

## 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 17 | November 7, 2020** 

#### From the President's Desk

#### MICHAEL GELFAND, PRESIDENT

Lately it seems we're living through the remnants of one hurricane or another. At the time I'm writing this, small trees in my yard are bent sideways from winds left over from the latest in an overflowing parade of Atlantic storms racing up the eastern seaboard. Figuratively speaking, we're in the eye of another hurricane at this very moment-Election Day is tomorrow-with the weight of its binary outcome creating anxiety everywhere you look regardless of who received your vote. Meanwhile, the pandemic continues to rage across the country while the stock market does a bipolar dance that keeps us hoping for the best while expecting the worst.

There's a saying that says "may you live in interesting times." Whoever came up with that one-liner obviously didn't live through a year like 2020, and we still have two months to go. With all of the chaos and upheaval out there in the big world, I still feel incredibly lucky to live here in Highland Lakes, and I hope you feel the same way. While no place offers complete shelter from the literal and figurative storms out in the rest of the world, Highland Lakes feels about as safe as you can get these days. As Thanksgiving approaches, I continue to remind myself that better times are ahead, and that we'll continue to keep pushing forward, making the best of the small pleasures that life affords us every now and then while we wait for the storm clouds that always seem to be overhead of late to clear.

Here are a few quick updates to keep you abreast of what the Voting Board has been working on:

Unfortunately the pandemic continues to trend in the wrong direction across many, if not most areas of the country. While New Jersey's suffering is far from the worst, we've already seen the havoc this virus can wreak, so it should come as no surprise that the state government is issuing new emergency orders to prevent a new wave of illnesses and deaths from ratcheting up again as it did this past spring. With that in mind, the Club continues to closely monitor emergency orders and observe social distancing guidelines, and it would not surprise me if the Clubhouse and/or office may once again need to be shut down by either our determination or via an executive order.

The Club will debut an online payment system members can start to use this month to pay their dues; there is a 3.25% convenience fee associated with using the system. More information will be available very soon on the Club's website.

In past columns I've written to you about the emerald ash borer (an invasive beetle that essentially kills most of the ash trees it comes in contact with). Over this past summer the EAB was found in Highland Lakes, as we fully expected, and the Club has proactively treated approximately 40 ash trees on its properties to prevent infection and death from EAB. Approximately 700 ash trees within approximately

#### Reasons To Be Thankful

SUE ROSS, CHAIRPERSON, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



Joan and Jack Ross in the 1950s at Beach 1

As we edge into the darkest time of the year it is difficult to hear health experts and Governor Murphy repeatedly caution that gathering with friends and family outside your immediate bubble this Thanksgiving is not a good idea. The inconvenient truth is that Covid-19 is still with us and, though we may be close to a vaccine, it's not here yet. To protect ourselves and our community we must still keep our distance, wear face coverings and fastidiously wash our hands...regardless of the fact that Thanksgiving is around the corner and other cherished holidays are soon to follow.

I lost my mother-in-law to Covid-19 this spring. Our community lost one of its oldest and most devoted volunteers and fans at the same time. Joan Ross had summered in Highland Lakes since her parents bought a cabin here in the 1940s. She shared countless stories with me through the years of how she watched this community grow. When she was a child the road around the Main Lake was little more than a footpath in some areas. She lived through idyllic summers with her grandmother as her parents who worked in "The City" routinely arrived

The Club office will
be closed on Saturday,
November 7. We will be
open for normal business
hours on Monday,
November 9 from 9 am
to 4 pm. Visitors from 10
am to 3 pm. Thank you.

at the cabin on Friday nights for brief weekend respites. Joan loved to recall those days. She often told stories of the multitude of activities that were so fully enjoyed and how the weekends at Highland Lakes just brimmed with celebration as families like hers reunited after each long work week. Among her many accomplishments: She was the first female lifeguard up here and (in later years) she was an integral part of the Club's efforts to establish, along with Lake Mohawk, New Jersey's Coalition of Lake Associations.

