



The Highland Lakes Newsette

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



Volume 2021 | Issue Number 18 | December 4, 2021

From the President's Desk

MICHAEL GELFAND, PRESIDENT

As we collectively gear up for the holiday season, it's easy to overlook the seasonal changes going on around us. Only last week you could hang around outside without a jacket on, but when I walked the dog early this morning—November 23—coats and hats were no longer optional. The sun hangs low in the sky, birds have mostly disappeared except for a few noisy grackles, and ice has started to appear along the shoreline of our lakes. Winter may not have taken hold just yet, but it won't be long before we feel its tight grip. Like it or not, we have to accept it.

Historically speaking, winter is a slow time in our community, but these next few months will be action-packed for the Voting Board. If you've been to any of the recent workshops and meetings since August, you're well aware of our focus on a number of related watershed management issues. With help from the Ecology Committee, we've begun to explore data and investigate potential solutions to issues such as hazardous algae blooms, sediment buildups, the accumulation of nutrients on our lake bottoms and road runoff, among many others.

It's clear to me, as well as the rest of the Voting Board, that we—as individual members and as a community—must take greater responsibility for the things we can control when it comes to our lakes. We need to pull in the same direction and work harder to reverse negative trends so that the health and welfare of our community's greatest natural assets are better protected now and in the future.

While objective data isn't in yet, there are a number of interrelated problems colluding against us. To address them, there's no doubt in my mind that we need to pay closer attention to what the qualified professionals we hire advise us to do. We also need to build greater awareness in our community around the challenges facing us, and the solutions that can help us overcome them. This will ultimately mean we, as guardians of this special place, will need to change some of our own behaviors regardless of the mechanical solutions we install or treatments we embrace if we have any hope of solving these problems.

The Voting Board has identified a number of areas where much more research needs to occur before actions are taken. Three special committees of the Voting Board met over the past few months to conduct preliminary research in three areas—aeration, septic systems, and fertilizer/pesticide applications. That research continues thanks to members of the Ecology Committee, who are working together in small, targeted groups to focus on narrower but no less important areas of interest, such as dredging, invasive species inundation, weed growth, fertilizer and pesticide use, among others.

The Club also invited two well known firms (Princeton Hydro, a longstanding water resource engineering firm that

already serves our community, and EverBlue, which installs specialized aeration systems) to present their observations and proposed solutions to the Voting Board which occurred on November 30 and December 2.

In coming months, the Ecology Committee will report back to the Voting Board to help us determine the best courses of action. Club members should expect to read and hear much more about our next steps. Some approaches—such as performing a bathymetric study of all our lakes—are near certainties and won't be terribly costly, invasive or even very visible, but will be instrumental in informing what issues to tackle first. Other approaches, such as potentially increasing the number of aerators, or pursuing cumbersome lake bottom remediation, will take great effort, lots of time, may be disruptive at inopportune times and will likely be expensive.

The Voting Board will do everything it can to keep you up to speed on all of the key details as we learn more and start to come up with a comprehensive plan. There has never been a more important issue that any voting board in the history of our community has ever faced, and we appreciate your continued support to help us make the right decisions for the place we all love.

Have a happy and healthy holiday season!



Stay Off the Naughty List

SUE ROSS, CHAIRPERSON, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

You don't have to live as close to nature as we do in Highland Lakes to understand the importance of caring for the environment, but it helps. Recently, I came upon the icon pictured with this article that was stamped on a bag of salt that I had purchased for my water softener. I had been searching the bag for a symbol that would confirm for me that I could recycle it with the rest of my plastics. (I hate sending anything to the landfill unnecessarily, but plastics really kill me.) When I saw the symbol, I was curious enough to go to the website and pleasantly surprised to find simple facts about what's permitted when it comes to recycling. "Santa should know about this," I thought. "As the chief judge of what is naughty and nice at this time of year, he really should be aware of the rules." I sent him a letter.



continued on p2

Upcoming Events

December 4 – Holiday Family Craft Night
December 31 – New Year's Eve
January 8 – Comedy Night
January 22 – Avalon Jazz Band



Voting Board

Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association

October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

Officer	Name	Telephone	E-Mail
President	Michael Gelfand	973-764-8758	president@hlcc.org
First Vice President	Judy 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
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1	Louis Iannucci	973-764-7042	trustee1@hlcc.org
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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	973-764-4366	trustee7@hlcc.org
8	Dominick Beninati	917-566-3136	trustee8@hlcc.org
9	Thomas Castiglione	973-764-4366	trustee9@comcast.net
10	Madeline Hollingsworth	973-764-9966	trustee10@hlcc.org
11	Suzanne Maher	646-641-3153	maher.hydrogen@gmail.com
12	Len Bogdon	973-764-7136	trustee12@hlcc.org

