

Newsletter of the Four Seasons at Chester

Condominium Association

Vintages



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Editor: Gail Knight

Editors Note:

With the closing of the Clubhouse, along with the complete shut down of social activities, there is much less community activity to report. Therefore this edition of Vintages is one page, 2 sided and printed on a home computer. (Even Staples has reduced hours and staff.)

In this edition there is a message from Tim Stewart; articles on Landscaping, the 2020 Census and information on the Book Club's reading list.

INFORMATION ON 2020 CENSUS

Patricia Perkins

Unfortunately there are already scammers associated with the upcoming census.

Below are the highlights everyone should know about the census.

1. Information on the census will be sent in March 2020.

2. Census can be completed:

⇒ Online

⇒ by telephone

⇒ by mail

3. Census takers will not be coming door to door until the census bureau has calculated who has not responded.

4. Census takers wear I.D. They will not enter your home. They will not ask you for I.D. They will not ask for Social Security numbers, money or political endorsements.

5. If you answered the census, they should not be at your home.

6. Census takers earn \$21.00 per hour.

Complete information can be found on website: 2020census.gov



TODAY'S REALITY

We are all in this together and no-one is exempt. It is a global, national, local and personal challenge. Our community and our lives are controlled by a virulent virus.

But, thank you for following the rules set by our government bodies, with input from many experts. Even though this means being home-bound for a while, we all can transform this challenge into a productive time. Communicate (at a distance) with your family, talk to neighbors, use conferencing on the internet along with text and photo-sharing apps. Also, for some of us it is a good time to clean out a closet or cellar, read that book you always wanted to read, create the photo album that you have put off, paint a room. Learn a hobby or repair an appliance. And, take a walk every day.

On March 13, we closed the Club House and the Fitness Center because each of us can pick up the virus anywhere and pass it on without knowing we are a carrier. We have an obligation to avoid passing it to others. This virus spreads and multiplies at high levels and has serious effects on people of all ages. Just a reminder - some of you are returning from holiday in the US and outside. You should follow the rules and, if appropriate, quarantine yourselves for 2 weeks.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful community with wonderful people. Working together we will put this challenge behind us without unnecessary hardship.

A final note: Spring cleanup has started and the pool operator is planning on opening the pool on schedule. We all look forward to that happening.

Call a Board member or a Member of the Care Committee if you need anything.

Tim Stewart, Your Neighbor and President

STAY SAFE

HAPPY SPRING!

Diana Schlesinger
Landscaping Committee

On warm days we tend to look around our gardens to see what needs to be done.

One thing that should be done in early Spring is pruning Catmint. Cut the dead stalks all the way to the ground. Catmint can also be trimmed by at least half after it blooms, to ensure a new crop of those pleasant little lavender flowers.



You'll know when...the catmint will pause blooming and start getting floppy around midsummer.

After the second bloom in late summer leave the plant alone until the following Spring.

HELPING OUR TREES AND SHRUBS

Robin Morley
Landscaping Committee

The Landscape Committee has observed that many trees and shrubs on the grounds of our Four Seasons Community have mulch touching the trunks of the trees and within the crown of the shrubs (the crown is the area where the branches come out of the ground). According to Rutgers Cooperative Extension (Fact Sheet FS099), over-mulching trees and shrubs can lead to their decline by starving the roots of oxygen and creating a continually moist environment which can lead to bark decay and fungal and bacterial diseases.

What can be done about it? It's as simple as physically moving back the mulch 6" from the trunk of a tree so that the natural tree flare can be seen at the bottom of the trunk or in the case of a shrub, removing the mulch both within the crown of the shrub and 6" away from it. The Board is going to see that this practice is done in the common areas this spring.

This is purely voluntary, but if you see that the trees and shrubs in your own garden area are over-mulched and want them to perk up and become more robust, you can take a small hand tool such as a trowel or cultivator and move the mulch 6" away from tree trunks or shrub crowns. If you need a demonstration of this technique or if this is something you are not physically able to do, please call Robin Morley (908-955-7206) from the Landscape Committee. Our committee, with the Board's and your help, would like to improve the color and vigor of the beautiful trees and shrubs at Four Seasons this season.



The following is the Four Seasons book club list for the upcoming months.

Dates are tentative. Submitted by Lisa Resnick

May 13: **The Silent Patient** by Alex Michaelides.*

June 10: **Our Last Hope: A Voyage to Escape Nazi Germany** by Roberta Kagan

July 8: **The Long Petal of the Sea** by Isabel Allende

Aug 12: **American Dirt** by Jeanine Cummins

Sept 9: **A Bookshop In Berlin: The Rediscovered Memoir Of One Woman's Harrowing Escape from the Nazis** by Francoise Frenkle

*At the May meeting book club members will read the play *Alcestis*, an Athenian tragedy by the ancient Greek playwright Euripides. It was first produced in 438 B.C. The myth is mentioned in the book **The Silent Patient** our May book club choice. Each member will be given the option to read a part or just listen.

Upcoming: Who Was That Guy?

Greg Faughnan

I plan an article on Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, a Hungarian doctor. He discovered a link between maternity mortality rates and doctors washing their hands. He was pilloried for it. A brave smart man. Greg.

SELECTED WHO'S WHO

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President - Tim Stewart (2022)

Vice Pres./Facility - Mike Pelepshin (2021)

Secretary - Karen Newhouse (2021)

Treasurer - Hector Garcia (2022)

Amenities - Steve Schlesinger (2023)

Landscaping & Trees

Chris Biava

Herb Maiwaldt

Sylvia McBrinn

Robin Morely

Diana Schlesinger

Caring & Newcomers

Valerie Kent, Chair

Betty Busciglio, Co-chair

Martha Hatch, Welcomer