

Atlantic Highlands BEACON

Published by the Borough of Atlantic Highlands

Mayor's Message Frederick J. Rast

January 1, 2010 at Council Meeting

"The traditional New Year's Day speech, given each year by our town's Mayor."

It is hard to believe that I have been Mayor for two years. It seems like I have just started. I have been extremely lucky, having a Council as supportive as I have.

The people of Atlantic Highlands should be very happy with the achievements and

the non-partisan attitudes of our entire team, we all place the town's people first.

First, I would like to thank Mike Rybeck and Joe Glynn for their support of the Republican Party in running for Council this year. They are good men! Second, I want to congratulate Roy Delloso and Bob Sutton who were re-elected to our council team. They are wonderful assets to our team. They love our community and I'm proud to call them my friends!

We now are in our third year with exactly the same elected council and mayor. We will continue to do the best job we possibly can do to fulfill our obligations to the people of our town. Our town professionals have supported everything we have tried to do. Our full-time staff are excellent people, who dedicate their time to support our town. We are especially lucky to have our Borough Administrator Adam Hubeny, Borough Clerk Dwayne Harris, Chief of Police Jerry Vasto, and our DPW/Water and Sewer Superintendent Bob Dougherty, as our key managers of our full-time staff.

As a Council, over the past two years, we immediately fixed two very important public health issues. On Jan 1, 2008 the town only had two of it's four water wells working. Immediately, we restored one of the two downed wells. We now have three wells working. The fourth well, which is about 100 years old, is not functional and we have to re drill the well. Four wells are the best-case scenario for our town's water source. We also quickly corrected the leak and major break that occurred on the million-gallon water tank on Observatory Place, which happened in early 2008.

We have worked continually correcting the ground water infiltration problems into our sewer lines, thus saving thousands of dollars to our taxpayers in fees we pay Middletown to treat our sewerage. In early 2010, we will continue infiltration projects and correct a clean water underdrain which will take hundreds of thousands of gallons of water a year out of our sewer system.

We have finished the Bayshore Trail to Highlands, the skate board park and a new junior soccer field on Center Avenue. We are close to finishing the gap between Avenue D and Bay Avenue, linking the Bayshore Trail.

We have made a common sense, least expensive solution, to correcting the problems with our current Borough Hall and inadequately sized Library. The project is to the point of issuing contracts for remodeling and building a new addition, to our existing Borough Hall. This solution is about 40% of the previously proposed fully new construction project, coupled with the acquisition of more property from our tax rolls.

We have protected our people by implementing the least expensive way to set up a "Reverse Emergency Calling System" for emergency notification to our residents. It has already protected our people. Such a system was requested for years prior to our team coming in January 2008 but was never implemented.

We eliminated the dangerous and poorly designed "bump out" on First Ave and Garfield Ave. This "bump out" caused numerous accidents and major traffic backups.

We are about to contract with a wireless communication company to install a cell phone tower, which will protect the residents of Bayside Drive and parts of Ocean Boulevard, who currently have no cell service at their homes. Cell service is necessary to provide communications in emergencies for people on the Bayshore Trail, Bayside Drive and parts of Ocean Boulevard. Plus, this will bring much needed revenue to the Borough.

We have started the process to obtain federal financial support so we can build a good quality terminal for ferry operations. We also have asked for funding to help us build a parking garage, where the Railroad Avenue parking lot is currently located.

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Atlantic Highlands Beacon

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POWER OUTAGE REPORTING 1-888-544-4877

KEEP THIS NUMBER BY YOUR PHONE TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT YOU HAVE A LAND LINE TELEPHONE OR CELL PHONE THAT WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY A POWER OUTAGE TO CALL FROM.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE POLICE DEPARTMENT UNLESS IT IS AN EMERGENCY

Mayor's Message

Frederick J. Rast

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This location is already owned by our town and is at a central location to help our commuters and businesses. Using this location would not take any more property off our tax rolls.