When she eventually married, she made Highland Lakes her permanent home. In 1954, you could nearly count full-time residents on one hand. In the years that followed, she was the chairperson of the Ecology Committee for decades and an integral part of our annual Art Show from the time it all began. She participated in countless activities year after year, treating this community as the treasure she held it to be

In 1988 Joan and Jack Ross moved down the street from the home where they had raised their family to a house on the Main Lake. In her later years, when she lived alone, she sat in a comfy chair right by the window that overlooked the lake, watching her world go by. She would regularly say to me when I visited, "We live in paradise, don't we Sue?" "We sure do," I would answer.

This Thanksgiving won't be the same for most of us in terms of who we are able to have around our table, but we still have so much to be thankful for. I will count among my blessings, having had the opportunity to share so much life with my dear mother-in-law and this precious lake community we all call Home. Though I will be missing those I typically share the holidays with, I'll take comfort in knowing that I'm doing all I can to keep things safe so we will be here to enjoy brighter days ahead.



Joan Ross in recent years

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

10 feet of the Club's roadways will eventually succumb to EAB, but we continue to pragmatically address the situation. Expect an update soon from a special EAB committee (including members from our Communications and Ecology committees) to develop a suggested plan to address the impact of EAB for interested members in our community.

The Club office has been working with one of our vendors on an indoor air quality study, with the goal of developing recommended approaches to enhance the Clubhouse's HVAC system to better protect staff and members in the facility from COVID-19.

Finally, at our next workshop the Voting Board will discuss a questionnaire that was drafted to send to members related to short term rentals in our community. The pandemic caused us to postpone an in-person open discussion with members about this topic back in March. No one knew at the time that such proposed gatherings would be so difficult to hold moving forward, so rather than delay things further the Voting Board will start gathering feedback from members about this issue before we begin discussing whether changes to our rules and/or by-laws need to be proposed and considered by the entire membership at our Annual Meeting in August 2021.



#### Next Newsette: December 5, 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!

#### The Highland Lakes Newsette

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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
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#### **Holiday Office Hours**

The Club office will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 26, Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28. The office will reopen on Monday, November 30 at 9 am. Face masks are required in the office at all times.



#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Buildings and Grounds – No meeting scheduled at this time Clubhouse Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time Ecology Committee – Thursday, November 19 - 7 pm Fishing Committee – Thursday, November 19 - 8 pm Planning Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time Roads Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, November 11 – 8 pm Voting Board Meeting – Friday, November 20 – 8 pm Since all meetings are subject to change, please confirm meeting times by contacting the chairperson of the committee or the Club office prior to the meeting time.



# Voting Board Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

Officer		Name	Telephone	E-Mail	
President		Michael Gelfand	973-764-8758	president@hlcc.org	
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11	David Cartier		973-534-2039	trustee11@hlcc.org	
12	Len Bogdon		973-764-7136	trustee12@hlcc.org	

The Highland Lakes Newsette November 7, 2020 | Page 3



#### November 2020 Highland Lakes Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 4:00 PM Yoga	3	4:00 PM Yoga	5 7:30 PM Stitching Group	6	7
8	9 4:00 PM Yoga	10	4:00 PM Yoga 8:00 PM Voting Board Wkshp	12 7:30 PM Stitching Group	13 6:00 PM Bunco	14
15	16 4:00 PM Yoga	17	18 4:00 PM Yoga	7:00 PM Ecology Comm. Mtg. 7:30 PM Stitching Group 8:00 PM Fishing Comm. Mtg.	20 8:00 PM Voting Board Mtg.	21
22	23 4:00 PM Yoga	24	25 4:00 PM Yoga 7:15 PM Book Club	26 Office Closed - Happy Thanksgiving	27 Office Closed - Happy Thanksgiving	28 Office Closed - Happy Thanksgiving
29	30 4:00 PM Yoga		Oct 2020  S M T W T  1  4 5 6 7 8  11 12 13 14 15  18 19 20 21 22  25 26 27 28 29	2 3 9 10 6 7 5 16 17 13 14 2 23 24 20 21	Dec 2020  T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5  8 9 10 11 12  15 16 17 18 19  22 23 24 25 26  29 30 31	





