

Atlantic Highlands BEACON

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Mayor's Message

Atlantic Highlands Beacon

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It's the talk of the town! The IT I'm talking about is waterfront land acquisition and it's not so silent companion, affordable housing. Although the majority of local residents seem strongly committed to acquiring the Sandy Hook Bay-side Giuliani and McConnell properties for public use, it is worth noting that the major obstacle to doing so, as enunciated by developer KHovnanian, is its assertion that Atlantic Highlands is not fulfilling its obligations to the state Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) to provide its fair share of low- and moderate-income housing.

COAH right now is considering the borough's so-called Third Round Fair Share and Housing Element Plan for Affordable Housing and the developer's objections to COAH's certification of our proposal. In effect, the developer is saying the borough isn't and can't provide the necessary affordable housing without it being allowed to build waterfront condominiums that will include that low- and moderate income housing. I don't agree. COAH, or later some court, eventually will decide those issues but it is this administration's belief that we have a good plan - filed on time in December - that meets all our obligations. In other words, we don't need to let a developer build condos on the waterfront to provide the required affordable housing. Of course, this administration and untold residents don't just object to developing the

McConnell and Giuliani tracts because we don't want high-density housing.

We object because we know that public use of the land for parks, recreation, increased beach access, wildlife protection and some additional harbor parking is a far better use of the land. We also fear the overburdening of our schools, roads and water and sewer systems.

It has been a borough goal to acquire the Giuliani property for some years ... and, for some time less, to preserve the McConnell property.

The developer intends to buy both properties, contingent upon approval of applications to build condos - 42 units on McConnell and over 100 units on Giuliani. Nothing can be built until variances from zoning regulations are approved by the Planning Board, or if they aren't granted, by a court ruling.

The board is near the end of exhaustive hearings on the McConnell proposal while the Giuliani application waits its turn before the board.

COAH has promised to expedite consideration of the borough's Third Round Plan which, if approved, would considerably strengthen the borough's position. In the meantime, COAH has prohibited the borough from taking action to take over the McConnell property, a restraint we can only hope will be soon lifted.

Meanwhile, the borough has received promises for considerable grant money from several agencies, lead by Green Acres,

money that would be available to acquire the properties, whether by negotiations or condemnation.

This available grant money, coupled with strong resident objections to waterfront condos, has provided momentum to the acquisition effort. Of course, if there was any doubt that residents want the Giuliani property, for one, they were allayed when petitions containing over 1,000 signatures were presented to the Council on April 12. These petitions clearly committed the signers to acquisition even if condemnation, i.e. eminent domain, is necessary.

For the record, Atlantic Highlands' Third Round Plan meets COAH requirements by a combination of steps including acquisition of land elsewhere in town on which to build, using a borough-owned piece of property to build on and paying the Township of Lakewood to use some of our share of units there, a permitted method called a Regional Cooperative Agreement. Like all New Jersey communities, Atlantic Highlands would have to finance these affordable housing units but we are counting on the Monmouth Housing Alliance to get us grants to help minimize our expenses.

Whether COAH certifies our Third Round Plan as it stands, or some revised version, the borough has taken its responsibilities seriously and met its deadlines.

Although we can't predict the ultimate outcome of COAH deliberations and the developer's objections, we all can be sure this administration is doing its best both to provide affordable housing and preserve these two waterfront treasures for future generations.

From the Editor...

For scheduling and events - Please **DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY**. Keep it in an easily accessible place, as you may want to reference it from time to time.



Dwayne M. Harris
Municipal Clerk

Of Spring and Front Porches

As our neighbors and friends come out of winter hibernation, now is a good time to think about community events for the summer and fall, and below are a couple of events planned by the Front Porch Club.

The Front Porch Club is a forum for Atlantic Highland's residents to socialize with neighbors, interact with the community and discuss new ideas and issues. The Front Porch Club (FPC) exists to improve the quality of life in Atlantic Highlands by bringing people together online and in person.

Last year, the Front Porch Club hosted a number of events, including a Newcomers Cocktail party, a Vino-Tasting dinner, a Chili-cook-off, a cou-

ple of "play dates" and a number of book club discussions. We're looking forward to hosting additional events this year, and the following two events have already been scheduled:

1) Front Porch Club Summer Kick-Off for Newcomers and Old-timers, **Saturday May 27th**, Memorial Day weekend, hosted at local establishment TBD.

