



Knollcrest News

Knollcrest
Family Community

Volume II, Issue IV

June 2013



Greetings!

Memorial day marks the arrival of summer in Knollcrest. The marina is filling up, residents are out and about planting their flowers and taking evening rides in their golf carts and everyone is generally enjoying the long-awaited spring weather.

A sure sign that warmer weather is on its way in Knollcrest is the appearance of the “critters of summer.” There have been many sightings of foxes in the neighborhood. The foxes have been heard more than seen. They make a very unusual screeching sound, especially at night.

Skunks have been spotted ambling the streets and yards of Knollcrest as well. Great care is needed when walking your dog after dark. It’s no fun when your dog gets skunked!

The News wishes you a wonderful start of the summer and a happy and safe Fourth of July!

Other Points of
Interest:

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.

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



Did You Know?

Did you know that it took more than one attempt for Knollcrest to become a Tax District? The community was run by the Knollcrest Real Estate Corporation. In July of 1982 a petition was submitted to the Town, calling for a special meeting to establish Knollcrest as a tax district. A meeting of the residents was held but the motion failed. The vote was 38 residents for the formation and 35 voted to reject the proposal. Forty six votes were needed to carry the motion. The original article published in the Citizens News from that meeting can be found at the Knollcrest website, www.Knollcrest.org under the photo tab.



Budget Meeting

The Knollcrest Budget meeting was held on May 4th at the Squantz firehouse. Twenty six residents attended representing 19 out of 98 homes. With 24 eligible voters present, the budget passed with a vote of 22 for the budget and 2 abstentions.

President Mark Cronk stated that the community's finances are in good shape and the Board feels that they can contain costs at the same level as this year.

Mark presented the improvements to water system with the installation of a "plug and play" generator that was purchased this year. He went on to explain to the residents that the Knollcrest water system is run by a paid certified operator and that it is monitored continuously and there have been no issues. If you would like more detailed information about the water system or its workings, please email water director(and President), Mark Cronk at Knollcrest @yahoo.com

After the budget was passed, many things were discussed besides the finances. Among the topics of concern from residents were: golf carts, road clean up, parking at the bottom of Millway, slide replacement for the swim dock, marina fees and the second resignation of a member of the Board.

Residents voiced concern over children driving golf carts in the neighborhood. One resident suggested signs be placed reminding drivers and parents of the regulation.

A resident asked if the slide was going to be replaced on the outer swim dock and the President explained that the Board of Directors voted to replace the diving board. The Board has had difficulty finding the right apparatus and now, because the dock is in the water, the diving board may not be replaced until next year.

Another question arose as to the marina fees and why they are so low compared to other marinas. It was explained that the Knollcrest marina is a self contained entity and not used for income to the community. Those who own deeded boat slips are responsible for their own dock repair and the fees charged are for general upkeep of the rest of the marina.

A large part of the discussion had to do with communication and the Knollcrest website. The residents were looking for updated information. And one resident suggested that the budget presentation should be on the website. Mark then asked the audience "do we want that information out there. Do we want everything out there for everyone to see?" He told the audience that the Board sends out what's important. He reminded the residents that everyone is allowed at the Board meetings.

A question was asked regarding the second resignation of a Board member. Mark said that with two vacancies he would definitely fill one. He went on to say that he approached resident Steve Plant and said that Steve has stepped forward to fill a vacancy. He said a vote from the remaining Board members would take place to make it official.

There was a suggestion from a resident that the next budget meeting be at a different location with better accessibility for those residents who could not easily negotiate the Squantz meeting room stairs. There is no handicap accessibility at the Squantz Firehouse. Those attending seemed to agree. Both the Senior Center and Company A Firehouse were suggested.



Knollcrest Spotlight

Ethel Volpp Kern is part of a family that has been here since 1938, when there were only a few rustic summer cottages on the Knollcrest peninsula. The "Knollcrest" community was just being developed. The Volpps owned a bakery in the Bronx and first rented a cottage in Knollcrest to spend the summers, until they purchased one for themselves at #1 Southview. At that time, the land around them was not-yet-developed open field and they had an unobstructed view to the windmill a street away. Today, Ethel's daughter, Heidi Seaman and her family now live in the original family homestead.

Ethel Volpp first met her future husband, Ron Kern, when she was just 12 and he was 14. Ron Kern's parents built a home on the south end of Eastview. Ethel Volpp and Ron Kern were friends as part of a large group of Knollcrest "summer children" who grew up together, socializing, playing sports and enjoying lakeside recreation each summer. This was a scenario repeated for four decades with two more generations of the same families in the Knollcrest community.

