



The Highland Lakes Newsette

A publication of Highland Lake Country Club and Community Association at Highland Lakes, New Jersey © 2020
"All the News That Fits We Print"



Volume 2020 | Issue Number 1 | February 1, 2020

From the President's Desk

MICHAEL GELFAND, PRESIDENT

While outdoor life in Highland Lakes seems to slow down a bit during the depths of winter, it doesn't mean that the Voting Board hibernates through the shorter days and colder nights. The winter months are typically a good time for Voting Boards to address big issues, and there's one in particular that this current Voting Board—like the ones before it—continues to wrestle with...

Questions and concerns related to short-term property rentals persist in our community. Last year the Voting Board worked hard to further define and clarify administrative policies related to the Club's By-Laws regarding property rentals by members, the use of the Club properties by renters, and reiterated the Club's responsibility to guard against discord, annoyance, disorder, interloping, disturbance and trespassing. (You can read the specifics on our website: <https://hlcc.org/members-information/faqs/renting-your-home/>.)

I felt at the time that we had done a thorough job addressing an immediate concern, but the topic continues to be a hot button issue not only for our community, but for Vernon and other towns, cities, and homeowner associations across the country as well. At the publication deadline for this issue of the Newsette, the outcome of the Vernon Township Council's action on January 27 on an ordinance designed to regulate short-term rentals was unknown. Make no mistake: Vernon has legal authority to regulate short-term rentals. But Highland Lakes has independent authority to establish our regulations around it, as well, and it's a responsibility we're taking very seriously.

For this (and any) Voting Board to be effective, it needs to listen to its members. On this issue, the Voting Board wants to hear your opinions—this is a complex, evolving discussion, with no clear-cut right or wrong perspective. For context, in the long history of Highland Lakes families who owned homes here and wanted to cover costs while their homes weren't being used would rent them out, usually through the original developer - Seckler & Shepperd. But times have changed, and the emergence of the "sharing economy" and corporate investors who buy homes with the sole intent of creating an annuity revenue stream throws our historical rental policies—and the philosophy that supported them—into conflict. The quality and character of life in our community matters a great deal, and this is something we need to get sorted out correctly to make sure all that we hold dear isn't undermined.

If you have an opinion on this issue the Voting Board wants to hear it. Please don't hesitate to send me and/or your trustee an email. And if you'd like to address the entire Voting Board in person about this (or any other issue), please don't hesitate to attend our upcoming meeting on February 21 at 8 pm.

Taking a Small Step With Less

SUE ROSS, CHAIRPERSON, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Club Introduces Carry-In/Carry-Out

Stewardship is at the heart of Carry-In/Carry-Out, the policy that was adopted by the HL Voting Board in 2019, with implementation planned to begin this summer season. While this is a new approach for us, it is a policy that has been in place in the New Jersey Park System, the National Park System and many communities for years. It may take some getting used to, but it walks our community along a path that is going in the right direction. And, it's simple enough. Whatever you bring to the beach, park, ball field, freeway or court this summer, you are expected to take home with you.

The policy serves as a constant reminder that we are all responsible for our public areas and if we care (really care) for the earth on which we walk, we had better put our thoughts and words into action. There is an island of floating plastic that lies between California and Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean. Known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, it is currently twice the size of Texas, the largest of five such man-made structures in our oceans. (<https://theoceancleanup.com/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>)

Carry-In/Carry-Out is a small step to a cleaner world, not simply because it encourages all of us to take our garbage home. Perhaps most importantly it encourages a mindfulness about how much trash we are creating and whether or not we could do better, with less. It encourages reusables, rather than recyclables. Reuse and refill your containers, whether they are for water or food. Use cloth napkins rather than paper. Shop with your own durable bags, instead of using flimsy disposable plastic ones. Think about the impact you are having on the earth with every turn. Once you get into that mindset, it quickly becomes second nature.

