



Knollcrest News

Knollcrest
Family Community

Volume II, Issue II

November, 2012

Greetings!

It is hard to believe that we have all experienced yet another fall season with frightening and stormy weather! Eerily, Knollcrest had Halloween cancelled a second time in two years.

Residents who had been spending 2012 repairing and restoring their homes and properties from the damage done by 2011 tropical storms Irene and Lee and the Nor'easter were socked with yet more problems from the one-two punch of Sandy and the Nor'easter of *this* year. I hope you bought stock in one of those generator manufacturing companies last winter!

Let's hope that this is all Mother Nature has in store for our area for a while, and that we have a normal and uneventful winter.

Other Points of Interest

If you missed an issue of the Newsletter, they are available at the newsletter's new website Knollcrestnews.org.



Frankenstorm and the Nor'easter...

Unfortunately, this isn't the title of a lost Abbott and Costello movie. It is what Knollcrest had to endure in Fall 2012. Super Storm Sandy came first and was dubbed "Frankenstorm," not only due to its Halloween arrival, but because of its massive size and make-up. This storm was strikingly similar to the hurricane that took down the decking of the windmill in 1938. Sandy was a 100-year storm that proceeded to devastate the northeastern seaboard.

As the storm reached Knollcrest in the afternoon of Monday, October 29, Candlewood Lake roiled with unusually high whitecaps, and waterspouts were spotted on the lake. As the storm ramped up, the wind changed from the North and came directly in from the East. The wind reached gusts of over 70 mph.

Thankfully, Knollcrest weathered the storm with very little damage. The Franks on Eastview had their dock and boats break loose and several residents in the neighborhood lost

shingles due to the high winds. A tree fell on Eastview, blocking the road. The cul-de-sac on Crestway was littered with fallen limbs. In Chatterton Point, a 75-foot pine tree lost several main limbs, which fell on and severely damaged a vacant summer cottage on East Lane.

New Fairfield was 75% without power and school was closed for the week. Most of Knollcrest was without power until late Friday, November 2. (Remarkably, all of Crestway and the south end of Windmill Road never lost power.) Thanks to Water Director Mark Cronk, a portable generator was installed on the water system by the second day to provide water for flushing toilets. After power was restored, a boil water alert was put into effect for a short time until the water was tested and deemed safe for consumption.

Just ten days after Sandy, Knollcrest was hit with a Nor'easter that dumped more than six inches of snow on the roads and leaf-filled lawns. The snowplow made its rounds early again this year. Thankfully, no one lost power and the snow melted quickly. Things once again were back to normal for the Veterans Day weekend.



Knollcrest, est. 1936

Did you know that the builder of the windmill actually lived in it at one time? Life-long resident Ethel Volpp Kern remembers seeing a cradle strung up between the massive beams inside. The deck that was around the windmill, as seen in the above photo, was used by residents for taking in the view until it was destroyed by the hurricane in 1938.

There are a few resident families who have been in Knollcrest since its inception in the 1930s. Almost all the residents at that time, as well as in the 40s and 50s, were part-time residents, coming up in the summer to enjoy the lake until closing up their homes for the season in the fall. Most came from New York and Long Island. In the 1950s and '60s some residents were building their homes from kits purchased from Sears! Residents began converting their homes to year-round, winterized homes around the 1970s and '80s. Today, Knollcrest has over 100 homes and only 2 vacant properties. Just over half of the residents now reside here year-round.

Many homes are still family owned, passed down from parents to children. Quite a few residents who grew up in the community wound up marrying summer neighbors and now have children growing up in Knollcrest, "hanging out" at the beach during the day and playing manhunt around the Windmill at night!

If you have an interesting Knollcrest story to tell, please let us know! We will be including bits of Knollcrest history in each newsletter. Please contact the newsletter at info@knollcrestnews.org or go directly to the newsletter website to submit your story!



The 2012 -2013 Board of Directors

The 2012-2013 Knollcrest Tax District Board of Director assignments have been announced. They are: Elliott Sears -Marina Director, Rosemary Scott-Beach Director, Marilyn Radder -Property Maintenance and Betsy Delaney -Roads Director. Walter Eppler is a Director-at-Large.

