



# Sewickley Heights Manor Messenger

A publication of Sewickley Heights Manor Homes Association

May/June 2019

## Message from the President

We've had a few question/comments about the use of **Roundup** to control weeds in the Manor. I understand the concern. Here's what we know and what we are doing.

This year when we contracted with Sarver Landscape for grass cutting, we added a couple of new services, including spring cleanup and weeding, previously done by our Manor crew. The Sarver crews are using Roundup for weed control **ONLY** on planting areas (that is, not on all common property, but just planting beds). They are also using a pre-emergent product called Snapshot, which will help keep weeds from sprouting and helps to reduce the amount of Roundup that needs to be used. Sarver mixes dye with the weed control product so that we can see where it is. When the dye is no longer visible, the product has dried. When our crews took care of weed control, we used Roundup on the beds, too, and we used it for many years without incident. We didn't pair it with a pre-emergent product or mix it with dye. Our crews didn't use backpack delivery systems, so it was probably less obvious.

Before the growing season began, and before Sarver began their services, I asked Bob to research any available alternatives to Roundup. There really just isn't a comparable product for commercial use that works. I had the same conversation with Adam Sarver, and he concurred.

I, too, researched what alternative might be available, what the EPA had to say and the available information about the recent lawsuits against Monsanto. As you are no doubt aware, conflicting information abounds on any issue; Roundup is no different. There currently are three recent judgements against Monsanto (owned by Bayer), and the awards are huge. All three verdicts are being or will be appealed, and those outcomes are yet to come. At the same time, the EPA continues to maintain that there is little or no evidence that glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, causes cancer, in particular, non-Hopkins lymphoma, as the lawsuits claim.

I won't make a judgement one way or the other; all I'm saying is: there's significant disagreement. Here's a link to the MSDS sheet for the product Sarver is using and here is a link to Bayer's website, where several issues are addressed:

[MSDS Roundup Quick Pro](#)

[All About Glyphosate](#)

I hope you'll agree with me that the Manor looks beautiful this spring – much of this is no doubt due to abundant rain, but the grass looks green and verdant, and we are seeing very few weeds. Weeds anywhere, if given the opportunity, will sneak into the grassy areas. We do need weed control.

However, due to the controversy over the product, the Board decided that residents can opt out of the Roundup application around their homes, provided they agree to take care of weed control.

### Here's how to do it:

If you wish to opt out, please stop by the Manor office and fill out an opt-out form (this will allow us to keep track of who is opting out) and pick up one or two landscape flags. I asked Bob to purchase small yard flags for this purpose. In order to differentiate our opt-out flags from any of the utility One Call flags, Bob chose a bright yellow green (chartreuse?). Then, simply place the flags in your planting beds where the Sarver crews can see them. They will know to skip those areas.

**IF YOU DO OPT OUT, you are responsible for weed control in those areas.** Again, weeds travel very quickly and pervasively into the grassy areas, so it's important to keep them under control. If our crews notice weeds advancing out of your opted-out beds, we will notify you once, but we may have to add your beds back in to the service if the weeds continue to grow uncontrolled.

Thank you for your cooperation and for your concern for our neighborhood,

Sally Shipley  
President

## Neighborhood News

**The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2019, 3:00 PM, at the Manor Office.**

If you have a matter you wish to discuss with the Board, the first 15 minutes of the meeting are devoted to residents' input, provided the resident has notified the Association Office in writing at least a week in advance of the meeting.

**Third Quarter Assessment Due 7/1:** Homeowners are encouraged to make their quarterly payments on time. SHMHA Assessment Policy allows payments to be received until the last day of the month due without incurring a late fee. **If payment is received after July 31, you will be charged a late fee of \$50/month.** The policy directs that if the assessed late fee is not included, payment is first applied to late charges, making the assessment short. The \$50 late fee is assessed every month until the account is made current. The Association quickly acts through the courts on unpaid assessments, which could result in the garnishing of your checking account or home foreclosure. Assessments are our primary source of income, and the payments are essential to our day-to-day operations. Thank you for your cooperation.

ALL RESIDENTS SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THEIR POOL ENVELOPE WHICH CONTAINS RULES GOVERNING THE USE OF THE POOL AND TENNIS COURTS. PLEASE RETURN THE POOL REGISTRATION SHEET PROMPTLY. ONCE THE REGISTRATION SHEET IS RETURNED, YOU ONLY NEED TO SIGN IN WHEN ENTERING THE POOL.

