



THE LAST WORD • MARCH 2025

EVENTS

March 8th – Wine Tasting

7:00 in the Calvert Room

Theme is 90+ wines, Cost \$20 per person
Contact Jeanne Rosen 412-276-7777 or
jdrsales@comcast.net to reserve your spot

March 16th – St Patrick's Day potluck

4:00 - 7:00

April 12th – Easter Egg Hunt

April 19th – Game Night for Adults

April 26th

Redd Up the Community Day

9:00 – 12:00

May 3rd – Community Yard Sale

May 4th – Pancake Breakfast

May 13th – Election Day Food Drive

May 31st – Splash Bash with Food Truck

June 20 – Blood Drive

12:00 - 6:00 at the Community Center

July 3-4 – Fourth of July Events

August 14th - Southside BBQ food truck block party

September 6th - Fall Event with Burgers and Fries Truck

4:00 - 7:00

October 18th - Halloween Bonfire

October 31st - Halloween Trick or Treating

6:00 - 8:00

November 4th - Election Day Food Drive

November 8th - Cool Weather Cocktail Party

December 7 or 14th- Gingerbread Houses and House Tour

December 24 - Carol Sing



\$50 in 2025

What can you get for \$50 in 2025? One-quarter of one seat to a Steelers game. A few gallons of gas. Approximately 4 eggs. A full year's family membership to the Rosslyn Farms Community Club.

While I am not a certified financial planner, I am confident only one of these options will provide you with an outstanding return on investment. It's the eggs, of course. You can do a lot with four eggs, especially if you don't put them all in one basket.

Ok, fine. It's not the eggs. It's community club membership. We have events throughout the year, and many of them require no additional fee to participate. If you attend just one or two functions in 2025 your membership will be well worth the expenditure. I also guarantee you will have a better time than if you stay at home and cook eggs.

We've already hosted trivia, a kids movie night, and a community happy hour at Caliente. Wine tasting is coming up, along with a few new events including a St. Patrick's Day potluck on March 16, a community game night on April 19, and a season opening pool and block party on May 31. Don't forget about the upcoming kids Easter celebration on April 12. If you befriend the right kid you'll have the chance to collect way more than approximately four eggs. Boom. Your community club membership just paid for itself.

What are you waiting for?! Take the enclosed form, complete it, and return it with your payment (via check or PayPal) today. If delivering the form poses a challenge, text me and I will come by to pick it up from you. If you are already a member, thank you. Feel free to use the form to make an additional contribution.

An investment in the RFCC is an investment in yourself. It's an investment in your neighbors. It's an investment in your community. Not every ROI can be measured financially, and not every neighborhood seeks to bring people together in the way that Rosslyn Farms does. Don't take what you have for granted. Help keep our outstanding tradition of community engagement alive and well. We can only do it together. Thanks for listening. Omelette you go now.

Tim Tobitsch - Rosslyn Farms Community Club President
908-451-9694
gtimothy@gmail.com

NEW NEIGHBORS

115 Edgecliff
Jill Snyder and Richard Murphy

4 Rosslyn Road
Jackie and Ben Foster Markel and their children
Eliana and Christian

16 Winthrop
Jennifer Devine

17 Winthrop
Mary O'Connor and Don Newman



BOOK DISCUSSION



The Rosslyn Farms Book Club meets
at 8:00 pm the third Thursday of every month.
Everyone is welcome!

February 20

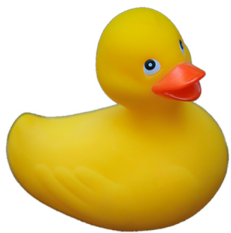
Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan
hosted by Mimi Veri, 3 Revere Road
Mim10@aol.com

March 20

The Women by Kristin Hannah
hosted by Isabel Ford, 218 Puritan Road
isabeljford@gamil.com

April 17

Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil
by John Berendt
hosted by Joy Jones, 414 Kings Highway
joykjones@verizon.net



NEW BABIES

Marcella "Cella" McLuke
daughter of Mariah and Derek and baby sister to Mabel
30 Club Road

Theodore "Teddy" Zacoi
son of Nick and Miranda Zacoi - 309 Kings Highway

COMMUNITY CENTER UPGRADES

Charlie Smith working to replace the
leaning wall outside the boiler room.



GARDEN TOUR

The Rosslyn Farms Garden Club would like
to bring back an event that has had much
success in the past:
The Rosslyn Farms Garden Tour

We would like to feature five gardens in the Farms
followed by a relaxing and fun party at the last garden
with beverages and hors d'oeuvres.
The only requirement of the participating gardeners is
the willingness to open your garden to those
attending. A lot of us are gardeners in some shape or
form, may it be growing perennials, annuals,
vegetables or a whimsical back yard.
It has been in the past on a Sunday afternoon in June.
Please consider having your garden on the tour.
We have many months to inspire our green thumbs.

More to follow in the coming months.

ROSSLYN FARMS



COUNCIL UPDATE

Taking the opportunity to share what Council completed in 2024 and will be focusing on in 2025 and beyond.

