

# Atlantic Highlands BEACON

Published by the Borough of Atlantic Highlands

## Mayor's Message Frederick J. Rast

### Dear Residents:

Well Folks, fall is almost over and soon, the cold breath of winter will be upon us. The trees are beautiful at this time of the year, but they make a mess! Fall deserts us with piles of leaves all around our streets. Our Street Department works to keep them at a reasonable level and our storm drains clear from the foliage.

Also with the beautiful colors at this time of year, come new dangers to our children and elderly citizens. Downed leaves piled high at our curbs, create an inviting place for small children to play. Please be very cautious when driving near any piles of leaves, children could be playing in them. A couple of weeks ago, one of my wife's co-workers avoided a near tragedy with kids hiding in a large pile of leaves he had at the edge of his driveway. Had he pulled into his driveway at a greater angle, he would have run over the small children, that he never saw hiding in the leaf pile. Fallen leaves also create a very slippery surface. If it rains and especially if the temperature drops overnight, leaves are as slippery as ice. Seniors please be careful and parents please tell your children of the extreme danger of playing in piles of leaves on the side of roadways.

This year we again plan to have ice-skating back in our harbor during the cold months. There will also be some minor alterations to the surface of the parking lot. These alterations will be included in a road-resurfacing project already going on in town, so the additional cost will be minuscule. Further, this location will not be subject to the vandalism we experienced last year.

The Borough is feeling the results as our National economy continues to slip. More local businesses are failing and we now have more open commercial spaces on First Avenue than in years past. We can help combat the effects this economy is having on our retail businesses by buying locally! Town people need to spend their money in town and the local merchants need to develop bargains to entice local people to patronize Atlantic Highlands businesses.

In an effort to entice merchants to take over their vacant space, I encourage landlords to keep their rents as low as possible.

The most egregious situation I see in our attempts to stay in business, personally as a small business owner, is the fact that the utility companies and government costs keep going up far above our income. The electric company, as an example has

increased its billing rate by 300% in the last 4 years. That means if you spent \$1,000.00 per week 4 years ago, now you are spending \$3,000.00 per week or if you bought an ice cream sundae for \$4.50 four years ago today you would buy it for \$13.50. This is a disgrace! We cannot go on like this. It must stop and be put in reverse! In this economy, stores and businesses can't survive without dropping their prices, even to levels of 5 or 10 years ago. Why should Utility companies be allowed to continue to bleed the life out of our people and our businesses? I vow to start a campaign to reverse the process. I will be calling upon other Mayors and Government officials to try to change this pattern in New Jersey.

As a Mayor, I am going to ask for an analysis, perhaps with the help of Senior Citizen Volunteers, to take a close look at what the town is being charged for the services it provides. Possibly, we can reduce some costs that would be transferred to the home and business owners here in town. The Borough needs to evaluate some of the ways its billing for service is done as well. One example is the water/sewer charges. Currently if you are one gallon over a threshold your bill jumps to the next unit of billing. For illustrative purposes only, if a resident or business uses 1,000 gallons of water in a quarter they are in billing "X". If they use 1,001 gallons they jump to the next billing level "Y". They pay the same amount of money at 1,001 gallons as they do for 2,000 gallons. I feel that there should be a percentage rate based on exact water consumption only.

Finally, as we celebrate the holidays and prepare to enter into the New Year, let me take a moment to wish you and your families' good health, and happiness for the remainder of 2009 and throughout 2010.

God Bless You All,

*Fred Rast*  
Mayor

## Atlantic Highlands Beacon

### Mayor's Message:

Page 1

### Borough News:

Is your job as rewarding as helping a neighbor .....	2
Volunteers wanted .....	2
Holiday tree sale .....	2
Planning for FilmOneFest is underway .....	3
Happy Holidays .....	3
Safety tips for those using the trails .....	3
Art Council presents: Winter Spring .....	4
Holiday service notes .....	4
Shade Tree Happenings 2009 .....	4
Dear Veterans and Residents .....	5
The library has a new home .....	6
Recreation Schedule 2010 .....	7
Seniors .....	7
Photographs needed .....	7
Winter weather is coming .....	8
Dog License Renewal .....	8

# Is your job as rewarding as helping a neighbor?

## How about saving a life?

As a volunteer of the award-winning Atlantic Highlands First Aid & Safety Squad you can do all of that and more.

