

Atlantic Highlands BEACON

Published by the Borough of Atlantic Highlands

Mayor's Message Frederick J. Rast

Dear Residents:

It's now September of 2009. As we all know the state of our economy is very desperate. One merely has to look at all of the vacant business locations on First Ave to realize that the town is being adversely affected by the economy and what some who are brave, call a "depression".

The purpose of this article is to ask for

help from our residents. We all love our community. None of us want to see the Main Street of our beautiful town become diminished as a result of the poor economy. We as a town council are working hard to do things that will support the various organizations such as our Chamber of Commerce, Community Beautification and Enhancement Committee and Our Harbor Commission, to stimulate business in our community. But we can't do it alone! I welcome comments from anybody who is a resident or business owner in our town that reads this article. Please contact us at Borough Hall and give us your ideas for stimulation of our business district.

I know that the owners of the various buildings have drastically reduced their rents, even so, many of the tenants that we had, left because they could not survive financially. When this occurs, there are vacant properties in the business district. The owners of the commercial buildings can no longer pay their taxes or pay their mortgages, so they lose their buildings and of course the town suffers because they are not paying their taxes. I know all too well what this vicious cycle is doing to the financial stability of the building owners and the business owners.

We are suffering! I am asking that you as a resident of our town, whenever possible, utilize our town businesses as much as possible, for your purchases. Also please consider contacting friends or business contacts and suggest to them, that they move their business to our community.

Our community provides excellent services, such as free Sanitation pick-ups, great Police, Fire and First Aid in a "hometown atmosphere". We also have commuter services to NY by either boat, bus and with a convenient train station nearby.

We have a lot to offer but we need a lot of people to offer it!

We are trying as a community to keep our way of life up as high as possible. We all love this community and want it to

flourish. It will not flourish without each and every one of the residents doing their part as much as possible, to talk "up the town" not to run it down! Try and entice other businesses, from other areas, to come into town to set up business.

It is like the old story of the chicken and the egg, what comes first! Do we need to have businesses in place that attract people to bring them in or do we need people to utilize what exists in order to attract other businesses to come in to do business in town?

I sure don't know all the answers but I know that as a community if we stick together, we will work our way through these terribly trying times!

If you have ideas that would enhance our business community please contact us at Borough Hall. You can e-mail, write or make phone calls. Someone will respond to you.

We know people have said, "signs on the highway" are the answer, other people say have businesses in place that will attract people! We all have opinions that may impact what is going on but the reality is, the economy is very bad and we must try everything possible.

If we collectively support our own hometown businesses and try to enhance the business community, we all will survive and our town will continue to be a wonderful place to live in, to play in and to raise your family in!

Thanks,

Fred Rast

Mayor

Atlantic Highlands Beacon

Mayor's Message:

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Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall
100 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716
Phone (201) 291-1444 Fax (201) 291-4074
Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm

Amount Due: \$0.00
The 2010-2011 Fiscal Year 27th day of March 2010
\$0.00 per month. We are sending the Account Request Form.
Check for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year 27th day of March 2010.

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www.ahnj.com

Do You Smell Sewage or Seaweed?

By Mike Rybeck
Chairman AH/H Regional Sewer Authority

Every summer there are many reports of strong sewage odors in the marina and along First Avenue. It's logical to think these odors come from the Borough's sewage collection system or the Sewer Authority's pumping station, but often these odors are actually from a species of seaweed which is called sea-lettuce because of its appearance.

Sea-lettuce washes onto beaches and into creeks creating sulfur smell as it decays. Citing a Monmouth County Health Department Report, "Sulfur is found in aquatic systems and groundwater in its oxygenated form, sulfate, or its anaerobic form, sulfide. Since hydrogen sulfide is black and smells like rotten eggs, it is often mistaken for sewage." (Lomans et al., 1997), and, "In Many Mind Creek, this problem is exacerbated when tidal debris blocks the mouth of the stream, causing the flow to back up, pond, and turn anoxic." (Boyd, 2004), and, "Decaying sea let-



tuces can build up in sheltered coves to such an extent that the hydrogen sulfide gas can blacken nearby houses painted with lead paint when it forms lead sulfide." (MacKenzie, 2005).

