



# The Highland Lakes Newsette

A publication of Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association at Highland Lakes, New Jersey © 2024  
"All the News That Fits We Print"



Volume 2024 | Issue Number 1 | February 3, 2024

## From the President's Desk

RAY ZIMMERMAN, PRESIDENT

Exciting news! As you may have heard, a dedicated group has been working with members, committees, and multiple voting boards to assess our community's Clubhouse infrastructure needs. The goal was to investigate what improvements we can and should make. All agree that our Clubhouse is our second most important asset, preceded only by our lakes - and it's time for needed upgrades. Our last major Clubhouse improvements were completed over 25 years ago. The Clubhouse houses meetings, parties, dances, crafts, activities, fundraisers, and more throughout the year, and our members make new memories every day at these events. The Clubhouse is showing the wear and tear of its frequent use.

I am thrilled to announce that the planning and evaluation work has come to fruition in what we have dubbed "Clubhouse 2025: Needed Changes for Generations to Come." This plan includes much-needed improvements and additional upgrades that will benefit our members directly. The following fact sheet is an overview of our plan. It is the culmination of years of effort and input from members, special groups of HLCC committees, and architectural consultants who reviewed our existing facilities.

At its most recent meeting, your Board of Trustees discussed the initial plan. It approved the most important step - to bring these conceptual plans to you, the members, for review and input throughout the spring and a community vote on the project this summer.

Our lake community is known far and wide for being the best. The best scientists in the country guide our lake management program, other communities envy our financial approach and admire our varied sports and activities, and our swim team and sailing programs are known for providing the best invitationals and regattas in their categories. Your Board of Trustees believes that you, our members, are why Highland Lakes is "The Best" and deserve an upgraded Clubhouse. It is time to take care of our Clubhouse - our home.

Town Hall-style meetings and presentations to various groups and committees will begin in March. We will show the revised detailed drawings and plans throughout the spring, with a community vote held this summer.

I want to express my most sincere thanks to all who have offered valued input, suggestions, and advice and encourage anyone with questions to reach out to me or any board member for more information. Please be sure to keep an eye out for upcoming Clubhouse 2025 Presentation dates in all HLCC media outlets.

Respectfully,  
Ray Zimmerman

SEE TALKING POINTS ON PAGE 4

## Governing Documents, the Bedrock of our Community, Changed with NJ Law

SUE ROSS, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The By-Laws of the Club constitute a legal document, first ratified in 1962, which sets forth how the organization (our community) is governed. If you have not yet familiarized yourself with our By-Laws, you are encouraged to do so, as this document specifies so much about the structure of our community, from its very name to its purpose, how it will be governed and funded, what membership looks like, how rules and regulations can be created, and more. Just look at these headings:

- Article I – Name
- Article II – Purposes and Objectives
- Article III – Membership
- Article IV – Annual Meeting
- Article V – Officers and Trustees
- Article VI – Club Funds
- Article VII – Duties of Officers and Trustees
- Article VIII – Membership Cards and Badges
- Article IX – Meetings
- Article X – Conveyance of Property
- Article XI – Amendment to By-Laws
- Article XII – Elections
- Article XIII – Boats, Vehicles and Mechanical Devices
- Article XIV – Committees
- Article XV – Property Covenants
- Article XVI – Rules and Regulations
- Article XVII – Fiscal Year
- Article XVIII – Indemnification of Officers, Trustees, Employees and Agents

While By-Laws can be changed (and have been in our history) it has always taken quite a bit of effort to do so. This reality is intentional because our By-Laws are the very building blocks upon which our community stands. They can only be amended by a majority vote of the entire Voting Board and a two-thirds vote of active members voting at an Annual Meeting or Special Meeting. This voting requirement helps to ensure that the fundamental structure of our community is not changed on a whim. Arguably, it is one of the factors that has kept Highland Lakes stable and steady all of these years.

Rules and regulations, on the other hand, are conceived in an effort to guide membership behavior. First adopted in 1965, they can be created and changed by a two-thirds vote of the entire Voting Board. While the authority to adopt and amend rules or regulations lies solely with our Voting Board, members are encouraged to voice their opinions on matters of concern at Voting Board meetings (held on the third Friday of each month) and/or to share their views with their Section Trustee. While sharing our thoughts and concerns takes time and effort, it is essential to remember that, once passed, rules and regulations impact day-to-day life in Highland Lakes. We all are responsible for remaining engaged and involved as our community naturally evolves through the years.

