

The Springmill Sentinel



Volume VII, Issue 6

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE SPRINGMILL COMMUNITY

June 2009

Happy Father's Day

Remembering Dad

A thousand sweet associations, dating back to the scarcely remembered days of infancy, twine themselves in with a father's love...at least for daughters. Somehow we have different memories of our fathers than do their sons.

Perhaps that's why it was a daughter, **Sonora Smart Dodd**, of Washington, who first proposed the idea of a "father's day" in 1909. She wanted to honor her father, who was widowed, and left to be both father and mother to his six children. As with most children, it wasn't until she became an adult that she realized the strength, love and selflessness it took for him to be the only parent in their lives. **The first Father's Day was observed in Spokane, Washington, on June 19, 1910.**

However, it wasn't until 1924 that President Calvin Coolidge "supported the idea" of a national Father's Day. Then, finally, in **1966, President Lyndon Johnson** signed a presidential proclamation declaring the **third Sunday in June** as Father's Day. Over the years it has become a day to celebrate not only our birth father, but any father figure in our lives.

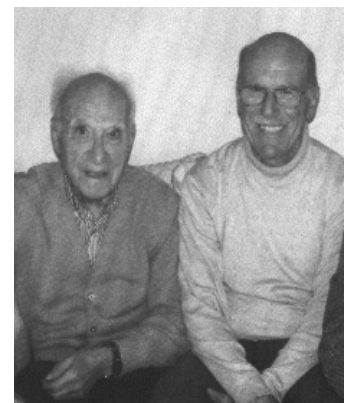
With that in mind, we'd like to celebrate our oldest Springmill father, **Carl A. Rifino**, who is **99 years** young. Since last June he has been living with his son and daughter-in law, Carl B. and Carolyn Rifino, of **354 Daylily Way**.

Carl B. told me a cute family story about their middle initials. Apparently there are four generations living...Carl A, B, C, and D. Carl B., got tired of being called "Junior" and so came up with the alphabetical identification instead. It's creative and gives everyone a good family story to tell.

Carl shared, "When I think of Dad, I think of the values...duty, responsibility and integrity. These values defined him when I was a child, being the first-born, as well as now." Working two jobs to support his family left little "quality time" for him to spend with those he loved. Two stories you should have Carl tell you about involve some of that valuable time spent with his father. One dealt with trying to build "the biggest kite" ever...that they actually got off the ground. The other was

more humorous about the family's first experience with those new-fangled aerosol cans of whipped cream...it turned into a Lucy/Desi moment for all concerned, especially his dad.

It seems Carl's father has been independent all his life, and is still the brightest bulb on the block, but he's going through a difficult passage physically right now. Carl told me, "Dad isn't as active now, but he doesn't miss a thing when the great-grandchildren are around. There are eleven of them, ages 3-10, and he marvels how each is developing and using their talents."



Carl A. & Carl B. Rifino

Carl Sr.'s motto seems to be "I can do it myself." That motto was put to the test this year. Hopefully, moving to Springmill is going to help him reach a new goal...his century mark next year. That will be some party!! Until then we wish him and all the other Springmill dads a very happy and healthy Father's Day.

June Stemmler

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Staff: Mary Jo Starrett, June Stemmler, Sonya Comstock, Julie Hambrecht, Joe Grippo
Directory: Julie Hambrecht
Distribution Manager: Phyllis Torgersen
Calendar: Tracey Lund

Please forward all articles & inquiries to:
springmillnews@hotmail.com

Committee Reports

Springmill Homeowners Association

Board of Directors

Noreen Ryan, Bob Gross, Lee Rosenson
Don Krauss & Bob Lhulier

Board President: Noreen Ryan
Board Treasurer: Jim Crisfield
Board Secretary: Janet Geftman

Community Manager

Tracey Lund

Clubhouse Committee

Ray Rouiller

Communications Committee

Dick Rausch

Community Events

Claudia Garrett

Finance Committee

Kathy Kobus

Property Committee

Carl Rifino

Maintenance & Repair Committee

Fred Bodden

Trip/Travel Committee

Tony Giantonio

Outreach Committee

Pat Howe

Anyone wishing to join a Committee or Subcommittee should contact the Chairperson of that Committee.

•• Please note: All committee meetings and activities using a Clubhouse room must be cleared with Tracey Lund of the Management Office at 376-5466.

Other Important Information

Calendar: Tracey Lund
Family Emergency Numbers: Pat Howe, JoAnn Stump
Phone Tree: Rosemarie Lamb/Grace LoCasto
Social Singles: Peg McMullen/Phyllis Torgersen
Sunshine: Mary Elizabeth Rhoads/Faith Altman

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Clubhouse Report

The Clubhouse Committee met on May 4, 2009. We are getting ready for the opening of the swimming pool which is scheduled for May 15, 2009. This coming season we have contracted with a new pool contractor, Family Pool Maintenance. We have scheduled 3 visits per week during the season at a lesser cost than our previous contractor. We have projected a reduction in expenses for the maintenance of the pool by changing contractors for the 2009 season.

A copy of the April 2008 revision of the Springmill Clubhouse Regulations was distributed to each household in the community. Please replace your prior regulations with this updated copy.

Our Bocce Court, Horseshoe Courts and Tennis Courts are ready for the action. We now have scoreboards for the Bocce court and Horseshoe courts. Thanks to the committee members for the installation of the scoreboard at the Bocce Court.

The next meeting of the Clubhouse Committee is scheduled

for June 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the craft room at the Clubhouse.

Georgieanna Anderson

Property Committee

The Committee discussed early landscaping issues. The April showers led to postponements of mowing and rather tall grassy areas. The first order of business was to cut the grass rather high [5"] for the first month or two, but not all the machines and crews carried this out. One of the large machines was incorrectly used on the impacted front lawns. Thus, follow-up was needed to avoid a repeat the next time. There are still spots where improvement is needed, but after a month the lawns are showing a degree of uniformity.

Another area of concern was the initial trims that were rendered with the weed-whacker. One team apparently used the machine incorrectly, which led to near scalping conditions. Another issue was the ragged appearance of the grass near the buildings and poor cutting job [caused by inadequate follow-through of the "mop-up" crew]. We're still working through this. Another complaint involves improving the flow of cut grass so that it won't stick on the sides of buildings.

Finally, the use of mulch was discussed. Two visitors had come to discuss the issue. The good news is that there were no complaints about mulch color on siding surfaces or sidewalks. Complaints focused on the excessive application of mulch, which must be readily acknowledged. This led to burying some flowers and the bottom portion of shrubs. Carl indicated that he would work with Altra to improve this problem in future years, but advises residents to brush aside some of the mulch excess if they feel that their shrub is endangered.

There was some discussion about the tree planting proposal of Moon Nurseries to Springmill residents. This was announced to all in the Property Committee insert for the May *Sentinel* issue. Sonya Comstock wondered why a separate flier wasn't used for the announcement. Carl replied that he tried to avoid the use of extra paper, and it made more sense to have interested people contact him directly for needed details of the offer. The need for a landscape change request needed to be emphasized and there were other details that would best be handled by an up-front vocal communication. There was a deadline of mid-May, but if you are still interested, please call Carl Rifino and we'll determine if we can put you on the fall list.

Progress was reported for the private wetlands area off of Springmill Drive. The area is noticeably more attractive, even though the anticipated plantings won't occur until the fall. An article appears in another section of the *Sentinel*.

Carolyn Bodden talked about her effort to get ready for the annual spring planting. She has been busy with a few partners to clean up areas and to plant some shrubs and tubers on the Windmill islands and around the pool plant beds.

If you have ideas or concerns, please attend next month's meeting or call the business office if they can't wait. A member of the Property Committee will follow up as needed. Finally, check the monthly calendar for the time and date of our meeting [usually the 2nd Monday of month].

Carl Rifino

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Committee Reports

Communications Committee

Communications Committee meeting was held on May 12. Joe DiGiacinto and Phyllis Torgerson were not in attendance. Bob Gross BOD liaison was present.

Marge Flynn, treasurer, reported that almost \$1,400.00 was deposited to the Springmill general fund in April. There are currently 43 advertisers in The Sentinel.

