

# The Last Word



## Council Report – June

by *Dave Jones*

- Previous minutes approved and bills as submitted were approved
- Financials were – beginning balance of \$863 K, \$53 K spent leaving a balance for the month ending May of \$849 K
- Arabella and Olivia asked council for approval to consider a “Kids Triathlon” in lieu of “Thrill on the Hill” race which hasn’t been run in recent years. It would begin with a swim at the pool, a bike ride and then a run. This would require roads to be closed for a brief period while the race is run. It would be on July 2nd should it get approved. Council agreed to allow the girls to pursue it with the police department and the mayor
- A resident asked about the status of the Penn Dot and the other construction vehicles in the lot off of Rosslyn Road. Council said there was about 1 month left before the lot is to be restored with grass or wildflowers and a possible truck turnaround

### **Roads and Sewers update:**

- Angora road is done and some base repairs were needed causing a slight overrun versus budget
- An estimate from Matcon Diamond was received to repair cracks for roads not to be repaved. \$7,500 was for 10,000 lineal feet of repairs
- Youngblood gave an estimate of \$20,000 for completing the rest of the repaving on Rosslyn Road where Penn Dot stopped.
- The pool committee stated that life guards are in short supply and in July and August (with vacations), they will be short. It was approved to add 2 “lifeguards” and “pool monitors”
- With the decision to have the Last Word only be distributed in email form and on the website, it is felt that community involvement has declined as a consequence. It will be pursued to look at printing and bulk mailing (like Thornburg does).

## Community Garden – Update

by *Jim Strutz*

A number of residents met on July 13th to discuss options for the newly proposed Rosslyn Farms Community Garden.

We opted for individual plots rather than a communal type arrangement. After laying out the garden boundary with corner stakes, the garden dimensions were determined to be 50'x 90'. Thus, we will have 16 plots that are 8'x22' and 2 plots that are 10'x22'.

We also opted to erect an 8' fence comprised of heavy plastic netting and supported by pressure-treated poles. The two short ends will be gated and connected by a thru path sized for the passage of a garden tractor and trailer. The individual plots on either side will be delineated by smaller foot paths.

We hope to make use of some resources left over from the remains of the PennDOT village occupation, such as gravel to be used for the pathways and wood scraps to be used for the construction of compost bins and a tool shed among other things. Swank agreed to bring in two large truckloads of topsoil which we will distribute to the individual plots. Additionally, we hope to utilize boro leaf collections and municipal grass waste to make compost and amend the soil. We are also in the process of testing the soil base for contaminants perhaps left by the construction equipment.

We discussed a number of options to avail ourselves of a regular supply of water, however, nothing has yet been decided.

Eventually, we hope to have a small rest and relaxation area with a picnic table and perhaps with an adjacent or surrounding flower garden.

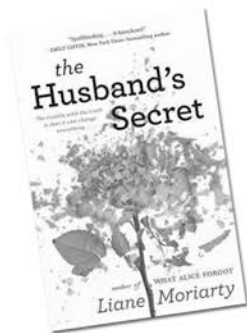
All of this will cost money for initial construction which we hope to raise from various local sources. There will also be ongoing costs for improvements and maintenance which we agreed should be funded by individual subscription fees of \$50 per plot per year. To that end, there are still a number of unclaimed plots that remain available to you. Split a plot with your neighbor if one whole plot seems too much. The window of this opportunity will close after we reach full occupancy.

Expect rapid progress in the next month or so, watch for it as you pass through upper Rosslyn Road. I plan to be at the site on Saturday, Sept 17 at 4:00pm to show off our progress; you are invited to check it out.



# BOOK DISCUSSION

All are welcome to join the community book discussions which are held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m.  
(and feel free to join us, even if you haven't read the book!)



**August 18**  
At the home of Francine Kuhi  
704 Christopher Circle  
(Cambridge Park)  
*The Husband's Secret*  
by Liane Moriarty

**September 15**  
At the home of Pat Jennings  
31 Priscilla Lane  
*The Secret Garden*  
by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Hope to see you there.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Harvest Festival**  
**Saturday, October 15 Noon-4:00**

Something for the entire family.

