



Art by Craneridge community member Lynda Stidham (Hemlock House Artistry)

December 2020

WINTER NEWSLETTER

The Benefits of Living in an HOA

Architectural Controls – Craneridge has a unique look and feel and with that, members are required to submit for approval, any modification projects to the exterior of their home. The Architectural Committee reviews each submittal to ensure consistency and continuity with original community design standards.

Increased Community Engagement – Our Community gatherings and activities such as Movies in the Meadow or holiday themed pool shelter parties bring neighbors closer together.

Access to Amenities – Craneridge features a swimming pool, pool shelter, barbecue pits, horseshow pits, meadow shelter and fire pit, basketball and volleyball courts, a playground, and open fields at the meadow that are all available to members in good standing use.

Increased Community Pride – Community activities and events help bring neighbors together, which increases pride within the community.

Rules and Regulations– Each member that owns a home in the community is held to the same set of standards for the upkeep of the exterior of their home.

Community Bonding and Communication among Neighbors – A great way to make new friends and offer a great sense of community.

Helps Maintain Property Values – One of the HOA board's main responsibilities is to maintain or increase the property values within the community. They do this by looking after the community with great care.

Craneridge Association Inc.

69 Hardwood Rd.

Glenwood, NY 14069

craneridgeassociationinc@gmail.com

<https://craneridge.org>

President's Message

Hello Neighbors!

To say that this has been a different year would be my “captain obvious” moment. That said, there are many things that I am proud of! First, I am proud of the Board and their complete flexibility to meet on behalf of our Community. They have met in person with restrictions, on-line and on-line with public. There has been a great concern for transparency and I believe that we have accomplished that task. Second, despite many delays, we did have an annual meeting and it was one the best attended meetings in a long time. Much was discussed and much direction was agreed upon despite horrendous restrictions. Third, are the committees and the work that they continue to do under very difficult conditions. There is still measurable progress despite the loss of much accessibility. Last, is the pool committee and its Chairpersons, Marty Kemsley and Amy Schaul. This summer more than ever, we needed access to this community amenity. There were many hurdles presented and everything worked out, which included the co-operation of the community.

As we move forward, there is much that is unknown. That said, I am sure that we will continue to operate the business of Craneridge at a high level. We all look forward to the day when COVID restrictions are in the rear view mirror. Until that time, we need to keep everyone safe. I hope all the best for you and your family. Thanksgiving and Christmas will be different as we continue to learn. More than ever, we continue to adapt and progress. Please be safe and Thank you for all your support and the blessing of your future contributions!

Jeff Randall
President,
Craneridge HOA Board



Vice President's Report by Chuck Dickhut

At the November Board of Director's meeting I was appointed Chair of the By-Laws Committee. Our current By-Laws, to a large extent, are more than 50 years old. Times have changed in the last 50 years and parts of our by-Laws need to be updated.

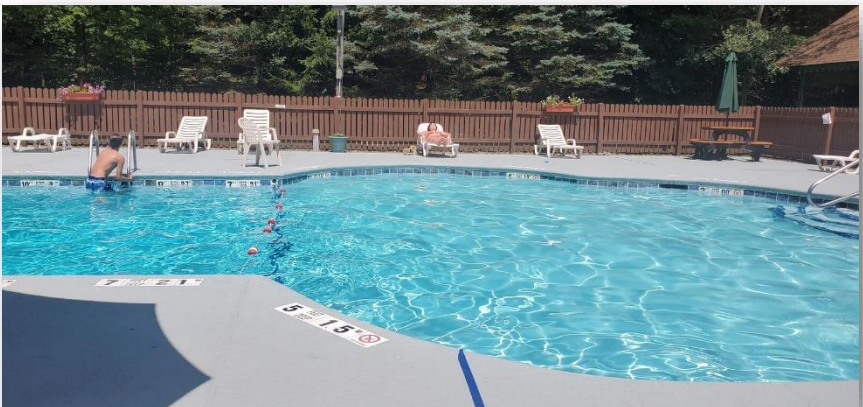


My goal is to strengthen the Covenants and by-Laws where necessary, to address problems we have faced and were not addressed in the current format. We must also ensure that our governing documents are in compliance with current New York State Laws. The changes, when approved by the Board of Directors, will be on the agenda of the Annual Meeting. I am asking all residents to e-mail me any suggestions they may have to improve our Covenants and by-Laws. Send your comments to CDickhut2@aol.com.