Ethel Volpp and Ron Kern eventually married in 1959. Ethel and Ron became parents of a boy (Ronnie Jr.) and three girls (Susie, Kathy and Heidi). Although Ron was stationed in Texas for the military at the time of their marriage, he promised Ethel that they would soon return to New York, and have their own place in Knollcrest some day. True to his word, they returned to Knollcrest for the summers during the 1960s, and finally bought their current home on Chatterton Point in 1970 -- for its panoramic view of the lake -- where the Kerns still live today

Asked what she liked about her summers in Knollcrest way back when, Ethel replied, "Oh, the camaraderie of all the children" who shared their summers here. "They gave each other silly nicknames for the summer, like 'Pickles'," maybe because the kids came upon you eating pickles the first day here. If you didn't get their name right (or called them by their real name instead), you were required to put a penny or a nickel in the Mason jar. At the end of the season, everybody went to the Green Light (now Villa Pasta) and bought triple-decker ice cream cones!

Life in Knollcrest was a lot different then. On Sunday evenings, the men rode the Brewster train back to the Bronx to resume the work week, returning to Knollcrest on Fridays. The wives and children stayed behind in Knollcrest, keeping each other company. Almost no one had cars. There was a small grocery market to pick up staples at Candlewood Corners, and one in Candlewood Isle (now a Post Office). The fruit and vegetable truck arrived in Knollcrest once a week and you could even order a chicken for the next week if you wished. The milkman made his stops every other day. Refrigeration was limited in the summer cottages. Knollcresters went to the windmill to pick up and post their mail at 9 AM. The mail might be addressed simply,

"The Volpps, Knollcrest, New Fairfield, Connecticut."

Not a lot of people owned boats back then. The men organized weekend baseball games in the open field behind 11 Crestway (now the DeLeo house). Knollcrest had an annual picnic. Ethel added, "Friday nights we walked down to the Green Light and watched old movies, like 'Abbot and Costello'." Married couples might go square-dancing at Joyceland around the bend at Squantz Pond.

After completing their required jobs of "weeding the gardens and taking the beetles off the roses," kids roamed the streets, fields and woods of the neighborhood freely. ("...and be home by dinner!") "The nice thing was, everybody watched out for everybody," Ethel explained. "They took care of you, if you were [staying the week] alone. There were no phones. The first phones were party lines. If you needed a phone, you just went in [to a neighbor's house], even if nobody was home. Back then you went through an operator to make a call, so you'd ask her, 'how much is this call?' Then you'd leave the money by the phone."

Some of Ethel's family photos from the 1940s can be found on the Knollcrest website at www.knollcrest.org. Thank you, Ethel Kern, for such a wonderfully detailed picture of early Knollcrest!



The Knollcrest News

At the May 4th 2013 Knollcrest Budget Meeting, President Mark Cronk announced that the Board is not affiliated with the Newsletter and does not support it. The secretary of the Tax District later sent out an email on behalf of the Board to all Knollcrest residents stating that "The newsletter that you receive periodically from the Knollcrest News is in not affiliated with Tax District Board and the board is not responsible for its content or accuracy."

To be clear, the Knollcrest News is NOT a part of the Knollcrest Board. This newsletter was created in 2010 because the communication from the Board to its residents was virtually non-existent. We felt that the community should be aware of what is going on in the neighborhood. So we decided to publish the newsletter to help fellow residents.

The Knollcrest News is published in the hopes of rebuilding the spirit of community that has been ebbing away in Knollcrest in the past decade. Due to the positive response to the newsletter, we feel it has been successful in its mission so far.

The May 4th note from the Board seems to imply that some information was not accurate. The News has not received any complaint or demand for correction. We would gladly print one if we knew what to correct!

Another reason why we write the Newsletter is to gently remind residents that we are a community. And one person's actions can and do affect everyone in the community. If you

drive too fast, or park inappropriately or don't pick up after your dog, the whole community suffers.

We include things like the crime watch and those community reminders and rules as a support to the Board as well as a service to the community. The President commented at the May 4th meeting that it's tough to be "the enforcer" -- that it's not an easy thing to tell people where they can't park or that they need to tidy up their property for the good of the community. The Knollcrest newsletter, written by fellow residents, can be that gentle reminder when the Board will not.

We are not part of the Board of Directors and therefore can report to you honestly, resident to resident, what is happening in Knollcrest in order to become a true community of neighbors once again.



