

# Atlantic Highlands BEACON

Published by the Borough of Atlantic Highlands



## Mayor's Message

## Hard Work Paying Dividends for Taxpayers

Your Mayor and Council are extremely proud to have put in place a 2007 budget that does not add to your property tax-burden.

As a matter of fact, the combination of reining in municipal expenditures, the reformulation of Atlantic Highlands' regional school obligation, greater use of harbor revenue to offset taxes, increased grant money and numerous home improvement has produced a reduction in the property tax rate... meaning a reduction in taxes for most homeowners.

It is a small cut but nonetheless it is a cut, something that taxpayers rarely see.

To put it simply, the borough will be collecting taxes on each piece of property at a rate of \$2.149 per \$100 of assessed evaluation, a reduction from \$2.157. This means that someone with a \$500,000 home will pay \$37.24 less than last year.

The leading factors producing this drop in taxes are:

- ★ Increased municipal revenues other than property taxes such as \$1.1 million from the municipal harbor.
- ★ Very small increases in the budgets for the borough, the elementary school and Monmouth County.
- ★ Higher revenue from new construction and improvements.

of taxes to support the Henry Hudson Regional School, produced by fewer Atlantic Highlands students as opposed to Highlands and increased property values in our neighboring borough.

Although inflation-produced expenses continue to increase, the administration has been able to tighten its budget by reducing most requests for increased

spending. Despite that, we will undertake needed

### MAYOR PETER E. DONOGHUE

water-sewer and road improvement programs, replace three aging police cars, maintain full borough services and increase municipal salaries a average of 4 per cent.

This is the fourth straight year local purpose taxes have either shown very little or no tax increases. Last year's municipal budget produced a tax rate the same as the previous year, which showed a very small increase overall.

The 2007 budget represents hard work on behalf of the borough staff, headed by Administrator Adam Hubeny, and the bi-partisan efforts of the Council's Finance Committee.

Copies of the 2007 budget have been published in area newspapers and copies are available at Borough Hall.

★ A reduction by \$162,303 in our share

★★★★★

## Atlantic Highlands Beacon

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## ***If your home is in the path of a hurricane or even a tropical storm or nor'easter – which can be just as damaging – would you be prepared?***

Severe storms usually do not strike our region, but some have come close. Since record keeping began in 1886, the only hurricane to make direct landfall in New Jersey occurred on September 16, 1903 and it sustained winds were only 3 miles per hour more than the 74 mph minimum to be classified as a hurricane.

Historically most hurricanes have veered away from New Jersey. The state is surrounded by deep water that is below 80 degrees Fahrenheit which limits the intensity of a hurricane, it has a westerly air stream which tends to push approaching hurricanes out to sea and its 123-mile coastline is aligned on a north-south axis which makes it less vulnerable to north-easterly hurricanes.

If your home is in the path of a hurricane, or even a tropical storm or nor'easter which can be just as damaging, would you be prepared? Here are some storm preparation tips to keep you and your family safe:

### **PREPARATION TIPS:**

- Check batteries for radios and flashlights
- Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts
- Secure outdoor lawn furniture, toys, garbage cans, umbrellas and anything else that could become a projectile
- Check supplies of special medicines and drugs
- Learn the location of official shelters (Henry Hudson Regional School)
- Learn safe routes inland



- Learn storm surge history and elevation of your area
- Trim back dead wood from trees
- Stock up on canned goods
- Know where you will go if you have to evacuate and plan your evacuation route
- Find out your community's hurricane preparedness plan
- Have disaster supplies on hand in the event of a storm, or if you have to evacuate, make sure that all family members know how to respond after a storm
- Teach family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water
- Teach children how and when to call 911 and which radio station to tune to for emergency information
- Protect glass windows and doors
- Develop an emergency communication plan
- Take pictures of your home and proper-

ty to create an inventory of what you have

### **EMERGENCY KIT:**

- ✓ Flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ Portable battery-operated radio
- ✓ Water (one gallon per person per day)
- ✓ Generator (outdoor use only)
- ✓ Small cooler
- ✓ Candles
- ✓ Matches
- ✓ Names, addresses and phone numbers of relatives, friends and other important contacts

