

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

January 2023 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 42, No. 1

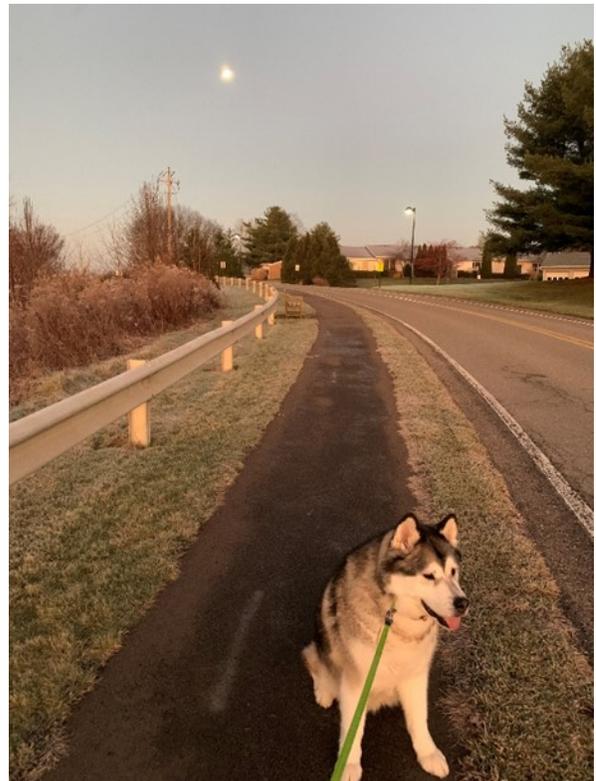
Questions from Sherwood Oaks Dogs



Sunshine Photo by Rabe Marsh
My name is Sunshine;
what's yours?



Siu Fa Photo by Joni Pun
May I have a treat, please?



Betsy Photo by Kathie McCormick
Is that full moon for me?

Gentle Readers:

January, turning over a new leaf, gets me humming. With anticipation, dread, hope, fatigue, relief all sounding in my consciousness, certain tunes and words rise.

Remember the camp songs that called for the singers to shout out, "Second verse! Same as the first, ... a little bit louder and a little bit worse"?

I wonder if that might be the appropriate accompaniment for what's going on these days ... for what January might bring

Monty Python offers a different approach: "Always look on the bright side of life...." and then, after you sing that, you whistle. Sometimes that is easier to talk about than to do. Of course, we can alternate our accompaniments depending on the events of which we are aware.

The old Shaker hymn, "'Tis a gift to be simple," offers another suggestion:

*'Tis a gift to be simple,
'Tis a gift to be free,
'Tis a gift to come down
Where you ought to be.
And when you find yourself
in the place just right,
You'll be in the Valley
of Love and Delight."*

We do not know what January and 2023 will bring. It may be that turning over a new leaf simply means facing a blank page. How are we going to read it? Or sing it? How do we accompany our days? How do our days accompany us? We have neighbors here who might just hum along, sing along, or shout and whistle for us and with us. You are welcome to sing a solo or a duet, or join a choir gathering. The choice is yours!

Ruth Becker for The Editors

JANUARY CALENDAR

New Year's Day	Jan. 1-2
Epiphany	Jan. 6
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Jan. 16
Lunar New Year	Jan. 22
Holocaust Remembrance Day	Jan. 27
National Puzzle Day	Jan. 29

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Submissions for the February issue must be sent to the Editor no later than

Jan. 15, 2023.

IN MEMORIAM

Memories are precious possessions that time can never destroy. For it is in happy remembrance that the heart finds its greatest joy.

John Rodgers November 23, 2022

James Donnell November 28, 2022

Marjorie Brozenick November 28, 2022

Georgia Trostle November 29, 2022

Joseph Petroff December 3, 2022



FOCUS ON THE WORLD

Presents

**THE LIGHTHOUSE
FOUNDATION**

By Nancy Paul - #167

Come to the Auditorium on **Thurs., Jan. 19, at 7:00 p.m.**, to learn about why the agency Focus on the World has been chosen to receive our food contributions. Prepare to be impressed!

Among its other programs, the Lighthouse Foundation operates the largest food pantry in Butler County. (Each week over 250 families are provided with food, which amounts to nearly \$1 million dollars' worth of food being distributed each year.)

In addition to the Food Program, the Foundation provides the following services for individuals and families:

- Transitional housing
- Interim housing
- A Sober Living Home
- Whole Life Ministries
- Lighthouse Car Connection (LCC)
- Emergency Financial Assistance

Come, listen, ask questions! You'll be encouraged to learn what is being done to help our neighbors have more stable lives.

