



The Highland Lakes Newsette

A publication of Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association at Highland Lakes, New Jersey © 2021



Volume 2021 | Issue Number 3 | April 3, 2021

From the President's Desk

MICHAEL GELFAND, PRESIDENT

Spring has finally sprung in Highland Lakes, and it couldn't have come a moment too soon. While the pandemic continues to cast its shadow over each of us in different ways, that shadow is receding as vaccinations have begun to rollout more broadly. Life is steadily creeping back toward "normal." Eventually a great day will come when we are given the all-clear, and I expect that the ensuing celebrations will be epic, forever becoming part of Highland Lakes lore shared generation through generation around dinner tables and firepits.

The pandemic aside, our voting board has had more than its fair share of important Club-related issues to address over the winter. No issue has weighed more heavily on us than the hiring of new general manager David Martin, which was necessitated by the planned departure of longtime general manager Jack McLaughlin at the end of March. Much has been said about both of them in the Newsette recently, so I won't use up more valuable space on them, but it's worth a brief pause to note the significance of this moment in Highland Lakes' history...

This is the first transition in operational leadership in our community after more than three decades. It has occurred deliberately, executed with great care by everyone involved, and has played out relatively seamlessly (at least in retrospect) due to cooperation between the outgoing GM, the incoming GM, key support from our dedicated employees and lots of hard work by the board. We're sad to see Jack ride off into the sunset (but happy for him), and greatly appreciative of all he has done for the community. At the same time, we're excited and relieved to have Dave here with his boots on the ground making a difference. Change of leadership is difficult, continuity of leadership is critical, and the importance of careful planning to make it happen this way should never be

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Upcoming Events

April 10 – Spring Egg Hunt

April 24 – Roadside Cleanup Day



Endangered Ash Trees Require Attention

SUE ROSS, CHAIRPERSON, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Join a Discussion April 13 at 7 pm

Learn everything you'll need to know about the insect that is infesting our ash trees at a Zoom meeting hosted by Bartlett Tree Experts on April 13 at 7 pm. There is no cost for you to attend this meeting, but there is a lot you will gain. Use this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86750426715#success> to join us on the night of the presentation.

Why You Should Attend

If you haven't heard about the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) yet, let us fill you in on some news you will want to know about. The EAB is a beetle that has a one year life cycle. Female beetles feed off of ash leaves and deposit eggs in the crevices and flaps found on the bark of these trees. Once the egg matures, larvae burrow under the bark and feed on the cambium, which is the part of the tree that is essential to transporting water and nutrients. The larvae become adult beetles in April or May and begin the cycle anew. If left untreated, the ash tree cannot survive more than 3-4 years and 99 percent of ash trees will die.

The beetle, which was first found in southeastern Michigan, has finally made its way to northwestern NJ and Highland Lakes and now we as a Club and as property owners have some decisions to make. If caught early enough the tree can often be saved if it is treated by a certified tree expert over the course of an indefinite number of years (injections are made to the base of the tree every other year). If you choose not to treat the infected ash tree, it is recommended that you remove it. Experts agree that to do nothing could end up being the costliest decision in the long run. Once the tree dies, you risk it falling on your home/property or someone else's and of course there is a possibility that limbs and trees could actually fall on people or pets without warning. No one wants that.

You may be tempted to try to treat the tree yourself by buying over-the-counter chemicals at Home Depot or some other landscaping merchant. Not only will these chemicals NOT eradicate the problem, they are highly toxic and could get into our lakes and streams and do serious damage. The chemicals that will do the job can only be purchased by a licensed arborist.

The HL Board has already been working on this problem. Our common property has been surveyed by Bartlett Tree Experts. Some trees will receive treatment and will be saved. Others, regrettably will be taken down for the safety and good of the community. Trees that are saved are younger trees that still are healthy enough to respond to the treatment. Older

trees which are reaching the end of their lifespan and trees that have been identified as being too far along to be saved will be removed this spring.

Homeowners need to know the state of ash trees on their own property and must make a deliberate plan. Here is what needs to be done:

1. Educate yourself by attending the Zoom meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86750426715#success> on April 13.
2. You need to contact a local tree expert for proper identification of ash trees on your property and get their recommendation on which trees can be saved and which should be removed.
3. Take action!
[Learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer \(www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/whatisab.html\)](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/whatisab.html)

HIGHLAND LAKES SPRING EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

From 10am to 12pm
Kids (Ages 2-10) meet on the Clubhouse lawn, there will be a take home craft and selfie photo area. You MUST sign up in order to attend this event.
There will be 3 available time slots.
10-10:45am | 11-11:45am | 12-12:45pm
Maximum 50 people per time slot

Sign up:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054EABAE2AABF49-spring> or feel free to email
Melissa Hardin at mhcreate32@yahoo.com
Please put "Egg Hunt" in the subject bar
RSVP to be received by April 8, 2021

HIGHLAND LAKES MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY - MASKS ARE REQUIRED
AS ALWAYS PLEASE WEAR YOUR BADGE

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underestimated or understated.

