

The Last Word

OCTOBER 2015



fall **bulb sale**

**Saturday, October 10
at the Community Center
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

- basic bulbs
 - hard-to-find, unusual bulbs
 - 20 different varieties
 - "deer proof" bulbs
- more details inside...see Garden Talk pg 3*

HAUNTED HAYRIDE

**OCTOBER 24
7:30 P.M. AT PARRISH PARK**



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

November 7

Cool Weather Cocktail Party

7:00 PM at the Community Center

Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share

Wine, beer & soft drinks

Babysitting available

Any Questions:

Tim/Brooke Harman 412-276-8822 or

Paul/Judy Bergman 412-489-5832

November 14

Samplings of craft beers from

Spoonwood Brewery located in Bethel Park

6:00 PM at the Community Center

Cost: \$20 per person

*Bring your favorite snack to pair with their standard
and seasonal brews.*

RSVP and questions to: Marty OToole

Marty.OToole.50@Gmail.com

Council Report – September

by Greg Overstreet

Resident Comments

A resident of Angora Road informed Council that damage to the road causes water to accumulate when rain falls. Council will inform the Street Department. She also said there was no recycle pick-up recently. Council said that the new contractor should be more familiar with their route next time, but a notice of the omission will be sent. When she pointed out that there is no new street sign for Angora on Lower Rosslyn Road, Council explained that the sign location there is in the jurisdiction of Carnegie, so we cannot install one there without their permission. A brief discussion brought agreement that having a new sign there would add uniformity, so an effort will be made to secure approval. She also said she had previously raised chickens elsewhere and felt that they could be raised in the Borough without problem including management of their droppings. She said anyone concerned about bird droppings should take a look at the large accumulation that already exists underneath the Parkway and Busway overpasses.

Two more residents spoke in favor of chickens and bees and one spoke against both. Many opinions and emotions continued to surface until the Council President and the Mayor both said that too much time has been spent discussing the matter over the last 12 months and the Council has already finished consideration by voting 5 to 2 to prohibit chickens.

Mayor's Report

Robberies were committed recently at one residence where a door was left unlocked and at another residence where a window was left open at night. Although the thieves in both instances were later apprehended, the Mayor said that both thefts underscore the need to lock doors and windows and to put visual barriers on garage windows. He also suggested that the Neighborhood Crime Watch program could be updated from a phone alert system to an electronic alert system that uses email and the new community website. Volunteers are needed for the program.

Roads & Sewers

Plans to tie-in storm water runoff from the tennis courts to a line near Park and Edgecliff will need an easement survey before proceeding. The issue of offering a plan for residents with septic systems to tap into the sewer system was again discussed, but more research will be needed for possible action as early as 2017. The old Borough truck is in need of major repairs and the Street Department has suggested it may be better to replace it with a newer truck. The matter will be considered further during upcoming budget discussions.

Parks & Pool

There was brief discussion of the merit of spending \$2500 now for a survey of Parrish Park to aid in long-term planning for possible future addition of park amenities. Council gave initial support to proposed improvements to the soccer field park as part of a Boy Scout Eagle Project contingent on approvals from the Borough engineer. Council approved the expense for a pool structural consultant to advise our engineering firm on how to word bids for needed pool refinishing work.

Tennis Courts

Accumulated dirt on the courts needs to be removed by power washing after it has been determined what safeguards must be taken to prevent voiding the warranty on the recently replaced surfaces.

Community Center

Council will work with the Community Center Commission during the upcoming 2016 budget process to ensure that necessary expenses are covered.

Bee Ordinance

Council agreed to approve the advertising of a Public Hearing on the proposed bee ordinance to be held on Monday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Chicken Ordinance

Councilman Dan Harkins brought forth a proposal to have the solicitor research the possibility of doing a trial ordinance that would be limited to only three residences for a one-year period. The proposal was rejected by a vote of 4 to 2.

Police Contract

Council approved a two-year contract with Scott Township police that includes a 2% increase per year.

