

The Last Word

SEPTEMBER 2015

PARK ROAD

EDGECLIFF ROAD

September 19
Lincoln Event
6 p.m.

October 24
Haunted Hayride
7:30 p.m.

November 14
Beer Tasting
7 p.m.

December 19
Holiday Party
time TBD

October 10
Garden Club event
Bulb Sale
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

November 7
Cold Weather Cocktail Party
7 p.m.

December 5
Garden Club event
Holiday Decorating
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Council Report – August

by Joy Jones

The recently installed air conditioning units in the Community Center are working well, with costs offset by an increase in rentals of the Center in July and August. Due to a lack of patrons as well as volunteers, the library has been permanently closed. Efforts are underway to find a local library to accept our complete set of titles, which includes an excellent collection of fiction. The Second Helping shop is also likely to close its doors, which leads to the question of possible future uses for the vacated spaces: do we keep them for our own purposes or open them to outside organizations, e.g., Boy Scouts, etc? The tax-exempt status prevents use of the Center for profit-making activities.

Council was approached to consider increasing the borough's financial support of the Community Center. Historically, the Community Center has been self sustaining, but due to its limited sources of income, is requesting funding for its utilities and certain other expenses. Currently, the Center pays all utilities except gas, and has had a recent surge of boiler repair expenses. A change to the original resolution is all that would be required in order to increase borough support.

A resident asked about the status of the parking situation along Kings Highway in the vicinity of the Community Center. The current practice of parking in the area has resulted in obstructed views when residents are backing out of driveways. The resident requested this section be a no parking area.

There were three incidents requiring police involvement this month. They included: 1) a stolen truck (keys inside) 2) a stolen vehicle (outside the borough) and subsequent police chase 3) a vehicle crash onto a resident's property (driver suspected to be under the influence). It was noted that three Scott Township Police cars arrived at the site of the crash within minutes. On a similar note, residents are encouraged to donate to Crafton Fire Department in appreciation of the services they provide to the community.

The possibility of adding calming measures for lower/upper Rosslyn Road and King Highway was reviewed, and the consensus was that a repainting of the lines on the road may achieve the desired result. VASCAR strips will also be painted.

Alden Road storm drain pipes were modified from 36" to 30" and seem to be working well. In a meeting with Alcosan, Council members learned that Alcosan will take over shared drain pipes, so Council is investigating with LSSE the feasibility of tapping into Thornburg lines in certain areas. Regarding the tennis court drain, Council will approach the resident at the end of Park for an easement to tie in the line past the resident's driveway to Edgecliff and Park. A cost estimate for routing the line along Park and Edgecliff will be obtained.

All street signs are now in and at the proper height, with the exception of the original test model, which will be corrected. Old signs are available for purchase at \$50 each.

Bee Ordinance. The Rosslyn Farms Planning Commission has approved the ordinance, but Allegheny County Planning Commission posed some questions to consider before a public hearing is held. 1) Are hives to be allowed on vacant lots or just those with structures in place? 2) Would they be allowed in the industrial zoning district or just the residential? Council approved amending the ordinance to allow hives in all zoning districts and in lots that have a principal use. Also, there will be a redrafting of Ordinance 49-1 to clarify that chickens and turkeys are prohibited.

The contract with Scott Township police, currently up for renewal, is being reviewed by the Finance Committee. It calls for a 2% increase, and a two-year commitment.

The issue of septic systems negatively affecting property values was raised, prompting Council to revisit the proposal of tying in the affected 32 homes to the sewage system. Cost estimates will be gathered, and the matter addressed with property owners.

Council estimates that the Consent Order Amendment will be executed by the end of September, pending a report from the upcoming Core Solicitor's Meeting.

It was decided that there would be no action taken at this time on the renewal of the Verizon contract.

A motion was approved to authorize purchase of rock salt for the borough.

The next Council Meeting will be on Monday, September 14 at 7:00p.m.

