



Horse Tales

Working together to be the best we can be!
January/February/March 2024
Volume 29 Issue 1



PRESIDENT’S NEWS **Judi Lewis**

Hello Everyone

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The Board met on January 22 to kick off 2024. I have a lot to tell you.

Board Members/Officers/Meeting dates/Appointments

At the beginning of the year, Jim Cibrone advised us that, due to personal reasons, he needs to resign from the Board. Jim has served this Community for 3 Board terms (i.e. 9 years). He volunteered to start and serve as Chair on the Community Decorations Committee. We have counted on him to provide all kinds of yummys for various Steeplechase events. The Board will miss Jim a great deal. He always brought such a valuable business view to the issues we struggled with over the years. JIM: Best wishes to you and Irene and THANK YOU from all of us.

The Board invited Bob Barron (5532 LHE) to fill the Board vacancy. Bob has worked on Board Committees in the past. Most recently, Bob approached us to ask if there were any opportunities for him to be of assistance. Of course, we jumped on that. Bob helped us last year with the Annual Inspection and the Alteration Request Process. We are happy to say Bob accepted our invitation and was appointed to the Board at the January meeting.

Board members

Judi Lewis
Randy Wolfe
John Paravati
Jeannine Carver
Bob Barron

Board Officers

President	Judi Lewis
Vice President	Bob Barron
Secretary	Randy Wolfe
Treasurer	Don Fox*

*While Mr. Fox is not a current member of the Board, the Board felt strongly that he is the most qualified person in the Community to serve as Treasurer. Don has Chaired the Steeplechase Investment and Finance Committee since its inception in 2002. In that role, Don has the authority to monitor both the Operating and Reserve Funds of the Community and to advise the Board on issues of fund investments. Don has performed these duties faithfully and professionally for over 20 years. We are pleased that he accepted the invitation to serve as Treasurer.

2024 Board Meeting Dates:

January 22	July 15
March 18	Sept. 16
May 20	Nov. – AOM TBD

Committee Chair Appointments

Following Jim Cibrone's resignation, Jeannine Carver volunteered to chair the Community Decorations Committee.

John Paravati advised that he believes he can now reassume the position of chair of the Landscaping Committee.

Both of these appointments were approved by the Board.

Major Projects

Lampposts

The Board is looking into replacing all of the lampposts in the Community with the goal of providing better lighting. This project is being directed by John Paravati, Randy Wolfe and Bob Barron. Currently, we are testing a new lamp head at the intersection of LHE and Lantern Hill – at the mailbox there.

Check it out. Let us know what you think.

Reserve Study

Mr. Dave Sylvester, the CEO of our Management Company, CMA, is working with us to update our Reserve Study. This study will focus primarily on asphalt projects and the anticipated lamppost project. Randy Wolfe is working with Dave. We hope to have this report in the first quarter.

Steeplechase Rules

Our rules apply to all of us. They are designed to facilitate Community living and to maintain the property values in the Community.

We do our best to enforce all of the rules all the time. We have said many times – if you find you need some kind of accommodation – e.g. putting your trash out early, or using one of the parking pads – PLEASE call someone. Tell us your situation and we will work with you. Simply ignoring the rule will result in a rule violation letter which will become part of your file with CMA. Continued violations will result in fines.

The following rules need special attention.

Parking

We have been receiving requests from residents to address the use of parking pads in the Community.

For many years, our parking pads were for Visitor Parking Only. That rule remains in effect in some locations and those parking pads are so marked. For the rest of the Community, we rescinded the “Visitor Parking Only” rule with the proviso that the pads would remain PRIMARILY for the use of visitors. Unfortunately, over time, that proviso has been forgotten and residents have begun using the parking pads for regular daily parking.

Please be considerate of your neighbors. As a general rule, your vehicles should be parked in your garage or driveway. Of course, there may be the occasional need to use the parking pads; however, that needs to be the exception – not the rule.

Please be considerate of your neighbors and park your vehicles on your own property. The Board does not want to have to reinstate parking restriction rules where violators will be fined for failure to comply.

In addition, we’ve had several occasions of vehicles parked on our grass. Please don’t park on the grass. Landscaping repairs take up a considerable part of our operating budget.