2) The 2nd Annual FPC Chili fest **October, 28 2006** (start practicing your Chili recipes now).

Some event ideas that have been kicked around include:

- A Saturday picnic at Hartshorne woods near the water (in the back near Henry Hudson).

- A suds salon to talk issues

de jour.

- Another FPC book club, since the first one is already at capacity.

- A candidate forum for the Borough Council race this fall

- A kayak trip, fishing tournament and camp out at Sandy Hook



For more information, please go to www.frontporchclub.com or call 732-291-2163.

You can register to become part of the Front Porch Club list on the website.

The club is open to all Atlantic Highland's residents who share a desire to improve the community . . . and have fun.



Borough News **Borough Begins Streetscape Phase II**

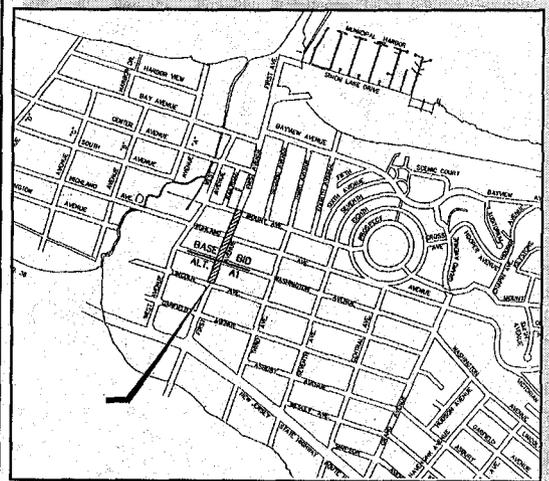
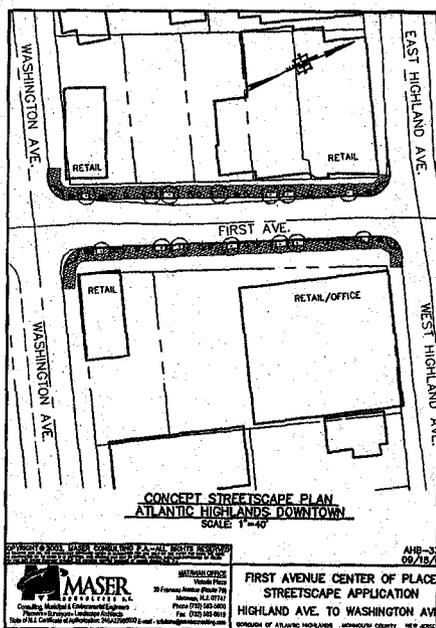
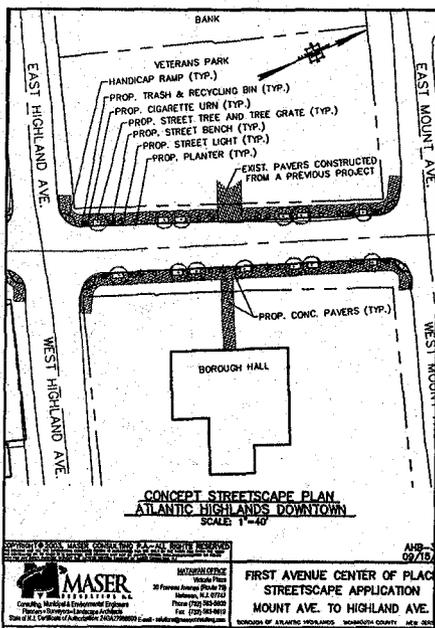
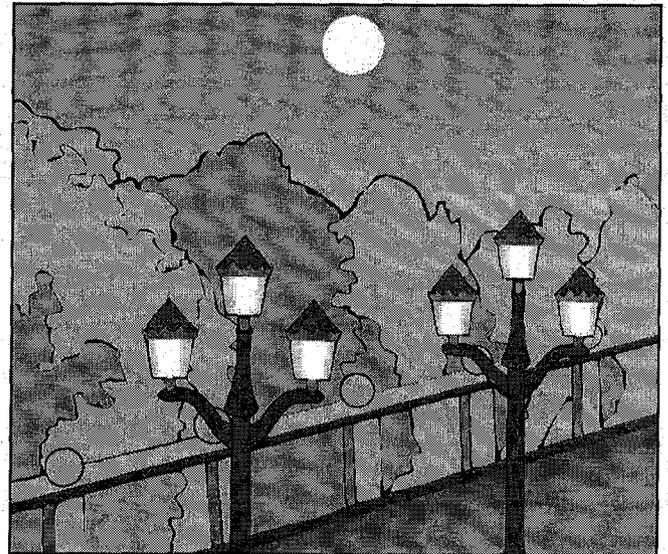
Atlantic Highlands is preparing to perform the second phase of the Streetscape beautification located along First Avenue, between Mount and Washington Avenues. The combination of improvements will provide shoppers, commuters and residents with an environment more consistent with the Master Plan of Atlantic Highlands. This includes the installation of street side landscaping and furniture. Among the proposed landscaping and furniture, new benches, trash cans, lights; trees/tree grates and the installation of brick sidewalks will be completed to match the first phase of the Streetscape, that runs from Ocean Blvd to Mount Ave, which was completed in 2004. These improvements will also match the color, size and appearance of structures found in the Veterans Memorial Park across from Borough Hall. The goal of this project is to improve the street aesthetics consistent with the first streetscape project as well as incorporate the street entrances of both the Borough Hall and the Park.

