the roadway, an emergency shall exist and no vehicle shall be parked on any roadway or portion thereof. This parking prohibition shall remain in effect after the precipitation has ceased until the roads have been plowed and/or sanded sufficiently and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

Any unattended vehicle in violation of this Rule will be deemed to be parked without the consent of the Club and may be summonsed and towed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:4-56.6 and Vernon Township Ordinance 99-12.

Your cooperation is needed to make the winter as easy as possible on your neighbors and the Club. Thank you.

Office Hours

The office is open to members and the public. We will have the office staffed Monday through Saturday as follows:

Monday - Friday — 9am - 4pm, open to members 10am - 3pm

Saturday — 10am - 1pm

We encourage members to conduct business as much as possible over the phone or through email, but if there is a need to come to the office it will be open. New members are welcome to stop in during business hours to pick up and/or fill out new member forms.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at 973-764-4366 or by email at hlcc@warwick.net.

Ash Tree Removal Project Completed

DAVE MARTIN, GENERAL MANAGER

Downes Tree Service has substantially completed the ash tree removal project which involved removal of hundreds of trees located on Club property which were subject to infestation and damage by the Emerald Ash Borer insect. The work began late in the late summer of 2021 but was put on hold after several months due to apparent discrepancies between the contract tree inventory and the trees being removed. The GPS coordinates used in the contract tree inventory were found to be less than ideal for locating individual trees. It also became evident that many trees had been marked for removal by others which were not located on Club property or otherwise not scheduled for removal.

Downes Tree Service cooperated fully with the Club, agreeing to pause the project in order to confirm the location of and mark all trees which were to be removed. This was a very time-consuming but necessary process. Additional trees identified for removal included some potentially hazardous trees of different species and others reported by Club members.

Because of prior contractual commitments by Downes Tree Service, there was a lengthy delay in restarting the tree removal process. The Emerald Ash Borer problem has created extremely high demand for mid and large-sized tree service firms and Downes is no exception. The company has been working non-stop for many months, almost exclusively on large ash tree removal projects for municipalities, public utility companies and private communities.

In recent weeks, Downes was able to restart tree removals in Highland Lakes and the project is now substantially complete. It is possible, perhaps even likely, that a few ash trees have been missed, but unless such trees pose an imminent hazard, they will not be removed at this time. We will periodically reevaluate the need for further tree work and include them as needed.

Finally, we have heard from several members expressing their thanks to the crews from Downes Tree Service for completing the project safely and without incident and for delivering literally tons of firewood logs and wood chips to those members who requested them.

Upcoming Meetings

Buildings and Grounds – Tuesday, February 7 – 7pm
Clubhouse Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time
Communications Committee – Saturday, February 11-10am
Ecology Committee – Wednesday, February 22 – 8 pm
Fish Committee – Thursday, February 16 – 7 pm
Road Committee – Thursday, March 2 – 7 pm
Rules and By-Laws – No meeting scheduled at this time
Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, February 8 - 7:30pm
Voting Board Meeting – Friday, February 17 – 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.

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
Communications Committee and
all our contributors

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February 2023



Highland Lakes Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Winter Carnival 2023

LAUREN LAROCCA, SUMMER CLUBHOUSE DIRECTOR

Saturday, February 18, 11 am

The winter carnival will be lots of fun this year with winter themed games, crafts food and activities. Pixie Pop the Clown will be here to do face painting and create balloon animals. There will be a demonstration on making fake snow and much more. For lunch, we are offering tacos in a bag and pizza for a nominal cost (while

supplies last). Mark your calendars and hope for some snow and ice.

The same day, the Fish Committee will be hosting an ice fishing derby. If there is no ice on the lake, there will still be fishing. Hope to see you at the Club for some friendly competition and fun! Anyone interested in helping out, please contact me at activitycenter@hlcc.org.



Adult Ceramics

BELINDA NORTON, COORDINATOR



Join us Mondays from 7 to 9 pm for some fun painting ceramics. Many choices of pieces to work on. Nice company, hope to see you there!

St. Patrick's Day Dinner and Show

ROE HALL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/
EVENTS COORDINATOR

Friday, March 17 at 6:30 pm - show at 7:30 pm

Come join us on St. Patrick's Day for an evening of fun, food and festivities. We are bringing our annual dinner back with a special event. This year we will be presenting O'Murphy's Irish Wake. Kathy Cogan and Glen Ryan, Highland Lakes residents, are part of KKC Theatrical Productions. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of this hilarious interactive show.

