

Slippery Rock Park Civic Association Newsletter

Spring 2024

Community

I belong here

One tree among many

Young maple and gnarled pine and fruitful hickory and staunch oak

One single forest

Elders empowering saplings with shade

So saplings can grow strong and break the wind for elders

Cool shelter for the scorched, sun for the dreamer

A haven for smaller beings and an ecosystem unto ourselves

Where my core is an extension and not an intrusion

Where the same breeze that rises in my throat moves us all

Where different roots draw the same nutrients from the earth

Where we can grow sick and feeble leaning on the safety of one another

Where we can be born and grow and thrive and decline and die

Never having needed to move to find better ground

Many trees

One forest

Now let us go and move the world.

Author: Peter August

As I sat and "pondered" on the newsletter this year, this poem seemed to say my intent well. We have many new families, yet many old, and many even older families. Everything changes 😊, yet somehow stay the same.

Welcome to Spring!!

Janet Powell SRPCA President

An ongoing and continuous thank-you to our current Board of Directors

: Janet Powell, President, Donna Krepin, Vice President, Marilyn Martin, Treasurer, Jacki Mueller, Secretary. District Directors: District One- Bob Clouse, District Two- vacant, District Four- Jim Blaine, District Five- Melinda Rhoads, District- Six Ken Graber, District Seven- Fred Powell, District Eight - Joanna Creely, District Nine: Nikki Wheeler, District Ten -Dave Spindler- and Dave Hutner, Member at Large. Audit Committee - Niki Workman and Ken Graber.

If anyone has an interest in working with this community organization, we have a spot for you!

Janet Powell, President SRPCA 724-421-7425 janet794@gmail.com

www.slipperyrockpark.com or on our Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/SlipperyRockParkCivicAssociation

www.facebook.com/SRPCAprivate_group

Happy Hour is the last Wednesday of the month at 5pm. We will begin again at the Beach Pavilion the last Wednesday in May. We will continue to meet on the last Wednesday of the month until September. We bring an adult beverage of choice and a snack to share. Hope to see faces again after a long winter/Spring!

The Pavillion may be reserved by Members for free

Non-members may rent the Pavillion for a fee of \$25, with approval.

The Park has seen many people move onto "retirement" places. We miss the neighbors that have moved tremendously, yet delight in the new ones that have come to our community. The Association has been a support to the community since 1955. The activities and services we provide have evolved over the last few decades. We have achieved much as a community organization. Just as "everything changes" and "nothing stays the same", we are evolving as an organization. Many Board Members have "aged out" and we are actively seeking new faces. Several ideas have been put forth. If one is interested, please contact Janet Powell

1. A Stitching Group
2. Group paddle Memorial Day weekend with a picnic at the Beach
3. Someone to take charge of dining out group with Charlotte moving South
4. New Playground Equipment
5. A new sign for the entrance to the Park

If one has any other ideas for our community, please share!



Please remember the speed LIMIT is 25 mph in the Park. One can go slower and that is essential to protect our dog walkers, walkers and children on bikes. Our roads are barely 2 lanes. Be alert and take Care!

Slippery Rock Township does not have a specific Burning ordinance. Even so, it is good to remember to watch where your smoke is going. Don't burn plastic or toxic items. Not only will that impact your health, but everyone in the area. Don't burn on windy days. A good day to burn is when there is a drizzly rain. This keeps the smoke to a minimum and shortens the exposure of smoke to your neighbors. Remember to keep a hose close to your fire in case it should unexpectedly get out of control. It isn't hard to be a good neighbor. 😊

We have many Dog Owners in the Park. We have many dog lovers in the Park. We also have people that are neutral on dogs and we have people that are frightened or cautious of dogs. I have been bitten twice by friend's dogs that said "they won't bite". Every dog can bite when put into a stressful or protective situation. It is the dog's response that cannot always be expected. The only option a dog has is to bark (stay away or I am scared) or to bite (I am terrified and must protect). We all want to enjoy the ability to walk our peaceful roads. Be a "Good Respectful Dog Owner". We can all enjoy whatever activity we choose and can expect not to be bothered and frightened by an aggressive barking dog, if everyone is aware of other's needs. 😊 The Township has a Noise/Dog ordinance. It is below.

Slippery Rock Township Noise/Dog Ordinance

Part 1 Prevention of Noise Disturbance and Estray §101. Frequent or Long Continued Noise Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any individual to keep any animal which causes frequent or long continued noise which disturbs the comfort or repose of a person or persons in the vicinity. (Ord. 7, 11/13/1973, §1) §102. Prevention of Estray. The keeper of every animal or animals shall confine the same in a manner so as to sufficiently keep the animal(s) on and within the confines of its/their own property. Any animal(s) which molest passersby or passing vehicles; attacks other animals; trespasses on public grounds or the private property of others; is not under the restraint or immediate control of the owner, or that damage private or public property is hereby considered to be a public nuisance. It shall be a valid defense (for a single occurrence) if the owner can demonstrate that the trespass and/or nuisance was due to a temporarily disabled fence or other containment system; or if resulting from some other uncontrollable event or occurrence. This defense shall not be valid or available for repeat occurrences. (Ord 2019-1, 4/22/19 §102) §103. Penalties. Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provision of the Part, upon conviction thereof in an action brought before a district justice in the manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus cost and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, to a term of imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. Each day that a violation of this Part continues or each Section of the Part which shall be found to have been violated shall constitute a separate offense. (Ord. 7, 11/13/1973, §2; as amended by Ord. 2/12/2002)