The editorial content for the June Sentinel was reviewed. There will be a tribute to the "most senior" father living in Springmill in honor of Father's Day. An article on "New Beginnings" relating to the recent birth of a large number of grandchildren of Springmill residents was suggested by Julie Hambrecht.

Bob Gross suggested that the complete minutes of each Board meeting be included as an insert in The Sentinel. This topic was tabled for next month pending the Board's decision on whether to insert the proposed minutes before they are officially approved.

The committee discussed the preparation of a Sentinel Reader Satisfaction Survey. This survey will be used to determine what areas of the current Sentinel are most (and least) popular and to solicit ideas for future material. The Survey will be drafted and circulated to all members for comment. The final version should be included as an insert with the June Sentinel.

It was reaffirmed that only promotional material for Springmill related activities will be accepted as inserts to The Sentinel.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 9 in the Clubhouse Craft Room. Residents are welcome to attend.

Dick Rausch

Maintenance and Repair

On May 12 the MRC held its regular monthly meeting. The main areas of discussion were Architectural Requests and home repairs. The Architectural Sub-Committee reported that they have received 6 requests for architectural changes in the last month, which almost equals the previous two months combined. All 6 requests for changes were investigated and approved.

With the advent of spring, we are all starting to look to make changes to our homes. So now is the time to get the requests filed with Tracey in the Management Office in order for us to return them to you in a timely manner.

PLEASE NOTE, IN ALL CASES FOR ARCHITECTURAL CHANGES TO THE OUTSIDE OF OUR HOMES OF ANY KIND BEFORE ANY PROJECT OR WORK IS STARTED, A REQUEST/APPLICATION IS REQUIRED. NO EXCEPTIONS

Regarding home repairs, the MRC received and repaired only five (5) "House Damage" requests during the previous month. There were three (3) siding calls and two roof jack leaks. And this was in a windy month. Let's hope this trend continues. Unfortunately, one month cannot set a trend. But maybe we are starting to catch up just a little.

The meeting finished with a general discussion of some of the previous and continuing business from the last meeting. The MRC meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6.30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Our next meeting is June 9th and all guests are welcome.

Fred Bodden

Ryan's Ramblings

Hi Everyone, There are so many volunteers doing such beautiful work in the community!! The plantings are absolutely beautiful and the Wetlands on Springmill Drive have been given a new life by some very dedicated people. You will be hearing about Who's Who on these projects in future Articles in the Sentinel. Thank you so very much for all of your efforts.



Noreen Ryan

The Board has received information from Deldot concerning the 301 improvements. Thanks to all of us at Springmill who wrote, signed the Petition and let our voices be heard, the original Spur road behind Springmill will be the way 301 will be structured. It will not be at our front door!!

The Pool will be ready by the time you read this and hopefully will be warm enough to use immediately. (Just a reminder: Children's time is Noon to 2:00pm)

The CEC is starting the season off with a sold out Memorial Day Party. They do a really great job so keep your eyes open for future events and join the fun.

The next Board Meeting will be July 15, Wednesday (please note day of week change) at 10:00am. Please join us for up to date information on what's happening in the community.

Looking forward to seeing you all as we enjoy this wonderful weather.

Noreen Ryan

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on May 7. Rich Yeager, working with Ray Rouiller and Tracey Lund, obtained a new Verizon Contract for the Clubhouse covering the phone, TV and internet. This contract was approved by the committee and recommended to the Board.

The Clubhouse Committee forwarded to the Finance Committee two contracts for servicing the pool. The Committee recommended that the Board approve the contract that the Clubhouse felt was the best.

Larry Daigle presented the description of each accounting category which the committee members will review and recommend to the Board at our June Meeting. This description will allow each committee and Mid-Atlantic to put each expense in the appropriate account.

The March Financial statements were reviewed with Jim Crisfield and he answered all questions. Bob Lhulier, Board representative, talked to us about a proposed change in the insurance policy. The sub-committee formed to work on a contract for a management company is to begin its work soon. Anyone in the Community interested in joining us, please contact Cal Reuss or myself.

Kathy Kobus



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Around Town

Town Meeting

The Mayor and Council announced that six more Habitat for Humanity homes will be built on East Lake Street which continues the improvement of that area of town. Other such homes were built in 2006 and well received. The Mayor said that everything Habitat has done for the town has been a major asset and welcomes these additional homes.



Sonya Comstock

Westtown Business Park by developer Rick Woodin required an approval of a preliminary major subdivision located on 107.5 acres on the southern side of US 301. He would like to provide an internal street and utility network to create 20 parcels of development for business purposes. Each parcel would be five acres in size. No specific users were known. The area is close to the town water tank. Plans have been designed for a regional sewer trunk line system and the area is ideally situated with public utilities for development. All this is subject to town review. Next to Kohl's will be another Happy Harry's now being constructed.

The Mayor announced the opening of its second park. Now available for residents' use is **Levels Park**, consisting of 100 acres of walking trails, catch and release pond, pavilions, playgrounds, and fields for playing pick-up football or baseball with friends. Within the Park is a dog park where dogs can run free with five acres set aside for large dogs and three acres for smaller ones. An 8-acre pond with a beautiful pier adds to the park. Hours open are dawn to dusk. **Nine** pavilions are available for use. Three of them will be lease-only; the rest are first come, first served. The pond will be fully stocked. Middletown now has two parks available for residents – **Silver Lake Park** and **Levels Park**.

Sonya Comstock

US 301 Petition and Letter

With response to Springmill's petition, DOT sent a letter with its final decision. In part, it reads: "After considering the excellent comments received, the Department has recommended proceeding with the Green North + Spur Alternative. We believe the Spur Road best manages traffic by maximizing the removal of thru traffic, especially truck traffic, from local roads in the project area, while providing important local access to and from the Westtown area, thus improving safety and reducing congestion. The Spur Road has less community and environmental impacts than Alternatives 2 and 3." (The complete letter will be posted in the Clubhouse for review.)

Visit www.us301.deldot.gov for final report to the General Assembly and to stay up to date.

Sonya Comstock

Library Update...Spring Edition (June)

Listed below are the **on-going programs** at NCC Southern Library, located in Pettinaro Building on Broad Street. Phone number for information or registration is **(302) 378-5588**.



June Stemmler

- **Book discussion** Call library to check on selection for June 17, 7-8 pm.
- **Knitting Circle** 7-9 pm, every other Tuesday.
- **Sew-Be-It Quilters** 10 am to 12 noon on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

There is one special program slated for June.

Registration is required...all it takes is a phone call to the library.

- **Mystery Shopping 101**, June 10, 7 pm

There are also a number of programs being held in the **Community Activity Center** across the hall from the library. Some are free and others have a fee. Some are for **adults** and others are for **grandchildren**. **Registration is required.**

- **Defensive Driving: Advanced** One 3-hour class Monday, 6-9 pm, June 15, \$27
- **Tai Chi** 1-hour classes Mon. or Thurs. 7-8 pm June
- **Bender Ball** Mon. 7-8 pm, five 1 hr. classes \$30/month of June
- **JavaCize Fitness** Five 1-hour classes Tuesday, 7-8 pm \$30/month of June
- **Total Body Tone** Friday 11-12 noon \$24/month of June, Four 1-hour classes

Programs for grandchildren...some require pre-registration.

- **Baby Storytimes** Mondays, June 8-29, 11 am (for 6-24 months-old)
- **The Creative Duck** Tuesday, June 16, 11 am...puppet theater performance
- **Once Upon a Playtime** Wednesday, June 24 (pre-K to 5 years) play games of long ago

June Stemmler

Results of the School Board Election

Norm Abrams was elected to fill the position of board member for the school district. Beginning in July, the five-member board will include Edna Cale, Joanne Christian, Julie Johnson, Donna Skinner and Norm Abrams. He defeated Board President, Edward Czerwinski, with 240 votes to 157 for Czerwinski, who served for ten years. At the next meeting, members will determine officers and committee assignments for the upcoming year.

Sonya Comstock

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Gala Reopening – Everett Theatre

A long awaited reopening of the historic Everett Theatre happened at a special event with everyone dressed in formal wear eager to see the newly renovated theater again. A tent held all the guests and hors d'oeuvres and glasses of wine were passed around.