Bailey Misty O'Murphy has passed on and left behind his fortune, who will inherit it? According to his Last Will and Testament whoever is the most Irish by singing a song, doing a dance, and telling a joke to prove their Irishness is in the running.

The evening includes buffet dinner of traditional Irish fare, dessert, the show and a good time with friends and family. Tickets MUST BE purchased in advance at the office by March 10 for \$25.00 for adults and \$8.00 for kids (ages 4-12). After March 10 and at the door tickets will be \$30.00 and \$10.00.



Teen Council Valentine's Party

JONAS HARDIN, RECORDING SECRETARY, TEEN COUNCIL

Members of the Highland Lakes Country Club, we at the Teen Council, are pleased to announce our second annual Valentine's Day party this year at the HL Clubhouse. At this event there will be many games, crafts, snacks and beverages, and most importantly, enough fun to share with the entire community. The festivities will start on Sunday, February 12 at 1 pm to 3 pm. We hope to see you all there and that you have a happy Valentine's Day, please don't forget to bring your badges.

Come Stitch in the Niche

FLORENCE KENSEK

Join us on Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 pm on the stage in the Seckler Room of the Clubhouse. We are a small group of about 8-11 ladies who love to stitch, either knitting, crocheting, hand stitching and, mostly, we share stories or news items and laugh. For more information contact Florence at 973-764-7601, otherwise, just come!



Bunco Fridays

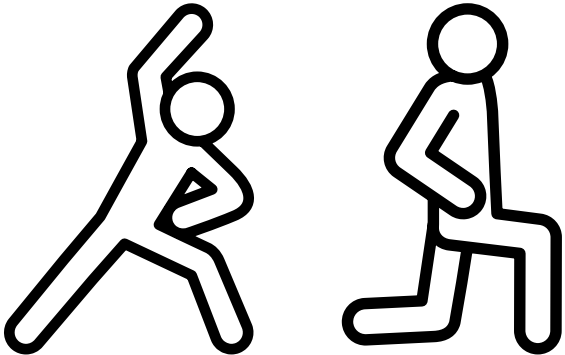
MARIAN BENEDICTO, CO-COORDINATOR

Come to Bunco the first Friday of each month at 6:30 pm for adults. It is a dice game that is very easy to learn. Last month 12 people played. Bring snack food to share and \$5. Any questions contact: Marian Benedicto at 973-764-7998, or text at 973-534-1182. Kathy G. is in charge. Give it a try, you will not be sorry!

Women's Fitness Class Continues in 2023

KERI SCHUNDLER, COORDINATOR

I'm a Highland Lakes resident and mom of three. Every Monday at 6 pm I run a women's fitness class in the Lake Room. Get ready to feel the burn and see lasting results! This class targets your full body using low impact movements on the mat. I blend a mix of pilates, strength training, yoga and light cardio to leave you feeling and looking your best. You can find more workouts on Instagram @makeitworkmomma. See you soon!



Yoga and Meditation

EVELYNE NOEL, INSTRUCTOR

Thursdays 8 - 9:30 am - All Levels

We've been practicing informally in the Lake Room and now extend a warm welcome to each and all of you. Ask around, maybe you know someone who's been coming. All are welcome, all bodies, all levels of experience.

- In this yoga class we
- strengthen, stretch using slow, sustained movements paired with breath
 - practice breathing techniques to still the mind and achieve calm at will
 - refine poses to meet individual needs within safe alignments
 - develop body-mind-heart coherence in a unified manner

I have practiced yoga for decades, and hold accredited teaching endorsements in Iyengar Yoga and TriYoga and have taught meditation. I'm trained in offering gentle, physical assists to help students who want to deepen poses. The balance of demanding poses and relaxing ones paces the class calmly. Student questions refine my teaching. I aim to create a sense of community where each will find what is needed. Bring a yoga mat and a strap as a minimum. Yoga blocks and bolsters are useful too. Please note, no class on February 16.

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Highland Lakes Hiking News

DINA D'ARGENIO, COORDINATOR

New Year's Day was a beautiful day for a hike, and we had a great turnout of approximately 23 adults and kids! It was so nice to meet all of you!
Anyone interested in participating in upcoming hikes

with the group please contact me so we can get you on the email list and keep you in the loop. If you have a trail you would like to hike please let me know. Stay safe!

Chess Club

OZZIE TOBIN, ORGANIZER

Our Chess Club is going strong and meeting the first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:30 pm. If you would like to join us, just show up, it's very informal.



