



Bard Complex, Flag House, and Freedom House

Resident Newsletter

DECEMBER 2011

Freedom Upcoming Events:

- 12/16 @ 1:15pm visitors from Spring Ford Middle School
- 12/18 @ 11am caroling by Royersford Baptist
- 12/21 @5pm Christmas Dinner

Bard Upcoming Events:

- 12/31 @ 8pm New Year's Eve Party

Flag Upcoming Events:

- 1/8 @ 2pm Church Service with Rev. Jack Mason

For more events visit: www.phoenixvillehomes.org. Then click on the tab Residents. On this page you will find announcements and the resident calendar of all upcoming events.

Christmas, Cocoa, and You... By: Thomas Becker

The Christmas Season means many different things to different people—carols around the tree, family reunions, decorations, old memories and old friends, forgiveness, a time for fun traditions, and a time to love and be loved. No matter what comes our way in life, the days of Christmas are a special time to remember and be thankful, and a time to welcome the Christ Child into our hearts.

Come sit around the fire with us now, grab a warm cup of cocoa, and we'll talk.

Ruth Kunkel- "My mother-in-law had nine children and had to raise them herself without much money. Several years ago she gave me a little rocking-horse figurine which I cherish with my life. I

have a little Christmas tree and I put the horse next to it and relive many fond memories."

Nancy Umstead- "I remember the Christmas dinner my mother always made, with all the trimmings. Everyone at the table would say what they were thankful for. We also had just talk sessions—my dad was very funny, he'd tell jokes and amusing stories. I had three brothers and I'd play the piano and my brothers would play the saxophone and the trumpet. My brothers had very good singing voices and we'd sing carols and some favorite songs. It was nice having the whole family together."

See Christmas, Cocoa, and You... on page 6

New Team Member

Phoenixville Homes is pleased to welcome Tiffany Lanzone to the Operations Department. Tiffany will be assisting Mary with numerous tasks, like the newsletter, updating the website, and administrative work. Tiffany will also be helping Monica in the Finances Department.

Tiffany is excited to help Phoenixville Homes in her new role as Operations/Finance Assistant. She is looking forward to meeting all the Residents.

Tiffany lives in Coatesville with her husband Dave, and their new baby boy Landon.





Kambic's Korner

By: Steve Kambic, Executive Director

A New Initiative: "Resident Listening Posts"

I believe residents are listened to by staff. I also believe that sometimes, a resident may believe they are not being listened to by management. All of us have had conversations with family members or others where at times we feel not being listened to. As a property manager, is there something we can do to address this occasional frustration?

To reassure Residents that Staff does care about their concerns, we will schedule "Resident Listening Posts" with all residents starting at the Flag House. A Resident Listening Post will be a meeting of the Executive Director and Service Coordinator to meet with a small group of residents at a time to listen to their aspirations and concerns. There will be four meetings at Flag House; a separate meeting for the residents of each floor. The first Listening Post will occur later this month or starting in January.

The Board of Directors and Staff are constantly listening to Residents. The Phoenixville Homes' Board believes strongly in listening as evidenced by rotating their meetings between Flag House, Freedom House and the Bard Complex. Each Board meeting starts with a session to listen to the residents. Recently the Board has heard about issues such as laundry room concerns and crossing Main Street. Based on this input, staff has been talking to local officials, county officials, state Department of Transportation officials, and our appliance technician. The results of resident comments have resulted in a number of activities including in a new bike storage area at the Bard Complex, negotiations for improved service from the Freedom Valley Disability Center and a budget request asking HUD to fund window replacement at the Flag House.

As a final thought, listening is a skill that can be developed. Good communication occurs when all parties are good listeners. Let's use the Resident Listening Post as an opportunity for good communication and positive change to improve the quality of life for residents of Flag House, Freedom House and the Bard Complex.



Doris Strunack



Morine Madden & Eleanor Heaton

Flag House Thanksgiving Dinner

By: Sande Gelet

On Saturday, November 19, 2011, Flag House had a day full of events. The Association Presidency put together a delicious Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings. At 5:00pm the dinner started and Maurizio & Tracy's catered the turkey and potato stuffing. The residents brought dishes of sweet potatoes, corn, coleslaw, and rolls. After dinner, the residents enjoyed a variety of desserts to eat.