We are creating a small parking lot on East Highland Avenue, on land owned for years by the town but never used! This small lot will provide additional parking for Borough employees during the work week, displaced by the new construction. We can also use it for first responders coming to the Fire House and First Aid building. We will also offer it to the churches for parking which is badly needed every Sunday! With two churches within 200' of the lot, each without any parking other than street parking, we feel we can help.

We now have an emergency ATV vehicle

that is used by our First Aid Squad, to go where normal motor vehicles cannot go, to provide Emergency protection on our Beach's, wooded areas and the Bayshore Trail. We will find an economical way to obtain two similar ATV vehicles, for our Fire and Police Departments (one each) within the next few years.

We have instituted outside ice skating for our residents, during the winter, if Mother Nature cooperates.

We have completed First Avenues Street Scapes 1, 2 and 3 to beautify our town and we recently have been awarded another \$417,000 to complete Streetscape 4. This will continue the beautification of First Avenue from Ocean Blvd into the Harbor.

The big task we have been trying to tackle is the economical decline of our business district. We are revising Zoning regulations to entice outside investments. We are trying everything we can do to aid our economic conditions in town. We are looking to streamline our Building Permit requirements and outside bureaucratic delays, to help entice investments in town.

We have created a letter asking that any firms or contractors, who win bids to do work for our town, strongly consider hiring our local tradesmen to work in our town. If all residents of Atlantic Highlands work together, continue to have a civil dialogue at our town council meetings and stop special interest groups from influencing decisions that are not for the majority's good, we will prosper in the near future. Together we will succeed!

We welcome suggestions from any of our citizens to help us protect our community.

I want to thank you all of allowing me to be your mayor. God Bless you, your family, our state and our great nation.

Frederick J. Rast

Mayor, Borough of Atlantic Highlands

Healthy lawns and clean water "You can make a difference"

A healthy lawn prevents erosion, filters pollution, recharges groundwater and cools our environment. Feeding your lawn with fertilizer keeps lawns healthy, but fertilization should be done properly to protect our waterways. If fertilizer is applied improperly, it can wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and directly into our waterways. Too much fertilizer washing into our waterways can cause algae blooms which are harmful to marine life.

Follow these lawn care best practices to do your part to improve the quality of our water:

- Choose a low or no phosphorus fertilizer. Bags of fertilizer have three numbers on them. (Example 26-0-3) Find the phosphorus percentage by looking at the middle number. A zero in the middle means no phosphorus, a 2 or 3 in the middle means low phosphorus.

- Avoid use of "all-purpose" type fertilizer products on your lawn.



- Apply fertilizer at the spreader setting shown on the bag. Return any unused fertilizer to the original container for future use. Do not apply fertilizer if heavy rain is expected.

- Use a drop spreader or a rotary spreader with a side guard to keep fertilizer on the lawn. Keep fertilizer off walks, driveways and roadways where it can be washed into storm sewers.

- Mow your lawn at a high or the highest mower setting and leave the grass clippings on your lawn. Mowing high allows the grass to develop a deep root system that retains and uses water more efficiently. Returning clippings to the lawn recycles nutrients and moisture back into the soil.

- Fertilize in the Spring after the first lawn cutting. Only apply fertilizer when your grass is growing enough to be mowed. Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn, for a healthier, greener lawn next Spring.

- Soil tests can help identify if other nutrients are needed. The Rutgers Extension website:

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/soiltestinglab/>

Source:

www.cleanwaterNJ.org

“Take 10” and help Atlantic Highlands get what it needs for the next 10 years

In March 2010, more than 130 million addresses will receive a 2010 Census form by mail or hand delivery. The 2010 Census will document the changes in our nation since the last decennial census in 2000, and tell us how we've evolved as a country. Because census data affect how more than \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to tribal, state and local governments, the census also will frame the future of our country and our community for the next 10 years.

