



Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek Civic Association

News & Views

www.ckmcca.org

Summer 2009

Two big summer events for the Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek Community this summer! Both on one big weekend!

Neighborhood Family Picnic on Friday July 31, followed by a Neighborhood Garage Sale on Saturday, August 1

See inside for all the details, and have a great summer!

2009 CKMCCA Scholarship Winner Named

Clifton Knolls resident Cassandra Whitford was named the 2009 winner of the CKMCCA Scholarship at the Civic Association's annual meeting in April. The \$500 award is a competitive application judged by a panel of local business and community leaders, and is awarded to a neighborhood high school senior whose family is a member of the Civic Association. Cassandra is an accomplished scholar—she was Shen's valedictorian this year—athlete, and also volunteers to many community organizations. She will be attending the University at Buffalo in the fall to study engineering. The entire Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek community wishes Cassandra—and all of our neighborhood's other graduating seniors—good luck in their future endeavors. (Cassandra Whitford pictured receiving scholarship award from CKMCCA treasurer Bryon Backenson.)



Community Corner

Announcements and Events Organized by Members of Our Neighborhood

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County is the combination of the former Saratoga Springs LWV and the Southern Saratoga LWV. At least three current residents of Clifton Knolls were original founding members of the Southern Saratoga LWV. One was also instrumental in founding our local library and another has been involved with local development issues as they related to the environment. Some members went on a rotating basis to attend town board and planning board meetings to follow the actions of our elected officials as the town grew from a rural area to a burgeoning suburb.

It would be good for current CKMCCA residents to reinvigorate attendance at these local board meetings. Dates are posted at the sign near the Clifton Commons entrance and in the Community News weekly paper. Attendance would give residents a chance to weigh in on decisions concerning the pace of development and its effects on the environment, on our community and on economic effects.

On June 6th, the LWV of Saratoga County hosted a talk by Melissa Everett, Executive Director, Sustainable Hudson Valley speaking on: The 4 E's of a Sustainable Local Community.

Economic interdependence

Energy off the grid

Environmental harmony

Eating local food

There was plenty of enthusiasm generated for Sustainable Local Community topics by Melissa's discussion at the June League meeting. About half of those in attendance, both League members and non-members, signed up to express interest in getting more information and/or getting involved with follow-up actions.

There was an exercise initiated by Melissa where participants mentioned their own activities toward fostering sustainability. Numerous actions were mentioned, including catching rain water in barrels, composting, buying local food, growing a backyard vegetable garden, public transportation and energy efficient cars, hanging clothes out to dry and many more. The recently formed group, Sustainable Saratoga, was represented there discussing its ongoing work on bike paths, energy conservation, and more.

We plan to host another meeting of all concerned to brainstorm about how to capture and use this local 'energy', such as attending town board and planning board meetings to foster area wide interest and monitoring and encouraging students to tend vegetable gardens at school and use the plants as part of the lunch program. If you are interested in joining with the group, please call Barbara Murphy (371-6534) to add your name to the email list. Please jot down your ideas and be ready to bring them with you when a meeting date is announced.

TOWN PLANNER SPEAKS AT ANNUAL MEETING

John Scavo, Jr., the Town of Clifton Park Planning Director, spoke to a record turnout at the CKMCCA Annual Meeting on April 22, 2009. Mr. Scavo discussed a number of ongoing projects, including: the future of the Stony Creek Reservoir; the Bio-Blitz, where towns people go out in to designated areas of Clifton Park with biologists and inventory the flora and fauna they discover; the status of the clean-up from the December ice storm; the condominium project behind Hannaford, which will be used as senior housing; the Library Trail project, which will connect the Arongen & Shatekon Elementary Schools to the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library; the possibility of a hotel going in at Clifton Park Center, a new passive recreation park; the outcomes of the studies which were done to analyze the traffic flow in the Rt. 146/Exit 9 corridor; and the Safe Routes to Schools projects. Mr. Scavo addressed many questions and concerns from residents and we truly his taking the time to speak with us.

Happy Housing!

By Genie Bassett

Oh, the joys of home ownership! Sometimes, it seems like the "to do" list never ends. In fact, it doesn't. It is really a seasonal thing with tasks changing with each change of season.

