

HICKORY HAPPENINGS

A newsletter for the residents of Hickory on the Green

No. 63: June, 2021



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Wendy Bell
Vice President	Tracey Valko
Secretary	Mary Jo Gross
Treasurer	Joy Short
Director	Fred Rapone

MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Community Management Professionals
200 Commerce Drive, Suite 206
Moon Township, PA 15108
Phone (412) 279-9280

Management Personnel:
Carl Wilkinson IV, Assistant - Ext. 260
Aimee Hennemuth, Manager - Ext. 110
Accounting Dept. - Ext. 170
After Hours Emergency:
Ext. 0, Leave a message

HICKORY ON THE GREEN (H.O.G.) WEBSITE

www.hickoryonthegreen.com

Musings from the President - Wendy Bell (7049)

You will recall that David Carroll's last President's Message in the February issue of the Hickory Happenings started off with a plea for "new blood" on the Board of Directors. That call was answered in a big way allowing for the retirement of two more Board members, David Carroll and Jim Glenn. David had been on the Board for many years, often serving as President and providing a calm, steady influence that benefited all homeowners alike. Jim had been on the Board less time but his contributions to our accounting oversight of CMP and our budgeting process were immeasurable. While we will miss these inveterate contributors, we are happy that they have gotten the retirement they requested. God's speed, gentlemen!

Those who answered the call of volunteerism in service to our community are Joy Short who comes onto the Board with an accounting and auditing background and was installed as our new H.O.G. Treasurer by a unanimous vote of the Board at the May meeting. She is already making an impact on our behalf with her review of the auditor bids for last year's financials as well as evaluating our CMP-generated financials for this past month.

Our second addition to the Board is long time South Fayette resident and H.O.G. homeowner Tracey Valko. Tracey is definitely a go-getter on behalf of our community as evidenced by her work on our Development Committee, most notably her advocacy of our Street Lighting Improvement Project with South Fayette, and her research and advocacy with South Fayette and PennDOT around the proposed I-79 expansion. She was voted into the office of Board Vice-President.

These two new Board members join newly minted member Mary Jo Gross (Board Secretary, her appointment was covered in February's issue) and long termers

Upcoming Events & Announcements

H.O.G. Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

These meetings have been held via teleconferencing since March of 2020 due to the pandemic. Should you like to participate in the next H.O.G. Business Meeting, contact Carl Wilkinson at CMP at (412) 279-9280, ext. 260 for a link to the meeting.

The next Board meeting teleconference is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28th at 6:30PM.

Fred Rapone (Director) and Wendy Bell (Board President), all of whom have only H.O.G. homeowners in mind as they begin the business of 2021 which includes visitor parking lot restoration, drainage pond maintenance, street lighting, future capital improvement projects, future years' finances, etc.

Finally, we welcome the resurrection of the Social Committee's planning activities as we gradually "thaw out" from the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. While the Board has relaxed its COVID-19 pandemic suspension of sponsored events, we will be starting slowly with most events occurring later this year and a recommendation that attendees adhere to CDC and local guidelines for gatherings. And as usual, all our volunteer committee members are hard at work doing the business of our Association. Thanks, folks.

Wendy Bell, President
Board of Directors
Hickory on the Green Homeowners Association

Treasurer's Message - Joy Short (7091)

As of April 30th, 2021, our Hickory on the Green year-to-date expenses and revenues are consistent with our year-to-date 2021 budget expectations. The largest expected operating expense for 2021 is landscaping, followed by our management fee, mine subsidence insurance and snow removal. To date our landscaping expenses have been minimal, but with the warmer weather we will see an increase in this expense in the months to come. While landscaping is a significant expense, it is one that brings instant beauty and curb appeal to our community.

