



Horse Tales

Working Together to be the best we can be!

August September 2025

Volume 30 Issue 4



PRESIDENT'S NEWS

Judi Lewis

Hello Everyone



For those who have lived in Steeplechase for some time, you will recognize Janice Herrle as the happy, friendly Manager who helped all of us with her experience and wisdom concerning Community management. Over the years, Janice and I became close personal friends. We lost Janice recently to a very rare and aggressive cancer. I miss you my friend.

Report of the Board meeting on July 12.

By-Laws: As you know, we are proposing an amendment to our by-laws to allow homeowners to vote on board matters using absentee ballots. This amendment will give homeowners who are unable to attend Annual Meetings and Special Meetings an opportunity to cast a vote. The Board has scheduled a Special Owners Meeting for the Community to vote on the proposed amendments for Thursday, August 21, 2025, 6:30 pm, at GV Social Hall. As of now, the mailings are being prepared, but by the time you receive this Newsletter, you may have already received the information. Please read it all carefully.

We have replaced our three ballot boxes with one larger box, which is situated at the parking pad on Lantern Hill Ext., across from 5534. Until the proposed amendment is approved by Homeowners, we can use this box for proxies only. So, if you are unable to attend the meeting on August 21, please complete the proxy form and either drop it in the box or send it to Tammy Mersing at CMA. (Email and mailing information are on the form.)

The Board strongly encourages you to vote YES to this proposal.

Rentals: At this writing, the Board is trying to schedule a meeting with the Whitehall Director of Code Enforcement to discuss plans for us to work together with Whitehall to help both them and us manage rentals in our Community.

We received only 10 responses to our request for input from the Community on this subject. While the majority of those favor our limiting rentals in some way, the sample size is simply too small for us to use as a guide. Some of the problems we've had with renters have been extreme, and we totally sympathize with neighbors close to those situations. The fact of the matter is, however, that we have very few rentals in the Community.

The Board attended a webinar on this subject which was quite informative. One important lesson that came out of that session is: Managing any kind of limit on rentals is a very time-consuming, frustrating and expensive proposition. After we meet with the Whitehall Code Enforcement Officer, we plan to schedule a meeting with a local attorney who specializes in this area. Following those meetings, the Board will discuss this matter further.

If anyone has additional input they would like us to consider, please let us know.

Annual Inspection: As of today, most of the annual inspections have been completed. Just a reminder:

If you receive a letter, please don't ignore it. If you dispute what you are being asked to do, or if you find that you are not able to complete the maintenance work within the time specified, please let us know. If you just ignore the letter, it will ultimately lead to fines. No one wants that to happen.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions or concerns. We will be happy to work with you to get these problems resolved.

PLEASE don't forget to send an Alteration Request form in before doing ANY work on the outside of your residence.

Rules: The Board is working on revisions to our Rules and Policies. We hope to have these completed and mailed to all Homeowners before the end of the year.

Reminder: Our by-laws provide a temporary easement to homeowners who live in the middle of a row which allows contractors to cross over neighbors' lots for purposes of maintaining or improving their units. Homeowners needing to exercise this right should notify the Board and affected neighbors two weeks before the work is expected to be done. The Homeowner using this right will be responsible for repairing any damage to their neighbors' property(ies).

Those Special SteeplePeople: Without fanfare, they step up.

The fence in the rear of the homes on Parkside had to be removed. Bids were solicited – it was going to be expensive. What happened? Paul Thwaite, a Parkside resident, volunteered to manage the project. A group of volunteers got together and removed the fence. Special **THANK YOU** to Paul and to all those who worked on the removal.

Some residents are simply unable to attend to the weeds – those pesky weeds. What happened? Jeannine Carver recruited a group of volunteers to pull weeds. Special **THANK YOU** to Jeannine and all the weeders.

I could spend hours listing all of the one-on-one acts of kindness extended between neighbors. We have a special Community here – and very special people.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Special Meeting.

Judi Lewis

Committee Reports

Community Relations

Chuck Chasler

You probably don't want to hear this, but I recently saw a store display for Halloween. What happened to summer? So, it's not too early to start paying attention to our local government. The Whitehall Borough Council will be losing three veteran members this year. Linda Book, Kathleen Depuy, and William Veith are retiring from the Council and are taking decades of knowledge and experience with them. Their service to our community is commendable.

Competing for these seats along with an incumbent seat are the following individuals: (In alphabetical order)

Patrick Conners
Eric Crane
Julia Donohue
Richard Kirsch
Christy Kuehn
John Paravati
Jeremy Rose
Stone Sobieralski

Incumbent Mayor James Nowalk will face Chris Mooney.

There is limited information on these individuals at Facebook- Citizens of Whitehall Boro. As we approach election day, be on the lookout for opportunities to meet these candidates. I have been a close observer of our Borough government for close to four years. We need serious people in these elected positions. Let's all do our homework before we vote.

Decorations

Jeannine Carver

A big THANK YOU to all who helped with the flags for the Fourth of July!!! Your assistance was greatly appreciated!

