



The Villas' Voice

April 2015



Hello Everyone,

Well, it looks like we made it through another winter without too many issues. In the coming spring and summer expect to see a good bit of activities as we continue to keep the Villas in good shape.

These activities include the replacement of driveway storm drains where needed, and concrete repairs. We will also be resealing and filling cracks in the access drives and driveways, as well as replacing shrubs, where necessary. As you know we mulched last year so we won't be mulching this year.

As you can see, it will be a busy season and I am thanking you in advance for your patience and cooperation while we complete those projects.

Regards,
Frank Greco

DRYER VENT CLEANING

A reminder to all:

As soon as weather permits Avacol will start with the cleaning of the dryer vents on those units that want to have it done. Dryer vents can become a fire hazard due to lint buildup which has to be removed every so often.

The date of the cleaning will be announced once weather has cleared. The cost is \$50.00/unit. Payment is due on the day of the service; please make check payable to Avacoll, Inc.

If you want this work done please contact Audrey Kolechta at CMP:
Phone: (412) 279-9280, ext. 280
Email: amkolechta@cmpmgt.com

IT'S TIME FOR THE VILLAS' SPRING FLING

Information has been sent by Gale Loberg regarding our spring get-together. It will be at the Speakeasy where we have gathered several times before. The date will be May 17th and the social hour is scheduled for 12:00 with the brunch following at 1:00. The price will be \$22.00

The April 7th luncheon will be at the Kyoshi Restaurant.
Let Gale know if you will be attending.

Submitted by Mickey Damratoski



INSTALL YOUR FREE ALARM SYSTEM!

It is very simple, and here is how it works:

- You take your car keys (or spare keys) and place them on your nightstand.
- You tell your neighbors to call 911 right away if they hear your car's alarm go off.
- If there is an intruder or another emergency, hit the usually red PANIC button on your car's remote access key pad.
- Your car's burglar alarm will go off and your neighbors will call 911!
- If there is an intruder the noise alone may scare him enough to leave.

Simple, free and effective!
(Wolfgang Bitterolf)

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE INTO?

We would like to start a new section in the Villas' Voice about interesting activities some of us are involved with - and you had no idea! That can be anything from painting, photography, writing, internet blogging, volunteering, collecting, knitting, gardening, baking cookies (oh well, I guess you knew that one!), or anything that may be of general interest.

So here is my request:

If you do something interesting that you would like to share, let me know. I will be happy to do the writing for you if you wish.

If you know of a neighbor that does something interesting, let me know and I will try to twist an arm to get permission to put it into the newsletter.

This newsletter contains the first installment of this series. Enjoy!

Bob Skinner (1734) is an avid wildlife photographer with the right equipment and the right eye to capture fascinating images of mostly insects and birds that live right here in the ravines and woods that surround Heather Heights Drive. During the warmer months of the years you may have seen him disappear into the bushes with his camera and gear; what you probably have not seen are the photographic masterpieces he brings back with him when he returns from these bushes and can be seen on the web site www.flickr.com/photos/checker66. Here is his story:

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"I started this by accident, or two accidents really, that happened shortly after I retired and moved back here. One of them was a praying mantis climbing my window, and the other a damselfly in Olson park. I caught them both with my little point-and-shoot and was hooked.

That was about four years ago, and now when I'm crawling around in the woods and people ask what I'm doing their response is usually something like "Oh . . ." I guess it's something you like or you don't. One of the reasons I like it is that I'm discovering things in plain sight no one knew about, sort of like breaking a code or finding King Tut.

It's also interesting to learn enough about the critters to get the picture; you're playing on their field, after all. For example, parts of Olson Park are good for small flying bugs, and there's a pond on Cherrington Parkway with lots of dragonflies.

Sometimes getting different kinds of bugs in different situations requires different photo hardware, which is good for the nerdy side of me (very important!; in my previous life I was a programmer). And one last thing about shooting bugs: I'll never run out of subjects."



Wood duck by Montour Run
Bumblebee near Heather Heights
Turkey buzzard and 727 at
Cherrington Pkwy. and Ewing Rd.



SAVE THE EAGLES!!!!!!



I am writing this article today because I am deeply concerned that the nesting pair of eagles that call Crescent Township their home are in danger of possibly moving out of the area. Many of you may have followed my articles in our little newsletter over the past 3 years and if you haven't, here is a little history and then I will get to the point. Crescent Township has been blessed to have the first pair of nesting Bald Eagles in Allegheny County in 40 years. I believe it has been 5-6 years now. It is the Hays & Hanover nesting pairs of eagles that have gotten all the attention in the past two years. Which is okay by me. It allows our eagles the freedom of moving around without any interference from a lot of

people hanging around. Over the past three years I have witnessed our Crescent Township Eagles hatch and raise at least five eaglets.

I said above that I was okay with not bringing a lot of attention to our eagles. I believe now that we should bring as much attention as possible. In the last month our eagles did make the evening news a couple of times. The reason for making the news is not for the good. The tree that the nest is in is dying due to an infestation of the Ash Beetle. At this time no one knows how long the tree will be able to support the nest. More importantly I have learned that The Verizon Corporation is proposing to construct a 200 foot cell phone tower at the end of Riverview Road in Crescent Township. The proposed location of the cell tower will interfere with the eagles' direct access to the Ohio River food supply.

We love our eagles and do not want to jeopardize their well-being with man-made obstacles. It is one thing to let nature take its course, and have the nesting tree no longer be able to support the nest and the eagles possibly build a new nest in a different area. But it is another thing to allow man to interfere with nature.

There is an upcoming zoning hearing to be held at Crescent Township Municipal Building in the near future. The time and place of the meeting can be obtained by calling the Municipal Office at 724-457-1224. I would like to encourage everyone to please call the Municipal Office and obtain the time of the meeting and to please attend the meeting to express your concerns. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call or write to your township supervisors and express your concerns.

Sorry this got a little long winded.

Article and picture submitted by Michael Chicora.