



Lake Hayward

2026 Spring Packet



President's Message

Dear Lake Hayward Community Members,

Spring has arrived at Lake Hayward, and with it comes that familiar feeling — the lake waking up, docks going in, and neighbors returning. To our seasonal members, welcome back. To our year-round residents, thank you for being the steady heartbeat of this community all winter long. It's great to have everyone together again.

The updated Rules and Regulations (coming soon) will reflect the dates we've been using over the past five years — boats may be placed on racks beginning March 15. Boat removal will take place around the weekend of November 15, as we rely on volunteers to assist with clearing any remaining vessels. Once our volunteers confirm availability and a specific day (Saturday or Sunday) is selected, that information will be communicated via email blast, Properties Team Reach and on our website Events Calendar. We truly appreciate the flexibility and cooperation that make this process work.

You may have noticed that the boat racks at Second Beach were rebuilt earlier this spring. A big thank you to Dave Giroux, Chris Popolizio, and all the volunteers who made this improvement possible.

We're also excited to see the new playground and swing set already being enjoyed. This project is a testament to the dedication and persistence of Cassie Jacoby and the Playground Committee. Their hard work has created a wonderful gathering space for families and a lasting addition to our community — thank you for seeing it through.

Summer at Lake Hayward wouldn't be complete without a full calendar of events, and this year is no exception. There are many fun activities planned for all ages throughout the season. A sincere thank you to Lynn Butler and the Events Committee for the time and energy they put into making these happen. Be sure to

check out the full schedule on our website under the Events tab so you don't miss out.

As you visit the beaches, keep an eye out for the new kiosk locations at all three beaches. These will serve as convenient hubs for updates and information throughout the season – thank you to Jeff Flynn for all his efforts on this important task.

And finally, I'd like to share an important community update. The dam referendum received strong support, reflecting what makes Lake Hayward special — a community that comes together to protect and invest in what we all value. The dam is essential to maintaining lake levels, safeguarding surrounding properties, and supporting the health of the lake itself. It's a quiet but critical piece of what allows us all to enjoy this place year after year.

This project is not just about maintaining infrastructure; it's about preserving a shared legacy and ensuring that Lake Hayward remains a place we're proud to call home, now and into the future.

As part of this effort, the Special Assessment will be mailed on September 1st. We encourage everyone to plan ahead, as payments received after October 1st will be considered late. We understand that timing can take some coordination, and we appreciate everyone's attention to this as we move through the process together.

As the season gets underway, I hope you take time to enjoy everything that makes Lake Hayward such a special place — from quiet mornings on the water to lively days at the beach. Here's to a wonderful season ahead.

**Warm regards,
Laurie Dworak**

Events

Welcome to Lake Hayward 2026!

Cottage season has begun!! I look forward to meeting more members of our wonderful lake community.

I'm excited to offer new and recurring favorite events. A few people have reached out to ask if they can be on the social committee. Please email me, Lynn Butler, at events@lakehaywardct.com if you are interested.

SUNDAY afternoons: Acoustic music (2 during the summer), book club, Bunco

MONDAY evenings: Free concerts on the lawn at Goodspeed

TUESDAY 5:00-7:30 PM, Pickleball

TUESDAY 6:30 PM, Kids Crafts with Lynn Macri and Karen VanZetten

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM, Kiddie Bingo with Linda Abel and Shannon McKane

Mahjong MONDAY and THURSDAY afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

THURSDAY 5:00-7:30 PM, Pickleball

THURSDAY 7:30-8:30 PM, Happy Hour, Pavilion, everyone is welcome

FRIDAY evenings: Trivia, Karaoke, Family Feud, Left Right Center, Adult craft

SATURDAY evenings: Bands and food trucks when available

This is your lake community; what would you like to see?

BANDS: Looking for individuals who will host a band one or more times during the season. Our first band is currently scheduled for June 27th with The Locomotives. We are bringing back a couple of favorites, as well as "new to us" bands.

Please note: Due to liability and insurance requirements, the use of the ballfield for overflow parking is no longer permitted.

See you soon!!

**Lynn Butler
Events Coordinator**

Tax Collector

With the Special Assessment for dam repair being billed in this coming tax year, there's been several questions. Here are the most frequently asked:

Q: When will the Special Assessment be billed?

The Special Assessment will be billed effective September 1, 2026. It will be deemed late on October 1, 2026.

