



The Highland Lakes Newsette

A publication of Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association at Highland Lakes, New Jersey © 2023
“All the News That Fits We Print”



Volume 2023 | Issue Number 17 | November 4, 2023

Let Fallen Leaves Lie

BRENDA FLANAGAN, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Finding yourself knee-deep in leaves? The lovely woods that shade Highland Lakes all summer and display stunning colors in fall, started dropping loads of leaves a few weeks ago. For most folks, that means grabbing a rake, firing up the noisy blower — and then figuring out where to dump the leaves. But maybe it's time to cultivate (literally) a different mindset. Don't think of leaves as a disposal problem. Instead, consider them an organic gift of nature, that can benefit your entire yard!

“Why get rid of it?” asks Jason Tribiano. He's a master gardener, and the proud owner of a wooded lot that slopes down towards the Big Lake. And Tribiano's got big plans for falling leaves: multiple mulch piles. He's actually happy to accept his neighbors' leaves, too. “That was kind of my goal,” he explained. “I'll take all the leaves and as they decompose — two years later, you have the blackest dirt to plant with! You can just bring a bucket and dig up unbelievable compost and start planting!” As proof, Tribiano pointed to some young rhododendrons and other evergreen shrubs now thriving in his yard.

For smaller yards, mulch piles might seem an improbable solution — but Tribiano says you don't need acres to make this work. He advises, use a mulching mower to grind up some of the leaves to enrich your lawn. Layer some in your flower and garden beds. And, yes — you can build a scaled-down mulch pile. “You make a small area. You create an area — four by four, five by five. Just pile it up. It's called cold compost and basically, it's just piling up leaf and lawn debris from your property. Just pile it up and let it sit,” Tribiano explains. “You don't have to turn it.”

Tribiano also stacks fallen branches along the slope, weaving rough hedges that he backfills with leaves. Soil eventually develops, and the new terraces slow down rainwater runoff during big storms. Controlling nutrient-laden runoff's critical to keeping the lake clean.

Which brings up a critical item: please don't rake into the lake! Dumping your leaf pile in the lake turns the bottom into an oozy mess, and diminishes water quality. Leaves sink to the bottom, rot and feed the algae, Tribiano says. That's tantamount to consorting with the enemy. The Club had to treat a couple of HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms) this past summer. Nourishing algae with leaf litter just adds to the problem.

Finally, there's a new approach called, “leaving leaves” — taking a step back towards nature, and letting leaf litter cover the yard. Healthy forest ecosystems feature leaf litter filled with life. Moths and butterflies often overwinter in cocoons attached to leaves. Nightcrawlers feast on the detritus (and make terrific fishing bait.) Granted, that's a 180-degree pivot from the clean-lawn culture most folks know, and it simply won't work for everyone (especially



Jason Tribiano points out his mulch pile.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDA FLANAGAN



residents whose trees do leave them knee-deep every autumn.) Sometimes, rakers gotta rake. Sussex County does have a Vegetative Waste Facility where residents can drop off leaves, grass clippings and mulch — and they'll take two bags/barrels for free. Otherwise — it's \$45 per ton. (<https://www.scmua.org/cit-e-access/webpage.cfm?TID=121&TPID=11911#:~:text=The%20Vegetative%20Waste%20Facility%20consists,collection%20crews%20and%20commercial%20haulers>)

Tribiano also says, he might be willing to spread some of your leaves on his lot. (If you contact him first. He's on the Ecology Committee.) But — here's a thought. After you've wrangled and mulched most of this autumn's leaf crop — and that last scattering (usually from oaks) finally flutters down to lightly carpet your lawn? Try this: just leave them.



Upcoming Events

November 4 – Craft Fair and Book Sale
November 18 – Open Mic Night
November 25 – Breakfast with Santa
December 3 – Holiday Tree Lighting



Election Day

Don't forget to vote on November 7
Polls are open from 6 am to 8 pm

About Changes in Your Recorded Deed

In planning changes to your ownership of property that would be reflected in the Recorded Deed, contacting the Club Office before you do so for guidance is advisable and will eliminate any misunderstandings.