### **IMPORTANT PAPERS AND VALUABLES:**

- Birth certificates
- Diplomas
- Marriage certificate
- Social Security cards
- Passports
- Immunization records
- Bank account and credit card numbers
- Photos and video of your home and valuables
- Vehicle titles
- Military service papers
- Wills
- Insurance policies including vehicle and homeowners
- Deeds, stocks, bonds and titles
- Irreplaceable photographs
- Computer back up of important electronic data

## **E-Updates**

In our efforts to better serve our residents, we have added a new feature to the Borough website called E-Updates.

E-Updates is a fully automated email messaging service which allows the Borough to send emails that contain important information and news, directly to your in box.

To participate in E-Updates you must go to [www.ahnj.com](http://www.ahnj.com) and register yourself. Only you can sign yourself up because it is automated. After you complete your registration form you will receive an email with a confirmation code. You must complete the registration processing by clicking on

the URL web address contained in the registration email.

When you sign up you will have the opportunity to choose to receive emails regarding the following interests, choose as many or as few as you like:

- Council Information
- Election Information
- Recreation Information
- Concert Information
- Emergency Information

Your email is kept strictly confidential and is never shared with any third party. It is only used to send mailings, that you request to receive, directly from the Borough website.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

or call

1-800-621-FEMA (3362)

#### **New Jersey Office of Emergency Management**

[www.state.nj.us/njoem](http://www.state.nj.us/njoem)

#### **New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance**

[www.state.nj.us/dobi](http://www.state.nj.us/dobi)

or call

1-800-446-7467

#### **Borough of Atlantic Highlands**

[www.ahnj.com](http://www.ahnj.com)

Police Department 732-291-1212

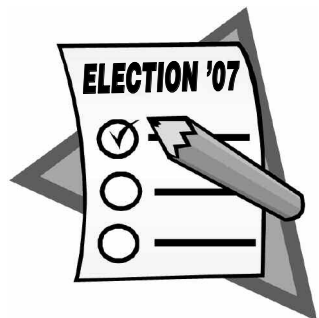
*Clip 'n Save*

### FOOD SAFETY DURING A DISASTER

**Keep the fridge closed.** When power is lost, avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer. When doors remain closed, food temperatures will remain within safe ranges for 4 hours if refrigerated and 48 hours if frozen. Any perishable foods that are not kept at 40 degrees Fahrenheit should be discarded.

- **Cook or boil.** As always, all food should be cooked to proper temperatures to avoid potential food-borne illnesses.
- **Wash with clean water.** If an item requires washing before eating, make sure that the water used to wash it is not contaminated prior to use.
- **Use prepared formulas.** For infants, efforts should be made to avoid preparing formula unless bottled water is available or you are certain the water supply is not contaminated. Your best bet is to use prepared, ready-to-use formula.
- **Stick to waterproof containers.** If flooding has occurred, discard foods that are not in waterproof containers.
- **Undamaged, commercially canned foods** can be salvaged, but labels should be removed and the outside of the cans carefully disinfected prior to use. Remember to re-label cans with a description of the contents and expiration dates.
- **If in doubt, throw it out.** If containers with twist tops or snap lids (even bottled or canned sodas) have been exposed to contaminated waters, discard them immediately. There is no assurance that they can be adequately disinfected to allow use.
- **Avoid wood or plastics.** Porous items such as wood cutting boards and plastic utensils exposed to flood waters should be discarded. There is no way to ensure that these items can be adequately disinfected prior to use.

## November 6th is Election Day



**V**oter registration Deadline is October 16, 2007 – 21 days prior to election day.

To register in New Jersey you must be:

- ✓ a United States citizen, at least 18 years old by the next election;
- ✓ a resident of the county for 30 days before the election.

