

News & Views

June 2007

2007 CKMCCA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The 2007 CKMCCA scholarship was awarded to Walter Melnik at the April 25th annual meeting of the civic association. Walter has been home schooled since 3rd grade and will be attending Grove City College in Pennsylvania this fall for economics and a possible future in law. He has or will be taking A.P. exams in history and macro/micro economics. Walter was on the home school Mock Trial Team, sponsored by the NYS Bar Association that made it to the state championships last summer. He's played league baseball and basketball and was on the YMCA swim team. Walter is an accomplished

pianist and a leader-in-training at his church's children's bible school. He's made a couple of trips to Jamaica on a reach out and help community program in 2002 and 2003. That's quite a list of accomplishments and the reasons Walter was selected as this year's recipient of the CKMCCA Scholarship.

Congratulations to Walter and his family! See the photos on this page.



CKMCCA scholarship winner Walter Melnik and his proud mom Lisabeth.

CKMCCA Officers

President:

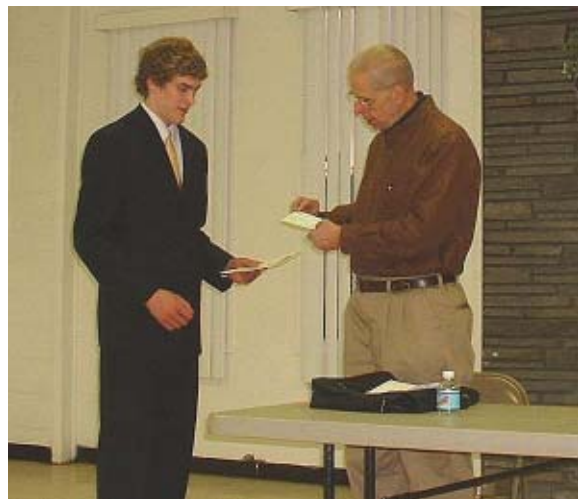
Ray Misiewicz

VP/Secretary:

Amy Sangaline

Treasurer:

Byron Backenson



CKMCCA President Ray Misiewicz presents this year's scholarship award to Walter Melnik.

**CKMCCA PUBLICATIONS ADVERTISING
POLICY CHANGED!**

The Board of Directors of the Clifton Knolls-Mill Creek Civic Association has changed the payment policy for all advertising appearing in the News & Views and Directory starting in the fall 2007. All ads must be prepaid. Payment must be received with the ad copy or we cannot run your ad. So, for all News & Views issues



next season starting with the October 2007 issue as well as for the 2008 Directory remember to include your payment when you submit your advertising. We no longer have the numbers of Board members required to invoice and follow-up on deferred advertising payments.

This revised new policy is in line with common business practice. We've tried to work flexibly with our advertisers over the years but no longer have the staff to do it!

***Neighborhood Golf Outing to be
held on June 30***

In the last few issues of News and Views, I asked if anyone was interested in either playing, helping form, or manage a golf league or tournament for Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek residents. We've got about 15 people interested now, and its time to schedule an event for us.

The general consensus is to have one or two one-day events. The problem there is that our golf course doesn't really schedule one-day events like that without a commitment of over 50 players.

But that doesn't mean that we can't all meet at the same time, pair up, and all play in order. Then afterwards I can bring a grill and we can have a little cookout in the parking lot, meet each other, and maybe find some playing partners for later in the summer—or plan for bigger and better things for our next event, be it later in 2007 or in 2008.

Our one-day golf outing will be held on Saturday, June 30, at 10am. If you are be interested in playing, please e-mail or call Bryon Backenson at pbryon@fastmail.fm or 253-7287. Everyone is welcome, regardless of age, sex, or skill level. It's a great way to get a little exercise and meet some of your neighbors, as well as to support our local golf course.

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As of the annual meeting of the CKMCCA held on April 25th, the number of your neighbors on the Board of Directors has decreased to just eight. It's difficult with that number of folks to continue to support the events, publications, award programs and other things the CKMCCA has done for our local community here in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek. At one time the Board had up to fifteen members and when elections were held at the annual meeting multiple candidates competed for the seats that were open on the Board.

Those were different times, but that spirit of community must be reborn if we are to remain a viable organization for future generations here in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek.