The next Council Meeting will be Monday, October 12, at 7:00 p.m.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR:

Friday, October 2 - Garbage
Friday, October 9 - Garbage/Recycling
Friday, October 16 - Garbage
Friday, October 23 - Garbage/Recycling
Friday, October 30 - Garbage



BOOK DISCUSSION

All are welcome to join the
community book discussions which are held
the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m.
(and feel free to join us, even if you haven't read the book!)

Hope to see you there.

October 15th
at the home of Sherry Niepp • 404 Christopher Circle
(Cambridge Park)
The Chaperone by Laura Moriarty

November 19th
at the home of Calli Mazzoni • 311 Kings Highway
The Storyteller by Jodi Picoult

December 17th
Restaurant TBD
no book for December

GARDEN TALK

by John Repine



fall
**bulb
sale**

Saturday, October 10
at the Community Center
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We will have a wide variety of bulbs to choose from including all the basics, some unusual, hard-to-find bulbs, and a big selection of bulbs that are "deer proof". There will be over 20 different varieties of bulbs to see. Again this year, we will be selling the official 2016 Rosslyn Farms Tulip. It's a big tulip, measuring 20" in height with colors ranging from bright pink at the top to a soft, creamy yellow at the base. It's bloom time is mid-spring. We have 100 of the Rosslyn Farms Signature Tulip on order. Get your supply early as last year's signature tulips were sold out within the first 2 hours of the sale. New to this year's bulb sale, we have added a "Bloody Mary Bar". So stop up to the Community Center, get your Bloody Mary, and grab some bulbs while greeting your fellow Rosslyn Farmers.

- John

Dear Neighbors,

Rosslyn Farms lost a wonderful husband, father and friend when Tom Mattei passed away on September 19th. Judy and Tom have lived in the neighborhood for over 43 years where they raised their sons Tom, Todd and Michael. Tom was never one to talk about his many professional accomplishments, which were all about serving people in his long career roles at Mercy Hospital and Duquesne University.

Tom was always helping people. More often than I can count, he came to help me, a "damsel in distress," when there was a garden fence to put up; anything that needed expertise with tools; a pond pump that needed fixed; a cat that needed fed in my absence; or a huge Christmas tree that needed brought in or taken out; and many other kindnesses too numerous to count. Every summer we had a fun competition to see who had the first ripe tomato from our gardens.

I will really miss his wisdom and his quick, dry sense of humor and comebacks the way only he could deliver them.

I know I speak for all who knew him when I say we really lost a good man and neighbor. Rest in Peace, Tom.

- Nancy Barsotti

We want to thank the neighbors and friends who came to the Community Club event at the Andrew Carnegie Library. Many people told us how much they enjoyed the tour of the Thomas Espy Civil War Post (a truly unique National treasure in our own back yard) as well as the Lincoln portrait gallery and the delicious food everyone provided.

Thanks to everyone who made the evening special.

- Kathy Green and Isabel Ford



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Important: Please make sure Isabel Ford (412-279-7039) has your most up-to-date email address to ensure you continue receiving The Last Word. She will send an email each month when the issue is ready to view and print. The website is not password protected, so all residents have access. Brad has really done a fabulous job with www.rosslynfarmspa.com. Check it out!

If you still wish to receive the paper newsletter, you can, for a small fee on top of membership to cover costs. Senior members over the age of 75, however, will not need to pay extra. Whether you are over 75 or not, if you wish to receive a mailed copy, please contact me at (412) 489-6306 or jparkertongross@gmail.com for details.

As a reminder, we are switching to online Last Words for multiple reasons. Our distribution coordinator is retiring to undertake other volunteer efforts and we have been faced with a waning distribution force due to delivery changes and bad weather. Financially, looking toward online makes sense, as well. Expenses have increased for us, while dues have remained the same. Printing currently eats up almost all our yearly dues. The good news? We are getting a wonderful website and can continue to enjoy our Last Words each month, printable from the site.

Holiday House Tour: We are looking into planning a house tour over the holidays. Have fun décor? Recently redid your house? Or just want to have fun opening your house to festive neighbors? Please contact me.