**Thursday, January 19
7:00 p.m.
In the Auditorium**

I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.

Prison is just one word to you, but for some people, it's a whole sentence.



**LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION
QUARTERLY FOOD BANK
COLLECTION**

**THURSDAY – THURSDAY
JANUARY 12 – 19, 2023**

**DONATIONS CAN BE PLACED
IN DESIGNATED BOXES
IN THE GALLERY/SCOOTER ROOM
NO TIME TO SHOP?**

**DEPOSIT CHECKS MADE OUT TO
LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION
IN CUBBY 715, MAIL ROOM**

THE QUILTERS NEED YOU!

By Ann Ferguson - #269

Patching and Piecing Quilters have been quilting and giving for several years; photos of a number of our quilts have appeared in past issues of *The Acorn*. Each year this group seems to lose one or more members. In fact, we consistently have only two residents at any given time to put together our beautiful quilts to donate to those in need through Dutilh Methodist Church. At this point, we have one quilt to finish and donate. When it is completed, unless we can get more volunteers to join us, Patching and Piecing Quilters will disband. We try to meet the second Friday of the month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Craft Room. If you are interested, please contact Ann Ferguson at 8269.

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS.....

By Kathie McCormick - #188

At my former home on 36 acres, I was accustomed to being entertained by abundant wildlife. When I moved to Sherwood Oaks a year and a half ago, I figured that sightings would be few and far between. In fact, I was resigned to the resident homo sapiens, canis familiaris, feles domesticus, and cygnus.

Imagine my delight when, in my wanderings with my dog, I encounter a number of wild animals! There were two young raccoons scampering across the road near the back gate, a snapping turtle on the ramp by the lake, lots of deer grazing in numerous places, a small coyote in Parking Area G, several snakes wiggling around here and there, a myriad of chipmunks and rabbits, and some chittering squirrels.

There were also many song birds (cardinals, blue jays, robins, finches, etc.) and an occasional hawk. A heron often visited the lake, along with lots of ducks. The swans were upset only by the Canada geese. The family of six geese that insisted on staying a while this summer faced constant harassment, until they finally disappeared. Meanwhile, the flock of resident turkeys has been very visible (and noisy).

Other residents have reported seeing a fox and a very fat possum. There is also a mystery beastie that has left its calling card(s) at the doorsteps of various units. As you might have guessed, I keep my eyes and ears open and enjoy the local wildlife.

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602

Services begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday, January 1 – NO SERVICE

Sunday, January 8 – Communion

Rev. Ron Hoellein

St. Paul's United Methodist

Sunday, January 15

Rev. Amy Michelson

Hope Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 22

Rev. Moni McIntyre

St. Nicholas Episcopal

Sunday, January 29

Rev. Dena Roy

Community Presb. Cranberry

"Listen in silence before Me."

– Isaiah 41:1

2023 New Year's Resolution:

Attend Chapel Service

The Covid threat during the past 2+ years has affected many of our important activities. Indeed, Chapel Service attendance has not recovered to its pre-Covid level. Churches are experiencing the same thing. Realizing that this threat is now reduced dramatically, we all need to get back to worshipping in person.

The Sherwood Oaks Chapel Service is presented every Sunday at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium. There are 35 clergy and 4 musicians who provide very meaningful worship services. Please consider rejoining us in – or, for newer residents, "starting" – regular in-person worship. You will truly benefit, and God will be pleased.

EXTRA! EXTRA! TWO MUSICAL PROGRAMS THIS MONTH

By Jane Lavender - #253

We hope you read about the BEO String Quartet in the December *Acorn*. As noted, the group will perform on **Jan. 3** in the Auditorium, beginning **at 7:00 p.m.** BEO means “to make happy” – something we can all enjoy.

The second program comes later in the month, on **Jan. 26**, same time, same place. So mark your calendars right now for both.

Regarding the second program, Mary Ann Mangini has entertained us several times with her singing. Another of her talents is directing a group of girls, ranging in age from 12 to 17, who have worked on '80s and '90s music and are now into Motown music. This is the seventh year of existence for “The Fantastix,” who started as a show choir and are now more of a pop group. It will be nice to have some fresh young faces greet us on the 26th. It should be a real change of pace and a most delightful evening. See you there!

RECALLING THANKSGIVING 2022

By Dennis Lynch - #335

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board and I have a secret rule. It is secret, because they don't know about it. The rule is this: For home table drinking, buy no wine costing more than \$9.99 a bottle and not saving at least \$5.00.