Sulfur odors generally occur in the summer when the air temperature is hot and the tides are incoming. There are seldom reports of strong sewage odors in the fall or spring, however, if it is a warm

spring these odors can develop earlier. It should be noted that this rotten egg smell is not new or caused by development – "the original Lenape name for Many Mind Creek was Cuppanickinn, which means "obstructed stream"" (Boyd, 2004).

Having explained the sea-lettuce odor, we all know that a sewage system collects and processes smelly waste. Some odors are unfortunately inherent in the process and can vary daily due to flows through the system and air temperatures. Although flows vary by weather and the actions of thousands of people, the Sewer Authority monitors its operations 24/7. Authority staff continuously monitors gas levels and employ various methods and chemical treatments to control odors. During the summer and at other times when the potential for odor is highest chemical treatments are increased.

Sewage or Seaweed? The next time you smell a strong sulfur/sewage odor, give some thought to the direction of the wind and the status of the tides. It may not be sewage.

Some Things Just Don't Belong in the Toilet...



in the public sewer pipes and at the local wastewater treatment plant, and related costs can be passed on the ratepayers. Even if the label reads "flushable," you are still safer and more environmentally correct to place the item in a trashcan. And because homeowners are responsible for their property's sewer pipes, improper flushing can cost you money. **You plug it, you pay for it!**

And There's More...

Whatever ends up in your toilet can potentially impact the water environment, so it's really important to keep household wastes such as window cleaners, unused or expired pharmaceutical products, paint thinners, fats, and fruit labels out of toilets and drains and dispose of them properly. For more information visit:

www.wef.org/HouseholdWaste

Sewer Overflows Are a Mess – Disposable Does Not Mean Flushable

Flushing paper towels and other garbage down the toilet wastes water and can create sewer backups and overflows. This can also cause time-consuming backups

It's a Toilet,
Not a
Trash Can!



Don't rush to flush any items like:

- Baby wipes and diapers
- Rags and towels
- Cotton swabs
- Syringes
- Candy and other food wrappers
- Clothing labels
- Cleaning sponges
- Toys
- Plastic items of any description
- Aquarium gravel or kitty litter
- Rubber items such as latex gloves
- Cigarette butts
- Sanitary napkins
- Hair
- Underwear
- Disposable toilet brushes

Notice of Special Election

The Atlantic Highlands Board of Education intends to conduct a Special Election on September 29, 2009. The Board is asking for consideration to authorize bonds to install solar panels at the Atlantic Highlands Elementary School.

If the Bond proposal is approved, the Board of Education will be authorized to finance the \$490,000 solar energy project from the sale of Solar Renewable Energy Certificates [SRECs], debt service aid from the State of New Jersey, through the reduction in electricity costs and the issuance of school bonds.

School Superintendent Christopher Rooney, made a presentation to the Mayor and Council at their July 15 Workshop sessions. The school has been looking to do this project since 2006 but because of regulations from the BPU [Board of Public Utilities], it was not pos-

sible for them, as a non-profit, at that time. Since the BPU regulations have changed and new funding has been made available. The Board of Education has State approval for the referendum, which if approved; will get 40% back on construction and 40% back on debt servicing. Projections from the Phoenix Group puts this project as cash flow positive after year one, which has been reconfirmed. Since the fall of 2005, the school has been using the exact same amount of electricity, yet their rates have tripled. This will essential freeze the rates and makes all economical sense to do. SRECS are projected to generate \$25,000 in revenue, beginning in 2010 and is projected to increase to over \$40,000 by the year 2020.

The polls will be open from 7:00am until 9:00pm as permitted and required by law.

