



Sewickley Heights Manor Messenger

A publication of Sewickley Heights Manor Homes Association
101 Greenwood Drive, Sewickley PA 15143
412 741 8563
shmha@verizon.net

July 2020

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

So, how's your 2020 so far? Amazing, right? Yeah, mine, too.

The threat of Covid-19 infection changed just about everything in a very short period of time. Individuals, families, businesses and organizations were all forced to make changes to daily operations in order to mitigate the spread of a viral infection that causes disease ranging from mild to deadly. Federal and state governments issued guidelines, recommendations and orders that soon became a minefield to navigate.

About the SHMHA pool: In the midst of this chaos, the SHMHA Recreation Committee acted as quickly as possible to determine when, how and with what guidelines the pool could safely open for the season. The committee researched the issues, seeking input from myriad sources, including the CDC, state and local government, the SHMHA attorney, the community association to which we belong, and the management of other pool facilities in Western PA. Then, the committee set about revising the pool regulations for an entirely different kind of season. Allegheny County was in the Yellow Phase, City and County pools announced they wouldn't open at all in 2020, and outdoor gatherings were limited to 25 persons or less. Our Manor insurance company informed us we are not covered for losses incurred due to Covid-19, as once a pandemic is declared, insurance won't cover any related loss. Accordingly, our attorney advised we do the best we can to mitigate liability, including requiring a signed acknowledgement of risk and waiver as a requirement to use the pool. Due to the considerable risk and the 25-person limit, the committee determined a strict no-guest policy would be best to protect our Association members (that's you), the Board, the committees, and our staff. After the 4th of July holiday weekend, the committee met again to review the policy, and due to spiking cases in Allegheny County, decided the no-guest policy will stay in place for the rest of the season. Again, this policy is intended to protect our residents as best we can while remaining open.

About the registration and waiver: For the safety of our residents, only properly registered residents can use the SHMHA pool. Each household resident over the age of 18 must sign the waiver, which is included on the registration form. Parents may sign only for minor children. Only household residents may register for pool use, and any resident may be required to furnish a valid ID, which is a current PA driver's license with the household address located within the Manor. The committee will consider any registration under question. Signing the waiver indicates the resident acknowledges and accepts the risk of Covid-19 and adherence to CDC guidelines and the SHMHA pool rules.

About our Pool Attendants: The committee determined the pool cannot be open without an Attendant. We are fortunate to have hired a number of competent individuals willing to do the job. If attendants are not available at any given time, the pool will close. This may well be the case toward the end of the season; due to the unavailability of attendants, our hours may be shorter. We will do the best we can to remain open as long as possible. **Please** treat these individuals with respect, and please do not disregard what they tell you. They have a difficult job, and the behavior of a few residents has nearly caused pool attendant resignations this season.

About the rules: The vast majority of our residents have adhered to the revised regs, and many agree with the guidelines, the precautions and the no-guest policy. There have been exceptions: registration forms have listed nonresidents; residents have attempted to (and in one case, did) bring guests; residents have entered the pool area without masks, and residents have been argumentative with our pool attendants and with our office manager. Our employees don't make the rules, but they are asked to abide by and enforce them. We hope the strict measures will be in place only for this one season.

About contacting Board or committee members: ALL communications must go through the Manor Office. The Office Manager forwards the communications to the appropriate committee or to the directors, or both. Calling or emailing Board or committee members at home is not appropriate or even effective. There are good reasons for this policy. 1) The committees and the Board of Directors act together – individual Board or committee members shouldn't make a decision alone, and the participation and contribution of all is an asset. 2) Contacting a committee member or a Board member directly gives the appearance of favors – particularly to those who won't or can't make direct contact. 3) There are over 300 homes in the Manor – if everyone called or even emailed it would be overwhelming. 4) People remember conversations differently. If written communication goes through the Office, and all involved parties are included, there are less misunderstandings. 5) People forget things. Even though they don't intend to, committee members or directors may forget to pass on important information, leading to delays and frustration. If the communication goes through the Office there is a record of the comment, complaint or request, and this is better for everyone.

Please remember, these directors and committee members are volunteers. They are not paid, and it's not a full-time job. They care, they're willing to work for the neighborhood, and they do the best they can. They are also your neighbors, and they are affected by rules and decisions just the same way you are. They are not 'the Association.' We are ALL members of the Association. Thanks for your understanding and consideration.