**PLEASE NOTE: Rules have been revised, so review thoroughly.**

- Proof of residency may be required.
- Residents must accompany and sign in their guests, submitting required guest passes if necessary.
- Guest passes are for sale at the gate for \$5.00 each. You may purchase your passes in advance at the Assoc. Office, Monday thru Friday, 8 AM-4:30 PM at \$4.00 each. If you purchase 8 guest passes at one time, you will get 2 free. Guest passes are non-refundable.
- The pool area is monitored by cameras.
- Residents are encouraged to walk to the pool since parking is limited. If you drive, please use the parking area in front of the office. Do not park in the turnaround by the pool, or block the road, as it is for emergency vehicle access.
- The rule of no glass in the pool area will be strictly enforced.
- Place a towel on the chairs before using, since suntan lotion deteriorates the vinyl furniture strapping.
- No child under the age of 14 will be admitted unless accompanied by a responsible guardian at least 18 years of age.
- Non-swimmers must be accompanied in the water by a responsible adult swimmer.
- Please remember that only homeowners in good assessment standing will be admitted to the pool.
- Each person entering the pool must sign in.
- Pool hours are 10 AM - 8 PM

**SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK!  
NO LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY**

### *Committees*

**Architectural Control - Tim Miller, Chair:** SHMHA Architectural review committee has reviewed 16 requests for 2019. They include replacing garage doors, windows, awnings and decks plus painting various parts of homes. All requests were approved once they conformed to the Homeowners Association codes. The committee helps everyone understand the rules and modify their requests to meet them. The committee's goal is to help homeowners improve their properties for their benefit and for the beatification of the neighborhood.

Any questions can be directed to chair Tim Miller at: [Sewickleymanorarchitectural@gmail.com](mailto:Sewickleymanorarchitectural@gmail.com)

**Any signs displayed on common property will be removed. If you are interested in the rule on how to display a sign, please contact the office or consult your governing documents.**

**Manor & Ridge Landscape - Peter Cady, Manor Chair, Tim Miller, Ridge Chair:** The Ridge landscape contractor, Sarver Landscape Maintenance has completed edging and mulching, and Lark Lawn & Landscaping has completed one lawn treatment for the Ridge and Manor homes. The Manor staff will be trimming the shrubbery around the Manor homes with a completion date of July 4. Want to help? After the rhododendrons are finished blooming, please remove the dead blossoms to ensure beautiful flowers next year.

Please use caution when driving since our contractors and Manor staff wear earplugs and cannot hear you approaching.

Manor & Ridge residents are reminded that all landscape changes, including removal/replacement of shrubbery, trees, etc., must be approved in advance. Please call the office to secure the proper form. The property around your home is common and any plantings or items not authorized are subject to removal. Please have your contractor submit proof of insurance before proceeding.

***All comments or concerns about landscape from Ridge or Manor residents should be e-mailed to the SHMHA office.***

**Manor Maintenance - Len Kinter, Chair: Painting -** Arena Painting has started their contracted work. As a reminder, *homeowners must make water available for the painter. If water is not available, the work will not be done.* Power washing is usually done 2-3 days before the painting begins. Watch the progress of the painter to help determine when he will start work in your area. **Deck Refurbishing -** A contract has been awarded to McCoy Builders for the refurbishing of decks located at 201-207 Wood Crest and 102-108 Little Hollow. The work is not expected to proceed until late August or September. Additional information will be delivered to those homes affected closer to the start date.

A contract has been issued to Nether Asphalt Sealing and 80 driveways in the Manor are scheduled to be sealed. We expect the work to be completed by July 31.

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### ***Did You Know?***

**It is a violation of SHMHA policy to park on the grass** anywhere in the Manor or the Ridge. Owner in Sewickley Heights Manor will be held responsible for any damage to the common area from vehicles deriving or parking on the lawns and subsequently will be billed for damages after repairs are made.

It is also **a violation of SHMHA policy for residents to park in areas designated as Guest Parking.** Please park in your garage or driveway, leaving guest parking areas free for guests.

**Please remember** that all pets must be leashed when outside, and you must clean up after them. Both failing to clean up after your pet and letting pets run loose are violations of the Aleppo Township Ordinance #123 and subject to fines of up to \$100, plus court costs. Use the dog waste containers for dog waste ONLY; please do not place household or other kinds of trash in the dog waste containers.

<h3><b><i>Staff and Hours of Operation</i></b></h3>
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<b>Robert E. Merriman, Operations Manager</b>	<b>Monday – Friday 7 AM - 3:30 PM.</b>
<b>Cameron Connifey, Maintenance Assistant</b>	<b>Monday - Friday 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM</b>
<b>Susan Moran, Office Manager</b>	<b>Business Hours M, T, Th, F 8 AM - 4:30 PM.</b>