

# The Highland Lakes Newsette

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



Volume 2021 | Issue Number 10 | July 31, 2021

#### Proposed Family Day Schedule

#### LAUREN LAROCCA, CLUBHOUSE DIRECTOR

9 am Quadrathlon begins

10:30 am - 12 pm Sandcastle building contest (Beach 2)

11 am - 2 pm Tattoos on the lawn Games on the lawn

12 pm Bug hunt on the playground (5 and under please)

--Swim lanes open—

12 – 4 pm Conservation Club of HL on deck (Ecology Activity from 1 – 2 pm)

12 pm - 1 pm Bicycle decorating begins (Clubhouse)

Family challenge games on the lawn

12 – 3 pm Place your pizza order

12:30 pm Grill opens

Timed family scavenger hunt begins Popcorn available on the deck

Relay races on the lawn

Beach Volleyball tournament begins (Beach 2)

Frog Jumping contest (bring your own frog)

1 pm Water races in the swim lanes

1:30 pm Baby Parade registration (5 and under only)

2 pm Baby Parade

Decorated Bike Parade

2:30 pm Talent show sign up (6 pm show) 3 pm Bubble gum blowing contest

3:30 pm Egg Toss

4:30 pm Water balloon toss

--Swim lanes close--

5pm Catfish Derby begins (swim lane dock)

6pm HL Annual Talent Show

Grill closes

Pizzas delivered (approx.)

7pm DJ fires up the tunes

Ice Cream Social

8-8:30 pm Lighted Boat parade begins at beach 3

9 pm / dark Fireworks Spectacular

\*Times and events may vary



#### **Upcoming Events**

July 30 – Friday Night Lights - Tweens August 1 – Family Day



#### From the President's Desk

#### MICHAEL GELFAND, PRESIDENT

#### By-Law Change Proposed at Upcoming Annual Meeting

In this column last week I wrote about a proposed by-law change that members will be asked to vote on at the upcoming Annual Meeting on Sunday, August 15. The current by-law limits the Voting Board's authority to purchase real estate without membership approval at \$10,000. This spending limit was adopted back in 1993 (not back in 1936 as I mistakenly wrote last week), and by modern standards is a wholly inadequate and unrealistic amount for anything other than a small, empty, unbuildable property lot, if that. Having such a limit in place severely undermines the Voting Board's ability to acquire strategically important property. Before I provide the rationale for approving the proposed by-law change and explain its mechanics, let's examine what is meant by a "strategically important property."

One such example is the park next to our Clubhouse—in the late 1970s it was nearly subdivided, developed and sold out from under us. Members rejected the Voting Board's proposal to purchase it, after which the property's owners decided to adjust lot lines and sell off one parcel. A group of concerned members collectively acquired the remaining property and sold it to the Club once members saw what the future held and authorized the new proposal. Another such example would be Beach 1, where a strip mall was very nearly built in the place where the basketball courts and snack shack stand today. In this case, a court ruling forced the property's owner to sell it at auction, giving the Club enough time to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. In both cases, the Club wasn't able to act quickly because it wasn't authorized to spend more than \$10,000 without membership approval at a special meeting.

The Voting Board considers a property to be strategically important if it resides within, contiguous to, or very close to Highland Lakes, and if its acquisition would either protect our borders, provide the Club property tax relief, and/or could be used to benefit the Club and its members in one or more specific ways (such as storage, expansion or relocation of facilities, or recreational space like a community garden or hiking trails, etc). Real estate acquisitions like the ones I've just mentioned all serve the Club's purposes—to acquire, hold, own and provide for the care, maintenance and control of property commonly used by members. These purposes are baked into the Club's formation documents, including our 1936 Certificate of

Incorporation, our By-Laws, and also in the New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation statute.

When one or more of these types of properties becomes available, this Voting Board—or, more likely, a future one—will need greater financial flexibility to quickly bid and negotiate with a seller before another interested party can act. This doesn't mean that the Voting Board will buy a property simply because it can, or that it will do so without careful consideration of the financial impact.

Voting Boards of the past and present have looked to purchase property only when it makes sense to do so, and this current Voting Board is aware of a handful of such properties right now. If any of them became available on the open market, the Voting Board's hands would be tied because our current by-law would prevent us from making an offer over \$10,0000. This would enable any other buyer to swoop in to buy that property for their own purposes, and make it impossible for the Club to react quickly enough to prevent it. In other words, we've been very lucky up until now, and by passing this amended by-law we wouldn't need to rely on good luck and hope. Instead, we'd be empowered to take action if needed.

What follows is the proposed by-law change (the underlined words are the modifications to the existing by-law):

Purchase vacant land or improved properties lying within the boundaries of, contiguous to, or in relative proximity to the Highland Lakes community when, to do so, would better effect the fulfillment of one or more of the Club's purposes and objectives; provided, however, that such purchase be first approved by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Voting Board and provided further, however, that the total dollar amount of all of such purchases shall not exceed, in the aggregate, fifteen percent (15%) of the Club's reserve funds at the end of the preceding fiscal year per year. Reserve funds are defined as Operating Reserve, Capital Reserve, and the Long-Term fund.

Describing how budgets work is not an area where I'd consider myself an expert, so I asked Treasurer Mike Gillooley to help explain what the following terms means, and for some real-world examples to help put things into perspective.

CAPITAL RESERVE: This fund is used to pay for permanent improvements to Club facilities, equipment, and roadways. The source of the funding mainly comes from Initiation Fees, payment of delinquent dues and assessments,

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#### **Beach Water Testing Results**

Below are the results of the most recent E. coli testing at the Club's beaches and swim lanes performed by Garden State Laboratories, Inc. Weekly tests are required by the State of New Jersey, and results must not exceed 320 organisms per 100 milliliters. All samples conformed to NJ State recreational bathing standards. Testing results are also reported by the lab to the Sussex County Department of Health.