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GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR:

Friday, September 4 - Garbage

Saturday, September 12 - Garbage/Recycling

Friday, September 18 - Garbage

Friday, September 25 - 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.

September 17th
at the home of Joy Jones • 414 Kings Highway
Wild by Cheryl Strayed

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

GARDEN TALK

by John Repine

Yes, it's back-to-school time and the start of the fall season. Summer never lasts very long, but by now, I've had my fill of heat and am ready for some nice, cool, crisp fall days and some bright blue skies. By now, the garden centers are overflowing with mums. A few Rosslyn Farmers ask me if there is anything else I can plant now other than mums? The answer is yes - ASTERS! They come in all shades of pink and purple from light shades to dark. Aster flowers add color to the autumn landscape while offering beauty with very little work. Asters bloom in late summer through early fall. Aster flowers may reach 3 to 4 feet tall or can be compact and mounding. Pair asters in the garden with cornflowers and golden rod for a striking display. Asters grow in full to part sun in loamy, well-draining soil. Keep new plantings moist and continue to water until blooms cease. Be sure to water at the base of the plant without splashing the foliage. Getting water or fertilizer on the leaves encourages powdery mildew and other fungal diseases. Organic mulch will help hold in moisture and also supply nutrients as it breaks down. Asters need little in the way of maintenance other than dead heading for more blooms. I hope to see you next month at our Bulb Sale!
John

Save the Time and Date

Our 2nd Annual Fall Bulb Sale will be held at the Community Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 10th.

This year will be offering over 20 different varieties of bulbs to choose from. Read all about it in the October Last Word.

Come tour the National Treasure in our own back yard - Civil War Room tour and Lincoln Photos

Many of you might not know that we have a true national treasure in our own back yard - the Thomas Espy Grand Army of the Republic (Civil War) Post. The Andrew Carnegie Library in Carnegie not only has one of only six intact Civil War posts, it also has a collection of 100 photographs of Abraham Lincoln including the only known photo of Lincoln in his coffin.

Come learn more about these treasures and to socialize with your neighbors.

When: Saturday, September 19th
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Where: Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall, 300 Beechwood Avenue, Carnegie PA
Costs: \$5 per person donation is requested to cover beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share with everyone. The \$5 donation will be collected at the door.

The Espy Post (Civil War room) will be open for us! Diane Klinefelter, curator of the Espy Post and Library Director, will be providing tours with interesting tidbits about the Espy Post and the Civil War.

Not required, but appreciated to assist with planning, please RSVP to Isabel Ford at isabel.ford@pnc.com or by calling 412.215-7144

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

There's a chill in the air. Kids are sitting at desks with new pencils and books. (Maybe even new toilet paper if you're one family I know.) Kids are on the fields playing sports, some soccer, some football, some fall baseball.

Last month, kickball in Rosslyn Farms brought out a fun group. When Jack Follmer decided to help out the losing team, Joe Feola took over as umpire. Undoubtedly, my team was the best. Okay, okay, maybe we were the pitied losing team. In any case, the weather was great and the snacks disappeared quickly. Also in August, scrapbooking was a small group, with lots of chatting and creativity. A couple attendees smartly made their own greeting cards, using Susan O'Toole's cutting supplies.

This 19th, Isabel Ford has planned a great event at the Andrew Carnegie Library with Thornburg, touring the library's newly acquired Lincoln Portraits, including the only known photo of Lincoln in his coffin, and touring its historical Civil War room. The cost is \$5 per person. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share; drinks provided. This is an adult event, with friends and family welcome.

Then, on October 10, buy some bulbs from the Garden Club and enjoy a complimentary Bloody Mary!

Please note that I added a couple Garden Club events to our master list. We are also looking at maybe adding a Holiday House Tour. Consider showing your house for the tour — and email me at jparkertongross@gmail.com. Got any cool features or decorations? Know a killer drink or appetizer?