If you attended the Annual Meeting this past August, you may remember the mention of PREDFDA, New Jersey's Planned Real Estate Development Full Disclosure Act. Originally, the law regulated condominiums and cooperatives as these new housing trends emerged in the 1970s. In recent years, New Jersey's legislature decided to expand the PREDFDA regulations to lakes and other associations which existed for decades without state regulation.

Amended in 2017, PREDFDA now governs our association (as well as all NJ homeowners associations), and its provisions have been incorporated into the Club's By-Laws. In June of 2023, modifications were made to the By-laws, without a vote from the membership, to bring them into compliance with PREDFDA. These changes signal the first time in our history that our By-Laws were changed without a membership vote. To fully appreciate the impact of the PREDFDA changes, you are encouraged to review a current copy of our By-Laws.

You can access our By-Laws and our Rules and Regulations through the Owner's Portal. A link to this Portal can be found at [www.hlcc.org](http://www.hlcc.org) at the top of the home page. Copies of these critically important documents can also be obtained at the Club Office.

## Upcoming Events

February 17 –  
Winter Carnival  
February 25 –  
Girl Scout Cookie Sale  
Drive Through



# Confused About Dues?

DAVID MARTIN, GENERAL MANAGER

As has been its practice for many years, the Club mailed the Treasurer’s Letter, Assessments and Fees Schedule, and Annual Assessment Invoice to all members in October. These three documents are considered required reading because they contain important information about Club finances, annual assessments, and fees payable by our members. More recently, account statements were mailed to all members as a reminder of any amounts due, including late fees, interest, and other charges and credits to their account.

Based on the volume of comments, emails, and phone calls received at the Club Office, some members didn’t read or fully understand the information provided. This article will clarify some changes to how assessments are billed and paid. Much of this is simply a restatement of the previously provided information, presented in such a way that will hopefully answer many of the commonly asked questions we received.

It might be helpful to begin by reviewing the Club’s payment terms and conditions and what appear to be some common misunderstandings among some of our members.

**Assessments** – In financial terms, dues, fees, fines, taxes, and other charges are all assessments. Merriam-Webster defines assessment as “an amount that a person is officially required to pay.”

**Due Date** – The date a charge is made to an account. All charges are due and payable on the due date. Payment must be received within 30 days to avoid late fees and interest. We urge everyone to not wait until the 29th day to drop a check in the mail. The office may not receive payments mailed at the end of the month in time, which will likely result in a late payment and a \$25 late payment charge.

**Dues** – Annual dues include two charges, an operating assessment and a reserve assessment. The operating assessment covers all the day-to-day annual operating expenses of the Club, while the reserve assessment represents a down payment on future major repairs and replacements as defined in the Club’s Reserve Study. For example, the 2024 cabin dues include an operating assessment of \$1,208.00 and a reserve assessment of \$202.00 (a total of \$1,410.00).

**Fiscal Year** – The Club’s fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30. Annual dues assessments are billed and payable on a fiscal year basis, not the calendar year.

**Late Fees and Interest** –A late fee of \$25.00 will

apply to all payments received more than 30 days after the due date. All assessments are interest-free (0% APR) as long as payments are received on time. If a member fails to pay any amount due for 60 days or more, interest will accrue monthly at a rate of 18% per year on the unpaid balance until the account balance is brought current.

**Net 30 Payment Terms** – Commonly referred to as a grace period. Net-30 refers to the 30-day period beginning on the due date and during which payments must be received at the Club office to avoid late fees and interest. For example, the monthly installment plan payments are due and payable on the 15th of each month, and payment must be received by the 15th of the following month to avoid late fees. Again, don’t wait until the last day to mail your payment, as doing so may result in a \$25 late payment charge if the payment is not received on time.

**Payment Plan Options** – Members must choose one of the following three options for paying annual dues.

- 1 - Pay in full by November 15 and receive a \$25 discount or,**
- 2 - Pay 6 equal monthly installments, due the 15th of each month,October to March, or,**
- 3 - Pay 12 equal monthly installments, due the 15th of each month,October to September.**

**Invoices** – Members will receive only one annual invoice for combined operating and reserve assessments (dues), which will be mailed in October. The return payment stub on the invoice includes a space to choose which payment plan the member prefers. Coupons for monthly payment plans are available upon request. Monthly invoices will not be mailed to those on a monthly payment plan. Invoices, statements, and notices may be mailed or emailed to members with an email address on file with the Club.

**Account Statements, Online Account History** - Account Statements may be mailed periodically to some or all members with amounts due (or past due) on their accounts. Statements include only charges and credits to the account as of the statement date and will clearly indicate the current amount due. On paper statements and online account histories, all charges to an account are shown as positive numbers, and all payments and credits are negative numbers, shown in parentheses. For example, (\$50.00).