Trash

Trash containers cannot be placed **outside your unit** prior to 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to scheduled pickup. It's not OK to just sit your trash can outside by the garage. The container cannot be placed outside your unit prior to 3:00 p.m. and must be returned inside your unit no later than 8:00 p.m. the day of pickup. This rule is ignored regularly and we will continue to send violation letters. Again, if you need to put your trash out early, you need to advise us in advance.

Pets

Absolutely the issue that causes the most angst. Pets **MUST BE** on a leash at all times when outside. This applies to both dogs and cats.

Unless you have specific permission from your neighbors for your pet to use their lawns, you must keep your pet off of other people's property. We are also having much difficulty with people allowing dogs to use our shrub beds for relieving themselves. This kills our shrubs. As stated above, landscaping repairs comprise a large part of our operating budget. It is more than frustrating to have to plant and replant in the same locations year after year.

When walking your dog, please keep the dog in the street. If the dog defecates, please pick up immediately. Many residents now have cameras on the outside. We have seen several dogs being directed into our shrub beds. Please consider this a warning to all – We will begin issuing violation letters whenever we see this happening. This practice is costing us all money that could and should be used for something other than replacing the same shrubs every year.

While you personally may feel inconvenienced at times by a particular rule – keep in mind that your violation of a rule could inconvenience someone else, and we all pay to repair thoughtless damage.

Committee Reports

Community Relations

Chuck Chasler

At the December 20th Whitehall Borough board meeting, Mayor James Nowak declared Wednesday, December 20, Philip Lahr, Robert McKown, and Glenn Nagy Day in honor of their service to our community. A well-deserved honor. There are plans to move the council chambers to the multipurpose room and, hopefully, will be completed in 2024. The move will allow for a larger space and live streaming of borough meetings. The January 2, 2024 Council meeting rang in the new year with the swearing in of new council members Lacy Thomas, Beth Lynn Eicher and Tristian Lucchetti. The oath was administered by Mayor James Nowak. New refuse and recycling changes go into effect January 1. Refer to page 6 in the Borough Fall/Winter 2023 Bulletin for specifics.

Internet

Dave Alison

Steeplechase Website Security Reminder

www.steeplechasecsa.com

facebook.com/groups/SteeplechasePgh/

Because the Steeplechase website is publicly accessible, our information can be subject to abuse by potential scammers. You might get a message like this:

“Are you free at the moment? Let me know ASAP.”

This is the kind of email or text message that may get your attention, especially if it looks to be from someone on our Board of Directors or a Committee chair. But be on guard – this is a scam that’s been making the rounds.

Here’s how it works:

You get a short email or text message from one of the Steeplechase Board members saying that they need you to respond ASAP. The scammer has just spoofed the email address that appears to be coming from someone you know. If you respond, usually they ask you to purchase gift cards or wire money somewhere.

NEVER respond directly to any email or text message that (1) demands an immediate response, (2) it is asking for money or (3) wants you to confirm personal information. Do not respond UNTIL you verify the identity of the sender. Look up that information using a verified secure source, such as the contact information in this newsletter or printed in the Steeplechase Directory.

NEVER reply using the link in the email, but call or email the “alleged” sender using their known information. If you suspect the message is a fraud, then delete it and block the sender. If you get additional or similar messages, then report these phishing emails or text messages to the Whitehall police (412-884-1100) or forward them to reportphishing@apwg.org (an address used by the Anti-Phishing Working Group, which includes law enforcement agencies, ISPs, security vendors, and financial institutions.)

Also, scammers often update their tactics to keep up with the latest news or trends. Here are some other common tactics used in phishing emails or text messages: These messages often tell a story to trick you into clicking on a link or opening an attachment. You might get an unexpected email or text message that looks like it’s from a company you know or trust, like a bank or a credit card or utility company. Or maybe it’s from an online payment website or app. The message could be from a scammer, who might:

1. Say they’ve noticed some suspicious activity or log-in attempts
2. Claim there’s a problem with your account or your payment information
3. Say you need to confirm some personal or financial information
4. Include an invoice you don’t recognize
5. Want you to click on a link to make a payment
6. Say you’re eligible to register for a government refund
7. Offer a coupon for free stuff.