	<u>7/7</u>	7/13	7/19
Beach 1	38.8	86.0	4.1
Beach 2 – Clubhouse	2.0	50.4	4.1
Beach 3 – Lookover Lane	33.2	67.7	1.0
Beach 4 – Bushwick	6.3	8.4	2.0
Beach 5 – E. Lakeshore Dr.	22.8	61.3	<1
Beach 6 – W. Lakeshore Dr.	7.3	39.3	1.0
Beach 7 – Upper HL Dr.	12.1	63.1	9.5
Swim Lanes - Clubhouse	3.0	7.4	1.0

## Goodwill Fund Applications are due by July 31, 2021

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Buildings and Grounds – No meeting scheduled at this time Clubhouse Committee – Tuesday, August 17 – 5 pm Communications Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time

Ecology Committee – Thursday, August 19 – 7pm Fishing Committee – Thursday, August 19 – 8pm Planning Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time

Road Committee – Thursday, August 5 – 7:30 pm Rules and By-Laws – No meeting scheduled at this time Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, August 11 – 8pm ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, August 15 – 2 pm Voting Board Meeting – Friday, September 17 – 8pm

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

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and Community Association
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#### **Election News**

ARTHUR D. DAWSON, Ph.D., CHAIRPERSON, ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

#### Annual Meeting - Sunday, August 15 at 2 pm

The Annual Meeting is being held on Sunday, August 15, 2021, and the elections cannot be conducted without your presence. A quorum of 5% of the members in good standing must be present before the Annual Meeting and elections can take place. A vote on a By-Law change will be on the ballot as well.

Petitions for the office of Trustee have been received by the Elections Chairperson and the candidates below will appear on the ballot. As required by the By-Laws, these petitions were all received by July 26, 2021. Trustee candidates must be an owner, reside in the section to be represented, and shall have been Active Members in good standing for each of the three (3) years immediately preceding the election. The names of the candidates, and the sections they will represent if elected, are as follows:

Section	<u>Candidate</u>
2	Jennifer Ziegler
	Lila Timpson
5	Julia Campbell
9	Thomas Castiglione
10	Michael McCleary
	Madeline Hollingsworth
11	Candidate deemed ineligible as of this
	writing

The By-Laws permit <u>qualified</u> members to be elected as Trustees even though their names are not on the ballot by having members write their names either on an Absentee Ballot or during the election at the Annual Meeting. If you wish to serve as a Trustee (you must reside in one of the five sections electing Trustees) on the Voting Board, you may be elected through the write-in process, either at the polls at the Annual Meeting or by write-in on the Absentee Ballot. Absentee Ballots will be available at the Office ONLY beginning Monday, August 2. The Absentee Ballot must be received at the Club Office, either by mail or in person, with your validated 2021 Membership Card enclosed in the envelope provided, no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

Elections will be held August 15 at the Annual Meeting . Make sure that you attend this meeting and that you have your 2021 Membership Card with you. If you have any questions, please call me at 973-769-2484 or drop an email to artdawson@yahoo.com.



#### **Beach Hours**

Beach 1: 9 am - 7 pm Beach 2: 10:30 am - 5 pm Beach 3: 10 am - 6 pm Beach 7: 10 am - 6 pm Beach 4, 5, 6: 11:30 am - 5 pm\*

Swim Lanes: 9 am - 4 pm

\*These beaches will be open based on staff availability- see postings at beaches.





Electric Cooperative, Inc.

#### Schedule for Week of August 2 - 6

LAUREN LAROCCA, CLUBHOUSE DIRECTOR

#### Theme: Prince, Princess and Superhero Week

Monday - August 2

10:00 am - 11:00: Treasure Box (bring a shoe box) (all ages)

11:00 am – 12:00 pm: Prince/Princess & Superhero

bookmark (ages 4+)

1:00 pm -2:00 pm: Superhero mason jars (ages 4+)

2:00 pm- 3:00 pm: Ice paint (Ages 4+) 3:00pm - 4:00 pm: Handprint castle

 $6{:}00~\mathrm{pm}$  - $8{:}00~\mathrm{pm}{:}$  Kids ceramics (all ages) sign up the week

before

Tuesday - August 3

10:00 am - 11:00 am: Melting beads (All ages)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Superhero, Prince & Princess Chains

(all ages)

1:00 am - 2:00 pm: Pin the crown in the frog (all ages)

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm: Castle lantern (all ages) bring a tin can

with you

3:00pm -4:00 pm: Make your own crown (all ages)

Wednesday - August 4

10:00 am - 11:00 am: Shields and Swords (all ages)

11 am - 12:00 am: Superhero Handprints (all ages)

1:00 am - 2:00 pm: Prince and Princess Bingo (all ages)

2:00 – 3:00 pm: Pasta stained glass (all ages)

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm: Paper plate Knight Mask & Princess

Mask(all ages)

Thursday - August 5

10:00 am - 11:00 am: Prince paper plate frog (ages 6+)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Paper plate Thor helmet & hammer (all ages)

1:00 pm - 2 pm: Prince, Princess & Superhero cake wars (all ages)

2:00 pm -3:00 pm: Prince, Princess & Superhero picture frame (all ages)

3:00 pm- 4:00 pm: Superhero Capes (all ages)

6:00 - 8:00 pm: Make your own tile boards/don't worry bead happy (jewelry making, ages 9+)

Friday -August 6

10:00 am - 11:00 am: Make a crown (all ages)

11:00 am - 12:00 pm: Parade (all ages)

1:00 pm-2:00 pm: Prince, Princess & Superhero galaxy jar (all ages) bring a jar

2:00 – 3:00 pm: Superhero bowling (all ages)

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm: Super hero paper bag (all ages)