First Avenue is the Main Street and "heart" of Atlantic Highlands. Not only does this road provide access to the Atlantic Highlands Marina and the Veterans Memorial Park, it also provides direct frontage for multiple retail shops and stores. Minor arteries connect the neighborhood of Atlantic Highlands allowing residents direct access to the abundant

resources of the town. This project will not only provide maintenance and correct deficiencies while beautifying the community, but it will promote economic growth through the support of the downtown business establishments as well as increase the convenience of the downtown business area for customers. This project also signals the municipal commitment to the downtown and to the local business community, which are all direct tangible benefits expected from this project.

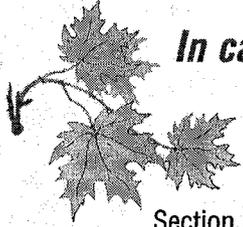
The New Jersey Planning Commission has designated the Atlantic Highlands Center as a "Town Center"; therefore the Borough of Atlantic Highlands is an eligible applicant for the Centers of Place Funding Program. The Borough had received a prior grant associated with the 'Centers of Place' Funding Program in fiscal year 2002. This funding was for the streetscape project along First Avenue from Bay Avenue to Mount Avenue. This project will be partially funded from the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority Act. State participation in the

cost of this project is \$300,000.00, which is currently in the bidding, and contract-awarding process as a qualified contractor has yet to be chosen. The final costs, estimated by the engineer are projected to be \$413,988.00 with the \$113,988.00 difference being funded by the Borough. It is the Borough's intention to continue the streetscape completely along First Avenue to Memorial Parkway and has already submitted an application to the New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority, requesting \$350,000.00 towards the completion of phase III.



Location Map

2006 Spring Leaf and Brush Schedule



In case you misplaced the flier, here is the Zone brush schedule again...

Leaves and brush may not be put out more than 5 days prior to your zone's scheduled pick-up. All brush should be at the curb ready for pick up on the first pick-up day for your zone. The Borough will not remove any grass clippings or any containerized yard waste, ONLY brush and leaves put to the curb as outlined in Section IV. (Memorial Pkwy residents are exempted from this). If weather disrupts the brush pick up schedule, we will resume where we left off and continue on a modified schedule. If you miss your scheduled ZONE pick-up residents may bring brush and leaves to the borough yard for disposal (NO GRASS CLIPPINGS).

These are the only times the Borough will be picking up brush and leaves until the Fall

Zone	First Pick Up Date	Second Pick Up Date
5	April 17-21	May 22-26
4	April 24-28	May 29 - June 2
3	May 1-5	June 5-9
2	May 8-12	June 12-16
1	May 15-19	June 19-23

The Atlantic Highlands First Aid Squad will hold an open house May 13th to mark the start of EMS week

The squad will open its doors between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Final plans are being settled, but there will be fun and information for the whole family.

National EMS Week is an annual event designed to highlight the dedicated men and women who serve in the emergency service field around the country. This year's theme is "EMS: Serving on Health Care's Front Line."

"This open house gives us a chance to show area residents what the squad is all about in a non-emergency situation," said Captain Jerry Pandolfo.

