

The Last Word

FEBRUARY 2016

February

Scrapbooking, 13th and 27th

March

Scrapbooking, 12th

Easter Egg Hunt, 19th

Progressive Dinner, 19th

April

Redd Up Day, 16th

Scrapbooking, 16th and 30th

Wine Tasting, 30th

May

Garden Club Plant Sale, 7th

Kickball, 7th

June

Pool Pizza Party, 11th

July

Fourth of July Festivities

August

Pirates Game, TBA

Kickball, 20th

September

Fall Festival, TBA

October

Haunted Hayride, 22nd

November

Cold Weather Cocktail Party, 5th

December

Holiday House Tour, 10th

JANUARY BOURBON TASTING EVENT



Council Report – January

by Greg Overstreet

Reorganization Meeting, January 4

Recently re-elected Council members Tina Stacy, Steve George, and Nate Prepelka were sworn-in to new four year terms. Pat McNamara and Dave Robb were chosen to repeat as President and Vice President respectively. There were no changes in professional service providers or the newspaper of record.

Regular Meeting, January 11

Citizen Comments: A resident pointed out that the new community website provides a convenient vehicle for posting the Council Meeting agenda before each meeting so that citizens could have an opportunity to plan to attend meetings when issues of concern to them will be discussed. Solicitor Molinaro then pointed out to Council that there is, in fact, a bill working through the state legislature which will designate how long before a meeting the agenda must be posted.

Mayor's Report: The Mayor said that recent thefts from parked cars is a reminder to keep cars locked and valuables secured. Councilman George stated that it is also a reminder of the need to pursue surveillance cameras at the three borough entrances and exits to aid in identification and apprehension of perpetrators. The Mayor said he would seek more information about the cameras.

Roads & Sewers: A representative of the borough engineering firm LSSE was present to answer questions from Council and offer advice about planned road repaving work. In response to the resurfacing offer by Pennsylvania American Water Company, he advised that such resurfacing would not be thorough and would possibly last only 4-6 years, whereas reconstructing the roads would probably give about 8-10 years life on heavily traveled Kings Highway, and about 10-15 years on less traveled roads. He said that the LSSE plan would address ponding problems in the area between Rosslyn Road and Priscilla by including revised driveway-to-road transitions and a "super-elevation" of the left side of the road to raise it about three inches so that water would runoff toward the right side instead of on both sides as it does when the road is crowned in the center as it is now. Cobblestone parking pads added long ago by residents beside that roadway area add to ponding problems because they have sunk under the weight of parked cars, so there would be a need to backfill over them. Council approved the super-elevation plan.

The repaving will require installation of ADA handicap ramps at the corners of Alden and Puritan because of the adjacent sidewalks already there. The crown of the road in that area will be lowered to try to equal the sidewalk height. Addition of the ramps will in turn require addition of adjacent crosswalk striping on the road surface. If the entire roadwork project is not finished before July 4, the contractor will be required to take measures to keep a route open for the annual parade.

Tennis Courts: The easement for the drainage project between the tennis courts and the area near the corner of Park and Edgecliff has been approved and construction is ready to begin.

Street Addresses: Addresses will be assigned for all borough park sites to facilitate 911 emergency responses to those areas. A notice will be sent to the County to correct one of their records that had omitted the "c" from the spelling of Scheffield Road.

The next Regular Council Meeting will be on Monday, February 15, at 7:00 PM.

TREASURER NOTE FROM THE ROSSLYN FARMS COMMUNITY CLUB

I'd like to start by saying thank you to everyone who joined the club, planned events, attended events, volunteered and donated; without all of you, we would not have a club. I'd like to share the financial highlights of the past year with you. In 2015, we collected dues of \$3,540 and advertising in The Last Word of \$650. Our biggest overhead expenses were: The Last Word at \$2,165, community center rental of \$700, and insurance of \$653. We held 16 events costing a total of \$1,000. This yielded a small loss of \$520 for the year. Please join us again in 2016 for more great events.