The Club's By-Laws, in part, define Active Members as those who own property in Highland Lakes. When persons take title to property in Highland Lakes when they do not own other Highland Lakes property at that time, even when they join in the ownership of property with someone who currently owns property in Highland Lakes, they automatically become an active member and are required to pay the Initiation Fee. If you are considering adding anyone to your Deed, a wife, parent, child, friend, etc., please be aware of these By-Law requirements.

Sometimes members form a living or family trust as part of their estate planning. However, even this type of trust is a different, and therefore new, owner of property, and the payment of the Initiation Fee is required.

Holiday Office Hours

The Club office will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 23, Friday, November 24 and Saturday, November 25. The office will reopen on Monday, November 27 at 9 am, 10 am for visitors.



The Highland Lakes Newsette
Highland Lakes Country Club
and Community Association
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Roe Hall, Administrative Assistant
Karen Vogel, Editor
Special Thanks to the
Communications Committee and
all our contributors
PO Box 578 - 2240 Lakeside Drive West
Highland Lakes, New Jersey 07422
973-764-4366 / Email: info@hlcc.org

Spotlight on Rules

Article V – Public Health & Safety

BURNING/OPEN FIRES – Fires which are controlled and contained within a fire ring, fire pit or similar structure or device intended for such use are permitted. Bonfires and certain other activities are subject to prior approval by the Vernon Township Dept. of Fire Prevention. If in doubt, check with the Dept. of Fire Prevention first and always have a fire extinguisher or charged water hose nearby. Violation of this rule shall be a Tier 3 offense.

Voting Board Roster

October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024

Officer	Name	E-Mail
President	Ray Zimmerman	president@hlcc.org
First Vice President	Lisa Entwistle	firstvp@hlcc.org
Second Vice President	Patty Thompson	secondvp@hlcc.org
Treasurer	Lou Iannucci	hltreasurer@hlcc.org
Secretary	Jennifer Ziegler	secretary@hlcc.org
Section	Trustee	E-Mail
1	Sue Buruchian	trustee1@hlcc.org
2	Lyle Timpson	trustee2@hlcc.org
3	Heidi Fuhrmann	trustee3@hlcc.org
4	Joe Sweeney	trustee4@hlcc.org
5	Julia Campbell	trustee5@hlcc.org
6	Melissa Hardin	trustee6@hlcc.org
7	Stuart Blank	trustee7@hlcc.org
8	Joan Danaher	trustee8@hlcc.org
9	Thomas Castiglione	trustee9@hlcc.org
10	Madeline Hollingsworth	trustee10@hlcc.org
11	Eric Card	trustee11@hlcc.org
12	Robert Reffelt	trustee12@hlcc.org

Upcoming Meetings

Buildings and Grounds – Tuesday, November 7 – 7 pm
Clubhouse Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time
Communications Committee – Saturday, November 11 - 10 am
Ecology Committee – Wednesday, November 22 – 8 pm
Fish Committee – Thursday, November 16 – 7 pm
Planning Committee - No meeting scheduled at this time
Road Committee – Thursday, December 7 – 7 pm
Rules and By-Laws – No meeting scheduled at this time
Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, November 8 – 7:30 pm
Voting Board Meeting – Friday, November 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.



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November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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Adult Ceramics

BELINDA NORTON

Winter Break

If you’re thinking about creating a ceramic piece for someone special for Christmas, your last chance will be Monday, December 18. Then we are taking a break for the rest of December and January. We will resume the first Monday in February. Have a safe winter, and we will see you soon.