Help Available for Families Overwhelmed by Medical Bills for Children

Challenging economic times are hard for everyone, but for those with a child suffering from an illness or injury, the strain can seem unbearable when combining the emotional and financial challenges. Fortunately, New Jersey offers the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund (CICRF). The CICRF helps New Jersey families, regardless of income, whose unreimbursed medical and related expenses are becoming a financial burden.

Grants can cover expenses such as hospital and physician bills, medications, and disposable medical goods and medical equipment, in addition to home care, medically-related transportation, and home and vehicle modifications. To be considered for a grant from the Fund a family must

reside in New Jersey for at least three months and have uncovered medical bills or expenses for the care of a child age 21 or younger. Expenses are considered retroactively back to the inception of the program in 1988, and the Fund does not exclude based on diagnosis.

Importantly, there is no income limitation on who is eligible to apply to the Fund. To qualify, uncovered eligible expenses must be greater than 10% of the family's first \$100,000 of income, plus 15% of any excess income over \$100,000.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the CICRF please call the program for more information at:

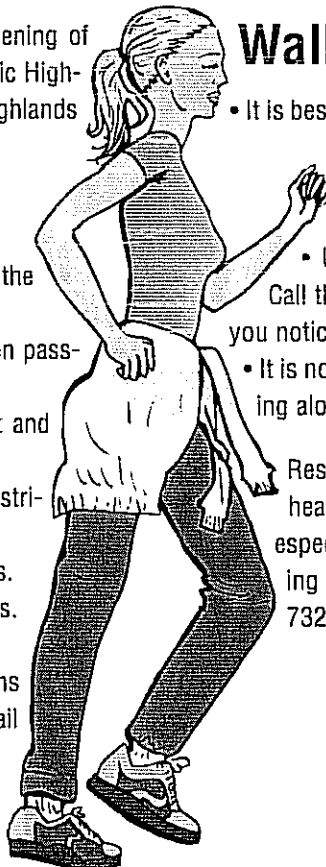
1-800-335-FUND (3863)

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.

Sincerely,

Jerry Vasto
Chief of Police

Summer Reading's Superstars

Twenty-five top readers were honored at pizza party on August 27 at the Masonic Lodge. Certificates were handed out to the superstars who had read at least 1500 minutes as part of this summer's reading program, "Be Creative at Your Library." Nearly 150 children, who tallied roughly 103,000 minutes, participated in the program. The honored group included Patrick Lynch, who logged a dazzling 14,490 minutes, surpassing his total from last year when he also was the Library's Super Reader. Other top readers included Hannah and Madeline Mika, Emily Churak, Annelise Hackett, Bobby and Ronny Adams, Lauren Marcolus, Carla Rios, Alex Paredes, Daniel Yu, and Matthew Payne. Zany entertainer Doodle Dude was on hand with his cartoon antics to entertain the group; Friends of the Library helped with the celebration, too. All summer long, performers presented programs to bring children of all ages and

the arts together. A Chinese dance troupe, an author/illustrator, a jazz saxophonist, a brass instrument 'petting zoo', a clown, a music and movement artist, and a sign language expert all enhanced the summer's theme with wonderful, creative programs.

The Summer Mini-Camp, also held at the Masonic Lodge, was the hub of juvenile artisans-at work for six weeks during July and August. Many thanks to the local artists who volunteered their time and talent, bringing the children a 'hands-on' opportunity to explore the arts: Lulu, the clown (Lou Harmon); potters, Bob and Anne Milling; jazz-saxophonist, Dan Wilensky; architect, Joe Sacco; cartoonist, Frank Rosato; fashion designer, Holly Beeble; claymation artists, Black Rocket Productions; square dancers, Betty Scharmann and Phyllis LaMarche; and Nilda Lynch, director of the camp, who also headed up a mask-making session. Many

thanks also to the Masons for sharing their space and without whom these programs would not have been possible.