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

Holiday Office Hours

The Club office will be closed in observance of the Christmas Holiday on Friday, December 24 at 12 noon and remain closed until Monday, December 27 at 9 am. The office will again close at 12 noon on Friday, December 31 and reopen on Monday, January 3 at 9 am, 10 am for visitors. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Upcoming Meetings

Buildings and Grounds – No meeting scheduled at this time
Clubhouse Committee – Tuesday, December 21 – 7 pm
Communications Committee – Saturday, January 29 – 10 am
Ecology Committee – Thursday, December 16 – 7 pm
Fishing Committee – Thursday, December 16 – 8 pm
Planning Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time
Road Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time
Rules and By-Laws – Thursday, December 16 – 7 pm
Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, December 8 – 7:30 pm
Voting Board Meeting – Friday, December 17 – 8 pm
Since all meetings are subject to change, please confirm meeting times by contacting the chairperson of the committee or the Club office prior to the meeting time.

continued from p1

The information about our local recycling rules and the website that caught my attention is printed below...I want you to have what you need to stay off of that naughty list. www.how2recycle.info/ The heading on the home page of this website reads: “A Cleaner World Starts with Us” and goes on to explain: “How2Recycle is a standardized labeling system that clearly communicates recycling instructions to the public. It involves a coalition of forward-thinking brands who want their packaging to be recycled and are empowering consumers through smart packaging labels.” The site offers details on all kinds of labeling and provides local drop-off locations for plastic bags that must go through a different recycling process. I was surprised to find that there are many in our area.

Local waste companies will pick up your recycling for fee, but you can also cart your recyclables down to the recycling center for free. It is located across from the municipal building at 21 Church Street.

Vernon Recycling Center Hours:

- Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Wed.: 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Telephone: 973.764.3021
- Website: www.vernontwp.com/services/recycling/

Items you can recycle in our town:

- glass jars and bottles
- plastic containers #1 - #7
- aluminum and tin cans
- cardboard
- newspapers
- magazines
- catalogs
- junk mail
- mixed office paper
- telephone directories
- paperback books
- rechargeable batteries
- used motor oil
- scrap metal
- white goods (large household appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers) A \$10.00 fee will be charged for each appliance requiring removal of Freon prior to disposal.
- On Saturdays, you can take documents you want shredded and they will shred while you watch. The fee for this is \$5.00/shopping bag.

One last thing, it is really, really naughty to rake your leaves into the lake or to let the landscaping company you have hired do that. You will definitely get coal in your stocking for that!



<div><div></div><div>December 2021</div><div></div></div> <div>Highland Lakes Happenings</div>																																																																																																	
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Family Holiday Craft Night

LOUISE STALEY, CHAIRPERSON, CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE

Saturday, December 4 at 7 pm

Calling all families who want a fun night to kick off the holiday festivities. We have planned an evening of crafting, creating and sharing. Hot chocolate will be served and Christmas carols will be playing to sing along.



You can participate in one or all of the things we have planned: Create a giant paper snowflake; create a Christmas tree out of a paperback book (bring your own book); write a special Christmas card to the troops and share a special Christmas recipe of your favorite appetizer or dessert. Of course, you can bring samples to share. Just bring your recipe and we can copy it for you. We will also have some supplies for the kids to create a graham cracker gingerbread house. I'm looking forward to this very special night and hope to see you there.



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New Year's Eve Party

LOUISE STALEY, CHAIRPERSON, CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE

Friday, December 31 – 8 pm



This year the Clubhouse Committee will be hosting the arrival of 2022 at the Clubhouse with a New Year's Eve party that will be the place to be with friends and family. We plan to celebrate and dance the night away until it's time to watch the ball drop on the big screen.

Tickets go on sale at the Club office starting December 6 until the 28th. The cost is \$25 per person, with limited seating available. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Club office. This includes appetizers, a champagne toast, music provided by Hi Energy Entertainment and a great opportunity for dancing and having fun with friends. Doors open at 7:30 pm with music starting at 8 pm. BYOB, of course.

As always, we welcome new volunteers. Anyone able to spare some time to help decorate is welcome to come to the Clubhouse on Thursday, December 30. Please contact Louise for details at 973-271-9782 or juliaisland@gmail.com.



