



# Highlands Record

Winter 2007

## Steps Forward: Planning and Site Development

### Implementation Plan Pending

Another milestone in the realization of the Highlands Center vision will be reached later this spring with the debut of the project's Implementation Plan. Those following the progress of the Highlands Center will be excited to read the plan.

The plan explains the roles of existing partners and examines the potential physical redevelopment of the site once other partners come on board. Phasing of Highlands Center is planned out with illustrative maps diagramming multi-disciplinary community and model green redevelopment concepts.

Prepared by Boston architectural firm ICON, the Implementation Plan was made possible by funding from the project's Management Partner, Highlands Center, Incorporated (HCI), with the support of HCI donors, the Cape Cod Economic Development Council, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Soon the finalized product will be accessible. With the project's objectives, timeline, and projected actions laid out, progress will be facilitated in an increasingly organized and purposeful manner.

### Water and Wastewater Treatment Debut

The taps will be turned on soon! The NPS is happy to report the completion of the water and wastewater treatment project on site at the Highlands Center. Reusing viable portions of the former air force station's water and sewer infrastructure, a Title V sewage

disposal system and new water treatment equipment were installed. Approximately \$1 million was spent on this portion of the Highlands Center project.

The exciting completion of the Phase I utility work is another big step in the right direction for the overarching project. The Title V sewage disposal system will accommodate the first stages of redevelopment at the Highlands Center, paving the way for partners to establish themselves on the site.



Representatives from HCI and NPS collaborate with the architectural consultant ICON to discuss the Highlands Center vision, recent progress, and the Implementation Plan.

## Welcome to New Partner - Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill



photo courtesy of Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill

Since its formation in 1971, Castle Hill has been promoting civic engagement by connecting the Truro community and visitors to the Outer Cape with exposure to a wide variety of artistic mediums via workshops, gallery shows, readings, performances, and other events. Now entering its 36<sup>th</sup> year, Castle Hill is a wonderful asset as a Program Partner, as its vision clearly fits with that of the Highlands Center.

We are very pleased to welcome Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill as a Program Partner at the Highlands Center. Castle Hill joins Highlands Center, Inc., the National Park Service, Payomet Performing Arts Center, and Barnstable County's AmeriCorps Cape Cod, bringing a wonderful contribution with the proposed construction and operation of the wood burning kiln to be located at the Highlands Center.

Program Partners are organizations who complement the mission of the Highlands Center through initiatives that serve the Cape Cod community and draw attention to the valuable cultural and natural heritage of the area.

*for more about the Highlands Center kiln, see page 2.*

# First Partner On Site: Payomet Blazes the Trail

Payomet Performing Arts Center in Truro (PPACT) is currently working hard to prepare another crowd-pleasing schedule of excellent theater in anticipation of the summer 2007. The ten-week season is expected to begin at the end of June and run through Labor Day weekend.

With the installation of its performance tent at the Highlands Center in June of 2006, Payomet gained an important role on site as summertime ambassador to the public. Program Director Guy Strauss explains that with his organization's presence on site comes the responsibility of accurately representing the vision of the Highlands Center to many curious theater-goers.

Indeed, Payomet is already having a positive impact upon a visitor's ability to envision the future of the Highlands Center. As people walk around, soaking in the natural beauty before a night of arts and entertainment, they are able to realize the center's potential, as an art center as well as its scientific and environmental significance.



Payomet Performing Arts Center celebrates the arts with drama, poetry, prose, living-history presentations, and stories of the sea. Check the organization's website at [www.ppactruro.org](http://www.ppactruro.org) for a schedule of 2007 events.

The inaugural season for Payomet's new tent facility was a crowd-pleasing success.

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National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Cape Cod National Seashore

99 Marconi Site Road  
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(508) 349 - 3785

This issue of the Highlands Record was created by Americorps - Cape Cod member Chelsea Clarke with assistance from Cape Cod National Seashore's Marianne McCaffery.

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*The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.*

## Wood-Fired Kiln News Bulletin:

New Program Partner Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill has joined the Highlands Center initiative with the role of overseeing the operation and facilitation of a new wood-fired kiln on site. Highlands Center, Inc. (HCI) will undertake the task of constructing the kiln facility, and contract with Castle Hill to operate it. This Highlands Center kiln will be the only wood-fired kiln on Cape Cod!