And thanks for being great neighbors,

Sally Shipley

SHMHA Annual Meeting

Thank you to all that attended the Annual Meeting. We had approximately 21 homes represented. No quorum was needed since it was not attainable at the March 16 meeting.

Highlights of the meeting were discussions about the pool and of course, the election of a new Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors reorganized following the Annual Meeting on June 22.

Board members for the coming year:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Board Member
Board Member
Board Member

Sally Shipley
Tim Miller
Len Kinter
Norm Diebold
Peter Cady
Hope Harris
Laura Kennedy

Committee chairpersons:

Finance
Recreation
Manor Landscape
Ridge Landscape
Maintenance
Communications
Management
Norm Diebold
Hope Harris
Laura Kennedy
Tim Miller
Len Kinter, Sally Shipley
Sally Shipley
Sally Shipley

Interested in serving on a committee? Please contact the Association Office.

A big thank you to the new Board! Being a volunteer is not an easy task, and the people you elected care enough about their community to take on this challenge. Remember, they are residents just like you and share the same issues.

Committees

Architectural Control - Tim Miller, Chair: We have begun a new season of home improvements in the Manor. Over 20 requests for things like painting, window and door replacements, landscaping on the Ridge and other projects have been approved. Keep sending in your requests and the committee works by email votes to provide you quick response.

It is important to remember that you need to submit a request AND receive approval before any work can be completed. This is important because we want to keep the architectural integrity of our community as well as protect everyone by making sure the contracts have the proper insurance.

Also, if you have an interest in joining the committee, contact Tim Miller at TimpMiller@hotmail.com.

Communications - Sally Shipley: The newsletter is available on our website, www.sewickleyheightsmanor.com. A new issue is available when the sign is displayed at the Manor entrance. For the time being, newsletters will not be available in the mailbox or Manor office, due to the threat of Covid-19.

Finance - Norm Diebold - Treasurer: Third Quarter Assessment Due 7/1: Homeowners are encouraged to make their quarterly payments on time. If your payment is received after July 31, you will be charged a late fee of \$50/month. Payment is first applied to late charges, making the assessment short. The Association quickly acts through the courts on unpaid assessments, which could result in garnishing of your checking account or home foreclosure.

Manor Landscape - Laura Kennedy, Chair: The Board of Directors has contracted the cutting of the grass with Sarver Landscape Maintenance Company. The balance of the landscape work, reseeding, planting, bush trimming, etc. will be completed in-house.

When areas are reseeded, or shrubs are planted, residents are asked to water throughout the season.

Ridge Landscape - Tim Miller, Chair: Sarver Landscape Maintenance Company is the company completing the work at the Ridge.

Sarver is not treating planting beds for weeds this year, so there is no need to opt out.

Lawn fertilizing for the Manor and Ridge is completed by Lark Lawn & Landscape. Individual homes may not opt out of fertilizer treatments.

Manor Maintenance - Len Kinter, Sally Shipley, Chairs:

Driveways: Nether Asphalt Sealing will be sealing 48 driveways this summer. Those on the list are: 102-116 LH, 701-711 SHD, 201-211, 301-311 TL, 101-111, 102-116, 201-207 WC, 102-112 WH

Painting, 2020: Arena Painting has started his painting contract. Work was delayed due to Covid-19 and then again due to rain. **Homeowners must make water available for the painter to power wash 2-3 days prior to painting. If water is not available, the work cannot be done.**

Buildings having only their deck painted were:

1001-1011 SHD, 102-108 LH, 701-711, 801-807 TL 102-116, 201-207 WC – *this work is complete.*

Buildings that will be completely painted (awning delay required) are:

402-412, 502-512, SHD, 201-211 FE, 401-411 TS – *this work is complete*

401-411, 501-511, 701-711 SHD, 401-415 TL excluding decks)

Want to purchase a used refrigerator/freezer. Call 412-741-2339.

Staff and Hours of Operation

Robert E. Merriman, Operations Manager
Cameron Connifey, Maintenance Assistant
Susan Moran, Office Manager

Monday – Friday 7 AM - 3:30 PM.
Monday - Friday 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Business Hours M, T, Th, F 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.