A key focus area for the board right now is short term rentals (STRs) and their perceived effect on our community. This issue has been percolating nationwide for the past few years, and by some accounts has come to a head over the past year as rentals of vacation homes exploded during this health crisis. Within the confines of our community, I’ve heard from many members on the matter—some opinions were requested, many came to me unsolicited, none were dispassionate, and each one represented a different perspective across the spectrum of possible responses. Be assured, the voting board is paying attention and intent on addressing this head-on over the coming weeks and months.

Here’s how:
The Club recently distributed a survey—which is now closed—to members as a way to gauge the temperature of the community on the issue. The Club received 275 survey responses, and although those results are by no means proof of anything, they highlighted the key areas of concern and confirmed that this issue requires much closer analysis, and possible action.

At the board’s workshop in April, potential changes to the Club’s rules, policies, regulations and/ or bylaws related to STRs will be discussed. The discussion is expected to help the board further refine its recommendations at April’s regular meeting and send those recommendations to the Club’s attorney for careful legal review. The Club will also hold a dedicated community discussion in April where members will hear what potential changes the board has identified, and give members an opportunity to share their ideas, comments, questions and concerns..

At the voting board’s May workshop, the Club’s attorney will provide guidance on whether any/all proposed changes pose any legal hurdles. The board will then finalize its recommendations and vote on whether to put those recommendations on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. If that motion is made and accepted, specific details about the proposed changes will be socialized in advance of the Annual Meeting. Assuming the motion is put before the membership for a vote, approval from at least two-thirds of the quorum will be required to adopt the bylaw changes.

There’s a lot of work to do on this topic between now and then, along with a few challenges to overcome and likely disagreements to be resolved before the Annual Meeting rolls around. No matter what happens, I don’t expect everyone will be happy with the outcome. Nevertheless, the board is committed to doing what it thinks is best for the entire community—that’s what we were all elected to do, and the goal that every board this community has had has worked toward.

I recognize that we’ve all be locked down and shut in for a year, and I know it’s become even easier than before to sit on the sidelines to moan via email, petitions and social media posts about perceived problems. But if you truly want to be heard—and are willing to respectfully listen to others and consider other perspectives—please show up at the community discussion. Complaints shouted into the proverbial echo chamber of social media don’t resonate as loudly as showing up does in the real world.

Voting Board Meeting Notice

DAVE MARTIN, GENERAL MANAGER

Meeting to Discuss STRs on April 17

The April 7 Workshop Meeting has been rescheduled. The meeting will now take place on Monday, April 12 at 8 pm in the Seckler Room This will be an in-person meeting. Because the Governor has ordered that the general indoor capacity limit be increased to 25 people, not more than seven (7) regular members may be in attendance. Mask and social distancing requirements remain in effect.

Membership Meeting Notice

A Meeting of the Members will take place on Saturday, April 17 at 2 pm on the Clubhouse Lawn (Rain Date - Sunday, April 18)

This will be an in-person, outdoor meeting. Mask and social distancing requirements remain in effect. The purpose of the meeting is to inform members of board progress in addressing Short-term Rentals (STRs) and to hear member comments and discussion on the topic.

Upcoming Meetings

- Buildings and Grounds** – No meeting scheduled at this time
Clubhouse Committee – Tuesday, April 20 – 7 pm
Communications Committee - No meeting scheduled at this time
Ecology Committee – Thursday, April 15 - 7 pm
Fishing Committee – Thursday, April 15 – 8 pm
Planning Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time
Roads Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time
Rules and By-Laws - No meeting scheduled at this time
Voting Board Workshop – Monday, April 12 – 8 pm (Note day change)
Voting Board Meeting – Friday, April 16 – 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, 2020 - September 30, 2021

Officer		Name	Telephone	E-Mail
President		Michael Gelfand	973-764-8758	president@hlcc.org
First Vice President		Judith Norton	973-764-2495	firstvp@hlcc.org
Second Vice President		Raymond Zimmerman	973-766-3359	secondvp@hlcc.org
Treasurer		Michael Gillooley	973-764-4366	hltreasurer@hlcc.org
Secretary		Climeen Wikoff	973-764-5604	secretary@hlcc.org
Section	Trustee		Telephone	E-Mail
1	Louis Iannucci		973-764-7042	trustee1@hlcc.org
2	William Beardsley		973-764-7730	trustee2@hlcc.org
3	Patricia Thompson		973-271-9566	thompsonpatty208@gmail.com
4	Janice Fajardo		917-572-5449	janicefajardo@gmail.com
5	Julia Campbell		973-670-4539	juliakaichercampbell@gmail.com
6	Melissa Hardin		973-764-1433	trustee6@hlcc.org
7	Lee Eisenberg		201-787-8772	trustee7@hlcc.org
8	Dominick Beninati		917-566-3136	trustee8@hlcc.org
9	Thomas Castiglione		973-764-4366	trustee9@comcast.net
10	Chris Kaas		-----	section10hlcc@gmail.com
11	David Cartier		973-534-2039	trustee11@hlcc.org
12	Len Bogdon		973-764-7136	trustee12@hlcc.org

Boat Retrieval Notice

SEAN JARON, SECURITY MANAGER

Boats removed from racks, docks and Club properties by Highland Lakes Security are available for retrieval by their owners on Saturday April 10 and Saturday, May 8. All owners claiming a boat must complete a Boat Retrieval Form, and pay the appropriate storage and removal fees, not later than the day before the date you plan to pick up your boat. For the amount of these fees please contact Sean Jaron, Security Manager at 973-764-4266.

