

THE ACORN

SHERWOOD OAKS NEWSLETTER

100 Norman Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

www.sherwood-oaks.com

May 2026 “For the residents, by the residents” Vol. 45, No. 5

Happy Birthday, Sherman & Oakley!



See story page 13

Photo by Asghar Aghbar

Dear Reader –

I don't know about you, but I've really been relishing the change from winter to spring and anticipating, in another month or so, the merge from spring into summer. What a joy to watch the transformation from a gray world to the explosion of colors around us!

It seems to me these weeks are ones of transition, personal and seasonal. In upcoming days, folks will mark and celebrate academic graduations, marriages, household moves, anniversaries, and other happy passages.

We experience a transition of our own, as administrative leadership here passes from Mark Bondi to Mark Nord. The "Marks" have served us faithfully and well. Each demonstrates an appreciation of the unique nature of Sherwood Oaks and the jewel that it is. We are grateful. And, how nice we don't have to learn a new name!

As always, we are surrounded by the transition of interesting new friends moving in, and the bittersweet leave-taking of others who finish their last chapter here. These changes shape our days and make us thankful for what we share.

~ Jan Wendt

MAY CALENDAR

May Day	May 1
Kentucky Derby	May 2
Cinco de Mayo	May 5
Mother's Day	May 10
Armed Forces Day	May 16
Memorial Day	May 25
Mint Julep Day	May 30

THE ACORN

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Submissions for the June issue must be sent to the Editor no later than **May 15, 2026.**



Memorial Donations and Remembrance Cards

Did you know? Donation envelopes and remembrance cards are on the memorial table in the lobby. The donation envelope lists many options to choose from when contributing in memory of a resident or a loved one. Remembrance cards can be filled out and placed in Cubby #346; they will be collected and given to the spouse/ family.

IN MEMORIAM

Memories are precious possessions that time can never destroy. For it is in happy remembrance that the heart finds its greatest joy.

<i>Marya Bednerik</i>	<i>March 25, 2026</i>
<i>Thomas Mion</i>	<i>March 27, 2026</i>
<i>Irene Dodd</i>	<i>April 21, 2026</i>
<i>Richard Jones</i>	<i>April 25, 2026</i>

JOHN & MARTHA BURKHOLDER - #202

By Harriet Burress - #112



Photo by Marketing Staff

With many similarities in our “histories,” it was indeed a pleasure to recall memories while interviewing John and Martha Burkholder, who have relocated to Sherwood Oaks after 50 years in Penn Hills. “I did a lot of research and decided there was no other retirement community like Sherwood Oaks,” Martha commented.

John and Martha both experienced farm life in their early years. Martha lived on a farm in southern Illinois until her parents relocated to another in northern Indiana when she was 12. Although John and his brother grew up in Cleveland, they spent many summers at their grandparents’ farm.

Attending Manchester University, a Church of the Brethren College, was a tradition in both of their families and it was there that John, who majored in Pre-Med, met Martha, a Home Economics major. As you will read, Martha used her Home Ec skills twice after she and John married, first

as a teacher and then in starting a business.

For three years, John and Martha lived in Baltimore while he earned his MD at Johns Hopkins. It was there while a student he met Dr. Henry Bahnson, “A brilliant surgeon who became head of cardiac surgery at Presbyterian University Hospital. He is why we came to Pittsburgh in 1966,” John commented. Rotating among the Pittsburgh hospitals, John completed his residency for general and cardio-thoracic surgery. While at Children’s, he operated on a child with vessels the size of the lead in a pencil. During his residency, he decided to volunteer for the Navy rather than to be drafted and sent to Vietnam.

He served as the physician for the 6th fleet and was away for six months on a ship in the Mediterranean. “I was 35 when I finally began my career of 27 years as a cardiac surgeon at Allegheny General.”

“While John was completing his residency, I taught for three years but retired when we began our family.” Martha and John have three children and five grandchildren. Their daughter lives in Cranberry, and the two sons are in Illinois. “We are 45 minutes closer to them now,” she laughed.

Her second endeavor using her degree was in opening a restaurant which she operated for 10 years. She bought and restored an old house with the intention of making it like a grandmother’s home specializing in healthy food. John noted, “It was a lovely, little, very busy place.”

One of John’s hobbies is ceramics and he loved making demitasse cups. Both have volunteered in various medical associations and the Monroeville United Methodist Church. Please welcome Martha and John to patio home #202.

CHARLES & GRACE HAWKINS - #101

By Jan Wendt - #158



Photo by Marketing Staff

Charles and Grace Hawkins are something of a rarity: residents of Cranberry Township for 48 years! In an area of burgeoning growth, mostly in the late 1980's and 90's, the pair were well established here before the Township experienced its population explosion.

And their roots here were deep: Grace taught junior high science at Seneca Valley. Charles, a longtime transportation specialist at the US Postal Service, volunteered as the Township's Diversity Coordinator, assuring that new residents of differing ethnicities felt welcome.

The two met initially in Ohio at Wilberforce University, near Xenia, where they received their degrees. They lived for a time in Steubenville but moved east to Cranberry when Charles took the USPS job. They raised their two children here: a son, who now lives with his family in Stafford, VA, and a daughter in Lansdale, PA, who is married with two children.