Focus of Council in 2024 and 2025

Coming out of the pandemic we solicited feedback from the community on what they thought our priorities should be for the next few years. Having spent a lot of time at home, many people commented about appreciating the breathing room of our relatively quiet community and the ability to enjoy the outdoors. From these discussions came the following priorities:

- 1. Safety** - Need to address speeding and distracted driving on our primary roads that have swelled with thru traffic.
- 2. Recreation** - Strong interest in preserving and/or upgrading our recreation assets
- 3. Connectivity** - Desire to safely connect more residents and children to our recreational assets via pathways & sidewalks

Current Projects and Planned Near-term Initiatives Include:

- Parrish Park Playground
- Sidewalk / pathway through the ballfield to the community garden and truck turnaround
- Sidewalk / pathway through Kings Hwy Park to the community center
- Sidewalk down Pilgrim Rd to the pool
- Community Center maintenance projects
- Recommended repaving of ~ 30% of our roads

Parrish Park Playground

In 2025 we will focus on upgrading the playground in Parrish Park. In addition to the \$500,000 in grants we received, we will use borough funds and private donations to complete this project. Given the topography, a retaining wall will be installed and the ground leveled to make the playground handicapped accessible with appropriate parking. Design will be completed in the Spring/Summer and construction will start in the Fall and continue into the winter months. The combined estimated project cost is \$580,000.

Sidewalks

As stated in the community meeting, better connecting our community was a strong desire of our residents. Our sidewalk focus in 2024 was to work with neighbors to repair existing sidewalks which were cracked or heaving. To make the process easier for everyone and to gain economies of scale, the borough along with the borough engineer coordinated the installation and oversight and then each individual resident paid for their share of the cost. In addition, new sidewalks were installed on Edgecliff where there were some missing sections. And, in 2023/2024 work was completed to connect Winthrop and Sheffield to Club Road and the ballfield through the addition of several new sidewalks. As for new sidewalks in the future, we would like to install: one on Rosslyn Road from the ballfield down past the community garden to the truck turnaround; one on Pilgrim Road down to the pool and then a sidewalk/pathway through the park area on Kings Highway to the Community Center. And finally, a sidewalk from the pool down to the borough line near Llama Ln. We continue to apply for grants to help offset the installation costs, and plan to incrementally proceed as funding becomes available.

Community Center

Most of us enjoy having this great resource at the heart of our community. Whether for community events, space rental for gatherings we can't fit in our own homes, or pre-school, the Rosslyn Farms Community Center is highly utilized. We have endeavored to find a good balance with supporting a home for the Montessori School that benefits young families in the borough and preserving dedicated and shared space for community activities and rentals. It is nice to see the building actively being used. In 2024 we completed several smaller maintenance projects inside and outside the building. In 2025, we plan to replace the aging boiler and the boiler room door, remove the wallpaper and paint the kitchen, and install permanent exterior lighting.

While not the primary focus of the community center, in 2024 the center brought in \$22,000 from the Montessori rental and \$27,000 from general facility rentals. These funds are used to offset the utility and supply costs as well as pay for general maintenance and special projects like the new exterior doors and awnings in the past and the new boiler, boiler room door and exterior lighting this year.



Borough Budget - Funding Ongoing Projects and New Initiatives

Our borough tax revenue and resulting budget is healthy and supports our core services, personnel, equipment, maintenance and several moderately sized projects each year as well as our periodic large expense of road repaving. To help offset the cost of some larger new initiatives, we have pursued grants and donations to bridge the funding gap. Since 2021, we have applied for over 18 grants and received or been awarded five. This resulted in being awarded nearly \$800,000 to date, of which half a million dollars is for a new accessible Parrish Park playground planned to start construction this fall. Other partially grant funded projects were the Edgecliff trail repair, Scheffield storm sewer & paving and pool fence replacement. While it may take a few years, we intend to continue this grant fund-raising strategy until many of these new initiatives are achieved.

Addressing Traditional Priorities (Roads & Sewers)

Roads - A key responsibility of the borough council is maintaining our roads. We completed a road condition assessment this past year which identified approximately \$600,000 of repaving projects that should be done within the next 5 years. Repaving and road maintenance is a priority of our long-term capital planning and use of local tax resources. Given the concern about safety and increased traffic in the community, we conducted a traffic study of several areas in the borough to determine areas where we might want to consider adding speed humps or stop signs. Overall feedback about the two new speed humps and three new stop signs has been positive.

Sewers - We also regularly assess our sewer system with connected residents paying a surcharge for the borough to maintain the system. Surprising to some is that we still have about 30 houses in the borough on septic systems with no access to our sewers. We have been investigating a cost-effective solution to offer sewer access to these residents through various force main connections to the primary system. Since this is generally considered a private property improvement, the cost of the sewer extension will be borne by the residents, unless grant funding can be obtained to help offset the cost. Most property owners abutting Club Road have chosen to move forward with getting force main sewer access as soon as possible. An initial design for sewer connectivity on that street is complete, and the permitting process has begun. Including design and permitting, it takes at least a year to get a system in place to which each resident can independently connect.