Q: Is the Special Assessment a tax?

The Special Assessment is treated as a tax. The billing will follow all the same rules that apply to any property tax, including applying interest, late notices, and liens for those assessments not paid timely.

Please consult with your accountant as to whether this Special Assessment will be tax deductible for you in the coming year.

Q: Can the Special Assessment be billed in installments?

No. Under the rules for municipal special assessments, there can be only one installment. Refer to CT State Statutes Chapter 203 for more information about municipal special assessments.

Q: How will I estimate the cost of my Special Assessment bill for budgeting purposes?

For purposes of budgeting, multiply your usual POALH tax bill by 2, and then add a bit. This should help you estimate your individual bill. All bills are based on your home or lot's appraised value.

Q: Does this mean I won't get my usual annual property tax bill from POALH this year?

No. There will be a property tax bill for 2026/2027. What will be different is that this year, the property tax bill will be split into two installments. Unlike the Special Assessment, your property bill may be paid in installments, and to help with the burden of this extra cost, we will take advantage

of that option in the law. The first half will be billed July 1, 2026. The second half will be billed January 1, 2027.

Q: If the usual annual POALH Property Tax is being billed in two installments, can I pay the whole bill in July, or do I have to split my payments?

There is never a penalty for early payments. The option to pay for two installments is meant as a one-time offer (this year only) to help everyone in budgeting through this assessment year.

**If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at
taxcollector@lakehaywardct.com**

Lynn Crisci

\$\$\$ Treasurer 's Report \$\$\$

During June and July the Budget Committee requests a multitude of various reports from me to compare current and past years' spending and budget requests. With frugality, a budget is created. When the membership votes and approves it, that document becomes the legal resource authorizing the Board of Governors to operate the P.O.A.L.H.

Each July 1st is the beginning of the P.O.A.L.H. fiscal year. Throughout the fiscal year I prepare monthly reports to update the Board of Governors on our financial status and to maintain transparency for the membership.

The Board asks each Committee chair and others responsible for specific revenue and expense line items to report on the activity and utilization of the budgeted amounts.

Throughout the year, I also provide the Board with a detailed comparison of all incurred revenue and expense accounts against the related budgeted amounts. Collectively these volunteers and this process ensure our revenues are collected, spent and saved according to the Budget you voted for.

Quarterly Financial reports are posted on the POALH website www.lakehaywardct.com after board review and approval. Interim reports are available upon request by emailing treasurer@lakehaywardct.com.

- Lisa Hober

Parking Pass Update

Dear POALH Members,

Your Board of Governors is currently exploring options to replace the orange parking hang tags. After considering a variety of ideas, we've identified several promising options and would like your input before moving forward.

In the coming days, you will receive a poll via Constant Contact. Please keep an eye for this important survey and take a moment to share your preferences.

Until a consensus is reached on how the membership would like to proceed, we will continue using the current orange hang tags.

Thank you for your participation and continued support.



Lake Quality & Improvement Committee (LQIC)

Help Protect Lake Hayward's Watershed: Every Action Counts

A healthy watershed is vital to preserving the beauty and safety of Lake Hayward. Whether you live directly on the water or not, every homeowner plays a role in protecting our lake from pollution and erosion.

Your lawn and landscaping choices matter.

Maintaining healthy lawns and natural shorelines is one of the best defenses against water quality issues. Native plants are excellent at absorbing excess nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen both contribute to harmful algal blooms and degraded water quality. Simple steps like letting your grass grow a little longer in the summer and avoiding fertilizer use can go a long way. Deep-rooted vegetation also helps stabilize the soil, reducing shoreline erosion and keeping sediment out of the lake.

Shoreline care matters, too.

Even if your property isn't directly on the water, erosion control is essential. Vegetation along the lake's edge helps protect against erosion and deters nuisance wildlife like geese.

Please remember:

Do not remove or modify vegetation on POALH property without permission from the Board of Governors.

Septic system maintenance is critical.

Lake Hayward's watershed includes many homes—and with them, many septic systems. If not properly maintained, failing systems can leak harmful nutrients into the lake. Be sure your system is inspected and serviced regularly to do your part in preserving water quality. Together, we can protect the health and beauty of Lake Hayward for generations to come.

Spring is in the Air at First Beach!