The AHFAS is looking to add to its membership roster for 2010 - a roster which in the past year has been identified as the best in the state of New Jersey and in 2009 was named EMS Magazine's Gold Award winner.

"We're doing well, but we can do even better," said AHFAS chief Richard Huff. "We are actively seeking Atlantic Highlands residents to join the one of the most dynamic volunteer organizations in the country."

The Atlantic Highlands First Aid & Safe-

ty Squad is now in its 80th year of providing free, around-the-clock emergency medical and rescue services to the residents of Atlantic Highlands and occasionally the surrounding areas. The organization handles emergencies large and small, on land, water, and ice. The organization maintains a marine unit to respond to calls in the harbor. There's also a cadet group for younger members.

No experience is necessary. Training is provided for free. The requirements are manageable. We ask that members be borough residents, 18 or older, and once aboard respond to a minimum of 10% of the annual calls, or roughly one a week.

"We are particularly in need of residents who are available during the daytime hours to respond to calls," Huff said.

"Being a member of the AHFAS is a great way for people to be part of the fabric of our community, and help each other."

The AHFAS responds to about 500 calls a year in a borough of 4,700 people.

For information about the squad, call our non-emergency number at:

(732) 291 8118, log onto our website [www.ahfirstaid.org](http://www.ahfirstaid.org) or e-mail Richard Huff at [chief@ahfirstaid.org](mailto:chief@ahfirstaid.org)

"Being a member of the Atlantic Highlands First Aid Squad offers personal satisfaction very few jobs can match," Huff said. "There is nothing better than helping friends and neighbors in a time of need. Become a member now; it's a gift to yourself and the community."

## Volunteers WANTED

Each year the Borough goes through what is called Reorganization. It happens annually on January 1st at Borough Hall and it is the time when the elected officials take their oaths of office, as well as appointments to many professional and volunteer community positions are made.

I am seeking individuals who would be willing to dedicate their service and time to essential community organizations like the Recreation Commission, the Shade Tree Commission, or the Environmental Commission. Maybe you would be interested in serving on a more serviceable board like the Planning Board or Rent Leveling Board.

If you feel that you would like to have an active role on one of the different boards and commissions, go to [www.ahnj.com](http://www.ahnj.com), under FORMS go into the Municipal Clerk's office and complete the Citizen Leadership Application Form. You can then email it, fax it, mail it or hand deliver it to our Municipal Clerk, Dwayne Harris, in Borough Hall. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact him at Borough Hall, extension 613.

### REMINDER

TO ALL ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS RESIDENTS

Any peddler or solicitor must have a permit to solicit within the Borough.

If you see anyone who is soliciting that does not have a permit, please notify the

Atlantic Highlands Police Department immediately at 732-291-1212.

## The Atlantic Highland's Community Events Committee Holiday Tree Sale

Trees are for sale in  
"Veteran's Park"  
across from  
Borough Hall

Trees, swags and wreaths of all different sizes and types will be available. Santa will be there on the weekends and one of his elves will be taking pictures. All proceeds will go towards Atlantic Highlands' projects.



In keeping with the community spirit, the First Aid Squad will be collecting food for the Food Pantry. You can drop off food at the tree lot or give it to Santa as he makes his way around town. Start a new tradition that is as old as time...come downtown, meet your neighbors, pick out your tree, do some Holiday shopping, have a nice dinner with the family and enjoy the spirit that is Christmas.

## Planning for FilmOneFest is Underway

### News from the Atlantic Highlands Arts Council:

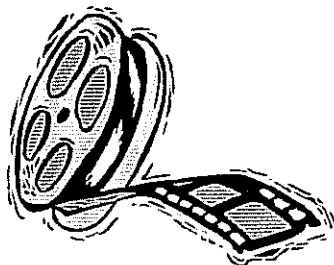
FilmOneFest, New Jersey's first international one minute film festival was the surprise smash hit of the summer during 2009. On a beautiful summer evening at the Municipal Harbor, an enthusiastic audience of around 800 enjoyed a festival with music, food, lots of family activities, and an outstanding collection of very short films, each under 60 seconds. It was so much fun that the Atlantic Highlands Arts Council is planning a second FilmOneFest, to be held on Saturday, July 17. FilmOneFest has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Monmouth County Arts Council for FilmOneFest 2010, scheduled for July 17, 2010. Submissions will be accepted beginning in January.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.filmonefest.org>