Beyond the long-term benefits, Carry-In/Carry-Out holds a number of immediate tangible improvements for us all. Here are just a few that we are hoping to see:

- Elimination of unsightly overflowing garbage cans
- Reduction in the number of bees, wasps and other pests (skunks, raccoons, bears...) that are naturally drawn to garbage
- Improvement in the health of wildlife by reducing their dependency on trash as a food source
- Avoidance of the unpleasant smell of garbage accumulation

As a reminder to Club members, signs will be posted in the areas impacted by this new policy. The only areas where garbage cans will still be found are at the Clubhouse and Beach 1 during the active summer season. In all other locations (freeways, ball fields, recreational courts, all other beaches and parks) you are expected to pack up whatever you bring in and take it home, just as the name implies... Carry-In/ Carry-Out.



**CARRY IN
CARRY OUT**

COMING IN 2020:

YOU Bring It In, YOU Take It Out

CARRY-IN/CARRY-OUT policy will be implemented in the 2020 season.

In the interest of reducing the attraction to garbage by bears, raccoons, bees and other insects, the Voting Board has endorsed a Carry-In/Carry-Out policy at all Club facilities with the exception of Beach One, the Clubhouse and the Clubhouse Park. Beginning in 2020 only these three Club locations will have trash cans.




ECOLOGY

Upcoming Events

February 1 – Winter Carnival
February 22 – Pasta Dinner



Highland Lakes Country Club's Annual

WINTER CARNIVAL

CHILI COOK OFF!

BOOK SWAP!

FREE! for HLCC MEMBERS & GUESTS

INDOOR & OUTDOOR

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES!

COOL TREATS & PRIZES!

SAT, FEB 1 from 11A-3P

Come Out and Join in the Frosty Fun!

The CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE • VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Upcoming Meetings

Clubhouse Committee – Wednesday, February 19 – 7 pm
Communications Committee – Saturday, March 14 – 10 am
Ecology Committee – Thursday, February 20 – 7 pm
Fishing Committee – Thursday, February 20 – 8 pm
Planning Committee – Tuesday, February 11 – 8 pm
Roads Committee – Thursday, February 6 – 7 pm
Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, February 12– 8 pm
Voting Board Meeting – Friday, February 21- 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.

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.

Help Wanted

KAITLYN NIX, WATER SAFETY DIRECTOR

Needed – Assistant to the Water Safety Director

Highland Lakes is in search of an Assistant to the Water Safety Director. Interested candidates should contact Kaitlyn Nix ASAP. Candidates must be willing to work from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Weekends a must. Guarding certifications not necessary but would be a plus. Must be willing to be trained in First Aid and CPR. Good driving record and car are a must. Contact Kaitlyn Nix, Water Safety Director at kaitlyn.j.nix@gmail.com

The Highland Lakes Newsette

Highland Lakes Country Club
and Community Association

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Roe Hall, Administrative Assistant

Judy Norton, Editor

Special Thanks to the

Communications Committee and
all of our contributors

PO Box 578 - 2240 Lakeside Drive West

Highland Lakes, New Jersey 07422

973-764-4366 / Email: hlcc@warwick.net

Help Wanted Athletics Director

JACK MCLAUGHLIN, GENERAL MANAGER

Recruitment is underway for the position of Athletics Director for the 2020 summer season. The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic leader of the Club's athletics programs, and be highly organized in planning and conducting the summer athletics activities. The Director must have a generalized knowledge of competitive sports, rules and equipment requirements, and be able to solicit advice from various participants regarding rules, procedures and equipment needs. The ability to successfully interact with children and their parents, adult and youth volunteers, and Club officials and staff is essential.

Duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Plans and implements program and activity schedules.
- Develops and publishes program highlights, schedules, rules, rosters, etc. for the Highland Lakes Newsette on a weekly basis.
- Arranges for the inspection of Club athletic facilities during late April with the Maintenance Superintendent; issues work order requests to rectify any issues identified during the walk-through.
- Develops activity sign-up books for placement at the Activity Center; identifies volunteers from the sign-ups; communicates with parents and children as to scheduling.
- Ensures that all participants are members in good standing of Highland Lakes by working with the Club Office, and that all participants have submitted satisfactorily-completed Parent Permission Forms prior to participation.
- Conducts, where appropriate, drafts of players to ensure the proportionate assignment of skilled players to various teams; prevents the manipulation of rosters for competitive advantage.
- Conducts inventory of uniforms and equipment in late April; prepares order for approval by the General Manager; continually reviews uniform and equipment needs based on sign-ups and enrollments; ensures sufficient stock for late enrollments.
- Maintains the Athletics Hotline, leaving up-to-date messages on scheduling, schedule changes, and rain-outs.
- Ensures appropriate team discipline; instructs coaches and volunteers on procedures to clear litter from areas at the conclusion of activities.