Draft Board Talk

Award-winning reporter and editor, Muriel Smith, will present a talk about the sometimes-controversial actions of Vincent DePaul Slavin, chairman of Union, New Jersey, Draft Board #2 during World War II. Muriel, who is Slavin's daughter, recently wrote a book chronicling those events in a book entitled, "The Reporter and the Draft: the World War II story of a journalist turned renegade draft board chairman." Her book recalls Slavin's wartime experiences recorded by newspapers of the era, magazines, and letters, by him and about him. Ms. Smith will be on hand to share many of those experiences on Wednesday, November 4 at 7 PM in the Atlantic Highlands Borough Hall.

31st Annual Outdoor Flea Market

The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society is hosting its 31st annual Outdoor Flea Market at the Atlantic Highlands Marina (off First Ave.) on **Saturday September 12th from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Rain Date is September 19th...**

More than 100 vendors will be selling something for everyone. A variety of antiques and collectables, crafts, and new items will be offered. Furnishings, household wares, toys, clothing, tools, new and collectable books, lawn ornaments, turn of the century postcards, jewelry, and fishing tackle are among some of the varieties of merchandise to be found.

An eclectic array of bargains can always be found at the Society's Treasures' Or Table. Refreshments and a variety of food and baked goods will be available by the Society.

Society members will also be on hand to answer questions about the society and



its various programs. One can also inquire about how to apply for a century plaque if your Atlantic Highlands home is 100 years old.

So come join us for a day of browsing and searching for that something you just can't do without.

For more information about the Atlantic Highlands

Historical Society visit our website at www.atlantichighlandshistory.org or email the society at ahhsinfo@yahoo.com. Our Museum is open each **Sunday from 1PM to 4PM.**

If interested in donating items to the Society's Treasures' Or table please contact Bette at **732-291-4313** or Carmen at **732-291-9337.**

Proceeds from this event, one of our four yearly fund-raisers will help maintain and restore our Strauss Mansion Museum and provide educational programs throughout the year. The Society aims to keep and eye on the past for the future.

Thank You!

FIREMAN'S FAIR / INDEPENDENCE WEEK CELEBRATION A SUCCESS

The Atlantic Highlands Fire Department would like to thank all of our neighbors and friends who came out in support of the 2009 Fireman's Fair. The fireworks display was the best ever thanks to generous donations made by many including the Atlantic Highlands Harbor Commission. We appreciate the services of the Mayor and Council, Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, Police Department, First Aid Squad, Lions Club, J.H. Reid Company for the bandstands, Roy and Rami at Paladin Amusements for the games of chance, Dan at McCafferty Enterprises for excellent rides and the many food vendors who helped make the event safe and successful. A special thank you to our volunteers who without you, this special community event would not have been possible. We hope all that attended had a great time and we look forward to bringing you another great event next year.

Got Chili?

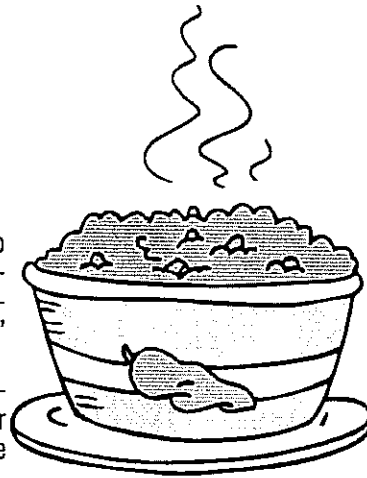
The Fifth Annual Atlantic Highlands Front Porch Club Chilifest will be held on Saturday, **October 3, 2009** with generous support from Whole Foods Market in Middletown and other local businesses.

This year's Chilifest will help raise money and awareness for the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society and the Strauss Mansion. The rain date will be Sunday, October 4, 2009. Previous Chilifests have helped support the Atlantic Highlands Public Library and the ecumenical food pantry of Atlantic Highlands area

churches.

