Shake Those Winter Blahs and
Get to Know Your Friends & Neighbors Again!

COME TO THE 2008 CKMCCA
ADULT WINE & CHEESE PARTY
(Includes Beer & Soda)

Featuring the acoustic talents of Soloist Tom Harding

Saturday March 8, 2008
From 7:00-11:00 PM
Locust Lane Clubhouse

R.S.V.P. Keri Horton at
LKACHORT@nycap.rr.com or 383-1325

There will be a $7.00 per person charge to help cover the cost of refreshments and entertainment.

SEE YOU THERE!!
Membership Drive Update!

We are happy to report that a significant number (20%) of our current members are brand new or returning residents. Thanks for your support. And thanks also to those of you who never fail to send in your dues every year. We sure wish there were more like you! The civic association could do even more to enhance life in our neighborhood.

As of this writing, in early January 2008, our membership drive has been going for almost three months. Usually these are the strongest months of the drive and the bulk of our memberships are paid by now. Unfortunately, the current numbers show a drop off since the same time last year. So if you are one of the large number of families who have not sent in your $18 membership dues, now would be a great time to do just that.

Why become a member of the CKMCCA? The most direct benefit is that members are sent a copy of the neighborhood directory. We will be mail those in March. Furthermore, your dues will help pay the activities of the association: publication of this newsletter five times in a year, the

THANK YOU TO OUR 2007 ENTRANCE MARKER GARDENERS

The CKMCCA Board of Directors would like to thank the volunteers who maintained the plantings at our entrance markers in 2007.

Alan Iverson — So. Barney/Grooms Road
Keri Horton — Beechwood Dr./Clifton Park Center Rd.
William and Nancy Conner — Greenlea/Vischer-Ferry
Les Denison — Par Del Rio/Moe
Barbara Misiewicz — Barney/Moe

We would also like to thank the Connors and the Leonards for their year round and holiday decorations.

Thank you to all.

Upcoming Deadlines for News & Views Publications

April 2008 - Copy deadline by March 15th

Any questions? Call 383-0722 and mention the News and Views.
Please Remember to Support Our Advertisers!!!

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Board of Directors Message

Happy New Year! With the holiday season behind us and spring not yet in sight, please come to our annual CKMCCA Wine & Cheese Party on March 8th. The event is open to all residents of Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek and is a nice way of meeting your neighbors.

Our 2008 membership drive has been underway since October. We are currently running behind last year's membership levels. Please remember to send in your dues which support events like the Halloween Party, Scholarship Award, Wine & Cheese Party and Community Garage Sale.

For those of you new to this area, the CKMCCA has been active for over 45 years. We were instrumental in efforts to form a park district, save our pools, develop a sewer district, build our entrance markers and so much more. Without your civic association you would have no organized voice in town when the next such issue arises. In the meantime we try to maintain our sense of community with the events and publications we sponsor. Each household in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek receives our News & Views. But if you need more information about us talk to any of the CKMCCA Board Members or come to our annual meeting which is held in April.

Just a reminder about water table problems which led to some basement flooding in the spring of 2007 in areas which had not experienced that problem before. Calendar year 2006 had a water equivalent rainfall 7 inches above the historical average. Calendar year 2007 had a water equivalent rainfall over 6 inches above the historical average. So be prepared for the potential of basement flooding again in the spring of 2008.

The remaining events before summer include our annual meeting and scholarship award in April and the community garage sale in May. Look for details about them in the April issue of the News & Views.

Hope to see all of you at the Wine & Cheese Party!

Membership Update Cont’d

annual CKMCCA college scholarship, The most important reason for joining the CKMCCA is arguably the most intangible. It has to do with civic pride. By becoming a member of your neighborhood association you send a signal that neighborhood cohesiveness is important. Though we live in an era of increasing globalization, we still honor the links we have with our friends and neighbors. Think globally, act locally. Join the CKMCCA today!
Dates to Remember:

Saturday, March 8th, 7pm - 11pm - Adult Wine and Cheese Party

Friday, March 14th - Applications due for CKMCCA Annual Scholarship

Saturday, March 15th - New Articles / Ads due for the April 2008 News and Views

Classified Ads are published free of charge to any resident of Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek. Contact Jon Barry for more information, 383-0722
As the winter trundles along in its fitful way and there is continuing talk about the slow real estate market, this might be a good time to consider how to make the best of the outstanding homes we enjoy in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek.