But in deference to Thanksgiving dinner, I broke the rule and bought a couple of bottles from Sancerre, and some nice reds from the Veneto, because my kids like red. That made me think that we would be

having food and drink from around the world. I rather doubt that our turkey was raised in Sewickley, or that the ham came from a pen in Zelig, where the hogs were all staring in wild surmise at hearing the words, “spiral cut.”

As sources, I could count Walnut Creek, CA, New Albany, OH, Lakeville-Middleboro, MA, and Seneca Lake, NY, among others. From Asia? Making room in the fridge for the overload, we found a container in the way-back that looked like a “before” prop from a Mr. Clean commercial. My theory is that demon spores from the Far East made their way to San Francisco on a container ship, then across country by 18-wheeler to our Giant Eagle, and thence to Sherwood Oaks via I-76 and the west winds. Wine from Asia? Not served.

But I felt very cosmopolitan.

The warm glow came from my family gathered around the table: my dear wife Barbara, who has promised me not to start any more projects for “a while”; my son Mike, who scares me because he is almost retirement age, although it's clear that he'll never retire, because he is a cartoonist, and they don't retire – their ink just dries up. And his wife Stacy, who has a day job as a graphic designer and at night plays Irish fiddle and flute tunes in pubs. And, finally, my daughter Penny, who has retired as a Veterinary Technician and now lives with more dogs and cats than I care to number. If Ulysses ever comes through your door, Penelope, he will certainly be widely recognized!

None of them have been in prison, in rehab, or in politics. I certainly have a *wonderful life!* (Whoops – that's Christmas....)

**SHERWOOD OAKS RESIDENTS
ASSOC. (SORA)**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES –
DECEMBER 6, 2022**

By Dolly O'Toole, SORA Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT - Gary Brandenberger (President), Jean Henderson (VP), Dolores O'Toole (Sec.), Beth Brown (Oper. Treas.), Peter Broeren (Treas.), Al Brahm, Bruce Cooper, Dan Cindric, Nancy Marshall, Kathie McCormick, Diane Neely, Peggy Rubel, Barbara Scruggs, Frank Weiss

CALL TO ORDER - The President called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed the Board members and all visitors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Bruce Cooper, liaison for Continued Learning, requested the following change: "This committee will move its in-house presentations to **October**, early November, March, and early April...." On motion made, seconded, and passed, the Minutes of the November 8, 2022, Board meeting were approved as distributed and posted.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - Peter Broeren submitted Financial Statements for the period ending 11/30/22. Memorial Special Projects accrued interest of \$0.38, with an ending balance of \$46,452.27. Employee Appreciation accrued interest of \$1.11, with an ending balance of \$156,989.42. Currently, there is an 80% resident participation rate for Employee Appreciation.

REPORT OF THE OPERATING TREASURER - Beth Brown reported that the balance in the checking account as of 11/30/22 was \$97,481.03. The SORA

expenses of note are \$740. Protected Funds total income is \$1,220. Income from the poinsettia sale is \$1,153. Total expenses are \$426. Monthly Snapshot – Deposits, \$1,220.08; posted checks, \$1,165.60; outstanding checks, \$544.62.

LIAISON REPORTS

AL BRAHM - Chapel Committee: Working very hard in December to fill all 52 Sundays, plus Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. Letters have been sent to 38 clergy requesting their help in 2023.

BRUCE COOPER - Continued Learning: Two of the six slots available for the Spring in-house lectures have been finalized. The committee's next meeting is December 8. Landscaping: To protect the chrysanthemums next year, black netting will be tried. A sub-committee was formed to improve the beds on both sides of the mailroom walkway; work will begin in January. Recycling: As of November 29, a total of 349 lbs. of plastic film has been collected. The goal of 500 lbs., in order to receive a bench from TREX, should be reached early in 2023. During the winter months, Unit 185 is being used for sorting the material; those collecting the bags of plastic should continue to leave them in Garage 7 of the G13 complex.

DAN CINDRIC - Movies, Saturday Night: Committee will meet next week to set movies for Saturdays in January and February 2023. A reminder that no movies will be shown this month on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve which are both on a Saturday this year. Focus on the World: The documentary, "Jane Goodall: The Hope," will be shown this month. Lighthouse Foundation will present a short video in January. Larry

Schweiger, past President of the National Wildlife Federation and the Western PA Conservancy, will speak on April 20 in connection with Earth Day, which is April 22. Bible Study: Women's group had over 20 participants. They will be submitting an invoice for a book purchase to be reimbursed from their budget. The Men's group had fewer than 10 participants; more residents are encouraged to join.