During Census 2000, the mail participation rate was 72 percent as of the April 2000 cut-off. About \$85 million is saved for every one percent increase in mail participation. For these and many other reasons, we must work to encourage everyone's participation in the census.

Here's what you should know about the 2010 Census:

It's easy. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form asks 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. The individual in whose name the housing unit is rented or owned should complete the form on behalf of every person



NJ's COUNTING ON YOU!

living there, both relatives and nonrelatives.

It's important. Census data are used to reapportion seats in Congress and ensure proper district representation in state and local governments. Information from the census helps determine locations for child-care and senior centers, new roads, hospitals, schools and community centers.

It's safe. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law

enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

Finally, the most efficient way to respond to the 2010 Census is to complete the form as soon as it arrives and return it in the postage-paid return envelope. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take the count in person.

Atlantic Highlands will be sponsoring a "Census Assistance Center" located in the Senior Citizen Building from March 19 - April 19. There will be someone available to help you with your forms and answer any questions you might have. The hours will be Monday and Thursday from 2:00pm - 6:00pm.

The Mayor and Council are issuing a challenge to this community to increase the mail participation rate and help ensure a complete and accurate count in 2010.

For more information about the 2010 Census and the "Take 10" initiative, visit www.2010census.gov.

The Atlantic Highlands Police Department

Reminding resident about a program that we offer, called "OPERATION REASSURANCE."

The Atlantic Highlands Police Department is reminding Resident of Atlantic Highlands about a program that we offer, called "Operation Reassurance." This program allows a resident who lives by him or herself the reassurance that their welfare will be checked daily. If a resident is interested in being a part of the program they can contact police headquarters for an application. Once the application is filled out, that resident will be put on our daily check list. Each morning between 7 am and 10am each par-

ticipant in the program will call headquarters to advise us that everything is fine that day. If a phone call is not received by 10am the police dispatcher will call the residence and check on the participant. If there is no answer, the dispatcher will send an officer to the house to check on the person's welfare.

If you or anyone you know is interested in this program or has any questions about this program they can contact the Atlantic Highlands Police Headquarters at:

732-291-1212



Atlantic Highlands Police Department

WARNING

Drivers **MUST** yield to pedestrians – It's the law!

1. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (2006), New Jersey is 7th in the country for pedestrian fatalities.

2. Each year, an average of 150 pedestrians are killed and another 5,875 are injured in New Jersey due to auto related crashes.

In New Jersey, the law is clear...

- Drivers must yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

- Pavement markings are not required for crosswalks at intersections.

Drivers may not overtake or pass another vehicle that has stopped for a pedestrian to cross.

- Turning vehicles must yield to pedestrians crossing during the WALK signal.

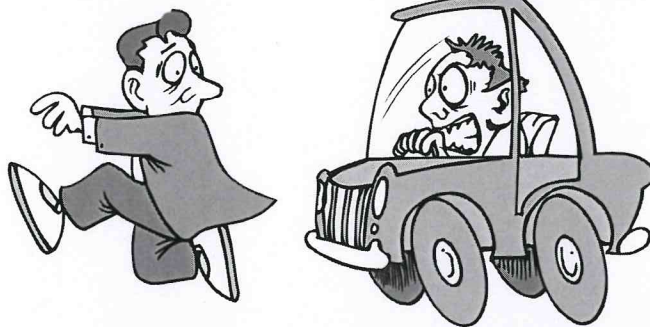
- No pedestrian shall suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle which is so close that it is impossible for the driver to yield.

- Every pedestrian upon a roadway at any point other than within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection, shall yield the right of way to all vehicles upon the roadway.

- Drivers failing to yield - \$100 fine.

NOTHING CONTAINED HEREIN SHALL RELIEVE A DRIVER FROM THE DUTY TO EXERCISE DUE CARE FOR THE SAFETY OF ANY PEDESTRIAN UPON A ROADWAY.