I recognize that many people don't have the time to be on the Board with its schedule of meetings and business affairs supporting CKMCCA work. But perhaps you could find the time to volunteer to support some of the programs that were previously brought to you through the work of the Board members. Many folks have volunteered to support individual events on their membership forms for 2007. Thank you for that and we will be calling to ask for your help in the areas you indicated an interest in. But, I'm talking about a slightly bigger one time effort for folks in our community to take leadership for some of our programs and organize them for the 2007-2008

season. We've had some recent examples of that successful strategy when a group of your neighbors got together and produced the Adult Wine and Cheese Party last March! Or, your neighbor who volunteered to become the webmaster to develop the mechanics of our new web site!

So, here's what we're looking for:

Directory Publisher- Lead and co-ordinate the efforts to update the 2008 Directory database, enter and configure the data into a printable format and arrange for the printing by March 2008. We had 12 community volunteers willing to work on the Directory update phase.

Halloween Party Chairman- Lead and co-ordinate the activities for the annual Halloween Parade & Party and work with the community volunteers to stage the event in October 2007. We had 4 community volunteers willing to help on this event.

Adult Wine & Cheese Party Chairman- Lead and co-ordinate the annual CKMCCA Adult Wine and Cheese Party in March 2008, which was successfully produced by a group of your neighbors this past March. We had 13 community volunteers willing to work on this event.

Garage Sale Chairman- Lead and co-ordinate the bi-annual CKMCCA garage sale, which would normally occur in the spring of 2008. We had 12 community members willing to work on this event.

In each case there would be a CKMCCA Board member with event experience available to answer questions on what to do and who to talk to. If you're interested in helping out in this way, contact any Board member with the contact information given in the News & Views.



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Board of Directors Message

By: Ray Misiewicz

As we go into the summer season, the CKMCCA Officers and Board members want to thank all of you who have supported us during the 2006-2007 season with your memberships, volunteerism and sense of community that you bring to Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek. The next News & Views won't be published until October 2007. Please read the articles in this issue, because a few like **"Call for Volunteers"** may affect what will or won't happen in the 2007-2008 season.

We had a successful **"Earth Day Pond Cleanup"** on April 21 when some of your neighbors picked up the refuse which accumulated around our ponds over the last winter. You know folks; we expect to find some plastic bags or random soda cans but don't you think leaving a bin full of rain soaked gypsum board in our parkland is a bit much!

Please read the article and look at the pictures from the presentation of the **"CKMCCA Scholarship"** awarded to Walter Melnik at our annual meeting. Congratulations again to Walter and his family and we wish him continued success as he moves forward through his college years.

The CKMCCA has developed a new **"civic association website"** which is discussed at length elsewhere. Its purpose is to better communicate with our local community here in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek and to describe to others the benefits of calling our community their home.

As you drive through our entrances to Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek, please remember our volunteers who maintain the **"entrance markers"** at each of those intersections. If you see them out working as you drive by, how about a little honk on the horn to show them your appreciation.

I hope all of you who participate in the CKMCCA **"golf event"** this summer have a great day. If we're successful with this summer's turnout, perhaps we can plan it again for next year.

I hope all of our members have received their **"2007 Directory"** by now, including those of you who asked to have delivery deferred until May. If you haven't gotten one and you're a member, please let me know and I'll drop one at your home.

Unfortunately our **"membership level"** has dropped by about 10% from last year. It's not too late to join. Sign up for membership and I'll still deliver a 2007 Directory to your door. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to new home owners in our community. Stop by and pick up a Directory for them as a welcome gift from the Civic Association.

Due to the lack of any response from the community for nominations to our **"Caring Kids"** award program we are not continuing with that endeavor as of May 15, 2007. The Board has instead decided to add money to the successful **"CKMCCA Scholarship Award"** with a total \$750.00 for the scholarship to be awarded in the spring 2008. We have received eight or more nominations in each of the last three years for the scholarship.

If you have any questions on the things discussed above or would like to volunteer your time to Civic Association events or even serve on the Board of Directors, call any of the current board members using the contact information presented below.