**Late, Delinquent, and Collection Notices** - A Late Payment Reminder Notice may be sent when any payment is not received within 30 days of the due date. A late fee of \$25 will be included. A Delinquent Account

Notice may be sent when an amount remains unpaid for more than 60 days beyond the due date. Late fees and interest will be included. A Collection Referral Final Notice may be sent when an account is past due and delinquent for more than 90 days beyond the due date. When an account is referred to the Club’s attorney or collection agency, a \$250 account maintenance fee, and other collection costs will be charged to the account, in addition to any late fees and interest. Members are encouraged to make payment arrangements with the Club prior to collection referral. Once an account is referred to the collection attorney or agent, all communication must be between the member and the attorney or agent, not the Club.

Previously, members were permitted to pay any amount they wished, whenever they wished, provided that a certain amount was paid by the end of February and full payment was made prior to September 30. This is no longer the system, and although the payment plan requirement was stated five times in the annual mailing and covered in the October issue of the Newsette, a significant number of members failed to select a plan and submit payment by November 15. The new payment plans benefit the Club through more predictable cash flow while providing monthly payment options for those who prefer them.

The many comments, emails, and phone calls we’ve received about billing and payment changes have ranged from polite inquiries to, if I’m being completely honest, rude and abusive behavior toward staff. In a surprising number of instances, members admitted to not reading the billing and payment information mailed to everyone in October. They assumed nothing had changed. Some insisted they never received the information in the mail. In some cases, this was true; some members did not receive the mailing because they neglected to provide a change of address. The Club doesn’t send junk mail, nor can it know when a member’s contact information has changed.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve all the members of Highland Lakes. We do our best to communicate effectively and want to be recognized as professional and efficient service providers. Just as we have a responsibility to the needs of the membership, our members, too, have certain responsibilities to the Club. Please take care to read all correspondence from the Club and be sure to contact the Club office whenever you have questions or need clarification.

## Office Hours

The office is available to take your calls from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday and from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday. However, it is only open to members from 10 am to 3 pm, Monday to Friday and from 10 am to 1 pm on Saturday. Thank you.



## Upcoming Meetings

Buildings and Grounds – Tuesday, February 6 – 7 pm  
Clubhouse Committee – No meeting scheduled at this time  
Communications Committee – Saturday, February 10 – 10 am  
Ecology Committee – Wednesday, February 28 – 8 pm  
Fish Committee – Thursday, February 15 – 7 pm  
Planning Committee - No meeting scheduled at this time  
Road Committee – Thursday, March 7 – 7 pm  
Rules and By-Laws – No meeting scheduled at this time

Voting Board Workshop – Wednesday, February 7 – 7:30 pm  
Voting Board Meeting – Friday, February 16 - 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.





February 2024



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Adult Ceramics

BELINDA NORTON

Ceramics is back! Please join us every Monday night at 7 pm starting February 5 in the Seckler Room of the Clubhouse for some creative works of art.

The Highland Lakes Newsette

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and Community Association  
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Roe Hall, Administrative Assistant  
Carolyn Acker, Editor  
Special Thanks to the  
Communications Committee and  
all our contributors

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Teen Council  
Valentine's Party

JONAS HARDIN, RECORDING SECRETARY, TEEN COUNCIL

Members of the Highland Lakes Country Club, we at the Teen Council are pleased to announce our third annual Valentine's Day party this year at the HL Clubhouse. At this event, there will be games, crafts, snacks, beverages, and, most importantly, enough fun to share with the entire community with Pixie Pop the Clown painting faces and twisting her heartfelt balloons. The festivities will start on Sunday, February 11, from 11 am to 1 pm. We hope to see you all there and that you have a happy Valentine's Day. Please don't forget to bring your badges.



Presentation & Book  
Signing with Author,  
Denise Lawson

Ever wondered what  
it's like to mush your  
own dog team in the  
Alaskan wilderness?

Learn about sled dog  
life in Alaska

Meet real Alaskan  
Sled Dogs!

Buy a book & help  
rehome a retired  
sled dog!

FEBRUARY 17  
MEET THE AUTHOR & SLED DOGS

Black Bear Sled Dog Book Series (Life Lessons from a Sled Dog; Tails from the Bush; Run Like a Sled Dog and MORE...!)  
Entertaining, thoroughly 'kid friendly' in commentary and presentation, thoughtful and thought-provoking, "Life Lessons from a Sled Dog" is especially and unreservedly recommended for family, daycare center, preschool, elementary school, and community library picture book collections.