Joy Short, Treasurer
Board of Directors
Hickory on the Green Homeowners Association

Board News

Board OK's Resumption of Social Activities. At its May business meeting, the Board of Directors voted to lift its prohibition of Association-sponsored social events. Recall that the Association was advised to suspend all events to avoid liability issues. Therefore, we joined all the other Associations in the area by cancelling the events in 2020 and the first half of 2021 until the CDC and PA guidelines suggested a resumption of more normal life. Now, the Board has asked

the Social Committee to schedule its events later this year (September and going forward) as well as inform all participants that events will be following the guidelines issued by the CDC, State of Pennsylvania and Allegheny County as far as mask wearing and social distancing is concerned.

Extraordinary Public Service in Times of Need. On Sunday, February 21st of this year, lots of generous folks donated an estimated 800 lbs. of food and supplies to SHIM, an event that our Social Committee created especially to ensure that everybody who participated was safe and socially distanced. The donation effort was magnificent in its volume of collection. You can read more about it on page 5. Thanks to all involved. In addition to this event, you can also read about two other recent past donation efforts the Social Committee executed for pets and the Women's Shelter.

I-79 Expansion Project. Many thanks go out to our I-79 Expansion Research Committee (Tracey Valko, Lucy Serio, Rich Luczko, Donna Luczko, Aimee Hennemuth-Rogowski). There have been conversations with Erik Porter, an I-79 project manager with PennDOT (conducted by Tracey). The committee held a meeting with Gwen Rodi, South Fayette commissioner (Rich, Donna, Lucy, Wendy attending). Public postings on PennDOT's website and attending teleconferences held by PennDOT have also been searched for information about this project (performed by Lucy, Wendy). Details that are currently available about the project can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

Water Drainage Ponds. The Association has three water drainage ponds for the control of rainwater runoff above us (from I79, for example) and below us (from our street). Two small ponds are located behind 7054 and 7056, collecting and funneling rain runoff from I79 underneath our development to the third much larger pond, located below 7063. Last fall, the Board charged CMP with obtaining an assessment of the condition of these ponds and whether maintenance is required, which consists mostly of making sure the drains in the ponds work to continue the drainage downstream and away from our community. At the May meeting, the assessment of our contractor indicated that some drain screen cleaning was required. The Board voted to authorize that the work be done. The evaluation concluded that the largest pond has accumulated a fair amount of silt which raises the water level to within the drain's top-most extension. The Board was informed that the dredging of this pond will cost approximately \$35,000 and should be done within the next three years. The steep price tag is due to the pond's inaccessibility,

which will probably require access through the golf course and up a steep hill... in other words, a big project for the near-term future.

Painting Schedule Defined. At the last Board meeting, CMP recommended, and the Board agreed, that the Association establish a five-year schedule for repainting every unit's front and garage doors (excluding factory warranty doors). Assessment of the condition of doors will be done annually in conjunction with our contractor, Fresh Coat. At the May Board meeting, Aimee Hennemuth-Rogowski stated that she had requested of our contractor the preparation of an implementation cost estimate for the Board to review.

This Spring's Inspection. Just a quick reminder that any outstanding violations or maintenance reminders that you received last spring will be enforced this year. CMP reported that the big three offenses among the 2020 inspection violations were dog waste in yards, the buildup of mildew on various property elements (siding, patios, etc.), and deteriorating driveways.

CMP will be inspecting the front and rear of properties in the early weeks of June, so you may want to do your post-winter property cleanup soon.

Appropriate Pandemic Precautions. For vaccinated folks, the pandemic seems largely under control, at least until the latest variant washes up on our shores or it is determined that a booster shot is necessary. However, the effectiveness of the vaccines is less than 100% and there are still around 30% of Pennsylvania's citizens who are not yet vaccinated. The Board would like to urge homeowners to use caution as you come out of your self-imposed isolation. Masks and social distancing should still be employed to protect those who have not yet or cannot get vaccinated.

Spring and Summer Outside Work. As you spruce up your properties this spring and summer, please remember that an Alteration Request is required for anything that you do to the exterior of your property and that there are specifications for most of the common exterior work to be done. Please become familiar with the Alteration Request and Architectural Review process if you are not already. And remember that the Board approved a Development Committee recommended stain for front porch steps and landings in 2020 (see the link for H.O.G. Policies, Procedures and Specifications 12.1.2020 on the first page of our website).