Bulb Sale  
Bloody Mary Bar  
Community Garden Display  
Bake Sale  
Chili Cookoff  
Food Tastings  
Chinese Auction Baskets  
Pumpkin Painting

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



from Jordan

Is it just me or does school start earlier every year? Excitement is building as we increasingly hear school words buzzing ... first day of school, new teachers, new supplies, new clothes, new faces. Even at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library, I see signs for a backpack giveaway with the Salvation Army. For me, school will mean teaching more classes than ever to other people's kids and picking new classes for my homeschoolers at their co-op. They will build web pages, learn first aid, absorb history, etc.

If you haven't yet heard, residents are planning a Community Garden on the PennDOT land. An eyesore (currently a parking lot with gravel piles) will be transformed! If interested in learning more, please contact Dan Harkins at [dixiedugan2@gmail.com](mailto:dixiedugan2@gmail.com). Any donations to help this project take shape will be much appreciated.

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Please consider volunteering to serve your community as a Council Meeting Reporter. The task is straightforward: take notes of the meeting discussions and then write a recap afterward for inclusion in the next community newsletter. It is a great way to meet more neighbors and to become more aware of local happenings.

Brad Knabel wishes to conclude his time as the reporter by the end of the year. Thank you for your service to Rosslyn Farms, Brad!



## Design Details - "Summer Living Alfresco" by Nancy Barsotti

One of the things I enjoy most about summer is living and dining outdoors. By late May I can't wait to open up my screened-in porch and ready the space for eating all my meals outside as well as entertaining there for the next four months.

To enhance the experience, I recommend creating a space of it's own design – something you look forward to in the summer. Don't just use the same things you use indoors all year long.

**Furniture** – One of the best ways to start to style your space is through the furnishings. Every store or catalog has options for tables, dining chairs and comfortable seating. The important thing to know is whether your choice is able to withstand the elements – especially rain and hot sun. An awning, a wooden pergola, a cabana top or a permanent roof might need to be considered. My collection of antique wicker dictated the addition of a screened in porch. I always say that of all the improvements to my house, it was the best money I have spent.

**Fabrics** – Now that you have decided on the furniture, how about a way to make it comfortable? Sunbrella and other solution dyed fabrics are the best for holding up to all the elements. The patterns and colors are endless – from fun floral patterns, geometrics and stripes to chenille. There is so much to choose from. There are even trimmings available to add to pillows.

**Carpet** – It's a nice touch to set off areas of your outdoor space with weather-proof rugs. Again, the choices depend on how much of the elements they need to withstand. I have seen some very nice ones from Ballard and even Loews. Coordinate the design with your fabric selections.

**Lighting** – I really like to live on my porch, from morning to night. So lamps for reading and general ambient light are a must. Nahoor makes some great reading lamps. LED lamps in the shape of Protea by Gold Leaf Design Group give give a fun glow. I also think that old chandeliers painted in color make a great light for over the table. I'm always saving things that I "might find a use for someday." And one of those things that "came with the house" was a wrought-iron light fixture from the dining room. I painted it white, added wrought iron holders for votive candles and voilà – ready for candlelit dinners.



**Accessories** – If you have a wall area, artwork can be added that complement your theme. Seashore motifs, flowers, metal sculptures – you name it. Look in your storage areas for an old piece you have forgotten about or search the flea markets for interesting objects like gargoyles and other garden art. Want to screen off an area or add some privacy? Extremis makes a New Sticks divider. Various planters sizes placed close together with shrubbery or bamboo poles work well too. If you have a way to install it, a ceiling fan is a nice addition to increase a summer breeze.

My latest addition is a flower planter with a speaker in the base. In its location, flowers would not grow so I filled it with seashells and put a glass top on it for a chair side table. It is made by Rockustics.

Part of every dining experience is the table setting. I love my vintage Fiesta Ware, tablecloths and candles for dinner parties. The choices are endless and don't forget, variety is the key. Nothing has to match and texture and color add interest.

And don't forget to be "green" and think of sustainable and recyclable materials for an eco-friendly green space. Teak furniture – harvested from responsibly managed plantations – is an obvious choice, as well as aluminum. Rugs of abaca or sisal and fabrics from Perennials, which are made of recycled fibers, are good choices. Solar powered LEDs are available too. It's always fun to find creative ways to use items from second-hand stores such as Construction Junction.

Warmest wishes for an enjoyable summer and relaxing alfresco times in your own yard in our beautiful neighborhood.

## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

Friday, August 12 - Garbage/Recycling

Friday, August 19 - Garbage

Friday, August 26 - Garbage/Recycling

Friday, September 2 - Garbage



**David DeChancie**  
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