Breakfast With Santa

RAY ZIMMERMAN

Saturday, November 25 – 9 am to 11:30 am

Santa will be here on Saturday, November 25, to have breakfast with all the good little boys and girls. So after the big turkey day and a day of rest, come down to the Clubhouse and spend it with Santa and his elves. Come dressed in your holiday attire for a chance to sit on Santa’s lap and have a photo taken. If you need some company, feel free to bring your favorite stuffed toy to say hi to Santa too. We will also have supplies for kids to write letters to Santa, so don’t forget the list! Tickets are \$10 for adults and children over 10, \$6 for children ages 3-10, and children under 3 years are free.

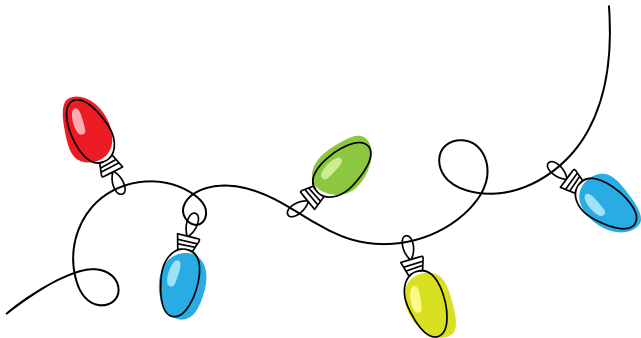


Holiday Tree Lighting

ROE HALL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/EVENTS COORDINATOR

Our Annual Holiday Tree Lighting will be on Sunday, December 3 at 4 pm. Christmas carols will flood the Clubhouse as holiday revelers get in the spirit for the upcoming festivities. Our very own Chastity Cortijo will be taking family pictures to frame in the crafty holiday frame

available to assemble. We ask that all families bring cookies to share and hot cocoa will be available to keep you warm and toasty. Hope to see you there for the countdown of our tree lighting. Come in your holiday best, bring your cookies, your badge and your holiday spirit!





PHOTOS COURTESY OF DORI ZARR

Out and About Around Town

DORI ZARR

An impromptu art challenge was held at the Art Cart Studio on Saturday, October 21. Participants unveiled their art, gave a brief talk about its creation and how it fit the Haunted theme. One woman displayed her “The Spider & the Fly,” then 3 artists presented a humorous reading of the poem by Mary Hardwick in 1847. Kerry Tobin, Pixie Pop, played the Fly. Corey Hardin was the scary spider; Dori Zarr was the narrator. Later Melissa showed us her frightening painting inspired by Alfred Hitchcock. She told how horror was captured in the face shown on canvas. We also learned about her children’s classes and the importance of the color wheel. A scary night was had by all.





HIGHLAND LAKES COUNTRY CLUB

CRAFT FAIR

November 4



NOVEMBER 4

10 AM - 3 PM

www.hlcc.org

HLCC Clubhouse

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In Memoriam

Samantha Cullari, 42 of Monroe, CT passed away on Thursday, October 26, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. Born in Warwick, NY, she was the beloved mother of Charlotte and daughter of Edward R. and Donna J. (Ricci) Cullari. Samantha was raised in Highland Lakes, NJ and also lived in Michigan before coming to Connecticut in 2006.

She will be missed by her husband, Thomas VanGorden, her brother Edward Cullari, and her sister and family, Claudia, Mark, Jake and Matthew Dargento; as well as cherished family members and friends.

Samantha loved being a mom more than anything, she cherished her nightly readings with Charlotte. Sam loved to jump and bounce through gymnastics with Charlotte, coloring time and endless reruns of Moana. She was an enthusiastic New York Rangers and New England Patriots fan. Her position as District Field Manager at Starbucks, Jo-Ann Fabric, Finish Line and Apple, were places she took pride in and her time there brought with it a community of friends she treasured and many she mentored throughout her journey. Samantha loved snowboarding, long days on the boat, concerts at the casinos and vacations with family and friends.