### How to Register:

Mail or deliver the Voter Registration Application to the County Commissioner of Registration or Superintendent of Elections.

### Where to Register:

Applications for registration can be obtained from the Division of Elections, the Commissioners of Registration office, or from your Municipal Clerk. Registration forms are also available at Division of Motor Vehicle offices.

### Voting Options:

**Vote in person** at your designated polling place.

**Vote using an Absentee Ballot** [In New Jersey, you do not need a reason].

A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by completing an Absentee Ballot Application and mailing the application to their County Clerk up to 7 days prior to the election. A voter may also apply in person to the County Clerk until 3:00 p.m., the day before the election.

Now there is “no excuse” not to vote!

**Where to Vote:** Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

**Districts 1 and 4** vote at the Senior Center in the Municipal Harbor.

**Districts 2 and 3** vote at the Fireman's Field House on the corner of Avenue C and W. Washington Ave.

### Borough Candidates:

#### Mayoral:

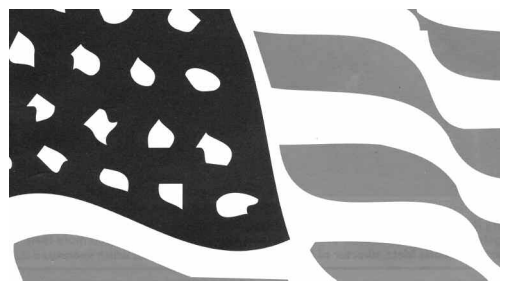
- Peter E. Donoghue (D) – Incumbent
- Frederick J. Rast III (R)

#### Borough Council:

- Louis Fligor (R) – Incumbent
- Jacob Hoffman (R)
- Susan Caffrey (D)
- William Eaton (D)



## HAVE YOU HEARD?



**T**he Monmouth County Board of Elections is now actively seeking District Election Board Members. There is an increasing need for people to work at the various election districts in your town and surrounding communities for the General, Primary and School or Municipal Elections. If you are a registered voter and would like to earn extra money, as well as participate in the Election process, we would like to hear from you. The present compensation for working an election is \$200. For further information concerning signing up for classes, please contact The Monmouth County Board of Elections at 431-7802 weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and ask for MARLENE.

Training class will again be held mid October. 2007.





# Borough to Create New Facility for In-Line Skating and Skate Boarding...

In-Line skating and skate boarding have become such a popular passtime for many children and young adults that providing a safe environment for this sport would fill a great need for the Borough.

Skaters currently use local streets for skate boarding and in-line skating. This has been a major concern for the Mayor and Council, local Police, residents and parents because such activities on local streets may cause automobile and pedestrian accidents.

It has been the Borough's intention to provide a safe haven, recreational facility to prevent these accidents for many years, but has always been faced with the obstacles of where to put the facility and the cost of constructing and operating it.

The Mayor, Council and Harbor Commission have

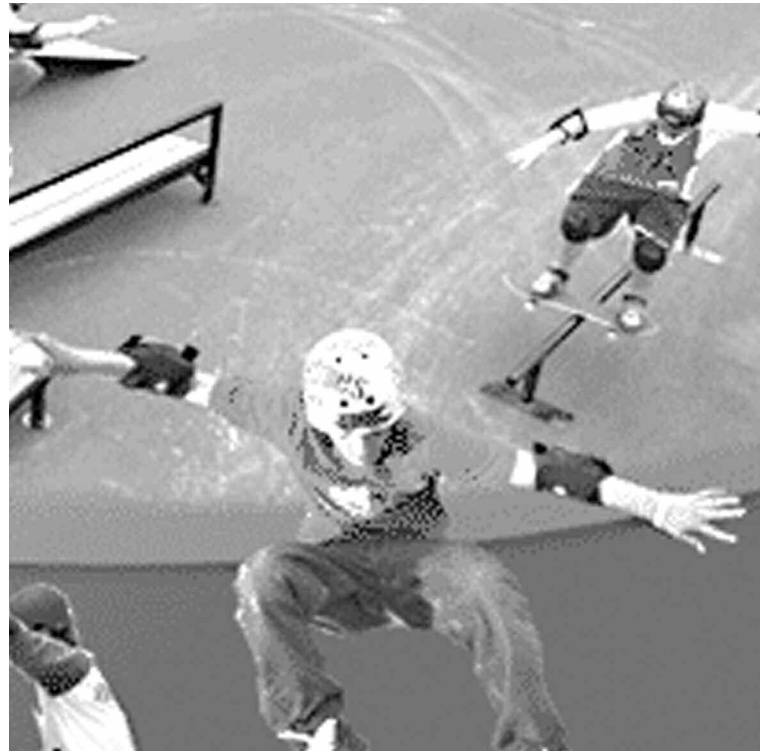
agreed to continue developing the Municipal Harbor by providing a modern skate park in a safe environment.