The Atlantic Highlands Arts Council and FilmOneFest are all-volunteer organizations. We welcome your time, your support, your ideas, and your presence. If you would like to volunteer, please call:

732-856-8383 or email:  
info@

[atlantichighlandsartscouncil.com](mailto:atlantichighlandsartscouncil.com)



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from the

### Atlantic Highlands Arts Council and the FilmOneFest

 If you are looking for a gift for someone special, consider a membership in AHAC. Your gift will offer the pleasure of supporting the arts in our community, as well as discounts to AHAC concerts and events, special free "Members-Only" events like the Mini-Golf Outing and High Tea during 2009, and the opportunity to join other art lovers in planning and presenting unique events in our community.

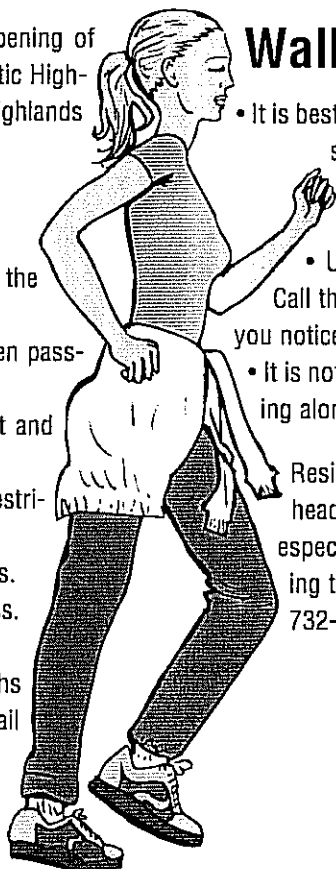
For membership information, visit:  
[www.atlantichighlandsartscouncil.com](http://www.atlantichighlandsartscouncil.com)

## The Atlantic Highlands Police Department would like to address some trail etiquette and safety tips for those using the trail

On April 25th Borough Officials dedicated the opening of the Bayshore Trail along the water from the Atlantic Highlands Marina to Popamora Point located at the Highlands boarder.

### Trail Etiquette

- Travel on the right. Pass on the left. Never block the trail.
- All trail users must keep to the right except when passing.
- Maintain safe speeds and travel in a consistent and predictable manner.
- Yield to pedestrians. Cyclists must yield to pedestrians. Pedestrians always have the right-of-way.
- Pets must be on a leash, clean up after your pets.
- Group users allow ample room for others to pass.
- Always look ahead and behind before passing.
- Stay on the trail. Walk only on the designated paths to protect yourself. Walking off the designated trail can be dangerous.



### Walking Safety Tips

- It is best to walk in pairs or groups. If you must walk alone carry some identification with you and a cell phone.
- If you are going on any extended walks inform someone of your route and expected return time.
- Use your intuition about suspicious persons or areas. Call the police immediately if something happens to you or if you notice anything out of the ordinary during your walk.
- It is not advisable to use the trail after dusk as there is no lighting along the trail.

Residents who live along the trail are asked to call police headquarters if they hear or see any suspicious activity especially during the evening hours. Any questions concerning the trail you can contact the Chief of Police at: 732-291-1212, or e-mail [jvasto@ahnj.com](mailto:jvasto@ahnj.com).

Sincerely,

*Jerry Vasto*  
Chief of Police

# The Atlantic Highlands Arts Council Presents: *Winter/Spring, 2010*

Sunday, January 17  
2:00 p.m.

Artists' Lecture Series Presents:  
John Lollos

The nationally known playwright, television producer and writer, (and Atlantic Highlands resident) will present a staged reading of his hit comedy Mr. Goldwyn, which starred Alan King in its smash off-Broadway run during 2002. Lollos has written for television personalities from "Dr. Ruth" to Howard Stern, and is currently at work on a new play. At AMA Ristorante, 42 First Ave.

Saturday, January 30  
by appointment

Auditions for Sounds of the Highlands, Jr. Musicians and entertainers 18 and under, please call 732-687-3571 for additional information.