Community Garden in the Cul-de-Sac? By homeowner request, the Board took up the issue of granting permission to homeowners to establish gardens on the cul-de-sac property, which the Association owns in common. After studying this issue and reviewing similar projects elsewhere, the Board agreed to permit such activity on the commonly owned Association property at the cul-de-sac with stipulations: the project must be submitted in writing to and approved by the Board in advance of any work to be done; the plan must supply all resources necessary for the planting project and not assume any support from Association funds or contractors; and the project must provide access for participation by other homeowners. Once this decision was made, the Board learned that the individual who initially requested approval for a cul-de-sac garden was no longer interested in the project. The Board tabled the issue.

CMP's Community Portal. CMP recently introduced its new "Community Portal" to all the communities that it serves, ours being one of them. This new community website has a lot of potential if we use it. For example, you can make your payments online now. Also, you can elect to receive CMP/H.O.G. communications via email, text, or snail mail. There is a calendar that our association can use to display events when they are scheduled. Finally, one section contains all our governing documents (the "Covenants") and our alteration specifications. Carl Wilkinson at CMP has been gradually populating this page with downloadable documents that pertain specifically to Hickory on the Green Homeowners Association. It is the type of website that will only get better with participation; and we hope to utilize it more and more as we pursue the perfect communication device for our homeowners. You were sent an email some months ago that gave you instructions to sign in with your email address and the credentials that were sent to you. If you cannot find that email, contact Carl to request a resend at cwilkinson@cmpmgt.com, 412-279-9280, Ext. 260.

2022 Roof Loan Retirement/Capital Reserve Study. The Association will pay off its roof replacement loan in May of 2022. The cessation of the monthly installments to the bank for this loan, which began in 2011 when the roofs were replaced, will be the impetus for a comprehensive review of the current and future capital needs of the Association, much of which has been delayed in recent years. The Board has scheduled a June meeting to review the Association's Capital Assets Reserve Study, our monthly assessment level, the issue of roof and siding replacement in the future and any other special projects identified by ARC and the Development Committees that require future funding.

Deck and privacy fence staining. Earlier this year, the Board charged the Development Committee with updating specifications for stains or paints for rear decks and fencing. [Recall that the Board recently approved the more modern Granite stain color for all front porches.] The Committee has recommended that the same stain, Granite, be applied as the standard for all rear deck and privacy fences as well. The Board will consider this recommendation soon. Please remember that homeowners are responsible for submitting an Alteration Request for deck, fence, or patio maintenance and replacement. Such Alteration Requests must include relevant Township approval paperwork.

Welcome/Directory Binders. If you need a Welcome/Directory Binder, let Carl at CMP know and we'll get one out to you. We do have plans to update the directory in the binder soon. Plans are to send out an email copy of the directory that you can print out and stick in the pocket of your binder to replace the old, outdated directory.

Don't forget to contribute to our Resource Guide. The Resource Guide that is available on our website is only as good as the recommendations of our homeowners. Don't forget to let your neighbors know when you've had a great experience with a contractor/service provider. You can do this by sending the name, contact information and service description of your referral to wenbellz@gmail.com or by contacting CMP at 412-279-9280, ext. 260 or emailing: cwilkinson@cmpmgt.com (Carl Wilkinson IV).

Classified Ads. You can place Classified "FOR SALE" ads and "WANT ADS" in the Newsletter and on the website; so, if you have something to sell or want to buy, contact Mary Jo at 412-914-8267 or email: h.o.g.classifiedads@gmail.com or by going to the website's STUFF page.

2021 Board of Directors Meeting Dates. The bi-monthly Wednesday Board meetings normally begin at 6:15PM with the Homeowners Forum, which is an opportunity for homeowners to raise issues before the business meeting starts. However, the forum has been cancelled during the pandemic because the Board is meeting via conference calls until further notice. The official business meeting conference call starts at 6:30PM. Please contact CMP if you would like the link for the conference call. Resumption of in-person meetings will be posted on our website.