Our homes have some attributes that make them very desirable. It is our responsibility as homeowners to take full advantage of the attributes – both in terms of the pleasures of living in this special neighborhood and the economics of protecting a major financial investment.

As I assist Knolls and Mill Creek owners in preparing their homes for sale, a frequent issue to come up is whether to uncover the hardwood floors. In my opinion, unless the carpet is nearly new and in pristine condition, it is generally a big plus to have the hardwood exposed. After all, the wealth of hardwood we find in many of our houses is an expensive and attractive feature that deserves to be seen.

A few years ago, we decided to take up the carpet and have the floors refinished, and we are very happy that we did. We were concerned as the work began as to what would be found under all that carpet. Would there be stains and damage to the hardwood that would complicate the refinishing process? Would the maintenance of the wood floors become an unpleasant and demanding task? After all, it is pretty easy to run a vacuum over the carpet.

It turns out that after the work is done and the hardwood is adding its warm glow to the house, the maintenance is a snap. Most cleaning involves running a dust mop over the floors. The modern polyurethane coatings are a wonder. They are practically impervious to water and can be cleaned with a damp sponge mop with just a little soap in the water. Spills wipe up with a paper towel.

This is the way we do it. Check the recommendations of the manufacturer of any products used on your floor to make sure your are cleaning them in the right way.
We even took the extra step by having hardwood installed in our kitchen. And it was an excellent decision as it creates a nice open flow through the entire house, tying all the rooms together. It is a personal choice. Some folks prefer ceramic tile, which can be a very nice feature and a good modern look. But we love the hardwood because of the warmth it brings to the home.

During these winter days when it is not so pleasant to be outdoors, it is a good time to either tend to indoor tasks or plan for the spring when we can get after the shrubs, the flowers and the lawn.

There are the obvious inside improvements you can make – painting, new window treatments, redecorating. But perhaps one of the more dramatic projects you can undertake to emphasize the nice square footage that our houses have is to declutter and reorganize how we use this ample space.

This might involve taking a hard look at how much furniture we have in our living rooms and whether our closets are stuffed to the gills with clothing or other treasures that we haven’t used in a couple of years. Chuck just purchased a couple more of this strong plastic shelves that snap together and placed them in the garage. What a difference that has made to get things organized. We have also been making good use of our annual “recycling center” permit from the town.

The annual Burpees catalog comes out around this time of year. That is the signal to begin to think spring and how we can maximize the large lots we have.

Happy Housing!

Genie
Current Events:

Construction of the new Saratoga County water system continues to have problems. The Adirondack Mountain Club has questioned the validity of using some Moreau Lake State Park land for the pipeline without the approval of the state legislature. The state DEC has ruled the County can’t transfer an existing water permit to the new Saratoga County Water Authority, meaning it may be the County not Water Authority that will have to issue the construction bonding. All this facilitates a water supply for the Luther Forest Tech Park to support AMD if and when they decide to build a chip plant here. The county supervisors also declared the AMD site in Luther Forest an Empire Zone which qualifies AMD for an additional $260 million in state tax breaks.

The Saratoga County Sewer District treatment plant outside Mechanicville also needs to be expanded to process the 10 million gallons per day of waste water that the AMD plant would produce. Bids on that project in excess of $50 million were approved by county sewer commissioners. This could increase the average user’s bill by about $50 per year. AMD would pay an annual users’ fee of about $400 thousand.

A little closer to home the McCormicks from TrustCo Bank have dropped their lawsuit against the Town of Clifton Park. Remember the dispute over the barn “raising” on their Grooms Road property where it was intended to develop homes. A former Town Supervisor, Kevin Dailey, has taken an option to buy the property. Working with an adjoining property owner, Dailey proposes to build 40 high end homes on 70 acres centered around a planned horse farm and riding stable. The remaining 74 acres would be donated to the town for open space.

You can get up and speak at a Clifton Park Town Board meeting as long as you don’t take more than 5 minutes. In the past the Supervisor and Town
Board members tried to accommodate folks who ran beyond that limit by extending their time. Not any more! A new $600 digital wall clock timer will be used to bring any comments to a close.

Plans for the new town park on six acres along the Mohawk River off Riverview Road just east of Riverview Orchards were unveiled at a Groom’s Tavern meeting on November 15th. Because of the physical constraints on the property with significant wetlands and a steep slope, there will be no vehicle access with only a small parking area off Riverview Road. Activities in the park will be passive in nature with fishing access and a few picnic tables.

