

# PARCR NEWSLETTER

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## **Green Ridge Village**

After President Elma Kreps called the meeting to order, Pastor Diane McElwee offered the opening prayer. Dan Davis, the Executive Director of Green Ridge Village, welcomed the delegates and visitors. He then gave a brief review of the history of Green Ridge Village, reporting that Presbyterian Homes, Inc. began here with the gift of the Parker home and farm. At first, Mrs. Parker's home was used as a home for widows and single women. Through the years, other buildings were added such as the Swaim Health Center and The Manor for Assisted Living. In 1978, apartments and cottages were begun for Independent Living accommodations. Now, the first six of what eventually will be 24 lodges are nearing completion. Soon, 10 apartments will be built attached to Green Hall, and in the future, an apartment building is planned for Parker Hill, where the original home stood. The present cottages, lodges, and other buildings occupy approximately 125 acres, and another 125 acres is currently being planted with trees and other plantings and set aside for later development.

Elma called on Bill George to call the roll. Representatives from the following communities were present: Bethany Village, Brethren Home Community, Cumberland Crossing, Garden Spot Village, Green Ridge Village, Homestead Village, Homewood at Plum Creek, Landis Homes, Luther Ridge, Masonic Village, Menno Haven, Normandy Ridge, Sprenkle Village, Ware Presbyterian, and Woodcrest. A representative from Jenners Pond Home stood and announced that their membership for this year had been paid. In addition, Quincy Village had made 10 reservations but had to cancel because of a funeral.

Among those who spoke of plans and changes in their communities were the following. The Executive Director of Bethany Village, Angela Dohrman, has been promoted to Vice President of Wesley Affiliated Services for Pennsylvania. The new executive, Melissa Hadley, will start on Monday. Bethany now has 632 residents. Brethren Home told us that fund raising for a new wellness and fitness center is now in the planning stage. Garden Spot Village now has 232 apartments with plans for a new 6 story addition of 72 more units, 315 cottages and carriage homes, 40 skilled nursing beds with a new addition of 36 beds to open late July or early August, 72 assisted living beds and 24 memory support beds. All of these facilities are presently 100% occupied. The total census of residents is 850, with a staff of 250. Homestead reported that they are now celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They had a team of 14 at the Lancaster County Senior Games. They now have an Alzheimer's Support Group. Homewood at Plum Creek has 24 buildings currently under construction. They will host next July's PARCR meeting. Landis Homes recently dedicated the new Memory Garden. Currently, Aspen and Cedar Buildings, two of the original buildings, are being refurbished. Ed Longenecker, the long time Executive Director, and a good friend of PARCR, is retiring. Luther Ridge, a part of Luther Social Services, now has all but 3 cottages filled. They report that the new residents are younger than before and there are more couples. A new bus has been purchased. Masonic Village reported that the 102 recently built cottages are now filled. 126 apartments are to be built at Sycamore Square, and are 83% signed up for. Ground breaking for this project will be in the

fall. A new building is to be built for Emergency Medical Service, with much support from the community. At the Elizabethtown Village there are now 1400 residents of whom 800 are Independent residents, now called Retirement Residents. Menno Haven is planning ground breaking next month for 60 apartments. Five more villas are being built in the Northfield section, all contracted for. There are a few cottages available because of transfers to Assisted Living. The Nursing area has been refurbished. Normandy Ridge now has between 300 and 350 residents, and is full now. They are refurbishing some cottages. Sprengle Village has a new Executive Director who is shared with Kelly Village. They also have a new resident nurse coordinator and a new marketing director. They have a problem with feral cats. Woodcrest Village has 32 villas to be completed by Thanksgiving. The total population of Woodcrest Villas is 858.

Frank Lookingbill, the Membership Chairman, reported that there are currently 21 paid community members and 27 Associate Members. He reminded the delegates that it is now time to renew memberships and urged communities to pay for the coming year. The Program Chairman, George Tjiattas, mentioned the plan for a panel to discuss ways various communities handle some of the questions confronting us. He also spoke about other possible programs for the future. Hugh Fitzgerald, the chairman for Legislative questions, reminded all to make very sure that the Prescription Plan which one adopts is thoroughly understood. The doughnut hole can cause serious problems for some.