NANCY MARSHALL - Health Affairs: At a meeting on Nov. 18, it was announced that booster shots had been given on October 23 to 177 IL residents. There is concern in the health community about the RSV/Flu/Covid-19 triple threat. Flu shots were required for the Sherwood staff. There were 9 falls in September and 5 falls in October. Pam Wilson is the new Director of Nursing. When patients are released from the hospital, it is determined how long they will stay in Skilled Nursing or whether they will go directly home. Upon discussion of a new Mission Statement, Megan Szymanski suggested the following: "The Health Affairs Committee will promote the health and well-being of the Sherwood Oaks Community. The committee will monitor, educate, and advocate on relevant health concerns." Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. It was proposed that the Health Newsletters in the Library be relocated to the back, where the other periodicals are located. Another possibility is to make them available in the medical office. Some of the budget money may be used to purchase 3 or 4 Health Newsletters. Barbara Scruggs was assigned to come up with the names of some prominent health publications for the committee's review. Drama Club: Feedback from the audience indicated that the play was well received. Members were provided

with material for consideration of what to perform for next Christmas. Patching and Piecing Quilters: One quilt has been completed and will be given in December to Dutilh Church, which will donate it to "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." One more quilt has to be completed. Ann Ferguson thinks the group should be disbanded, since there are only 2 who consistently show up to sew. Sew and So: The final count of caps for the year was 935.

KATHIE McCORMICK - Dining Committee: At a meeting on November 9, Carolyn Broeren introduced Rudy Guilloud as the representative from Skilled Nursing. Jesse Komara reported that the stuffed chicken entree from the Dinner Theater will be added to the Christmas menu; \$2,200 a month is spent on ice cream. The Fall/Winter menu started at the beginning of the month. There is concern that so many residents have not returned to the dining room. Carolyn Broeren will write an article for the ACORN to encourage residents to return. Also, it might be helpful to make special efforts to invite residents to dine. There is no December meeting; the next one will be on January 11. Curio Cabinets: Janet Desko has volunteered to take over the curio cabinets, with the help of Peggy Meister. Gussie Dimmick is pleased and will give any assistance needed. Resident and Craft Wall: Joni Pun has placed 33 angels around the independent living area; there will be a prize for the winner who finds the location of all or most of them. The craft wall will be changed in February. New Year's Eve: Diane Neely is calling a meeting this week to plan the New Year's Eve festivities.

DIANE NEELY - Transportation and Security: Diane Neely and Denton Bond

were absent from the meeting; only two were present. Discussion was held concerning a reminder to the residents about safety issues during the winter months. Residents requested a 6:30 p.m. bus from the Center instead of the 7:00 p.m. regularly scheduled bus.

JUDY PINYOT - There was no report from the Library Committee.

PEGGY RUBEL - There was no report from the Program Committee.

FRANK WEISS - Sherwood Gifts: Total sales for October were \$955 and expenses were \$105, for a profit margin of 90%. Sales of almost \$1,000 were due mainly to large purchases in the Annex and Granny's Attic. Christmas jewelry will be displayed in the Granny's Attic section of the Gift Shop. With the cooperation of Administration, the Annex will be open two Wednesdays a month during November and December on a trial basis. The re-opening will feature a half-off sale on small tables and lamps. Volunteers will be needed during those times,

Carpet and paint colors for the Gift Shop have been selected. Once the delivery date of the carpeting can be determined, and Maintenance gets an estimate of the costs to complete the project, a schedule can be developed. The Gift Shop will close for at least two weeks while work is being done. All merchandise will be packed and stored elsewhere and replaced once the carpeting and painting are completed. Beth Brown spoke with the Myers, Patsy, & Associates accounting firm on Nov. 7, 2022; they will provide an engagement letter. It is anticipated that the annual review of the books will be completed by the end of November. The Treasurer has determined that a donation of \$5,000 will be given to the

Memorial and Special Projects Fund by the end of the year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT - Annette McPeck reported as follows: (1) Census - IL at 185 units occupied/238 residents (4 homes under contract – 1 January, 2 February, 1 March). Marketing continues to be busy. Skilled Nursing - 36/43 (5 Star CMS rating). Personal Care 33/42. OGC 29/30. (2) Leaders here at Sherwood Oaks continue to participate in COVID-19 update calls with Senior Communities. Butler County positivity rates have declined and are currently at 8.76%. We anticipate modifications to visitors, screening, and masking, if and when rates decline further.