If you're interested, call or talk to any Board member listed below about getting involved in the Association or the events it sponsors:

continued on next page

President:

Ray Misiewicz (371-9420, wicz2004@yahoo.com)

Vice-President/Secretary:

Amy Sangaline (383-3106, asks38@aol.com)

Treasurer:

Bryon Backenson (371-7931, pbryon@fastmail.fm)

Board Members:

Joyce Savage (371-6404)

Sheila Suozzo (371-8603)

Loretta Parsons (371-7729, loparson@nycap.rr.com)

Jon Barry (383-0722, fcs@nycap.rr.com)

CKMCCA ANNUAL MEETING

The CKMCCA Annual Meeting was held at the Locust Lane Clubhouse on April 25th. Members of the Board of Directors were elected and next year's officers were announced:

President: Ray Misiewicz

Vice-President/Secretary: Amy Sangaline

Treasurer: Bryon Backenson

The annual CKMCCA scholarship was awarded to Walter Melnik. President, Ray Misiewicz described our new web site and asked for more help from the membership to plan and stage CKMCCA events over the 2007-2008 season.

Kate Maynard, Director of Planning, Town of Clifton Park provided us with a summary of residential/commercial development and open space projects planned or underway here in southeastern Clifton Park. An informative question and answer period gave everyone the opportunity to share an opinion or request information on specific items. Kate told me after the fact that we have "an engaged part of the community-that's great!"

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Thanks to all those that attended for your support. I only wish the turnout was a little better for these events; they do take people's time to stage and facilitate! Perhaps you'd like to provide me some feedback on ways to make these annual events more useful to you or for speakers from our local area that you'd like us to invite.

Happy Housing



By Genie Bassett

If April is the cruelest month then May must be the kindest. At least up to the time I am writing this, we have had a pretty nice, if belated, spring.

It feels good to get outside and dig in the dirt a little. It is also a great time to take a walk around our neighborhood and take some time to smell the lilacs.

Or walk along the hiking trails along the ponds and look up through the budding leaves. Is there any nicer, more invigorating shade of green than that of the sunlight filtering down through fresh new leaves?

Chuck and I were on such a walk a few days ago and we began to take stock of our neighborhood and all the fine features that make the Knolls and Mill Creek stand out. When I have a house for sale in these developments, I am reminded of all of the advantages we have which make our homes a good buy in what has now become a very competitive market.

First is the wide, tree-lined streets. We take them for granted, but they add so much to the pleasure and safety of living here. In most areas, our young children can safely venture out on their bikes without giving parents a nervous feeling about their safety.

When you think about it, it is pretty impressive to be able to tell someone from out-of-town that we have two swimming pools, a nine-hole par-3 golf course,

tennis and many acres of playing fields! And now we can boast of the lovely hiking trails that loop around all three of our ponds. If you haven't taken a hike lately, do yourself a favor (and your waistline) and check them out.

With all that in mind, it is important to consider that we also assume a certain

responsibility in living in such a lovely area. We owe it to ourselves as well as to our neighbors to keep our properties in shape and looking good. As we take our occasional strolls around, we find that most folks keep their properties looking pretty good.

There are a few - very

few - who have neglected their lawns and

landscaping and have allowed their homes to start to look a little old.

Most of our homes were built in the 60s and 70s in the Knolls and in the 80s in Mill Creek. But they don't have to look that old, and I am glad to say that most do not. But there are a few. In my mind, the only acceptable excuse for not doing the best job of managing our properties, is that we are simply too old or ill to do the work.

For instances where that is true, I would like to make a suggestion. If you know someone or live next door

An advertisement for real estate agents Genie Bassett and Bob Sanderson. It features a black and white photo of the two agents smiling. To the left of the photo is a hot air balloon with 'RE/MAX' written on it. The text reads: 'Genie and Bob sell homes!', 'Genie Bassett 371-3594 - Bob Sanderson 378-6540', 'RE/MAX Park Place, Clifton Park', and 'www.geniebassett.com email: genie@geniebassett.com'.

Genie and Bob sell homes!

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to an elderly person or someone who may have some health problems and their property could use a little sprucing up, consider ringing their doorbell and offer to give them a hand. Offer to clean out their flower beds or to plant a couple of impatiens. Maybe you can pick up a few extra flowers when you go to the nursery to buy them for your property.

If you are watching over the home of a neighbor for an elderly or ill neighbor, maybe you can mow their lawn and surprise them. Perhaps they would appreciate planning with you to add a few flowers to their property. Nothing like spring flowers to lift the spirit!

I know this is a busy time of year with all the gardening that has to be done, the graduations and weddings, end of school year stuff and vacations that we have to attend to. But part of living in a nice neighborhood like we do is to be a good neighbor – and that is such a fun thing to do – and so very much appreciated.