The Stewarts at the corner of Grooms and Vischer-Ferry Roads is apparently changing the brand of gasoline for sale. I saw a request to the Planning Board for 3 Mobil Company signs on the canopy over the gas pumps.

Recollections:

In 1984 the civic association held the annual wine and cheese party in February at Donovan’s Restaurant (where the Outback Steak House now resides). There was a 1950’s theme for the evening and folks came dressed as mouseketeers, boy scouts and a lot of the ladies wore their old letter sweaters. The evening included hula hoop, jitterbug and limbo contests.

At the civic association annual meeting in April, Town Supervisor Roy Speckhard presented plans to buy the 71 acre Gifford Farm property on Vischer Ferry Road to be used as a community center. Over the following years that plan evolved into the Clifton Commons as we know it today.

The annual field day included a 2.5 mile run around the golf course for the first time. Over 100 participants and spectators turned out for the event despite the torrential rain fall. So much so that most of the events had to be moved indoors.

The civic association board began discussing how to preserve the open spaces in Clifton Knolls including our ponds, ball fields and playgrounds, which were then owned by developer Robert Van Patten. Those conversations were the beginnings of what later became the Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Park District.
with most of those resources (except the
golf course) now owned by the Town of
Clifton Park.

The Town put on hold the civic
association request to form a leaf pickup
district in 1984. But the civic association
persevered and that great service makes all
our lives a little simpler each fall.

The Halloween parade and party
entertained over 200 kids. The exceptional
sunny 70F degree weather brought out a
large crowd that year.

Captains of Shenendehowa opened the
Captain’s Treasures thrift shop on Route
9 in 1984. Captain Youth and Family
Services still provides assistance where
needed in our community today.

The civic association worked with
Robert Van Patten to provide ice skating
on our ponds that winter. Volunteers
manned the skating area on the north end
of Barney Pond and some lighting was
even added for night time activities.

The civic association sponsored a
holiday shopping trip to the Charles Town
factory outlet stores in Utica. Charles
Town was a converted munitions plant
which was advertised at that time as
having the largest number of factory
outlet stores under one roof.

The Clifton Knolls Women’s Club again
sold luminary candles for the holiday
season. Our streets were always lined by
those candles at night. It was a pleasant
sight to drive through the neighborhood
on a winter evening in December.

The best classified ad for 1984 came
from an address on Par Del Rio. FREE
pine needles were offered to the
community. At least the price was right!

Classified Ads are published free of
charge to any resident of Clifton Knolls/
Mill Creek. Contact Jon Barry for more
information, 383-0722
Call For Applications: CKMCCA Annual Scholarship Award
2008

Extended Deadline!

Your annual dues to the Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association helps our neighborhoods have the children’s Halloween party, have the adult wine and cheese party, maintain our neighborhood entrance markers, and publish this newsletter and our annual directory. For the past several years, it has also granted a scholarship to a different deserving neighborhood student each year.

The CKMCCA is again offering a $500.00 scholarship award to recognize an outstanding high school senior who shows academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and involvement in the community. Besides showing these characteristics, the other requirements are that the student must live in the Clifton Knolls or Mill Creek neighborhoods, and their family must be dues-paying members of the Civic Association. Students are eligible regardless of the school that they attend, or even if they’re homeschooled.

To apply for the scholarship, high school seniors are required to submit a letter describing their qualifications and interest in receiving the scholarship. Because the scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and civic involvement, it would be wise to include this information in the letter. A copy of the student’s most recent high school transcript is also required. Other information, such as letters of recommendation, could prove helpful in the selection process, but are not required.

Applications are evaluated and ranked by a group of business, governmental, and academic leaders in the Capital District. They are not members of the Civic Association, and they don’t live in Clifton Knolls or Mill Creek, to ensure their impartiality.

If there are questions regarding the scholarship or the application process, please contact:

Bryon Backenson
8 Eldorado Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-371-7931
pbryon@fastmail.fm

There is no formal application form. The application consists of the letter/essay, transcripts, and optional supporting documents. These should be submitted to Bryon Backenson at the address above by Friday, March 14, 2008. Note that this is a new, extended deadline. This will be the last News and Views before the applications are due, so don’t forget!
Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association
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