Complete the form and bring it to the Club office or Security where payments will be accepted. Once completed, use this form to retrieve your boat at the maintenance yard located on Glen Wild Way off Cherry Ridge Road by Ballfield 2 on April 10 or May 8, between the hours of 11 am and 3 pm. If your boat has a 2020 boat sticker, please bring your 2021 membership card or owner's badge. Any questions, please call 973-764-4266.

----- CLIP HERE -----

Boat Retrieval Form

Bring with you to the maintenance yard located by Ball Field 2 on Glen Wild Way off Cherry Ridge Road between the hours of 11 am and 3 pm.

Name : _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip code: _____

Member Number: _____

Please identify your boat to the best of your ability. Please note any dents or distinguishing marks on your boat.

Brand/Model No.: _____

Color: _____ **Length:** _____

Distinguishing Marks: _____

I hereby certify that the boat identified above is owned by me. I agree to hold Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association, its Officers, Trustees, Employees and Volunteers harmless from any claim that may arise resulting from the delivery to me of the boat described above.

Signature: _____

Dated: _____

Boat Delivered By: _____

----- CLIP HERE -----

Help Wanted – Lifeguards, Lifeguard Instructors and Water Safety Instructors

KAITLYN NIX, WATER SAFETY DIRECTOR

The Club is anticipating openings in our Water Safety department this summer. Consider applying to our staff for a lifeguard position. Below is a list of requirements and expectations. Our pre season begins Memorial Day weekend and consists of weekends in June. Starting in the last week of June, the regular season continues daily until Labor Day. You should expect to work both during the week and on weekends.

You must be
Lifeguard/CPR/
First Aid certified
- Waterfront is also
necessary, but you can
be certified for \$35
by HLCC if you don't
have it.



Office and Clubhouse Soon to be Open to Members

DAVE MARTIN, GENERAL MANAGER

Starting May 1, 2021

In an attempt to start opening up to members and the public, the Office will be open during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. The Clubhouse will be open to members during normal business hours. Committee meetings and Voting Board meetings are resuming in compliance with attendance limitations and social distancing guidelines. As always this is subject to change.

Help Wanted – Swim Team Assistant Coach

MICHAEL BUCHNEY, HEAD COACH, SWIM TEAM

Now Hiring

The Highland Lakes Swim Team is hiring for one assistant coach position for the upcoming 2021 season. The assistant coach will primarily support the head coach to develop age group practices, and work with individual and small groups of swimmers to develop strokes and improve technique. In addition, the assistant coach will be responsible for managing and marshaling swimmers at weekly swim meets and Saturday invitationals. Candidates for the assistant coach should have competitive swimming experience, prior experience working with or coaching youth in any sport setting is a plus, experience teaching swimming lessons would be ideal, but is not a requirement. Candidates will also be responsible for ensuring swimmers are maintaining social distancing and other health safety regulations. Interested candidates should contact Michael Buchney, Head Coach via email to: hlccswimteam@gmail.com. Please include a resume along with your email.

Help Wanted

LUCY WEEMS, OFFICE MANAGER

Part-Time Summer Office and Clubhouse Staff

The Club is anticipating the need for part-time clerical work to help with the distribution of badge packages and other potential administrative tasks. The availability to work some weekend days throughout the summer is a must. COVID safety regulations will be considered in the work environment. Eligible candidates should submit their resume and letter of interest to Lucy Weems at hlccaccounting@warwick.net.

Applications are also being accepted for part-time clubhouse staff as well. Potential candidates can request an application from the office by phone or email.

Spring Egg Hunt

MELISSA HARDIN, COORDINATOR

Saturday, April 10

Highland Lakes will be hosting a Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 10, 2021, from 10 am - 12 pm on the Clubhouse Lawn. You must sign up in order to attend this event. There will be 3 available time slots. 10-10:45 am, 11-11:45 am and 12 noon to 12:45 pm. Time frames are limited to 50 people. Masks are required and each egg hunter can find up to 6 eggs. Age range is between 2-10 years old. There will be a craft to take home and a spring time picture area to take a selfie photo near the lake.

You may either sign up through the sign up genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054EABAE2AABF49-spring> or feel free to email Melissa Hardin at mhcreate32@yahoo.com. Please put "Egg Hunt" in the subject line. RSVP need to be received no later than Thursday, April 8, 2021. Please review the

available slots and click on the button to sign up through Signupgenius. This event is open for Highland Lakes members and their guests only. Please wear your badge and don't forget your mask. Thank you and happy spring!



Boat Dock Update

DAVE MARTIN, GENERAL MANAGER

Available OPEN Spaces

The following chart identifies the OPEN spaces which will be marked with a special, green numbered tag. Only spaces marked with this tag are OPEN and available for members to claim for this year.

Members who have an assigned dock space at Club Park, Comet Row, Beach 3 and Beach 4 will continue to have those spaces as long as the conditions of the assignment are met, otherwise the assignment will be forfeited. When a space is forfeited, it will be converted to an “OPEN” space, marked by the color tag that appears in this article containing the word “OPEN”.



claimed without a 2021 boating permit and a boat.