And it is critical that we keep up with the list if our homes here in the Knolls and Mill Creek are to maintain their value. It hard to believe, but important to remember, that some of our beloved homes are approaching the half-century mark!

With the summer season upon us, it is a lot easier to think about teeing up a ball at the Knolls golf course than tending to the needs of our homes. But it doesn't have to be drudgery. Below is a handy check list. Some items anyone should be able to take on and others might be better left to a qualified worker. But the list isn't too demanding and should leave plenty of time to play a game of tennis, walk the trails around the ponds, golf or spend some time at one of our pools.

Take a good look at your shrubs and plants. Are they all in the best of condition? You might want to check with Cooperative Extension to find out what is the best time to prune and shape your shrubs. We have some quite close to our house that we are going to remove and not replace. They are thin at the bottom and don't add to our landscape. Removing them will allow the shrubs in front to better show off their beauty.

Plant a new flower bed. Consider perennials that don't take a lot of your time to care for each year. We want to achieve beautiful landscapes – but not a lot of work for ourselves and prospective future owners. Too much work outside is not usually a bonus for home buyers.

Again, consult with cooperative extension or your favorite garden supply store to achieve beauty with as little care as possible.

Clean the gutters. Inspect gutters to ensure all spikes, straps and clips are tightly fastened. Use a garden hose to flush debris from downspouts. Make sure downspouts or splashbacks direct water at least three feet away from the foundation. This will help keep the basement dry.

Wash windows, inside and out. Use a solution of three tablespoons of non-sudsy ammonia to a gallon of water. Don't work in the direct sun -- the solution will dry too fast and streak. The windows in most Knolls homes are a pain as they have double panes. Be very careful if you decide to a thorough job and clean between


the panes. A squeegee with an extension handle can speed up the job and eliminate the need for a ladder on many windows.

Check the air-conditioning. If you have central air, follow the recommendations of the unit's manufacturer. It might be a good time to look for a sale on a window mounted AC unit and


window fans. Many of our homes are protected from the heat by our many trees and these units may be sufficient. And a new AC unit may be more energy efficient than the one you have been using for 20 years.

Service your heating system. Now is the time to find a technician to get your heating system in shape. You might even get a break in price because it is the off-season for this kind of work. Replace the filter if you have a forced-air system. Clean debris from condenser or heat pump located outside. Most of us have a gas hot water boiler and now is a good time to have an annual check-up to make sure it is in the best operating condition.

Clean your sinks. Anytime is a good time to do this one. Remove mineral deposits from faucet



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aerators and shower heads by soaking parts in white vinegar and scrubbing with an old toothbrush.

Get the pool ready. Have swimming pools cleaned. Inspect and service pool liners and filters. It might be a better bet to join the pool and meet you neighbors at either Barney Road or Locust Lane pools.

Dust ceiling fan blades. You will be amazed at how much dirt clings to them! A friend just sent "me one of those emails" that said you can use a sheet of Bounce fabric softener to wipe the blades and the dust will be less likely to stick in the future. Its worth a try.

Adjust the sprinkler system. We've had a lot of rain so far this season, but if it turns dry our lawns will need watering. Set the automatic sprinkler system to adjust for weather changes.

Get your outdoor furniture ready. Before placing metal patio furniture outdoors, coat it with auto polish. Check your outdoor furniture inventory—do you need new pillows for the furniture? Check for sales on the type that don't hold the moisture if you leave them out in the rain. Do you need to replace some chairs and tables. You might want to shop now as inventory on outdoor furniture is usually best early in the season..

Clean and seal decks. A word of caution here. Do not use a power washer on a wooden deck. It will harm the wood. Ideally, you need three consecutive warm, sunny days for this job. On day one, dry out the deck. Apply deck cleaner and scrub the deck on the second day and let it dry 24 hours. On day three, apply deck sealer.

Inspect and clean chimneys. Hire a certified chimney sweep for this job. Doing this task now instead of the fall allows plenty of time for repairs before the next heating season. It's also easier to schedule a sweep.