Pool Committee News

Thanks to all the Pool Committee volunteers, the lifeguards and the community ---- the 2020 Pool Season was safe and successful! The pool was totally resurfaced in May and looks better than it has in many years! COVID 19 regulations and restrictions were a challenge and although inconvenient we were effective in providing the community with many enjoyable days! Attendance was similar to past years, including the daily water aerobics. We look forward to the 2021 Season with hope we can enjoy this wonderful asset to the community once again!



Welcoming Committee Updates

The Welcome Committee has been very busy this summer and fall with the many new neighbors who have joined our community. We actually had to take a brief pause to allow us to restock on the materials we distribute.

One of our biggest challenges is identifying new neighbors as they arrive. In addition to warmly greeting someone who moves in near you, feel free to notify Jan Freeman (jmfdvm22@gmail.com) so that the committee can also reach out to them.

If anyone would like to have gift certificates/coupons from their business added to our packet, please let Jan know. Current welcome packets contain \$50 of value donated by area businesses. We can't thank them enough for their generosity during these challenging times.

If you are a new neighbor reading this and have not yet been contacted, sit tight...we should get to you soon. We hope we don't frighten you (since we will be wearing masks), but know that we are neither sales people nor census takers. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact Jan or one of the other Welcome Committee or Board members. Our contact information is on the website: <https://craneridge.org>



Social Committee News

While the past 9 months have put a big damper on both personal and community wide activities, the newly formed Craneridge Social Committee is hard at work and looking forward to a corona-FREE 2021.

Our new committee members are Leslie Hornung & Michael Korchynski (co-chairs), Kelly Campbell, Butch and Lorena Lesniak, Amanda Bowen and Vianka Krasnik.

While we had hoped to host an activity filled family holiday event, the Grinch LITERALLY stole Christmas this year, so we will have a smaller Covid compliant event on Sunday, December 6th @ 4:30 pm at the Pool Shelter.

Early 2021, please watch for a community-wide census which will solicit information from our residents regarding family make-up, ages of children, activity preferences, etc. Please complete the survey as this will help us understand who makes up our community and what types of events would be most appropriate. We have lots of new residents and want to hear from everyone! If you have questions or ideas please feel free to reach out to Leslie or Michael. In the meantime, happy holidays to all and stay safe!



Craneridge Website Updates

The Communications Committee is finally redesigning and updating the Craneridge website. All the hard work is being done by Rory Rinaldi. We hope to have the new website done by Dec. 7th, so please check-out <https://craneridge.org> after that for updates!



The Joys of Volunteering

by: Amanda Bowen



I have found volunteering in Craneridge to bring great reward along with a huge sense of community and friendships that will last a lifetime. There will always be differences of opinion as we live in a diverse neighborhood but I have learned over the decades that the more we engage, the more we can come together as a unified community. I myself have made friends with people I thought I had nothing in common with. I decided to share some ways you too can volunteer and add value to the community.

HOAs are governing bodies found within common-interest communities, such as a planned neighborhood. They're run and funded by residents (members) and have a board of directors. The board organizes regular meetings, establishes and maintains budgets, and enforces the rules and regulations.

Your home can grow in value when you volunteer within your HOA community. Here are some ways we can all step up to plate and add value:

1. Serve on the Board of Directors. Ours is a 9 member board and the more diverse the better for the overall community.
2. Join in a committee. We have a handful of committees that offer an array of work that you can offer your talents to.
3. Start a neighborhood watch program. Perhaps traffic watch or stray dogs. Work with local law enforcement to keep our community safe.
4. Help keep the community clean / possibly sign up to help keep dog waste stations empty & stocked or create a trash clean up crew. Cleanliness is the cornerstone of high property values and we can always improve upon this.
5. Volunteer for large projects. Our most recent was resurfacing the pool. We also have a committee formed to look into our lighting district that we are all paying for on our tax bill.
6. Plan events. You don't have to necessarily sit on a committee to help with planning a large event. Perhaps you have contacts or resources that would enrich the neighborhood experience.
7. Help the board. You can offer to help with the formatting of our newsletter or written contributions. You can offer specialized skill sets such as communications or digital web design. Perhaps offer to deliver flyers to residents door to save on postage. There are those who currently help to maintain our web presence. Whatever your skill set, your talents and time will add value to the community and thus add value to your home.

Homes in communities with a homeowners association are typically listed and sell for 5-6% more than counterpart homes in areas without an HOA. I encourage you to reach out and volunteer. You will find a great reward in doing so!

The Craneridge Architectural Vibe...

