



FROM THE PRESIDENT

RICK STURM

Two (2) of our five (5) current Board members will retiring from the Board on December 31 of this year. These folks have contributed positively to the HOA by overseeing our compliance and architectural review portion of Board activities. As you know the Board is responsible to all owners to maintain the HOA in accordance with the HOA rules and regulations.

Elections for these positions will occur at our Annual Meeting that is scheduled for October 3, 2017.

These positions have a 2-year term. We hope more of you to get involved in volunteer opportunities and to reap the benefits of volunteerism. These benefits include: protecting the value of your property; correcting problems; meeting your expectations; gaining a better understanding of local laws; having fun experiences; learning life lessons; building your resume; learning leadership skills; giving back to the community and meeting your neighbors.

Please consider standing for election to help us maintain the all-volunteer HOA Board.

The Board and I would be glad to answer any questions you may have about what we do. We can do this via email or perhaps we could hold a special meeting with you to discuss what we do and how you can help.

We should all say "Thank you!" to our many residents who

volunteer and who have volunteered their time, energy and skills to make Southwick Meadows a wonderful place to live. Our volunteers are not paid for their efforts, except perhaps intrinsically by a sense of pride, satisfaction, and accomplishment. As a result of their efforts, our lives are improved and our community is strengthened. We hope to encourage more of you to get involved in volunteer opportunities and to reap the benefits of volunteerism.

Legal

During the year, the Board has negotiated an extension with the local farmer who maintains the fields along Van Vranken. We are also in the process of accepting and evaluating bids for mowing of the Southwick Meadows common areas. Lastly, we have contacted our Association legal counsel re basketball hoops.

Answering our question, the Attorney stated that in general, the Board must strictly enforce the Declaration as written, and when in doubt, the provision should be amended. He went on to say that the current Declaration wording seems to relate to permanent installations, not movable structures. The Attorney went on to say that the Board may wish to conduct a straw vote of the owners and based on the straw vote results, formally via majority voting regulations in the

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Summer Haiku

Cheeky red roses silky
scarlet skirts sashay...
final summer fling.

SOUTHWICK MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2015 BOARD ROSTER

Rick Sturm, President – term
expires 12/31/2017
rsturm@nycap.rr.com

Janet Amedio, Vice President
Compliance – term expires
12/31/2018
jcafarelli1@nycap.rr.com

Matt Posniewski, Vice President
Architectural Review – term expires
12/31/2017 pos92@nycap.rr.com

Charlie Ducar, Treasurer – term
expires 12/31/18
cducar@nycap.rr.com

Sandeep Gupta, Board Secretary
– term expires 12/31/2018 –
sgen@yahoo.com

SOUTHWICK MEADOWS HOA NEWSLETTER

• Southwick Meadows HOA
Newsletter is published quarterly in
January, April, July, and October.
Your newsletter editor is Jo Anne
Robbins.

• All articles and photographs
should be submitted by the 15th of
the month prior to the month of
publication.

• We prefer Microsoft Word
format. The deadline for
submissions for the next issue is
October 15th.

Articles should initially be
submitted to Sandeep Gupta, Board
Secretary - sgen@yahoo.com

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Hello fellow residents. I am pleased to inform you of the following:

1. All Homeowners Association Fees are paid in full.
2. All Taxes are paid.
3. Accounting and Audit Review were completed. All in good standing.
4. Property maintenance is on a continuing schedule within budget.
5. Operating Account balance \$15,847.56
6. Capital Reserve \$41,918.97

Thank you,
Charles A. Ducar
Treasurer

BASKETBALL HOOPS SANDEEP GUPTA

The issue of use of basketball hoops in the neighborhood has come up several times, with strong opinions on both sides of the issue. The HOA Board has considered this matter at length. It is important to emphasize that it is the duty of the board to implement and enforce the rules and declarations set forth in the by-laws. Section 8.14 in the bylaws addresses this. The board has adopted the interpretation of this rule to refer to permanent fixtures of basketball hoops and that these must not be used in view from the street and must be used only on paved surfaces outside of view.

For temporary movable hoops, the board has continued to adopt the policy that using these during the day on the driveway is OK, so long as they are stored away before the end of the day. This is similar to use of any other equipment that may not be left outside overnight. The board sought legal opinion on this matter due to some neighbors' complaints. The attorney provided his interpretation and broad guidance that is consistent with this.