The potato bar was popular with everyone as well as the dessert bar. Beautiful floral arrangements by Elana's were everywhere. Sen. Tom Carper, Sen. Bethany Hall-Long and Rep. Quinn Johnson attended the event. Miss Delaware was part of the ribbon cutting ceremony along with Jay Greene, Restoration Steering Committee Chair, and Hedley Davis, A.C.T. Spokesperson.

The theater opened its doors again and a special program, "Curtain Up", produced and directed by Peter Briccotto, entertained all for the evening. Bare of sets, but overflowing with talent, this program presented music from Broadway shows. The Everett Chorale, with many members from Springmill, presented their salute to Memorial Day by singing several numbers.

The new ceiling with its five chandeliers and gold stenciling all the way up to the balcony and walls with new lighting were impressive. Dry wall was combined with acoustic material to balance the range of tones. The seats were restored or replaced, and new carpeting added to the restoration.

Speeches reflected the effort and money in restoring the theater to the 1920's and 1940's era but with today's improvements. The community was thanked for supporting the theater in its restoration process. Grants, donations and volunteer efforts made it all happen, and Phase 1 is now complete.

A standing ovation followed the end of the performance, but the beginning of many special events to entertain all will be part of the theater's future and welcomed by the community.

Sonya Comstock

MOT Reaching Out To Help

The MOT Senior Center is being very neighborly. **Diane Hastings**, head of Outreach Services at the center, is more than happy to sit down with you to discuss any of the following. All you have to do is call (302) 378-4758 and make an appointment. They can help you with:

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June Stemmler

Middletown Police Station Tour




Springmill residents were given a private tour of the new police station in April. Officer Christine Brenner arranged the tour and was joined by Lieutenant Edward Murray and Officer Scott Saunders, who also acted as tour guides. A special message welcoming residents greeted all who entered the station. A meeting prior to the tour was held where photos of the grand opening were shown. Off. Brenner introduced Lt. Murray who spoke on the development of the Police Force as it grew into a full-scale department. A few delays and setbacks moved the completion date, but now the facility is in full operation.

The residents were divided into smaller groups and taken through the building room by room. Once the "guest" was removed from the cell area, a tour was given. Bars on cells are gone, now replaced by a solid door with a small window. How and where prisoners are brought into the building and arraigned was explained. Technology used today in the department allows the officers to be aware of criminal activities and react quickly. The officers of today wear bullet-proof vests and carry much more than a gun to protect citizens. A full-scale exercise room allows officers to stay in condition. To protect employees, the station was built high off the ground so that a car could not drive into the building.

Off. Brenner, Crime Prevention Specialist, offered a list of various safety awareness programs and services she would like to present to Springmill. Many of these are important to our safety and will be presented at a future date.

Those who attended enjoyed this special tour and thanked the officers who gave their personal time to demonstrate today's modern police facility.

Sonya Comstock



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Main Street Activities

The third Friday in June (**June 19**) starts the summer season of special events on Main Street. Jim Trainer and His Workingman's Blues Band will perform on Cochran Square from 6-9 p.m. Bands and dance groups will be located in the Forest Presbyterian Church lot as well. The Brandywine Antique Car Club will feature their cars. Wine and beer samples will be given to residents and located in several shops throughout town. Stop by the Annex Building to see what vendors have to offer strolling folks. New businesses wishing to promote their products will also be part of this show. This will be offered every third Friday evening for the season.

Every Saturday morning from 8-noon, the **Farmer's Market** located in the Forest Presbyterian Church parking lot offers all types of items ranging from freshly baked bread to plants and arts and crafts. The market continues to add new items as the season changes. Parking is available in the Town Hall parking lot.

Middletown Main Street, under the leadership of Tracy Skrobot, has been designated an accredited National Main St. Program for its fourth consecutive year for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Trust Main St. Center. Being accredited allows Middletown Main St., to utilize the National Trust Main

St. Center's resources such as training and conferences that keep them up to date on everything the program offers. This vital resource is also significant in welcoming new businesses to the town. Many free and fundraising events are offered throughout the year to the community. In addition, this group works with property owners to help them rehabilitate their buildings with matching grant funds.

On **Monday, May 18**, sections of Main St. and Bunker Hill Rd. **closed and will reopen about August 15**. On the west side of US 301, Bunker Hill Rd. will be closed from Sandhill Drive to US 301. On the east side of US 301, Main St. will be closed west of Market Place to US 301. Access to businesses will remain open. Detour routes will be clearly posted with signs. This closure is part of the existing US 301 widening project. Rt. 301 will not be closed during this period.

The **East Main Street project** is well underway. The first phase will run from Catherine Street to Cox Street. New brick sidewalks will be added once the telephone poles are buried underground. Antique style street lamps will be installed. New trees will replace old ones. The cost of this project is \$2.5 million. When the project is completed, DelDOT will repave that section of the road. A slight inconvenience and a definite slowdown in traveling this area will all change when the project is completed.

Sonya Comstock

Battleship New Jersey Skip's Ship



About **sixty miles** from here, moored on the Delaware River, at the revived **Camden**, New Jersey riverfront, sits the largest and most decorated battleship ever built by the United States Navy. Built in the Philadelphia Navy Yard and commissioned in May 1943, the **Battleship New Jersey** is now a museum ship open for tours.

A long history includes being the 3rd Fleet Flagship for Admiral "Bull" Halsey during WWII in the South Pacific. In May 1951, it became the Flagship for Admiral Martin with the 7th fleet off Korea. In June 1968, it was decommissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and set sail for Vietnam as gun-fire support. It was there that Ensign **Skip Leeson**, now

residing at **339 Daylily Way**, was on a destroyer and sailed alongside this great ship off the DMZ in Vietnam. The New Jersey was decommissioned in 1969 and recommissioned in December 1982 as part of President Reagan's 600 ship Navy. Skip, now Commander Leeson in the Navy Reserve, became the commanding officer of the first and only reserve unit assigned to the reactivated battleship.

As commanding officer, he helped organize volunteers to relieve active duty members of the New Jersey crew serving with the multi-national peace force in Beirut, Lebanon in the beginning of 1984. It became the largest peace-time crew relief in the history of the Navy, allowing over 600 sailors to take leave over a five-month period.

Skip still works with the Battleship New Jersey, conducting tours and helping with the overnight encampment program, believed to be the largest shipboard camping program in North America. In 2008 over 16,000 campers came aboard. If you would like to visit the ship, let Skip know, and he'll try to be there for the tour.

Battleship tours are available with senior prices:

- **General Quarters self-guided audio tour \$14.00**
- **Fire Power Guided Tour \$15.00**
- **City at Sea Tour (see how sailors lived/worked) \$15.00**

The ship is open daily and can be tied in with a trip to the New Jersey State Aquarium. Group rates are available. For more information, go to www.battleshipnewjersey.org.

The Travel Committee is hoping to have a similar combination trip in the future, so let them know if it's of interest to you. It's nice to know that a piece of history is so close at hand, and even nicer to have a Springmiller at the helm.

June Stemmler and Skip Leeson

Springmill Musicians

Looking for someone to practice with or to play at some of the Springmill functions, please contact Ed or Margaret Bailly.

The Baillys



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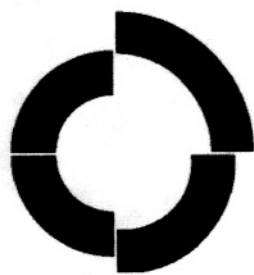
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Meet Your Neighbor

Josephine (JoAnn) and Anthony Messina, of **107 Dawn Court**, have had a difficult year. But, I'm happy to say, the days are getting better. They were gregarious hosts, and we had a lovely conversation.

Josephine, who prefers to be called JoAnn, was born in Jersey City. Anthony, who likes to be called Anthony, was born in Brooklyn. So how did they meet? You know that rule that says you can't socialize at work...well, they socialized. It didn't take them long to realize they were meant for each other. Actually, it was only three (3) weeks!!! Then they got engaged, and married almost a year to the day that they met. Who says first impressions don't work? These two have been married for forty-five years.