— Midwest Book Review, Children's Bookwatch

HIGHLAND LAKES  
WINTER FESTIVAL

February 17, 2024

1pm



Highland Lakes Country Club and Community Association  
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www.hlcc.org • [info@hlcc.org](mailto:info@hlcc.org)

## “Clubhouse 2025 - Needed Changes for Generations to Come”

### History

- 1958 – Original construction of clubhouse
- 1965 – Expansion of North Wing, Winter Room, Outside Deck
- 1997 – Lake Room Addition (former “Winter Room”)
- 1998 – New kitchen, windows, & siding
- 2019 – Air conditioning

### Why

- ✓ Our Clubhouse is our 2<sup>nd</sup> most important asset (our lakes are our 1<sup>st</sup> priority)
- ✓ We are growing! 1300 members in 1966 / 2000 current members!
- ✓ Fewer “summer only” members
- ✓ We are a full-service, year-round community
- ✓ Enrichment of clubhouse and activity experiences for all members
- ✓ Enhanced functionality for members, clubs, and groups
- ✓ Increased property value for all members

### What

#### Needed Upgrades

- \*Electrical System
- \*Front Porch, Stairs & Walkway
- \*Kitchen Expansion
- \*Lake Room Expansion
- \*Upgraded Handicapped Bathrooms w/ exterior access
- \*Upgraded Audio and Visual Systems Throughout
- \*Reconfiguration of Office Space

#### Additional Benefits

- ★ Lounge and Buffet Area
- ★ Landscaping
- ★ Deck Expansion w/Lake-Facing Access Doors
- ★ Fitness Room

Member informational presentations will begin in Spring 2024  
Membership approval vote in Summer 2024, target completion date of 2025

### How

	Current	After Project Completion
Operating Fund	<b>NO IMPACT TO OPERATING FUND OR DUES!</b>	
Operating Reserve	\$1M	\$1M
Reserve Fund (Long-term Asset Replacement Fund)	\$2.5M	\$2.5M
Capital Fund	\$4.2M	\$2.2M
Anticipated Cost	\$2M	

# **“Clubhouse 2025 - Needed Changes for Generations to Come”**

## **What are the Benefits to Members?**

### **Lounge/Buffer Area**

- Provides facilities for smaller gatherings and events.
- Provides working space for members.
- Provides smaller space for members and guests to “hang out” in a cozy and attractive setting.
- Provides a place for food to be served separately to allow for larger events held in lake room.
- Provides additional meeting place options.

### **Lake Room and Deck Expansion w/Lake-Facing Access Doors**

- Provides increased room for our growing full-time membership. Groups and clubs including Swim Team, Senior Club, Sailing, and events like the Appreciation Dinner, dances, and others have outgrown the current Lake Room.
- Upgrades the deck to be fully handicapped accessible – this will allow those with limited mobility ease of access.
- Provides greater use options for all members; tables/chairs on deck, space for relaxation, viewing swim meets, sailing, fishing derbies, and other on-lake activities.
- Provides increased overall useable space and will offer lake-facing doors to improve aesthetics, airflow, and ease of movement.

### **Fitness & Wellness Center**

- Provides a room for members who have limited income or difficulties getting to a gym in the valley.
- Provides close-convenient space for like-minded, health-conscious members to work out.
- Provides all members with the use of a fitness/wellness room with basic equipment.
- Provides space for health and wellness gatherings (Yoga, Workout classes, Presentations, etc.)

### **Handicapped Bathrooms w/Exterior Access**

- Provides the necessary updated facilities for all members.
- Provides members access to restrooms when the main clubhouse is closed.

### **Kitchen Extension**

- Provides needed additional counter and storage space.
- Provides additional space to allow ease of access for multiple groups holding activities at the same time.
- Provides additional cooking and food preparation space.
- Improves overall functionality and cleanliness.

### **Electrical System**

- Provides upgraded wiring, conduits, and receptacles to bring systems up to current safety codes and regulations.
- Provides the ability to plug in more than one cooking appliance used by Swim Team, Fishing Derbies, Family Day, Goodwill Fund Yard Sale, Breakfasts, Holiday Brunches, etc.
- Allows for updated equipment used for DJ's, bands, dances, presentations, and all membership A/V communication needs.

### **Upgraded Audio and Visual Systems**

- Increased and updated options for A/V presentations and usage throughout the Clubhouse.
- Increases A/V system ease of use and accessibility by members.

### **Front Porch, Stairs & Walkway**

- Provides safe stairs and railings that have needed repair for years.
- Provides walkway improvements and patio upgrades resulting in the beautification of the entryway and prime member access/usage areas.