In addition, the board decided to conduct an informal opinion survey to get a pulse of the homeowners. The survey attracted a tremendous response with 88 homeowners (85 online, and 3 by mail) responding. Thank you all for your participation. Here are the results of the survey (number of votes):

- *Allow use of basketball hoops at all: Yes – 68; No – 19*
- *Limit use basketball play only to backyard: Yes – 18; No – 68*
- *Allow use on driveway, but required to remove at the end of the day: Yes – 25; No – 61*

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A NOTE FROM OUR COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

JANET AMEDIO, VP OF COMPLIANCE

Congratulations! We live in a beautiful neighborhood thanks to all of you and your continual efforts in maintaining your properties so well.

With the abundance of rain this Spring, lawns are green, lush and manicured, flowers and shrubbery are in full bloom and curb appeal is at its highest. This really is a lovely time of year.

Here are a few helpful hints and reminders as the hottest days of the season approach.

Lawn Watering

With hot days and scorching sun, our nice green lawns can turn to shades of brown quickly. Proper watering is a must. Keep in mind that the Town of Clifton Park has “odd/even” watering restrictions. You may water your lawn on the odd calendar days if your house number is odd and vice versa. Watering is generally most effective in the morning and evening, rather than mid-day.

Bagging up Grass Clippings

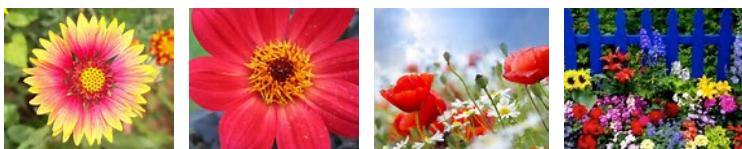
Leaving grass clippings on the lawn after mowing will kill the underlying grass. Remember to bag your clippings and put these bags out on Sunday evening along with the trashcans.

Trash Cans

Warmer weather can create nasty odors coming from spillage in the trashcans. Consider using trash can liners and wash out the cans with warm soapy water occasionally before returning them to the garage on Mondays after pickup.

Mailbox Posts

You may have noticed that the weed-wacker (yours or your service) has made holes in the bottom of the mailbox post. Water leaking into the hole may undermine the wooden post inside causing it to rot. White duct tape will do the trick. Clean and dry the area thoroughly and apply the white duct tape over the hole. “Instant Fix!”



Newspapers

Remember to cancel your newspaper delivery prior to any vacation. Newspapers piled in the driveway will alert passersby that you may not be home leaving your house vulnerable to break in.

And lastly . . .

A reminder, if you received a letter this Spring regarding faded shutters or doors and haven't looked into addressing this issue yet, please do so as soon as possible.

President's Message continued from page 1

Declaration, seek to amend the Declaration to expressly permit movable hoops in specified conditions.

Board member Sandeep Gupta has an article in this newsletter (page 2) that explains the Board survey, its questions and the results and future steps to be taken.

As we work through this, the Board will continue to allow hoop use during the day. Further, these hoops must be stored each night in the owner garage or back yard. Non-compliance with this is subject to a daily fine of \$5.

Saratoga Shakespeare
August 1-5, 2017
Tuesday - Saturday 6PM
Congress Park, Downtown Saratoga

The Winter's Tale
 by William Shakespeare

Directed by Elizabeth Carlson-Guerin
 Aug. 1st - Aug. 5th, Tuesday - Saturday, 6PM
 On the Alfred Z. Solomon Stage
 Historic Congress Park , Saratoga Springs

[For Additional Information](#)

Hoops continued from page 2

- *Allow use on driveway and leave there for extended time:*
Yes – 60; No – 27

These results are useful to provide an idea of the overall opinions on this topic. Please realize that the current policy of the HOA is unchanged – temporary use of basketball hoops is allowable provided that they are stored away in the garage or behind the home before the end of the day. Any change to this policy requires a formal vote with 75% of the homeowner's supporting (87 homeowners voting for change), and a subsequent amendment to the declarations. There is also an expense associated with making this change.

Also, in future, it really helps the board and keeps the mailing costs down, by using online methods for such informal communications. 15 homeowners currently have not given the permission to use email for these communications. Please help out by sending a member of the board your email address and grant an email



FRIENDS OF THE CLIFTON PARK – HALFMOON PUBLIC

The Friends of the CPH Library will hold their autumn Used Book Sale in the Program Rooms at the library on the second floor.