The wedding actually took place when Anthony, who was in the army at the time, came home on leave. The newlyweds went back to his base in Texas. When he was discharged, they returned to New Jersey, where they resided until their move to Springmill in 2004.

Upon retirement, it was "family first." It seems Anthony's dad was the only relative who left Delaware. The rest of the Messina clan, including Anthony's father's five brothers and three sisters, stayed put. Eventually they became involved in either farming or building. If you know Dover, around the Garrison Lake area, the "old Messina farm land" is now located at **Messina Hill Road**. Another reason for the Delaware move was due to New Jersey's taxes...I'm from New Jersey, tax me. JoAnn and Anthony were also interested in living in a 55+ community, and, at that time, Springmill was the only one in Delaware. They still think it's the best one.

Having lived here a while, they've come to appreciate their Dawn Court neighbors...the small cul-de-sac is like a "mini-Springmill." The couple like the neighborhood get-togethers and enjoy being "away from the crowd."

Before retiring here, Anthony's work history included being a Shade Tree and Parks Commissioner, an Emergency Medical Technician and Vice-President of Information Technology at J & W Seligman, a mutual fund company.

JoAnn was involved with data entry for Ready Reference, a company that made date and appointment books.



Anthony & JoAnn Messina

To fill the hours now, Anthony enjoys working on the computer (He builds them too.), photography (He belongs to the Springmill Photo Club.), photo restoration, and being a househusband. He's become good at taking care of JoAnn and the house since her stroke. JoAnn, when she is able, enjoys cooking, baking, shopping, going to lunch with her Red Hat friends, and TV. She takes special pleasure in visiting with her grandchildren. The couple proudly showed off some pictures of their granddaughters' dance recitals. They go to ALL the dance competitions. The Messina's have six grandchildren. **Emily (13), Caitlin (10), and Megan (8)** belong to their daughter, **Theresa**, who lives in New Jersey. **Donna Jo (14), David (13), and Alyssa (10)** are the children of son, **David**, also of New Jersey. There is one member of the family that needs a special mention. That would be the Messina's nine-year-old West Highland white terrier, Missy, who was as good as gold during our interview.

With a name like Messina, it was no surprise that the numero uno memorable vacation was to Italy. Number two on their list was Ireland...one of their sons-in-law is of Irish descent. A domestic choice was Arizona's Grand Canyon. Having so much family in Delaware, I thought they might have some good suggestions for day trips, but none came to mind, so you're all on your own.

As for final thoughts, JoAnn commented, "Every day we get through is a good day." She's also looking forward to turning 65, with all the rights and privileges that entails. Most of us don't enjoy aging, but somehow that 65th birthday is a highlight for most of us.

June Stemmler

Thought For The Month

The people I distrust most are those who want to improve our lives but have only one course of action. (Frank Herbert)

Joe DiGiacinto

Thank You

I want to thank all my friends in Springmill for their prayers, cards and mass cards, food and visits during my time in the hospital and nursing home. I am very happy to be home and on the road to recovery.

Joan Hancock

A New Beginning at Springmill

It took a few years before the vision of a Springmill Dr. resident, **John Pope**, moved forward. John and his wife, **Maxine**, bought a house that borders on Springmill's only private wetland and he thought it was a great place to call home for their retired lives. But then the large trees in the wetland began to die and were cut down by the builder. It seemed hopeless, but as with all visions, there was a glimmer of hope. John did a lot of homework to add to his knowledge about trees and shrubs that grow in or near water. He also became a member of the Appoquinimink River Association, which is a conservation group dedicated to improving the quality of water in the Appoquinimink Watershed. Thus, he asked himself what can be done to reverse this disturbing situation?

He saw that plants and saplings were trying to grow back and he started to network with ARA colleagues and representatives from the New Castle Conservation District. With this support, he wrote a white paper on the potential for restoring this wetland, and he talked to the BOD whether they would support the restoration. The white paper was turned over to the Property Committee for review. The project, as John envisioned it, seemed to have merit and I recommended to the BOD that I study the project more closely and talk with some of John's friends. When they agreed, we talked to a NCCD engineer and the Director and Regional Watershed Coordinator of ARA, who agreed to make a presentation to the BOD. Thus, the decision was made to seek a grant from NCCD, which required the community to put up 25% of the project's cost.

We decided to seek the grant, and further discussions with engineers occurred. They were experienced in doing the actual work to restore and maintain a wetland habitat. They told us about the communities who had undertaken such a project. They involved Scouts, families and a much more diverse group of people than we have at Springmill. Finally, they cooperated to give us contractor contacts, who performed services that might be needed, and nurseries that might supply the special plants we would need.

We were elated to receive the grant in July 2008 and then worked to start Phase 1, which involved removing the invasive cattails and phragmites that engulfed the area. A town ordinance, adopted in Aug. 2007, allows for the restoration of exist-

ing wetlands. Previously, this was strictly a "Do not disturb" area. ARA and the Town had partnered to develop the town ordinance for a riparian buffer zone, which John interpreted as covering our wetlands. We briefed the Middletown Manager about the project who was enthusiastic about Springmill's commitment.

John wants to thank **Jerry Ryan** and **Greg Gaden** for helping to harvest seed pods in the Spring of 2008, but the work began in earnest in the Fall. After we harvested many seed pods from the cattails and phragmites in September, we bagged some plant specimens to protect them from errant spray, and the target plants were sprayed with an environmentally acceptable herbicide having a blue-colored marker. Over the winter period, the herbicide attacked the plants systemically. During this time John talked to his neighbors to let them know that he needed their involvement. **Don Strong** and **Bill Vanhoy** joined John and me in March to hack down the plants with bushwackers as we slogged through the marshy area that was 10-12" deep in water in some places. **Mike Potts**, **Carolyn Boddin**, **Ed Bullock** and **Jessie Crisfield** joined in the effort to remove the cattails and phragmites from the area. Town personnel loaded trucks with the collected material and the material was carted off to the Town's yard waste compost service.

John and I thank these friends and neighbors for working on this project. We also thank the Town personnel, because they all helped SM save almost \$7500 [based on high bidder's quote]. We invite you to look at the accompanying pictures which tell about the project's progress. We also invite you to take a personal look at the work. John tells me that Mother Nature has sent a few emissaries to the site. They have included Canadian Geese, Blue Heron, Egrets and Mallard Ducks, but we expect many other species to come.

We hope that some of you will join us in the fall, when we start the planting phase. SM is getting noticed for this initiative. Jeff Ritter of Altra has commented how well the work was carried out, and the effort was cited at a regional meeting of local and state conservation groups. With ARA celebrating its fifth anniversary this year, it's great for SM to be recognized as a partner for this project. We'll keep you posted in the future, but you are encouraged to call John Pope or me if you want to help with the planting phase. Call now so that we can include you in any training sessions that might be held.

Carl Rifino



Carolyn Boddin & Jessie Crisfield



Don Strong, Carl Rifino, Bill VanHoy, John Pope



Ed Bullock



Don Strong



Wetlands Prior to Plant Removal



Wetlands After Plant Removal

Springmill On The Road

New York Hudson Valley Trip



Early May 4th 38 residents departed for upstate New York for what became not only a fun trip but educational also. Our first stop was in Dutchess County for a luncheon cruise on the Hudson River. Despite the cloudy weather, it was a nice way to relax before the tours. Our afternoon consisted of touring West Point. Since 9/11, security has been tight so although we did not get into many of the buildings, we did see the non-denominational cathedral (awesome) and the marching grounds. Our tour guide took us through all of the school explaining the history and exactly what the cadet's life is while attending. For dinner that night we not only enjoyed the meal but also had a 12-piece banjo band play for us. A few were wondering how to get them to come to Springmill. They even sang happy birthday to Shirley Smith and played the anniversary waltz to Bob and Julia Hambrecht.

Tuesday it was on to FDR's estate and museum and the Vanderbilt estate which is the smallest of all the

Vanderbilt's estates. Again we had wonderful tours and a lot of information that many of us didn't even know about. Lunch and a tour of the Culinary Institute of America was more than we could have asked for. The lunch and service was very impressive.