Wash the exterior of the house. You can have a professional do this job or tackle it yourself. Wash the siding with ordinary garden hose pressure and a mild detergent. Last year, Chuck got a special brush with an extension

handle to do this job from the ground without climbing on a ladder. Don't use chlorine bleach as it might kill plants or grass near the foundation of the house. Beware of pressure washers -- they are powerful enough to force water under the siding where it may encourage mildew and rot.

Caulk exterior joints around window and doors. I think I mentioned this task in a column last fall, but it is a lot more comfortable to do now when the wind isn't whistling and the temperature is more like a comfy 75 degrees. And when the caulking is all done, it would be a good idea to paint the trim on one side of the house. Paint one side every year and you'll never face the huge task of painting the whole house.

Clean lint from the entire clothes dryer vent system. Check at the hardware store for a long handled brush designed for this job. Your dryer will operate more efficiently and you can eliminate a possible fire hazard by getting rid of excess lint. And go outside to clean the dryer vent cap on the end of the exhaust pipe. Also make sure the screen is in place to keep out those pesky chipmunks.

Check operation of attic fans and roof-mounted turbine vents. These systems are important in keeping our homes cool as they reduce the temperature in the attic. Also, check to make sure that insulation in the attic hasn't creep out to block the soffits under the edge of the roof. All of these systems are also important in eliminating moisture build-up in the attic, which can result in very costly repair bills in the future.

Admittedly, this is quite a list. But most of these jobs are only a Saturday mornings' work, or less. It should still leave plenty of time this summer to enjoy the beautiful neighborhood we live in. And think of how good it will feel to know that we are protecting our investments and the beauty of our homes.

Happy Housing!



The View from Here

By: Ray Misiewicz
wicz2004@yahoo.com

I think the Town of Clifton Park did a good job with the cleanup from last year's ice storm. I'm sure someone was not satisfied but it generally saved us all a lot of extra time and effort. The yard waste pickup program sponsored by the Town through County Waste will continue for everyone through 2009. The major change is that all yard waste must be in those large paper yard waste bags. Garbage cans filled with yard waste will no longer be emptied.

Our ponds are going to be restocked with weed eating carp again this spring. This was last done in 2005 as a supplement to chemical weed treatment. About 250 fish will be added to the Barney, Beechwood and Par Del Rio ponds.

The Clifton Park Center Mall hotel was back before the planning board. It's a four story building with an entrance next to Regal Cinema on the side of the mall facing Clifton Park Center Road.

The planning board also looked at the senior town house project to be built on the property fronting the 21st Century Park on Route 146 west of Vischer-Ferry Road. The 51 unit complex must have 80 percent of its occupants greater than 50 years old. To minimize the visual impact from the road, on-site landscaping will be used to shield our view of the structure. Of course this will be implemented in part by using what I call the "Clifton Park Berm". You know, that little hill of earth with a half dozen stick trees that we see almost everywhere around town these days.

The Clifton Park Water Authority is now interested in buying about 600,000 gallons of water per day from the new Saratoga

County water system built to service the Technology Park at Luther Forest. That system takes water from the Hudson River at Moreau and brings it south by pipeline into the heart of the county.

Although not a direct impact on our part of Clifton Park, a major new railroad yard is being proposed for portions of Halfmoon, Mechanicville and Stillwater at the existing Mechanicville Yards site off Route 67. The facility will run 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Eight thousand foot long trains will be arriving around the clock generating as many as 334 truck entrances and exits a day at the rail yard. Most of those will probably go west along Route 67 to the new bypass on ramp to I-87 at Round Lake. The sound of idling locomotives will now be in stereo on a quiet summer night when the existing Alplaus Yard to our southwest and Mechanicville Yard to our northeast are in operation.

This column's day trip has something for just about everyone. Take I-90 west to I-88 and proceed to exit 23 south which puts you on State Route 30 through the historic Schoharie Valley. Our first stop is at the Old Stone Fort Museum just north of the Village of Schoharie. The stone church was used as a fortification during the Revolutionary War and still bears the cannon ball marks from 1780 when Sir John Johnson with his loyalist army and Mohawk Chief Joseph Brandt raided the Schoharie Valley. There are several outbuildings to be explored including the best example of an early Dutch barn in our area.