Happy housing. If you see me out walking, give me a wave.



Genie

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The View From Here

By: Ray Misiewicz

This is my last column before our summer hiatus. Hope you have enjoyed reading the current events and recollections of CKMCCA happenings through the years. If you have feedback on things you'd like me to write about, call or send me an e-mail anytime!

Current Events: The planning board approved the 21 home subdivision on the old Oronacha Farms property. The developer (NY Development Co.) has agreed to make necessary repairs to the dam on the



east side of the pond at Oronacha Farms. A new sheet piling construction method will be used to replace the existing dam structure. A phased development of roadway construction, dam re-construction and archeological excavation will occur in parallel. Utilities and multi-use pathways have been incorporated into the design of the dam. Water service laterals and storm water management areas have been included and a gravity sewer system will connect into Wyncrest along Redfield Park.

The developer of the Carlson Farms property south of us on Moe Road requested permission to demolish the historic Abraham Moe (for whom Moe Road is named) residence on the property despite the fact that the planning board approved the subdivision with the

proviso that the home should be preserved. The board reaffirmed their earlier position and did not agree with the demolition request. What's your opinion on whether that historic home will still be there after the new development is complete?

Parkland Development has proposed building 14 multi-family residences (33,000 sq. ft.) on Route 146 just west of Sterling Heights. This is another "senior housing project" along with those already approved at the 21st Century Park property just further west and the town homes proposed across the street on Waite Road where it meets Route 146. Does anyone understand how this level of multi-family building density conforms with the Town's expressed desire to maintain low density development in the western part of Clifton Park? Please let me know if you have an answer!

Just one cynical observation to which I think I'm entitled to once in a while! One town council member who lives in the Ushers Road area is against a zoning change to accommodate an "empty nesters" housing project of 194 single family homes along Ushers Road because "its way too dense". That same councilman supported a zoning change along Route 146 for the 21st Century Park "senior living" town homes because it meets the Town's desire for more of that type of housing!

Roy Speckhard has stepped down from his position as councilman. According to the Schenectady Gazette he has been asked to take on a special assignment and oversee the town's largest sewer district, Clifton Park Sewer District No. 1 which includes 4,000 households previously served by CK Sanitary (that includes us folks!). A five year plan is in place to upgrade the aging sewer district with money to come from the system's customers (that's us folks!). Mike O'Brien who currently oversees the district has been given the choice of whether to remain as the town's environmental specialist or to take over sewer operations. The town would then hire someone to fill whichever slot remains open.

As you know the county water system was approved by the Board of Supervisors. They moved forward despite having a few less costly options (Veolia Water
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North America and/or Saratoga Water Services) because the water system is a “key ingredient” to having AMD build a chip fabrication plant here; and, the County doesn’t want the water in private hands. Even if AMD does build here (remember, they haven’t committed to do a thing yet!) they won’t need the water until 2011 while the county system is targeted for 2008. That leaves a 3 year gap of fiscal losses for the system, even if AMD eventually signs on. Right now only the Towns of Wilton and Ballston have committed to the new system, as well as the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation acting on behalf of “possible future tenants” of the Luther Forest Technology Park. Recently supervisors have started to talk openly about the need for the water system to “promote growth” in the Northway Corridor. You folks have to form an opinion of your own on issues like this and make sure your elected officials know what you think!

The land dispute for the Sherwood Dawson Trail has apparently been settled. The trail along the west side of Route 146A will extend from Dawson Drive south to the Route 146A/146 intersection, where it connects to the newly constructed Vischer Ferry Road trail. It was necessary for the town to acquire easements from five landowners. With that done the project is expected to go to bid in May with contracts awarded this summer.

The more stringent rules for a dog leash law applicable to all Town Parks is still under consideration by the Town. In early May there was a survey on the Town’s web site, mainly directed at the Kinns Road Park (it seems to be the focal point of this initiative!). Check it out, or if it’s already closed by the time you read this, contact Councilman Sanford Roth who is the point person for feedback to the Town on this issue.

In case you’re wondering, the Mobil station on the corner of Clifton Park Center Road and Route 146 is being upgraded to a new store called “Clifton Park Short Stop” with a 3200 sq. ft. convenience store, 16 gas pumps and a modernized car wash system. Exxon Mobil was required to remove three aging underground gas tanks and correct drainage system issues to enable approval of the reconstruction.