#### Clean Up After Your Dog



Be nice to your neighbors – please clean up dog messes after walking your dog. The Vernon Township municipal code, section 148:26 regarding the regulation of dogs states:

• A. Barking or crying dogs. No person shall allow any dog in his keeping, custody, control or ownership to bark, howl or cry, continuously for any period longer than 1/2 hour between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. or otherwise

repeatedly at intervals of more than 1/2 hour at any time of the day or night, in such volume or manner as to disturb the comfort, peace or repose of persons in the vicinity.

• B. Running at large. (1) No person owning, keeping, or harboring any dog shall suffer or permit such animal to run at large in, upon, or through any public, quasi-public, or private street, public park or recreation area, public building, or any other public place or place to which the public is invited, and no person owning, keeping, or harboring any dog shall suffer or permit such animal to run at large in, upon, or through any private property without the authority of the owner of the private property.

Section 148-29 of the code - Defecation on public or private lands - reads (in part) as follows:

- A. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to protect the health, safety and welfare of all those frequenting this Township, by preventing the needless health hazards and nuisances caused by dog feces upon public and private property located within the Township.
- B. Defecation of private property. No person owning or in charge of any dog shall cause or allow such dog to soil, defile, defecate upon or commit any nuisance upon any private property, without the permission of the owner of the property. Any person owning or in charge of a dog which soils, defiles, defecates or commits any such nuisance shall immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog in a sanitary manner.
- C. Defecation on public property. No person owning or in charge of any dog shall cause or allow such dog to soil, defile, defecate upon or commit any nuisance on any place where people congregate or walk, or upon any public property. Any person owning or in charge of a dog which soils, defiles, defecates or commits any such nuisance shall immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog in a sanitary manner.
- D. Defecation on owner's property. No person shall permit the accumulation of dog feces upon his/her property, or property occupied by him/her, to the extent that the odor may be noticeable to any adjoining property owners.

If any member is having continued problems with any of these matters, you may sign a complaint in Municipal Court or you may contact Vernon Animal Control at 973-764-7751. Thank you.

Page 4 | November 7, 2020 The Highland Lakes Newsette

#### 2020 Fish Stocking Report

MICHAEL EWASKO, CHAIRMAN, FISH COMMITTEE



As the first snow of the season fell throughout our community HLCC Fish Committee members Mark Grammerstorf, Bob Reffelt, Jim Stephens and I assembled at the Clubhouse parking lot awaiting the arrival of a fish delivery from Zetts Fish Farms in Drifting PA., a family run operation that has been servicing Highland Lakes for more than 20 years. This year the committee released Walleye in the 6"-7" size and Channel Catfish in the 3"-5" size in all five of our lakes. In addition an added concentration of Shiners as baitfish were released in Lake 1 and Lake 3.

Fishing in Highland Lakes has been one activity not hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic this summer and many more members found the time spent angling on

#### **Stitching Group Returns**

#### Thursdays, 7:30 - 9:30 pm

The stitching group will resume meeting at the Clubhouse on the stage every Thursday night at 7:30 pm starting November 5. All types of "stitchers" welcome: knitters, crocheters, quilters, cross stitchers, embroiderers and any other needleworkers, and fiber artists, beginners too. Please spread the word. Open to Highland Lakes members and their guests with a guest badge.



the water both rejuvenating as well as rewarding. Bass, both Largemouth and Smallmouth are always ready to be caught. Yellow perch have never looked fatter and healthier and some big Walleye can be caught by those who know how. I can attest to some monster Catfish stripping my reel of line before being landed and quite a few slab Crappie have found their way to my freezer. The HLCC Fish Committee continues to meet (safely) on the third Thursday of the month at 8 pm in the Lake Room.