### **Reconfiguration of Office Space**

- Relocates offices to allow for member access to prime lakefront space.
- Beautifies and provides space for guest entryway for members, visitors, and potential homebuyers.
- Maximizes configuration to allow for increased staff space and efficiency.





## Artist of the Month

CAROL CHAVE

### February 2024

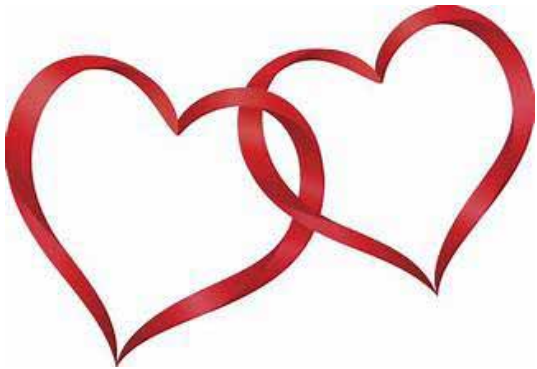
Carol Chave paints with wool on a large standing floor loom in a studio cabin attached to her Highland Lakes home. Although primarily abstract, her work is inspired by nature, world events, museum visits, and her life. She weaves tapestries, backs them with fabric, inserts a foam board, and they become fiber paintings, easily hung on the wall. (Studio visits can be arranged.) In the summer, you can find Carol and her work on weekends in the Woven Winds tent next to the co-op farm store on Route 94 (at the former Rickey farm). Prices are pay what works for you, and proceeds of all sales are donated to the International Rescue Committee for global refugee relief. Come for fresh bread, local organic meat, eggs, and cheese, and go home with a fiber painting! (#chave.carol; wovenwinds.com; chavec@gmail.com, 917-817-7060)



## 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



# HIGHLAND GENERAL STORE

**ALWAYS TRY THE GENERAL FIRST**

**BEER\*WINE\*SPIRITS  
HARDWARE  
DELI\*GROCERIES  
ATM\*LOTTERY**

**OPEN 7 DAYS**  
**111 HIGHLAND LAKES RD**  
**973-764-4541**

### Vernon Township Housing Market Report - December 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	\$183,129	16	100%
2	\$236,750	51	102%
3	\$380,750	63	96%
4	\$394,800	25	102%
5+	\$389,900	92	83%
TOWN	\$301,284	46	98%

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**Carly Ebers**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson  
Highland Lakes Specialist

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973-657-9222 main office

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Licensed in NJ & NY



## 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.

## Winter Pickleball

KATHI TAYLOR

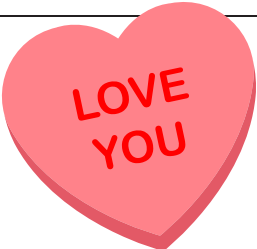
Winter in Highland Lakes traditionally brings many outdoor activities. Hiking, cross-country skiing, skating, downhill skiing, sledding, and ice fishing are all popular here at the Lake. But for our pickleball players, it's never too cold to play a few games. As long as the courts are clear of snow or rain, we play every Monday and Wednesday from 2-4 pm. Bundle up, wear your badge, and come out to get some exercise. Kathi Taylor 973-513-5472.

## Security & Compliance Activity Summary Report – May 2023 – December 2023

SEAN JARON, SECURITY MANAGER

Below is a summary of recent Security calls/incidents and Compliance Officer activity. We provide this information to keep you informed of the important work being performed on behalf of the community. Please get in touch with security@hlcc.org or call 973-764-4266 with any questions concerning Security or Compliance operations.

Calls/Incidents	Monthly	12/2023
Police Assist	4	23
Traffic Assist	3	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	11
Medical Response/Assists	8	87
Fire Response/Assist	1	26
Vandalism/Criminal Activity	0	2
Amenity Checks	356	2,883
Badge Violations (Members)	0	5
Trespassing	2	131
Parking Violations	0	21
Prohibited Vehicles	1	50
Dock/Rack Violations	1	10
Noise Complaints	3	24
Domestic/Disorderly	0	0
Animal Complaints	1	38
Property Violations	3	13
Rental Violations	1	17
Tree Removal Inspections	2	71
Tree Preservation	0	1
Staff and Volunteer Direction	0	2
Exterior Lighting	1	1
Road/Right away	1	1
Open Cases	4	19
ClosedCA Cases	3	5
Current Case Load	36	36
	433	3,485



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HIGHLAND LAKES

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Services for Seniors matches local teens with Seniors who need snow shoveling and wood stacking services. Seniors benefit from snow-free paths and driveways at budget-friendly fees, while local teens like **YOU** gain priceless work experience and a little extra cash in your pocket!