The proposed skate park would be an addition to the existing Harbor facilities, which include basketball, tennis and a park. This location has easy access from First Avenue, but would not be easily accessed by those desiring to use the facility, but would not be a disturbance to the peaceful nature of Atlantic Highlands.

The proposed park design not only provides the amenities associated with the skating facility, it includes improvements to the existing landscaping as well as the street aesthetics by providing additional landscaping.

The Borough has pursued a number of State and County funded grant programs in order to provide more recre-

***This location has easy access from First Avenue, would be easily accessed by those desiring to use the facility, but would not be a disturbance to the peaceful nature of Atlantic Highlands.***



***The proposed new skate board park at Municipal Harbor will provide a safe haven for enthusiasts.***

ational areas and improve the quality of its existing facilities. The Monmouth County Open Space Grant Program has awarded the Borough a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the completion of this project.

Associated costs to maintain this type of facility should be similar, if not less than the costs associated with the existing playground.

★★★★★



## 2007 BRUSH PICK UP SCHEDULE

The Borough will only be picking up brush during these times. Please make sure that all brush is put at the curb, ready for pick up on the day for your zone. **Brush may not be put out more than 5 days prior to your zone's scheduled pick-up.** If you miss your scheduled ZONE pick-up, residents may bring brush to the borough yard for disposal (NO GRASS CLIPPINGS) or you may wait until the next brush cycle.

**BRUSH MAY NOT BE LEFT AT CURBSIDE IN BETWEEN SCHEDULED PICK-UPS.**

### FALL LEAF PICK UP

Leaves will be picked up in the fall after the brush has been picked up. **DO NOT put leaves out at this time.** A notice for leaf pick up will be sent at the appropriate time. Please **do not mix** leaves with brush. Brush that is intermingled with leaves will not be taken.

### NO OTHER PICK-UP WILL BE SCHEDULED

And if you miss any of the dates, you will have to wait until the next scheduled pick-up.

ZONE	Pick Up #3 Date
5	September 3
4	September 10
3	September 17
2	September 24
1	October 1

## ...and Soccer Fields



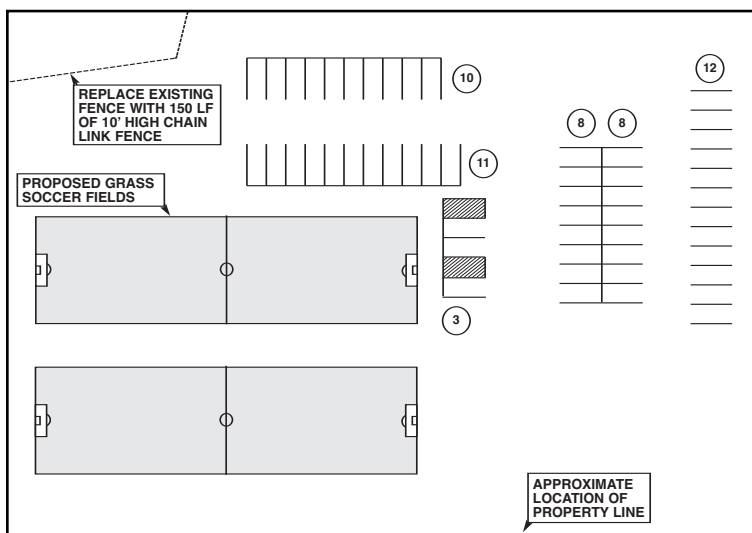
Along with the Skate Board Park, the Borough will be enhancing the park on Center Avenue by installing youth sized soccer fields.