Friday, September 22, 2017, 1 pm - 5 pm,
Preview for Friends Members 11:30 AM -12:50 PM.
Sale opens to the public at 1:00pm.

Saturday, September 23, 2017, 10:00 am – 4:00pm

WHAT'S GOING ON AT YOUR LIBRARY?

Adult Program – The Movie La La Land

Date: 8/4/2017

Start Time: 10:00 AM - End Time: 12:30 PM

Description: Join us for the movie "La La Land." Emma Stone won Best Actress in a Leading Role for her performance.

Synopsis: A jazz pianist falls for an aspiring actress in Los Angeles. This original musical about everyday life explores the joy and pain of pursuing dreams. (Rated: PG-13, 128 minutes)

Location: Program Room A-B

Contact: Library Staff

Contact Number: 371-8622

Teen Program – Storytelling Workshop

Date: 8/9/2017

Start Time: 1:00 PM - End Time: 3:00 PM

Description: For teens in grades 6 to 8. Do you have a story in you, but don't know how to start; are stuck in the middle or can't figure out how to end? Join award-winning author Janine De Tillio Cammarata for a fast-paced writing workshop, which will focus on creating and finishing short! All level of writer's welcome!

Location: Piracci Board Room

Contact: Ashleigh Whitfield - awhitfield@sals.edu

Presenter: Janine De Tillio Cammarata

Children's Program - Build Better Worlds with the Tang Museum

Date: 8/16/2017

Start Time: 1:00 PM - End Time: 2:00 PM

Description: For children in grades 1-5. Registration required and begins one week prior to program. Each participant will create a 3D sculptural collage using world maps as building materials. We will look at images of artwork by Nick Cave, Nina Katchadourian, and Josh Dorman for inspiration. Call 518-371-8622 to register.

Location: Children's Activity Room

Registration Ends: 8/16/2017 at 9:30 AM

Presenter: The Tang Museum

Status: Openings

WHAT'S GOING ON IN CLIFTON PARK?

Red Cross Blood Drive at Town Hall – Wednesday, August 9, 2017

The Town of Clifton Park is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive at Town Hall on Wednesday, August 9th from Noon to 6:00 p.m. To schedule your appointment to donate, call 518-371-6681 or visit www.redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code TOWNOFCLIFTONPARK

Household Hazardous Waste Day - Saturday, September 9, 2017

The Town of Clifton Park is once again sponsoring a special collection day for Household Hazardous Waste. This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 9th between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of this project is:

- 1) to provide Town residents with the opportunity to remove potentially hazardous substances from their garages, sheds, and basements;
- 2) to manage these wastes in a manner that will not impact local natural resources;
- 3) to raise community awareness regarding reusing, recycling, and reclaiming these materials.

For further information visit the Town's Hazardous Waste Page.

HAZARDOUS WASTE FAQ'S

1) I have a microwave and an electric lawnmower – will I be able to bring these to the event?

NO – those items should be brought to the Clifton Park Transfer Station and there is a free Saratoga County Scrap Metal Recycling Drop-off.

2) I forgot my registration time and/or number – can I still participate?

YES - you can call Town Hall to find out your assigned time and number 371-6651 x 226.

3) I don't have an email address for the online registration – can I still register?

YES - you will need to fill out a paper copy of the registration and return it to Town Hall by mail or in person. These forms

are available at Town Hall, the transfer station, and the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library.

4) What about gas grills and propane tanks?

YES – propane tanks from either small or large gas grills will be accepted, however the grill itself is not allowed.

5) I can't make the exact time I was assigned – what do I do?

With such large numbers of participants, we have allowed for minimal leeway in the arrival times. Please make an effort to arrive as close as possible to your assigned time.

6) My neighbor wants to combine his items with mine, is that ok?

YES! You can register separately or combine items on one registration form.

7) I forgot that I have something else to do that day. Can I change my time?

In extreme circumstances, the Special Collections Day committee will be able to make changes. Please call Town Hall for more info 371-6651 x 226.

8) What is the charge for this service?

NONE– This is a FREE service for Clifton Park & Halfmoon residents only provided by the Town of Clifton Park to better serve its Town of Clifton Park residents.

9) How can I dispose of my left over latex paint?

Dry unwanted latex paint outdoors, away from children and animals and discard with the household trash in a plastic lined box. Remove paint can lids so the trash removers can see that the cans are empty or the paint is dry. Add kitty litter, sawdust, or sand to completely dry the paint out. Once dry, it can be disposed in your regular household garbage.