The AHFAS is an all-volunteer organization serving residents of Atlantic Highlands and occasionally the surrounding area. For information on how to become a member or about the EMS week festivities, call the non-emergency number, (732) 291-8118.



Got an old car you can't get rid of ?



Think about donating it to the Atlantic Highlands First Aid Squad. The organization is looking for old cars that can be used for training purposes. The AHFAS will arrange for pickup of the vehicle.

For information of how your old car can be put to good use, call the AHFAS non-emergency number (732) 291-8118.

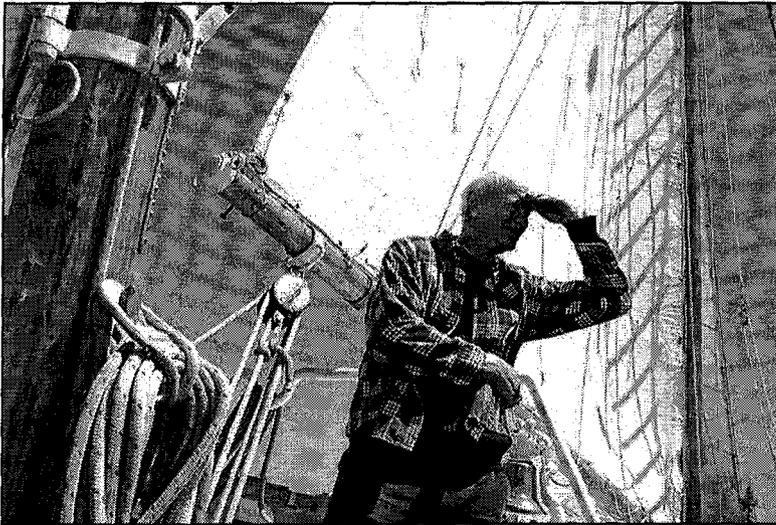
Dwayne M. Harris, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Historic Houses on the West Side

On good-weather days this spring and summer, several residents from the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society are walking streets on the west side of town. They are mainly looking at 78 houses that were built 100 or more years ago, according to State computer records. They are taking notes on the architectural styles, features and restoration of the houses. They will also take photographs to help in studying the buildings and streetscapes. The material gathered will add to the existing documentation of our town's historic and architectural heritage.

Sandy Hook Catamaran Club Sets Goal of 100 Boats to Participate in Annual Statue of Liberty Marathon Sailing Race

Club Forms "Objective 100" Committee to Promote the Event Locally and Nationally



The race appears to be mapped on a straightforward course, but newcomers are often deceived. The Statue of Liberty is located 20 miles north from the starting line at the club. Winds are rarely steady, and the variable summer breezes usually increase and shift as the day goes by.

Rarely can racers sail along the rhumb (red) line to and from the Statue of Liberty. But when such ideal circumstances happen, records are broken. The tides and currents add another interesting ingredient, particularly when passing the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. The bottleneck effect of the narrows combined with the gusty winds underneath the bridge turn the passage into a spectacular entry into New York Harbor.

It all makes for a very interesting sailing course, with tacticians needing multiple options to devise a winning strategy.

If the winds, currents and tides are not enough of a challenge, the marine traffic adds some spice to the race.

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, N.J. - December 10, 2005 - The Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club, located on the Sandy Hook Bay, today announced the formation of the "Objective 100" committee to promote the club's annual "Statue of Liberty Marathon Sailing Race."

"We are going to turn this race from a very popular regional race into a world-class event," said Jacques Pierret, the club's race director. "We are attempting to get a minimum of 100 boats for the race, to be held July 4th weekend. Objective 100 will focus on promotion and the logistical organization necessary to attract catamaran sailors from all over the world."

The annual race got its start in the 1980s, when some club members challenged each other to sail to the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, linking Brooklyn to Staten Island. The race ultimately ended up rounding the Statue of Liberty. It was such a great sailing experience that an increasing number of sailors joined the informal race each year, making it a not-to-miss annual event.

Over the past 20 years, the race has attracted participants from throughout the East Coast and from elsewhere, all of whom relish undertaking the long distance sailing challenge each year.

"The Statue Race is now a true Classic," Pierret said. "Serious racers want to live the experience at least once, but many loyal teams show up at every edition. From the small 14-foot Hobie Cats to the impressive Inter 20 "machines," this course offers a great challenge for everyone."