Martha Moses, Doris Walters, Dolly Bierwirth, & Betty Knapp



Pat Santillo & Guest

Christmas Party at Bard

On December 10, Bard had their annual Christmas Party. Residents decorated the community room with poinsettias and evergreens.

Forty-five residents attended the party and enjoyed a delicious meal. The Committee prepared Christmas carols for everyone to sing. There was dancing and other fun activities.



Joe Proto & Bucky Buckwater



Residents lining up for their food



Alice Yost, Sara Cooper, Anne Gelormo, & others singing carols



Doris Gertenich & Tom Becker



Jack Walters, Mary Lou Stephe, Bea Snyder, & Joe Proto



Holiday Quiz

Answers to questions on page 6



- Which of these names does NOT belong to one of Santa's reindeer?
A) Comet B) Prancer
C) Blitzen D) Klaxon
- At Christmas, it is a tradition to exchange kisses beneath a sprig of which plant?
A) Ivy B) Yew
C) Holly D) Mistletoe
- Which of the following names does NOT belong to one of the Three Kings?
A) Casper B) Balthazar
C) Teleost D) Melchior
- In the Ukraine, what does it mean if you find a spider web in the house on Christmas morning?
A) Good Luck
B) Misfortune
C) A cold Winter
D) House needs cleaning
- One of the most loved Christmas books is *A Christmas Carol*. Who wrote it?
A) Mark Twain
B) Charles Dickens
C) Hans Christian Andersen
D) Thomas Sawyer
- In Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker," who is the nutcracker's main enemy?
A) A girl called Clara
B) The King of the Mice
C) Dr. Almond
D) Drosselmeyer the Magician
- After Scrooge has reformed his life at the end of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, he invites Bob Cratchit to join him for some "smoking bishop." What did he mean?
A) A premium pipe tobacco
B) Hot Spiced Drink
C) Christmas pudding

Special Announcements from the Staff:

- If anyone is interested in helping with the Resident Newsletter please contact Tiffany Lanzone at 484-933-4956.
- As cold weather is upon us please be aware of icicles forming by doorways. Please avoid these entrances and notify the office immediately!

Phoenixville Homes wishes all our Residents a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy the Holiday Season!



Holiday Quiz Answers from page 4

1. D 2. D 3. C 4. A 5. B
6. B 7. C

Christmas, Cocoa, and You... continued from page 1

Mary Lou Stepsi- "When I was a young girl, about twelve years old, we'd have a lavish turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Our family would gather around the table, and then watch the inevitable football game because my brother was a college football star. We'd saddle up the horses at Roxborough Stables and ride to Valley Green even if it snowed, then sit around a pot-bellied stove, drink hot chocolate and coffee and tell stories. We had to take a pick with us to pick the ice out of the horses' hooves so they wouldn't slide across the ground."



ourselves and that is how we met at work. Now we both live in the same building where we worked."

Doris Bauman commented, "I took a job at Spring City Knitting right after high school to be able to buy a car. My job was labeling the size of garments. Sears and J.C. Pennies were our major customers at Spring City Knitting. We had a lot of fun at the mill and received jeweled service pins. My Grandfather, Parents, Brother, Nephew and Aunt all worked at Spring City Knitting."

Mary Hozyash, recalls a 34 year career at Spring City Knitting. I ran a complicated looper machine. I knew how to load all eight spools on the machine and all of the parts to the machine. We enjoyed our work and the management gave us flowers on the holidays. When Spring City Knitting closed, I went to the Flag Company in Spring City where I labeled and boxed flags for Government orders until the late 1970's."

Doris Gertenich relates, "I worked for Spring City Knitting when I was sixteen and seventeen to earn my own money for clothes and to buy a

Chevy Impala. In 1984 I went to work at the Flag Company and sewed the hems and put grommets on the 25' x 30' flags. I moved to the Bard when it first opened.

Irma D'Acciar shared, "From 1973 to 1986 I was a seamstress in the tee shirt department and enjoyed my job. I watched the Flag House being refurbished and liked the familiar location. Upon becoming a widow, I chose the Flag House as my home. I love my apartment."

Without the products of Spring City Knitting, Pennies and Sears would not have had a quality underwear product from Spring City Knitting. In addition, the American Public and the Government and public at large would be without ceremonial and standard flags.