Saturday - August 7

**NOTE:** The Pool Room will be OPEN during the hours of 12:30- 4 pm, for ages 10 and up only.





#### August 2021

#### Highland Lakes Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 AM Family Day 11:00 AM FJ Race 2:30 PM Sunday Sunfish	9:00 AM -10:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 5:00 PM Yoga	10:00 AM Women's Auxiliary Mtg. 1:00 PM Bocce 6:00 PM Murder Mystery	9:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 11:00 AM Jr. Singles Sunfish Race 5:00 PM Yoga	11:00 AM Ladies Sunfish Race 1:00 PM Bocce 7:00 PM Stitching Group 7:30 PM Road Cmtee Mtg.	9:00 AM-10:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 11:00 AM Jr. Doubles Sunfish Race 12:00 PM Senior Lunch Men's Golf Outing	10:00 AM Force 5 Race 1:00 PM Hobie Cat Race 3:00 PM Windsurf Race 7:00 PM Women's Auxiliary Covered Dish
8 11:00 AM FJ Race 2:30 PM Sunday Sunfish Family Day (Raindate)	9:00 AM -10:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 5:00 PM Yoga	10.00 AM Women's Auxiliary Mtg. 1:00 PM Bocce 7:00 PM Sr. Meeting 7:00 PM Sunset Yoga Ladies' Golf Outing	9:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 11:00 AM Jr. Singles Sunfish Race 5:00 PM Yoga 8:00 PM Voting Board Wkshp	12 11:00 AM Ladies Sunfish Race 1:00 PM Bocce 6:00 PM Lifeguard Olympics 7:00 PM Stitching Group	9:00 AM -10:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 11:00 AM Jr. Doubles Sunfish Race Senior Gala	14  10:00 AM Force 5 Race  1:00 PM Hobie Cat Race  3:00 PM Windsurf Race  7:30 PM Beach 2 Bonfire
11:00 AM FJ Race 2:00 PMAnnual Meeting 2:30 PM Sunday Sunfish	9:00 AM -10:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 5:00 PM Yoga	10:00 AM Women's Auxiliary Mtg. 1:00 PM Bocce Swim Team Dinner	9:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 11:00 AM Jr. Singles Sunfish Race 5:00 PM Yoga 6:30 PM Jr. Appreciation	11:00 AM Ladies Sunfish Race 1:00 PM Boxx 7:00 PM Exobgy Comm. Mg. 7:00 PM Sitching Group 8:00 PM Fishing Comm. Mg.	9:00 AM -10:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 11:00 AM Jr. Doubles Sunfish Race	21 10:00 AM Force 5 Race 1:00 PM Hobie Cat Race 3:00 PM Windsurf Race 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Art Show
11:00 AM FJ Race 1:00 PM -3:00 PM Art Show 2:30 PM Sunday Sunfish	9:00 AM -10:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 5:00 PM Yoga	10:00 AM Women's Auxiliary Mtg. 1:00 PM Bocce 7:00 PM Sr. Mtg. 7:00 PM Sunset	9:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 11:00 AM Jr. Singles Sunfish Race 5:00 PM Yoga Book Club	26 11:00 AM Ladies Sunfish Race 1:00 PM Bocce 7:00 PM Stitching Group	9:00 AM -10:00 AMAqua Aerobics 11:00 AM Jr. Doubles Sunfish Race 7:00 PMAdult Appreciation	28 10:00 AM Force 5 Race 1:00 PM Hobie Cat Race 3:00 PM Windsurf Race
11:00 AM FJ Race 2:30 PM Sunday Sunfish	9:00 AM -10:00 AM Aqua Aerobics 5:00 PM Yoga	31  12:00 PM Women's Auxiliary End of Season Luncheon  1:00 PM Bocce	4 5 11 12 18 19	Jul 2021  T W T F S  1 2 3  6 7 8 9 10  1 13 14 15 16 17  2 20 21 22 23 24  5 27 28 29 30 31	Sep 2021 S M T W T	

#### **Annual Catfish Derby**

MICHAEL EWASKO, CHAIRMAN, FISHING COMMITTEE

#### Sunday, August 1

We will be holding our Annual Catfish Derby on Family Day at the Clubhouse Swim Dock at 5 pm. It's free and open to kids under 16 and licensed adults. Rain or shine soft drinks available and trophies awarded. NJ State Fishing rules apply.

#### Friday Night Lights -Tweens

#### Friday, July 30

Kids ages 8-12 (parents welcome) can come down to the Clubhouse from 7 – 9 pm for a night of fun and games with your friends. Enjoy some pizza for dinner and make new friends. Please wear your badge.

#### **Adult Appreciation Night**

Friday, August 27 at 7 pm

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# Don't Miss the ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, August 15 at 2 pm

#### Need a Laundromat?

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snow reimbursements, and transfers from the Operating Fund (explained below). Its balance fluctuates based on the volume of real estate transactions, economic volatility, and the cost of necessary projects that need to be completed, such as this year's \$425,000 for road resurfacing, or \$285,000 to pay for treatment or removal of trees on Club property threatened by the emerald ash borer infestation.

Our Capital Reserve's balance has grown over the last few years as a result of the collection of dues and assessments in arrears from the economic challenges going back to 2008-2012, and, unfortunately, delays of various projects due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, we're conducting road paving right now that we had planned for 2020. We're also treating and removing trees on Club property due to the emerald ash borer infestation, and dealing with other road and drainage issues. This happens in addition to what is typically spent each year.

OPERATING RESERVE: This fund serves as a backup to pay for day-to-day Club operations, much in the same way that a family's checking account serves to pay the family's monthly bills. Overages and shortages of the past 30+ annual budgets are the source of funding—it is viewed as a "rainy day" fund that can be tapped if/when the Club experiences significant financial difficulties.

LONG-TERM FUND: This fund was created 15+ years ago to save for unplanned events, needs, or opportunities that may arise. Examples of this would be to pay for a real estate acquisition without the need to impose a special assessment on members—such as what occurred when the Club purchased the land to create Beach 1—or for lake bottom remediation, or perhaps a catastrophic event such as a dam failure or the loss of the Clubhouse. Funding occurs through an annual contribution from the Capital Reserve fund.

The reason these particular funds were selected to provide funding for potential real estate acquisitions is that drawing money from them won't interfere with day-to-day operations, capital improvements, or the replacement of assets if/when the need arises.