Meeting Dates and times:

July 28, 6:30PM

September 15, 6:30PM

October 27, 6:30PM

AOM, December 1, 7:00PM

Committee Work Recognized. The Board would like to thank the Chairs of our Standing Committees.

Without their hard work and the contributions of their committee members, our community would not be what it is today:

Architectural Review - Patty Schaal

Community Service - Patty Condre

Development - Mary Jo Gross

Communications - Wendy Bell and Micheline Stabile

Landscaping - Noli Cruz

Welcome - Donna Luczko

Rules Review and Community Affairs - Jim Ehrman

Social - Michelle & Stephanie Wright



Hickory on the Green

NEIGHBOR NEWS!!

A word about our **Little Free Library** and the donation of books to it. Several folks have generously dropped off boxes of books at various people's homes intending for the books to be added to our little library. However, the Little Free Library works by people taking a book and donating a book. If you have a whole box of books, please give them a great home by donating them to the South Fayette Township Library or neighbors who you know might be interested. Thanks so much for your generosity. And please enjoy our Little Free Library.

Sightings of a raccoon have been reported in our neighborhood in the vicinity of 7033 (woods behind unit) and in the trees behind the units bordering the gazebo. In the case of the beastie spotted behind 7033, the observation was made that the animal was out in broad daylight and acting a little weird. Just remember that raccoons are wild animals that may or may not carry rabies. And they should never be fed!!! If you spot any wild animal that is causing disruption at your property, contact the PA Game Commission:

<https://www.pgc.pa.gov/>.

Kendra Martinson, H.O.G. homeowner, is recommending **Nina Brewer**, a vet tech/vet assistant, for her **in-home pet service**. Ms. Brewer owns her own business and will come to the homeowner to take care of their pet with toenail trimmings, cleaning ears, expressing anal glands, etc. Below is a copy of her business card. People can text, email, or call her to set up an appointment. She accepts Venmo or cash. She has been to my house a couple of times to take care of my dogs' toenail trimmings and anal gland expression and has done a wonderful job! It is so nice not to have to take the dogs anywhere for this. Nina is very personable, and her prices are fair. Here contact information is: ninabrewer730@gmail.com; 412-304-2888.

- Nails \$15
- Ear cleaning \$12
- Anal Glands \$15
- Sanitary clips varies for dog size.



[Please note that this individual has not been 'vetted' by the Association, the Association is not responsible for any action or result from action taken by this individual.]

Homeowner Wendy Bell recently had her **patio and rear siding, soffit and fascia and deck power washed** by a great local business: Handy Home Solutions owned and operated by Mike Spagnolo, (412) 720-2905, info@handyhomesolutions.net. Mike's name and number will definitely be added to our Resource Guide!

Get Well Wishes.

To Amber Mincey for a speedy recovery from her recent foot injury.

Condolences.

To Bill Spitzig's family at the passing of former neighbor Bill.

PLEASE HELP US SHARE YOUR NEWS!!!! **Notify Gerry Gronsky** with your Neighbor News (condolences, etc.) at 412-914-8282.



Social Committee News - Co-Chairpersons Michelle and Stephanie Wright (7079)

Micheline Stabile is stepping away as the Chair of the Social Committee and Steph and I (Michelle) Wright are in the process of taking over. We are so thankful for her guidance and help as we start transitioning into our new roles. To help us stay organized, we have created a new email address for the Hickory on the Green Social Committee to utilize for anything Social Committee related (hogsocialcommittee@gmail.com). You can also reach Michelle at 304-488-1669.

Our HOA Board, at its most recent meeting, decided to reinstate Association-sponsored events this fall beginning in September. For the summer months, the Social Committee is starting to meet in an informal capacity. We will be discussing any informal events we are comfortable doing now. We will announce any in-person, sponsored events for the fall and winter months as they are scheduled. Anyone interested in joining the Social Committee please let us know as we would be happy to welcome any new members! We are a creative, energetic group always looking for ways to enhance our neighborhood spirit and sense of community through a variety of social interactions.