Sunday February 7  
2:00 p.m.

FilmOneFest benefit pre-release screening of another outstanding film from Sony Pictures Classic. Title to be announced. Last year AHAC screened previews of The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus and Woody Allen's Whatever Works, both donated by Tom Bernard of Sony Pictures Classic, with screening donated by Lenny Edwards of Atlantic Cinemas 5.

Sunday, March 7  
2:00 p.m.

Sounds of the Highlands Jr. returns for a second year. This popular concert offers an opportunity to see dynamic young performers early in their career. At the Central Baptist Church, 3rd and East Highland Ave. Tickets \$15, \$5 for children 12 and under.

## Holiday Service Notes:

**Borough Hall will be closed  
Friday December 25th  
and January 1st.**

There will be no trash pickup on those days. Trash collection will resume Saturday and it's normal schedule on the following Monday.

**A special pick up for Christmas  
Trees is scheduled, Borough  
wide, for the weeks of January  
4th through January 15th.**

Please put you bundled trees at curbside, during this periods.

## SHADE TREE HAPPENINGS - 2009



This year the Shade Tree Commission of Atlantic Highlands has been very active. Arbor Day was celebrated with a proclamation by Mayor Rast. The public library, headed by Mrs. Marilyn Scherfen, had a program about trees and their importance. Mrs. Scherfen also organized a poster contest with the same theme for our elementary school children. Prizes were

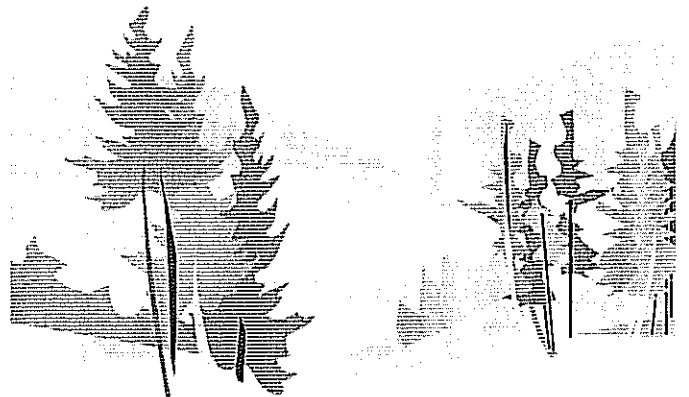
awarded and another poster contest in planned for 2010, with the cooperation of the art teacher Miss Northrop.

In the spring we celebrated Arbor Day and planted a kwanza cherry tree in honor of former Police Chief Sam Guzzi for his service to the community. In the fall a tree planting was held, this time in Veterans Park, in memory of former borough employee Marvin Barrett as well as the residential trees planted.

During the year the shade tree commission mem-

bers also attended training and conferences on arboreal matters and also fielded questions and problems from members of the community dealing with trees. We are blessed with many large trees, some of which can have problems as they age.

Forms are available in the borough hall if you would like to request a free tree to be planted on your property or if you have a problem with a tree.



# DEAR VETERANS AND RESIDENTS OF ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS

THE AMERICAN LEGION, C. EUGENE ALLEN MEMORIAL POST 141, IS IN THE PROCESS OF HAVING AN UPDATED MONUMENT ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE 14 INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE DURING CONFLICTS. THE EXISTING MONUMENT IS A SMALL LOW-LYING MARBLE STONE WITH THE 14 NAMES ETCHED ON THE FACE OF THE STONE. IT IS LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM TOWN HALL IN FRONT OF THE FLAG POLE.

WE ARE PLANNING A SIX SIDED MONUMENT APPROXIMATELY SEVEN AND ONE HALF FEET HIGH, AND TWO AND A HALF FEET WIDE AT THE BASE. EACH SIDE WILL HAVE AN EMBLEM REPRESENTING THE ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORP, AIR FORCE, AND COAST GUARD. THE SIXTH SIDE WILL BE RESERVED FOR THE NAMES OF OUR FALLEN VETERANS. WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESERVE THE MEMORY OF THE FOURTEEN AND ALL THOSE VETERANS THAT SERVED, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT GAVE THEIR LIVES IN ANY OF THE WARS OR CONFLICTS, AS WELL AS THOSE THAT ARE STILL MISSING IN ACTION.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP IN MAKING THIS NEW MONUMENT A REALITY. ALMOST ALL FAMILIES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY WAR AND/OR CONFLICTS, EITHER BY THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE OR THROUGH THEIR PRIDE AND FEAR WHILE THE LOVED ONE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY. THE COST OF THE MONUMENT WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$17,000.00.