I have recognized that with the passing of my Father, Al Graber, this past June 2023, the original cottage owners in the Park have now all passed. My Dad was 94 years old. The history of his cottage is quite interesting. My Great Aunt Margaret purchased the cottage with her husband Herman Shuler in 1929. Aunt Margaret was born in Hooker, PA as Margaret Ann Brewster the 16th of July 1898. Pauline and Robert Ralston were her parents. Pauline, my Great Grandmother married Dr. Benjamin Brewster in 1897. Interestingly, as best I can find Pauline and Benjamin Brewster were divorced after a couple years of marriage. They had two children, Margaret and Cecyl (my grandmother). After divorcing, Pauline went to live on the Ralston farm with her parents and two children. Dr. Brewster remarried and had one child, Benjamin jr. We don't think of divorce historically. The Present is the Key to the Past. 😊

There has long been a train that ran from Pittsburgh to Erie. There was a train stop somewhere around Camp Bucocco. It was the original Slippery Rock Park. Just as today, people come from the city to recreate in our area. My Great Grandmother, Grandmother and Aunt, moved to Pittsburgh to work at Rosenbaum's Department store. Aunt Margaret met and married Herman Shuler, who was a buyer for Rosenbaum's. Together they purchased the cottage on Creek Drive in 1931 for \$1996.40. Their's was the first cottage "in the woods on Creek Drive". They upgraded the Stone Cottage and added what they called the 'Bath House and Play House". This property was to be named Her-Mar Lodge. The Shuler's ran the Lodge from 1936 to approximately 1956. Herman Shuler passed in 1945 and Aunt Margaret married David Kohn, a Salesman at Rosenbaum's. David Kohn passed in 1959. Following a woman's history can be quite tricky, especially when divorce, death, and remarriages are involved. What I recognized from my Great Aunt's journals is she ran the Lodge. She lived in a stone cottage with no indoor plumbing or central heat until 1940. People rented the Lodge that had no heat or indoor plumbing. The old Outhouse remains a source of terror from my childhood. 😊 She was quite a "hearty woman"!!!

During this time Rock Falls/Stoughton's Beach had their Carousel, heated swimming pool and other recreational activities. Etna Springs had a Roller skating rink. Close by Ellhurst Roller Rink was thriving with an indoor stage for live music, and is still in business. Their claim to Fame is that the band "Hee Ha" had their start on their stage. Once our area was a recreational area and remains one, along with many more thriving communities.

My Great Aunt Margaret served as my Grandmother after her sister passed quite young. When the Lodge was no longer an active, thriving business, Aunt Margaret spent most of her time at the Cottage. With her passing the cottage went to my Mother. With the passing of both my parents my eldest brother has inherited the cottage. The remaining properties were divided among myself and our siblings.

When I taught at Moniteau High School I fondly referred to my students as "my People". Little did I know, they really are My People. 😊





Her-Man
Lodge
and
Play House.

Summer
1938



A short list of local community resources:
(if you would like to add a Contractor, please contact Janet Powell)

K and M Septic Tank Service 724-735-2978

B and L Air Conditioning, Heating, and Plumbing Services, Sean Ireland 724-794-5484

Stone Brothers Construction 724-290-2845

A-1 Piano Service, Bill Glesner, 412-367-3155

Waste Management 844-279-2503

Tri-County Industry 724-748-4705

Aiken refuse (formerly Serafine, they still do dumpsters) 724-758-9400 (this company will go down private roads)

Kohler's Tree Service 724-637-2842

Campbell's Tree Service 724-794-1756

Workman Construction 724-496-9262

Nikki Wheeler MA, NCC, LPC Licensed Professional Counselor 724-300-3613

nicolewheelerpc@gmail.com Specialize in OCD skin picking and hair pulling.

2024 Dates to remember:

Association Board of Directors' Meeting: Sunday, May 5th at the Powell's. Snowbirds might be home, if not, we can Zoom if anyone interested.

Annual Yard Sale: A decision was made and we shall have the Yard Sale May 25th. The dumpster will arrive on Friday, May 24th. We will have a "not quite ready for the dumpster" table again this year for things one doesn't want to try and sell. If anyone would like to set up in our yard (close to the dumpster) that would be great. In the distant past we had all the tables in one place, Nicholas' field. Then people didn't want to bring their things to that location so the whole Park became the Yard Sale. A group area might be better for shoppers and definitely better for socializing. :)

Annual Corporation meeting and Family picnic: Saturday, August 3rd. The picnic location will be the Powell's. We are returning to Pot Luck with Hamburgers etc provided by the Association. Bingo, Triva and games.

Creek Cleanup: At present no trees are blocking the creek for boating. Unless Mother Nature drops another, we will not have creek Clean-up until the second Saturday in June, July and August. If you own a boat and use the creek please volunteer or send a volunteer for the important activity. There are many jobs that do not require a chainsaw or strength (like getting lunch). Meet at the beach at 9am.