Please remain at home if you are sick and do not ignore symptoms of any kind. Be sure to communicate symptoms to the Community Nursing Department. Our goal has been to keep areas of the campus safely open for resident use. (3) The Auditorium project has been broken down into three phases. The first phase includes stage/storageroom/stage access with anticipated construction start date in early February. Flooring, lighting, sound enhancements, and paint will be considered for later phasing. (4) Veteran's Day event was well attended. (5) Drone footage is available for view on the Sherwood Oaks website. (6) Maintenance Dept. is coordinating gift shop painting and flooring for January 2023. (7) Greenhouse lighting improvements are in process. (8) DEP is on-site for annual dam inspection; required maintenance has been completed. (9) Management team is participating in tabletop emergency drill exercise December 6. (10) Employee holiday party will be held December 8. A big "Thank You" to the

SORA Board and residents for their donation of time and money for employee appreciation gifts. (11) Group Fitness Center bocce/shuffle court area is being considered for indoor pickleball. Bill Burtner is working with interested residents. (12) Resident Holiday party will be held December 15 in the auditorium/cardroom and lobby. This year's party theme is 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

OLD BUSINESS - Wish List - Gary said Annette is reviewing the list with her staff. Jean Henderson will provide a summary to the Board at the January meeting. Gift Shop refurbishment discussion was presented by Beth Brown. The Gift Shop merchandise will be packed and stored in preparation for a two-week closing. Some of the older items will be disposed of in a manner yet to be determined.

NEW BUSINESS - Employee appreciation check distribution was discussed by Peter Broeren, who will further elaborate on the subject at the Resident Quarterly Meeting on Tues., Dec. 13. Gary asked Board members to help with the Employee Appreciation check distribution on Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He thanked Gussie Dimmick for her long service to the Curio Cabinet displays. Janet Desko will be the new Chair of the displays beginning in February. Jean Henderson will be in charge for the month of January.

Jean Henderson advised that the BEO String Quartet will perform at Sherwood Oaks on Jan. 3 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The group also performs throughout the country at various venues.

VISITORS - There were 7 residents in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next SORA Board meeting will be held on Tues., Jan. 10, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

LIVING WITH LOSS SEMINAR ON FINAL WISHES DOCUMENTS

By Jean Henderson - #346

The Living with Loss Team has previously distributed several checklists and documents for end-of-life planning.

On **Thurs., Jan. 26, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Auditorium, another training seminar will be held to help residents complete the documents. Please bring your copies with you. Additional copies will be available.

This is such an important gift for your family, as they have to deal with your dying and death. Join us as we work toward giving this gift. Call me at 8346 for further information.

RESIDENTS' ART GALLERY

By Joni Pun - #304

I hope you have been enjoying the current display of works by Sherwood Oaks residents. On **Feb. 6**, we will be taking down the current display, which has been running since November, and putting up a new one to run until the end of April. All residents are welcome to display things they have done in the form of paintings, stitchery, or crafts. The only requirement is that they be presented in a form that allows them to be easily hung, with a wire in the back. Please contact me to give your name, the medium, and the title, if any. I'm looking forward to hearing from you via a note in my cubbyhole or a call to me at 8304.

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #715

The description for January's climate video, *The Amazing Planet Earth*, produced in 2022, is as follows: "In the past 200,000 years, humans have upset the balance of planet Earth, a balance established by nearly four billion years of evolution. We must act now. It is too late to be a pessimist. The price is too high. Humanity has little time to reverse the trend and change its patterns of consumption."

And yet, we have recently witnessed the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27), where important financial goals were reached, but commitments to reduce fossil fuel emissions were once again left on the table. Perhaps that is because more lobbyists from fossil fuel organizations were in attendance than there were delegates to the conference.

What to do? In the United States, with a divided Congress for the next couple of years, it is difficult to imagine that additional legislation to move the country towards a "green" economy will be forthcoming. While the budget reconciliation process provided huge incentives for "green" invention and adoption in the Inflation Reduction Act, the legislation had nary a vote from a minority senator. Moreover, budget reconciliation probably won't work with a split Congress.

It is likely that only legislation that is bipartisan will be lasting. So we need to focus on areas of transition that can have bipartisan support – restoration of forests, funds to help farmers adopt regenerative agriculture practices, improved processes for permitting energy infrastructure, and the like.

Here at Sherwood Oaks, let's look into community solar power; let's continue to

recycle plastic film; let's make our next automobile purchase at least a hybrid. Each of us really can help.

I want to be able to tell my granddaughter that we're trying.

Watch *The Amazing Planet Earth* on Channel 951 on Monday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m., or 7:00 p.m.

WHERE ARE THE RESIDENTS AT MEALTIME?