Wednesday we went to the Mohonk House in New Paltz. What a beautiful resort. Again we were given a tour and a fabulous buffet lunch. No one came away hungry. We had 3 hours to explore and take advantage of their facilities or you could just sit and relax in one of their rocking chairs on the porches and take in the view.

Nine of us climbed the mountain (approximately 1500 feet



The Mountain Climbers

straight up) to the tower. Although it was cloudy, the view was beautiful.

All in all it was a great trip. The bus driver was super. Kudos to Tony Giantonio again for doing such a good job.

Julie Hambrecht

Springmillers Visit Massachusetts

Eight residents ventured north to Cape Cod, Boston, Nantucket Island, and historic Deerfield from May 4-7 with the MOT Center. After two soggy days, we lucked out and had two beautiful ones for the outdoor portion of the tour...Nantucket and Deerfield.



Bill & Mary Sapp, Nick Ciranni, June Stemmler, Claudette & George Latsko, Frances Sullivan & Phyllis Ciranni

The group was congenial...we even met up with **Mary and Matt Impremba** on the bus, the food was good, and our bus driver from Jor-Lin Tours was a delight. I can definitely recommend this combo for our Travel Committee. Since I got "washed out" in Boston...didn't get my swan boat ride in the Public Gardens, I'd give it a second visit.

June Stemmler

Garden Tid Bits

"June is busting out all over" for sure. The dreaded Japanese Beetles will soon return. He is fond of roses, dahlias, annas, etc. One can remove the beetle and drop it into a bucket of soapy water or use a commercial grub control in your garden. Just follow the direction on the bag. There are sprays available which are partially successful. Try not to spray butterflies or bumble bees as it is toxic to these creatures.

Before our hot-hot weather comes, be sure you have mulched gardens 2-3 inches. Dark compost sold in bags acts as an excellent mulch and is dark brown. It doesn't need to be removed as regular mulch and adds nutrients to the garden soil.

Systematic flower fertilizer is a good investment. It will feed and help many plants resist disease and insect infestation. This will cut down on need for toxic sprays. Also, remember that our garden plants enjoy a shampoo shower once a month. Just 1/4 cup baby shampoo, cat, dog shampoo or dish detergent in end hose sprayer and saturate your plants.

Carolyn Bodden

Bocce & Koffee Klatch



Barbara Kelly, Eileen Bengermينو & Ann Raymond



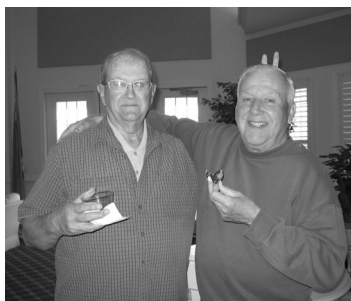
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Springmill Activities

Whom Do I Call for Which Activity?

Book Club -Kay O'Day-Allen & Claudette Latsko
Bocce – Julia Hambrecht
Bowling – Jane Kimmins/Julia Hambrecht
Bridge (Duplicate) – Pat Willmore & Sheila Rausch
Bridge (Thursday Afternoon) Joan Gross
Bunco – Kay O'Day-Allen & Claudette Latsko
Camera Club – Joel Schneiderman
Canasta – Julia Hambrecht
Computer Resources – Dick Rausch
Diet Support Group – Glenda Schneiderman
Dominoes – Eileen Bengeringino
Golf - Fred Wendt
Gourmet Club – Elaine Hopkins
Horseshoes - George Ryor
Jazzercise – Gail Rouiller
Library – Melinda Corkadel & Julia Hambrecht
Mahjongg – Barb Abrams
18 Hole Golf – Bob Gross
Men's Hearts – Len Brussee
Men's Poker – Tom Ferrara
Men's Pool – Bob Cohen
Music Group - Margaret Bailey
Pickleball – Don Krauss
Ping Pong/Table Tennis – Guy Freeman
Red Hat Society – Kay O'Day-Allen or Mary Elizabeth Rhoads
Romeos - Joel Schneiderman/JoelLoCasto
Social Singles - Peg McMullen/Phyllis Torgersen
Tennis - (Men's/Women's) -Terry Markisohn & Mark Verni
Texas Holdem – Tom Ferrara
Water Aerobics – Ann Raymond/Tad Urban
Yoga - June Stemmler

Please note: All committee meetings and activities using a Clubhouse room, must be cleared with Tracey Lund.

Community Events Committee

Now that summer is here and the pool is open we have plans for casual Full Moon parties, which have been a big hit with residents. We encourage you to continue to enjoy the clubhouse on Friday night with Ping Pong and Wii games. There are movies available in the library and you also can bring one of your favorites to watch on the big screen.

We will suspend the Koffee Klatch, Movie Night and the Sunday Get Together' and resume with a Koffee Klatch on September 9th.

Upcoming Events

June 7 - **Full Moon Party:** 6PM Poolside. Grilled Hot Dogs and all the fixings. Bring your own drinks. Please remember NO GLASS CONTAINERS. Registration is required and flyer is enclosed.

July 4 - **Independence Day:** Old Fashion Picnic at 4PM catered by Immediatos. Wear your red-white and blue and sign up early. Pre-registration is required, flyer enclosed.

Aug. 6 - **Full Moon Party** 6PM Poolside Grilled Hot Dogs with all the fixings. Plus a special treat of Chocolate Fondue. Bring fresh fruit to dip along with your beverages.

Sept. 7 - **Labor Day Party** 3 PM ...Details next month

Oct. 3 - **Square Dance** 7-10PM Clubhouses. Music by Tom

Bradshaw, a well known Caller in this area.

Enjoy your summer and all the outdoor activities. Next Committee meeting: June 3 at 7PM

Claudia Garrett

Trip and Travel

For those of you who are attending the Gettysburg, Pa. trip on Wednesday, June 3rd, the bus departure time is 7:30 a.m.

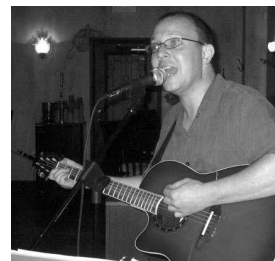
Please review the flyer in this issue of *The Sentinel* for a 7-day 6-night trip to Myrtle Beach and Charleston, South Carolina from October 18 - 24. A deposit for this trip is due on June 10th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Clubhouse. \$100.00 per person (no insurance) or \$140.00 per person (with insurance). Final balance is due on Wednesday, September 9th.

A Cape May, New Jersey day trip is scheduled for Thursday, September 10th. The cost is only \$70.00 per person which includes: round trip bus transportation, a sit-down lunch at the Pilot House restaurant in Cape May, a historic trolley tour ride (45 minutes), time to shop at the Washington Mall, and a return trip on the ferry from Cape May to Lewes, DE, all tips including bus driver and all taxes. Sign-up for this trip is Wednesday, July 15th in the Clubhouse from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m..

Tony Giantonio

Springmill Cabaret Night Todd Chappelle

About 100 Springmill residents enthusiastically greeted singer/songwriter Todd Chappelle as he returned to the Clubhouse for a second time on Saturday April 25 (he performed last June as well). Todd is the son of resident Chris Chappelle.



From Todd's website - Todd Chappelle is a singer-songwriter whose material ranges from the irreverent to the downright silly. After graduating from the University of Delaware in 1993, he spent much of the mid-1990's performing cover songs in bars, coffeehouses, and anywhere else in Delaware and SE Pennsylvania that would have him. He was also a member of the band LEGENDS, which was a 50's/60's/70's cover band that performed consistently throughout DE, PA and MD for several years before it disbanded in 2005. Left without an outlet for his music, Todd started to write humorous songs that are meant for adult audiences. His 2007 CD "I'M FROM DELAWARE" was named the best comedy CD of 2007 by the listeners of 93.7 WSTW.

Todd performed two sets over a two-hour period and the audience was given a chance to help out on a few of the songs. Springmill residents are not bashful and as a result Todd got plenty of audience participation. Todd opened the show with "This Is My Opening Song" from his "I'm From Delaware" CD. He performed covers of well-known songs by John Denver, Johnny Cash

Continued on Pg. 26



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Book Review

Honeymoon

James Patterson & Howard Roughan

Nora Sinclair had an enviable life – good looks, brains, great career, sophistication and sex appeal. Men are mesmerized by her, and she knows how to have the upper hand in a relationship. An exceptional interior designer, she comes in contact with wealthy men who will spare no expense in furnishing their homes allowing her free reign.