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All levels of talent and music genres are welcome.  
If you'd like to perform kindly arrive by 1:30pm.  
✦Email openmic@hlcc.org with any questions.✦

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# Classified Ads

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

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## Community Notice

**Safety First:**  
Stay vigilant for signs of unsafe ice, such as cracks, depressions, or color variations. If in doubt, don't go out! Visit <https://www.preventionworks-nj.org/news-and-events/safety-frozen-lake-or-pond> to learn more about Ice Safety. Share this with your neighbors!



Highland Lakes  
Country Club and Community Association



Hosted By  
Teen Council

**Kids VALENTINE PARTY**

**FEBRUARY 11 11 AM**

Join us for a Kids' Valentine's Party, hosted by our Teen Council! Get ready for a day filled with laughter and fun as Pixie Pop the Clown brings smiles and magic to the celebration. Enjoy snacks, crafts, games, and lots of love in our community.

[www.hlcc.org](http://www.hlcc.org) MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS BADGES REQUIRED

## Boat Dock Lottery is Back

MARK BURUCHIAN, CHAIRMAN, BOAT DOCK COMMITTEE

The HLCC Board recently approved the elimination of all permanently assigned dock spaces and the return to a lottery system. The Board determined that holding a lottery is the only fair and equitable process for allocating dock spaces. All members must now complete an application for each boat they wish to place at the docks with assigned spaces. The docks included in the Lottery are those with numbered spaces at Club Park, Comet Row, Beach 3, Beach 4, and the Freeway at Black Bear Path. Please note that all other Freeway docks and boat racks will remain on a first-come, first-served basis and are not included in the Lottery. The Board also approved the addition of at least 12 new spaces for pontoon boats only to accommodate this growing fleet of boats. Pontoon boats will no longer be allowed on any of the Freeway docks. Dock applications were sent to all members in January. Members must complete the application in its entirety for each boat they wish to maintain at any of these docks. Applications must be completed and returned to the Club Office by March 15, 2024. Please be on the lookout for the application and return it by the deadline. Additional applications will also be available at the office. Thank you.

## Get Creative for Art Show 2024

CHRISTINE ALBER

Art is not usually something that happens in a few minutes. Creating it can take days, weeks, or even months, no matter the medium. Painting, ceramics, sewing, and other mediums can take a long time to produce. Even a photograph may take time and effort to print, mat, and frame in your artistic style. So, although the Art Show won't take place until the summer, it's never too early to get creative! In addition to the annual categories and themes (including the best rendition of a tree), our special theme in 2024 is Fish of Highland Lakes. We look forward to seeing your art!



Audience of the College Funding night held in January.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK ECKHART



**FEBRUARY 25TH 10 AM - 3 PM**

Indulge your sweet tooth and support our local Girl Scouts Troop 9807H! Head to the Clubhouse parking lot for the annual Girl Scout Cookie Sale. Snag some delectable treats that are not only delicious but also help fund incredible adventures and leadership experiences for these young scouts.

[www.hlcc.org](http://www.hlcc.org)



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Black Cherry Tree with Fruit

# Native Trees

MIKE O'NEILL, CHAIR, ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Trees are a prominent feature here in Highland Lakes. They are everywhere you look, adding beauty to our neighborhoods. In addition to their appearance, they help clean our air, protect our waterways, provide habitat for our wildlife, and provide much-needed shade in the summer. However, not all trees are created equal; native trees are superior to non-natives, especially those non-natives that are invasive. Native trees have evolved to grow in a particular area to thrive in their local environment, needing less care while providing food and shelter to local wildlife and insects.

Native trees have a better chance of survival than non-natives because they have adapted to the environments where they naturally grow. They can handle the cold winters and hot summers of their native climate. They are also accustomed to the soil conditions in their native region. If the surrounding soil is healthy, they will have access to all the nutrients they need and, therefore, won't need special fertilizers to "fix" the soil. Once established, native trees require less water because they can withstand the weather conditions where they naturally grow. In fact, some native trees prefer specific conditions of the local environment, which can be more or less watery.

Native trees and shrubs have natural limits that help keep their growth in check. They won't take over an area through unrestricted growth. Insects, birds, and small mammals depend on the shelter and food sources that native trees provide. For example, the native black cherry tree can support 448 different species of moths and butterflies. Compare that to a Japanese cherry tree that only supports a handful of birds who eat the fruit.