**HELP US MAKE THE STREETS
OF OUR COMMUNITY
SAFER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!**



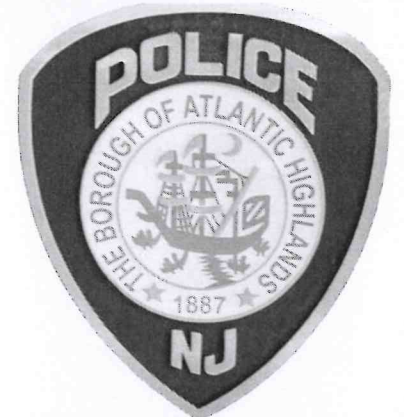
A safety message from the Atlantic Highlands Police Department



WARNING

NO IDLE STANDARD

N.J.S.A. Title 39:3-70.2
N.J.A.C. Title 7:27-14,15



Turn your engine off when stopped – It's the law!

1. Idling for more that 3 minutes is illegal for both diesel and gasoline vehicles.
2. Idling can be enforced on public roadways or private property.

Penalty amount – not less than \$250.

NJ Department of Health estimated 11% of NJ citizens suffer from asthma.

Children breathe at tailpipe level and at a faster rate than adults.

Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting the engine.

HELP US MAKE THE STREETS OF OUR COMMUNITY SAFER FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

This is a public service message from the Atlantic Highlands Police Department

“I.C.E.” Your cell phone

In case of EMERGENCY

Phone contacts programmed into your cell phone

Make your cell phone work for you – What do you think the first response of an emergency team is during an accident? We all know they try to save and administer aid, but they also try to identify the person. Would someone be able to identify you and locate your next of kin in the case of an emergency? Practically everyone carries cell phones now days. But how many of us have the pertinent information on them however? If you were in an accident or got sick traveling, would you be able to leave a trail to contact your next of kin? Would medical personnel have the necessary information to treat you without the worry of your possibly having allergic reactions to some type of treatment. If not, it’s time to get connected and ICE your cell phone now.

ICE is simply a list of contacts that alert medical and emergency personnel that these are your “In Case of Emergency Contacts.” This information entered into your cell phone can save your life and can save a lot of time in treating you in case of an emergency.

It could save your life and notify loved ones!

Just program your cell phone’s contact list with the codeword “ICE” (In Case of Emergency):

1. Open your cell phone contact list to create a new entry.
2. Enter the word ICE with the name and number of the person you would like contacted in an emergency.
3. To list multiple contacts name the entries **ICE 1, ICE 2, ICE 3.**

Examples: (ICE 1-Husband-Tom) (ICE 2-Mother-Mary) (ICE 3-Son-Joe.)

Emergency workers look for the codeword ICE when they turn on your phone.

Do yourself and your family a favor by taking the time to enter emergency information in your cell phone that could possibly save your life. Help them help you! Program your phone today!

The purpose of this program is to assist emergency workers and first responders. All others should call 9-1-1 when encountering an emergency situation.

The Atlantic Highland First Aid & Safety Squad has kicked off its “Annual Fund Drive”

Each year, the all-volunteer organization reaches out to the community to raise funds so it can provide quality, around-the-clock emergency medical and rescue operations to our friends and neighbors.

Tax-deductible donations go directly to the purchase of medical supplies, equipment and training, all costs that increase every year. And this year, the organization will use some of those funds to purchase a new ambulance to replace one that is out-of-date and has been in service for 24 years. The cost of the new ambulance is upwards of \$140,000.

The fund drive is just one of the many exciting things going on with the AHFAS, which in 2009 was named EMS Magazine’s Gold Award winner for volunteer first aid organizations.

In addition to the fund drive, we’re always seeking new members, donations of used cars for training, and other support. We are a 501 (c) 3 organization, meaning there are many ways for you to support the squad ranging from cash donations to planned gifts.

Meanwhile, plan to stop by the AHFAS headquarters during the town wide garage sale in May where the squad’s Cadets group, which consists of members between the ages of 14 and 17, will be selling items as part of their annual fundraising efforts. We’re also planning some other exciting events for that day so keep any eye the squad’s website for the latest news at www.ahfirstaid.org.