By Denton Bond - #736

Member, Dining Committee

My wife Marilyn and I so look forward to talking with folks at mealtime! It's an important event each day, so we anticipate that time of social interaction even hours ahead. Scheduling (MAKING THE CALL) with friends ahead of time gives us a boost mentally. We have had really enjoyable conversations about folks' occupations, hobbies, travels, and families.

We are fortunate to have "the fireplace" area where we can gather to find folks to join us for a meal. This works on those occasions when we have not made plans with residents ahead of time to sit with us at mealtime. We do need to work on calling new folks here at Sherwood Oaks and asking them to join us. Will *you* make the call to our neighbors?

Amal & Juan are identical twins. Their mom only carries one photo because if you've seen Juan you've seen Amal...

DO YOU EVER WONDER WHAT IS GOING ON IN CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP?

By Dan Cindric - #107
Chair, Civic Affairs Committee

What are they building? What just opened? What is opening soon? What's under construction? All these questions can be answered on the Cranberry Township official website, cranberrytownship.org under "What Are They Building?" In the meantime, Sherwood Oaks residents have had some specific questions, so here are some answers from the website. No recommendations are intended.

One of the businesses that just opened near Sherwood Oaks is Harbor Freight Tools, 1000 Cranberry Square Drive; meanwhile, Marshall's moved to a new and bigger location in the Cranberry Mall.

Streets of Cranberry has three new eating establishments: Condado Tacos, Pita My Shawarma, and Maxine's Coffee.

What is in process? There will be a Pet-Suites Kennel at 20423 Route 19. Behind Costco will be the Brandt Drive Apartments, consisting of 264 units on 14 acres, with a roundabout to provide access to Executive Drive. Phases 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, and 11 of the Charter Homes Meeder development (You knew they weren't finished, didn't you?) are in process.

Across I-79, the Lemieux Center will be adding another ice rink. And if you think Charter Homes will be finished after Meeder is completed, you haven't heard of their Crescent Development, which will be located north of the Lemieux Center, built on 114 acres of former farmland. It will consist of 790 residential units and 9,300 square feet of non-residential uses.

Will there be more to come? Of course! Cranberry Township is still one of Pennsylvania's fastest growing communities. For

residents who want more details, each month the Cranberry Township Supervisor's meeting agenda is posted on the bulletin board in the SO mailroom, under the Civic Affairs Committee heading.

WORTH A LOOK Books New to Our Library

By Barbara Christy - #237

Honor by Thrity Umrigan. Fiction. A Muslim woman is viciously attacked and burned by the villagers of her town for marrying a Hindu man. Defying her in-laws and all the norms of the majority Muslim community where she lives, Meena decides to seek justice for her dead husband in court. Meanwhile, Smita Agrawal, a foreign correspondent on vacation in the Maldives, is called to India to help Shannon, a good friend facing complicated surgery in Mumbai. It turns out that the "help" needed is covering the anticipated verdict for Shannon, whose assignment it was. "Reluctant" is too polite a word for Smita's response to the request, as she has spent her adult life escaping from her own distasteful memories of her childhood in India. F UMR

The Boys From Biloxi by John Grisham. Fiction. The Dixie Mafia, a Southern crime syndicate, has controlled vice in Biloxi for many years. Teenage friends Keith and Hugh have always known about this darker side of their town but, as they grow up, they take different paths in dealing with it. Hugh's father takes charge of the mob group, while Keith heads off to law school, determined to rid Biloxi of this scourge. Inevitably, the friends end up on opposite sides in a courtroom drama. F GRI

Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six by Lisa Unger. Fiction. **Large Type**. What could be more inviting than two weeks in a deluxe cabin in a gorgeous mountain setting? When wealthy tech-mogul Mako secures the cabin, complete with private chef, hot tub, and housekeeper, the three invited couples think they are in for a treat. But, despite the beauty of the place, things seem “off,” starting with the owner’s proud display of a sculpture made of human bones. As they learn about the cabin’s scary past, and a superstorm approaches, the vibes go from bad to worse; it becomes clear that there is a dangerous person with scores to settle in their midst. F UNG L.T.