Her first husband, a cardiologist, died of a heart attack while in his 40's. Nora was not one to grieve for a long period, so quickly met Connor and Jeffrey. She married one, Jeffrey, while promising to marry the other. Both were very successful and very well-off and would work smoothly into her plan of increasing her personal wealth. Jeffrey asked that the marriage be kept secret so as to keep his women readers interested in him and his books. Perfect for Nora! Connor was a hedge-fund manager, but truly smitten by Nora and ecstatic when he proposed and she accepted.

Nora could move easily between roles – wife and fiancée – as Jeffrey lived in Boston while Connor lived in New York. Her business appointments were a legitimate excuse not to stay too long in any one place. She even had a spacious penthouse loft in NY which was her favorite place to be whenever possible to contemplate her next move. She truly loved both Jeffrey and Connor, but love was not her top priority. It was to increase her bank account in offshore accounts. Who would have to go first? Jeffrey or Connor? With one successful murder out of the way and no suspicion on her part, she selected Connor as her next victim to be followed by Jeffrey. Once that mission was accomplished, all she had to do was get into their investments and transfer the funds to her foreign bank account.

The FBI began to suspect the mysterious deaths of the men in Nora's life and the disappearance of their funds to foreign banks immediately. John O'Hara was assigned to this case. He enters Nora's life as an insurance agent but becomes captivated by her charm. She is determined to keep him on a leash and oblivious to the real Nora. He's clever, experienced in behavior changes and determined to keep his distance and stay focused. Does he succeed? Nora wants no one to stand in her way of becoming a very, very rich woman. Does she succeed?

Sonya Comstock

Book Club Choices For June

Book Club 1 (Deb Kupper/1st Wed.) This month's choice is "The Thirteenth Tale" by Diane Setterfield.

Book Club 2 (Mary-Elizabeth Rhoads/4th Tues.) Our group will be attending our annual dinner and discussing books we've recently read.

Book Club 3 (Lydia Olson/3rd Mon.) Our book choice

Springmill Activities

this month is "Skeletons at the Feast" by Chris Bohjalian.

Book Club 4 (Kay O'Day Allen/1st Wed.) We will be reading "Lace Reader" by Brunonia Barry.

Book Club 5 (Joan Gross/3rd Tues.) Our choice for June is "Loving Frank" by Nancy Horan.

June Stemmler

Springmill Residents Conduct 3rd Highway Cleanup



From the left • Mark Holden, Carolyn Rifino, Sue Holden, Maria Corvino, Janet Glaser, Betty Freeman, Sonya Comstock, Don Strong, Sheila Rausch, Dick Rausch, John Pope, Judy Glass, Bill Glass

Middletown - The weather was forecast to be in the 90's on Saturday April 25. So a hearty band of 13 Springmill residents met early at 8:00 a.m. to try and beat the heat. Their task was to pick up litter along a four-mile section (2 miles northbound and 2 miles southbound) of Summit Bridge Road (Route 301) between Marl Pit and Boyd's Corner Roads. The early start paid off as the cleanup effort was completed before the temperature reached the 90s. The Adopt-a-Highway volunteers were divided into 5 teams, each responsible for about 2/3 of a mile. Mark Holden provided transportation to shuttle each team to their assigned starting point. Mark also came by to consolidate trash bags and provide new bags along the route. The cleanup effort produced 26 bags of trash with a total weight of about 600 pounds. DelDOT came by on Monday morning, April 27 to pick up the bags which were left along the side of the road.

Team members included Sonya Comstock, Maria Corvino, Betty Freeman, Judy and Bill Glass, Janet Glaser, Sue and Mark Holden, Sheila and Dick Rausch, John Pope, Carolyn Rifino, and Don Strong. Everyone wore reflective vests for safety. The vests, rubber gloves and large trash bags were provided by DE Deldot.

When the hard work was completed, team members agreed that the effort to help keep Delaware's roadways clean was very fulfilling and gave everyone a feeling of accomplishment.

Dick Rausch

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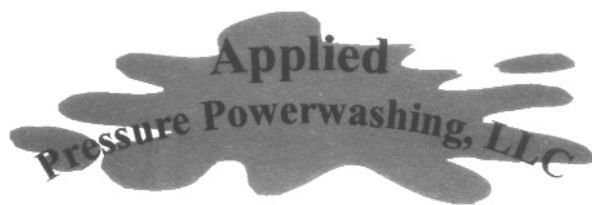
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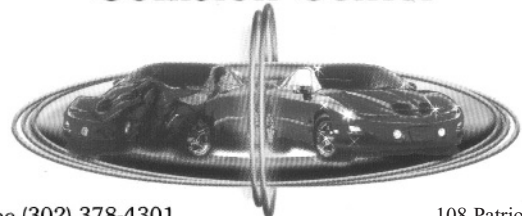
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Living Green

Baking soda can help green your life.

A few months ago I devoted an article to household uses of salt, other than seasoning where it is not too healthy, to help green your life. This month I will mention another "miracle" product that has so many uses that it would take a couple of months to discuss them all. Baking soda is an inexpensive earth friendly household chemical replacement. We all know an open box or bowl of Arm & Hammer baking soda in your refrigerator will keep it smelling fresh and remove moisture, but I've jotted down a stack of other baking soda tips. Most of this list was compiled from an internet search.

Kitchen

- Sprinkle some in your veggies crisper and cover with a cloth or paper towel for crisper veggies that last longer.
- Sprinkle baking soda onto a damp sponge for cleaning out your refrigerator and counter tops without scratching.
- Dissolve a couple of tablespoons of baking soda in water in a microwave safe bowl, and then bring to a boil in your microwave. Allow to sit for a minute or two, then you should easily be able to wipe out any baked on stains, plus your oven or microwave will smell fresher too.
- Sprinkling baking soda in the bottom of garbage bags will help to control odors as you add trash.
- To give your dishwasher a good clean, run it through a cycle and use baking soda instead of detergent.
- Baking soda can be thrown on stove fires to extinguish the flames. The carbon dioxide generated when the powder burns starves the fire of oxygen.
- Wash chemicals and pesticides off fruits and vegetables in a pot filled with water and 3 - 4 tablespoons of baking soda.

General home

- Anywhere that moisture is a problem, such as cabinets under sinks, place a bowl of baking soda to help control humidity. You'll need to occasionally stir the powder for maximum effective life.
- Grandkids over? Crayon or marks on walls? Try applying baking soda/water paste on an old toothbrush and lightly brush the affected area.
- Water stains on wooden floors can be removed with a sponge dampened in a solution of baking soda dissolved in water.
- Sprinkle some baking soda into your vacuum bag to help reduce musty/pet smells being spread throughout your house when vacuuming.
- Sprinkle baking soda on rugs and carpets before vacuuming as a deodorizing treatment. Most carpet powders you buy are baking soda based! Just a brief note on this • not recommended for areas that are very humid as the baking soda may stay in the carpet.
- Mops can really stink out areas where they are stored. If your mop begins to smell, don't throw it out, try soaking it in a mixture of 4 tablespoons baking soda and a gallon of water for a while.
- Stains on porcelain sinks, toilets and plastics can be removed by applying a layer of baking soda and then using a damp sponge. This works particularly well on a water stain in a sink that couldn't be removed otherwise without the use of heavy duty chemicals and scratching the surface.

Plumbing

- As an alternative to caustic soda for clearing blocked drains, throw a cup of baking soda down the drain, followed

by a couple of jugs of boiling water.

Garden

- Baking soda can deter ants - pour a solid line in areas of activity and they won't cross it.
- Mix a tablespoon of baking soda, a teaspoon of (earth friendly) dish detergent and a gallon of water to make a spray for treating roses against black spot fungus.

Laundry

- Work a baking soda and water paste onto stains prior to washing to help remove them from the fabric
- Half a cup of baking soda added to a full load of washing will help brighten your wash and remove odors.