For more information on how to help the organization in this critical fund drive call **(732) 291-8118**.

Free water bottles available to residents!!

The Atlantic Highlands Clean Communities fund is providing free 20 oz, reusable stainless steel water bottles to residents. Each bottle is blue and contains the official Atlantic Highlands logo along with an important message to remind people to reduce, reuse, & recycle; and to keep Atlantic Highlands a clean community.

These steel water bottles will provide a wonderful alternative to deposable plastic water bottles. On average, people in the United States consume 1,500 plastic water bottles every second, with about 80% ending up in a landfill. In addition, plastic leaches toxins into the water, which have been linked to health problems, and 17 million barrels of oil are used in producing bottled water in plastic containers each year.

To help people switch over to reusable bottles, the Borough of Atlantic Highlands is offering for a limited time only a free water bottle. Please, only one bottle per resident while supplies last, there are limited supplies!

You may pick up your free water bottle inside Borough Hall, after May 15th, during normal business hours. Let’s all try to keep Atlantic Highlands a clean and green place to live.

2010 Dog licenses available

NJ State law and Borough Ordinance 677 require every person that owns a dog to obtain a license, for each dog, from the municipality. Most licenses in Atlantic Highlands expired December 31, 2009 and were due to be renewed by January 31, 2010. If you have not yet renewed your license, they are available at Borough Hall. There will be a \$5.00 late fee assessed to each license 30 days after its expiration date. Your pet must have ten [10] months of valid rabies vaccine before a new license can be issued so check you rabies certificate [issued at time of vaccination] to be sure it does not expire before January 2009. If it does you will need to speak to your Veterinarian about administering a new rabies shot. Application forms are available at www.ahnj.com and can be sent through the mail if you are unable to get to Borough Hall during business hours.

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.

WE HAVE BEEN APPROVED, BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR 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.

THE MONUMENT WILL BE DEDICATED ON MAY 31, 2010, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE.

WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP IN MAKING THIS NEW MONUMENT A REALITY BY MAKING A DONATION TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST WHICH 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

The Atlantic Highlands Recreation Department has been busy planning some **great events for 2010**

Our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on **Saturday, April 3rd at 11am**. The festivities will be held at Fireman's Field and are sure to please children of all ages. Bring along your Easter basket when we kick-off the day with the egg hunt. Candy, toys, and "golden coins" will be hidden inside the eggs. If you are one of the lucky ones to find a "golden coin" be sure to turn coin in to one of the Recreation Committee members for a special prize. Following the Easter Egg Hunt, we will have fun games for everyone to enjoy; Bunny Bocce, Egg Toss, a Bunny Sack Race and many more. Hope to see everyone there. Rain date is Sunday, March 28 and will be posted on our website.

Soccer Registrations are under way. Be sure to sign up your child, ages 5 and older, for our popular Fall Soccer Program. Registration forms and registration information can be found on our website, at Borough Hall, or at Highlands Community Center.

Spring is in the air and it is time to get outside and play. We are excited to offer children ages 3 and up some new

programs. Again we will offer a **Tennis Clinic** at the Municipal Harbor Courts and we will also be offering a **T-Ball Clinic** at the Center Avenue Park. These programs will begin the end of April so there is still time to register. Look on our website for more information.



We are also trying to organize special packages and rates for Atlantic Highlands children to try-out **Martial Arts and Gymnastics** with some local studios. We'll keep you posted.

Don't forget to start spring-cleaning and find your treasures to be sold at the **Town-Wide Garage Sale**. The Garage Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 15** with a rain date of May 16. Registration forms will be available at Borough Hall in April. There is a \$5.00 registration fee.