South into the Village of Schoharie take a look at the Palatine House built in 1743 by German Palatine Colonists for their minister. While in Schoharie try lunch in the tavern room at the Parrot House Hotel. Continuing south on Route 30, stop next at the Blenheim covered bridge in North Blenheim.

heim. Built in 1857 to span the Schoharie Creek, it is the longest (232 ft) single span covered bridge in the world and is open to pedestrian traffic.

Further south on your left is the New York State Power Authority Visitor Center at the Blenheim-Gilboa pumped storage power project. Housed in an 18th century dairy barn, the visitor center has a ton of hands on exhibits for kids to explore how electricity is generated. You can also make use of the trail system to hike through the blue bird boxes in the adjoining fields. Continue down Route 30 and pull into Mine Kill State Park located on the lower reservoir of the power project. If you brought a picnic lunch, this is a great place to eat it. In the summertime there is a swimming pool to let the kids cool off from all that driving.

At this point you can either backtrack north on Route 30 or extend your trip a little bit more by continuing south on Route 30 to its intersection with State Route 23. Take Route 23 east passing the ski areas at the northern edge of the Catskill Mountain Park. The scenery along Route 23 is great and it eventually brings you to I-87 (NYS Thruway) where you get on exit 21 north for a speedy trip back to the Capital District. This is also a great trip in the fall.

Let me give one last plug for the Washington County Fair in August. There are a lot of county fairs for us to visit, but Washington County is the absolute best agricultural based fair in our region. If you want to experience what a county fair was like during our earlier farm based economy in upstate New York, give it a try.

Have a great summer! See you in the fall!

Opinions in submitted pieces are those of the respective author, and not necessarily the opinions of the Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association. Advertisements are solely responsible for the content of their ads.

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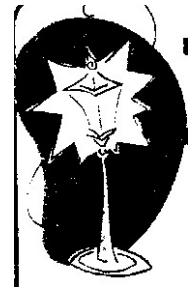


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2009-2010 CKMCCA MEMBERSHIP DUES



JOIN THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION TODAY!

We sponsor a number of exciting events throughout the year and need your support. An updated Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Directory will be published in early 2010 and delivered to all dues paying members of the Association. Your dues also support the publication and delivery of the News & Views. So fill out the coupon below and send it in with your check for \$18.00.

If you are away over the winter, let us know and we will hold your directory and deliver it to you when you return. Also, we'd like to have your e-mail address so we can send you notice of events and meetings without the need for additional paid mailings.

2009-2010 DUES \$18.00
October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010

Send Dues (\$18.00) to:
Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association, PO Box 2, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Move in Date:** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Optional: indicate names and birth dates of your children for the directory, or if you have children that would be willing to babysit and/or pet sit:

Please check any of the following that you'd be interested in participating in:

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Wine & Cheese Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting Speaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Become Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Halloween Party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entrance Marker Upkeep | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage Sale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain Directory Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain Directory Updates |
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Comments:

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

CKMCAA 2009/2010 ADVERTISING NEWSLETTER and/or DIRECTORY

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED WITH THE AD COPY!

"News & Views" Newsletter:

The five issues of the newsletter are sent to every household (about 900 homes) in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek five times per season (October, December, February, April, and June).

Rates: 1/8 page (business card)	\$20 per issue
1/4 page	\$30 per issue
1/2 page	\$50 per issue
Full page	\$100 per issue

Please circle the ad size you want and check the boxes below for the issues you want your ad to appear.

October '09 ___ December '09 ___ February '10 ___ April '10 ___ June '10 ___

CKMCCA Directory:

The CKMCCA Directory includes names and addresses of everyone in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek, as well as a street map with numbered housing locations. It is issued once annually (usually in March) and is sent to all dues paying members of the Civic Association.

Rates: 1/8 page (business card)	\$95
1/4 page	\$165
Full page	\$225

Please circle the ad size you want.