A VERY brief history by Shannon Wichlacz

Craneridge was originally developed as a weekend retreat for skiers. You can see that the architectural designs of many of our homes were greatly influenced by skiing's cultural origins in Europe, which explains the prominence the "Alpine" style of architecture. Other prominent styles include the A-Frame and the Gothic Arch Parabolic design. I've always been curious about their history, so I wanted to share with you below, what I found!

The Ski Chalet

Historically, a chalet was a type of alpine building or house in the mountainous regions of Europe, typically constructed from wood with a sloping roof, built for areas with larger levels of snowfall. Chalets were originally used to house herders of dairy cattle. Their purpose was to store milk and butter in Switzerland and French Savoy during summer months. During the winter months, the chalets would remain locked up and closed for the season. Around the turn of the last century outdoor enthusiasts discovered they could travel to these alpine regions, and herders discovered the market for these vacationers and began offering their homes for people to stay. The architectural trend gained traction when architects in the 1960s in Vail, Colorado, and Stratton, Vermont, envisioned the newly opened ski resorts as compact mini-European villages with lodging, restaurants, and shopping.



21 Ridge Trail

The A-Frame

The A-Frame was born of practicality—allowing heavy snowfalls to slide off pitched roofs. In 1934, Rudolph Schindler designed what would be one of the first known vacation A-Frames homes in the United States. Created in Lake Arrowhead, California, this house marked the beginning of the A-Frame's rise to popularity among the American middle class. The A-Frame rose in popularity after WWII and the craze continued to grow through the early 1970's. Eventually the structures were in such high demand that many companies and institutions offered prefab A-Frame kits. However, popularity of the A-frame style house dropped in popularity throughout the 80's and 90's, as it was considered to be rather tacky and lowbrow. Slowly, the A-Frame faded in popularity and many were torn down or fell into disrepair. But now, there has been a huge resurgence and A-Frames are in the spotlight once again! Search the hashtag #aframe on Instagram or 'A-Frame' on Pinterest and you'll see!



22 Woodstock

The Gothic Arch Parabolic Design

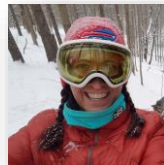
This style was harder to find a solid history, compared to the other two. Created sometime in the 13th century as a way to build bigger church windows (and then bigger churches), the Gothic arch was revolutionary for its ability to distribute weight over a broad open area without collapsing. The attractive shape of the arch naturally resists wind and snow loads. In the late 60s and 70s, anyone with basic carpentry skills could have a DIY Gothic A-frame kit shipped up from North Vancouver, starting at around \$12,000. "Cheap" has always been an integral part of ski culture, so the Gothic "A" quickly became the go-to design for a weekend ski cabin in a very unproven, and reputedly wild, little town in the mountains. The Gothic Arch hut design has also played an important role in the development of mountaineering, ski-touring, and rock climbing pursuits within the Coast Mountains.



23 Ridge Trail

Winter Hiking at Sprague Brook Park

by: Shannon Wichlacz



I love to hike. If I am ever in a bad mood, I know that if I just step outside my house and into Sprague Brooke Park (SBP) for a hike, that I will immediately feel better. There's something healing about those woods, and living in Craneridge we are privileged to have Sprague Brook as our backyard. SBP is fabulous in the summer time, as the landscape becomes lush green, and the paths are surrounded by ferns. In the Fall, the woods become a beautiful canopy of colored leaves. But winter is my favorite hiking season: the snow coats the ground and trees in a magical beauty. The surrounding woods are a relaxing quiet, the air is crisp, and all you hear is the crunch of the snow under your boots. These aesthetics refresh both the soul and the body. Plus, it's a great form of exercise for those somber winter months.

Tips for Winter Hiking

1. Always wear layers! Avoid bulky jackets and snow pants (unless it's below freezing). Avoid wearing cotton; instead wear synthetic fabric that wicks moisture away from your body. Try to wear thin layers, as you *will sweat!* It's easier to remove thin layers than to remove one bulky coat. Since I hike for exercise, I usually warm-up quickly after 5 minutes into the hike. I know I need to wear less clothing than I think, depending on the temp. For instance, in 25 degree weather, I'm good with a pair of opaque tights paired with long yoga pants. On top, I'll wear thin layers that I can easily remove, like a base-layer long sleeve, a fleece-lined hoodie and a thin windproof shell. Throw on a thin fleece hat and liner gloves and I'm good to go!
2. Wear adequate boots! I prefer Muck boots in the winter. They are warm, waterproof and tall. Sometimes I will also wear a good pair of water-resistant hiking boots paired with high leg gaiters to prevent the snow from entering the tops of my boots. My advice is to look for boots with Vibram soles for icy surfaces. Or if it's really icy, consider attaching some microspikes to your boots for extra traction, or in deep snow, wear snowshoes.
3. Don't forget to hydrate! It's easy to become dehydrated during winter activities. Because of the cold, your body is fooled into thinking it's properly hydrated, e.g. *you don't feel as thirsty and your body doesn't conserve water.* The body doesn't get as hot, and sweat evaporates more rapidly in the cold air. Thus, we're tricked into thinking we aren't losing fluids as rapidly.