There are many benefits to adding a native tree to your yard. If you find yourself in a situation where you would like to add a tree or if you must remove one, consider planting



Black Cherry Tree with Flowers

a native tree. You have many choices as there are over 125 trees that are native to Sussex County. To learn more about native trees and plants, refer to this online resource: The Native Plant Society of New Jersey at <https://npsnj.org/>. If you want more personalized assistance, this site refers to Glenwild Garden Center & Nursery in Bloomingdale and Kuperus Farmside Gardens in Sussex, specialists in native trees and plants. Highland Lakes "At the Lake" guide has a section on native plants and trees and can be accessed through the Owners Portal.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 27. This year's Earth Day Celebration will have a focus on Native Trees. Stay tuned for details.

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**DEADLINE APPROACHING!**

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You can access exclusive scholarships available through your Co-op. We offer \$2,000.00 scholarships for both college and trade school, plus awards for work to benefit the community!

Apply by **Friday, Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>!**

**[sussexrec.com/scholarships](http://sussexrec.com/scholarships)**







**HIGHLAND LAKES**  
Country Club and Community Center

# DON'T EAT THAT EAT THIS!

Discussion led by  
Andree Stolte

**MARCH 12TH | 7 PM**

Discover the path to healthier eating! Join us at the Clubhouse for an engaging discussion on making positive changes in your diet, understanding the impact of food on your body, and exploring new food sources. Let's eat better together and embrace a healthier lifestyle!

[www.hlcc.org](http://www.hlcc.org) MEMBERS & THEIR GUESTS [nlking@hlcc.org](mailto:nlking@hlcc.org)

Don't Eat That...Eat This!

ANDREE STOLTE

My name is Andree Stolte, and I've lived in Highland Lakes since April 2020. I have taken numerous courses with and have been treated by Dr. Vassant Lad of the Ayurvedic Institute. (see The Doctor from India) I have been treated by Dr. Yeshe Dhondun (the Dalai Lama's doctor from 1961-1980). The Tibetan medicine system incorporates food elimination as part of the treatment. By eliminating three types of (inflammatory) foods, I was able to heal my chronic bronchitis. I've studied healing foods, yoga, and meditation at Integral Yoga Institute in NYC, essential oils and plants with Floracopeia, and taken countless herb walks, many Hudson Valley farm workshops, and farm tours. And I've done ongoing research.

Learn how various food ingredients affect your body, appetite, and mood. Recognize when you buy for health and nutrition or because the "As Seen On TV" meme has you captive.

Let's explore new food sources. We are becoming a less and less healthy society, mainly because of what we eat. It doesn't have to be that way. Let's eat better together. Let's do this.

Please join me at the Clubhouse for a discussion on health through better eating and grocery shopping choices. You will be given ways to eat healthier and helpful sites and resources to assist in better eating. I hope to meet you on **Tuesday, March 12, at 7 pm.**

The Goodwill Community Outreach Fund Continues to Grow

NANCY EISENBERG, CHAIR, GOODWILL FUND COMMITTEE

Since December's announcement, The Goodwill Community Outreach Fund (GCOF) Board has been busy assessing the community's needs and planning spring activities. More exciting news to announce: Neighbors Helping Neighbors will be under the umbrella of the GCOF in March 2024. Neighbors Helping Neighbors was established in 2021 to assist seniors with simple home tasks, trips to local appointments, or local shopping. We hope to expand this service.

We are so proud of the volunteers who have supported our activities and fundraising over the years. We look forward to working with you as we embark on our next chapter.

Our KICKOFF Event will be a Food Drive on Saturday, March 23, 2024. This Food Drive will help your neighbors! Further details will be in the March issue of the Newsette.

The Goodwill Community Outreach Fund (GCOF) is a 501C3 nonprofit, which will allow us flexibility in serving the community. This fund will assist community members with short-term emergencies and provide educational and advocacy support and community outreach.



# FOOD DRIVE

**SATURDAY MARCH 23**

*Fill* A BAG  
*Feed* A FAMILY

**DROP OFF: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**  
**DISTRIBUTION: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

HIGHLAND LAKES CLUB HOUSE  
2240 LAKESIDE DRIVE WEST

With love and unity for our community.



More Information: 973-358-2854 | [GCOF323@gmail.com](mailto:GCOF323@gmail.com)



Next Newsette:  
March 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](mailto:info@hlcc.org). Sorry – we can only print photographs submitted as .jpg files with a minimum of 150 dpi. Thanks!