Beginning with a Kiln Building Workshop in September 2007, Castle Hill will give community members the opportunity to gain a comprehensive understanding of the basics in wood kiln design, construction and firing. Students will engage in a combination of discussions and hands-on experiences, learning about the process from the beginning stages of building to the point when they have the opportunity to have their work fired in the first firing of the kiln.

Castle Hill is willing to coordinate volunteers and provide additional workshops in order to allow for around three to four firings per year. Firings take approximately 42 hours, providing a wonderful medium for community involvement.

For more information on Castle Hill or to register in the kiln building workshop, call (508) 349 - 7511 or visit [www.castlehill.org](http://www.castlehill.org).

# Highlands Fest 2006

The first Highlands Fest turned out to be a beautiful, sunny, summer day that was fun for all. Payomet Performing Arts Center came through as usual with a successful program of theatrical events. The celebration of arts began with poetry, prose, and stories of the sea presented by the Cape Cod Storyteller's Project in the early afternoon, while later in the evening, attendees were treated to a "Presidential News Conference" with *The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's* official Thomas Jefferson actor, Bill Barker. Barker's solo performance, the first of eleven in Payomet's summer historical/literary series, earned the distinction of being a sold-out show.

Barnstable County's AmeriCorps Cape Cod members tried their hands at theater—quite literally—with their traveling children's puppet performance, designed to inspire environmental awareness and ideas of civic engagement in young ones. "The Green Ribbon," funded by a grant from the Jimmy Buffet Foundation, boasts a fine set, audience participation, as well as music composed by students at Berklee School of Music. AmeriCorps members additionally contributed their scientific skills to Highlands Fest



**AmeriCorps members contribute their scientific skills by offering interactive water education activities for children.**

by offering interactive water education activities for children.

On its part, the team at the Cape Cod National Seashore (CCNS) worked hard to help visitors better understand some of the history and present accomplishments at the Highlands Center. As she guided visitors on an informative walk, Seashore Interpretive Ranger Mimi Reddall painted a picture of the site as the former North Truro Air Force Station and then as the future, completed and operational Highlands Center. People also had the opportunity to get information from NPS Project Manager Lauren McKean as she discussed the newly installed wind meteor-

ological (MET) tower, and from Coastal Geomorphologist Dr. Graham Giese as he explained how data from the Highlands Center Coastal Observation Station contributes valuable information to the study of Outer Cape Cod coastal processes. Other programs included a walking tour of the site simulating the Gulf of Maine, led by CCNS GIS Specialist Mark Adams, and an open



**CCNS employee Mark Adams engages with participants on a special walking tour of the site.**



**Highlands Fest attendees enjoy the HCI-sponsored lunch in the outdoor picnic grove on site at the Highlands Center.**

house at the NPS Atlantic Research Center (ARC) classroom, with ARC scientists and samples of their research.

In the afternoon, HCI treated guests to a barbeque lunch. Before the day was over, HCI Board Members and Executive Director got together with the architectural consultant and CCNS Superintendent to unveil the vision of the Highlands Center plan developed by ICON. Interested parties gathered to join them for a discussion of the Implementation Plan's status.



**AmeriCorps members use song and props in their fun and educational puppet performance in order to get children thinking about the environment and civic responsibility.**

## SAVE THE DATE! HIGHLANDS FEST 2007: SATURDAY JULY 7th



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cape Cod National Seashore  
99 Marconi Site Road  
Wellfleet, MA 02667

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## Did You Know?

Two graduate students supported by the National Park Service's Atlantic Research Center located at the Highlands Center completed their studies this year. Todd Tupper earned his PhD from George Mason University studying Fowler's toads. Brett Thelen finished her masters degree through Antioch New England Graduate School on citizen science and bivalve response to restoration in East Harbor, Truro.

### Contacting Highlands Center, Inc.

You can keep further abreast of Highlands Center happenings through the HCI mailing list.

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Winter 2007

*The Highlands Center fosters the unique cultural and natural heritage of Cape Cod by facilitating scientific research, the arts tradition, and educational programs atop the dramatic sea cliffs of Cape Cod National Seashore.*