President Mark Cronk will also continue in his position as Water Director. He announced that he is seeking someone from the community to learn about the water system and apprentice the position. Anyone interested in a long-term commitment to learn about this vital system, please contact the Board at Knollcrest@yahoo.com

A sinkhole was discovered at the Windmill in August. Upon further inspection it turned out to be an old septic tank! In November, the tank was removed by a septic company with the oversight of the Town Sanitarian and filled in with top soil.

A very large white-faced hornet's nest was discovered at the Marina early in the Fall. A sign was placed at the Marina following its discovery. There was considerable discussion and consultation with a pest control company on how to remove the nest -- manual or chemical removal, setting it on fire, or blasting it with water. But the nest's location so close to the lake created serious environmental concerns. In the end no action was taken. Just as the pest control company advised, a hard freeze was enough to destroy the hive's inhabitants. They do not return to an old hive the next year.

The Board has installed a new contractor checklist for work to be done around the community. It was agreed that all contractors must be licensed and insured, and that three estimates must be obtained before any substantial work is to be performed.

Water Director Mark Cronk, along with the help of resident and former Water Director Jeff Beers, is working on developing a plan for a generator system for the water system. It is a long process, as they must consider not only the older and complex system in Knollcrest but work closely with the State as well, to remain in compliance.

Monthly Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month except December. The meeting time and place are 7 PM in the Windmill's second floor meeting room. The room was refurbished after storm damage in 2011 and yes! there is heat on during the meetings.

If you need to contact the Board with concerns, suggestions or complaints, please attend a monthly meeting or email the Board at Knollcrest@yahoo.com. You can also write to the Board at P.O. Box 8053, New Fairfield CT 06812.



We salute you!

As the Holidays approach we'd like to take time out to remember those family members of Knollcrest residents who are serving our country in the military.

Ken Johnson is a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. He is a pilot, currently stationed at New River base in North Carolina to train on the Osprey aircraft.

His brother, Mike Johnson, is a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and recently reported for Basic Infantry Officer training at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Jake Kelly is a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps Combat Battalion and currently stationed in California. He is a motor sport mechanic and a combat marksmanship coach.

Dominic Byron is a Corporal with the Marines and is currently on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

His sister, Melanie Davila, is an Engineer with the Navy and is currently stationed in Guam. We thank each of you for your dedication and service to our country.



Community Spirit...

The community-wide tag sale organized by resident Penny Johnston in October was a great success. Penny placed the ads and provided all vendors with a balloon to mark the sales. There were 12 homes in Knollcrest that participated. In addition, some homes took advantage of the foot traffic (and there was a lot!) to join in the last minute!

There has been some discussion of a spring tag sale. If you would like to organize it, please let the Newsletter know and we will help get the word out!

If you have anything to share with the community or would like to organize a community-wide event like the recently successful tag sale -- like an Easter egg hunt or perhaps a Beautification Day where we all get together in the spring to clean up the community, please email the News at info@knollcrestnews.org. We will do all we can to spread the word!



Knollcrest Networks

Wanted:

Someone to shovel snow for 2 Knollcrest residents this winter.

If interested, please call Eileen Schoenhardt (5 Windmill Rd) at 203-746-1392 and/ or Alan Johnson (16 Windmill Rd.) at 203-746-2084

Services Offered:

Experienced, responsible Knollcrest babysitter (CPR certified), dog walker, pet sitter /house sitter.

Please call Theresa Scott at 204-448-8926

Wanted:

Graphic artist (or just someone with a great idea!) to create a logo for the Knollcrest Newsflash.

If your logo is selected you will receive credit on all newsflashes along with credit on the Knollcrest News website. Any resident, old or young, can submit a logo!

Please submit all suggestions to info@knollcrestnews.org

Do you have something to sell or a service to offer? Are you an enterprising teen in need of spending money? Just place your ad in the Knollcrest News!

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

The staff at Knollcrest News wishes you a wonderful Holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

This newsletter is created and published by a group of Knollcrest homeowners and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Knollcrest Board of Directors