Santa is Coming to Town With the HL Fire Department

HIGHLAND LAKES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Saturday, December 18, 2021

Santa and his friends are coming to the Highland Lakes Fire Department on Saturday, December 18, starting at 9:30 am. Santa will be riding through your neighborhood waving to the girls and boys of Highland Lakes. Santa and the volunteers of the Highland Lakes Volunteer Fire Department would like to wish all children a Merry Christmas and to thank everyone who donated to their Annual Fund Drive. So kids, get your warm coats and gloves ready (and boots if it snows) to greet Santa and his friends. If you hear the Christmas music and see the fire truck, come on out and wave hello. Parents please have your cameras ready if you would like to take pictures.




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NYC Comedy Night

ROE HALL, EVENTS COORDINATOR

Saturday, January 8 at 8:30 pm

Mark your calendars for an exciting night of NYC talent here on the Seckler Stage. Comedians headlining the night have performed up and down the east coast. Patty Rosborough's television credits include Comedy Central, A&E, Showtime and VH1. Moody McCarthy has appeared on Star Search, America's Got Talent and Jimmy Kimmel Live. Highland Lakes members and their guests are welcome. Doors open at 8 pm so you can come to the Clubhouse early to hang out and socialize with friends and neighbors. Bring your own snacks and drinks. A fun night is in store for some laugh out loud comedy. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the office for \$20.



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Thousands of people suffered unimaginable losses due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Moratoriums were set to provide relief to those in need of assistance. As the moratorium comes to an end, hundreds of members are desperately behind in their utility bills and risk power interruption if not paid in full. Don't be left out in the cold, assistance is available!

Sussex Rural Electric offers assistance programs, levelized billing, and payment arrangements.

Help exists outside of the Cooperative as well. Several organizations and other resources may be able to offer you assistance. Call our office at 973-875-5101 or go to sussexrec.com/assist for more information and links to organizations who may be able to help.

SREC WILL WORK WITH YOU!



Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Hiking News

DINA D'ARGENIO, COORDINATOR

Happy Holidays everyone! I want to take a moment to introduce myself and let you all know what I am planning for 2022.

My Name is Dina and I am new to Highland Lakes. When I read the article in the Newsette that the Hiking Club needed a leader I jumped at the opportunity to get involved. I am an experienced hiker, have 20 years of Wilderness Search & Rescue under my belt and would embrace the opportunity to hike with new friends who share the same love and appreciation for the wilderness.

Since the holidays are such a busy time for many of us I will wait until 2022 for the Hiking Club, however I did want to extend an invitation to anyone interested in a New Year's Day Hike. I plan this hike every year for family, friends and members of my Search & Rescue Team. Anyone wishing to join us can contact me directly. Once I have confirmed the time and location I will share the information. Please feel free to contact me via email or cell.

Happy Holidays and Stay Safe!! Dina D'Argenio
dinadargenio@gmail.com 201-417-1421.

Winter Pickleball

KATHI TAYLOR

Pickleball is a year-round activity in Highland Lakes. Winter hours will begin in December. Weather-permitting, we will meet every Monday and Wednesday at 2:00 pm. We will be playing as long as the courts are dry. Bring your membership badge, wear sneakers and dress for the weather. We have paddles for those who don't have their own. If you have questions or want to check in about possible weather cancellations, call or text Kathi Taylor at 973-303-2689 or Peggy Warner 973-764-5126.



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Tom Watson

January 2022

Highland Lakes Happenings

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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Vernon Township Housing Market Report - October 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."

# Beds	Avg. Sales Price	Avg. Days on Market	Sale / Listing Price
1	\$94,327	37	96%
2	\$193,397	31	102%
3	\$299,171	45	101%
4	\$424,667	49	100%
5+	\$580,000	69	93%
TOWN	\$261,209	41	100%

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973-657-9222 main office



Carly Ebers

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MELISSA HARDIN'S KIDS HAD FUN MEETING SANTA AT THE BREAKFAST

Seniors Learn About Butterflies

DORI ZARR

Guest Speaker Vinnie Corsello, Butterfly Man

The Senior Club members were treated to a wonderful presentation about butterflies by Vinnie Corsello at their Thanksgiving luncheon orchestrated by Joyce Healy. He explained what bushes and plants, like the milkweed, to raise in our yards to attract butterflies, especially the Monarch. This flyer is toxic to birds and is mimicked by the Viceroy which is slightly smaller. This adaptation keeps many a bird at bay. In spring Vinnie tags Monarchs helping study their migrations. If interested, one can collect eggs from the milkweed plant and follow the cycle from larvae to emerging butterfly. For more info contact Monarch Conservation and their webinars. Many thanks Vinnie.