If you ever get a message similar to one of these, always independently verify the identity of the sender, and only respond using a different and known email or phone number. NEVER provide personal or financial information, and NEVER send gift cards or money to an unknown person over the internet.

From Josh Carver and Dave Alison

Library—Steeplechase United Book Club**Alfie Chico**

The Steeplechase United Book Club meets on the last Friday of the Month every other month. The next meeting will be March 29, 2024 at 10:30 AM at 1023 Duncan Lane.

Newsletter**Betty Long**

The newsletter committee is making some changes. There will now be five issues yearly instead of six issues. The newsletter will go out shortly after each Board meeting making the new schedule as follows:

Issue 1—January/February/March

Issue 2—April/May

Issue 3—June/July

Issue 4 —August/September

Issue 5—October/November/December

This change will allow the Steeplechase Board to provide information in a more timely fashion.

Also, the three pages of general Steeplechase Information that have been included in each newsletter will now be found at the end of the Steeplechase Directory.

Social**Betty Long**

The Social Committee is asking for input from the residents on Steeplechase activities. The Social Committee is asking all residents to fill out a short survey that is included with this newsletter. There will be 3 drop off boxes for the surveys. The boxes will be located at the corner of Hennig and Caste, by the mailbox on Lantern Hill Ext. close to 5517 LHE and at the last mailbox on LHE close to 5242.

STEEPLECHASE NEWS & ACTIVITIES



February Lunch Bunch

Friday, February 9, 2024

11:30 am

La Calera Mexican Grill
5321 Clairton Blvd

RSVP: Valerie Wolfe

270-871-8458

By Tuesday, February 6, 2024

March Lunch Bunch

Thursday, March 7, 2024

11:30 am

Olive Garden
6000 Oxford Drive
Bethel Park

RSVP: Joan Stover

412-819-0778

By Tuesday, March 5, 2024



As we greet the new year, we welcome our newest neighbors to our Steeplechase Community.

Alfred and Constance Watterson, 5312 Caste Drive

Casey Johnson, 31 Hennig Drive

Coleen Friedrich, 5404 Lantern Hill Ext.

Ryan Cusick, 5205 Lantern Hill Drive

Jennifer Cline, 1033 Duncan Lane

We wish you a very happy New Year in your new home and look forward to getting to know all of you.



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THE TITANIC EXPERIENCE TOUR



Thursday, March 14, 2024 | 9:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | \$100 pp
Be immersed in the current "Titanic Artifacts" exhibit at the Carnegie Science Center. This amazing exhibit contains hundreds of authentic items retrieved from the fated shipwreck and a real iceberg. After we tour the exhibit, we will enjoy a first class "Titanic Style" lunch at the elegant Grand Concourse Restaurant. Don't miss the ship!!

DANIEL AND MORE OVERNIGHT TOUR



April 34, 2024 | Single: \$635, Double: \$535
Experience the brand new production of DANIEL at the Sight and Sound Theater. This overnight adventure includes accommodations at the Best Western Intercourse Village, Farm-to-Table lunch and wine tasting at Mt. Hope Winery, Magic and Wonder Dinner Theater and so much more!

BROADWAY IN THE BURGH: MAMMA MIA!



Wednesday, March 27, 2024 | 4:30-10:30 p.m. | \$260 pp
Don't miss this fun musical set on a Greek Island paradise and with a tale of love and friendship told through the music of ABBA. Our pre-theater dinner is at McCormick and Schmick with VIP service and the best orchestra level seats.

TOTALLY AWESOME ECLIPSE TOUR



Monday, April 8, 2024 | 6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. | \$175 pp
Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience to view a total solar eclipse in Ohio Amish Country. There will be shopping, arts and crafts, baked goods, a homemade Amish meal, entertainment, and a viewing party like no other!

To schedule your tour or for group rate information, contact Kim Adley at **412-298-0409** or visit us online: passporttopittsburgh.com.

All tours depart from Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Cathedral, 450 Maxwell Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa 15236 (unless otherwise specified.)

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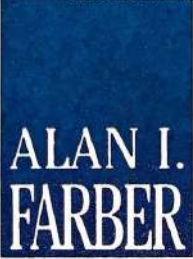
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