How You Can Help

Zoning Codes and Property Maintenance - Even though we are a small borough we still have to follow all the same rules of any borough in Pennsylvania. As you would expect, it also means the borough has to treat all residents uniformly. This applies to certain projects whether big or small and the processes associated with construction permits, code compliance and property upgrades and maintenance requirements. To ensure this is applied uniformly, code enforcement work is facilitated by Harshman Engineering whose contact information is available on the borough website. For a small fee, Harshman can also help residents determine if a code applies to their desired project and what steps they are required to take. Code enforcement is one of the most challenging borough administrative responsibilities. We ask for your understanding and support in making the borough work to the benefit of all its residents.

Community Engagement - When people think of government, they often envision large faceless bureaucratic organizations, and while our borough is an official municipality, we are also very small with only 194 houses. We have to rely upon each other and the faces we recognize to serve in the various elected, appointed and volunteer roles and committees required by state code and our neighborhood groups.

While sometimes a challenge, it has also been an opportunity that has allowed us to carefully shift to the ever-changing needs of modern society while retaining much of what has made our small neighborhood unique over the last 120 years. If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please reach out to someone on Council to learn more.

There are many ways we work together to continue to keep Rosslyn Farms a special and unique place to live and to raise our families. We have a great tradition of caring for each other and have wonderful examples from past neighbors who have given us the community we have today. If you have time, expertise, or just want to help nudge a project or initiative along, please reach out to your neighbors or the borough. In Rosslyn Farms it is easy for you to have a positive impact on our community.



Rosslyn Farms Community Club 2025 Annual Membership Form

Our club is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) social welfare organization. Your membership will include a copy of the biennial Rosslyn Farms directory, adult and kids' events, a subscription to our newsletter "The Last Word," community updates, and the opportunity to contribute to the beautification and quality of life of our community.

Family membership - \$50 Individual membership - \$25

Cash/Check
(Payable to Rosslyn Farms Community Club)

Paypal (Rosslynfarmscommunityclub@gmail.com)

Return form and payment by February 25 to: Isabel Ford, 218 Puritan Road, Carnegie, PA 15106

Emails will be used to send out community communications as well as a copy of the Last Word.

Your Address, Name(s), Phone Number(s), and Email(s):

Resident's Address

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number

First Name's Email Address for community communication

Include email in directory (yes/no)

First Name

Last Name

Phone Number

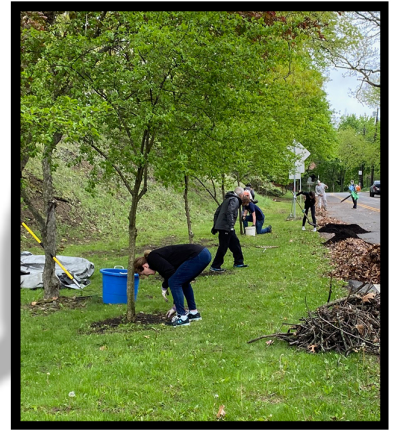
Second Name's Email Address for community communication

Include email in directory (yes/no)

We can always use help planning, setting up and cleaning up after events. Can you help?

_____ I would be interested in chairing or helping with an event.

Have an event you would like to see the Community Club host? Tell us about it: _____



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

Reminder: Please take in your trash cans by the end of the day.

FRI FEB 28 GARBAGE	FRI MARCH 7 GARBAGE+ RECYCLE	FRI MARCH 14 GARBAGE
FRI MARCH 21 GARBAGE	FRI MARCH 28 GARBAGE+ RECYCLE	FRI APRIL 4 GARBAGE



ROSSLYN FARMS COMMUNITY CLUB

Don't forget to send in your membership form. The new directories will be distributed to members who pay their dues. The dues help to pay for the cost of the bi-annual directory, offset the cost of many of our events and pay for the printed Last Word.

Please join us to golf in the Pat Kennedy Open (PKO)

The PKO is a golf outing fundraiser in memory of Pat Kennedy who lived on Revere Road



DATE: Monday, June 23rd

PLACE: Shannopin Country Club

COST: \$200 per golfer

**Includes: golf, coffee and donuts,
lunch, dinner and prizes**

Don't Golf? Then join us for dinner!

*Proceeds benefit Achieva and
Partners for Quality*

Please contact Mary Lou Gegick at
marylougegick@gmail.com
with any questions or further details.

Hope to see you there!

FLAVIN BROTHERS

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & INSTALLATION

Changing the Landscape of Rosslyn Farms
For 60 Years

SNOW REMOVAL

YARD CLEAN-UPS

Weeding	Fertilization
Thatching	Treework
Gutter Cleaning	Free Aeration - Ask for details

STONE WORK

Driveways	Sidewalks
Patios	Steps

HAULING

Debris Removal	River Rock
Demolition	Limestone
Topsoil	Mushroom Manure
Mulch	We have a 30 yard dumpster at our supply to remove all your hard to get rid of items

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JOHN FLAVIN 412-983-0665

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