Voting Boards both present and future need the ability to act in a timely manner when a strategically important real estate opportunity arises. To put that into context, previous Voting Boards have discussed relocating the maintenance building next to the Clubhouse and the maintenance yard by Canistear Park. Currently there aren't suitable sites that we currently own. However, there are a number of properties along Breakneck Road that may be suitable for one or both of these uses. Clearly the Club can

better utilize the otherwise beautiful waterfront property that the maintenance building occupies. And I'd be willing to bet that the neighborhood around the perimeter of the maintenance yard wouldn't be sad to see it move elsewhere.

From the President's Desk (continued from p1)

And keep this scenario in mind: When the Club purchased the Beach 1 property, the property was subdivided to allow the post office to be built. Part of the deal was that if the United States Postal Service ever decided to sell the property, the Club has the right of first refusal to acquire it. The Voting Board at that time determined that the land and building would be strategically important property that a future Voting Board might consider useful for Club purposes. Having the ability to act without delay when that situation comes up is ideal. Right now, the Voting Board would be unable to move quickly and could lose out if the bidding process happened faster than the Club's ability to schedule a special meeting, notify members about it, and get the quorum required to vote for authorization to move forward. With this in mind, imagine the Dickensian future of Highland Lakes without Beach 1 and its vast facilities (or a post office) if the Club hadn't been able to purchase the Beach 1 property...

Also please keep in mind that Voting Boards past and present have enjoyed the ability to spend whatever dollar amount they've seen fit on whatever they've deemed appropriate. Of course, with the sole exception of a \$10,000 limitation on buying vacant land. However, the Voting Board's review of potential property acquisitions are no less thorough or rigorous than any other potential expenditure. The proposed by-law amendment will give future Voting Boards the ability to act. The procedure for the sale of any property owned by the Club will remain the same and no changes are proposed to Article X, Section I regarding the conveyance of Club property.

With this proposed by-law amendment, Voting Boards will be able to act quickly when real estate opportunities that benefit all members come up. With this proposed by-law amendment, Voting Boards will be empowered to protect the Club's borders from property owners whose interests are opposed to those of Highland Lakes. No Voting Board should have its hands tied behind its back when, instead, it should take action to protect and preserve the Club's interests.

Please vote yes to support the proposed by-law. Vote yes to protect Highland Lakes' future, vote yes to help the Club continue growing and improving for future generations.

Vote yes to enable future Voting Boards to responsibly serve and preserve the best interests of our community.





#### Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association Minutes of the Annual Meeting – Sunday, August 17, 2020

Ray Zimmerman, 1st Vice President, asked for members to hold up their membership cards to be counted toward a quorum.

President Michael Gelfand called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. He reviewed the Order of Business as determined by the By-Laws:

Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting as published in the August 15, 2020 edition of the Newsette;

Reports of Officers and Trustees;

Privilege of the Floor to Membership;

Election of Officers and Trustees

President Michael Gelfand thanked all members in attendance and introduced the members of the Voting Board in attendance:

Section 1, Lou Iannucci; Section 2, Bill Beardsley; Section 3, Patty Thompson; Section 4, Chairman of the Board, Lisa Entwistle; Section 5, Jim Kensek (absent); Section 6, Melissa Hardin; Section 7, Lee Eisenberg; Section 8, Dominick Beninati; Section 9, Tom Castiglione; Section 10, Chris Kaas; Section 11, David Cartier; Section 12, Len Bogdon; Secretary, Climeen Wikoff; Treasurer, Mike Gillooley; Second Vice President, Ray Zimmerman; First Vice President, Judy Norton.

President Gelfand acknowledged the past Club President in attendance, Rich Spoerl, and asked for a round of applause in memory of Jeanne Jameson who had served on the Board for many years and as President for two terms and had passed away in the spring.

He noted that the Minutes for last year's Annual Meeting had only been published in the Newsette on this past Friday instead of seven days before the meeting as required by the By-Laws and asked if any member had an objection to approving them anyway. When no objection was voiced, he asked for a motion to approve. Brian Morton, Section 12, made a motion to approve Minutes of the August 18, 2019, Annual Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

President Gelfand stated that the difficult job of running the Club had been made even harder by the pandemic, noting the challenges presented with following Governor Murphy's Executive Orders, which caused constant analyzing and adjusting, and thanked the staff and voting board, and in particular General Manager, Jack Mclaughlin, for their work and dedication during this difficult time. He also thanked the Club's Attorney, Eileen Born, for helping to navigate the complexity of emergency orders. He also thanked the members, expressing appreciation for the number in attendance and for their patience and cooperation during this difficult time.

President Gelfand noted that, despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic, many activities took place including athletics, tennis, pickleball, bocce, swim lessons, swim team and the beaches being open, despite the requirements to submit and implement a mitigation plan based on capacity limitations. He reported on challenges and accomplishments that had occurred since he took office, including the adoption of emergency by-laws, the

beginning implementation of the emergency plan, dealing with Vernon Township's new code on short-term rentals and their new policy on temporary outdoor permits and fees, pursuing the township to enforce property maintenance standards especially for foreclosed homes, the Emerald Ash Borer issue, algae blooms, the implementation of the Carry In, Carry Out Program, dam repairs, the purchase and installation of new docks, the future installation of a new generator and water fountain.

He ended with a heart-warming story of an off-duty lifeguard, Grant Wisniewski, rescuing a woman swimming at night in the Main Lake when he heard her cries for help. It was a selfless and heroic act that saved her life, and he asked that the membership recognize his heroism.

Lisa Entwhistle, Chairman of the Board, thanked the community and membership, noting that although there was only a sliver of the activities that would normally take place in the summer, the community had pulled together to get through the pandemic. This sense of community is what makes Highland Lakes so special. She noted that what we have in Highland Lakes is envied by many other communities The most important aspect of what makes Highland Lakes special is that we are member and volunteer driven. Every member has a right and responsibility to speak up and be involved.

Mike Gillooley, Treasurer, reviewed the budget, stated that the Club had done better this year than other years in part due to an increase in home sales, noting that by the end of July the Club had exceeded what was budgeted for by a revenue standpoint. He stated that part of The Club's ability to function so well is that over the years the Club has set up various funds to ensure that we have funds available for emergencies such as the one being posed by the Emerald Ash Borer. He also mentioned that this year's All Boat Regatta will be a fundraiser for the Ambulance Corp and Fire Department.