Chilifest '09 will also feature live music, activities and crafts for children and the Rockin' Rum Bar.

Residents are encouraged to enter their favorite chili recipe in the chili cook-off competition. Prizes will be awarded for Best in 'Fest, Best Vegetarian, Most Exotic and the People's Choice Award.



Please email info@frontporchclub.com if you are interested in entering a recipe in this year's cook-off.

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

person. Visit www.frontporchclub.com for more information and a calendar of events.

Atlantic Highlands Community Events Committee Presents the second annual

Mayor's Ball

Friday, October 3, 2009

A town wide gala to benefit the

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS FIRST AID SQUAD

For additional information please call
**Cindy Fligor: 732-291-9102: Mary
Thompson: 732-872-1317**

**Mickey Rast 732-433-8510 or Chief
Rich Huff, AH First Aid 732-291-8118**

*Tickets available from community events
committee members or First Aid Members*

**Donations accepted for "chance & silent auction"
(call to pick up)**

AD JOURNAL AND SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE
GO TO WWW.AHNJ.COM FOR THE FORM AND RATES

Deadline for ad journal will be
September 18, 2009

Santa Claus is coming to town!

The Atlantic Highland's Community Events Committee will once again sponsor a Christmas Tree Sale in Veteran's park in December. This committee was created by

Mayor Rast to benefit organizations in town. The two

major fund
raisers are the
"Mayor's Ball"
and the

Christmas Tree
sale. Last year,
the Committee

was able to
donate \$15,000
to the Library
and they are

hoping to
donate even
more to the
Atlantic High-
land's First Aid
Squad this

year. This year a limited number of taller
(over 10 ft) trees will be available as well
as a selection of wreaths and swags. Santa
will be there on the weekends and a pho-
tographer will be on hand to take pictures
of families and pets. It will be a convenient
way to buy your tree and help your town!



Celebrate Our Waterfront and Woods: Annual Green Space Weekend, Sept 19-20

* 2009 Many Mind Creek Estuary Day *

WHEN: Saturday * September 19 * 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

WHERE: Beach at end of Avenue A, Atlantic Highlands

Experience your town's beautiful waterfront environment!

Activities: Shell, wetlands and estuary talks, beach clean-up, seining, kids' activities, refreshments, and limited kayak instruction.

BEGINNER KAYAKING

Young and beginner kayakers will build confidence and skill in our excellent bay setting

KAYAK ECO-TOURS

Great way to discover kayaking with a guide/ instructor for short eco-tours along our coastline.

*A signed release form is **required to be signed** prior to instruction/tour.*

You need to sign up early that day to guarantee spot for kayaking.

Kayak lessons/tours will be led by Kayak East (www.kayakeast.com).

Hosted by: A.H. Environmental Commission and Harbor Commission, and Sandy Hook Bay Catamaran Club

* 2009 Lenape Woods Nature Preserve Work Day *

WHEN: Sunday * September 20 * 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

WHERE: Lenape Woods Nature Preserve
entrance at Sears & Washington Ave

Come enjoy a day outdoors in Atlantic Highlands' Lenape Woods Nature Preserve and help keep our beautiful open spaces clean and maintained.

What better way to GIVE BACK to YOUR community.

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

Projects for the day include clearing brush, laying trail borders, mulching and more.

Lenape Woods Nature Preserve Needs You!

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

CONTACT Jim Krauss at FVPelican@gmail.com or Regina Hawley Keelen at kat9035@aol.com

— Another exciting year for the Arts in Atlantic Highlands —

Atlantic Highlands Arts Council Fall Concerts and Events:

Sunday, September 13, 2:00 pm

Legendary disc jockey and music historian Pete Fornatale, author of *Back to the Garden: the Story of Woodstock* recalls the 1969 Music Festival with interviews, vignettes, music clips and more. At Bella's Bistro, 71 First Ave. Pete Fornatale will bring and sign copies of his book. Seating is limited at this multi-media celebration, a fund-raising event for the Arts Council. Tickets \$15, \$5 for children 12 and under.

