Welcome to Fall at Highland Lake!

Fall greetings to each of you! We have just had a very busy, but wonderful summer, and are now looking forward to the even busier holidays! Please be sure to look at the schedule for all of the great opportunities to visit with your Highland Lake neighbors!

One of the highlights of our summer was the Concert in the Park featuring the Allen Tolbert Unit, with one of our own residents, Steve Smith. Held on Labor Day weekend, this event was enjoyed by over 150 guests. If you missed it, you missed a treat! Hopefully we can have them back again in the near future. Thanks to the Lady Lakers for sponsoring this event!

Our next big event is the Fall Festival and 5K/Wag Walk on October 10 and 11. There is information regarding these events elsewhere in the newsletter. I hope you will be able to join us for these fun times, again sponsored by the Lady Lakers!

On Sunday, December 6, we will light the town tree and park and have our (Continued on page 2)
Welcome to Fall... (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

annual Christmas “get-together.” The Lady Lakers are discussing some changes for this time together, and there will be an update on the website later in the year.

Looking back on the previous paragraphs, do you see a pattern? Well, just in case you are missing it – it is LADY LAKERS! This group of ladies is responsible for just about every function we have here at the lake! They are hard-working, dedicated women who love this town, and do everything they can to make it special for all of us! These ladies, along with their spouses, are the backbone of the community! Please come out to these events and support their hard work! Better still – join them and get involved in the community!

I have quite a bit of information to give to you in this newsletter, so I have separated it in more detail into several articles. To summarize and preview:

- We have plans to lower the lake in September 2016.
- We are working on plans for the dredging of the lake, and will have a very important town meeting on November 9.
- Last, and certainly not least, I report (for the last time) on the tornado damage to the town in the spring of 2014.

Please take the time to read these articles, and please plan to join us for as many of these meetings and events as possible!

Hope to see you soon!

Gail Bailey
Mayor

Mark Your Calendar!
Town of Highland Lake
2016 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
August 23, 2016
SMFD Raises Funds for Breast Cancer Research

The Straight Mountain Volunteer Fire Department is selling Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts. Sizes S through XL sell for $12; 2XL and above sell for $15. All proceeds from the sale of the shirts will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. The Fire Department will have the shirts at the Community Fall Festival on Sunday, October 11, or you may contact Town Hall if you are interested in purchasing one. Order a shirt today and help support the fight against breast cancer!

Derelict Lake Structures: Amended Ordinance Explained

On June 8, 2015, Ordinance HL-11-05 (Sections 7 and 8) was amended by the Town Council to further define derelict and the penalty. Derelict is defined as any structure that the Building Inspector of the Town of Highland Lake determines could become a navigational, safety, or environmental hazard. This includes structural deficiencies or potential hazards due to high winds or boat traffic. The penalty for violation of the ordinance shall be either the removal of the derelict structure or bringing it into compliance with the building code at the property owner’s expense. The Town of Highland Lake will notify the property owner by written, certified notice of the Building Inspector’s finding. Upon receipt, the property owner has 30 days to remove the derelict structure or bring it in compliance with the building code, or the Town of Highland Lake may remove it at the property owner’s expense.

If you are a property owner who does not come to the lake regularly, but has a pier or dock, please check to see that it is not beginning to deteriorate. Some of these old piers are beginning to break down, especially the ones that had Styrofoam under them (no longer allowed). We have had to remove large pieces of Styrofoam from the lake recently, and it is a hazard to the lake, as well as to those using it. Please help us to keep our lake clean and beautiful!

Lake Lowering Allows Time for Improvements

In its September meeting, the Town Council voted to lower the lake after Labor Day 2016.

Anyone wishing to work on seawalls, piers, docks, boathouses or any other project requiring a permit from the town, will have plenty of time to submit plans. This also gives everyone time to make plans and line up contractors for your project. The Town may also do some additional work on the pad in front of the dam during this time.

