

The Last Word

DECEMBER 2015

All December - House Trimming Contest

Decorate your home's exterior to your heart's delight and stay tuned next month when we announce winners!

The categories are: Classic Elegance, Holiday Spirit, Children's Delight, Feast for the Eyes, Santa or Snowman Fun and Griswold

December 5

Garden Club's Holiday Decorating, 1 to 4 p.m., Community Center

December 19

Holiday Party, 7:30 p.m., Chartiers Country Club

December 24

Caroling, 7:30 p.m., Parrish Park

Council Report – November

by Jim Strutz

Mayor's Report

Mayor Stover informed council there was recently a fire in a Crafton highrise apartment building to which Scott police were summoned. Scott police also responded quickly to several minor calls in Rosslyn Farms. Overall, he has been quite please with their service.

Report of Committees

The boro has been looking to replace our old truck, which is nearing the end of its useful life, with a new truck. A lighter duty truck might be a good compliment to the truck that was purchased in 2012 for doing things like light plowing and pulling the leaf mulcher. Such a truck would cost \$50,000-\$60,000. Buying a larger truck would cost \$16,000-\$20,000 more. A question remains whether our existing snow plowing controls could be fitted to a new, smaller truck.

Council approved a motion to authorize LSSE to survey for the easement for alternate drainage near the tennis court, not to exceed \$4100.

Charlie began cleaning and making repairs to the tennis court. Some other things came up and this work will continue in the spring.

Council approved a motion to authorize the purchase of 1000 cobblestones as requested by the garden committee. One of the garden committee members knows of a source who will charge just 50 cents per cobblestone, very inexpensive. Cobblestones are used for various garden projects around the community, such as those that were recently arranged around the community's new signposts.

Council approved a motion to authorize a topographical survey of Parrish Park as required for improvements proposed by resident architect Jon Glance. Rosslyn Farms will receive hard and digital copies of the survey as well as ownership of the rights to use the survey for any other purposes that may arise in the future.

President's Report

Council reviewed the proposed 2016 budget. Final numbers are not yet available for boro employee's healthcare and other insurance costs. Costs for road repairs are also not finalized as it remains undetermined how much responsibility PAWC will bear, the extent of base repair from water mains leaks still in question.

It was suggested to budget \$30,000 for the new truck to cover the down payment and some portion of the financing depending on expected interest rate increases. Road resurfacing is expected to be completed throughout the community in the spring of 2016 but won't include the upper region of Rosslyn Road until after the so-called "PENNDOT/Swank village" occupation ends sometime next summer and after nearby storm sewer repair work is completed. Boro will approach PENNDOT/Swank about covering some portion of the road repairs for the increased wear and tear of our roads due to the use of their heavy equipment. Despite these questions, council approved the 2016 budget with no expected tax increases and will continue to update as new information becomes available.

Business Before Council

Some boro residents who still have septic pits will at some point have to tie into a public sewer system. Early information gathering suggests 3 options to tie into Thornburg's sewer system: a gravity system, grinder pumps, and gravity with inverted siphon systems. Boro will continue to research options, costs, and resident responsibilities.

Council approved a motion to renew contract with Scott Twp police.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 14th at 7:00pm.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

Friday, December 4 - Garbage/Recycling

Friday, December 11 - Garbage

Friday, December 18 - Garbage/Recycling

Saturday, December 26 - Garbage

Saturday, January 2 - Garbage/Recycling





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.

December 10th [PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!]
at Scoglio's in Greentree, 7:00 p.m.
Foster Plaza V, 611 Andersen Drive, #100, Greentree
No book will be read in December.

*Reservations: If you plan to attend in December, please
call Marie Guerra at 412-480-3920 by Monday,
December 7th, so we can be sure to have a seat for all.*

Following tradition, in December we also plan to have a
Holiday "Grab Bag" gift exchange. If you'd like to
participate, simply bring a wrapped gift (\$15 value).

*Join us for the holidays, darling.
It's time to mix and mingle retro style!*



Please join Rosslyn Farms and other
neighbors as we bring swanky holiday style
back to Charters Country Club!

Our favorite Sinatra impersonator *Guy
Matone* will croon for the first hour,
followed by DJ Jerry singing holiday jingles,
dance tunes and special requests.