If you would like to volunteer for the Decorations Committee, please email me at jandjcarver@gmail.com

Internet

Jeannine Carver

***REMINDER* – Landscaping Questions Form**

A fillable form has been created for your convenience and resides on the Landscape Committee page on the Steeplechase website. This form is sent directly to PEAK Landscaping and the Landscape Committee. If you have questions or concerns, please utilize the form.

Photographs Please

We are looking to update the photos on the website. Please submit your Steeplechase photos for consideration to our Facebook page.

Landscape

John Paravati

The completed irrigation system at the Fountain bed, with its utility-based payment structure and absence of additional sewage expenses, demonstrates a thoughtful approach to resource management. The 2024 fountain installation, funded in part by audit savings, further highlights a strategic use of resources for aesthetic enhancement. The final phase will be the installation of a border to prevent compost runoff. Studies consistently demonstrate the positive impact of landscaping on property values. Well-designed and maintained landscapes can increase a home's value by 5% to 15%.

Looking ahead to next year, the planned upgrade of the parking pad at 5400 Lantern Hill Extension, including replacing dead shrubs, expanding the bed, and adding trees, aligns with the goal of maintaining and increasing property values for current and future residents. As Landscape Chair at Steeplechase, my commitment to the community's beautification is evident and well-planned.



Library

Alfie Chico

Steeplechase Loves Books will be meeting the last Friday of September 10:30 at Chicos, 1023 Duncan Lane.

If you're thinking of donating books, now would be a good time. Our selection at this time is limited. Always looking for newer books, books by popular authors or classics.

Our physical library could use a little TLC. It has some splits in the wood and maybe needs some wood putty. After it's repaired we can throw on another coat of stain. If you would like to help, email me at (alfiechico1@gmail.com).

Social

Betty Long

A big thank you to all who attended the annual picnic. It was a huge success. I must make note that 23 people who signed up to attend did not come. When that happens, we still have to pay the caterer. We paid the caterer \$24 per person for someone not in attendance. That's \$552 we did not have to spend! **If you find you are unable to come please let someone know.**

Our upcoming events are the special HOM on August 21st, Garage Sale on September 6th and the Annual Food Drive on October 4 & 5. Plans are being made for the annual Christmas Party; details will follow in our next issue.

I must thank the people who work behind the scenes helping with setup and take down of all the tents, tables and chairs and ice shopping for pop and water. Thank you to Josh & Jeannine Carver, Tom & Judy Simcik, Steve & Sharon Winter, Randy & Val Wolfe, Tom & Beth Wysocki and I can't forget my husband, Bill. And a special thank you to Carol Kessler because without "Carol's Corner" a lot of our activities would not take place.

Thank You

Last month while in the hospital, I got the "dreaded weed letter" and I deserved it! I called several landscapers but none showed up. Then on Sunday morning three Steeplechase residents knocked at my door with all of their gardening equipment and went to work. The weeds didn't have a chance! My front and back yards look great! **Thank you so much to Jeannine Carver and Tom and Beth Wysocki.**

Wendy Beck

STEEPLECHASE NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



August Lunch Bunch

Friday, August 22, 2025

11:30 am

Park Social

2525 Brownsville Rd

South Park, PA 15129

RSVP: Claire Seddon

412-983-3811

By Wednesday August 20, 2025

September Lunch Bunch

Friday, September 26, 2025

11:30 am

Mitchell's

1500 Washington Rd. (Galleria)

Pittsburgh, PA 15228

RSVP: Joan Stover

412-417-1327

By Wednesday September 24, 2025

2025 Steeplechase Board Meetings

September 13, 2025—Whitehall Fire Dept on Weyman Rd. at 9:30 a.m.

November 6, 2025 Annual Homeowners' Meeting—GV Social Hall at 6:00 pm.



We are excited to welcome to our Steeplechase Community our newest neighbor.

Trevor Horvitz
118 Paddock Lane

We hope you are starting to feel at home in our wonderful neighborhood.



STEEPLECHASE

Donation Drive



Help us make a difference for those with food insecurity!



October 4th - 5th
10:00am - 1:00pm



Parking Pad at the
top of Lower Duncan

We are **ONLY**
accepting **cash**
or **grocery gift**
cards!

Donations go towards local food banks

Thank you to everyone who attended the Food Truck/Ice Cream Social. It was such a huge success that Hibachi Lou ran out of food! We are already making plans for another food truck event in the fall.



Steeplechase Sponsors

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DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT & LOCATION
August 21, 2025	6:30 pm	Special Homeowners' Meeting GV Social Hall
August 22, 2025	11:30 am	Lunch Bunch Park Social
September 6, 2025	8:00 am—2:00 pm	Annual Garage Sale
September 13, 2025	9:30 am	Board Meeting Weyman Rd.Fire Dept
September 26, 2025	10:30 am	1023 Duncan Lane Book Club
September 26, 2025	11:30 am	Lunch Bunch Mitchell's
October 4 & 5, 2025	11:00 am—2:00 pm	Annual Food Drive Parking pad at top of Lower Duncan
November 6, 2025	6:00 pm	Annual Homeowners' Meeting GV Social Hall
December 6, 2025	6:00 pm	Steeplechase Christmas Party GV Social Hall