#### **Bunco Fridays**

MARIAN BENEDICTO

#### **November Date Change**

Socially distant Bunco will be held on Friday, November 13 at 6 pm in the Lake Room. Using 3 round tables, everyone will have their own dice. Masks are required. Everyone will have their own drinks and snacks. We will return to meeting the first Friday of each month in December. Hope you can join us.







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The Highland Lakes Newsette November 7 2020 | Page 5

#### **Ecology Corner**

#### BARBARA JAGGI, CHAIRPERSON, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

The heart of our community centers round the lakes, whose pristine nature relies on the watershed surrounding them. What we do on our individual pieces of that watershed affects us all. Each of us is a steward of not only our own property, but also of the lakes as a whole. As you create your own personal Garden of Eden, consider the following ecological issues and suggestions:

Help prevent runoff and erosion. Storm water rushing into the lakes carries dissolved household chemicals, garden fertilizers, and pesticides along with sediment that slowly fills our lakes.

#### Ways you can prevent runoff:

- Plant a vegetative buffer at least ten feet wide by the lakes edge. Plant native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. This buffer can keep the geese off your property and filter out pollutants while slowing runoff into the lake.
- Consider using pavers or crushed stone for your driveway rather than impervious asphalt.
- Minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides in your garden. The fertilizers that make your plants grow, also encourage lake algae.
- While phosphates have been eliminated from dishwater detergent, inspect every label of other cleaning products used in your home and choose those with low or non-phosphate formulations.

Septic Systems

Caring for your septic system involves five key elements:

- Inspect and pump your tank regularly. Depending on household usage, every three to five years is recommended. Most pumpers will include a tank inspection.
- Use water efficiently. Every time you turn on a faucet, shower, wash clothes or dishes you are adding water to your septic which puts stress on the system. Encourage your family to minimize water use.
- Avoid using bleach and use septic safe detergents and soaps (avoid anti-bacterial soaps). Your tank needs some bacteria to function properly.
- Properly dispose of waste. Your toilets should be used for human waste and toilet paper ONLY. Do not flush anything else. Do not put food scraps, grease, or cooking oil down the sink drain. Do not install or use a garbage disposal unit in the kitchen sink.
- Maintain your drainage field. Determine where it is located by checking your survey. Do not plant anything but grass on it. Do not park or drive vehicles on it or plant trees near it. Have the field inspected when you have your system pumped. If there is an odor coming from it or it gets soggy it may indicate that the field needs replacement.

#### **Driveways**

When living in a lake community, a major consideration for driveways and walkways is to make sure they are permeable to assist with proper drainage and water flow.

Ecologically, the best driveway materials are natural or crushed stone. They are inexpensive, easily replenished, readily available, allow for water permeation, and, as a natural material will fit nicely with our lake community aesthetic. An attractive but more expensive alternative is permeable pavers. Concrete is ecologically better than asphalt, but neither is permeable. If you already have an asphalt driveway and need to reseal it, your safest option is an asphalt-based sealer. Although they contain carcinogens,

the amounts are viewed as negligible and considered environmentally safer than coal-based sealers.

Never use coal tar based sealers. Coal tar is a known human carcinogen. Unfortunately once these harmful toxins are used on your driveway, they do not stay put. When it rains or snows the contaminants from coal tar sealants leach into the drainage system, the surrounding soil, streams and lakes where they are also toxic to wildlife.

In follow-up to last month's request for members to adopt a road for clean-up on a regular basis, a shout out goes to Bob Taffer an Ecology Committee member. He responded, "I have adopted the undeveloped sections of the following roads in my neighborhood: Glen Ridge Rd. & East Lakeshore Dr. as well as the Canistear ballfield. The undeveloped sections abut the intersection of Glen Ridge & East Lakeshore.

OK members, who else can pitch in?

Just a note regarding rodent control. Please use traps rather than poisons. Owls are particularly vulnerable and their favorite prey is small rodents.

And last but not least, a poem I thought we might all enjoy:

The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that stands in the way.

Some see nature all ridicule and deformity... and some scarce see nature at all. But to the eyes of the man of imagination, nature is imagination itself.