Workshop/auto

- Mix a paste of baking soda and vinegar and apply with a pot scrubber to remove light rusting
- A baking soda/water paste applied to chrome surfaces, allowed to dry then buffed off will leave chrome shining!
- Baking soda applied to fresh grease and oil spills on your garage floor will draw away the oil, which can then be scraped off.

Pets

- Baking soda lightly sprinkled and mixed into cat litter will help control odor.
- Eliminate odor after you've cleaned up pet accidents by sprinkling over the dampened area with baking soda; allow to dry and then vacuum.

Personal

- Smelly shoes getting you down? Get a couple of old socks, fill up the toe sections with baking soda, place into the offending shoes and leave overnight to help remove odors.
- A thick paste of baking soda and water applied to bug bites can provide relief.
- A half teaspoon of baking soda mixed into a glass of water can act as mouthwash.
- Sprinkle baking soda onto regular toothpaste to create a whitening toothpaste

Miscellaneous

- To clean jewelry, use a paste of 3 parts baking soda to 1 part water, apply the mixture to the piece of jewelry, allow to sit for a couple of minutes, rinse off and then polish with a soft cloth.
- Sprinkle your Christmas tree with baking soda to mimic snow - a much more environmentally friendly alternative to some of those chemical snow sprays!

With so many uses you'll likely use a lot and buying baking soda in small boxes probably won't be too economical. You can purchase it in bulk at Wholesale Clubs like Sam's and BJ's for about \$5.00 for a 10-12 lb bag. Since we live in a rural area you can also buy it in bulk at feed stores.

You can also save money on baking soda by re-using it. For example, once it has served its purpose as a fridge deodorizer you can put it down your sink to help keep your drains clear.

Wow, that's quite a list of baking soda tips. It's such a versatile substance and certainly a greener way to get many jobs around the house done. My list is by no means exhaustive and I'm sure I've missed a bunch of ideas and applications!

Dick Rausch

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Sports Corner

Keeping score got easier this year!

Those of you that either play or watch Bocce and Horseshoes received a pleasant surprise at the beginning of the season. The clubhouse arranged for the purchase of 4 scoreboards. The scoreboards can score up to 19 points per game which covers the 13 for Bocce and 15 for Horseshoes (Horseshoe playoffs will have to improvise to get to 21). The scoreboards are kept in the Craft Room closets and are easily installed. Just remove the white plastic cover and place the scoreboard stake in the polyethylene pipe that was neatly and securely buried at the end of each court (pit).

Bocce – Julie Hambrecht reports: The bocce season got off to a wet start as Mother Nature just didn't want to cooperate. I want to thank Jerry Burney and Bob Hambrecht for the installation of the scoreboards, which everyone seems to like. Many thanks to Jerry Burney for picking up the sand and to Jerry and Chuck Ruh for putting the sand down on the courts. There is extra sand and they are waiting to see if it will be needed at this time. The 1st place teams as of press time are:
Wednesday AM – Roughhouses (**Ruff/ Quigley/ Leutner/Raymond**)

Wednesday PM – Penny Antes (**Stump/Moscarllo**)
Thursday - Three way tie for 1st place: Close Shavers (Edwards /Hambrecht), Morning Glories (Daigle/Geiger), Holy Rollers (Chappelle/Hullinger/Hand/Stefanik)

It is each team's responsibility to arrange for matches to be made-up in the event a match cannot be played as scheduled. Julia will update league standings each week (on the clubhouse bulletin board) and the top team in each league will be reported here monthly. For more information or to register as a sub contact Julie. *The Bocce courts are always open, weather permitting. Whenever the mood hits you get a few people together and start playing. The Bocce equipment is in the closet in the Craft Room.*

Horseshoes –George Ryor reports: The weather began to cooperate and we have finally started pitching. We've had a last minute change in the schedule. Ed Tinucci is on the injured reserve list and can't play the rest of the season and we couldn't get a replacement. So the adjustment we are making is that those who are scheduled to play Team #2 will get a bye.

Top Teams at press time:

Chuck Ruh / Bob Hill; Larry Daigle / George Ryor; Chris Chappelle / Bill Menhinick

Play will continue each Thursday with matches starting at 9 AM. Weekly results will be posted on the bulletin board and the top three teams will appear here each month. For more information or to be placed on the sub list contact George. *The Horseshoe pits are always available, weather permitting. If it is not muddy get a few people together and start playing. The shoes are in the closet in the Craft Room.*

Golf – Fred Wendt reports: We have made arrange-

ments for the League to play at **three local courses**: Odessa National (ONGC); Frog Hollow (FHGC);Patriots Glen (PGGC). All events will be on Tuesday, unless changed by the course if they need to accommodate other activities. A course schedule will be sent out to the membership each month before the Day Captain begins the sign up procedure. The green fees for the Tuesday League play are the same at all three courses (\$30+\$4 in cash for the competition). The pricing arrangements for play on **non league days** (including Sat and Sun afternoon) are slightly different. At **Odessa National** league members can play for **\$35** (including weekends). At **Frog Hollow**, league members can play **on Mon-Fri for \$38** At **Patriots Glen**, league members can play for **\$34** (including weekends). **MSML Membership cards must be shown to get these rates. Guests of members will pay the normal rates at all three courses.**

Below is the course schedule for June:

Day Captain- TBA

June 2– Frog Hollow

June 9 – Odessa National

June 16 – Odessa National

June 23 – Frog Hollow

June 30- Patriots Glen

Recent winners –

May 5- Rainout

May 12- Winners

1st Place: 54: **Orest Ginsiorski, Joe Deardorff, Robert Willison, Bob Faulkner**

2nd Place: 55: **Dallas Rash, Gene Zaiser, Chuck Corbett, Doug Brown**

Closest to the Pin: Hole 9-**Bob Willison** 4' 11"; Hole 17-**Tom Ferguson** 6' 3"

Pickleball and Tennis Schedules- Schedules will be posted in The Sentinel calendar insert. *During other times the courts are available on a first come first served basis.*

Pickleball - Coordinator Don Krauss invites new players to visit the tennis courts during scheduled play. You will have a chance to see how the game is played and can ask questions about rules, equipment etc.

Tennis - Terry Markisohn reports: Mark Verni and Terry Markisohn are planning the Springmill Annual Tennis Tournament. Our tentative date is Saturday, June 20th. There is an entrant fee of \$5 that covers the tennis balls and light breakfast following the championship. This year will mark the 4th Tournament. Players are paired and the winning game points are tallied. As always at the end, there is the agony of the feet and the thrill of victory; the group player picture is a collector's item! Please contact Terry or Mark to schedule your participation for this fun time with the tennis players!

If there are any Springmill residents who are interested in getting back into tennis or who may consider themselves to be "rusty", give Terry or Mark Verni a call. Members of our tennis group would love just "to hit" with you if you want to give it a try!

Dick Rausch

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Computer Tutor

So you want to buy a computer!!

Question: I'd like to buy a new Windows-based computer. What would be the difference between buying a low-cost PC versus buying a top-end model? I want to work with a digital camera eventually, do home accounting functions, surf the internet. My grandkids also want to play games when they visit. — Anon



Dick Rausch

Answer: You're on the right track. When evaluating a computer, think about tasks you'll want it to perform. There's also the issue of how long the computer will last before you get fed up with its inability to work with newer software packages as they are released. How are you at predicting the future? Presuming you don't have that particular gift, let's press on.

The following items should help you get an idea of what kind of package you should look for. The mid-range computer is perhaps ideal for you. In fact, this is what I recommend to any family that doesn't want to break the bank, but is willing to pay a little more for a machine that will please everyone. (Pricing is estimated with the assumption that a monitor is included in the package.)

Low-End Computer: This kind of computer is good if you are price-conscious and want basic functions from your machine. That includes word processing, spreadsheet editing, and other basic accounting tasks. This computer will also manage basic Internet usage, including Web browsing, e-mail, and chat. It won't perform as well with streaming video and audio from the Internet.

A budget computer, because of its lower processing power, will allow you to run one or two programs at the same time, but if you like to do lots of multi-tasking, this machine will frustrate you. Graphics editors and other memory-demanding software will work, but they will have to be run solo because they'll need most of the system's resources to run themselves. You can also use a digital camera to store and edit photos with this kind of machine, but the process will be a little slower.