It's not early to start thinking about the summer. We have some exciting things coming forward and look out for more information on our website or through the schools. Our



Summer Recreation Program will go on as scheduled this year from **July 5 – August 13** and will be held at Atlantic Highlands Elementary School. We will again be offering specialty sport clinics for **basketball, softball, soccer, and tennis**. Our **Summer Concert Series** is Rockin' and Rollin' along and we have some great new acts. Concerts will begin on **Sunday, July 11 – September 12**. Look for the concert schedule online and in the next issue of the Beacon Newsletter.



The Atlantic Highlands recreation Committee is made of resident volunteers. We meet once a month and welcome you to attend a meeting if you have an idea or would like to be part of our exciting group. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30pm at the Borough Hall. For more information, please visit our website at:

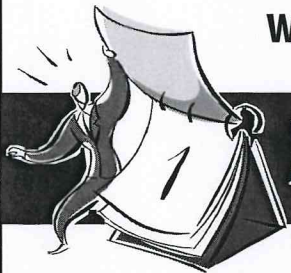
www.ahnj.com

follow link for Recreation

Earth Day Activities April 24
Lenape Woods Day April 25

Details to be posted on the
Borough website before the event

www.ahnj.com



Mark Your Calendar

Atlantic Highlands Fireman's Fair
June 29 through July 3

Fireworks on Friday night
July 2 in the Harbor

Food Pantry Offers Thanks to Community

The Area Association of Community Churches, AACC Food Pantry, located in the United Methodist Church in Atlantic Highlands, would like to thank area residents and organizations for the enormous support we received during the holidays.

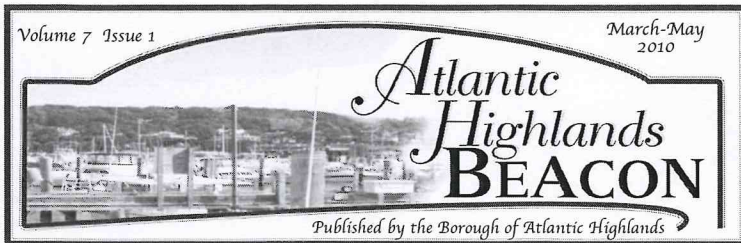
The generous donations were astounding -from individuals, churches and organization. We greatly appreciate the help as the need for assistance has increased substantially, with number of families we help increasing from 200 to 300.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone for such generous support, on behalf of the volunteer staff of the AACC Food Pantry.

Sincerely,

Mary Carhart

Director, AACC Food Pantry



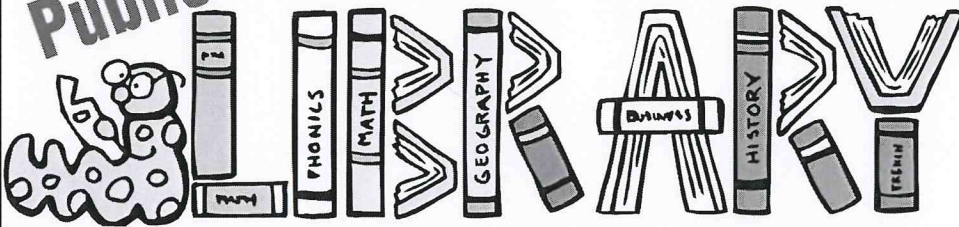
PRSR STD
ECR WSS
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Red Bank
New Jersey 07701
Permit No.385

Postal Patron

Atlantic Highlands
New Jersey 07716

Library News

Friends of the Atlantic Highlands Public Library



Pampered Chef Fundraiser – Thursday, Mar 18, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
at the **Library** learn new, easy and budget friendly cooking and entertainment tips. Outside orders are welcome from anyone who can't attend Brochures available at the Library

Evening Book Club

Thursday, Mar 25th – 7:00 pm • Atlantic Highlands Public Library

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Díaz

Sign up at the library where books will be available at the front desk.
For further details email Elita and Lori at: ahlebc@gmail.com

Atlantic Highlands Beacon

Published Quarterly

Email articles to:
dharris@ahnj.com

Publication subject to space
limits and editorial needs.

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