Trash Day?

Years ago, the Knollcrest Board of Directors used to hold a "dumpster day." A large dumpster would be placed at the windmill and residents could throw out trash from their basements or garages. Knollcrest would alternate year -to-year with dumpster day one year and brush pick up the next year. Eventually, however, the dumpster portion of the program got out of hand and both services were stopped.

A suggestion by a resident was made that we could organize a trash/debris pick up day ourselves. It was explained that if enough residents were interested, we may be able to get a reduced price for "x" many homes and a truck would go from house to house picking up the trash from the roadside. Each house would be billed separately from the company for the service.

If enough people are interested, we could use the same idea for a leaf and brush pick up in the fall.

If you think this is a good idea, please let the Knollcrest News know and we will get planning!



Board of Directors Meeting

The latest news regarding the Knollcrest Board is that there has been a second resignation from the Board of Directors. Property maintenance director Marilyn Radder resigned from the

Board on May 3rd. Her resignation letter is on file with the Board Secretary and available as part of the public record.

The speed bump and Stop line painting has been completed. In the past, resident volunteers would paint the lines and speed bumps, but former volunteers have passed away, and volunteerism in Knollcrest is waning. This year estimates were submitted by the Roads Director and the Board decided to let a professional company do the job.

There was some discussion at the May 17th Board of Directors meeting regarding the Knollcrest notice board at the windmill. Having a lock on the board was one option. Another was to create a new board for social postings and keep the original for official Tax District postings. As of this date, the Secretary has put up a notice on the board that all postings must be approved by the Board of Directors.

The Board voted to replace the windows on the second floor of the windmill, following remedial repairs to the structure after the tropical storms in 2011. New weatherproof windows will be installed shortly.

Steve Plante was voted onto the Board by a majority vote. He was assigned the position of beach director for the remaining term.

The nominating committee has been announced. They are Charlie Franklin, Penny Johnston, and Eileen Fitzpatrick. As Mark Cronk stated at the Budget meeting, the Board is always looking for new faces and ideas. If you are interested in joining the Board for the 2013-2014 fiscal year please contact the committee at Knollcrest@yahoo.com.

The next Knollcrest Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12. The meetings are held in the second floor meeting room of the windmill at 7 pm.



Fun Community Ideas

The News is looking for ideas to bring the community together. The community tag sale was a great success and everyone enjoyed going from house to house in the community. Perhaps another tag sale? Or if we get lots of help, maybe a summer movie night at the beach? Or a music night under the stars?

Please let us know if you have any ideas or if you would be interested in organizing an event and we will gladly help!

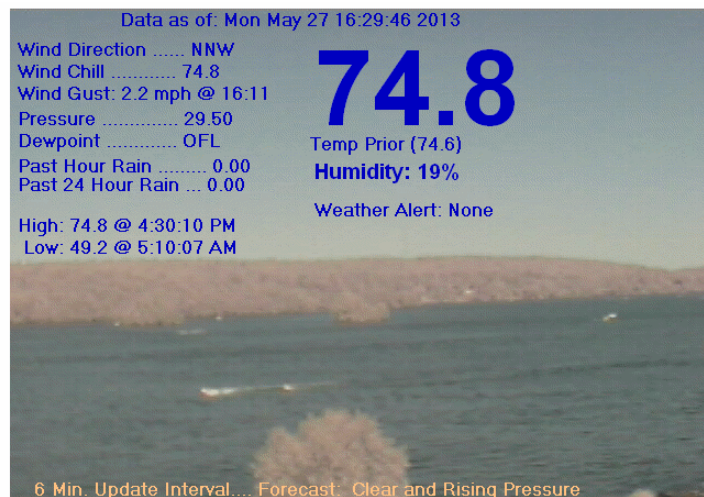


Knollcrest Networks

Do you have anything to sell? Are you looking for a special collectible? Do you need to find a house sitter or baby sitter? Is your teen looking for work? Do you have a business you would like to advertise?

If you would like to place an ad or notice, please contact Knollcrestnews@yahoo.com and it will be included in the summer edition.

Live and up-to date Knollcrest Weather Conditions at www.k-wx.org



[Mobile and Smart Phone Friendly](#)

Current weather conditions including:

- * Air Temperature.*
- * Forecast based on current conditions.*
- * The days High and Low Temperatures.*
- * Email notification of Weather Alerts for Knollcrest.*

View and Wx conditions updated every 6 minutes.

Visit www.k-wx.org for The Current Knollcrest Weather