President Gelfand introduced General Counsel Eileen McCarthy Born, Esq., of Dolan & Dolan and thanked her for her continued advice and support of the Voting Board. Eileen Born addressed the members regarding legal matters handled by her firm in the past year. She noted that the biggest issue facing the Club during the past few months had been coping with the disruption and public health emergency caused by the pandemic, including issues such as the health and safety of the staff, members and volunteers, accessibility of facilities, operations, planning for spring and summer seasons. It was necessary to review and stay on top of the Cares Act provisions, the New Jersey Governor's Executive Orders, CDC guidelines, local health department requirements, as well as temporary statutory changes.

She stated that there were two significant statute changes this year that affect the Club, one was an amendment to the Planned Real Estate Development Full Disclosure Act which implemented a number of voting and elections changes, which has already been challenged in the courts. Another statute was the Common Interest Ownership Act, which may have implications for the Club in the

future. There was a new Club policy passed this year regarding political rallies. Vernon Township's new policy on temporary outdoor activity permits is in excess of what is required and has been traditionally required. In terms of short-term rentals, Vernon Township will be creating its own ordinances but Highland Lakes will have additional policies and regulations. An agreement was reached with Vernon Township regarding the Breakneck Road sidewalk issue that has been going on since 1995 and a corrective deed recorded and indexed against the affected properties, hopefully putting this issue to rest permanently. One encroachment issue was resolved.

She stated that Highland Lakes is the gold standard for other lake communities in the area, which is due to the dedication of the Club's employees and members.

Privilege of the Floor to Membership:

Al Coldon, Section 2, suggested that members who have a gripe should speak with their trustee directly. Noting that he is a badge checker, he commented that a small percentage of people give the badge checkers a hard time and asked that people take it easy on the volunteers. He also said that more badge checkers are needed.

Pam Dawson, Section 2, thanked the Board and volunteers and suggested that funds be found to have a program to monitor boats on the lake to make sure they are owned by members.

Owen Hyland, Section 4, suggested that focusing on short-term rentals loses sight of the bigger problem of neighborly relations, noting that there can be problems with long-term rentals as well. He observed that being laid off had allowed him to better appreciate what we have here in Highland Lakes.

Andree Stolte, Section 5, stated that living here provides a much-needed sanctuary but that she is very concerned about the risk 5G poses to the community, especially to children

Jimmy Iozia, Section 3, was very happy to hear that the Club will be getting a generator for emergency situations and would love to have the open mic restarted.

John McNally, Section 7, noted that he is a new badge checker for Beach 3 and stated that the Highland Lakes Volunteer Fire Department needs new members.

Randy Mowry, Section 9, noting that he is a relatively new member, suggested that the beaches be named rather than numbered. He noted that Hillside Drive to Lakeside Drive was in need of paving. Rich Spoerl responded that the drainage project on Shadow Lane needed to be finished first.

Terry Cullen, Section 1, asked about the installation of a water fountain that President Gelfand mentioned. President Gelfand clarified that it would be outside. She also suggested a spigot at the beaches so people could rinse their feet and that there should be an area for dogs to go swimming.

Marty Reed Ulmer, Section 7, stated that while most houses are beautifully maintained some are problematic. Other HOAs contact residents when there are issues. President Gelfand responded that Vernon Township needs continued on p6 Page 6 | July 31, 2021 The Highland Lakes Newsette

#### Next Newsette: August 7, 2021

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



to enforce their rules and regulations.

Maryjane Wisniewski, Section 5, suggested that bushes need to be trimmed at some intersections. President Gelfand asked her to bring specific locations to the attention of the office or her section's trustee.

Tom Marry, Section 6, noting that badge-checking is a thankless job, suggested that the Club pay badge-checkers so that there is more consistent coverage at all the beaches. He stated that he believed many non-members were launching boats at Beach 2 and suggested that the Club try to get Google Maps to list our lakes as private. He also said that we need more security staff during the summer.

Maryann Gunning, Section 10, agreed with Tom Marry that more badge-checkers were needed and suggested that the lifeguards should be checking badges as well. She suggested, with regard to houses that are in disrepair, that it might be possible for neighbors to help other neighbors.

Justina Grakowski, Section 7, observed that there is a problem with the kayak racks on Beach 3, with people removing boats and taking over rack spaces. President Gelfand responded that the lack of courtesy is a problem and that more racks for kayaks are on order.

Joe Brancato, Section 11, stated that the Club needs to address runoff from freeways into the lakes, especially near Beach 5.

continued from p6

Art Dawson, Section 2, suggested that the Club have a designated person attend Vernon Township Council Meetings and report back to the Board. He also encouraged someone from the membership to stand for election for the Town Council.

Cory Hardin, Section 6, suggested that ladders on docks would be helpful to little swimmers to hold onto to rest.

President Gelfand closed the Floor to the Membership and the meeting proceeded to the election of Officers and Trustees. Ray Ziimerman, 1st Vice President, announced the following results:

Election of Trustees:

Section 1, Louis Iannuci – 13 votes

Section 3, Patricia Thompson - 19 votes/

Eric Pietrucha - 6 votes

Section 4, Janice Fajardo – 5 votes

Section 5, no petition, no write ins, remains vacant. Lisa Entwhistle made a motion, seconded by Rich

Spoerl, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Climeen Wikoff Secretary



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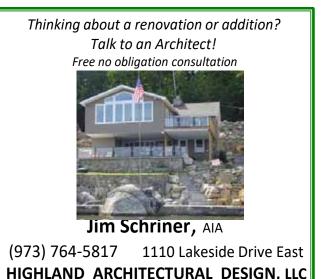
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#### Aqua Aerobics is in Full Swing

PAULA SCHRINER

#### Beach 1 - 9 am M, W, F

Aqua aerobics continues every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-10 am through Labor Day. Please join us for the water fun. Bring your noodle, a towel, sunscreen and of course, your badge. No experience required. Any questions contact Gail Morton or Paula Schriner. Hope to see you in the water!