William Blake







# Avoid Winter Price Peaks

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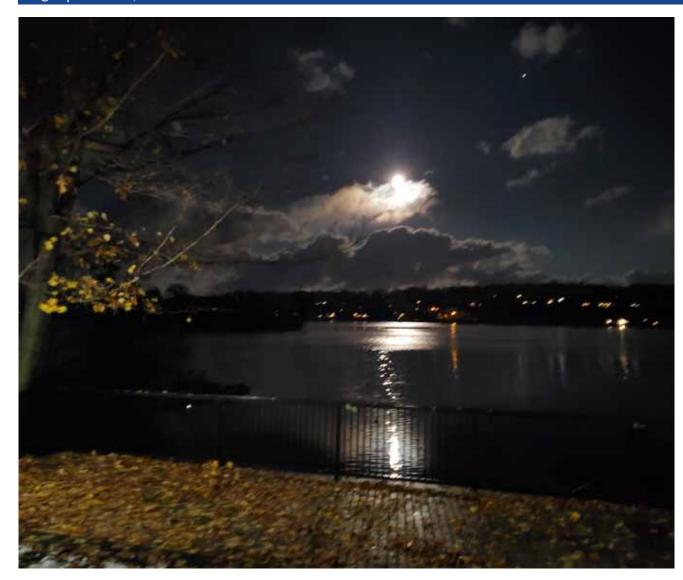
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Page 6 | November 7, 2020 The Highland Lakes Newsette

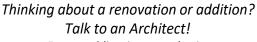


Thanks to Jennifer Ziegler for submitting this photo of the Blue Moon on Halloween night.

# PROTECT OUR Lakes! STOP Aquatic Hitchhikers! REMOVE all visible mud, plants, fish or animals from your equipment. BEFORE transporting, eliminate water from equipment. CLEAN & DRY all equipment that came in contact with water, including pets. NEVER release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water. Highland Lakes is proud to partner with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, sponsored by the US Fish and Widdle Service, in the national effort to prevent and confirm the some of available nuisance species.

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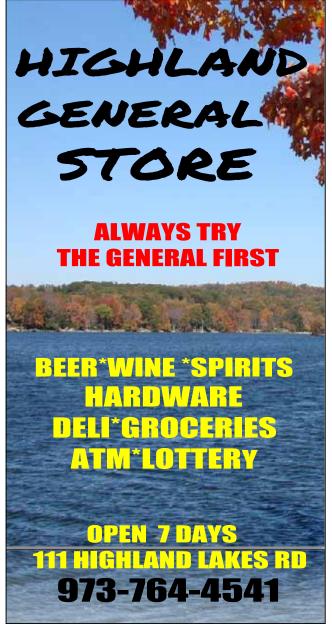
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#### Safety Alert

Many of our roads are winding. When walking and walking with your pets on our roads after dark, please be sure to use a flashlight and/or wear light or reflective clothing so that you can be readily seen by passing motorists.





The Highland Lakes Newsette November 7, 2020 | Page 7

#### **Classified Ads**

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7/17/21





#### **HL Senior Club News**

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLUB

How are you my friends? Here's hoping all of the Senior Club members and their families are will.

It's been at least 6 months since most of our senior members have been separated from each other, however, some of us have found a way to be in touch. It's always so positive and enjoyable to share time and activities—just like people doing "the wave". At sports events or concerts around the US people love joining in "the wave". Once person initiates the idea to those next to him and in good spirits they stand and raise their arms. Moments later the wave builds momentum and works its path in sequence through a stadium or arena. When it reaches the end, the folks who started it are smiling and cheering and try to keep it going.

I believe the wave was first recorded at a baseball game between the Oakland Athletics and the NY Yankees in 1981 and it continues. Everyone loves participating in the wave because it's fun! The happiness and togetherness we feel while doing it springs from hope-hope in positive experiences shared with others in the past, in the present and in the future.