Dock spaces at Eckhart Sailing Center remain reserved for junior sailors and others participating in the Club’s sailing fleets.

For OPEN spaces on these docks, the approach to getting a dock space is identical to the methods historically used by members – “first come/first served”. *Once the docks are in place late in April, members may secure one of these OPEN spaces by placing their boat with 2021 boating permits (each side of the bow) and a third 2021 boating permit on the OPEN numbered tag. No space may be*

LEFT		CLUB PARK DRY		RIGHT	
Furthest from Shore					
Space No.	Member No.	Space No.	Member No.	Space No.	Member No.
101	7903	102	5611	103	5150
105	6794	106	5518	107	7770
109	5185	110	OPEN	111	OPEN
113	6303	114	OPEN	115	OPEN
117	5922	116	OPEN	117	OPEN
119	7247	118	OPEN	119	OPEN
121	7055	120	6166	123	OPEN
125	OPEN	124	OPEN	125	OPEN
Closest to Shore					

LEFT		CLUB PARK WET		RIGHT	
Furthest from Shore					
Space No.	Member No.	Space No.	Member No.	Space No.	Member No.
201	6371	202	OPEN	203	OPEN
203	OPEN	204	OPEN	205	OPEN
205	OPEN	206	OPEN	207	6921
207	6921	208	5634	209	5633
209	5633	210	5977	211	6826
211	6826	212	OPEN	213	OPEN
213	OPEN	214	OPEN	215	7226
215	7226	216	7121	217	OPEN
217	OPEN	218	OPEN	219	OPEN
219	OPEN	220	6168	221	6867
221	6867	222	5281	223	OPEN
223	OPEN	224	7713	225	5994
225	5994	226	9130	227	6656
227	6656	228	OPEN	229	OPEN
229	OPEN	230	OPEN		
Closest to Shore					

LEFT		COMET ROW DRY		RIGHT			
Furthest from Shore							
Space No.		Member No.		Space No.		Member No.	
301		7422		302		6364	
303		7637		304		5999	
305		5106		306		OPEN	
307		OPEN		308		6264	
309		OPEN		310		OPEN	
311		OPEN		312		OPEN	
313		OPEN		314		5053	
315		OPEN		316		6808	
317		7185		318		7776	
319		OPEN		320		OPEN	
321		6198		322		OPEN	
323		OPEN		324		OPEN	
Closest to Shore							

LEFT		COMET ROW WET		RIGHT			
Furthest from Shore							
Space No.		Member No.		Space No.		Member No.	
401		7768		402		5324	
403		OPEN		404		OPEN	
405		5042		406		OPEN	
407		OPEN		408		OPEN	
409		5598		410		7328	
411		OPEN		412		7814	
413		OPEN		414		5485	
415		OPEN		416		6140	
417		6401		418		OPEN	
419		OPEN		420		5106	
421		OPEN		422		OPEN	
423		7325		424		5359	
425		OPEN		426		OPEN	
427		OPEN		428		OPEN	
Closest to Shore							

LEFT		BEACH 3		RIGHT	
Furthest from Shore					
Space No.	Member No.	Space No.	Member No.	Space No.	Member No.
601	OPEN	602	5612	603	5612
603	5612	604	7350	605	7350
605	OPEN	606	5407	607	5407
607	OPEN	608	5445	609	5445
609	6493	610	5919	611	5919
611	7503	612	5603	613	5603
613	6712	614	OPEN	615	OPEN
615	5523	616	7636	617	7636
617	OPEN	618	OPEN	619	OPEN
619	OPEN	620	5123	621	5123
621	6807	622	7784	623	7784
623	6748	624	OPEN	625	OPEN
625	OPEN	626	6265	627	6265
627	OPEN	628	7248	629	7248
629	OPEN	630	OPEN	631	OPEN
631	OPEN	632	OPEN	633	OPEN
Closest to Shore					

LEFT		BEACH 4		RIGHT			
Furthest from Shore							
Space No.		Member No.		Space No.		Member No.	
701		OPEN		702		OPEN	
703		5660		704		6034	
705		OPEN		706		OPEN	
707		OPEN		708		7496	
709		7426		710		5124	
711		OPEN		712		OPEN	
713		5158		714		OPEN	
715		5144		716		OPEN	
717		7671		718		OPEN	
719		5695		720		OPEN	
721		OPEN		722		OPEN	
723		OPEN		724		OPEN	
725		5853		726		7080	
727		7279		728		OPEN	
729		OPEN		730		OPEN	
731		OPEN		732		OPEN	
733		OPEN		734		OPEN	
735		7363		736		5998	
Closest to Shore							

LEFT		COMET ROW PONTOON		RIGHT			
Furthest from Shore							
Space No.		Member No.		Space No.		Member No.	
801		6407		802		6472	
803		OPEN		804		5994	
805		7457		806		7840	
807		5374		808		OPEN	
809		7825		810		7131	
811		5137		812		OPEN	

LEFT		COMET ROW PONTOON		RIGHT	
Furthest from Shore					
Space No.	Member No.	Space No.	Member No.	Space No.	Member No.
901	OPEN	902	OPEN	903	OPEN
903	OPEN	904	OPEN	905	OPEN
905	OPEN	906	OPEN	907	OPEN
907	OPEN	908	OPEN	909	OPEN
909	OPEN	910	OPEN	911	OPEN
911	OPEN	912	OPEN	913	OPEN