Finally, Clifton Park and Halfmoon have the distinction of harboring 5 of the top 10 most dangerous (based on the number of accidents) traffic intersections in Saratoga County, based on information recently released by a freedom of information request from the Saratogian to the State Department of Transportation. They include among others: the Exit 9 on ramp, Route 146 & Blue Barns Road, Route 9 & Route 146, Route 146 & Clifton Park Center Road and Route 9 & Kinns Road. The state maintains the database from which these rankings were obtained to identify places that need work or more intensive enforcement work by traffic police.

Recollections: 1976 was America’s bicentennial year. Who can forget the parade of tall ships in New York Harbor on July 4, 1976? Headlines for that year also included Israel’s raid on Uganda’s Entebbe Airport to free 103 hostages, our election of Jimmy Carter for President that November, the Viking Lander making its way to Mars and the first commercial flight of the Concorde SST airplane.

At the local level we elected Joe Bruno to his first term as a state senator in 1976. Roy Speckhard was elected to his first term on the Clifton Park Town Board (he’s stepping down after 30 years of service this year). Clifton Country Mall opened their doors for business. The new Clifton Park Town Hall was dedicated in January of that year. The CDTA established trial bus service from Clifton Park to downtown Albany and the State Office Campus with an \$0.85 one way fare.

The CKCA had 493 members in 1976. The CKCA Board was exploring ways to get a bike path between Clifton Knolls and the new Clifton Country Mall along

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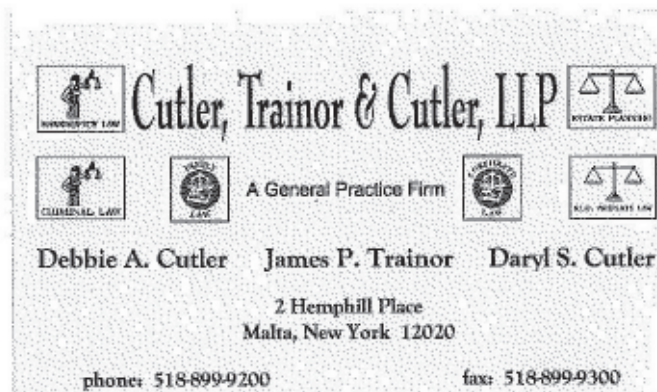
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the Niagara-Mohawk right of way. The CKCA was also asked to participate on the Shenendehowa Central School Superintendent's Advisory & Information Committee to work on issues affecting our kids here in Clifton Knolls.

Our fund drive to support the all volunteer Clifton Park-Halfmoon Emergency Corp resulted in a \$2150 donation. CAPTAIN (Community Action Program for Teens and Interested Neighbors) was becoming a



reality with the employment of a full time Director. The Shenendehowa Free Library on Old Route 146 and Cemetery Road offered a variety of community services, including free chess lessons.

The Shenendehowa Festival Parade Theme was "America-The Next 200 Years". The CKCA float entry in the parade was an underwater farming exhibit. It won first prize for best representing the parade theme. Harold Kittell from the farm on Vischer-Ferry Road (remember Kittell's Egg-a-torium) supplied the hay wagon that carried the float.

The February dinner-dance held at the Barney Road Clubhouse was attended by 68 people. The annual field day events on May 31 had over 100 kids participate (a significant drop in attendance) in a variety of competitions from track & field to pie eating contests. The December wine and cheese party at the Locust Lane Clubhouse had 108 attendees.

Unfortunately no one entered the contest to develop a new masthead design for the News & Views, so the \$25.00 savings bond prize went unclaimed.

The most interesting ad in the News & Views was for heating zone valve repair or replacement. That brought

back a memory. Maybe you still use them, but those original Flair zone control valves were a little finicky. They had a bad habit of sticking open and running your house temperature up to tropical levels.

That's all for now! If you have stories from your life here in Clifton Knolls-Mill Creek, pass them along to me over the summer. See you again in the October issue with another "View from Here" In the meantime check out our new web site. See the article elsewhere in the newsletter.