Enjoy a complimentary signature cocktail,
plus a sampling of hor d'oeuvres, created
specially for our 1960's Madmen-esque
theme! Highballs, wine and other libations
will be available throughout the evening at
the cash bar. Black tie optional.

Arrival time: 7:30 sharp
(or you might miss Guy)

Cost: \$55 per fabulous person

Friends and family are welcome so we hope to celebrate with you and yours!

and just remember baby...

whether you've been naughty or nice, we'll have one for you on ice.

RSVP to Germaine Gladu at 412.722.9688 or email germaineindustries.net

Aliens Invade Rosslyn Farms!

By Jim Strutz

It is obvious to say that all the plants, worms, nematodes, bacteria, birds, mammals, fish, fungi and insects of the world prefer to live in places where they can thrive. They depend on environmental conditions for comfort and other species for shelter and food. For example, a cardinal family made their home in our hemlock trees last spring where they felt protected by the dense, drooping boughs (see nearby photo of baby cardinal). Ample sources of seeds, caterpillars and berries existed nearby to supply their food needs. The cardinals would find someplace else to live if suitable food and shelter weren't available.

It is thought that these various inter-relationships in nature evolved over many thousands of years. Species that exist and function as part of our local ecosystem are said to be "native". Those from somewhere else are referred to as "alien". I liken this concept to a puzzle, where all the pieces must inter-match in size, shape and pattern for the puzzle to "function" coherently. Introducing alien species is like replacing portions of our puzzle with pieces from somebody else's puzzle.

People arrived to this area in relatively large numbers only in the last 250 or so years ago. They cleared land for agriculture, homes and roads and brought seeds for crops and herbs. They also brought viruses, bacteria, insects and fungi from wherever they came. These are among the alien species to which I refer, some arriving here for intended purposes and others quite by accident. Most, however, have had unintended consequences.

The early settlers in this region met with mixed reactions from the native Indians who had lived and hunted here for thousands of years. Fort Pitt was built in 1758 to stake a British claim to the newly won, vast and promising Ohio territory. It also served as both a center of trade with, and refuge from, the Indians.



It is interesting that among the weapons the British military used against them were offerings of blankets contaminated with alien viral diseases for which they had no defenses. It was perhaps the first instance of deliberate biological warfare in North America.

Earlier this year a local news report informed that some communities conducted chemical spraying programs (which they assured us is harmless to children and pets) to stem the spread of West Nile Virus which is carried by mosquitoes. WNV spread to from Africa to North America by-way-of Europe. It occurred to me that White Nose Fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which also arrived from Europe, effects bats and has killed perhaps up to 80% of the bat population in places. Bats, as you may know, eat as much as their body weight in mosquitoes every day. So this is a case where we have had to resort to spraying toxic chemicals to kill the carriers of an alien virus (i.e. West Nile Virus), in part, because an alien fungus (i.e. White Nose Fungus) has killed off a large percentage of our native bats. "What a fine mess we're in now" Ollie Laurel might have said.

There are many other examples which I will endeavor to write about in future issues of the Last Word. My intent is to bring awareness to the readers of this newsletter, my friends and neighbors, of some interesting things that may affect us and our community.

Design Details "Holiday Decorating for Your Home" Nancy Barsotti

The holidays sneak up on us faster and faster every year. If you would like to get in the spirit, join your neighbors as we once again meet at the Community Center to make arrangements for your home.

This has become an annual tradition in the Farms. It is a fun afternoon and everyone is amazed at what they can do. Please invite your friends as well.

Vi Laux, our instructor, will assist you in creating a wonderful arrangement or wreath, which you take home, ready to put on your table or door.



Please bring your own decorative container or wreath frame, ribbons and flourishes.

We will also be making the arrangements for the Rosslyn Farms Holiday Party. Volunteers are welcome.

I hope to see you there on December 5th between 1 and 4 pm.