Instructions:

Please include a copy of your ad submitted as "camera ready" and if possible in black and white print. For business card ads, please include a copy of your card. Send this form to:

Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association
P.O. Box 2
Clifton Park, NY 12065

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Provide us your contact information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

See your ad at www.ckmcca.org by calling up the archived issues of the News & Views!

CKMCCA News

MEETING SCHEDULE

The CKMCCA regular board meetings of the 2009-2010 membership year will be held on:

September 9	October 7	November 11
December 9	January 13	February 10
March 10	April 14	May 12
June 9		

We will send out an e-mail regarding the location of these meetings, and post them on CKMCCA.org as well. Meetings start at 7:30 pm, and typically run 60-90 minutes, depending on the number of items on the agenda. All are welcome to come and participate, be it to suggest something that would enhance our neighborhood, volunteer to help in one of our existing events, or to raise an issue or two.

CKMCCA DIRECTORY

The 2009-2010 CKMCCA Directory will print in the spring of 2010. That means that later this summer and in early fall you may be getting a phone call or knock on your door to verify your name and other information. If you want to help with gathering information, please contact a Board member.

E-MAIL NEWSLIST

The News & Views gets published five times a year. Often times, there are things that arise between publication dates, and more and more, e-mail is the best way to get quick messages out. The Civic Association has an e-mail distribution list of about 300, but most of those are from individuals who have paid their Civic Association Dues. As paying dues is optional—but highly encouraged!—we don't get e-mail addresses from most of the approximately 900 homes in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek.

In the past, we've used it to alert residents about power and flooding issues, as well as reminders on neighborhood events. If you would like to be put on the e-mail distribution list, please send an e-mail to Bryon Backenson at pbryon@fastmail.fm or mailinglist@ckmcca.org.

Be assured that your e-mail will not be used for commercial purposes or spam, and when neighborhood-wide messages go out, all e-mail addresses are hidden, so people won't be able to get everyone's e-mail addresses. Thanks for your cooperation—e-mail really is the quickest way to get messages out these days.

DOG CLEANUP

The Board has received a number of messages from residents complaining about owners not cleaning up after their pets. Ours is a great neighborhood for walking, and that walking is much more enjoyable if everyone cleans up after themselves and their pets. In addition, it's the law—town ordinance Chapter 92.6c requires owners to clean up after their dogs.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

The annual Halloween parade and party will be happening in October. If anyone is interested in helping organize the event, or just to volunteer to help, please send an e-mail to board@ckmcca.org

BY POPULAR REQUEST!

CLIFTON KNOLLS MILL CREEK CIVIC ASSOCIATION WILL SPONSOR A NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST 2009

If interested in participating, please send email to:

ckgaragesale@nycap.rr.com

**Please include your name, address, and
types of items you will be offering.**

Deadline to RSVP so you can be included in the maps is July 20.

Maps will be distributed to your house the week of the sale.

**The sale will be advertised in local newspapers, and the large signs
will be placed at the entrances to the neighborhood.**

If you have questions, please send them to the email above.

Clifton Knolls-Mill Creek Civic Association Board Information

CKMCCA Members

Bryon Backenson
Chame Blackburn
Chris Collet
Todd Done
Mary Harding
Keri Horton
Paige Rossi
Sheila Suozzo
Chris Zinsley

Contact Information

To Contact the Board:

board@ckmcca.org

To Update Your Directory Information:

directory@ckmcca.org

To Submit Information to the News & Views Editor:

newsandviews@ckmcca.org

To Advertise in the News and Views or Annual Directory:

advertise@ckmcca.org

To Get Added to the CKMCCA E-Mail Distribution List:

mailinglist@ckmcca.org

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Window Air Conditioners

New & Unused (in orig. box):

Maytag 8000 BTU w/remote - \$140

Used:

Sharp 8000 BTU - \$80

Maytag 8000 BTU w/remote - \$80

Sharp 8000 BTU w/slide-in chassis - \$60

FOR SALE: Portable Generator

Generac – 5000 watts continuous, 6250 watts surge, like new, w/wheels – used less than 40 hrs. - \$400

FOR SALE: Lawn Tractor (Riding Mower)

Sears Craftsman 16 HP Kohler engine w/ pressure lube & oil filter, 42" mower deck, hydrostatic trans., w/ 3-bin bagger & extras - \$700

For any of the above, call Charles Rudick @ 371-8607.