The Borough would relocate the existing T-Ball field and gravel parking lot and construct youth-size soccer fields and a new parking facility on the eastern portion of the 730-acre site. Multiple field configurations were conceptualized, however, the optimum arrangement would possibly consist of two 50'x 180' grassed soccer fields which would run parallel to Center Avenue. The associated gravel parking area would accommodate 52 vehicles with three handicapped accessible spaces.

The funds to build the soccer fields came available to the Borough after an amendment to a Settlement Agreement between the Borough of Atlantic Highlands, Conifer Realty LLC, the Township of Middletown and the Middletown Township Planning Board, was authorized by the Mayor and Council. They created a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund where the money deposited shall be used

**After the soccer field, the Borough of Atlantic Highlands may acquire, preserve and improve other lands for parks, recreation, open space and conservation.**

specifically and solely for the development of the soccer fields at the Center Avenue Park. After completion of the soccer field, the Borough of Atlantic Highlands may utilize any and all unencumbered balances to acquire, preserve and improve other lands for parks, recreation, open space and conservation.



**A rendering of the proposed improvements to the Center Avenue park, which will include two new youth soccer fields and expanded parking for 52 vehicles, including three handicapped spaces.**



## Great New Spots For Hikers

Take a walk to see three new bright spots created by volunteers – the lifeblood of environmental projects in town:

- As from 1892, **Hilton Station** was a stop on the railroad that ran from the steamboat pier at the foot of First Avenue along the bay to Highlands and beyond. Summer people going to Camp Hilton tents disembarked there, between today's 22 and 26 Bayside Drive. Long overgrown and inaccessible, the hilltop and 36 concrete steps at this historic site have now been cleared by Eagle Scout candidate **Ted Callis and friends**. Another project is needed to enclose a downhill drainage channel that crosses the rest of the path to the bay edge, providing an entry point to the proposed Bayshore Trail.
- The 2.4 acre **Campo Overlook** section of Lenape Woods East is now open for hikers, because of a project by Eagle Scout candidate **John Archibald and friends**. They blazed, bordered and mulched new trails circling the Overlook and connecting with existing ones, installed trail signs and fencing, and filled in illegal bike ramps that had been dug there. At an opening ceremony, a ribbon was cut by **Mayor Pete Donoghue**, scout **Archibald**, and the previous landowner **Maria Campo**, who helped preserve this high woodland plateau with views in three directions.
- The **Native Plant Garden** at the entry to Lenape Woods on East Highland Avenue is thriving. Created by **Shirley Carhart and Bill Thorne with help from other Environmental Commission volunteers**, it features shrubs and perennials that are indigenous and acclimatized to our area and therefore need no extra watering, fertilizer or pesticides. Check out the labels to identify species you may want to plant in your yard.







# LIBRARY NEWS



## SUMMER READING PROGRAM CONCLUDES

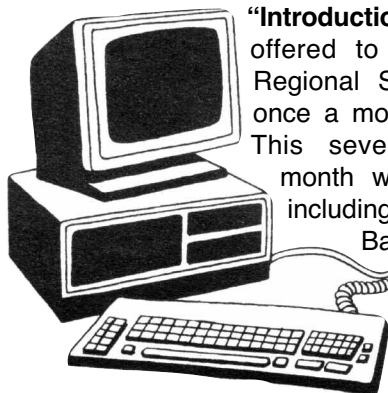
"Get a Clue"

@ **Your Library** – this summer's reading program – officially ended on August 11, when all the Super Sleuths and Daring

Detectives turned in their log sheets, summing up all the reading they had done. The kickoff began on June 14 in Veteran's Park when children (and adults) were amazed and entertained with Steven Woyce's "**The Magic Mystery Show.**" A wide array of programs, including Frisbee Dogs, Sign Language, Origami, Snakes, Safety (with Officer Phil), and a zany, upbeat musical exercise program with Mr. Scott, continued throughout the summer.