Relatives and friends were received on October 30 followed by a burial on October 31 at Glendale Cemetery in Bloomfield. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Samantha may be made to a memorial fund to benefit Charlotte at <https://gofund.me/cf1ccc66> or to Connecticut Hospice (www.hospice.com), whose angels watched over her and the family.



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BOOK FAIR

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OCTOBER 28, 10 AM - 3 PM
Beneath the
HLCC Clubhouse Deck
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Saturday, November 4, 2023
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

DON'T MISS OUT!
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF NANCY GRIMALDI

45th Annual Frank Henninger Memorial Jogathon

NANCY GRIMALDI

August 26

It was another spectacular sunny day for our annual Highland Lakes jogathon! We had 37 people running, jogging, walking, or riding bikes, along with three of our four-legged friends. Participating were many of our regulars as well as quite a few newcomers who already said they will be back again next year!

This year, our fastest runner was 14-year old Derek Fleming, the youngest to ever cross the finish line first since the jogathon began in 1978. Congratulations to Derek who ran the almost 4 and a half miles around our Big Lake in just 31 minutes, and also to his mom, Christine Fleming, who clocked in just minutes after her son at 35:00. Christine has consistently been our fastest female runner! Close behind, coming in third at 38 minutes were George Schreiner and Craig Bernier, along with Craig's dog, Asher, who Craig said sprinted for the entire first mile and then kept up a quick pace with only a few pit stops along the way.

Driving the courtesy car was my sister, Laurie, who drove around the lake providing water to thirsty people and pets and also giving a ride back to one very young little girl and her mom. And for the first time in a few years, our mom, Dorothy Henninger, who used to drive the Courtesy Car years ago, was able to attend and enjoy watching the start and greeting everyone when they finished. No one could believe she is 90 years young!

We are truly blessed in our HL Community to have such wonderful people to come out and enjoy an event like this, to just have fun and enjoy being together. There are no prizes or T-shirts, just water, Joggers Juice (OJ), and some Munchkins, but lots of good will and camaraderie! Thanks to all who joined this year, and we are so looking forward to our 46th next year when we hope for an even bigger crowd! Remember, even though it's called a jogathon, you do not have to run or even jog - bring your kids, friends, neighbors, and have a good time strolling around our beautiful lake together!



Fall Cleanup Dampened by Rains

BILL BEARDSLEY, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

October 7

Although the day brought heavy rains, ten hardy Highland Lakers showed up at the Clubhouse to volunteer for our Fall Cleanup Day. Four manned the tables at the Clubhouse signing up volunteers and distributing gloves and safety vests supplied by the Vernon DPW. The other six set out in the rain to collect trash found on the roads of Highland Lakes. Six full bags were collected and later picked up by the DPW. Kudos to the Highland Lakes volunteers who refused to let the 2023 Fall Cleanup Day be a rainout. Let's hope for better weather next year.



Next Newsette: December 2, 2023


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 info@hlcc.org. Sorry – we can only print photographs submitted as .jpg files with a minimum of 150 dpi. Thanks!

Valley Laundry



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6AM - 11 PM

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Pickleball Time Change

KATHI TAYLOR

November brings so many wonderful experiences. The end of leaf peeping, holiday anticipation, Thanksgiving, and unfortunately, less daylight. Less daylight means we need to adjust our pickleball times. Starting Monday, November 6, our schedule will be:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 2 - 4 pm

Fridays: 10 am - 12 pm

For those players who used to come after work, we will miss you during the winter months but want to remind you to come if you have a day off.

Also, in case you feel a mental health day coming on, pickleball is a wonderful way to relieve stress! It has been amazing to see new people come out to play and we encourage others to give it a try. We try to play all winter as long as the courts are clear. Remember to wear your badge. Kathi Taylor 973-303-2689.



Senior Club News

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLUB

Hello, my friends! This time of year brings to mind part of a children's poem:

Down, down yellow & brown...The leaves are falling all over town...