Throughout the summer, the Athletics Director can be expected to follow a 35-40 hour weekly work schedule involving daytime, evening and weekend hours, including activities and events in the evening.

Resumes, references and a letter of interest should be immediately submitted to Jack McLaughlin, General Manager, Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association, PO Box 578, Highland Lakes, New Jersey 07422, or by email to hlcc@warwick.net. The position will be filled as soon as possible.

Voting Board Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

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	4thoms@warwick.net
4	Lisa Entwistle	201-281-6262	trustee4@hlcc.org
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6	Melissa Hardin	973-764-1433	trustee6@hlcc.org
7	Lee Eisenberg	973-764-8323	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

Help Wanted Clubhouse Director

JACK MCLAUGHLIN, GENERAL MANAGER

Recruitment is underway for the position of Clubhouse Director for the 2020 summer season. The ideal candidate works well with parents and children, is energetic and creative, and preferably has demonstrated experience in developing and supervising recreational programs.

Duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Hiring, training, scheduling and supervising Clubhouse recreation and Beach Hut staff;
- Gathering continual input from parents and children leading to enhanced programs and activities during the summer;
- Planning, organizing and conducting Clubhouse activities for all ages, including arts and crafts, story-time, dances, movies, contests and field trips;
- Recruiting volunteers to conduct and assist in Clubhouse activities;
- Serves as coordinator for Family Day events and activities;
- Purchasing vending supplies for sale and maintaining inventory at the Activities Center and Beach Hut;
- Publicizing Clubhouse activities and writing articles about upcoming events in the Newsette on the Club's Facebook page.

Throughout the summer, the Clubhouse Director can be expected to follow a 35-40 hour weekly work schedule involving daytime, evening and weekend hours, including activities and events in the evening.

Resumes, references and a letter of interest should be immediately submitted to Jack McLaughlin, General Manager, Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association, PO Box 578, Highland Lakes, New Jersey 07422, or by email to hlcc@warwick.net. The position will be filled as soon as possible.

February 2020

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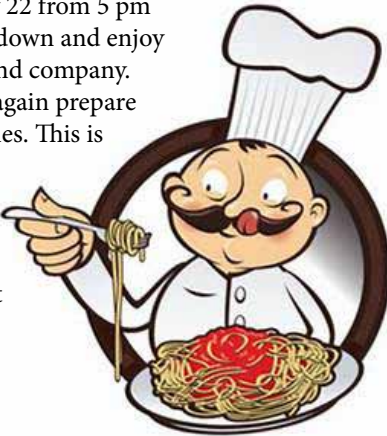
Next Newsette:
March 2, 2020

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!

Annual Pasta Dinner

CAROL HASTIE, CHAIRPERSON, CLUBHOUSE DINNER

Saturday, February 22 from 5 pm to 7:30 pm. Come on down and enjoy some delicious food and company. Chef Frank will once again prepare some culinary delicacies. This is a family dinner and costs \$8 for adults and \$4 for a child under the age of 10. Tickets are available at the door.



Seeking a college degree?



Or certification from trade school?



Winter Carnival

CAROL HASTIE, CHAIRPERSON, CLUBHOUSE COMMITTEE

This year's Winter Carnival will be Saturday, February 1 from 11 am – 3 pm. Come down for some games, activities, lunch, a chili bake-off (with entries brought down by 11:30 am), a children's book swap and fun entertainment.