Speaking of present and future, each of the Senior Club members does have hope in wanting and needing to speak with and share time with others. We are a positive group of caring and highly respectable residents of Highland Lakes. The Senior Club has been part of this community for 51 years, and we all have a dignified background. We were all raised by hard-working, living, moral and respectable families. That's how we live our lives and hope to promote respectability and hope to all HL younger generations. We are NOT old fogeys.

Our S/C will have the opportunity to join in a few activities in October, November and December. I was so glad to see 41 members enjoy our picnic in September. Most stayed almost 3 hours and caught up with each other while social distancing and enjoying individual sandwiches and drinks. There was our end-of-summer wine and cheese party held outdoors and the picnic grove. BYOB worked well and individually packaged snack bags of cheeses and crackers and fruit proved we can make adjustments and do things a little differently.

The S/C hosted the 2nd Annual Lantern Walk around Lake 1 concluding with a bonfire on the beach on Friday, October 9 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. We invited the families to join in a "neat idea" by bringing a lantern or a flashlight and walk in a cool autumn night around Beach 1. They brought their own beverages. Bags of chips and cookies were provided. Masks were necessary when coming up to

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the snack table. This was a free event and we saw as many families as last year.



Wednesday, October 16 was our Oktoberfest luncheon from 12 – 3 pm. We have it at The Lamp Post Inn. There were 24 members in attendance, well spaced apart, masks worn...our own safety bubble of careful people. There will also be a November luncheon at a restaurant on Wednesday, November 18 from 12 – 3 pm and our Annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 16 from 12 – 3 pm which will also be out at a restaurant. Again, flyers will be prepared and distributed to our members. Watch for it in your mailbox and in the November and December Newsettes for details.

We're also writing Christmas cards for our active duty military personnel. We've been doing this for four years, and we hope it helps our military friends feel they are remembered. Please see me for Christmas cards.

I'm so pleased to work alongside such a wonderful group of people. Each S/C President has had big shoes to fill from previous leaders. With hope in my heart, I'll do my best to see that our S/C continues as a caring and respectable HL group. Questions? Comments? Want to join us? I'd be happy to speak with you. Love ya, Joyce H. 845-544-3749.



Photos courtesy of Helen Carlson

Page 8 | November 7, 2020 The Highland Lakes Newsette

#### **HL Beginnings**





#### **Winter Newsette**

If you like having an actual hard copy of the Newsette on hand to keep you up to speed with news, events and future plans in our community, you can continue receiving the Newsette in the mail wherever you are during the colder months.

The Newsette can be mailed to you from October 2020 through May 2021 (there's no issue in January). The postage is \$4.55 for 7 issues (\$.65 per issue) and can be paid in cash or check. Please make all checks payable to Highland Lakes CC. If you have multiple winter addresses (e.g. you don't leave for Florida until December), be sure to include both addresses along with any other specific instructions. Don't miss this opportunity to have the news of Highland Lakes delivered to your door. Any questions call 973-764-4366.

One of the joys of living in a community such as Highland Lakes is the feeling of knowing that all volunteer work is necessary and appreciated.

Author Unknown

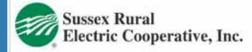
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#### Fall Yoga

ANITA JANKER

#### Gentle, Spiritual, De-stressing Yoga

Yoga returns to the Lake Room at the Clubhouse. Twice a week – Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 pm. Taught by Alice – beginners are welcome. Highland Lakes members and their guests only with badges.







Like us on Facebook highlandlakesnj and follow us on Instagram @hlccnj

### ROTARY OF



#### VERNON TOWNSHIP

#### FLY A FLAG WITH US!

Honor a hero this Veterans Day by Sponsoring a Heros Flag with the Vernon Rotary. We will proudly be displaying a Field of Flags at the Fire Department's pond on Route 515 right here in Vernon.

These large, USA-made flags are \$50 each and include a tribute or memorial plaque which hangs on your flagpole.

This stunning flag display will be flying from mid October through mid November. Be a part of if and contact us for a sponsorship.





TO SPONSOR A FLAG OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ROSEMARY POLLHEMUS 973-349-4172