PIANO TEACHER: Palo Alto Court Ages 4+ \$25/30 minutes BA in Music Theatre. Call Katie at 371-4041.

FREE: Older floor-model console 25 inch color console tv that is free is anyone who wants it. It is very heavy so you need two men to lift it. It works well. Cable ready. Call Sutphin at 371-7449.

FOR SALE: Art book, *Discovering the Inner Eye, Experiments in Water Media*, by Virginia Cobb, hardcover, 144 pages, 200 color illustrations, excellent condition. \$10.00 ; Graphic design books, *Making a Good Layout* and *Working with Words and Pictures*. Hardcover, excellent condition, \$4.00 each ; If interested, call Pam Malsan, 371-5882.

FOR SALE: Guitars--Acoustic, mint condition with case and stand \$250. Electric with case, stand, amp and cords \$100. Kirby vacuum cleaner, diamond edition with tools paid \$800 asking \$200. Call 371-8621.

Think Summer!

Want to contribute to News & Views and make it a better newsletter? Send articles, classifieds, essays, or opinion pieces to: newsandviews@ckmcca.org Or contact Bryon Backenson at 371-7931.

A big "Thank You" to the volunteers who keep the Clifton Knolls markers cleaned up and planted so nicely. And thanks to the Park District (and your tax dollars) for supplying the plants and flowers to keep our neighborhood looking nice.

1ST ANNUAL CKMCCA PICNIC

A great way for you and your family to meet your neighbors!

Friday, July 31, 2009

Locust Lane Pool

4pm- Dusk

(dinner served around 6:00)

*Cost: \$7.00 per family with paid membership
 \$10.00 per family without paid membership*

*Not a member? Pay next year's membership now and get in for \$7.
(Membership cost \$18.00 per year Sept.- Aug. + \$7.00 for picnic)*

(+\$3.00 extra per person at the gate if you are not a pool member)

Cost includes hamburgers, hotdogs, rolls, drinks, paper products, & condiments

*Each Family is asked to bring a side dish or dessert.
Please mail or drop-off bottom portion of this sheet and \$ to
Paige Rossi at 12 Locust Lane
or Deb Jackowski at 54 Juniper Drive
RSVP by July 26.*

Family Name: _____

Address: _____

email or phone # : _____

of Adults: _____

of Children: _____

What do you plan to bring: _____



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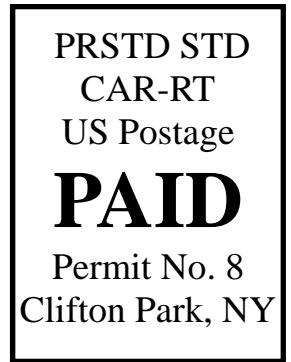
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Clifton Park, NY 12065**



**RESIDENT
ROUTE 18
CLIFTON PARK, NY**

Is Treasure Lurking in Our Neighborhood, or Nearby?

There is...you just have to find it. Geocaching is the way to find it. You can kind of think about it like a high-tech treasure hunt. Participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches") anywhere in the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container (usually a tupperware or ammo box) containing a logbook and "treasure," usually toys or trinkets of little value.

Geocaches are currently placed in over 100 countries around the world and on all seven continents, including Antarctica.^[1] There are over 820,000 active geocaches in the world right now—including ones around our ponds, in Locust Lane park, Collins Park, Kinns Road Park, Clifton Common, and Vischer Ferry Preserve.

To find them. You need a GPS device that can be used to mark latitude and longitude. While some auto GPS devices can do this, the most common ones used in geocaching are handheld units that can be found in many sporting goods stores, department stores like Wal-Mart and Target, and online.

Once you have a device, you can simply go to www.geocaching.com, plug in where you are, and it will tell you all the "hidden treasure" nearby. Then pick where you want to go, enter the coordinates of the treasure, then head out to find it!

It's a great way to get out and get some fresh air, see some nature, and learn about parks and places in your own town that you never knew existed! It's a great thing to do on vacation too, since these treasures are everywhere!