Community Club President: We are looking for a person to take over as Community Club president in 2017, starting as vice president in 2016 with me. If interested, or curious for more info, contact me. Please consider giving back to your community and help keep the club fresh with new ideas. Without volunteers, there may not be a Community Club.

October Events: Lots of good events to mark on your calendar! The first three events are free! (Remember, trick-or-treating is officially on October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m.)

Garden Club's Bulb Sale, October 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Community Center, free Bloody Marys.

Haunted Hayride, October 24, 7:30 p.m., Parrish Park, hot chocolate and s'mores provided.

More Events:

Cold Weather Cocktail Party, November 7, 7 p.m., members only. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Beer Tasting, November 14, 6 p.m., Community Center, \$20 per person. Spoonwood Brewery from Bethel Park will offer various delicious beers to sample. Space is limited, so call soon! RSVP with Marty O'Toole at (412)276-8997. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Garden Club's Holiday Decorating, December 5, 1 to 4 p.m., Community Center, \$30 per person. Attendees rave about the pretty holiday pieces they make. Call Nancy Barsotti at (412) 276-3496 or email her at nhbinteriordesign@gmail.com.

Holiday Party, December 19, 7:30 p.m., Chartiers Country Club. Expect food, drinks, dancing and a few surprises! Rosslyn Farms Holiday parties will not happen every year, so this is a must!

Jordan

Design Details “The Splendors of Spain”

Nancy Barsotti



I am always ready for unexpected opportunities to travel, so when the chance for a summer vacation to Spain popped up, I said “Why not?” My intrepid friends and I put it together with a travel agent who, after receiving our “wish list,” said “You can’t believe the number of papers I had all over my desk getting this itinerary accomplished.” So fasten your seat belts and put on your walking shoes.

Barcelona – From Roman ruins to contemporary architecture, I can understand why some travelers feel that this city is the “be all and end all” of Spain. The wide avenues like *La Rambla* with its shops and cafes instantly gave us a feeling for Spain. Tours included the historic center of the city with old Roman aqueducts incorporated into the medieval Canon’s Residence and the *Catedral La Seu*. The opulent interiors of all the many churches we saw in every city brought full circle the stories we heard when we visited Peru two years ago – “The Spaniards took our gold and silver back to Spain.” Well, here it was in all its glory! But of course what Barcelona is most known for is the work of *Antoni Gaudi*. Without a doubt there is nothing else like his architecture, which turned “architectural tradition on its head.” Pictures of the still incomplete *Sagrada Familia*, begun in 1882, cannot do justice to this revolutionary church. We experienced it first at night – when the Nativity façade is lit and really highlights the depth of the sculptural details – as well as a tour of the interior the next day. We also toured his *Parc Guell* – in the hills overlooking the city, with forms covered in fragmented ceramics – and the *Casa Batllo* – a private house designed from top to bottom, inside and outside which incorporated Gaudi’s holistic approach to arts and craft with color and texture. All of his work is a tour de force of organic, natural forms and techniques all his own.

Valencia – Trains are the way to go in Europe and the ride along the Mediterranean coast to this city was a feast for the eyes. The sandy beaches were filled with brightly colored umbrellas, the white stucco houses with the orange tile roofs, laundry hanging from the balconies and groves of the famous Valencia oranges. Valencia is the home to *Paella*, the delicious wide flat pan of rice and seafood. A real standout was the historic area of the city, especially the *City Hall*, and its incredible marble sidewalks. The city is known for its long history of the ceramic industry and we toured the ceramic museum. My only “had to have souvenirs” on the trip were antique tiles and fortunately I found one in a little hidden shop near the *Mercado Central*. The markets are so rich in color – the fresh fruits, vegetables, olive oil, wines, Iberian ham and seafood and the throngs of the local people.