Winter Hiking Etiquette

At SBP, we share the trails with Fat Bikers and Cross Country Skiers, as such there are some "rules" that you may not be aware of:

1. **Leave No Trace:** If you encounter a small patch of mud: walk through it, not around it. When the trail is muddy, stay ON the existing trail and do not create new ones by going outside of the trail. Why? To prevent trail widening which damages surrounding flora and fauna. (*i.e. wear adequate footwear!!!*)
2. **Avoid Post-holing:** It's a common courtesy among winter hikers to wear snowshoes when hiking on winter trails that are covered in *unpacked snow deeper than 8 inches*. If there is 8 or more inches of unpacked snow on the trail, bring your snowshoes! Trails that have been cratered by someone postholing are extremely annoying to walk and ride on.
3. Avoid the designated **Cross-Country ski trails** and stay out of ski tracks.

..and most importantly.... Have Fun this Winter!

If there are any Craneridge Ladies who want to hike, but don't want to go alone, feel free to text me (Shannon) for a hiking buddy this winter! 716-432-4778

Home Buying: The 2020 Experience

by: Ashley Jacobson

I feel it goes without saying that 2020 has been difficult. For some, this year has offered many obstacles and we have all felt the 2020 pain in one way or another. I myself have been trying to adjust to an entirely “new normal,” which has certainly been a strange and unusual experience and has us all asking “When will it end?”

Though I may be holding onto my own resentments about the hand that 2020 has dealt us, there has been one good thing that has come out of this year: My husband and I finally made the plunge into first-time home-ownership right here in Craneridge!

When my husband and I first decided to buy a house here in Craneridge, it was around late January to early February right before the shutdowns started. The home-buying process went from face-to-face interactions and sit down meetings to mandatory masks and social distancing. Our first meeting with the lender was done in person and then the document signing was sent to us electronically. Even the walk-throughs with the realty agent went from a personable experience to him not even being able to enter the premises during the final walk through.

Despite all these changes and restrictions, we have found solace in being located in such a serene surrounding. The wonderful woodland sights are a welcome distraction from everything else going on in the world right now. We moved here from the Hamburg area and the first week we moved in, it took some time (but not too long) to get used to how quiet it is around here. Now, our trips back to the city are a good reminder of why we wanted to move somewhere more peaceful.



*Ashley & her husband Jared,
celebrating their new home
in Craneridge!*

Over the summer, we have had a lot of time to explore the area and we love how close we are to Sprague Brook Park and Kissing Bridge. Both my husband and I grew up in the Ellicottville area, so this area has the nostalgic reminder of “home.” Everyone we have encountered in this community has been so friendly and helpful. Every interaction we have had so far, has assured us that we made the right decision moving to Craneridge.

We are so thrilled to be starting our new chapter here and building our own little nest. In the midst of everything that is going on, we are truly grateful to be a part of this community and blessed to have found a home here. We hope everyone stays safe and we hope to meet more neighbors soon!

Thank You Volunteers!

The Board would like to thank all those who Volunteer their time to make Craneridge an amazing community. Craneridge is a small community that is entirely run by volunteers. As such, we'd like to thank the following community members:

gratitude

Architectural Committee Members: Debbie Dietrich, Paul Bartholomy, Jim Belford & Adam Wichlacz. (Chair: Jennifer Parsons | 592-0170)

Maintenance Committee Members: Ted Welch, Eric Twichell, Ron Krasnek, Gary Bingeman, Cheryl Spencer, Mo Spencer & Jim Belford. (Chair: Adam Wichlacz | 725-1864)

Social Committee Members: Amanda Bowen, Kelly Campbell, Butch and Lorena Lesniak & Vianka Krasnik. (Co-Chairs: Leslie Hornung & Michael Korchynski | 261-8051)

Pool Committee Members: Jackie Wells, Jen Parsons, Dave Spillman & Kelly Campbell. (Co-Chairs: Amy Shaul (628-3642) & Marty Kemsley (592-4542))

Woodlands Committee Members: Cory Bowen, Alan Miano, & Kelly Campbell. (Chair: Jeff Randall | 913-6507)