The gate will be opened the week of Labor Day (after Monday), and will remain open at least 30 days. This should drop the water level approximately 5 ft. After the gate is closed, the water level will rise based on the rain fall. Because we do not know how much rain we will have during this time, it is hard to know when the lake will be at full pool again. Usually

(Continued on page 4)
Lake Lowering (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

by the end of November you will be able to get back on the lake. Please make sure that any water craft are on lifts when you leave on Labor Day – or before if you do not plan to be here. The Town cannot be responsible for rescuing your boat if it is not properly stored.

We will continue to remind you of this date, but please put this on your calendar and make sure your property is secured.

Town Meeting on Dredging
Town of Highland Lake - Anchor
Monday, November 9, 2015
6:30 p.m.

The Town of Highland Lake will hold a Town Meeting regarding the dredging of the lake on November 9, 2015, at the Anchor. We will have representatives from Tetra Tech, the firm that was hired to do the feasibility studies, will be present to answer any questions you may have regarding this project.

We have been working on this project for approximately two years, and are now ready to present the findings to the community for your thoughts and questions. Many hours have gone into these studies and plans, and we still have quite a bit of work to do before any dredging can begin.

Bill Rush has chaired this special committee for the past two years, and he has done an excellent job getting us to this point. I wish to thank him and his committee for their dedication during this time; it has not been an easy job!

This is not going to be a small or inexpensive project. We need everyone to be informed on how it will impact the town financially, as well as the quality of life. Please make time to come to this very important meeting and get “first hand” information concerning this project, and what it will mean to the lake and the residents.

What is Dredging?

Dredging is the removal of accumulated sediments (muck) and debris from the bottom of lake. The decision to dredge should be based on sufficient study that shows accumulated sediment is having an adverse impact on water quality, recreation, or navigation.

To read more about dredging, visit
www.townofhighlandlake.com/dredging

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 6, 2015

Mark Your Calendars and Stay Tuned for More Details!
Mayor’s Final Report on Tornado Damage at Highland Lake

Last week I met with Judge Chris Green, Commissioner Dean Calvert and EMA Director Don Roybal to go over the final figures for last year’s storm clean-up of the roads and the lake.

Originally we were told to expect up to $100,000 for our portion. As the bills started to come in, it looked as if it might be less, so we set aside $80,000 in a special fund. When all of the information was in, the town’s portion of the $1.2 million clean-up was $65,611.83, considerably less than what we were expecting!

The main reason we were able to come in at a lower dollar amount rests completely with the County Commission office. They had everything in place through pre-bid contractors, and the Town of Highland Lake was included in this through the “Memorandum of Understanding” letter that we had signed just the November before the storm. I remember asking Commissioner Calvert what this letter would do for the town, and his answer — “Nothing unless you have a storm!” Little did either of us know how soon we would need this!

Because of the pre-bid, and our ability to “piggy back” on it, we were able to be up and going within the critical first 30 days when the FEMA and State grants are at their highest. We started out at 85% and finished at 75%, the majority of the work being done in the 80% bracket! Because of this and the dedication of the people in the Commission and EMA offices, we finished our clean-up in record time, and with as little cost to the town as possible.

I cannot stress to you enough how hard these individuals worked for the Town of Highland Lake! You cannot imagine the hours that were spent on our behalf during this time. The paperwork alone was enough to fill several storage boxes, and the EMA office filed all of this for us. Commissioner Calvert and his crew were here every day, overseeing the contractors and getting our roads back in order. Judge Green was always available to help in any way, calling the State for support, meeting with the different agencies, and making sure we were taken care of. Please, if you will, take the time to thank these people for their efforts in helping to put us back together!

I cannot end this letter without once again thanking our Police Department and our City employees for their dedication and hard work during this very trying time in our town. Police Chief Scott Kon, Officer Joe Franklin, Building Inspector Tim Moore, and, of course, our wonderful town clerk, Cheryl Storey – what would we have done without you?!

We can now close this chapter in our town history, and hope that we never have to revisit it again! And yes, we signed another “Memorandum of Understanding” with the County this year!

Gail Bailey
Mayor

Thank You
TO ALL WHO HELPED OUR TOWN RECOVER FROM THE STORM
New Car Tags & Renewals

Did you know that the Town of Highland Lake receives a percentage from new car tags and renewals purchased in Blount County? When you go to the Blount County Courthouse, please let the customer service representative know that you live at Highland Lake to ensure the town receives this revenue instead of it going to another location. Unless you ask them to check, there is a good chance it is not listed as Highland Lake, and we are missing the revenue!