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NEW CKMCCA WEB SITE

By: Ray Misiewicz

The CKMCCA has a new web site. Thanks to the efforts of one of your neighbors and myself, the new expanded web site can be accessed at either: www.cliftonknollsmillcreek.org or www.ckmcca.org

Take a look at the new site, which has more features and graphics than the original, including:

Home Page: current CKMCCA events and general information

History: a word and picture history of Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek

Home Styles: a word and picture summary of our homes (in progress)

Recreation: a word and picture review of our ponds and recreational facilities

Activities: a word and picture presentation of recent CKMCCA sponsored events

Community: a word and picture tour of our local area (in progress)

Schools: a word and picture description of our public schools (in progress)

Maps: convenient area and local street maps

Membership & Advertising: download membership or advertising forms

Publications: Recent editions of the News & Views can be accessed on the web

Calendar: a calendar of upcoming CKMCCA activities (in progress)

Forum: a place for you to post want ads, community events, or other information

We hope you try it out, give us comments on what's there and make suggestions for changes, improvements or additions. We developed the site to expand our ability to communicate with one another and to give the public at large an appreciation of the amenities that come with living here in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek. It's a great tool for realtors to use with clients not familiar with our area.

We had to make ourselves independent of the Town's web site to get the space to do what you see and to be able to more easily update text and graphics. We will maintain the old web site at cliftonpark.org only as a banner to direct people to our new home on the web.

I'll be trying to update the website with any new information around the first of each month. So if you look in shortly thereafter you should find something new to attract your attention!

Here's how you can help me! If you have any original advertising material from Clifton Knolls or Mill Creek describing the homes and their features, could I borrow it for the "Home Styles" page. If you have pictures of your home that we could use as examples of the 4 basic home styles in Clifton Knolls (Hanover, Stans, Executive Ranch, Raised Ranch) or the unique homes in Mill Creek send them to me preferably by e-mail at wicz2004@yahoo.com. If you have some favorite pictures of locations in our developments that span the 4 seasons, send me copies of those, old pictures of past CKMCCA events would be nice, or just any pictures of our local area you feel would be a good addition to the carousel of photos on the "Home Page", send them along as well.

BASEMENT FLOODING IN CLIFTON KNOLLS

By: Ray Misiewicz

I know that some of you experienced basement water flooding for the first time back after those two late winter snowstorms and the more than 3" of rain that fell over a weekend in mid April. I was contacted by a few folks with this concern; but, just looking at the Vischer Ferry Fire Company log confirms that many others called for pump outs. There were suggestions that pond levels or recent construction played a part in the problem. I don't know if that's the case but I will tell you what I do know. Many of your neighbors in Clifton Knolls have been living with basement water problems for years. Sump pumps help and in some cases home owners have spent considerable money to install basement water proofing systems to alleviate the problem. So water is not a new problem to the Knolls in general.

Based on a recent article in the Schenectady Gazette entitled "Very High Water Table Floods Cellars", April 30, 2007, you first timers were not alone. The article says that precipitation levels over the last year have been more than 50% greater than average and 25% more than the highest precipitation recorded over the past 26 years. The unusually warm winter also allowed that water to continually penetrate into the ground and charge up the aquifer in the sand layer under our homes. The typical complaint from folks in the northern portion of Saratoga County was from someone in their home for 20+ years who experienced water in their basement for the first time.

I'd also like you to understand a little about the hydrology of our area. First, take a look at the U.S. Geological Service Water Resources Report No. 01-4104 "Ground Water Resources of the Clifton Park Area, Saratoga County, N.Y." by Paul M. Heisig. It can be accessed by going to the following web site: <http://ny.water.usgs.gov/pubs/wri/wri014104/index.html>

Look at Plate 1, the map of our area (it takes a while to download even on broadband). It shows that our homes are built on what's called the Colonie Channel aquifer. It is a deep sand layer with a gravel/clay base. Think of it as a giant swimming pool (water in the sand layer) and a pool liner (the clay base). It is a fairly narrow area bounded on the west at about Waite Road and on the east at about Route 9. That aquifer channels water all the way from the Round Lake area south to the Mohawk River. Our pond system is a focal point for water accumulation and drainage south to the Stoney Creek Reservoir and out to the river beyond. If the overall aquifer was recharged with water at exceptional rates compared to the last 25 years, some folks who haven't previously experienced water issues over that time frame, would have experienced them this year.