After the harsh winter season we endured in Connecticut, we're so excited to have warmer weather and welcome everyone back to First Beach. We can't wait for the summer fun at the Beach and Pavilion! Our events committee has another fantastic lineup of events and bands scheduled. Please be sure to visit the Events Calendar at lakehaywardct.com to save the dates for your favorite activities. Our pavilion is available for POALH members to reserve private events. For more information about the reservation process and fee, please see the Event hosting FAQ page on the lake website. The Geese committee will continue our successful geese mitigation program to keep First Beach clean with the white fencing by the water's edge. They are always looking for new and returning volunteers to take a day or two each week to raise and lower the fencing. Please reach out directly at geese@lakehaywardct.com if interested in helping. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding First Beach, we'd love to hear from you.

Your First Beach Representatives

Craig Montanari

1stBeachRep2@lakehaywardCT.com

Bryan Smith

1stBeachRep1@lakehaywardCT.com



Second Beach Welcomes the Season

Hello everyone!

This will be a fun Summer on 2nd Beach! The playscape and swings are installed and children have been enjoying them. The 2nd Beach Campout will be on the night of July 18th, so get your tents ready. Dave Giroux and team repaired and restored the kayak racks after trees were removed, so let's send gratitude!

Please be aware that one cannot fish within 25 feet of a swimming area, so please keep poles away from the beach.

Get ready to welcome our new Garden Committee, dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the beautiful rain gardens in the lagoon. Be sure to stop by and see the newly installed rain garden signs, generously donated by a gracious member of our community.

See you at the beach!

Your Second Beach Representatives

Nancy Kavanaugh

NancyK@lakehaywardct.com

Chris Popolizo

ChrisP@lakehaywardct.com

3rd Beach - Spring Packet 2026

Welcome back to another fun summer season at Lake Hayward. Your Board of Governors representatives have been busy this winter working to make your experience more enjoyable.

Some things to note:

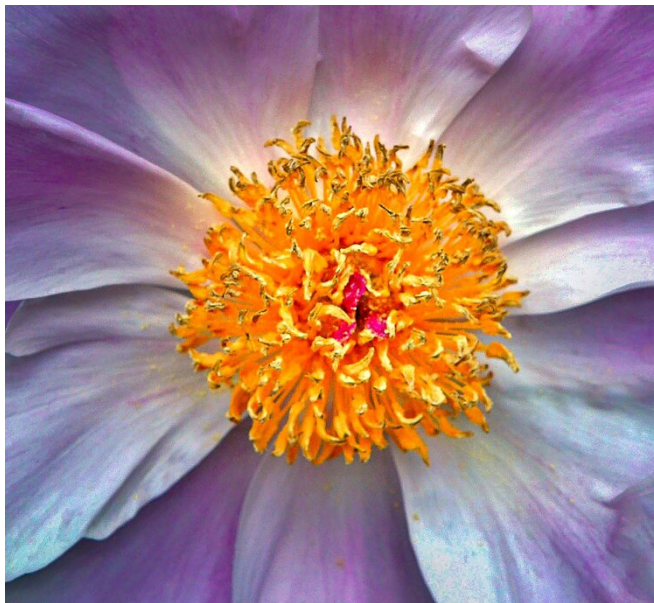
The sandbags and silt fence on 3rd Beach have helped to eliminate beach erosion during the off season. The current plan is to remove them on or before Sunday, May 17th.

We have completed the restoration of the Glimmer Glen walkway. Located next to #34 Glimmer Glen, it's a great spot for fishing or bird watching. Come check it out!

Feel free to contact Dave Giroux or Julia Schiavi, your 3rd Beach Representatives, with any concerns/questions you may want to share.

Dave Giroux (ThirdBeachRep1@lakehaywardct.com)

Julia Schiavi (ThirdBeachRep2@lakehaywardct.com)



Lake Algae

If you are concerned about the algae blooms in the lake, please do your part by regularly pumping your septic tank and not applying fertilizer (organic or not), weed killer or pesticides to your lawns.

Every piece of land surrounding the lake drains into the lake. Don't kid yourself, what you do on your property directly affects the lake and all of us. Please embrace the natural beauty of where we live. A diverse lawn filled with all sorts of green plants is much healthier for the lake than a monoculture of green grass.

No competition here for the greenest, most grassy lawn.

Playground Update

We're happy to share that the new playground and swing set are officially open and ready for use!