Dispose of PPE Properly

BARBARA JAGGI, CHAIRPERSON, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

As with plastic straws, carelessly discarding face masks, gloves, and other protective gear doesn't just pollute our parks, woods, and beaches – it can be deadly to animals. Birds have died after becoming entangled in face masks, while dolphins, turtles, and other marine animals can easily choke or suffer from fatal bowel obstructions when they mistake PPE for food. It's vital that single-use items be disposed of properly – and it's important that those outside of a medical environment consider opting for reusable, machine-washable cloth masks." In particular, when discarding disposable face masks cut the elastic off each end to protect the birds from becoming entangled.



Next Newsette: May 1, 2021

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!

Ecology Corner

BOB REFFELT, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Beware – Your Aquarium Contains Invasive Species

I recently received an alert from The NJ Fish and Wildlife organization about the discovery of invasive Zebra Mussels appearing in moss balls which are occasionally used in home aquariums. These mussels are extremely damaging to fresh water lakes. Please check out the links below for more details on these invasive species including alternative ways to destroy them.

<https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/zebra-mussel-disposal.html>
<https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/zebra-mussel-disposal.pdf>

<https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/ANS/zebra-mussel-disposal.html>

This alert also reminded me of the many other invasive plants, fish, etc. that exist in home aquariums; therefore, it is extremely important that NONE of the contents of your aquariums end up in our lakes. This also extends to Koi ponds which might overflow during heavy rains. Also please keep in mind that whatever goes into our storm drains eventually ends up in our lakes, so please don't dump aquarium contents including the water into our storm drains.

Watercraft Angels Wanted

JENNIFER PELLET

The Goodwill Fundraising Committee is Looking for Donations for Our Upcoming Boat Auction.

Do you have a canoe gathering dust in your basement? A pile of kayak paddles with no purpose? A paddleboat that your grown kids no longer need? Free up space at home and make a difference in your community by donating canoes, kayaks, fishing boats and/or other watercrafts or boating accessories you no longer want or need to the Goodwill committee. We'll be auctioning off donations in May, with the proceeds going towards paying the dues of members experiencing financial hardship. Call or text Jennifer at 917-232-2365 for more information.

Vernon Rotary Club Awaits Essays From High School Seniors

ROSEMARY POLHEMUS

Financial Awards to Assist in Future Studies

The 12th grade students from Vernon High School and/or Sussex Tech can submit their essays to the Guidance office and our Rotarian representative will pick them up and circulate to our Scholarship Committee for a decision.

There are three (3) \$1,000 *Citizenship Awards*. Applicants must write a letter/essay, explaining how he/she has volunteered their time in service to our community.

The Amos Phillips Award is also \$1,000 to the best qualifying letter/essay received from a student who wishes to enter a career in either business or education, and how they hope to affect the world today.

The deadline to submit is Friday, April 30, 2021. Students will be notified during the Senior Awards Ceremony.

On-line Payments

Have you paid on-line yet? It's fast and very easy. Go to HLCC.org and find the top blue ribbon and click Make a Payment.

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STORE**

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973-764-4541

Last Call at Closing Time

JACK MCLAUGHLIN

In the Spring of 1986 my wife decided (with my reluctant acquiescence) that we were moving with our son from Paterson, and that Highland Lakes was on the short list of communities to consider. That meant traveling to look at homes, dealing with real estate people (never high on my list), and all the nonsense that comes with moving. It didn't help that I had no idea where Highland Lakes was, and I recall my knuckles turning white on the steering wheel as we passed Jigg's Corner in Butler (a place that I subsequently was known to frequent). How far from civilization would I be living? Moving also meant buying a new house by selling the one we owned, and that spring was a seller's market – with very little or no negotiating by sellers. That's how we approached our sale, and how the Highland Lakes seller approached the sale to us. If you didn't like the price, someone else certainly would. Moving fast was the order of the day, and title companies, surveyors, mortgage lenders, etc. were under severe time constraints generated by the volume of activity – not much different than it is today.

We traveled north along Route 23 for what seemed 150 miles or so until we turned off Route 515 at Jorgensen's Inn - I remembered the name from the trips made to Vernon by my parents and aunts and uncles to the Playboy Club, recalling the joke from Annie Hall with a twist about Jorgensen's: "Two elderly women are at Jorgensen's, and one of 'em says, 'Boy, the food at this place is really terrible.' The other one says, 'Yeah, I know; but at least the portions are large.'" My association with Vernon also extended to Action Park, known in my neck of the woods as Traction Park or Accident Park. And other than being separated from civilization that's all I knew about Vernon.

Leaving Route 515 and turning onto Highland Lakes Road, I made a mental note about the Highland General Store – I thought "...at least a place to buy newspapers, groceries, hardware, and excessively taxed items restricted for sale by age." Continuing along Highland Lakes Road, we arrived at the stop sign at Breakneck Road. Immediately before me was a dilapidated Seckler & Shepperd barn building on the left, and a Jersey City brick façade post office and a small dentist office on the right. These buildings, separated by a dirt, dusty, and pothole-riddled driveway and parking area, provoked the comment, "What kind of dump have you dragged me up to?" Describing my demeanor as calm would have been less than accurate.