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Communications Committee Meeting Notes

SUE ROSS, CHAIRPERSON, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communications Committee met on Saturday, January 18, to discuss a variety of projects that we will be focused on in the coming months. We were joined by Barbara Jaggi, Chair of the Ecology Committee, to discuss the roll-out of CICO (Carry-In/Carry-Out) a new Club policy which will go into effect this summer (see the feature article on Page 1). We then went on to talk about the editorial calendar of the Newsette for the coming months. We now have commitments from committee members who have volunteered to author some of our upcoming feature articles.

At the February Voting Board Workshop, I will be discussing with the Board our social media platforms and the functionality that we are hoping to build into the design of our new website. Committee members, many of whom have some great experience in this area, contributed valuable suggestions which I will be bringing back to the Board when we meet on February 12.

Thank you to those committee members who were able to join us: Stu Blank, Karen Vogel, Board Secretary Cly Wikoff, First VP Judy Norton and Trustee Len Bogden and a very warm welcome to our newest member Rory Byra. I

am looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on March 14.

All Club members with a talent in writing, graphic design, photography, social media and web design are encouraged to join us. One of our challenges as volunteers is in finding the time to post and write...more hands would make lighter work. We meet from 10-11 am in the Lake Room every other month.



Breakfast help



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUE BURUCHIAN

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Red Hatters' Holiday Festivities

JANET KALEY

Saturday, December 21 was the Red Hatters' Christmas Party in the Lake Room at the Clubhouse. We celebrated with good food, good friends and fun exchange of gifts.
Front Row (left to right) Kathy Grifone, Jo Van Essen, Marian Benedicto and Joan Yankowski.
Back Row (left to right) Janet Kaley, Nancy Hughes, Paula Walk, Joyce Healy, Terry Kohn, Doris Dolan and Helen Carlson.



On Sunday, January 19, 2020, the Highland Red Hatters had a pot luck at Marian Bendicto's home. Good food and good friends made this event most enjoyable. Thanks for hosting Marian.
Pictured left to right: Joan Yankowski, Janet Kaley, Joyce Healy, Helen Carlson, Pat Wootten, Jo Van Essen, Nancy Hughes, Terry Kohn and hostess Marian Benedicto.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JANET KALEY

Ecology Corner

BARBARA JAGGI, CHAIRPERSON, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Red Foxes in Highland Lakes

There have been many reports of red foxes in our community. Here is some information that might be of interest.
Red foxes have long snouts and red fur across the face, back, sides, and tail. Their throat, chin, and belly are grayish-white. Red foxes have black feet and black-tipped ears that are large and pointy. One of the most noticeable characteristics of the red fox is the fluffy white-tipped tail which like a cat's, aids in its balance. Red foxes are about three feet long and two feet tall. They are solitary hunters who feed on rodents, rabbits, birds, and other small game—but their diet can be as flexible as their home habitat. Foxes will eat fruit and vegetables, fish, frogs, and even worms. They will also eat garbage if nothing else is available.
Red foxes mate in winter. Right after mating, a female builds a den. Females can deliver anywhere between one and 12 pups per litter. Pups are born brown or gray, usually turning red within about a month. Both parents take care of their offspring until the next fall, when the young foxes set out on their own. Generally foxes are most likely seen at dawn and dusk, their preferred hunting time. However, during mating season they can be seen during the daylight hours.

These charming animals have adapted well to suburban and rural communities. While other large predators have been pushed away from human development, red foxes took advantage of the changed habitat. They live in parks and woodland edges, and red foxes will readily eat whatever is available. Although these animals can become habituated to humans, they are by nature solitary animals and best to be left alone. As with any other warm blooded creature they can carry rabies. Any fox exhibiting aggressive behavior should be avoided and reported to animal control.
For all you gardeners, I've been told that foxes eat groundhog babies. Enjoy this quiet time of the year and all that nature has to offer.

Attention all members: Chris Mikolajczyk from Princeton Hydro will attend the Ecology Committee meeting on February 20 at 7 pm in the Lake room to give the annual report on the water quality of our lakes. Please plan to attend this informative meeting. Cookies will be served!