The playground has already received a welcome back from many children, while the swing set is a great addition to our community space. We hope it provides a fun and safe place for families and children to enjoy throughout the season. Thank you for the donations big and small! We appreciate everyone's support and patience during the fundraising, ordering and installation process. As you visit the playground, please help us keep the area clean by picking up after yourselves.

We look forward to seeing everyone out there enjoying the new space!

Boat Racks

They are available on a first-come, first-served basis each year starting on March 15th (no earlier) through November 15th. Please refrain from moving or tipping boats/paddle boards currently on the rack when adding your vessel. It would be helpful and considerate to please leave the bottom level for bigger boats.

Please don't forget to put your address on your vessel before adding it to the boat rack. This is especially important now with the new housing developments so close to the lake. We need your address to identify vessels that belong to members. Unidentified vessels will be removed from the racks.

Merchandise:

Be sure to check out our merchandise that just arrived ...new colors and sizes! Available at all events!!

Newsletter Submissions

I'm thinking about adding a recipe section to the newsletter this season. However, the recipes that are submitted should be related to outdoor cuisines. Recipes for hamburgers, chicken, salads, grilled veggies, etc. You can start submitting your recipes now by sending them to newsletter@lakehaywardct.com. Please be sure to include your name.

Also, photographs you take at various events are very much appreciated. JPG (jpeg) is the preferred format – same email address.

Finally, I am going to keep publishing a “good times” section with submissions about “happy times” in your life, such as marriages, births, graduations, etc. You can start submitting now. The newsletter is usually published weekly from mid-June through August.

LAKE HAYWARD DAM REFERENDUM

OVERWHELMING COMMUNITY SUPPORT

to Move Forward with Dam Repairs!

Thank you to our incredible community for your commitment to keeping Lake Hayward beautiful, healthy, and strong for generations to come.

Your vote protects what makes Lake Hayward so special.

**TOGETHER,
WE PROTECT
OUR LAKE.**

REFERENDUM OVERVIEW



385

Eligible Voters



58

Did Not Send in
Their Ballots



327

Ballots Received
(84.9% Response Rate)

REFERENDUM RESULTS

QUESTION 1

Do you want to fund the dam
with a Special Assessment?



310
YES



16
NO

RESULT: APPROVED

QUESTION 2*

Do you choose to use \$50,000
from the POALH reserves?

*(Only applicable if Question 1
was approved)*



259
YES

Out of 310 YES votes to Question 1

RESULT: APPROVED

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PAYMENT UPDATE



Thanks to the approved use of \$50,000 in reserve funding,
the Special Assessment has been DELAYED.

- Bills will be issued on **September 1**
- Payments will be due on **October 1**



Thank you again for your outstanding support of
one of our largest assets that protects the integrity
of our dam and preserves Lake Hayward as the
beautiful, vibrant, and cherished place we all
know and love.

Thank You!

FUNDING & MILL RATE INFORMATION



We continue to seek additional funding.



The East Shore will be asked for an
equitable donation.



Should there be additional funding,
this will provide a decrease in the
projected 6.88 mill rate.



Either way, the mill rate will be at or a
bit lower than 6.88 for the Special
Assessment.



Questions? Reach out anytime!
Email: President@lakehaywardct.com
or reply to this email.

*Together, we're ensuring Lake Hayward remains
a place of beauty, recreation, and pride for now
and for generations to come.*



Geese Committee Spring Update

Last year was a huge success in keeping our beaches clean by using the fencing, thanks to the support of our community.

The Geese Committee started its mitigation efforts this year in mid-March by putting the fencing back up at all the beaches, around the lagoon near our boat launch and around the sand bar near little beach which was becoming an attraction for the geese.

So far, we have seen up to 10 geese (5 pairs) fly into the lake periodically but there seems to be much less activity than previous years. So, we believe fencing is doing the job of making our lake less appealing.

The committee along with Nutmeg Farm continue to search for nests. One nest was found in the marsh area with two predator destroyed eggs so that goose may try to lay elsewhere. If you see a pair, or especially a single goose, or signs of a nest, please let the Geese Committee know.

Volunteers Needed:

We are actively recruiting volunteers to assist with the fences beginning Memorial Day weekend. It is an easy job, opening the fencing on nice beach days by 9-10 each morning and ensuring it is back up by about 7.