Saturday, September 26 at 7:30 pm

Polished and original acoustic jazz and inventive, spontaneous improvisation by The Art Deco Trio with vocalist Audra Mariel and jazz pianist Joe Accurso, both Atlantic Highlands residents, plus bassist Gary Mazzaroppi and drummer Tom Drag-onette. At the historic Central Baptist Church at 3rd and East Highland Ave. Tickets \$20, \$5 for children 12 and under.

Saturday, October 10 from 3:30-5:30

Arts Council members, volunteers and friends are invited guests at High Tea at a

beautiful private home in Atlantic Highlands. Enjoy delicious teas and treats, a best hat competition and more.

Saturday, November 21st at 7:30 pm

Mark Miklos and the Raritan Valley Ramblers bring their heartfelt country sound to Atlantic Highlands. This award-winning roots-style bluegrass band has opened for Leann Rimes, Billy Ray Cyrus and Charlie Daniels, and is a favorite at Albert Hall and BOTMA. At the Central Baptist Church, 3rd and E. Highland Ave. Tickets are \$20, \$5 for children 12 and under.

Save the Dates

Sunday, January 17, 2010, 2:00 pm

Artist talk: Playwright, television producer and writer John Lollo

Sunday, March 7, 2010, 2:00 pm

Sounds of the Highlands Jr. Entertainers under 18 years of age will participate following competitive auditions on Saturday, January 30, 2010

April 13, 2010, 9:00 am

PaintOut! Returns. Free social painting group.

May 22, 2010, 7:30 pm

The Fifth Annual Sounds of the Highlands Concert.

Saturday, July 17, 2010

FilmOneFest, Atlantic Highlands' exciting one minute film festival, back for its second year.

The Atlantic Highlands Arts Council is an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to bringing contemporary art and music to Atlantic Highlands. AHAC welcomes new members, new ideas, and volunteer help. For more information about the Arts Council, or to become a member, make a donation or a suggestion, or purchase tickets to events, visit the

AHAC website:

www.atlantichighlandsartsCouncil.com
or call 732-856-8383

The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society

**Haunted Lantern Tour
is Almost upon us!**

**We will need volunteer ghosts,
goblins and things that go bump
in the night!**

To Volunteer Please Call:

Cindy Fligor (732) 291-9102

Joanne Delloso (732) 291-3830

Popular Open Mic Moves to the Wine Bar

After an exciting year of live performance at the Blue Bay Inn, Atlantic Highlands' successful open mic moves in September to the new Wine Bar at 40 First Ave. in Atlantic Highlands, second floor. On:

Tuesday, September 8, Tuesday, October 13,
and the second Tuesday of
every month at 7:30 pm

Find the area's most original, innovative, and entertaining local musicians, artists and performers, Live at the Wine Bar.

Live at the Wine Bar is sponsored by the Atlantic Highlands Arts Council. Sign up to perform in the open mic beginning at 7 pm - the show begins at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and a good time is guaranteed!



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ATTN: REGISTERED VOTERS

Due to a planned, temporary relocation of the Borough library to the Fireman's Field House, located on the corner of Avenue C and West Washington Avenue, we will have to change the polling location for voting districts #2 and #3.

Your new polling location will be:

**Emergency Services Building
10 East Highland Avenue**

The Monmouth County Board of Elections has inspected and certified this location and it is accessible to elderly and physically disabled voters.

If you have any questions regarding this notice please contact:

**Dwayne M. Harris,
Municipal Clerk
732-291-1444 ext. 613**

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 Delloso

Peter T. Doyle

Jacob Hoffman

Robert Sutton

Adam Hubeny – Administrator

Website: www.ahnj.com