*Thanks for a great year,
Tara*

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

Friday, February 5 - Garbage
Friday, February 12 - Garbage/Recycling
Friday, February 19 - Garbage
Friday, February 26 - Garbage/Recycling
Friday, March 4 - 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!)



February 18th
at the home of Katie McGuire
19 Standish Way
Not My Father's Son
by Alan Cummings

March 17th
at the home of Marcy Strutz
101 Alden Road
The Pope's Daughter
by Dario Fo

Hope to see you there.



February's Chef:
Marcia Mastrangelo

Cinnamon Cheesecake Squares

2 pkg. - Crescent Rolls	1 t. - Vanilla
2 - 8 oz. Cream Cheese	1 1/2 t - Cinnamon
1 3/4c. - Sugar (divided)	8 T. - Butter

Pat one package of crescent roll triangles into a 9x13 pan.
Beat cream cheese and 1c. of the sugar with vanilla.
Spread on top of the crescent roll.
Place 2nd crescent roll package triangles on top.
Mix 3/4 c. of the sugar with cinnamon.
Sprinkle on top.
Melt butter and drizzle over all.
Bake at 350 degrees for 30 min.
Cut when cool and store in the refrigerator.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



from Jordan

With winter storm Jonas leaving record snowfalls along the East Coast, we saw 6 inches of snow in our little town and the air turned cold. As usual, Charlie and Brad Smith stayed ahead of the game, plowing and salting our roads.

Almost two dozen residents chose to keep warm at our bourbon tasting, sampling six brands of bourbons from around the country, thanks to Jack Follmer and assistants, Greg Wichelns, Dan Harkins and Marty O'Toole. Marty said the best review of the evening was Nate Prepelka preferring a bourbon because it didn't burn his mouth or give him heartburn.

Katie McGuire's happy hour at Pennsbury Pub is expected to also attract many residents, unwinding after their busy days, chasing away the outside chill and enjoying snacks from the Community Club.

It's a directory year! Please remember to submit your membership soon to ensure you get one. We hope to have electronic forms available at www.rosslynfarmspa.com. If not, you can print forms from December's Last Word on the site.

WITH SYMPATHY



It is with sadness that we announce the death of Josie Shively. Josie and her late husband John, lived on Priscilla Lane for over 50 years. They were extremely generous supporters of many community projects including paying to replace the windows in the Community Center. Our sympathy is extended to Josie's daughter Jennifer and her family.

Design Details - "The Ports of Portugal" by Nancy Barsotti

If you would like to do some armchair traveling to a warm and sunny clime, follow along on the second half of my journey last summer.

Lisbon – Right on the edge of Europe, along the Atlantic, our first day was spent exploring the historic area known as Belem. Here there are many structures and monuments dedicated to the marine history of Portugal and its colonies. In the imposing Jeronimos Monastery, the ornate facade stonework is restored to its original, blinding white, almost like porcelain. Our guide was happy when I walked in, dropped my jaw and said "Wow!" Begun in 1501, it is a jewel of the Manueline style, named after Dom Manuel I, who commissioned the architectural and decorative elements that span Gothic, Renaissance and neoclassical forms. One of the featured design elements is a carved and curved rope. And how did he afford such craftsmanship? He financed it with the immense wealth as ships returned from India, loaded with spices and the gold flowing from Brazil and Mozambique. The complex survived the 1755 earthquake and is a UNESCO world heritage site. Along the Tejo River is the Torre (Tower) de Belem, built in 1519 to protect against the English and Dutch pirates. It too is a masterpiece of Gothic and Manueline styles, with the tower also incorporating Moorish-style watchtowers. Looking out to the marker that shows the beginning of the Atlantic, one can see why the 15th century explorers thought that the earth was flat and they would fall over the edge at the horizon.

Very unusual details in Lisbon are the sidewalks made of hand-cut white limestone and black basalt stones and placed in varying designs throughout the city. No matter where you looked in Lisbon – up or down – there was something beautiful to see.