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIL MORTON

# SUMME



#### **Athletics**

Just a reminder to come to the Beach 1 ball fields on Mondays at 9 am for Farm Team boys and girls ages 4-5 and Tuesdays at 9 am for Mosquito and Gems leagues boys and girls ages 6-8.

Also:

Wednesdays: 4 pm ages 5 – 7;

5 pm ages 8 – 10;

6 pm ages 11 – 13

Saturdays: 10 am ages 5 – 7; 11 am ages 8 – 10;

12 pm ages 11 – 13

# The state of the s

#### 61st Annual Art Show

JOYCE HEALY

#### August 21 and 22

Our Annual Art Show is back this year after taking a break due to COVID 19 last year. Mark your calendars for the Meet & Greet with the professional artists on August 21 from 6 – 9 pm in the Lake Room with a wine & cheese reception. Our theme this year is "Heroes". All HL members in good standing may participate in the art show...from the youngest to the oldest by bringing in any form of art work: painting, drawing, quilting, photography, mixed media, sculpting, etc. All amateur art work will be accepted at registration on Sunday, Aug. 22 from 9 – 11 am only. Artwork will be on display at the Clubhouse from 1 – 3 pm.



#### Monday Night Adult Ceramics is Back

JACQUELYN GREEN, COORDINATOR

#### **Beginning Monday, August 2**

Join us every Monday night at 7:00 pm starting on August 2. Start a new project for the Art Show or create a unique birthday, anniversary, or Mother's Day gift. Our instructor, Mary, supplies the brushes and paint. She also supplies a collection of bisque for purchase. All adult members in good standing are welcome. As with all Highland Lakes activities please wear your badge.



#### **Art Show**

ART SHOW COMMITTEE

#### August 21 and 22

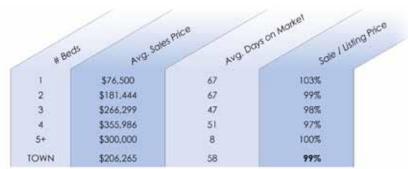
ATTENTION - PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS Exhibitors MUST respond to the Art Committee by August 4. Exhibiting is through PREARRANGEMENT ONLY. No walk-ins accepted on August 21 or 22.

Contact: Carole Fortenbach at 973-764-4659. We welcome new professional artists.

#### Vernon Township Housing Market Report - May 2021

"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."



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Licensed Real Estate Salesperson Highland Lakes Specialist Page 8 | July 31, 2021 The Highland Lakes Newsette

#### **Ecology Corner**

#### RANDY MOWRY, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

#### **Birds for Pest Control**

In the summer 2021 issue of Living Bird from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the author, Greg Breining, reported on farmers using birds for pest control. Several studies were reported for orchards, vineyards, and coffee plantations. He cited data on damage done to crops (e.g., fruit losses and damage to trees and vines) done by rodents and insects. In the several studies Breining reported that by making the agricultural space more attractive to insectivorous and rodent-eating birds, the farmers reduced their losses, increased their yields, and reduced pesticide costs. Other benefits were to reverse local declines in certain species such as the American kestrel.

Of course, we live in Highland Lakes; we don't have farms on our properties. But some of us maintain vegetable garden plots, flower gardens and outdoor potted plants. We would also like to protect our plants and produce from pests. Many of us would probably like to reduce significantly or eliminate the use of synthetic pesticides. Rodenticides used to kill mice can kill rodent predators such as foxes, owls, and kestrels if they eat poisoned rodents. Insecticides kill beneficial insects such as pollinators (essential to our gardens), but also add to the runoff that impacts the water quality of our lakes.

Some strategies the farmers used are adaptable to residential settings. Farmers with vineyards and orchards put up nest boxes for kestrels and small owls (e.g., screech owls); they provided effective rodent and insect control. Kestrels tend to prefer open, semi-open or edge habitat. If your property has some open space, it may be suitable for a kestrel/screech owl box. Eastern bluebirds also use nest boxes, and insects form large portion of their diet. Like kestrels, bluebirds' habitat preferences are for semi-open spaces with mixed grassy areas. Other cavity nesters include tufted titmice and black-capped chickadees, each of which eat many insects during the breeding season.

Nest boxes are not the only way to encourage cavity nesters. If you have a snag on a tree on your property, consider leaving it for the titmice, chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, flickers, or owls. (A snag may also serve as a perch for other birds of prey such as red-tailed, red-



shouldered or broad-winged hawks that also kill rodents.) The catch is that the snag should not present a hazard to people, property, power lines or roadways. But if the snag is a hazard, then a nest box is a safe alternative.

Another cavity nester may surprise some of you, tree swallows. You see them flying over the lake from late April into the fall. Tree swallows eat many flying insects, including mosquitoes. Those of you with lakeshore property can put up tree swallow boxes to aid with mosquito control.

Creating habitat that is attractive to non-cavity nesters is another way to attract useful bird species. Hedgerows of native grasses, trees, flowering plants and shrubs will harbor various species of songbirds (e.g., song sparrows, eastern towhees, American robins, phoebes and eastern wood pewees, eastern kingbirds). These species eat many insects during the breeding season.

Taking the time to look at your property and evaluate ways to make it more bird friendly will have benefits – reducing pests, increasing populations of declining species like the kestrel, and just having the birds around your home and witnessing their life cycles.

















Kids activities are in full swing at the Clubhouse and up at Beach 1 during Christmas in July and Under the Sea weeks. Photos courtesy of Lauren LaRocca

#### Men's Golf Outing – Last Call

#### RAY LOUGHREN

I hope everyone is well and ready for a great summer. This year the outing will be on August 6 at Black Bear Country Club, 1 pm shotgun scramble. The cost is \$110 which includes golf, dinner, prizes and a HL Golf Outing Commemorative Polo. Please include each player's size when signing up. Any players without a requested size will receive an XL. Please contact Ray Loughren at 973 919-3270 or Mike Sweeney 973 764 7306. Thanks Ray.