The regatta course meets the New York Harbor channel right after Sandy Hook. Racers must share the water with departing cruise ships, barges, tugboats, ferries, fishing and recreational boats. Moored barges and freighters also cause wind shadows, and the famously orange Staten Island ferries run perpendicular to the course.

Not to worry though.

"We provide a complete technical briefing for skippers and crew prior to the race, explaining the course, the rules and sufficient safety information," said Vic Simon, commodore of the club. "We provide weather maps and up-to-date nautical charts. Navigation to the Statue of Liberty is made easy by the numerous visual marks, light houses and buoys.

At the end of the day, rounding the Statue of Liberty, surrounded by the Manhattan skyline, is a true reward for a sailor's effort. "It's a unique experience and we guarantee you'll arrive at the finish with a great feeling of accomplishment," Simon said.

For more information about the catamaran club, log onto www.fleet250.org



Atlantic Highlands Fireworks Committee



NOW, for Independence Week 2006, YOU can participate in the new 'Buy A Rocket' Campaign. For a donation of only \$20 per rocket you can 'Buy A Rocket' to increase the excitement of our 2006 fireworks display by intensifying the selection of colorful sky art, having more rockets in the air at once, and creating an even greater American Harbor celebration. If you enjoyed the last two years, wait till you see this year! Here's how you can participate:

Go to the AHFC website, HYPERLINK "<http://www.buyarocket.com>" www.buyarocket.com

Go to our **Products Page** and order your rockets online.

OR

Fill out the **Donor Form** below and mail your order to the address shown.

The more rockets you buy, the **bigger, longer**, and more intense the fireworks celebration!

Every **Donor** will be named in our **Independence Week 2006 Program**. A donation of 10 rockets will be given a three line print entry in the **Sponsors** section, and for a donation of 25 rockets. **Benefactors** will receive a business-card sized ad, and a framed commemorative picture of the fireworks display. Sponsors & Benefactors will be contacted for their specific information.

For questions, please email us at HYPERLINK "<mailto:ahfc@buyarocket.com>" ahfc@buyarocket.com or contact Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall at **732-291-1444**.



All donations go to our mission of supporting the Atlantic Highlands Fire Department via the Fireman's Fair and the Independence Week celebration. The Atlantic Highlands Fireworks Committee, a non-profit, all-volunteer group, supports special events that promote our harbor and town. We look forward to another spectacular celebration for Independence Week 2006!

Thank you in advance for your donation.

Atlantic Highlands Fireworks Committee

If ordering by mail. please print, detach, and send the following information with your donation:

Name: _____ (Person or Business)

Address: _____

Number of Rockets purchased: _____ X \$20 per rocket = \$ _____ donation

Please make all checks payable to AHFC, LLC.

Mail to: AHFC, LLC, P.O. Box 512, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716

Postal Patron

Atlantic Highlands
 New Jersey 07716

Library News

Friends of the Library,



Under the able guidance of Linda Lucas, continue to provide help and support on a regular basis. But we would especially like to thank Brownie Troop #1247 whose members have provided attractive, hand-decorated bookmarks for sale at the library, where they have been meeting, and where they created and designed the bookmarks. Susan Vosburgh is another special volunteer, who has taken special time to sell a number of our discarded, books on e-bay. Through her creative approach to marketing, she has managed to sell seemingly worthless items (like travel guides from 1987 to obscure locales). All proceeds from what Susan calls "orphans" have benefited the library. Jim Bird, local artist, has enriched the library experience with the addition of his watercolor paintings of local scenes, which have graced the walls of the library over the last several years. This year, not only has he enhanced our surroundings with the loan of more of these pieces of art, but this year he has

offered the paintings for sale. Again, any and all proceeds will benefit the Library directly.



Help comes in many ways, not just in monetary support. Mike Frantz, a teenager, helped throughout the summer in various volunteer efforts, as did Safya O'Rourke, another teenager, who is now works permanently for the Library after school. Mike Scherfen has provided design help over the years, including the development of the logos, letterheads, and website for the Friends, as well as the AHPL. Mayor Peter Donoghue, once again has added to the seasonal festivities by reading holiday stories for two groups of children. And last, but certainly not least, our thanks go out to George Wuesthoff, Library Board treasurer, who tirelessly takes care of financial matters.

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Beacon**

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