Finance Committee Members: Jeff Randall, Chuck Dickhut, Dennis Donner & Shannon Wichlacz. (Chair: Rich Barber | 913-9169)

Bylaws Committee Members: *Need new members* (Chair: Chuck Dickhut | 592-3571)

Communications Committee Members: Chuck Dickhut, Cory Bowen, Rich Barber, Ashley Jacobson & Rory Rinaldi. (Chair: Shannon Wichlacz | 432-4778)

Welcoming Committee Members: Marilyn Dickhut & Natalie Rinaldi. (Chair: Jan Freeman | 592-3923)

Dog Poop Station Clean-up Volunteers: Shirley Skinner, Ina Randall, Shannon Wichlacz, Kathy McDonnell, Pricilla Dale, David Spillman, David Reese & Sharon Borganowski (Organizer: Jan Freeman | 592-3923)

To Volunteer:

*Contact the Chair of each committee above
or e-mail: craneridgeassociationinc@gmail.com*

Architectural Committee News

The Architectural Committee would like to thank all of the residents who have submitted approval requests in the last year for their planned changes to their properties. We try to aid Craneridge owners in making improvements to their property that will increase value and livability. The vast majority of requests are approved. In the rare cases where we do not approve a request, we will try to work with you to accommodate the change that is desired.

Our Committee is comprised of five members, who vote on each request; the majority of the approvals are unanimous. Any change to your home's exterior or topographical changes that affect drainage should be submitted to the Committee for review in order to ensure that it will not affect your neighbor's property. Changes inside your home do not need to be submitted. Guidelines are on the Craneridge website, as are the approval form that can be submitted electronically.



The Architectural Committee Project Form is available on the website at www.craneridge.org. The Committee has 30 days to approve it, so please think ahead and plan before construction begins. We will work with you to progress the approval quickly.

Woodlands Committee Updates



The Woodlands Committee was functioning at a lower level this summer season due to COVID restrictions. We did have a successful tree give away day at the pool which was very observant of regulations. In addition to the Erie County Forestry relationship, we also now participate in the DEC program "Buffer in a Bag" program that focuses on streambank stabilization.

- The bidding process for tree removal was difficult, once the tree care vendors were deemed essential, they were very busy. We have bid out removal of eleven (11) trees that will be completed before December 15th. There continues to be Woodland requests and we will focus on those requests as well. FYI: the submission form is available on the website. All requests must be made with this form and a copy of your property survey.
- Looking forward, this committee will be working on a master plan which includes trees, paths and invasive species. The committee always look forward to your input and would enjoy additional members going forward. Please consider!
- Please contact Jeff Randall (913-6507) to help oversee the maintenance of the Common Ground woodlands. Remember to contact the Woodlands Committee if you are planning any tree removals. Please go to the website at www.craneridge.org to get submission forms and review the guidelines.

Quotes about Community:

"In every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it."
– **Marianne Williamson**

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
– **Coretta Scott King**

"We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community."
– **Dorothy Day**

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."
– **Sherry Anderson**

"It is not more bigness that should be our goal. We must attempt, rather, to bring people back to the warmth of community, to the worth of individual effort and responsibility, and of individuals working together as a community, to better their lives and their children's future."
– **Robert F. Kennedy**

Craneridge - Board of Directors

Jeff Randall (*term ends 2022*)

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Chuck Dickhut (*term ends 2022*)

Vice President

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Cory Bowen (*term ends 2023*)

Secretary

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Rich Barber (*term ends 2023*)

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Director

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Leslie Hornung (*term ends 2023*)

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Anne Mahoney

Executive Secretary

716-812-7071 | ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com



WELCOME TO THE *Neighborhood*

WELCOME New Residents!

100 Deer Run - Dylan Smoot

106 Tarn Trail - James Fabiszewski

11 Crane - Lucinda & Terry Griswald

116 Deer Run - Angela Jackson Bailey

129 Deer Run - Nicholas Seguin

28 Woodstock - Brian Pyjas

38 Woodstock - Faye Turner

48 Hardwood - Ken Hilton

73 Tarn Trail - Mark Bell

95 Meadow Tr. - Tyler Rowe & Rebecca Fox Jerrell



Want to help save the HOA money on Newsletter printing and postage costs?

Please sign-up to get the Newsletters e-mailed. You can also sign-up to receive your general mailings and owner account billings via e-mail only. This is also a way to add or update your e-mail and phone number in the online directory.

Sign-up via the link below:

<https://craneridge.org/signup>