Autumn is a lovely season. We all enjoy taking in the splash of colors painted on the hills surrounding our community. So beautiful. It reminds us our calendar is winding down and soon our thoughts turn to gatherings of family and friends.

Here's a brief recap of Senior autumn activities: the Lantern Walk: had to be rescheduled for October 29 but it was still enjoyed by young and old alike as they sat around a campfire on Beach 1. Oktoberfest luncheon - excellent fare we shared at Warwick Country Club. Pumpkin Carving and Potluck Supper - always fun and open to our fellow Lakers.

Still yet to come - Our Annual Holiday Craft Fair on Nov. 4 - TODAY! 20+ crafters/vendors and the Goodwill Book Sale.

A very special luncheon to celebrate the life of our dear past S/C president, Joy Logan. She called on me to continue her work with the seniors of our community.

November 14 brings our mid-month luncheon and plans for our Christmas dinner/dance with a favorite DJ on December 12 from 6 - 9 pm.

We'd love to have you join us in the HLCC Senior Club. Chat with any of us, we're over 70 members strong, or give me a call for more info - 845-544-3749.

Happy Fall y'all! Love ya, Joyce.



Photo taken Monday, October 16 at approximately 5:15 pm, when during yoga class at the Clubhouse a glorious rainbow did appear.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDRE STOLTE

HIGHLAND LAKES
Country Club and Community Association

TALENT WANTED!

Live FROM THE Seckler Stage

Open Mic NIGHT

NOVEMBER 18
7 PM
SECKLER ROOM

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FUEL PRICES

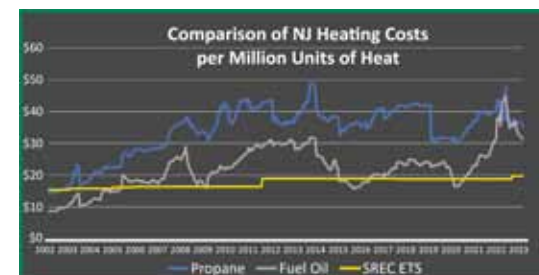


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Ladies Sunfish Recap

SUE BURUCHIAN, SECRETARY

Emmaline Stoddard bested the HL Ladies Sunfish Fleet winning the 2023 season with 7 points. She swept the season with her two drops! Second Place - Nancy Grimaldi (15 pts), Third Place - Maryjane Kresic (19pts) and Fourth - Ellen Wisolmerski (19pts) dueled race by race for those finishes. Kerry Bednarik – “Most Improved” & Fifth Place who made huge strides this season and really loves heavy air! Patty Thompson, Christine Alber, Jessica Castiglione, Janet Zatta, Carol Hastie “Most Dedicated” and Amy Campbell all followed in the standings and came to join us when they could. We had 11 boats sail this season and would love more ladies to try next year. Sailing is a life sport which affords our HL Ladies a day out on the water for themselves in a competitive fleet. Please contact me if interested in the 2024 HL Ladies Fleet season at sue.buruchian@gmail.com. We'd love to teach you the ropes!



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUE BURUCHIAN



More angles of the fabulous double rainbow that appeared on October 16.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE GILLOOLEY



Important Notice: Make Your Selection

The 2024 dues and assessment invoices have been mailed. The invoice includes an operating assessment and reserve assessment. An article explaining the changes can be found in the October 2023 Newsette.

You now have three ways to pay, including two monthly payment plan options, making it even more convenient for members to manage their finances. You can pay in full or subscribe to a 6-month or 12-month payment plan.

ALL Members MUST SELECT which payment option they prefer by checking the box on the invoice stub included with your mailing and returning it to the Club Office. Your payment plan selection and first payment must be received by November 15th whether you are paying in person, by mail or online.

Failure to submit a payment plan selection form by November 15, 2023, will result in your account being charged the full annual assessment requiring payment in full with interest accruing at a rate of 1.5% per month (18% APR) for any unpaid balance.