Website details: Thanks to Brad Knable's hard work, and the RFCC's initiative, the site is complete and ready for final approval from Borough Council. Next month, we hope to have an online copy of The Last Word to offer you in addition to your hard copies.

November will bring the last delivered hard copies of The Last Word. After that, Isabel will email each month the website when a new Last Word is available. Online there will be a printable version. Please ensure that Isabel has your correct email address.

If you wish to have hard copies of the newsletter mailed directly to your home, email Lauren Prepelka at lwpsdesigns@comcast.net.

Jordan

"SAVE THE DATE"
Bulb Sale - October 10th
Community Center 9:00-1:00

A perfect start to the day will be the "Bloody Mary Bar" while selecting bulbs for your spring gardens. Many new and exotic varieties of bulbs, including the official "Rosslyn Farms Tulip for 2016."

Gardeners - If you are digging up and splitting any perennial bulbs, and have some to spare, we would be happy to have you donate them to the Bulb Sale. Please contact Marcia Mastrangelo to make arrangements to drop them off at her home. 412-276-4649 Thank you.

Are you in need of help with canning and freezing your harvest?

Whether you have grown your own or find the abundance of fruit and vegetables at the Farmers' Markets hard to resist, you may be wondering how to preserve it by canning or freezing. Yes, it's a little work, but well worth it, as you enjoy the "fruits of your labors" all winter long.

Members of the Garden Committee would be delighted to share their expertise and tips, as we have been doing this for many years - even back into our years of growing up in families who had Victory Gardens. For help, feel free to contact Patty and Rick Magidson, Andrea and Dan Harkins or Nancy Barsotti.



Breed:	Maltese/Yorkie
Where did you get her:	Rodgers Flea Market
Age:	4 years old
Favorite Toy:	A ball
Bad Habits:	She sometimes goes potty in the wrong places
Likes:	Gabby likes sitting in the window and going on walks
Dislikes:	She doesn't like to be banished to bed
Funniest Thing:	Gabby beats her tail against the window and makes strange noises
Best Trick:	She can beg, roll over, crawl, jump, and do a yoga pose

Gabby
pet of Jim and Marcy Strutz



Design Details “The Majesty of Palms”

Nancy Barsotti



Just the thought of palm trees can take one away and create an aura of calm. Usually when one thinks of palm trees, you think of lying on a beach, sipping a cool drink on a far-off island. If you visited the pool this summer, the garden committee added palms to the patio. Along with the large-leafed cannas, I thought they made for an inviting and tropical atmosphere.

This year, it seemed like it was the year of the palm. Everywhere I turned I saw palm leaves. I actually was planning to write on this subject before I left on vacation but ran out of time before I could do so.

However when I arrived in the southern cities of Spain, palms were everywhere. Being so close to the Mediterranean, they are a major design influence there. Sitting at an outdoor café outside Antoni Gaudí's “Casa Batlló” on the Passeig de Gràcia in Barcelona, I was looking at the stores along the esplanade. A jewelry store had used every type of palm leaf as backdrops in their display windows. So creative!

Palms belong to the Arecaceae botanical family of trees and are represented in fossil records around 80 million years ago, and even back 94 million years by pollen records. By 60 million years ago many of the modern, specialized palms appeared. Their range was much more widespread than today.

The use of palms goes back a long way. The Mesopotamians and Middle Eastern peoples cultivated the date palm at least 5000 years ago. A historian states, “Without the date palm, the expansion of the human race into hot and barren parts of the old world would have been much more restricted. It was used as a concentrated energy food, which could be easily stored and carried along on long journeys across the deserts.”

Not only were they used as sustenance and shelter, but also they were important in ancient times as symbols of triumph and victory. The Romans rewarded champions of the games and celebrated military successes with palm branches.

Early Christians used the palm branch to symbolize the victory of the faithful over enemies of the soul, as in the Palm Sunday festival celebrating the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. In Judaism, the palm represents peace and plenty, and is one of the Four Species of Sukkot; the palm may also symbolize the Tree of Life in Kabbalah.