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## Just For Fun

February 1	National Freedom Day
February 2	World Wetlands Day
February 2	Groundhog Day
February 6	National Chopsticks Day
February 9	National Pizza Day
February 11	Super Bowl Sunday
February 14	Singles Awareness Day
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 17	Random Acts of Kindness Day
February 18	National Drink Wine Day
February 18	World Whale Day
February 19	Presidents' Day
February 22	National Margarita Day
February 22	National Wildlife Day
February 20	World Day of Social Justice
February 24	National Taco Day
February 26	Tell a Joke Day
February 27	National Polar Bear Day
February 29	Leap Day (Leap Year Only)
February	Black History Month
February	National Cherry Month
February	National Bird-Feeding Month
February	National Library Lover's Month



## Movement Workshop

CAROL CHAVE

Start your week on Mondays at 10 am by joining the Movement Workshop at the Clubhouse. We will begin each session with a series of stretches for a gentle warm-up and then explore movement inspired by pictures, nature, floor patterns, and music. Come find your inner dancer. Wear clothing you can move easily in.

I've taught movement/dance and quilting classes at the Club in the past.

I'm a trained Martha Graham dancer. I recently completed a workshop with a colleague, Naomi Goldberg Haas, who started and runs Dances for a Variable Population in senior centers in New York City, so I am also certified to teach movement classes to older adults.

The Movement Workshop will run from Monday, March 4 through June 10 (no class Memorial Day), from 10 to 11:30 am. Leave feeling limber and refreshed. All are welcome.

## Senior Club News

JOYCE HEALY, PRESIDENT, SENIOR CLUB

Hello, my friends, fellow "Lakers". Here's hoping for a great 2024 for all of you.

I found these words written by Anne Cetas (2023) about community on oddb.org:

In the southern Bahamas lies a small piece of land called Ragged Island. In the 19th century it had an active salt industry, but due to the decline of that, many folks emigrated to nearby islands. In 2016, when fewer than 80 people lived there, with varying ways of thinking, the people all met for fellowship in one place. A sense of community was vital to them. They knew they needed each other. They met for meals and cared for other's needs. All the people were one in heart & mind.

Community is essential for our growth and support. Don't try to go it alone. You may have good ideas that can be shared. Share your joys and struggles with others and be active in our community.

Here are two Senior Club activities coming up:  
**Wednesday, February 14**, yes, Valentine's Day, is a luncheon at noon in the Lake Room. We've been having a very good turnout since our Gala, and I'm hopeful it will continue. Please call me to sign up for February 14.

**Wednesday, March 13**, join us at noon on for the St. Patrick's Day luncheon!

We welcome all newcomers. Annual Senior Club dues are \$15. I'm beginning my search for guest speakers. Hope to see you on Valentine's Day!

Love ya, Joyce H., 845-544-3749.  
**Update:** Our annual Craft Fair and Book Sale on November 4 was a huge success thanks to the nearly 30 crafters/vendors, our wonderful volunteers, and the HL Women's Aux. who co-hosted this event. Proceeds of \$1,015 were donated to the Goodwill Fund.



## MOVEMENT WORKSHOP

 MONDAYS - MARCH 4 - JUNE 10

 10:00 AM

 CLUBHOUSE

[WWW.HLCC.ORG](http://WWW.HLCC.ORG)

**COMING SOON**







# Winter scenes past and present throughout Highland Lakes sent in by members



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAIGE RADOVANOVIC



PHOTO COURTESY OF EILEEN OFFER



PHOTO COURTESY OF CODY WILLIAMS



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHASTITY CORTIJO

## Spotlight on Rules

### No Parking on Snow Covered Roads

Ahead of predicted snowfall be sure to NOT PARK in the ROADS so that the plows will have clear access.

## Volunteers Needed

LAUREN LA ROCCA, CLUBHOUSE DIRECTOR

The Winter Carnival is just a couple weeks away. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there with your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. However, I need volunteers to help decorate on February 16 at 10 am along with needing help on February 17 from 10:30 am until 4 pm. I would greatly appreciate it if you could help even for a short while. Please get in touch with me at [activitycenter@hlcc.org](mailto:activitycenter@hlcc.org) to learn more about how you can help with this event. Let's all work together to make this a fabulous, fun-filled event for our community as it has been in the past years. Thank you.

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We'll pair you up with a neighborhood teen who's ready to shovel your walkway and driveway during the snowy season at a budget-friendly cost.

**YOUTHFUL HEARTS. WARMING HANDS: SNOW REMOVAL FOR SENIORS!**

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IN NEED OF  
SERVICES**

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When making a request, it's important to include your location, the required services and your preferred method of contact.



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