Now, I'm not saying that other things could not have contributed to the problem. I did talk to Margy at the Town Buildings & Grounds Department who called Mike O'Brien the Town Environmental Specialist. Mike was up to his waders in a sewage problem the day I called. He said the normal line of communication for adjustments to the pond water level would come to him from the Park District. He would evaluate the request and direct the Town Buildings & Grounds Dept. to perform the work. (That's the same answer I got from Mike Shahan, the Town Administrator) He knows of no recent water level changes beyond a few lowerings over the past few years to accommodate the application of algaecide. The pond water levels did rise due to the heavy precipitation but probably played no role in the spate of recent basement flooding. That was compounded this spring by the accumulated record precipitation encountered over the last 18 months or so. He believes the water levels will return to "normal" as drying continues. He also stated that the work done a while ago to install new culvert connecting the golf course and Barney Road ponds was performed by the Town Highway Department. Mike reviewed this article via e-mail before it was published in the News & Views.

(cont'd from previous page)

Please feel free to talk to the Town about any concerns that you may still have. Contact either Mike O'Brien or the Town Buildings & Grounds Dept. In the meantime, remember that the high water table remains a reality. Based on the last 18 months of record precipitation levels, you should prepare to deal with future water issues now. Elevate your basement storage area. Have a sump pump available if you don't already have one. You can't wait to do those things until the water starts to rise again!

If you think this is an inadequate response to your problems, please let me know by calling or e-mailing me at wicz2004@yahoo.com.

MOTORIZED SCOOTERS AND MINI-BIKES

With the good weather here and in the interest of your child's safety, please be aware that the use of motorized scooters and mini-bikes on public roadways is illegal in New York. If you've recently purchased such a vehicle for your children and you'd like to know if it falls into a category of concern, go to the Department of Motor Vehicles web site at www.nydmv.state.ny.us and click on "Find Answers" and then click on any question with the words "Scooters, go-karts, mini-bikes..." or type "scooters" in the search box. Once you've read that, click on the color highlighted words "motorized devices" for more details, including at least one example of a product brand name that falls into this category.

To save you some time I'm going to quote from the DMV guidance on this subject:

"Motorized devices (scooters, go-karts, mini-bikes, dirt-bikes and motor-assisted bicycles) cannot be operated on sidewalks, public streets or highways in NYS. These devices are classified as motor vehicles, but the devices do not have the correct equipment or design to operate on roadways. If you operate an unregistered motor vehicle (you can't register these devices in NYS either) on a street or highway in NYS, law enforcement officials can arrest you and give you a ticket for violation of the traffic laws."

A Clean Sweep for our Ponds on Earth Day

Over 25 people volunteered and showed up on April 21 to spend two hours cleaning up the litter around the ponds and parks in our neighborhood. We did the same thing for Earth Day last year, and I think everyone expected to collect LESS trash this year. Boy, were we wrong!

We collected more than 4 carloads of trash—everything from empty bottles and cans to screen doors to car bumpers to a whole container of ripped up drywall!

Thanks to everyone—young and old—who helped us out in keeping our neighborhood beautiful. And special thanks to Elinor Abbey, who graciously volunteered her car trunk AND her dump pass to help us take our collections to the town dump.

Remember, research and experience tell us that litter attracts the eye and, at times, litter attracts MORE litter. The Keep America Beautiful project has found that a clean community discourages littering and illegal dumping. Proper handling of litter and waste in a community raises the standards and expectations of everyone. So next time you plan to go for a walk, tuck a plastic grocery bag in your pocket. And while you're walking (or driving!) around our neighborhood, whether it's on our wide streets or our park paths, please pick up any trash you see lying around.

Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association
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<p style="text-align: center;">We have worked in over 2,000 bathrooms in the Capital District!</p> <p><small>Photos by Paul Gertie</small></p>		<p><i>Sparklin' Johns</i> TUB CONVERSIONS <i>"Making the world a little brighter, one bathroom at a time."</i></p> <hr/> <p>Replace your old standard tub with a Whirlpool Tub IN ONLY 2 DAYS* Kohler 8 jet, extra deep whirlpool tub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We remove all the old, all the mold, down to the studs • New waterproof concrete board • New 8 x 10 tile with decorative trim • New faucet <p>Deep soaking tubs • Showerstalls • Handicap accessible COMPLETE BATHROOM REMODELING Experienced & Affordable</p> <p>591-0059 www.sparklinjohns.com </p>