PLEASE SEND YOUR DONATIONS MADE PAYABLE TO "C. EUGENE ALLEN MEMORIAL POST 141" ALONG WITH THE TEAR OFF SHEET BELOW.

SINCERELY

*THOMAS J VETH*  
POST COMMANDER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

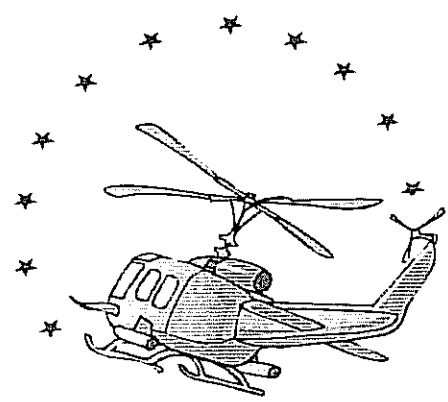
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A VETERAN? \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY MEMBER A VETERAN? \_\_\_\_\_



WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR DONATIONS  
\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_  
ALL DONATIONS WILL BE GLADLY ACCEPTED



MAIL TO: C. EUGENE ALLEN MEMORIAL POST 141  
C/O THOMAS J VETH  
PO Box 240  
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, NJ 07716

# Library News *The Library Has a New Home*

It's done!!! The move is complete and the Library is now operating in its new, expanded quarters at the Firemen's Field House, 48 Avenue C (at the corner of West Washington Avenue.) The Library remained closed for two weeks while staff members and volunteers first packed at the old location and then unpacked and reshelved items at the new. The crew was extremely efficient, making the target date for opening on November 17 possible. Patron response has been very favorable, many commenting how they love the spacious, open feeling at the new site. Also, a donation of a carpet by the Kelley family has added warmth and beauty to the children's area. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped during the move: DeAnn Cheyne, Ann Forbes, Linda Lucas, Randi LeGrice, Lisa Sanders, Mike Scherfen, Slim Faller, Jan Danilowicz, Anne Milling, Doris Maynard, and Nilda Lynch. Also, thanks to the men from the Street Department who painted, cleaned, transported and readied many items in advance of the opening. If you haven't already done so, come by for a visit in our new home.

## AHPL Is Awarded Graphic Novel Grant

On August 31, the New Jersey State Library announced the award of a \$3000 grant to the Atlantic Highlands Public Library to assist in growing its graphic novel collection. Funding for the program was made possible through the Florence Taylor Tischman and Nathaniel Tischman Memorial Fund. Our library, which was amongst 14 others throughout the state to receive the grant, will use the money to develop and expand its collection of graphic novels for adults, teens and children. Graphic novels are original literary works, combining illustrations and words in the tradition of comic books, and are popular with all age groups. Watch this new section of our library grow!

## New Pokémon Club

The newly formed Pokémon League of Atlantic Highlands, under the direction of Zach Heisey, is inviting kids 5 – 15 to come, play, trade cards, and win prizes at the Library, 1 PM to 4 PM each Saturday, starting January 9, 2010. The core of Pokémon Organized Play is to provide a fun, organized playing environment where kids can grow socially and intellectually, with an emphasis on fun, fairness, honesty, respect, sportsmanship and learning. The club is free. Interested? Sign up at the Library or call 732-291-1956 to register.

## The Library is "OPEN"

Come visit us at our temporary location at the Fireman's Field House, 48 Avenue C and West Washington Ave, just behind the Fireman's Field. We will be open during our regular Library hours.

## Food for Fines

During the entire month of December, the library will be accepting non-perishable food items in lieu of fines. Donations are also encouraged from those patrons and other community members who don't have fines. All will benefit the Atlantic Highlands Food Pantry.



Melody King, packing.



Phyllis LaMarche, labeling a box.