Carrie Soto is Back by Taylor Jenkins Reid. Fiction. Professional tennis player Carrie Soto has risen to the top of her field by sheer determination. When she retires, she is #1 in the world, with 20 Grand Slam titles. Six years later, she is sitting in the stands with her father, knowing that her reputation and her entire life’s work are up for grabs. When Nicki Chan wins her match and ties the world record, Carrie decides to come out of retirement. In alternating chapters, we learn about her steady rise to the top, including the personal sacrifices she made on the way, the grueling training she is now undertaking, and the additional personal sacrifices she is currently making in order to be known forever as the world’s best player. A story not to be missed. F REI

I’ll Push You by Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck. Non-fiction. El Camino de Santiago is a world-renowned pilgrimage trail starting in southern France and continuing across northern Spain almost to the western coast. It is 500 miles of difficult terrain over which pilgrims have

struggled for centuries. When life-long friends Patrick Gray and Justin Skeesuck decide that one way to spend more time together is to make this journey, they are choosing an adventure that thousands have had before them – except, not quite. Justin, living in San Diego, is in a wheelchair due to an obscure autoimmune neuromuscular disorder that will probably shorten his life. Patrick is in Idaho, so time together is increasingly precious; the Camino sounds like the perfect “guy” trip. When Justin first floats the idea past Patrick, his response is simple: “I’ll push you.” With the support of their wives, the two men begin preparing: obtaining a custom-made wheelchair/baby stroller, securing six weeks off from their fulltime jobs, training, and raising money, they move step-by-step toward their goal. But the real story here is the power of friendship, trust, and optimism in the face of an almost impossible challenge. (This book has been donated to the library in memory of Bev Pugh.) 263 GRA

The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man: A Memoir by Paul Newman. Biography. In 1986, eight years after his son Scott died, Paul Newman started an oral history of his life. He wanted it to be an offering to his daughters, and a final peace token to a son who had been traumatized by his father’s fame and talent. He enlisted scores of friends, colleagues, and screen celebrities to contribute, insisting on total honesty from them and from himself. Five years and 14,000 pages of transcript later, the project was dropped and the files lost, only to resurface in 2019. His daughters resurrected the project, and this loving, candid portrayal of a complex man is the result. He wanted to set the record straight, and I think he did. BIO NEW

THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS
NONFICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE

The Boys From Biloxi	Grisham, John	c. 2022	F GRI
The Bullet That Missed Honor	Osman, Richard	c. 2022	F OSM
Killer Instinct	Umrigar, Thrity N.	c. 2022	F UMR
The Legend of Fuller's Island	Patterson, James	c. 2019	F PAT
Lessons in Chemistry	Fields, Jan	c. 2012	F FIE
Lessons in Chemistry	Garmus, Bonnie	c. 2022	F GAR
No Plan B	Garmus, Bonnie	c. 2022	F GAR L.T.
Sea of Tranquility	Child, Lee	c. 2022	F CHI
	Mandel, Emily St John	c. 2022	F MAN
Secrets in Summer	Thayer, Nancy	c. 2018	F THA
Stargazer	Hillerman, Anne	c. 2021	F HIL
Triple Cross	Patterson, James	c. 2022	F PAT
Treasure State	Box, C. J.	c. 2022	F BOX
Use of Force	Thor, Brad	c. 2017	F THO
The Venetian Betrayal	Berry, Steve	c. 2007	F BER
A World of Curiosities	Penny, Louise	c. 2022	F PEN
World Without End	Follett, Ken	c. 2007	F FOL CDs
Worst Case	Patterson, James	c. 2010	F PAT L.T.

FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE

Grant: The Complete Miniseries	The History Channel	c. 2020	BIO GRA DVD
Character is Destiny: Inspiring Stories	McCain, John	c. 2005	170.44 MCC
Clash of Empires: The British, French, & Indian War, 1754-1763	Stephenson, R. Scott	c. 2006	940.2 STE
The Company: The Rise and Fall of the Hudson's Bay Empire	Bown, Stephen R.	c. 2020	970.03 BOW p.b.
Dinners With Ruth	Totenburg, Nina	c. 2022	920 TOT
National Parks	Jackson, Carolyn, ED	c. 1993	917.3 JAC
The Order of Wolves	Fiennes, Richard	c. 1976	599.773 FIE
The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal 1870-1914	McCullough, David G	c. 1977	972.875 MCC p.b.
Persian Fire: The First World Empire and the Battle for the West	Holland, Tom	c. 2005	938.03 HOL
Smiling Irish Eyes: Art Rooney and the Pittsburgh Steelers	O'Toole, Andrew	c. 2004	796.332 O'T

“There was nothing dishonorable in not being blown about by every little modern wind. Better to have worth, to entrench, to be an oak of one’s own generation.” – David John Moore Cornwell, writing in his pen name, John le Carré

LEFT BEHIND I

By Winnie Dietz - #725

Several years ago, my husband and I loaded up our motorhome, hitched on the big three-horse trailer, and drove to the Smokies for an eight-day June vacation. At that time of year, the wild azaleas and rhododendron were in full bloom, so we rode up and down the mountains under arches of purple and orange bushes. It was spectacular!