Though our mission has been sorely curtailed this past year we managed to organize our two-yearly donation drives -- to the Washington area No Kill Shelter, and to the Woman's Shelter in Washington County. Both organizations were incredibly grateful for our generous donations.

This spring we were also able to launch a new donation effort--- a neighborhood Food Drive which was a great success. We want to thank everyone who donated to the Food Drive "Hickory Has Heart" in February. The South Hills Interfaith Ministry (SHIM) was very grateful for our donation! We are also thinking about having another drive possibly this September and making this a semi-annual event. Also, a special thank you goes to Micheline and Wendy for the use of their pickup truck and for dropping off the donations to SHIM!

The Book Club will be meeting in an informal capacity until we are allowed to have sanctioned events this fall. Please let us know if you are interested in joining this group. hogsocialcommittee@gmail.com

The Card Club is also meeting in an informal capacity. We are currently playing 500 Bid and if you are interested in playing, please let us know. We welcome anyone and are happy to teach new players. hogsocialcommittee@gmail.com

The Lunch Bunch will be lunching at outdoor venues on an informal basis. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the email notification list for future lunches. hogsocialcommittee@gmail.com

The Hickory on the Go Group schedules informal outings that groups of neighbors may want to attend individually or in neighborhood groups. The group is attaching an Allegheny County Outdoor concert schedule to this newsletter. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the email notification list if you would like to attend and sit with a neighborhood group. hogsocialcommittee@gmail.com

For their own protection participants in group events should be vaccinated and may be asked to mask depending on current restrictions.

"Where neighbors become friends."



Welcome Committee - Chairperson
Donna Luczko (7060)

New to the Neighborhood:

Charley & Sue Ross
7097 Clubview

H.O.G. regulars, don't forget to **give a hearty hello and wave** to our newest community members.

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)
- Chairperson Patsy Schaal (7033)

Welcome to summer! It is a busy home project time so be sure to anticipate the turnaround time for ARs, so your project is not unnecessarily delayed, folks.

I would also like to say that it has been wonderful to offer my time and energies to chairing the Architectural Review Committee these past years. However, to every service there comes a sunset. I would like to hand off my duties as Chair to another willing homeowner who cares as much as I do about the curb appeal of our community. The duties involve receiving from CMP all Alteration Requests (ARs) submitted for exterior maintenance and changes and routing those ARs to the ARC members for review. Review can entail site visits and discussions with requesting homeowners with an emphasis on educating homeowners about the specifications that have been established by the Board of Directors. Once the ARC members have achieved a consensus about the AR, it is referred by the Chair to the President of the Board with the ARC recommendation for approval or denial. If the Board approves the AR, the Chair is responsible for follow-up to verify adherence to the specifications of the project once completed. This job is volunteer, of course, as are all committee assignments in H.O.G. It is especially meaningful work as it is always focused on improving the aesthetics of our community and helping our homeowners to achieve their desired changes. If you are interested in assuming the chairmanship of the ARC, please contact Carl Wilkinson at CMP (cwilkinson@cmpmgt.com, 412-279-9280, Ext. 260). Patsy

Please, become familiar with the Covenants and Policies, Procedures and Specifications of this community, all of which are available on our website or by calling CMP. Submit your Alteration Request. It is your responsibility as a homeowner to solicit approval, not your Association's responsibility to catch up to you and your plans after the fact.



A copy of the Alteration Request form is available on the website. Please use this form when you wish to request approval for any replacements, changes or maintenance to the outside of your unit or yard. ALL exterior work must be preceded by the submission of an Alteration Request Form and approval from the H.O.G. Board of Directors. This applies to driveway repaving, window replacements, door painting and replacements, siding repairs, and Association plant inventory changes, etc. The only exception to this rule is driveway resealing, which does not require prior approval.

Any homeowner who is considering any outside home improvement to the exterior of his/her home or landscaping must first submit an Alteration Request Form to CMP. All requests must be approved **in writing** by CMP **prior to contracting for or beginning work**. Any unauthorized alteration is automatically subject to a fine of \$100 in accordance with H.O.G. policy. Homeowners can find guidance for their work by referring to the Policies and Specifications document on our Association's website or contacting CMP for referral to a Committee member. It's usually a good idea to do both.