The Gothic cathedral here, like much of Spain’s historic buildings, have started in one style but were added to, redesigned and re-consecrated by their conquerors and occupants including the Moors. Valencia is also known for its contemporary architecture – especially those designed by its native son, *Santiago Calatrava*. The new section of Valencia – known as the *City of Arts and Sciences* – is a complex of spectacular futuristic structures along the Turia River and a suspension bridge of white interlaced cables. The architect and his buildings are controversial for their cost overruns and sometimes lack of function. But they were a vision at sunset as we dined high above them at the restaurant *Vertical*, enjoying an “over the top” dinner which began with eight starters and kept going from there. Good thing we were doing a lot of walking on this trip!

Granada – Who has not heard of this magical city and its famous gem, *The Alhambra*. I was glad that before I arrived I read *Washington Irving’s “Tales of the Alhambra.”* Although the tales the traveler told of his stay here gave me a heightened sense of expectancy, nothing can prepare you for the site of it overlooking this ancient city. Our hotel, the historic *Alhambra Palace* was also on top of the hill and just a short walk from entering this vast complex. When we entered through the Justice Gate, I felt like I was stepping back into the 14th century when this part of the complex was finished. The Alhambra is not a single building born complete and perfect. It is much more the product of three centuries of construction at the end of Muslim rule in “*al-Andalus*,” (translation – Muslim Spain) which continued throughout the Christian period and almost until modern times. It is the finest example of Islamic art in the Western world. It is a “tree whose roots extend deep into times before al-Andalus, to earlier models in Persia and northern Africa.” The exquisite detail in the carvings, the ornamentation, the mosaics, the fountains, the columns and courtyards had our eyes popping and our jaws dropping. Our private tour guide said, “I’ve never had so many questions by very interested tourists.” We literally “Alhambra-ed” all day – from the tour, to lunch across the valley overlooking the complex, to a walk through the palace at night (the warm lighting imitated what it might have looked like with flaming torches and candles) and then a late night supper on a terrace across the valley again. The Alhambra was spread out before us in all its glory. A full moon hung over this mystical and majestic spectacle – a moment in time that is seared in my mind forever as one of the most fabulous travel experiences and views ever.

Next month – continuing through Spain, part two.

NEW YOGA SCHEDULE

Tuesday Class
Sept 8 - Oct 27
9 a.m. - 10.30 a.m

Wednesday Class
Sept 2 - October 21
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday Class
Sept 3 - October 29
9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
*no class September 10

8 classes
\$65

Drop-ins welcome • \$10 a class
New students - first class is free!

Call Donna McNamara at 412-276-2334
or text: joannevandenhengel@gmail.com



"KNIT OR KNOT" gatherings

Monday nights at 7:00 pm this fall.
at ONE SHEFFIELD ROAD
Anyone who would like to come to knit, crochet, or
any kind of portable needlework is welcome to
attend, or for those who do "Knot" do needlework,
come for the comraderie, and a nice evening out.

For more information
call Karen Bock at 412-952-5333.



David DeChancie
D.M.D.
General Dentistry

KINGS HIGHWAY
AT BALDWIN ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15205
412-279-5880

Evening Appointments Available

FLAVIN BROTHERS LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION

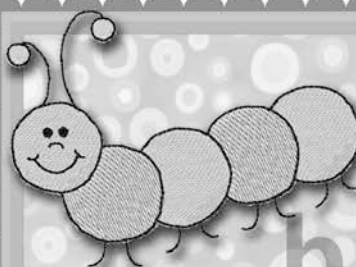
since 1963

serving Rosslyn Farms 24 - 7 - 365

- snow removal - time to get on the list
- leaf clean-up - schedule your yard clean-up now...we will be doing leaves on first-come, first-serve basis
- ask how you can lower your landscaping bill...with low overhead we are able to charge less

Call Chris for details, or just ask one of our 50 Rosslyn Farms customers. Some of whom I have been working for since I was 6.

CALL CHRIS FLAVIN
412-519-3975



baby

Madison Ann
August 8
7lbs 2oz

CONGRATULATIONS
Sean and Heidi Peck!

**LAST PAPER ISSUE OF THE LAST WORD IS
NOVEMBER. PLEASE MAKE SURE ISABEL FORD
HAS YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS.**