Another couple accompanied us in their own motorhome, with horses and trailer, including CB radios to communicate with us. This was a very tightly planned expedition, as there were no facilities for people or horses on the way. It is called "dry camping," because even our water was carried with us in large blue barrels.

On the final leg of the trip in North Carolina, it started to rain. Our companions radioed that they needed to stow their hay inside our horse trailer, if we had room. Luckily, we found a place to pull over. When I noticed a store adjoining the pull-off, I thought perhaps I hadn't brought along enough sandwich meat. I got out and went into the store.

Standing at the cash register to pay, I looked out and, to my horror, saw both motor homes and trailers pull onto the narrow road and leave the scene. When I asked the clerk how far away Cherokee was, he had no idea! Only there would the road be wide enough for that 45-foot rig to turn around.

It seemed like forever until my husband came back for me, but initially he had assumed that I was in the front seat, until I didn't respond when he started talking to me. Then he thought I was in the bathroom, but the door was swinging back and forth. The next solution had to be that I was visiting our companions, but, when he CBed them, he got the bad news.

Our drive was very quiet, after he finally came back to pick me up holding his sandwich meat. I was so steamed, I didn't dare open my mouth. Subsequently, any stop he made, there was a roll call....

[I have another "Left Behind" story, so stay tuned!]

CURIO CABINETS UPDATE

By Janet Desko - #210

I would like to begin by once again thanking Gussie Dimmick and her dedicated helpers for many years of hard work filling the Curio Cabinets with wonderful themes. Her guidance will be sorely missed!

I have accepted the job of continuing to stock the cabinets monthly, with help from Peggy Meister, though we could certainly use another volunteer. For now, please note that the Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas items should be picked up on **Jan. 3, 10:30-noon** or **4:30-6:30** from the table in the lobby.

The January display will be "Remembering where we came from." Please bring items (pictures or other meaningful objects) from your "Life Before Sherwood."

Collecting for January will be on **Jan. 5, 10:30-noon** or **4:00-6:00**.

February's theme will be "Love and Marriage." (The dates for dropping off and picking up will be in the next *ACORN*.) Do start thinking about things you love (e.g., family, pets, hobbies, jobs, friends) and bring out your wedding mementos (e.g., photos, gifts, treasures) to share with the rest of us.

Thanks again, Gussie, and wish me luck!

WORLD STATISTICS

From the Internet (Dec. 30, 2020)*

The current population of the Earth is around 7.8 billion. For most people, it is a large figure, that is all. However, if you condense the 7.8 billion in the world into 100 persons, and then into various percentage statistics, the resulting analysis is relatively much easier to comprehend.

Out of 100 persons:

- 11 are in Europe
 - 5 are in North America
 - 9 are in South America
- 15 are in Africa
- 60 are in Asia/Oceania
- 49 live in the countryside
- 51 live in cities
- 12 speak Chinese
 - 5 speak Spanish
 - 5 speak English
 - 3 speak Arabic
 - 3 speak Hindi
 - 3 speak Bengali
 - 3 speak Portuguese
 - 2 speak Russian
 - 2 speak Japanese
- 62 speak other languages
- 77 live in houses
- 23 have no place to live
- 21 are over-nourished
- 63 can eat full meals
- 15 are under-nourished
 - 1 ate the last meal, but did not make it to the next meal.

The daily cost of living for 48 out of 100 people is less than 2 US dollars.

- 75 have mobile phones
- 25 do not

- 87 have clean drinking water
- 13 either lack access to clean drinking water or have access only to a water source that is polluted

- 30 have internet access
- 70 do not

- 7 received a university education
- 93 did not attend college

- 83 can read
- 17 are illiterate

- 33 are Christians
- 22 are Muslims
- 14 are Hindus

- 7 are Buddhists
- 12 are other religions
- 12 have no religious beliefs

- 26 live fewer than 14 years
- 66 die between 15 and 64 years of age
 - 8 are over 65 years old

That is, among every 100 people in the world, only 8 can exceed the age of 65.

In sum, if you have your own home, eat full meals, drink clean water, have a mobile phone, can surf the internet, and have gone to college, you are in the privileged less-than-7% category.

If, therefore, you are over 65 years old, be content & grateful. Cherish life, grasp the moment.

You did not leave this world before the age of 64 years like the 92 people who have gone before you. You are already the blessed amongst humankind.

Take good care of your own health. Cherish every remaining moment.

*These statistics are now two years old, so somewhat out-of-date, but they do give us a sense of the distribution of the world's population in our times.

*Winter is coming to Sherwood Oaks ...
sooner or later!*



Photo by Jan Wendt