



**Knollcrest
Family Community**

Knollcrest News

Volume II, Issue VII

December 2013



Greetings!

It's the holiday season already! We have celebrated Halloween with a perfectly spooky, dark, and rainy fall evening. Despite the rain, the ghosts and goblins were out in full force for the first time in two years.

We had wonderful November, free of wild weather and unexpected power outages. Much to be thankful for as Thanksgiving approached.

We managed to weather our first (and second) snow storm of the season with 5 + inches of snow with no power glitches or downed limbs. So now the time has come to bid our snowbirds good-bye as we settle in for what is hoped to be a typical Connecticut winter filled with each of our favorite winter sports and perhaps a walk on the frozen lake!

The News wishes you a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!

The Knollcrest News strives to keep the community informed of all the happenings in Knollcrest. In doing so, we hope to build and foster the spirit of community that has been the hallmark of Knollcrest for the past 77 years

Thank you to the contributors from our Knollcrest Community who help make this newsletter a true Community effort.



Tailgating the Knollcrest way

The Knollcrest Board of Directors sponsored a tailgating event for residents on October 19 at the windmill. Great fall weather and over 70 residents made for a wonderful event. It ran well into the night complete with a bonfire and music.

By all those attending it was a wonderful time with great food and baked items and wonderful resident camaraderie. In fact, the News spoke to several residents who attended and each raved about the fabulous food brought by their fellow residents!

Thanks to Board member Jody DiFranco for spearheading this great get together! Dare we ask to make it an annual event?

If you missed an issue, they are available at KnollcrestNews.org

**Editor:
Rosemary Scott**



Crime Watch (again)

The Knollcrest Board of Directors sent out a notice to residents earlier this month about a theft in the neighborhood. A home was broken into and gold jewelry was stolen. The owner thinks it was from an unsecured door.

Please, as our neighborhood settles into a quiet winter, let's keep a watchful eye on not only our own properties, but our neighbors' as well. If you see something unusual or out of place, please call the police. If you are a seasonal resident, it may be helpful to give your contact information to a full-time neighbor so they can notify you if something is amiss with your home.



A Special Connection

Just a mile or so north of Knollcrest is Squantz engine company. This particular fire department has been instrumental in shaping the young lives of many Knollcrest residents through the years.

Squantz is a volunteer fire department. In 1958, residents in the Squantz Pond and surrounding area formed the Squantz Pond District Fire Association and in May of 1959 the Squantz Engine Co. obtained their charter from the State and was incorporated.

It was brought about by the hard work of volunteers such as our own Eileen Schoenhardt's parents. Her father, Edwin Schulze, was one of the charter members. In fact, her mother, Josephine Schulze, was instrumental in purchasing the property where the firehouse stands today.

In 1962 the Ladies auxiliary was formed and many Knollcrest women joined. Original Knollcrest resident Gertrude Kalinka was a founding member of the guild and was later joined by her daughter, Kathy Scogno, of Southview Rd. And Kathy's brother, Rich Kalinka, joined the fire department in 1975 and is still an active honorary member.

In 1974 Squantz members became the first Fire Department members in the area to be certified as Emergency Medical Technicians. Our own Sharon Beers of Southview joined in 1980 and was an EMT. Today she is an honorary member and is the Engine Company's current treasurer. Her husband, Jeff, is an exempt member and offers his time and talent to the department when needed.

Many Knollcrest residents joined the firehouse as teens. Lee Scott of Eastview, joined in 1974 and was an active member for over 20 years. He is currently an honorary member. Peter Curioli, also of Eastview, joined as a teenager and today is an Inspector at the Connecticut Fire Marshall's office.

Most recently, Matthew Radder of Southview Road and brothers Doug and Tim Pfeiffer of Crestway, joined while in high school. Matt was an active member all through college and until he married and moved out of state earlier this year. Tim and Doug are still active members. Tim graduated the University of New Haven with a degree in Fire Science and is currently a second lieutenant for the fire house.

Knollcrest has held their annual May budget meeting at the second floor of the Squantz Fire House for several years. Because of the close connection with Knollcrest residents and members over the years, the fire truck has come to the windmill with Santa for the kids and even showed up at the last Knollcrest picnic to give the children a tour of the truck. It is a very special fire department indeed.



Communication is the Key...

The 2013-2014 Knollcrest Board of Directors has made leaps and bounds regarding communication these days. Not only has the Board formed a Facebook page but has also created a separate web page as well.

On the original Knollcrest Website that was created last year, under the news tab, there is a link to the new Facebook page. On it there are photos of the community, as well as photos of the recent tailgating event and the generator installation.

There is also a new website that the Board has created. This website contains the minutes and agendas to the monthly meetings, as well as the regulations and restrictions and welcome packet.