Last year we were able to accommodate a variable schedule that worked for everyone and we hope to create the same this year.

I look forward to having you assist us with the fences and, if you are interested, welcoming you as a member of our committee.

Looking forward to another beautiful summer at the lake!

Holly Landers

Geese Committee Chair Geese@LakeHaywardCt.com

PROPERTIES WELCOMES YOU BACK TO THE LAKE!

We're so excited to welcome everyone back to another beautiful season at Lake Hayward!

Many amazing volunteers have been quite busy this spring completing numerous projects.

1. Geese fencing was installed at all the beaches and boat launch/lagoon area.

2. The swim buoys were stripped of their old, tattered coverings and reconditioned with new wraps.

3. Split rail fencing and entrances were installed at Walkway #4 from Ridgewood to Lookout, stumps were ground, and grass seed planted. There is now a clear and safe passage through this walkway.

4. Mulch was spread at the new playground and swing set.

5. The excess mulch was spread on Walkway #6, Wildwood to Longwood.

6. Boat racks at 2nd Beach were rebuilt.

7. Cardboard and wood chips continue to be spread over the extensive area at the ball field invaded by Japanese knotweed.

You may have noticed a few missing road signs, Wildwood at Longwood and Forest Way at Lake

Shore. They were taken out by snowplows during the two heavy snowfalls this past winter. Repairs are underway.

Mark your calendars for Sunday May 17, when we'll need volunteers to help place swim lines and docks for the 2026 season. We are meeting at 8:30 AM at 1st Beach and will split into teams to cover the three beaches. We continue to manage projects and coordinate volunteer efforts through POALH Property Team on Team Reach.

Stay connected with Lake Hayward updates and communications by joining our Properties Team Reach group.

Follow these simple steps:

1. Download the Team Reach App Go to the App Store (iPhone) or Google Play Store (Android)

Search for “TeamReach” and download the app

2. Open the App Tap “Get Started” or “Sign Up”

You can create an account using your email or phone number

3. Join Our Group

Once logged in, select “Join Group”

Enter the Group Code: POALH214

4. You’re In!

You’ll now have access to updates, announcements, and important information for the Lake Hayward community.

Your Board of Governors is here to support and facilitate your ideas for improving Association property. We encourage you to share not only concerns, but also potential solutions for the Board to consider. We also welcome and value your participation in helping bring those solutions to life. Please contact us at properties@lakehaywardct.com. Thank you all for your continued support, generosity, and love for our special community. Let’s make it a fantastic season!

The POALH Charter, By-Laws, and Rules and Regulations are available on the POALH website, www.lakehaywardct.com, under Community Information, Governing Documents.

POALH members may register to vote on POALH matters by visiting our website, lakehaywardct.com, printing a **Voting Registration form found under Resident Forms, completing it with their signature, and sending it to POALH, P.O. Box 230, Colchester, CT 06415.**



<u>Board Contacts</u>			
<u>Dworak, Laurie</u>	<u>President</u> <u>Representative at Large</u>		<u>President@lakehaywardct.com</u>
<u>Kavanaugh, Nancy</u>	<u>2nd Beach Representative</u>		<u>NancyK@lakehaywardct.com</u>
<u>Flynn, Jeff</u>	<u>Representative at Large</u>		<u>JeffF@lakehaywardct.com</u>
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<u>Popolizio, Chris</u>	<u>2nd Beach Representative</u>		<u>ChrisP@lakehaywardct.com</u>
<u>Schiavi, Julia</u>	<u>Vice President</u> <u>3rd Beach Representative</u>		<u>JuliaS@lakehaywardct.com</u>
<u>Cassie Jacoby</u>	<u>Representative at Large</u>		<u>CassieJ@lakehaywardct.com</u>
<u>Additional Contacts</u>			
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Promotional Items	Griener, Michele		Merchandise@lakehaywardct.com
Water Testing	Passan, Evelyn		Watertesting@lakehaywardct.com
Events & Pavilion Reservations	Butler, Lynn		Events@lakehaywardct.com
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Newsletter	Cohen, Gary		Newsletter@lakehaywardct.com
Geese	Landers, Holly		Geese@lakehaywardct.com
Tax Collector	Crisci, Lynn		Taxcollector@lakehaywardct.com
All Waste	Garbage Collection	800-873-9005	
CT Water	Water Company	800-286-5700	
East Haddam Police		860-873-1226	