I have been generally unsuccessful resisting domestic tides, and have no patience touring homes that I have no interest in owning. These combinations resulted in the purchase of the second home we looked at in Highland Lakes. Little did I know that in about a year after we moved I would be selected as the Club's new General Manager, and given the opportunity to hire a contractor to demolish the old Seckler & Shepperd building some 10 years later. The Club's members had the foresight to purchase the site that permitted the complete reconstruction of the area, with relocated basketball and tennis courts, a new utility court and tennis courts, two playgrounds, and the conversion of the old post office to what is now the Beach Hut, joining the ballfield and beach utility courts into a unified recreational site.

All of this effort—from the purchase and planning to

the construction—came about after years of hard work by the Voting Board, Planning Committee, consultants, and staff. I especially remember the wonderful contributions made by Don Ross, Gene Bove, and Joe Orlandino (all now sadly deceased) to the success of the project. Having a part in demolishing that eyesore, getting the post office out of that site by selling the land that the post office is now on, and reconstructing the entire Beach 1 area gave me great satisfaction.

Now I know I am dating myself, but in 1964 I was a rabid New York Yankees fan and followed every game, and read every newspaper column about the Yankees pennant chase with Yogi Berra at the helm as manager. To me, barely a teenager at the time, the Phil Linz incident in Chicago was the trigger that propelled the Yankees to the pennant and World Series, only to lose in seven games to the St. Louis Cardinals.

As I look back at these past 30+ years, there is one incident that stands out among all others. For board members and staff, the Annual Meeting is potentially a tense affair, and requires a great deal of preparation by officers and trustees to respond to comments from the membership. When the floor is opened to the membership, one never knows what will be said, and at one meeting, in the mid-2000s I believe, the most memorable comment was delivered, what I refer to as the Club's *Phil Linz incident*.

Here's how ESPN.com describes the Phil Linz incident:

NEW YORK --

Linz was a light-hitting backup for most of his seven-year career, batting .235 with 11 homers for the Yankees, Phillies and Mets. But an episode on the team bus -- along with some prodding by Mickey Mantle -- ensured Linz's place in Yankees' lore.

Swept in a four-game series by the first-place White Sox at Chicago in August 1964, the Yankees were riding to the airport when Linz, sitting in the back, began fiddling with a harmonica -- he'd got it a day earlier at the Marshall Field's store, an hour after teammates Tony Kubek and Bobby Richardson bought them.

Studying a play-by-numbers pamphlet, Linz started to practice a sweet tune: "Mary Had a Little Lamb." "I was sitting about a seat in front of him. He gave it a toot or two, he didn't really have it down yet," Kubek told The Associated Press on Friday. Riding up front, first-year manager and longtime Yankees star Yogi Berra was in no mood to hear it. He angrily shouted for the music to stop. Linz, however, didn't hear Berra clearly. So the 25-year-old part-timer -- who had played in all four losses -- asked Yankees star Mantle what the skipper had said. Mantle, ever ready to stir the pot, told him Berra said, "Play it louder." So Linz continued to blow away. Berra, out of character, angrily rushed back to confront him. Berra slapped the harmonica out of Linz's hand, Kubek said, and it went flying, hitting first baseman Joe Pepitone in the shin as tempers flared. "Then Mickey starts grinning and tells Whitey

Ford, that's it, now Yogi's going to get fired and he's going to have to take over the team," Kubek recalled. "Mickey says, 'Whitey, you're going to be my first base coach and here's the sign for the hit and-run,' and he toots the harmonica once. Then he says here's the bunt sign and toots twice." "Pretty soon, all the tension and nervous laughter went away and guys started to relax and joke again," Kubek said. "It all turned out all right." Berra wound up fining Linz \$250. Linz, however, came out OK in the financial department -- boosted by national reports of the blow-up, the Hohner harmonica company gave Linz a \$10,000 endorsement deal. Harmony restored, the Yankees rallied down the stretch and reached the World Series for the fifth straight year. "Some people say the harmonica incident caused a spark, I don't know, maybe it did," Kubek said.

One of the traditions at Family Day, which precedes the Annual Meeting by two weeks or so, is the children's bicycle parade. Children spend time decorating their bikes and, when finished, parade in front of parents, grandparents, and friends to the sound of (as I recall) John Philip Souza's "Stars and Stripes Forever." Within minutes of the start of the parade at midday, a member of the Clubhouse staff told me that a resident had called to complain that the music was too loud, and asked me what to do. Let me state clearly that the music was not obnoxiously loud – but loud enough so that all gathered on the lawn could hear the music and enjoy the children's smiles. The Phil Linz incident immediately came to mind, and I repeated my hero Mickey Mantle's remarks - I told her "play it louder."