Over 30 of the readers logged in an amazing 1,500 minutes or more and were treated to a Pizza Party on August 23. The grand total for all readers who participated was nearly 100,000 minutes. **Picarillo Sciencetelling** was on hand to dazzle the honorees with storytelling done with scientific experiments. Amazing **Benji Wason**, who read a total of 7,767 minutes, was the top reader. **Patrick Lynch** logged in 6,367 minutes and the **Adams brothers, Ronny and Bobby**, were not far behind with 5,700 each. Other "Top Ten" readers included **Olivia Ward, Jacque Plummer, Hannah Mika, Jordan Holaday, Devin DeStefano, and Jessica Egnatovich.** The grand total for all readers who participated was nearly 100,000 minutes. Congratulations to all of our wonderful readers for a job well done!

## FREE INTRODUCTORY ADULT COMPUTER CLASSES



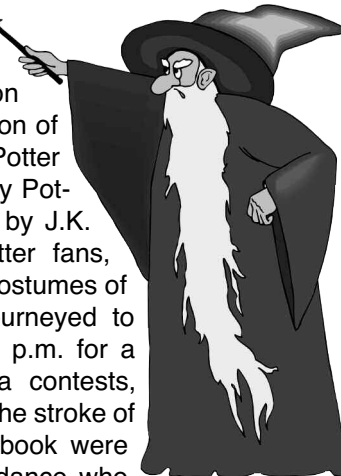
"Introduction to Computers" is being offered to adults at Henry Hudson Regional School Technology Center, once a month, beginning October 17. This seven-session program each month will cover a different topic, including Basic Computer Operation, Basic Word, Internet Searching, e-mail, Basic Excel and Webpage Design.

**There is no charge for the program but enrollment is limited to the first**

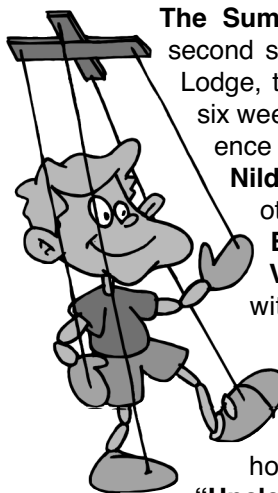
**25 who sign up.** Register at the Atlantic Highlands Public Library, Highlands Community Center or call Henry Hudson Regional School: 732-872-0900.

## MAGICAL HARRY POTTER NIGHT

Witches, wizards, and muggles gathered at the Atlantic Highlands Library on Friday, July 20, for a celebration of the final chapter of the Harry Potter saga with the release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" by J.K. Rowling. Over 40 Harry Potter fans, ages 6–60 – many wearing costumes of their favorite character – journeyed to Hogwarts at the library at 11 p.m. for a magical event featuring trivia contests, games, and fortune telling. At the stroke of midnight, copies of the new book were handed out to those in attendance who had reserved books on the library's request list. Also, **Xena Kammers** was the excited and surprised winner of a drawing in which she received a copy of the book. Organizers and planners of the thrilling event were **Danielle Weber-Soares** and **Xena Kammers.** In addition, **Faye Sacco, Rebecca Kammers, Gabby Soares, and Brittany Lovely** helped before and during the event.