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HELP WANTED: Looking for Part Time Clerical worker. Knowledge of Word, Quicken and Outlook with telephone skills. Needs to be a self starter. Will train in Probate/Administration work; working days are Wednesday and Thursday 9 to 4. Contact Pat B. at 201 787 7244 call after 3:00 pm. 12/4/21



Teen Council

MELISSA HARDIN, COORDINATOR

Get Involved, Become a Leader

Teens - mark your calendars for the first meeting of Teen Council 2022! We will be meeting at the Clubhouse on January 6, 2022, at 6:30 pm. At our next meeting we will discuss plans for the year and activities of interest. We also plan to establish delegates and/or officers to formulate a more structured council.



Co-Ed Dart Night

MARK BURUCHIAN, COORDINATOR

Coming in January 2022, we will be starting a co-ed Dart Night for members. Stay tuned for more information or email Mark at markburuchian@ptd.net.

Save the Date

Avalon Jazz Band will be back at the Seckler Stage on Saturday, January 22. Look for more info on our website, Facebook and eblasts.



BRIAN KLOZA CAPTURED THIS PEAK SEASON SUNSET



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Next Newsette: February 5, 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!

Paint and Sip Night

KERRY CULHANE

On Saturday, November 20, a group of about 30 members got together and enjoyed time spent with friends, old and new. There was lots of laughter, joy and humor and we even had quite a large number of talented artists. Everyone had a great time, and got to bring home 2 wine glasses, with their own creations.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KERRY CULHANE

HLCC Senior Club

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLUB

Oh, my! Oh, my! Oh, my! We've come to the end of another year and my most sincere wishes you have come through in a positive way. May the new year bring scads of wonderful days for all of you in our lake community. May you have good health and joy with your families. May you find it in your heart to lend a hand to others in need. Our beautiful community is known for volunteerism and there are those who don't think twice about sharing time and energy to help others.

The S/C had a lovely November luncheon of homemade chili (thanks so much, Carol & J.). Thanks a hundred fold to Jack & Bob who manned the kitchen, to Helen and Jim and Janet for those much needed extra sets of hands.

We're planning our annual Christmas/Holiday party. This year it will be a bit different:

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 15 –

If you don't drive at night, call me and we'll make sure you get there and back home.

Time: 5:30 - 9:30 pm

Place: Lake Room

Cost: \$10 for members, \$20 for guests

There is NO POT LUCK meal this year. You don't have to cook! Yay! There WILL be a sit down dinner...not a buffet. Desserts, BYOB.

There will be a LIVE BAND for your dancing pleasure and games and fun. YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST CONTACT JOYCE TO BE PUT ON THE RESERVATION LIST. NO WALK-INS WILL BE ADMITTED. Again, this is a sit-down dinner, no buffet. We MUST know if you're coming. Call Joyce ASAP at 845-544-3749. She will make arrangements to collect your \$10 or \$20.

***** 2022 *****

There will be a New Year Luncheon on Jan. 12, 2022 at 12 noon in the Lake Room. A sign-up sheet will be available at the December 15 party.

Set your hearts a-flutter for a Valentine's Luncheon on Feb 16 at 12 noon in the Lake Room.

Our annual Craft Fair was a big success. Much thanks to the HLCC Women's Auxiliary for co-hosting this event. The table reservation proceeds went to our Good Will Fund. Many thanks to the W/A bakers and volunteers for set up and help. The HLCC Swim Team helped us out by donating sodas to the food table at the Craft Fair. Much thanks.

We didn't have as many crafters/vendors as in 2019, but this year's crew ALL want to return for next year. We followed protocol/guidelines for social distancing and the wearing of masks as well as the ever-present hand sanitizer dispensers located around the Clubhouse.

The HL Senior Club is the best club around. Am I proud of them? You bet I am. May we grow ever stronger as a proactive, positive-thinking group of seniors. May our respect for all continue. Love ya, Joyce H.



Operation Blue Elf

SGT. KEN KUZICKI

The Vernon Police Department's Operation Blue Elf program will be running until December 20. Anyone interested in donating a toy, gift card or clothing items in demand such as socks, gloves and hats can do so and drop off at the Club office collection box between 10 am and 3 pm.



Winter Carnival

LOUISE STALEY, CHAIRPERSON, CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE
AND ROE HALL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/EVENTS
COORDINATOR

Saturday, February 12, 2022

Mark your calendars for February 12; it will be here before you know it. Our annual Winter Carnival is being planned with lots of outdoor fun and winter activities. Our committee is busy planning and preparing to make a special day for all to enjoy some games and activities and hopefully a special guest. Come prepared, dress warmly and hope for some snow!

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