One further note regarding our policy on exterior changes, **any homeowner leasing their unit to a renter** is *responsible for enforcing the policy* requiring an Alteration Request (from the homeowner, not the lessee) and approval by the Board of Directors prior to the initiation of any work.

Contact Carl at CMP (412-279-9280, ext. 260 or via email at cwilkinson@cmpmgt.com) or go to our website to obtain the Association's *Alteration Request Form*. Get your neighbors' signatures on the form, attach contractor drawings and/or literature describing your project and submit it to CMP. Please note that incomplete forms will be returned for completion. Rejected, returned Alteration Requests are not approved and work should not be scheduled.

Finally, service on this committee is very important to the continued improvement of our community. If you are interested in participating in the review of homeowner Alteration Requests and the development of specifications for homeowner improvements, contact Carl at CMP (412-279-9280, ext. 260 or via email at cwilkinson@cmpmgt.com).



Landscaping Committee - Noli Cruz (7072)

The usual spring walkthrough has been done to check on expired vegetation, possible new plantings, and lawn fixings. Spring cleanups were also performed together with mulch installations, fertilizing, and trimming of our inventory bushes, plants, and trees. Thanks to our landscaper, JML, for addressing and correcting faults and "misses" from last year. Due to the harsh and cold winter this year, some of our neighbors' plants and small trees were damaged by a herd of deer. Hope to see them grow back this spring or summer.

Finally, a few plant installations and community lawn repairs are scheduled for this year, hopefully before summer hits. As always, thanks to everyone for keeping their front areas looking awesomely bright, cheerful, and colorful. If you see anything that needs landscaping attention, please let me know. Oh yes, please do not forget to water your greeneries when there is no rain especially those that are in their first year of growth.

If you have any concerns or questions about our landscaping, please do not hesitate to call Noli Cruz at (609)413-5161 or ecruzer99@hotmail.com.

Rules Review Committee - Chairpersons - James Ehrman (7025)

Currently, there are no outstanding requests from the community or Board of Directors for rules review and recommendations from the Committee. As always, should you have any policy or rule of the Association that you think would benefit from review or revision, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Jim Ehrman at jasehrman@gmail.com.

Community Service Committee - Chairpersons - Patty Condre (7083)

In coordination with the Social Committee, the Community Service Committee will be discussing the resumption of litter pickup on Alpine Road now that the Board has lifted its prohibition on scheduled events in the fall. We always need volunteers for these events, so if you have a spare hour or two, please get in touch with Carl at CMP (412-279-9280, ext. 260 or via email at: cwilkinson@cmpmgt.com, and he will forward the info to me. Thanks. Patty

Development Committee - Chairperson Mary Jo Gross (7089)

Welcome to new members Carol Gounder and Cindy Cooney.

The Committee recently recommended a staining standard for front porches which the Board approved. At our last meeting we discussed and agreed on color consistency for rear decks being the same as the front porch color, granite. This decision will be forwarded to the Board with a positive recommendation.

Since then, we have renewed our initiative to advance the Street Lighting Improvement Program, which hit a major snag with the Township during the Covid shutdown. The delay at the Township shows signs of ending and a meeting is being scheduled for our committee member and Board member, Tracey Valko; our Board member and resident contract expert, Fred Rapone; the person at the Township responsible for interfacing with the electric company, John Kanaskie; and one of the Township Commissioners, Keith Der-nosek. We believe that the Township finally forwarded our \$800 to the electric company for their engineering assessment of the project. Hopefully, these improvements will take a giant leap forward this year!

Since "Curb appeal" is what helps keep our property values up, we are striving for beautification of our community. We welcome your ideas and thoughts, and they can be sent to:

H.O.G.classifiedAds@gmail.com for the Development Committee to discuss.