If you owe any amount in arrears, you must pay your prior balance in full or contact the Club Office to discuss an installment plan.

If you previously enrolled in auto-pay, please be sure to login to the portal and confirm your debit or credit card information is correct and your auto-pay selections are still valid.



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSEPH GASTON

HIGHLAND LAKES
Clubhouse

Christmas Carols
Family Photos
Crafts & Cookies

**Holiday Tree
LIGHTING**

DECEMBER 3
4:00 PM
CLUBHOUSE

www.hlcc.org MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS ONLY
BADGES REQUIRED

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Winterizing

Now is the time to plan and act on things we only remember when the cold north wind is blowing.

Windows often provide the biggest impact especially if you have single pane glass. Quality double glazed; low E windows properly installed can reduce heating costs by about 8%. Doors should be tight and weather-stripped.

If you have a floor exposed to the outside or crawl-space, insulate the floor. Be sure to caulk or use low expansion foam anywhere you see daylight. Paint to reduce the effect of weather. If you are losing too much heat through the roof, consider spray foam insulation.

Have your heating system serviced and cleaned every year. If you are considering replacing the heating system, evaluate a direct-vent unit; they are much more efficient and usually don't require a chimney. ETS units are very cost-effective. Multi-zone units (heat pumps) for air conditioning and supplemental heat are being used more frequently; they are cost effective and don't require ducting. Also, clean fireplace flues. Insulate pipes and eliminate any drafts. If you have problems with buried pipes, try installing rigid insulation under the ground surface and over the pipe.

Clear branches from overhead lines. Clean gutters.

Jim Schriener, AIA, Licensed Architect
(973) 764-5817

1110 Lakeside Drive East
No cost or obligation consultation meeting

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Witches Paddle Braves the Rain

DORI ZARR

October 29

A coven of witches arrived on foot, on broom, in kayak and on paddle board. The possessed came in black haunting the Highland Lakes beach well before the moon had even risen. The enchanted group set up a fire to cauldron boil and bake toe of frog, eye of newt, animal skulls, tonics and scale of dragon as a stew soup with special herbs for conjuring up magic spells. Rumor has it, they'll be around again next year. Beware.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DORI ZARR, LISA ENTWISTLE AND ROE HALL

Vernon Township Housing Market Report - September 2023

"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	\$171,007	28	97%
2	\$278,075	41	102%
3	\$341,670	51	101%
4	\$476,300	52	98%
5+	\$605,000	68	100%
TOWN	\$324,245	46	100%

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carlyebers.re@gmail.com
Licensed in NJ & NY

862-268-2808 cell
973-657-9222 main office



Carly Ebers

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Highland Lakes Specialist

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 5/24

ELECTRIC: Free estimates, insured and bonded. Serving HLCC since 1986 license and permit #8521. Brian Boeren 973-670-4175. 7/6/24

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. 11/23

CHIMNEY MAN - GEORGE EDMONDSON MASONRY: Stone chimney builders, repairs, cracks, walls, stairs, block floors, deck excavation, etc. Waterproofing and sealer. Thirty-two years in business in Highland Lakes. Fully insured. Call 973-764-1359. 5/25/24





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Trunk or Treat

ANDREA COTTRELL, COORDINATOR

October 28
Trunk or Treat 2023 was a howling success! Hundreds of ghouls came out to get treats (and some tricks). Best Trunk prizes were given to the top 3 cars and fun was had by all. This was the biggest turn out yet!!! Happy Halloween and looking forward to seeing everyone in 2024!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DORI ZARR, JOHN MCNALLY AND CHASTITY CORTIJO

Under 5 Halloween Gang





PLAY TIME & CRAFTS

STORY TIME & SNACKS

Playgroup
UNDER 5

 **TUESDAYS**
 **9:30 AM**
 **CLUBHOUSE**

www.hlcc.org MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS ONLY
BADGES REQUIRED



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHASTITY CORTIJO