Elma called on Kit Franklin, from Green Ridge Village, who was speaking on behalf of the Central Pennsylvania Clean Air Board. The Clean Air Board is a local faith based group of concerned citizens who have realized that there is a real problem in our area. Cumberland County's air does not even meet the Federal Clean Air Act standards because of the heavy load of particulate matter (soot), and is among the 2% most polluted counties in the USA for soot. Local doctors, as long as 7 years ago, noticed an increase in asthma problems, especially among children and seniors. In August of 2005, 100 doctors published an open letter asking for action. The Clean Air Board is collecting signatures on a resolution. Delegates and visitors to PARCR as senior residents and voters are encouraged to sign the resolution, and to communicate with elected representatives asking for help with this important health issue. Although the Clean Air Board is specifically representing Cumberland County, residents of other near by counties certainly are invited and encouraged to sign the petition. A copy will be attached to the Newsletter. The Clean Air Board is also working with trucking companies to reduce truck idling time. They have gotten the state Department of Environmental Protection to monitor air quality in the Carlisle area. The delegates passed a resolution expressing PARCR's concern and supporting the work of the Clean Air Board.

Evert Fuller, our Secretary, spoke of the need for some equipment to assist in the work of keeping touch with the communities in PARCR. A Laser printer, a lap top computer and a postage meter machine would greatly assist in that work.

George Tjiattas introduced the members of the panel he had asked to participate in the program. Eunice Knowles of Normandy Ridge, Bud Endler from Homewood at Plum Creek, Bill George from Garden Spot Village, Stuart Dickson, Green Ridge Village and George Tjiattas of Bethany Village. The first topic discussed was how Communities provide for residents who can no longer pay for their care. Bethany Village has a care Assurance Fund. Each of the panel members had similar funds on

which to report. Garden Spot Village Benevolent Fund currently has \$1,400,000.00, 75% of the interest can be spent with the remaining 25% going back into the fund. The goal is to reach 10 million dollars. Menno Haven reported that Franklin County is attempting to refuse property tax exemption because the resident's contract guarantees life time care. That is now the basis of a court case. Masonic Homes also said their resident's contract guarantees life time care, but other communities said that while no one is ever refused care because their funds have run out; it is not a part of the contract. The second topic raised was how communities make new residents feel welcome. Various kinds of welcoming committees were mentioned, as well as some efforts by community administration, One idea mentioned was a Welcoming Party giving new residents and other residents the opportunity to mix and get better acquainted. The final topic asked how communities intellectually stimulate residents. Normandy Ridge has a Weekly Men's Group where various topics are discussed. Green Ridge Village has a Weekly Coffee and Conversation with several kinds of discussions, and First Monday, with speakers, music, and other kinds of programs. Sprenkle Village and Kelly have the Institute for Life Long Learning, an educational program, originally begun in cooperation with a college, but now carried on independently. The dues are \$5.00 per person.

After lunch, the business meeting resumed. Dick Morris, the Treasurer, presented the budget for the coming year which was approved. A motion was made to explore getting a grant to purchase the equipment needed by the secretary. It was estimated that the amount would be approximately \$3000.00. A committee of several volunteers was appointed.

Elma Kreps gave a brief annual report, mentioning the July 2005 meeting at Masonic Village and the October meeting at Garden Spot Village, with Steve Lindsay giving his interesting program on changing attitudes in senior care. The January meeting, 2006, was at Bethany Village with Senator Pat Vance, and in April the meeting was at Quincy Village where Dick Morris reported on the annual meeting of NaCCRA. Once again, PARCR had the chance to be at the PANPHA meeting, and Elma thanked those who had set up the booth and manned it. Elma reported that the 21 member communities of PARCR represent at least 12000 residents.

Bill George gave the report of the Nominating Committee: Elma Kreps and Frank Lookingbill, co-presidents; First Vice-President George Tjiattas; Second Vice-President, Frank Vaughan; Secretary, Evert Fuller; Treasurer, Dick Morris; Assistant Treasurer, Bob Baughan; Legislative Chair; Hugh Fitzgerald. The report of the committee was approved and the officers elected. The next meeting will be at Normandy Ridge, York, PA, October 11

## **News from Our Communities**

### **.Bethany Village**

The Bethany Village Garden Club is in its twenty-ninth year of continuous operation. Thirty-two Bethany residents had gardens the first year in an area that is now cleared on the east campus. In 2004, the garden was moved to its present site. That year there were sixteen gardeners, and in 2005 twenty-five gardeners, and this year there are thirty-one gardeners. The gardeners grow many kinds of vegetables along with annual

flowers and some perennials. Garden plots range in size from 250 square feet to over 750 square feet. Garden produce is used by the gardeners and their neighbors. Following a tradition started by Dr. Carl Young, they place produce on tables on the campus for residents to take for a contribution to the Bethany Village Garden Club. That money is used to purchase equipment and materials, and for contributions by the club for Bethany Village activities.

On Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Peach Festival will be held. There will be fresh produce this year and ample pies, dumplings, cookies, barbecue, hot dogs, vegetable and chicken corn soup. Peach sundaes will also be for sale.

### **The Brethren Home Community – Cross Keys Village**

In the endeavor to make the Cross Keys Village campus safer, several speed tables will be installed this summer. Unlike speed bumps, the new speed tables are designed to allow comfortable travel up to 15 mph. Above 15 mph the ride becomes more abrupt. The tables are 12 feet long and will span the width of the road. The speed tables will be built in conjunction with village road repairs and West campus street paving. The entire project is scheduled to begin mid July and last several weeks.

### **Landis Homes**

A Share-A-Meal Adventure to benefit the Landis Homes Caring Fund will be introduced at Fellowship Day, September 9<sup>th</sup>. A host or hostess will choose a day and time (after September 9<sup>th</sup>) to prepare and serve a favorite meal to a specified number of unknown guests, as a donation to the Landis Homes Caring Fund. On Fellowship Day, in the auction tent, a Share-A-Meal booth will display many individual posters, each showing a specific date and time that various hosts and hostesses have chosen to serve a meal. Beginning at 8:00 a. m. buyers may purchase tickets for the meals of their choice. Cost For each meal ticket will be \$20.00.

### **Quincy Village**

Last year, Quincy's skilled nursing and personal care staff began a multi-year process called Culture Change, a different approach to long term care which is more like a community than a hospital. Culture change has many facets but typically includes more resident input and choices and less institutional-looking facilities. One small but attractive first step was a recent contest challenging the staff to redecorate the three nurses stations in Colestock. Next, the residents and staff are choosing wallpaper and other decorations to make the old "tub rooms" into more appealing and home like bath rooms.

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**Clean Air Board of Central Pennsylvania  
Resolution Regarding Air Quality in Cumberland County and Near By Region**

**Whereas**, pollution from diesel engine emissions has been proven to be harmful to our health. Diesel exhaust Can contain 40 hazardous air pollutants, 15 of which are known human carcinogens. Fine particles from diesel emissions have been linked to heart attacks, asthma, stroke, stunted lung growth and premature death. Children and seniors are at the greatest risk from these emissions; (1) and

**Whereas**, air quality has been shown to be especially degraded in Cumberland County and EPA has Designated the County as being in non-attainment of fine particle (PM2.5) and ozone standards. The average Lifetime diesel soot cancer risk here is 393 times greater than the accepted EPA cancer level of one in one Million. (2) Cumberland County is among the 2% most polluted counties in the nation for fine particle Pollution; (3) and

**Whereas**, in August 2005 more than 100 doctors in the region submitted a paid advertisement to local media \citing statistics about air pollution and attributing the problem primarily to fine particle pollution from diesel exhaust and the heavy concentration of trucks in the area. The doctors called for “proper and insightful environmental planning” to curb the growth of trucking; (4) and

**Whereas**, “the earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it,” as the Psalmist says, and human beings are called to be Responsible stewards of God’s creation;

**Therefore**, the undersigned members of the central Pennsylvania faith community hereby ask that:

1. Planning and municipal authorities in the area take air quality factors into account in land use planning decisions, particularly with regard to diesel trucks and busses that contribute to air quality degradation.
2. Cumberland County enact ordinances to limit air pollution from the idling of diesel powered vehicles.
3. Truck facilities in Cumberland County and near by areas implement programs to reduce diesel emissions, including installation of electrification units to eliminate the need for extensive diesel- powered truck idling.
- 4 School districts in Cumberland County and near by counties enact policies limiting school bus idling and pursue aggressively grant funding and programs to retrofit and upgrade school bus diesel engines with devices to help control harmful emissions.

I support this resolution and agree to have my name published as a supporter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT) (SIGNATURE)

1. Clean Air Task Force, “Diesel and Health in America,” February 2005. Available online at <http://www.catf.us/publications/view/83>
- Clean Air Task force, Diesel Project. Available at <http://www.catf.us/projects/diesel/>
2. American Lung Association, “State of the Air 2005.” Available online at <http://lungaction.org/reports/stateoftheair2005.html>
3. Carlisle Sentinel, August 23, 2005  
(slightly amended for wider dissemination)