## SUMMER MINI-CAMP A SUCCESS



The Summer Mini-Camp just completed its second successful year. Held at the Masonic Lodge, the program offered over 20 children six weeks of instruction and fun, three in science and three in art. Spearheaded by **Nilda Lynch** and run by her and four other women (**Ronny Adams, Mary Bane, and Rachel Ben, and Susan Vosburgh**) the program, a major hit with the children, offered inventive, hands-on projects on topics like "The Physics of Sound" to "Puppet-Making" (followed by a trip to see Aladdin, at the Paper Moon Playhouse). Heading up each session,

"**Uncle John**" **Krieg** entertained the group, entrancing them with his magic tricks. As part of the classes, several guests offered special expertise in three subjects that were very popular: **Sergeant Tom Stone** intrigued the children on the topic of "Crime Science;" **Mark Sweeney**, gave a fascinating presentation about Fire Science, and **Dan Wilensky** educated the children about music, using his saxophone to instruct. Thanks to all, including the **Masons from the Lodge** who made this program so successful!

## Celebrate Our Waterfront and Woods Annual Green Space "Weekend"

### 2007 Many Mind Creek Estuary Day



Instruction by kayak east, Columbia NJ,  
[www.kayakeast.com](http://www.kayakeast.com)

**WHEN :** Saturday, Sept. 22, 2007 from 11:00 AM - 4:00PM

**WHERE :** Beach at the end of Avenue A, Atlantic Highlands

Experience your waterfront and be a part of National Estuaries Day!  
Activities: Shell, wetlands and estuary talks, beach clean-up, sewing, kids activities, refreshments and limited kayak instruction.

#### Beginner Kayaking

Young and beginner kayakers will be able to learn in our excellent bay setting to help build confidence and skill.

#### Kayak Eco-Tours

A great way to discover kayaking.....kayak east is providing guide/instructor for the short eco-tours along our coastline!

Signed release form required by prior to instruction/tour.  
Sign up early to guarantee a spot and get release forms by contacting  
**Stephanie Ladiana at:**  
[sjl@comcast.net](mailto:sjl@comcast.net) or (732) 872-7041

Hosted by: Atlantic Highlands Environmental Commission  
Atlantic Highlands Harbor Commission and  
Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club

### Fall 2007 Lenape Woods Nature Preserve Work Day

**WHEN :** Sunday, Sept. 23, 2007 from 1:00 PM - 4:00PM

**WHERE :** Lenape Woods Nature Preserve entrance at E. Highland Ave off Ocean Boulevard

#### **Come Enjoy a Day Outdoors!**

Experience Atlantic Highland's Lenape Woods Nature Preserve and be a part of helping keep our beautiful open spaces clean and maintained.

What better way to GIVE BACK to YOUR community?



Sponsored by the Atlantic Highlands Environmental Commission

**BRING** your gloves, sturdy shoes, shovels and lots of energy!

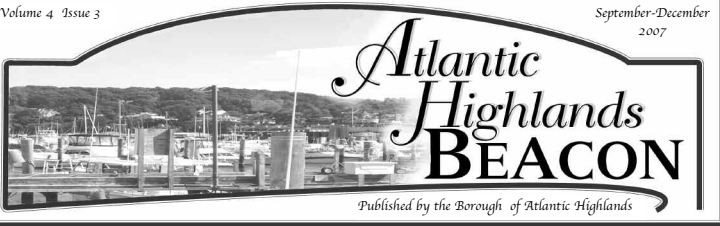
#### **Projects for the Day Include:**

**Installing Trail Signs  
Bridge re-stabilization  
Mulching Campo Overlook and more!**

### Lenape Woods Nature Preserve **NEEDS YOU!**

If you use the trails, need service hours for school or scouts; have you ever considered volunteering your time to help maintain them?

**CONTACT** Doreen Silakowski at [wsilakowski@comcast.net](mailto:wsilakowski@comcast.net) or  
Ken Kociela at [kkociela@msn.com](mailto:kkociela@msn.com)



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**THE ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS HALLOWEEN PARADE**

SPONSORED BY



THE ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS RECREATION COMMITTEE

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH - 1:45 P.M.**



MEET AT THE A.H. HARBOR GAZEBO



**ENTERTAINMENT, REFRESHMENTS & PRIZES!**



**START PLANNING THOSE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES NOW!**

**Atlantic Highlands  
 Beacon**

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