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#### **Ladies Golf Outing**

MARYANN GUNNING, COORDINATOR

#### Tuesday, August 10



The 52nd Annual HLCC Ladies Golf Outing is here! All beginners and intermediate players welcome. Everyone has a great time at this fun day.

New This Year: 9 holes of golf at Great Gorge Golf Club and lunch at Milano's. Prizes, fun and the awarding of The Foley Cup to the HLCC member with the low gross score. Maybe to some new

young blood...I'm looking at YOU, all you fabulous 20 & 30 somethings that were tearing up the dance floor at the recent HL wedding of the year! You were interested that night...now follow up! It's great fun. Sign up as an individual, a twosome or a foursome. We'll match you with some great partners.

Tuesday August 10 at Great Gorge Golf Club - 9 am Shotgun Start. Lunch immediately following at Milano's. \$60 per person includes golf, motorized cart, 5 course lunch and all tips. You can even BYOB for lunch. To sign up bring check or cash for \$60 to the HLCC Activities center, labeled Ladies Golf Outing. Checks payable to Maryann Gunning. Include your name, contact phone number, email address, HLCC Badge number, or indicate if you are a friend/family/guest of HL member (for the Foley Cup). NEW: You can also Venmo \$60 with all the previous contact information to @Maryann-Gunning. Bring a new friend this year. Looking forward to seeing you for a great day. Questions? maryanngunning@me.com or 516-319-0729.



#### Waves Too Strong for Highland Lakes Swim Team Wednesday, July 21

MICHAEL BUCHNEY, HEAD COACH

The Wayne Twp. Waves crashed into Highland Lakes last Wednesday evening for a Week 3 LSC match-up at the Clubhouse Lanes. Through a scheduling quirk that could only be described as "very 2021" the second home meet of the year was also our last one. The meet was closely contested from the start and remained so for the duration of the meet, with the Wayne Waves ultimately coming out on top by only 11 points. The final score was Wayne Twp. 327 - Highland Lakes 316.

Highland Lakes' youngest swimmers carried the team all night, including a hot start that saw HL take the first four events in the 8&U and 9/10 breaststroke events. The run was punctuated by an impressive 1-3 sweep in the 9/10 Girls Breaststroke. Alexa Fleming, Adrienn Kovacs, and Rebecca Cefaloni turned in impressive swims, all finishing within a second of one another. Way to go girls! From there, Wayne began to show their quality in the upper age groups, going on their own 4 event win streak. The HL 15-18 Girls team of Sofia Randazzo, Hannah Wisniewski, and Sofia Staley placed 1, 3, 4 and halted the Waves momentum at the end of the breaststroke events.

The Waves made their move in the Butterfly discipline, taking five out of eight events, plus a draw. This was ultimately the setback from which HL swimmers could never quite recover. Once again the 9/10 Girls and 15/18 Girls squads did the team proud with Juliet Schwarz and Lauren Emmerich finishing 1st and 3rd. A 1-2 punch by Hannah Wisniewski and Vanessa Cefaloni in the 15/18 Girls Fly was the only other race HL would take from the Butterfly events.

The backstroke contests were also closely contested with HL taking four and drawing one of the ten events. The 9/10

boys team of Vincent Fisher, Ryan Allen-Poole and Jack Studer swept their event 1-3 in the younger backstroke events. However some major point swings to Wayne in the following contests widened the gap to almost 40 points. The 15/18 Girls once again bolstered the team and kept HL within touching distance with Wisniewski, Staley, and Cefaloni all earning spots on the podium.

As the contest moved into its final individual discipline, Highland Lakes swimmers mounted a valiant comeback attempt, winning 5 of the first 6 events. Highlights included a 1-4 sweep by the 9/10 girls team of Schwarz, Cefaloni, Ava Morley and Skyler Werner, and a 1-2 finish by Gabriella Cefaloni and Samantha Werner in the 11/12 Girls Freestyle. And just as they had all night, the 15/18 Girls wrapped up the individual events with a win, with Staley and Cefaloni going 1-2 in the 100m Free. The 15/18 Girls get the award for age group of the night, as they handedly won all four of their events by big margins.

HL went into the relays with a 31 point deficit, which would be just enough padding for the Wayne Waves. HL actually won 5 of 8 relays and closed the lead to just three points with just two relays to go. However two losses in the last two relays meant the comeback by HL would fall just short. In the end, Highland Lakes swimmers turned in a great team performance, despite the loss. On the individual level we had 36 personal best swims and 45 "A" times. The team will board the busses and go on a road trip to close out the season, swimming three away meets between now and the end of the year. The team is always supported by a loud and rowdy away-crowd, so pack up the minivans and get ready to cheer on the team from the visitors section.

#### **Passings**

Martin Moed, 94 died peacefully on July 9 in the lakeside cabin he loved so dearly for forty summers. He served as a badge checker for decades and treasured the many gifts and memories Highland Lakes had to offer his children, grandchildren and recently his greatgrandchildren. Donations in his honor to the Karen Ann Quinlin Hospice in Sparta are welcome.

#### Jog-a-thon

NANCY GRIMALDI

#### Saturday, August 21

Our annual Jog-a-thon will be held on Saturday, August 21 at 10 am. It starts and ends at the Clubhouse. Walk, jog, stroll, signups at 9:30 am. Check future Newsettes for more information.

#### Women's Bowling

LYN KAPLAN AND PAT WOOTTON

#### Week 3

Another great week for the lady bowlers of HLCC! Some are definitely candidates for the Bowler's Hall of Fame! But most importantly, in addition to the skills on display, all continue to laugh and enjoy the festivities. Take note of the following accomplishments:

Dee Cunningham - double Judi Sunda - 2 doubles, 156 Joyce Healy - 2 doubles, 1/5/4 split, 154

Lyn Kaplan - double Dolores Gaspari - double Jennifer Ziegler - 8/10 split, 157 Dianne Kelly - double, 155

Omission from Week 2:

Tara Burns - double Diane Less - double

#### **Junior Appreciation Night**

Wednesday, August 18 at 6:30 pm



This photo was sent in by Brian Kloza who captured this red sunrise on July 20.