The Board stated at recent meetings that it will issue a quarterly business update to inform the residents the work the Board has been doing the past quarter.

Thank you Board for making such strides to keep the residents up to date.



Our Very Own Landmark

In 1936 the developer of Knollcrest had a dream that resulted in the construction of our most famous landmark. The windmill was to become a field office for the developer, with quarters for a caretaker. It was also an enclosure for the huge water tank of the community water supply system.

It was built with the constant oversight of artist Charles A. Federer of Bethel who made extensive studies of Dutch mills in Holland and the Netherlands. Its main structure is 80 feet high and at the time, the entire top section revolved so that the sails might be trimmed to the prevailing wind. The original walnut shaft for the sails weighed nearly 3,000 pounds and was imported from Nicaragua.

However, due to its location at the top of a windswept hill and its tremendous sail spread, the sails spun off in all directions during hurricane force winds in the late 1930's. The platform that was used as an observation point to view the lake was badly damaged as well. But its main structure was sturdily built and with shorter wings and other repairs it was restored and has stood as a mark of distinction for Knollcrest ever since.

When there was water found on the new floor of the meeting room at the windmill in 2012, Walter Eppler made a valiant effort to track its source. As it turned out it was a leak in the windows -- both in the meeting room and the floor above. The Board voted to replace the windows on the meeting room floor. That work was recently completed. The Board voted at the last meeting to replace the upper floor windows as well. The front doors have been repositioned and wrapped to be water tight. Thank you Walter and the Knollcrest Board, for your efforts in keeping our most valued treasure safe and sound.



Beautification Committee Update

The Beautification Committee has begun to install the hostas on the Millway from Southview road to Windmill Road. They also worked on the elephant hosta on the east side of Millway.

Eventually, upon approval from the Board of Directors, the elephant hosta will be replaced with standard hosta and grass to create a uniform look all along Millway. The committee braved bee's nests and poison ivy as they worked to clear the walls of invasive vines and weeds

to expose the beauty of the original stone walls. That work will continue in the spring as soon as the warm weather arrives.

Much thanks and appreciation to the Pfeiffer family for their generous donation of variegated hosta. It filled the entire north side of the Millway! Thanks too, to Judy Thompson and the Sullivan/ Lenox family for their promise of additional hostas for the south side. Many thanks to Kerry Dodge as well, for his work on the elephant hosta and for volunteering to remove the bags of debris!

Walter Eppler also donated and planted small evergreens in the Knollcrest entrance garden along with spring bulbs to create a year-round look for the front garden. He also ringed the garden with small hosta to create a living border.

Residents no doubt noticed the work of Board members Judy Thompson and Jody Difranco, who decorated the Knollcrest Notice board at the windmill for a wonderfully festive fall look. And it seems that elves have stepped forward and decorated the entrance sign and windmill with lights, garland, wreathes and bows for Christmas!

If anyone would like to pitch in on a project from time to time, or if you know of a resident who would like help with their property abutting Knollcrest community property, please email the Newsletter. The Beautification Committee is not only for the community property, but to also try to assist residents who could use a helping hand.



Did you know...

Did you know that Candlewood Lake has been the home of several famous people through the years? It was rumored that Ali McGraw and Steve McQueen each had houses on the lake. Its been reported that *Law and Order SVU* actor Christopher Meloni owns a summer home on the lake in New Milford. And Both Derek Jeeter and the CEO of Disney had homes in Sherman. There have been state senators as well as food network superstars that have called Candlewood their (second) home.

But did you know that Knollcrest itself was home to a Rich and Famous celebrity? It's a known fact that Robin Leach, host of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* was a resident of Knollcrest in the 1970's. Mr. Leach emceed the Knollcrest picnic back then. Several Knollcrest residents remember waterskiing on the lake with his sons in the early morning hours. And another former Knollcrest resident recalled assisting an injured guest of Mr. Leach – who fell in front of her house while riding a bicycle – who turned out to be none other than Mick Jagger himself!



Knollcrest Networks

Services Offered

Any last minute shopping to do? Or would like to attend a holiday party?
Responsible babysitter available. American Red Cross Babysitter certified. Loves kids and animals.
Call Amy 203-546-8227

For Rent:

Squantz Engine Company Fire House second floor meeting room. It can be used as a meeting room or a banquet hall for graduations parties, first communions, confirmations, wedding receptions, etc. Come and view our recently remodeled hall with new kitchen and handicapped bathroom.

Reasonable rates available. Please call Steve at 203-746-6285

Community Service Website:

The Knollcrest weather data and camera available 24/7 on www.k-wx.com

Contributors Wanted:

The Knollcrest News is looking for residents to write by-lines or contribute stories about their experience in Knollcrest. If you are interested, please email the News at info@knollcrestnews.org

If you would like to place an ad, please contact ads@knollcrestnews.org and it will be included in the summer edition.