There are many products that we use on a daily basis that come from palm trees – dates, palm oil, hearts of palm in salads, carnauba wax and of course coconuts – to be used as food, or the shell which is used as coir, a water-resistant fiber. Rattan is also considered to be a palm-based product and palm leaves are used in thatching and baskets.

Palms can add an elegant touch too – hence they are often referred to as “Majestic Palms.” When friends and I enjoy high tea, we love sitting in the luxury of a Palm Court. Most English and American Victorian interiors featured palms in their conservatories and homes. Their height and drooping fronds lent an aura of sophistication and wealth to these settings.

In home interiors, designs with palm leaves have always been in style. Just this past week the New York Times Style magazine featured two large advertisements of products featuring palms - wall coverings from Pierre Frey and Graham & Brown; light fixtures from Moving Mountains and Dinmore Studios; Hermes pillows and a rug. Over the years, very affordable fabrics and wall coverings from Cowtan & Tout, Brunschwig & Fils, Nobilis and Designers Guild have always caught my eye as wonderful options for the walls of bathrooms and powder rooms; and textiles for pillows and casual upholstery. One should never tire of such soft, breezy effects for year-round furnishings.

For further reading, “The Book of Palms” published by Taschen can take you away to that tropical paradise.

COMMUNITY CLUB MINUTES

The meeting was held at the home of Jordan Parerton-Gross. Present were Jordan, Tara Benner, Karen Buzza, Nancy Barsotti and guest, Brad Knabel.

Brad made the final website presentation. He incorporated many changes that the RFCC officers suggested over the past few weeks.

Brown Paper Tickets will be used to purchase tickets for community events.

For the time being, the website will not be password protected. There will be a “captcha” for the personal email links.

There will be a sidebar listing all of the main events by the month and a complete calendar on the menu bar for all community information] including Borough Council meetings, garbage collection, etc.

The board encouraged Brad to use and purchase whatever tools would make his website services more efficient and expedient for his use as well as the community's use.

Brad will send the final version of the website to all Council members in advance of their next meeting on September 14th. They will then be able to study the site and be prepared for the presentation of the site at that meeting. Jordan and Brad will attend that meeting to answer questions and get approval to put the site into use.

The board agreed that due to the number of events this fall, that during the interim period of the introduction of the website, that the Last Word will be printed and distributed to every home through the November edition.

In the meantime, emails and other notices will be circulated, as well as highlighted announcements in the Last Word, reminding all residents to provide their current emails to the community list; to go online and use the site; and to be aware of the discontinuing of the Last Word this fall.

Jordan will work with Lauren Prepalka, our Last Word editor, to help with these announcements. Lauren should ask our printing service about their possible assistance with a mailing service to those members who choose to have the Last Word mailed to them. There will be an additional charge for this service.

Nancy will contact Germaine Gladu to begin finalizing plans for the Holiday Party, which will be on December 19. Jordan will begin contacting residents for opening their homes for the Holiday House Tour.

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
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CALL CHRIS FLAVIN
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September's
Chef:
Susan O'Toole

Tex-Mex Platter

3 medium avocados
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1 cup sour cream
½ cup mayonnaise
1 pkg. taco seasoning
2 cans jalapeño-flavored
bean dip

1 large bunch green onion
with tops, chopped
1 large can pitted ripe olives,
drained and chopped
3 medium tomatoes, cored
and chopped
8 oz. shredded sharp
cheddar cheese
Tortilla chips

Mash together avocados, lemon juice, salt, and pepper; put aside.
Combine sour cream, mayonnaise, and taco seasoning; put aside. To
assemble: On a large, round, flat platter spread bean dip (leave 1-2"
around edge for chips). Spread avocado on top, followed by sour
cream mixture. Sprinkle onions, olives, and tomatoes, and top with
cheese. Serve with chips. (Assemble immediately before serving.)