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Holiday Festivities in Pictures



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICH SWENSON

Boy Scout Troop 912 Helps Out With Operation Blue Elf

ANNA-MARIE DUERR

Spreading Christmas Cheer, Boy Scout Troop 912 gather for their annual holiday party at the Highland Lakes Clubhouse. They also teamed up with Officer Kuzicki of the Vernon Policy Department for “Operation Blue Elf”!



Remembering Mark Ramsdell

Mark Allen Ramsdell, age 64, passed away suddenly on December 31, 2019. Mark grew up in Ridgewood, NJ and attended school there and also in Freyburg, Maine, where he played soccer and learned to ski. He traveled 48 of the 50 states, went to Europe with a church group and went behind the Iron Curtain. He also volunteered for the Special Olympics. He had a 30 year career with the DuPont Company in Delaware as a Lab Technician.

Mark was pre-deceased by his parents, Mimi and Al Ramsdell who were members of Highland Lakes for over thirty years. He was also pre-deceased by his sister Carol and his beloved nephew Michael. Mark was patient, curious, had a great sense of humor and gave the best hugs. He loved to talk and had an unmistakable voice. When he entered a room you knew he was there. When the opportunity arose he moved to Highland Lakes. Mark loved being outdoors. He loved riding his Harley, rappelling, spelunking, boating and fishing. His dream was to buy a houseboat and set sail. Mark traveled many paths and left many footprints, mostly on the hearts of everyone that loved him.

He is survived by his brother Rick, sisters Terry, Christy and Becky, a daughter

Jennifer and grandson Cameron and many nieces and nephews.

HLCC Mighty Seniors

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLUB

Hi, everyone! Here’s hoping 2020 has begun in a good way for you and yours. I thought I’d begin with some ideas from something I recently read about “Neighbors”:

In many neighborhoods a website is used to immediately connect with folks surrounding them. Depending upon the part of the country, neighbors can warn each other of mountain lion sightings or wildfire evacuation orders. Folks can offer childcare when needed or be a resource for locating lost pets. Using the Internet can be a great help in this super, fast-paced world. Of course, there are neighbors who are not part of this link.

Having some kind of positive relationship with people

living nearby was also just as important a very long time ago. Why, in ancient times family relationships were very important and obviously a source of support, but good old King Solomon indicated that a FRIEND was a very important part of life especially if disaster strikes. Your kin may care deeply and want to help in these situations. But, if they are a distance away, there’s little they can do when a “10” strikes on the scale of 1-10. Neighbors, however, are likely to know of the need quickly and obviously can be there because of the logistics.

Yes, technology makes it easier than in Old Sol’s days to connect with loved ones across our country, but please

DON’T be tempted to ignore those living nearby...especially in times of need. Power outages (however short or lengthy), disabled vehicle or no vehicle to run much needed errands, keeping dr. appointments or simply popping in from time to time to say “Hi” and “How are you doing?” is the way of life sometimes. I’m especially fond of the latter. You won’t be making a nuisance of yourself if you “give a holler” to a neighbor. You’ll be living by something I grew up with and what I used in my classroom throughout my teaching career - TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WISH TO BE TREATED! Mom and Dad called it the Golden Rule, yes, it certainly is a golden rule by which to live. I charge you, my friends, to raise your glass of OJ, water, coffee, tea or whatever to the helping hands and good neighbors of Highland Lakes. Happy 2020!

Our Mighty Senior Club had a lovely Christmas Luncheon celebration with about 50 in attendance. The January get-together served 33 for lunch and the February Pot Luck Luncheon will be held on Valentine’s Day, 2/14, ‘cause you’re my bunch of sweeties! In all kindness, please let me know if you’re planning to come on Happy Heart Day! I hope to have a guest speaker on that day. Again, it’s a POT LUCK luncheon, so please bring something to share. Of course, I don’t expect the extravagant luncheon like our Christmas party (oh, why not?).

February 1, will be the annual HLCC Winter Carnival, and I send sincere thanks to my S/C volunteers. You’re the best. Questions, suggestions? Give me a call...especially about attending the 2/14 luncheon. Love to hear from you, Joyce H. 845-544-3749.

Thinking about a renovation or addition? Talk to an Architect!

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Packing up Christmas