A huge Thank You to the members of the Committee for all the time they have spent on the projects and their opinions and ideas. Thanks. Mary Jo Gross

Communications & Our Website -Wendy Bell & Micheline Stabile (7049)

Everything continues as it has with postings on the website and in the three times a year newsletter (February, June, October) as the events of our community and Board communication needs dictate. Our website's address is:

www.hickoryonthegreen.com

A lot of useful information about our Association can be found on our website including downloadable copies of the **Association's Covenants and associated policies, procedures, and specifications**. Also, there is a link to our all our excellent South Fayette Township website: <http://southfayettepa.com/>. The Township website has links to our local governmental officials, elected or appointed/hired.

For New Homeowners of Hickory on the Green: Keeping everyone at Hickory on the Green well informed is definitely an ongoing effort. If you would like to contribute an article, or notice, or story for the web or quarterly newsletter, just drop your "copy" via email to wenbellz@gmail.com or call Wendy at 412-257-8322. We do reserve editorial rights, just to make certain that content doesn't offend and is accurate.

If you're not already receiving the **website alerts** (email notices telling you that there is news just posted on the website), send your email address to wenbellz@gmail.com. Don't worry, we don't send out lots of email ... just enough to keep you informed of the happenings in your neighborhood.

If **you've lost something** in the neighborhood and you think someone might find it, remember that we have a "Lost and Found" announcement on our website at www.hickoryonthegreen.com. If you would like to have a posting placed on the website, contact wenbellz@gmail.com.



Rules Refresher

Planting This Spring. Just remember that planting of annuals must be confined to existing planting beds. And changes to existing inventory of perennials, bushes and

trees must be approved via the Alteration Request process by our Landscaping Committee.

Curbing your dog. This community has a Pet Policy that specifies the acceptable behavior of homeowners as they walk and curb their dogs. Please become familiar with this policy so that all neighbor and Association owned property remain happy and dog waste free!

Damage to yards by snow shoveling or errant driving. Remember that repair of lawns caused by inadvertent tire damage and snow removal is each homeowner's responsibility to repair. Contact Noli Cruz, our volunteer homeowner Landscaping Committee Chairperson, for information regarding the proper grass seed to use in your repairs.

Helpful Hints

Wild animals, especially deer, in our vicinity love to graze on our plant life, especially during the winter months when food for them is scarce and in the spring when the new spring buds are just too tempting. Feeding wild animals draws them to us... which is not good for our plant life. **Please do not feed the wildlife!!**

If you have lost something in the neighborhood and you think someone might find it, remember that we have a **"Lost and Found"** announcement on our website at www.hickoryonthegreen.com. If you would like to have a posting placed on the website, contact wenbellz@gmail.com.

Problem with garbage/recycling collection: Remember that the contract for collection of garbage and recycling materials is between our Township and Waste Management. If you have a complaint, call Peggy Patterson, Executive Assistant, at the Township (412-221-8700, ext. 10). And be nice, because she's been very good to our community over the years! If you do call Waste Management directly, make certain to tell them that YOU do NOT have a contract with them, that the contract is with your township.



Our Larger Community

In case you have never visited the **South Fayette Township Library** website, you are in for a sweet surprise. They have announced that they are now open for browsing and computer use. They have also unveiled their summer program offerings. It is a happening place, especially for the young folks among us, in addition to us older folks who like to save \$ by borrowing our books. Here is the link to go to the library: <https://www.southfayettelibrary.org/>

This from South Fayette Township: One more mention of this item from the last issue of the newsletter...download the new mobile app, South Fayette CitizenLink, to connect on the go with South Fayette Township using your smartphone or tablet. It's free at the App Store (iPhone) and Google Play (Android). Instantly connect with your most important local government services using the official app of South Fayette Township.

Allegheny County Parks Department has announced its Summer in the Parks Concert Series. The concert locations, descriptions and dates are to be found at the end of this newsletter.