At the Annual Meeting two weeks later, it was this Yankee fan, the Club's General Manager, who was responsible for the resident standing up at the microphone complaining that there were "too many happy sounds coming from the Clubhouse." Now the entire membership at that Annual Meeting could have been there to argue, oppose, and dispute what the board and the Club was involved in. However, as soon as that comment was delivered, a bewildered and stunned look fell across the entire gathering and any tensions with the Club and its leadership were immediately forgotten as members tried to reconcile how "too many happy sounds" served as a reason to complain, in a public forum, without embarrassment, as the room recognized that happy sounds generated from a recreational center must *always* be what the Club is about. Complaining about the occasional "happy sounds" seemed to me to be identical to moving next to an interstate highway or airport and complaining about the noise.

We raised our two children here at the lake with wonderful experiences for both of them. Team sports, swim lessons, Clubhouse events and activities, and just hanging with friends, comfortably and safely, and occasionally but seldomly disappointing their parents as teenagers' DNA forces them to do, were all hallmarks of our Highland Lakes life. They've made lifelong friends here and forged lasting memories growing up in Highland Lakes. That brings me to another topic – the return of the "kids."

Our community must

Continued from Page 6

take pride that these “kids”—now parents themselves, have returned. They are accountants, health care workers, teachers, environmental specialists, attorneys, etc., who grew up in Highland Lakes, many of whom worked for the Club and for me, who graduated and moved on to raise their families closer to work and rail, and they’ve bought and/or renovated homes, deciding to raise their children in these surroundings, this culture, and the warmth they enjoyed growing up here. We are proud that the Club’s efforts and investments over the years have received such a strong endorsement. It is a reflection of the stability of our community.

From the families and friends sharing Family Day with us to the 15 year plus Lakeside Café Open Mic and everything in between, I have enjoyed my time at Highland Lakes, working with others and as a volunteer to make the Clubhouse the center of community life. We traded our big house “down below” with no ability to safely enjoy any outdoor space for a much smaller house with all that Highland Lakes has to offer. Moving here was like moving to a city in the country, nature surrounding us everywhere but everything available a short distance away. The concentration of activities and play areas for our children, parks, the lakes, etc. with the Clubhouse as the hub was why we purchased here. No other community that I am aware of

offers the diversity of activities and events for all age groups that Highland Lakes does. And in a small way I am thankful for having a part in continuing those traditions.

It has been observed that the worst purchase in 2019 was a 2020 calendar. From the shutdown of our society in mid-March, our Club struggled to find ways to deliver as best we could the Highland Lakes summer that our members enjoy while keeping everyone safe and complying with various executive orders, public health bulletins, guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other resources too numerous to mention. I am satisfied that our volunteers and staff helped the Club meet those challenges as best we could, and am hopeful that more flexibility this coming summer is in the making.

All members are encouraged to guard against indifference and complacency by getting involved with your community, volunteering for committees, events and activities, and helping your neighbors. Highland Lakers volunteer in many different ways – at their churches, schools, sports teams and scout troops for their children, etc. We all have competing demands on our time, but if you can find one thing to give back to Highland Lakes, we are all ahead of the game.

My thanks and appreciation is extended to board members and volunteers past and present with whom I

worked side-by-side for our community. I cannot let pass without thanking Sue Ross for the masterfully-fabricated article about my Highland Lakes career containing the kind comments from Club leaders, past and present, that appeared in the March, 2021 Newsette. The support of the Club’s staff has been exemplary and deeply appreciated. I wish David Martin the best during his transition into the role as General Manager.

I’ve thought often this past, lost year about all those who will never cherish the once-in-a-lifetime “happy time” memories of births, weddings, christenings, bat and bar mitzvahs, communions and confirmations, graduations, proms and the trips afterwards to the Jersey shore, etc. I’ve thought often this past, lost year about all those who passed alone, without family at their side, and their families, unable to share their grief and sorrow and remembrances with others at wakes, funerals, and repasts. And I share the worries of parents about the long-term effects remote learning and the loss of daily social interactions may be having on children and grandchildren.

Throughout this past, lost year I’ve had plenty of time to reflect on what’s important and what lies ahead, and am comfortable closing this chapter and moving ahead to the next. Thank you – be safe and be well.

Jack McLaughlin



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Roadside Cleanup Day

Sponsored by the Ecology Committee

CAROL FORTENBACH, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

April 24 – 10 am to 12 Noon

Spring is here and so is the Ecology Committee's Roadside Cleanup Day with permission from the Voting Board. Mask wearing and social distancing are still called for. It will be nice to get together with other members to help in keeping the roads, park areas, and freeways clean and litter free.

Check-in at the Clubhouse porch where we will coordinate the roads and areas to work on. Please wear brightly colored clothing (for safety), sturdy shoes and work gloves. We will supply the trash bags and arrange for the bags to be picked up. You do not have to transport the bags back to the Clubhouse. When finished, participants will report back to the clubhouse in order to mark the location of filled trash bags on a map.

Please join us on Saturday, April 24 in this community effort. Mark your calendars now so you won't forget and keep an eye out for specific areas you might want to tackle. See you at the 10 am to sign in. F.Y.I. - Noted below is the decomposition time of some commonly discarded materials:

Cigarette filters	1-5 years
Plastic bags	10 -20 years
Tin cans	50 years
Foam plastic cups	50 years
Aluminum cans	80-200 years
Plastic bottles	450 years
Glass bottles	1 million years

Kind of makes you think more seriously about having a reusable water bottle doesn't it?