Email Notices of Council Meetings

The Town Council holds its regular council meeting the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., unless this date falls on a holiday; then the regular meeting takes place the following Monday. Special meetings and work sessions are called as needed, and notice is posted on the message board outside Town Hall and on the calendar of events on the Town website. All meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend and become involved in the community.

Any member of the public may register to receive direct email notification of meetings. If you would like to start receiving this type of notification, please send your name, address, phone, and email address to info@townofhighlandlake.com.

Recently some of the Lady Lakers decided it would be fun to have a “Craft Day” and learn how to make various crafts to aid in decorating for Christmas and other holidays.

We did this a few years ago and made some very beautiful ornaments for the Town tree, as well as ourselves. These ornaments are different from the previous ones, and I think you will enjoy them.

Let us hear from you if you have an interest in joining us! If you are interested in attending this event, please let us know. You can call the office during business hours, or send an email to the Town. The class will be open to anyone, not just Lady Lakers. Most of the projects we have in mind are made with material, and require very little sewing. You will receive a list of these items when you sign up. Date and time will be established once we hear from enough participants.
HIGHLAND LAKE 5K RUN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2015

PRE-REGISTER $25 Register by Mon, Sept 28, To Ensure T-Shirt Size
DAY OF RUN $30 Registration Begins at 7 am on Day of Run Run Begins at 8 am

WALKERS WELCOME

REGISTER ONLINE OR AT TOWN HALL
WWW.TOWNOFHIGHLANDLAKE.COM

THE TOWN OF Highland Lake
612 Lakeshore Drive • Oneonta, AL 36271 • 205.625.6407

SPONSORED BY THE LADY LAKERS • ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY/TOWN OF HIGHLAND LAKE
Register Now for 5K & the Wag Walk!

The Highland Lake 5K Run is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2015. Registration begins at 7:00 a.m. The run starts at 8:00 a.m. Registration includes a t-shirt. Advance registration is $25; day of run, $30.

The Wag Walk kicks off immediately after the 5K Run Awards Ceremony (approximately 9:30 a.m.). Registration for the Wag Walk begins at 9:00 a.m. All dogs must be on a leash. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dog. No motorized vehicles are allowed. No entrant is eligible for more than one award.

All proceeds from these events will benefit the Lady Lakers and their many projects that benefit the Town of Highland Lake and its residents and visitors.

To register for either the 5K Run or the Wag Walk, click here to download the entry form.
Community Fall Festival

Sunday, October 11, 2015 • 1-4 pm
Pat Bellew Park at Highland Lake

Free Hotdogs, Chips, Cookies, & Drinks
Inflatables
Rock Climbing Wall
Dunk Tank
District Attorney Pam Casey & Police Officer Joe Franklin

Cake Walk
Arts & Crafts Vendors
Silent Auction
Face Painting
Hayrides

LOTS OF FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

For More Info
Call 205.625.6407

www.townofhighlandlake.com
Town Council Meetings
1st Monday of each month
7:00 p.m., The Anchor

Committee Meetings
Buildings & Grounds Committee
2nd Thursday of each month, 5:30 p.m.

Lake Committee
2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Ordinance Committee
4th Thursday of each month, 5:00 p.m.

Events & Activities

Community Dominoes
Every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.

Lady Lakers
2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

Events & Activities (continued)

5K Run
Saturday, October 10, Registration 7 a.m.
Run 8 a.m.

Wag Walk & Dog Costume Contest
Saturday, October 10, Registration 9 a.m.
Begins After 5K Run Awards Ceremony
(around 9:30 a.m.)

Annual Fall Festival
Sunday, October 11, 1-4 p.m.

Annual Christmas Tree & Park Lighting & Celebration
Sunday, December 6
Time TBA

Town Meeting on Dredging
Monday, November 9, 6:30 p.m.

Mark Your Calendars!
Municipal Elections
Tuesday, August 23, 2016