Reservations in advance are necessary to provide enough supplies. Please contact Nancy Barsotti at 412-276-3496 or nhbinteriordesign@gmail.com

Warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wow, our first month with a paperless newsletter. If you need help or if you suspect a neighbor needs help adjusting to the new site, email me at jparkertongross@gmail.com or call at (412) 489-6306. Hurray to Marty O'Toole for pulling off a successful beer tasting! The buzz has inspired Jack Follmer to host a bourbon tasting. Also, the Harmans and Bergmans hosted a fabulous Cold Weather Cocktail Party — thanks to them for their hard work!

Fun events coming up:

- All December, Trimming Contest. Decorate your home's exterior to your heart's delight and stay tuned next month when we announce winners! We will select a winner for each category, based on creativity, decorations and theme. The categories are Classic Elegance, Holiday Spirit, Children's Delight, Feast for the Eyes, Santa or Snowman Fun and Griswold.
- December 5, Garden Club's Holiday Decorating, 1 to 4 p.m., Community Center, \$30. RSVP to Nancy Barsotti at nhbinteriordesign@gmail.com or (412) 276-3496. Back by popular demand Vi Laux will assist in making centerpieces and wreaths. Bring your own container, wreath frame and/or ribbon. Fresh greens and other supplies provided.
- December 19, Holiday Party, 7:30 p.m., Chartiers Country Club, \$55. RSVP to Germaine Gladu at germaine@heritageindustries.net or (412) 722-9688. Grab your complimentary cocktail while enjoying popular Sinatra impersonator Guy Matone, followed by DJ Jerry for holiday jingles, dance tunes and special requests! Also, hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Black tie optional.
Whether you've been naughty or nice, we'll have one for you on ice!
- December 24, Caroling, 7:30 p.m., Parrish Park, free. Warm up with traditional wassail while filling the air with song. RSVP to Anne Lackner at anne.lackner@gmail.com or (412) 276-1272 or just show up!
- January 23, Bourbon Tasting, 7:30 p.m., Community Center, \$30. RSVP to Jack Follmer at follmers@comcast.net.
- January 28, Happy Hour at Pennsbury Pub, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. RSVP to Katie McGuire at katiwm@verizon.net or (412) 276-3048. Cash bar for drinks and the RFCC will provide snacks.

Remember, checks for events, even Garden Club events, should be made out to RFCC and go to the club's treasurer, Tara Benner, at 2 Revere Road. Have a happy Hanukkah, merry Christmas and happy new year!

Jordan

Rosslyn Farms Community Club

SURVEY

Use back if needed for answers and mail to Jordan Parkerton-Gross at 28 Club Road

1. What RFCC events do you enjoy most?

2. Are there any new events you would like the RFCC to host?

3. What event times and days of the week are best for you?

4. Are you interested in helping with any events? If you have a specific event in mind, please list it.
We are all volunteers in the RFCC and appreciate any help, big and small!



David DeChancie
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Evening Appointments Available



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*Flavin Brothers and crew
wishes everyone in
Rosslyn Farms Happy Holidays!*

CALL CHRIS FLAVIN
412-519-3975

Rosslyn Farms Community Club

A Not-for-Profit 501(c)(4) organization

Membership Form 2016

Thank you for your membership! Members for 2016 will receive a new directory, as well as access to all RFCC events and voting privileges. Your membership allows the RFCC to continue to host events, connect neighbors and contribute to beautification projects in the community.

In addition to standard membership, we are also offering Plus and Plus 75+ memberships for those who want mailed copies of The Last Word. Plus costs an additional \$15. Those over 75 that want mailed copies (Plus 75+) may receive them complimentary with membership. All others may print their newsletters from **www.rosslynfarmspa.com**.

Membership type: (Circle)

Family for \$40,

Individual for \$25,

Family Plus for \$55,

Individual Plus for \$40,

Family Plus 75+ for \$40 or

Individual Plus 75+ for \$25

Membership information:

Names of all adults: (Circle) Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

(Circle) Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Circle) Home/Cell _____

Email: _____

Can we publish your email address online? (Circle) Yes/No

If you haven't yet, please tell us of any new events you would like to see in 2016 _____

____ I am interested in chairing or assisting with an event.

Please send this form along with your dues by January 10 to:

Rosslyn Farms Community Club

Attn: Treasurer Tara Benner

2 Revere Road

Carnegie, PA 15106

Check out our website at www.rosslynfarmspa.com!