The next day we ventured out to the fishing harbor of Cascais, Estoril and Sintra. Here the Palacio da Pena reminds one of a fairytale castle, with its colorful turrets, sitting on a hilltop surrounded by a forest. Begun in the 1840s, it too started as a monastery. But Ferdinand, the prince regent, gave it everything he could think of when he started over – a drawbridge, courtyards, archways, towers, opulent plasterwork, tile work, chandeliers, art objects and hand-carved furniture. When completed it was noted as "Bavarian Baroque" style.

Leaving Lisbon, we picked-up a car, for the adventure of driving to the Douro Valley. We stopped for lunch in the quaint town of Coimbra. Our time allowed us to see the most important site there – the University of Coimbra which is Portugal's oldest and most prestigious university. Students stroll about in swirling black capes. Situated on the crown of a hill in the center of the city, it was an impressive site with a large courtyard surrounded by the various schools. The highlight though is the Biblioteca Joanina. There are three lofty, interconnecting halls, which form the world's most lavish library featuring perspective paintings on the ceilings and intricately carved and painted bookcases in the Chinoiserie style. Carved columns support shelves bearing some 30,000 volumes and 5,000 manuscripts, with the upper levels accessed by ladders. It was simply breathtaking. No photos allowed though. Dam it!

What would a trip be without getting lost? In trying to find our lodging that night in Lamego in the Douro Valley, we were driving up and down hills. The local folk tried to help with hand signals because we had a huge language barrier, not knowing a word of Portuguese. Finally we pulled into a local restaurant where the owner spoke some English and within minutes we arrived at the Quinta de Marrocos, a 4th generation working Port Winery. We were very happy to get there! Our accommodations were a quaint house right over the winery and vats of Port. The next morning we woke up to a glorious view of the Douro River with hills full of vineyards and olive trees. The entire day we toured the area, visiting wineries, learning the process (and the small wineries still stomp the grapes with their feet, yes, just like Lucy!) and tasting the various types of Port wine. We learned a lot and I have a new appreciation and love of Port. And we got lost again, going from town to town, surrounded by vineyards. Funny how times of frustration turn into laughter when recalling memories of the trip.



Then it was on to Porto – the port of the Port. Here the rabelos (boats) come down the Douro River, loaded with the barrels of Port. We learned that the swaying back and forth of the wine in the oak barrels creates the best Tawny Port. Along the quays of Vila Nova de Gaia, are the wine lodges and warehouses. We toured one on the largest there, Graham. Another "unforgettable best view" was of the city's steep slopes of white washed buildings with orange tile roofs. Decorative Portuguese tiles are called "azulejos" and again, I had to find shops that had antique ones and added another one to my souvenirs. Our guided tour included the train station, Estacao de Sao Bento where 20,000 azulejos make up large 1930s panels illustrating daily life and historic battles. The Chapel of the Holy Sacrament in the cathedral is a testament to the prowess of Portuguese silversmiths. But with all its intricate details, it is no wonder that no one has offered to polish it up a bit. At the renowned Café Majestic, a belle époque wonder of gilded woodwork and mirrors, I had to have the signature dish of tripe stew. I am truly a "Mikey" – I will try anything. And we couldn't leave Portugal without a delicious local seafood dinner at Dom Peixe – right there on the docks. The whole fish is selected, presented and then cooked on the huge grills out on the street in front. We had sea bass, prawns and sardines. I was not leaving Portugal without having that delicacy!

We left Porto on a train back to Lisbon and then an overnight train, back to Spain and the end of our journey. Portugal was a wonderful surprise and just like almost everywhere I go, I would love to go back. The people, the sights, the history, the cuisine – and a new appreciation for Port – were all so memorable.

THE LAST WORD - A ROSSLYN FARMS COMMUNITY CLUB PUBLICATION

DEADLINE: 24TH OF THE MONTH

LWPDESIGNS@COMCAST.NET

WWW.ROSSLYNFARMSPA.COM



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
- cordwood - \$100 for 4' by 8' stack

CALL CHRIS FLAVIN
412-519-3975