### **Classified Ads**

**BOATS/TRAILERS:** Old unwanted boats and trailers taken away for free. Also, can move boats from home to dock and shore for reasonable rates. Call Al for details: 973-271-4282 11/6/2021

**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. 7/17/21

**GEORGE EDMONDSON MASONRY:** All types masonry. Specializing in fieldstone, fireplace and brick chimneys. Complete restoration of old stone chimneys. All repairs such as pointing, stone walls, patios and retaining walls. All types of sealing stone work. Home additions and add-ons. Waterproofing basements. All types of excavation. Thirty-one years in business. Fully insured. Call 973-764-1359.

3/5/22

**JP ELECTRIC:** Free estimates, insured and bonded. Serving HLCC since 1986 license and permit #8521. Brian Boeren 973-670-4175. 5/2/21

**SKMAHER AND SONS:** L.L.C - hand brushed driveway seal coating and repair, also power washing decks, houses etc. Window cleaning and car detailing. Call for free estimate 973-934-5750. 12/4/21





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#### Catamaran Action

#### **CHRIS ALBER**

#### Saturday, July 24

After a few years off, we are excited to have an active catamaran fleet again at Highland Lakes! Catamaran races take place Saturday afternoons at 1 pm. Races will begin promptly, so please try to arrive at Eckhart Sailing Center with time to check in at the dock. We welcome all catamarans to join us. For questions about the fleet, contact Rick Thompson at captski@gmail.com or Chip Erhardt by phone or text at (973) 222-6755.

Although our July 10 and July 24 races were called for wind, we had 2 races on July 17. The wind was low at 3 mph, but 6 mph gusts provided some entertaining options and no boat remained in the lead in either race. In the first race, Chip and Rick were neck-and-neck to the finish, with Chip catching a good gust to cross the line. In the second race, Dennis came from behind in the last leg to pass Chip. (We will make up the missed races throughout the season.)

Race 1: Race 2: 1. Chip 1. Dennis 2. Rick 2. Chip 3. Dennis 3. Rick 4. Anthony 4. Anthony

#### **Lifeguard Olympics Coming** to a Beach Near You

#### KAITLYN NIX. WATER SAFETY DIRECTOR

#### Thursday, August 12

Mark your calendars for the annual Lifeguard Olympics. Thursday, August 12 at 6 pm on Beach 1. Come down to cheer on your favorite lifeguards as they participate in classic competitions like volleyball, capture the flag, relay races, and soccer.



#### **Pickleball**

#### **PEGGY WARNER**

There's been a lot of action on the pickleball courts lately! Join us and make the most of your summer fun in Highland Lakes. We meet at the courts on Glen Wild Way on Mondays and Wednesdays 6-8 pm. There's a special ladies' session on Fridays 9-11 am.

Bring your sneakers and member badge; we'll provide the equipment. Questions? Call Kathi (973) 303-2689, or Peggy (973) 764-5126. Hope to see you there!



#### Ladies Sunfish -Surprise, Surprise!

#### SUE BURUCHIAN, FLEET CAPTAIN

#### Thursday, July 22

What a wonderful Thursday we all had at the ESC dock. We had wind, returning sailors, new sailors, visitors and a lovely day. Emmaline Stoddard showed her moves while returning ladies showed it didn't take much to get the feel of those sailing sheets again!

Welcome back to Patty, MaryJane and Jessica! Our fleet had notable special visitors past ladies Fleet Captain, Maryann Mastrangelo and notable sailing supporter Dottie Henninger on the dock. It was a treasure of time well spent to watch the race together and chat afterwards on all the fun sailing stuff and HL memories. Ladies sailed a course 3 white, red, red. Thanks to Logan and Sage our dutiful lifequards.

Results:

- 1. Emmaline Stoddard
- 2. Nancy Griamaldi
- 3. MaryJane Kresic
- 4. Jessica Castiglione
- 5. Christine Alber
- 6. Arianna Stoddard
- 7. Patty Thompson

Standings posted on the HL Sailing Board at Clubhouse. Come sail away!







PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUE BURUCHIAN

#### Sailing Fleet Schedule

#### LOU IANNUCCI, SAILING COORDINATOR

Below are the 2021 HLCC sailing fleet schedules. All races begin at the Eckhart Sailing Center located on Lakeside Drive West south of the intersection with Alturas Road.

#### \*\*Tentative Dates: All Boat Regatta - Sept. 4; Sailors' Picnic Sept. 5

Sunfish Races – Sundays at 2:30 pm

Mladen Kresic: 973-764-0452

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Jr. Singles Sunfish Races – Wednesdays at 11 am arrive by

Krissy Amato 512-206-6717 and Dominick Beninati 917-566-3136

August 4, 11, 18, 25 / Sept. 1

<u>Ladies Sunfish Races – Thursdays at 11 am</u>

Sue Buruchian: 973-271-0227 August 5, 12, 19, 26 / Sept. 2

<u>Jr. Doubles Sunfish Races – Fridays at 11 am</u>

Krissy Amato 512-206-6717 and Dominick Beninati 917-

566-3136

July 30 / August 6, 13, 20, 27 / Sept. 3

Force 5 Sailing Races – Saturdays at 10 am

Erika Rodger: 201-961-3092 July 31 / August 7, 14, 21, 28

Flying Junior Fleet Sailing Races – Sundays at 11 am arrive by

10:45 am

Mike Gillooley: 973-764-4185

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 / Sept. 5

Hobie Cat – Saturdays at 1 pm

Chip Ehrhardt: 973-764-2125 and Rick Thompson: 801-

737-3005

gmail.com

July 31 / August 7, 14, 21, 28

Windsurfer Races - Saturdays at 3 pm

Kevin Gaston: 973-764-7332 July 31 / August 7, 14, 21, 28

Questions? Call Lou at 973-764-7042 or hlccsailing@