Attachments to this Newsletter:

- I-79 Report
- Allegheny County Summer Concert Schedule

I-79 Expansion Project

Many thanks go out to our I-79 Expansion Research Committee (Tracey Valko, Lucy Serio, Rich Luczko, Donna Luczko, Aimee Hennemuth-Rogowski). There have been conversations with Erik Porter, I 79 project manager with PennDOT (Tracey). The committee held a meeting with Gwen Rodi, South Fayette commissioner (Rich, Donna, Lucy, Wendy). Public postings on PennDOT's website and attending teleconferences held by PennDOT have also been searched for information about this project. Below are a few of the details that are currently available about the project:

- Only those H.O.G. units whose property closely abuts I-79 received the announcement letter from PennDOT. Many non-H.O.G. properties on both sides of I-79 received the same letter.
- The project involves upgrading the cloverleaf in Bridgeville, implementing a tolling system (arches that read your license plate and bill you or using the EZ Pass system), and adding a northbound and a southbound lane in our vicinity to I-79.
- The current thinking at PennDOT is that the additional lanes will be created from the space between the existing lanes since the drop-offs (especially near us) are very severe and would require a LOT of money to overcome.
- The project's tolling component aims to raise money for the I-79 bridges over Rt. 50 at a bunch of other structures that need maintenance attention, which cannot be funded by any other means (legislatures unwilling to fund bridge repairs through tax increases, gas tax revenue expected to diminish in future years due to electrification of automobiles).
- The project's lane expansion component aims to relieve the current congestion that is occurring on I-79 at peak traffic times, and which is expected to increase once the Southern Beltway is completed. In fact, one source said that this expansion was part of the arrangement surrounding the intersection of the Southern Beltway with I-79.
- Current phase of the project involves testing (core borings, engineering, sound testing, traffic density monitoring, etc.).
- About the possibility of preventing this project from impacting our larger community and us specifically... not much. PennDOT has received authorization and funding from the Feds and the state to proceed with the initial design phases and the environmental impact studies and has proceeded to sign contracts that are currently being executed. In describing its authority to choose the Bridgeville I-79 bridges for tolling, PennDOT indicated that its "partner" in Western PA had specifically requested that these bridges be at the top of the priority list. PennDOT did not indicate who this partner is.
- When asked about the impact on local streets of the tolling component, PennDOT replies that they will throw additional funding at "correcting anything that our models got wrong about traffic flow." In other words, negative impact on local streets by those who wish to avoid tolls will not deter PennDOT from pursuing the project, despite our local elected officials' best efforts.
- We will try to notify homeowners when PennDOT initiates its "sound studies" in our community by keeping in touch with PennDOT.
- It will take several years for all the environmental impact studies and roadway design modeling to be completed. PennDOT predicts that this project will be in full swing by 2023.

- The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of this project. Hearings and informational sessions are planned but not yet scheduled for public input into the project in this area.

Allegheny County 2021 Summer Concert Series

- All concerts are FREE and begin at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted.
- Food trucks and [Hop Farm Brewing Company](#) craft beer are at all concerts starting at 6:00 pm.
- All concerts take place rain or shine at open-air amphitheaters with no covered seating.

For updated information on concerts, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or sign up for [Allegheny Alerts](#)

South Park Amphitheater

- June 4: Pittsburgh Opera
- June 11: Bill Toms & Hard Rain
- June 18: The Jaggerz
- June 25: The Vindys
- July 3: Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- July 9: Albert Cummings
- July 16 Lakeview
- July 23: Aaron Lee Tasjan
- July 30: Berlin featuring Terri Nunn
- Aug. 6: The Spinners
- Aug. 13: Low Cut Connie
- Aug. 20: Spyro Gyra
- Aug. 27: Shayna Steele
- Sept. 3: Tamburitzans

Hartwood Acres Park Amphitheater

- June 6: Truth & Rites
- June 13: River City Brass
- June 20: Pure Gold

- June 27: Indigo Girls
- July 4: Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- July 11: Moe.
- July 18: The Lone Bellow
- July 25: Lisa Fischer
- Aug. 1: Average White Band
- Aug. 8: The Jayhawks
- Aug. 15: The Wood Brothers
- Aug. 22: Pittsburgh Ballet
- Aug. 29: The Spin Doctors
- Sept. 5: Allegheny County Music Festival with The Commonheart