2021 Badges and Permits

DAVID MARTIN, GENERAL MANAGER

To Be Mailed

The 2021 badge packages are being prepared. Once you have paid your dues and assessments in full for 2021, your badges, garbage, boating and parking permits will be mailed to your address on file with the Club. They will begin being mailed out by mid-April to all members in good standing, meaning there is no balance due on your account. Please note that there will be no exceptions to the mailing and no ability to pick up your badge package in person as of now.

If you want the badge and permit package mailed to a different address, fax change of address to 974-764-7401 or email to frontdesk@hlcc.org. Or if you need to add/delete a vehicle, have any changes to boating/parking permits or badges, include your name, property address, member number and change. Don't forget to include a copy of the vehicle's registration if necessary. Please be patient with this process, we will respond as soon as possible.

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The Mighty Seniors

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT, SENIORS CLUB

Howdy, my friends. It's been a year since our Senior Club has been able to make monthly plans for spring and summer activities. I hope you are all well. There have been some cases of Covid among us, but recovery has been a blessing.

I am hopeful that all of our Mighty Seniors have been able to get vaccinated. It certainly has been an experience! So, why don't we look to happy days ahead and begin to make a plan or two to get together outdoors. Weather permitting, we can bring our own lunches and drinks and have a spring picnic near the bocce court. I'll be in touch with you through a flyer or phone calls for an April date... probably mid month.

I'm looking forward to seeing you again. I've missed you all. Love ya, Joyce Healy. 845-544-3749.



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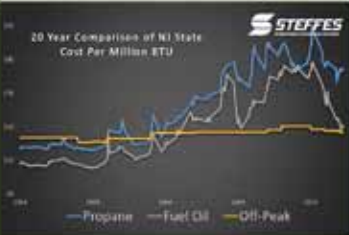
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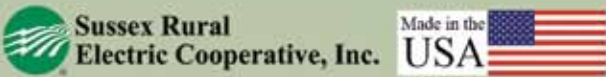
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CLUBHOUSE PORCH

Adults and children welcome. Please meet at the Clubhouse porch to pick up bags and maps.
Masks required at Clubhouse

Conservation Club of Highland Lakes (CCHL) will be available to discuss past and future activities of this volunteer group. This club provides opportunities for club members of all ages to help preserve and improve our local watershed environment.

Photos Wanted

ROE HALL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/EVENTS
COORDINATOR

Build our Nixplay

Highland Lakers--Do you have some great pictures from around our beautiful Highland Lakes? Submit your pictures to hlcc@warwick.net. Be sure to include your name so we can give you proper photo credit. Thank you.

HIGHLAND LAKES COUNTRY CLUB

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- THE NEWSETTE: PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE SUMMER! AVAILABLE AT THE CLUB HS, POST OFF & LOCAL SHOPS
- FACEBOOK: FOLLOW US! LIKE US! WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HIGHLANDLAKESNJ

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Pickleball News

KATHI TAYLOR

We were very fortunate to have an outdoor winter pickleball season this year. Due to the February snowstorms we had to discontinue play for the month, but we are back on the courts now. If anyone is interested in joining us, please call or text me for times and days. We will be posting our set times in the May Newsette.

This past year has been a trial for all of us. Even though we were allowed to meet for pickleball there were guidelines put in place due to COVID. We are being required to follow those guidelines until the Governor's office relaxes or modifies them. The guidelines are:

- masks not required
- players need to maintain 6 feet separation as much as possible
- no sharing of paddles
- each player receives a numbered pickleball which can only be touched by them
- spray disinfectant is provided by the Club
- no Club paddles will be available for use

If you would like to join us you must have your own paddle until the guidelines are changed. At that time we will look forward to new players joining us. As always, membership badges and sneakers are required. Any questions, call Kathi at 973-303-2689.



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2	\$155,278	41	101%
3	\$271,738	57	97%
4	\$359,082	78	98%
5+	\$445,000	83	99%
TOWN	\$247,295	53	98%

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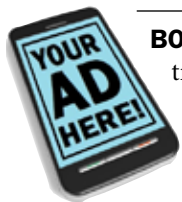
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3/5/22

Visit www.hlcc.org for the Latest Highland Lakes News

For the most current news on Highland Lakes Events, activities and items of interest, visit the Club's website: www.hlcc.org. Here you will find current calendar of events, the most recent edition of the HL Newsette, as well as archived editions, board and committee news, informative articles, photos and so much more.

Go to the website to join the Club's email list, too. Once your membership is verified, you will receive our e-blast and all emergency notifications.

HL Apparel 2021

SUE BURUCHIAN ONLINE IMPRINTS, LLC

OnLine Imprints, LLC (formerly OnLine Embroidery) is still the official company for your HL apparel. (Yes, we've changed our name but all else is the same, serving HL customized needs since 1997). Highland Lakes Country Club apparel will be stocked at the Activities Center or the Beach Hut when the Club opens up. In the meantime, call us for your HLCC T-shirts, onezies, sweats or order up your special requests. Sizes: Youth to 3XL.

We thank you in advance for supporting the HL Apparel program which helps our members via the Goodwill Fund. Custom orders always accepted. Call 973-271-0227 or best, email at onlineimprints@ptd.net.



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