What to buy: Look at computers that contain the Intel Dual core or AMD Dual core microprocessor chip. These computers usually come with a minimum of about 2 Gigabyte of memory and a 250 GB hard drive. They will do most common computer tasks, but if you can, get a system with extra memory: you will find the system easier to use.

The upside to all of this is that you'll probably be able to get away with spending about \$500 but the downside is that this computer will age quickly. It has budget parts that will become overwhelmed by the demands of new programs as they come out. Within a couple of years, you'll almost certainly be frustrated with its performance with newer software.

Mid-Range Computer: This computer will allow you to do all the tasks a budget computer does, and also allow you to work comfortably with graphics-rich business presentations

such as PowerPoint. Internet usage with audio and video functions will be comfortable as long as you have a fast (broad band) Internet connection through your cable or phone company. It will allow your grand kids to play many of the current computer games, and you'll also be able to create CDs and DVDs without any performance issues. It will be easy to run several programs at the same time. Digital camera connectivity is possible and editing photos from it will be a snap from a system resource perspective.

So what should you buy? Look for a Intel Core 2 Quad processor. Or an AMD Phenom triple core processor. Choose a computer with 3 GB of memory or more, and a 320 gigabyte or larger hard drive.

The upside to this system is that it will serve you well for about several years before you get frustrated with its performance with newer programs. The downside? It's priced around \$750. It may not run new computer games efficiently towards the end of its life, because by then those games will be demanding more than it has to give. It will also crunch through graphics creation programs and perhaps do some video editing, but won't wow you with performance on those.

Cutting-Edge Computer: This system will handle all of the tasks budget that mid-range computers are able to perform, plus it will handle video and graphics editing, including photos from a digital camera. Newsletter and professional Web site publishing will be a snap and it will certainly play the latest video games. Video conferencing will also run well if you have a high-speed Internet connection. This machine is also a multitasker's dream. It will run a lot of programs all at once, especially if you stack it with memory. What to buy? Look at a Pentium Core 2 Quad processor. Choose a computer with a minimum of 4 GB of memory. These computers will come with 500 GB hard drives, sometimes more than one. The upsides to this kind of very fast system are that you will get a long life from it. It will please you with performance on new programs for at least five years. The downside? This type of computer is going to cost you \$1,000 and sometimes more, once all is said and done.

All of the above models will come with a flat screen LCD monitor between 15 and 19 inches. This will allow easy to read graphics even for those of us with failing vision.

There are several brands that you can trust. Dell, HP (which includes Compaq), Acer (which includes e-machines and Gateway). Watch the ads in the Sunday paper for special sales each week at Best Buy, Wal-Mart, Radio Shack, etc. Dell and HP often have full page ads or brochures which have well-priced package deals.

If you are like me and need to have a computer with you when you travel you may want to consider a laptop model. Laptops come with features similar to the desktops described above but the cost will increase by about \$200 for each level of computer. The screen size is not as large as some of the desktop models. All Laptops are equipped with Wi-Fi so you can wirelessly access the internet from hotel rooms, airports, restaurants, etc.

Dick Rausch

Helpful Hints

Hotels at Discount Rates

Recently, Ginny and I decided to spend a weekend on Long Island visiting friends and family. We started to look for hotels and most of the prices were well over a hundred dollars. Ginny came up with the idea of trying to bid for a hotel on **priceline.com**. **Priceline.com** offers many bidding opportunities for many different situations. You can bid for hotels, airline flights, rent-a-car, and more. We just needed the hotel. Here is how it works.

First of all, pick the star rating for your hotel in which you would like to bid on. Secondly, pick the area you want to visit. At this point you will be told of several hotels that fit your criteria. However you will not know the exact hotel you win until the hotel is booked by Priceline. Next you will be asked what your bid is. At this point you plug in your dollar amount. The amount is entirely up to you. Priceline will give you a range for the hotels in the star rating that you picked. Your credit card is next and then Priceline is ready to start bidding for you. Once a hotel is found that meets your star rating, area, and price, Priceline will book the hotel. At that time you will be given the name of the Hotel along with your reservation which cannot be cancelled.

We bid \$60 for the hotel and within sixty seconds, we had the answer that our bid was accepted. Our hotel was the Hyatt Regency Wind Watch in Hauppauge which turned out to be a country club hotel with golf, tennis, indoor/outdoor swimming pools. We were extremely pleased with the choice and we did enjoy our stay. Had we booked the same hotel with Expedia, we would have paid \$194 for one night!

Next time you're planning a trip, take a look at the Priceline website.

Joe Grippo

Thank You

Although I still have more Rehab to go, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for the prayers, good thoughts, cards, gifts & the visits during my sickness. How very lucky I am to have such wonderful people sending such a flood of cheer my way. Noreen and I also appreciate your kind support for her. I'm sure it was tougher for her than it was for me. God Bless you all.

Jerry Ryan

Relay for Life – Friday/Saturday June 5-6 – Silver Lake Park

One day. One night. One community – the motto of Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society's signature activity. Every June for 10 years this 24-hour activity has taken place. It's everyone's fight against cancer. Teams of people raise pledges and members on the team alternate walking for 24 hours. Those who participate either had cancer or know of someone who has battled and survived this disease. There will be contests and games and home-cooked meals and arts

and crafts for sale. Everyone is invited to attend and support the battle. The Town of Middletown continues to provide its support as it has for ten years by sponsoring the event, and town employees help set up and break down the equipment and tents each year. They also provide other support during the event. Last year the town maintenance department constructed a wooden sign saying "HOPE" and then another sign "CURE" which is part of this event. Lights are strung around these signs during the event signifying the true meaning of Relay for Life.

In 2008, 843 people and 66 teams raised \$214,793 for cancer research. Over \$1 million has been raised in nine years. The theme for 2009 is '25 years of Relay, 10 years of Hope, 1 Community.' We're going to make it fun and festive and exciting for everybody.

Cancer has come to all of us in some way – whether personally or to a family member or close friend. Support this life-changing event by attending and supporting the cure for cancer. Remember those lost and celebrate those who have won the battle. Help raise funds for the cure.

The 2009 Relay for Life of Middletown will be held Friday, June 5 to Saturday, June 6, at Silver Lake Park. For more information or to register a team, go to www.middletownrelay.org.

Sonya Comstock

New Beginnings

It has been said that there is such a joy in being a grandparent. Since January 2009 several residents have experienced this – some for the 1st time and one even having her 15th great grandchild. We thought it would be nice to share this joy.

January 4th – **Mel and Carol Geiger** - Trent Daniel Royer (7lb. 4 oz.)

January 30th **Bud and Cathy Fischer** – 1st grandchild – Carson (7 lb 20 oz)

February 10 - **Sharron Young** – 1st grandchild - Amanda Jo Layton (8 lbs)

March 1st - **Bob and Julia Hambrecht** – 1st grandchild – Ashlyn Marie Hambrecht (7 lbs 15 oz)

March 14th – **Mag and Jan Frieberg** – Arbor Frieberg (7 lb 2 oz)

March 25th – **Bill and Tiny Farquhar** – Willow Grace Farquhar (6 lb 6 oz) Willow is the first girl on Bill's side in 97 years!

March 26th – **Larry and Diane Daigle** – Evangeline Daigle (7 lbs 9 1/2 oz) Her father is serving in the U. S. Air Force.

April 7th – **Carl and Shirley Gundrum** – Frankie Claire Gundrum (6 lb 11 oz) – Frankie is their 4th great grandchild and her father is serving in the U. S. Navy.

April 8th – **Vera Bagnatori** – Evelyn Katherine Coleman (8 lb 11 oz) – Evelyn is Vera's 15th great grandchild.

A hearty congratulations to all.

Julie Hambrecht

Continued from Pg 17: Chappelle and others. Other songs included "Amish Girl", "Bad Toupee", and "Country Song Titles". Todd closed the first set and ended the show with rousing renditions of "I'm From Delaware". His mom, Chris, helped him write a special Springmill verse that included lots of the activities that occur at Springmill.

Thanks to Todd for providing Springmill with a memorable evening.

Dick Rausch

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