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Vernon Township Housing Market Report - December 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	\$145,990	30	99%
2	\$228,083	45	102%
3	\$314,857	52	98%
4	\$443,581	67	99%
5+	No Sales	No Sales	No Sales
TOWN	\$275,896	48	99%

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Save the Date

On April 22 we're celebrating Earth Day at the Lake. It begins with Ecology's Annual Roadside Clean-Up Event. At lunchtime head to the Clubhouse for snacks and refreshments. Following lunch, join us for educational presentations about Gardening at the Lake. More details to come in future Newsettes and our website.



In Memoriam

Our beloved, Juanita Carol (Lanza) Laccetti, passed away on December 27, 2022, at her home in Highland Lakes, NJ. She was eighty-one. Juanita is survived by her husband, Bill of 59 years, her children, Matthew Laccetti and wife Kristin, Mark Laccetti and wife Ameriquin, TinaMarie Montone and husband Dominick, and LeeAnn Laccetti; her grandchildren, Elizabeth, Jessica, Isabella, Matthew, Vincent, AnaMaria, Nicholas, Christopher and Victoria; and her sister-in laws Loranye Lanza, Marie Zucca and husband Roy, and Mary Lanza in addition to a host of nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Juanita Laccetti served as Head Coach of the team HL Swim Team from approximately 1982-1991. She was a major part of the recent history of our program: a fierce competitor who won a number of division titles, and most importantly is fondly remembered by the athletes who swam for her. She is fittingly the namesake of our annual "Best All Around Swimmer" award given out each year at the awards ceremony. She will be greatly missed.

Just for Fun

National Days to Note

- World Cancer Day - Feb 4
- World Nutella Day - Feb 5
- Send a Card to a Friend Day - Feb 7
- National Pizza Day - Feb 9
- National Tortellini Day - Feb 13
- National Almond Day - Feb 16
- Random Acts of Kindness Day - Feb 17
- National Love Your Pet Day - Feb 20
- School Bus Driver Appreciation Day - Feb 22

February Love

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Volunteers
are the

of
Highland Lakes

Teen Council News

OZZIE TOBIN, PRESIDENT, TEEN COUNCIL

Hello, we are the HLCC Teen Council, a volunteer group focused on bringing fun events to our community. Over the last year, we have put on events such as the Halloween Haunted Trail, Teen Pool Nights, Community Clean-Ups, and Movie Showings. This year, our ambition only escalates. Our first event of the year is our Valentine's party February 12 for young community members and their families to enjoy crafts, games, and snacks. Next, we plan to host a Trivia Night, March 10, for members young and old to compete in a battle of knowledge. We are in the process of finalizing a Ghost Hunter Q&A for April 1 at 7 pm (watch future Newsettes and social for more info). Following that, we will be hosting an Open Mic Night for our community members to perform and showcase their talents. Currently, our Open Mic Night is on a date to be determined in May. We have much more to share with the community and are excited to bring you events throughout the year. If you wish to join our team, our members, ages 13-17 meet the first Thursday of every month to discuss new prospects. Thank you very much, we hope to see you soon.

HL Senior Club News

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLUB

Greetings to all of you. Here's hoping 2023 will keep you well & happy, staying active and productive!

Senior Club (S/C) Luncheons:

Our January lunch had 46 attendees enjoying soup, salad and dessert. Much thanks to all the helpers. Our S/C volunteers set up, served, made desserts & cleaned up for The Wherry celebration of life of our beloved buddy, Roy. We were thrilled to help. Again, many sincere thanks to our team.

February Luncheon: Tuesday, February 14 at 12 noon.

March St. Patty's Day Luncheon: Tuesday, March 14 at 12 noon.



Eileen Opfer took this wonderful sunrise from her deck



Kids' Ceramics

LAUREN LA ROCCA, SUMMER CLUBHOUSE DIRECTOR

We had two successful kids' ceramic nights in November and December. Look for future information on kids' ceramics coming this year in the spring.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAUREN LA ROCCA



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RAY ZIMMERMAN



Winter Pickleball

KATHI TAYLOR

If 2023 is proving anything, it's that Highland Lakes has some very active residents. Highland Lakes pickleball welcomed in the new year with the courts full on January 2. Thirteen players enjoyed temperatures in the high 40's. The first three weeks of the month remained snow-free with unseasonable temperatures, so the courts were full for most of our sessions. Even though we use our two portable nets during this time of year, our players still used the empty court and played without a net! What a dedicated group! Come down to the courts at 2 on Mondays and Wednesdays if there isn't any snow cover. Dress for the weather and wear your badge. Hope to see you there. Questions? Kathi Taylor 973-303-2689 or Peggy Warner 973-764-5126.

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Beautiful sunrise on Philips Road taken by Henry K. 11 y/o.



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