# Atlantic Highlands Recreation Schedule 2010

Check the recreation link for all up to date information at [www.ahnj.com](http://www.ahnj.com)

## Events

### March 27th

Easter Egg Hunt to be held at St. Agnes School. (rain date March 28th.)



### May 15th

Town wide Garage Sale (rain date May 16th) To get your house on the map, register at Town Hall during the month of April.

### July 11th through September 5th

Summer Concert Series Is held at the Harbor gazebo every Sunday evening.

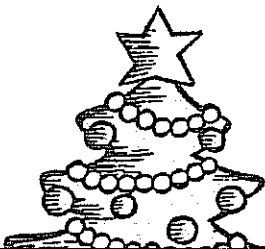
### October 30th

Annual Halloween Parade beginning at the Harbor at 1:45 pm (rain date 31st.)

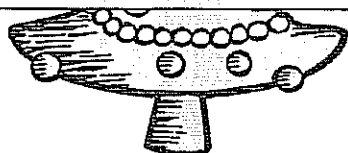


### December 4th

Holiday Tree Lighting at the Harbor followed by a visit from Santa at the first Aid Squad (rain date December 5th.)



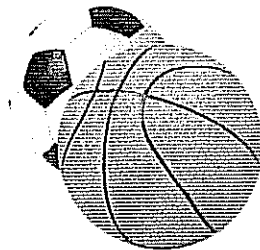
**HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING**



## Sports

### Basketball

The season has began on January 9th will be our first game and ends with a shoot out on March 13th.



### Soccer

Look out for soccer sign-ups during the month of March.

## Events to Watch for

Organized bus trips to the theatre in New York City throughout the year.

Outdoor movie night this summer.

Summer Sports Clinics – Tennis, Field Hockey, Basketball, Soccer.

Atlantic Highlands Day at Keansburg Water Park.

## Summer Recreation

We are hoping to have our Summer Recreation Program as usual. Stay tuned for details in the New Year.

Atlantic Highlands Recreation is an all volunteer committee. We are looking to our community for volunteers in all capacities.

We are always looking for activities we could bring to all age groups of our community. If you should have any ideas or suggestions please contact us at:

[recreation@ahnj.com](mailto:recreation@ahnj.com)

## ATTENTION RESIDENTS PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED

**THE AHPD IS LOOKING FOR ANYONE WITH ANY OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR ITS MEMBERS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHARE**

## ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS SENIORS:

**Join our Senior Club held at the "Senior Building" Simon Lake Drive in the Harbor. Meetings ARE HELD ON THE SECOND Monday of each month, from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. We also have day trips and invite speakers. Membership is \$5.00**

**For information call 732-291-1697**



PRSR STD  
ECR WSS  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Red Bank  
New Jersey 07701  
Permit No.385

*Postal Patron*  
*Atlantic Highlands*  
*New Jersey 07716*

## WINTER WEATHER IS COMING!

Please keep in mind, as winter weather, snow and ice approach, that all property owners are required to clear all of their sidewalks, or parts of the public way reserved for pedestrian traffic, of snow and ice within 24 hours after the termination of precipitation causing the sidewalk to be covered. Failure to remove such snow or ice during this time period will be a violation of Borough Ordinance #488 and may subject you to a summons, as well as personal liabilities if someone slips and falls.

## DOG LICENSE RENEWAL:

As a courtesy, we would like to remind you that dog licenses expiring on December 31 of this year need to be renewed by January 31, 2010. Failure to do so will result in a \$5.00 late fee. Also, before renewing, please make sure the rabies vaccine is good for at least ten months of the next licensing year. You may need to present documentation of valid rabies vaccine before renewal is done. If you have any questions or do not have your pet, please contact Dwayne or Beth at Borough Hall, extensions 613 and 614 respectively.

## Atlantic Highlands Beacon

Published Quarterly

Email articles to:  
dharris@ahnj.com

Publication subject to space  
limits and editorial needs.

*Editor:* Dwayne M. Harris

*Borough Government*

*Mayor:*

Frederick J. Rast, III

*Council President*

Louis Fligor

*Council*

John C. Archibald, Jr.

Roy Dellosso

Peter T. Doyle

Jacob Hoffman

Robert Sutton

Adam Hubeny – Administrator

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