The Hawkins are both musical. In his earlier years, Charles enjoyed playing trombone in a band. Grace is a pianist

and was often seen at the keyboard in church.

The couple has traveled widely, both in the US and abroad: England, Scotland, Wales, Egypt, Russia, and Africa. Charles couldn't choose a favorite spot; to him, each has its own appeal.

Both have been active in The Gideons International, an organization that seeks to spread the news of the Gospel throughout the world by making Bibles widely available.

Since moving to our campus, Charles has been kept busy winding up the sale of his former home and getting Grace settled in at our Oak Grove Center. He visits her there every day.

Please offer a warm welcome to the Hawkins as they become part of our community. We are glad you are here!



SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

By Warren Howe - #337

The annual campaign for the Sherwood Oaks Employee Scholarship Fund has gotten off to a good start. As of April 20, the 2026 campaign has received 69 contributions, totaling \$63,145. The percentage of resident families participating to date is 31%.

Our hope is that 100% of Sherwood Oaks residents will want to donate to support this unique and worthwhile program. The average gift thus far is \$ 915, ranging from \$60 to \$3,500. Every donation helps to make the scholarship program a success.

Although contributions to the Scholarship Fund are accepted at any time, the actual campaign runs from April 1st through May 31st. Scholarship applications will be reviewed in early June, and award determinations finalized June 17th. If you have not yet donated to the 2026 scholarship campaign, please try to do so before June 1st.

Checks should be made out to THE SHERWOOD OAKS FUND with "Scholarship Fund" written on the memo line. They can be dropped off at the front desk, ATTN: Tabby Alford. Donations are tax-deductible as charitable contributions.

The Seven Deadly Sins: Wealth without Work, Pleasure without Conscience, Knowledge without Character, Commerce without Morality, Science without Humanity, Worship without Sacrifice, and Politics without Principle.

~ Mahatma Gandhi

A PARK WITHIN A PARK

By Bruce Cooper - #735



We Sherwood Oaks residents are fortunate to live in a park-like setting – 84 acres of homes and greenspace, with North Woods, covered and uncovered walking paths, and Sherwood Oaks Park, a place that can be tranquil (strolling on the paved path) and frenetic (a rousing game of pickleball) at the same time.

Sherwood Oaks Park is 'open' (the water is turned on) from April 15 through October 15 from 9:00 am to sunset each day. The Park features flower gardens, a fenced area containing many reservable raised plots, a pickleball court, bocci and shuffleboard courts, a well-appointed kitchen with his and hers bathrooms attached, a fenced playground for the young and young at heart, and a pavilion that can be used for an Easter Sunrise service, Singalong & Snax (with a rollable fire pit for toasting s'mores), family gatherings, and who-knows-what-else?

The reservation form for use of facilities at Sherwood Oaks Park has been redesigned and is available at the Front Desk.

Our celebration of the Country's 250th anniversary will end at the Park on the evening of July 3rd. More about that in the June issue of *The Acorn*.

We hope you'll take advantage of all that our 84 acres have to offer. Visit Sherwood Oaks Park and enjoy the many activities you'll find there.



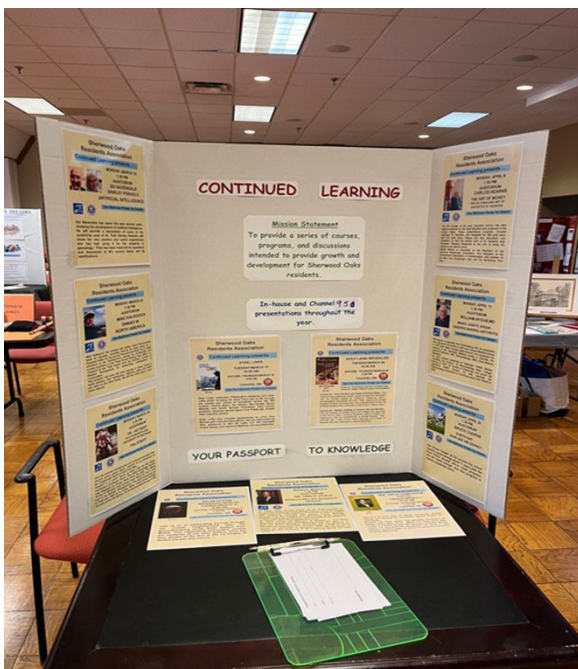
Photos by Bruce Cooper and Kathie McCormick

ACTIVITIES FAIR 2026

By Bruce Cooper - #735

On March 24th, the Auditorium and Card Room were filled with the displays of 39 activities and committees, endeavors that keep Sherwood Oaks residents as busy as they want to be. The creativity of the displays was amazing.

Thanks to all those who took time to show off their piece of the wonderful life we live in this special place.



RINGIN' & SINGIN' in SPRING!

By Jean Henderson - #346

Join the Sherwood Oaks Bell Choir and Chorus for our concert, **RINGIN' & SINGIN' in SPRING** on Wednesday, May 6, at 4:00 p.m. in the Auditorium/Card Room. You'll hear old favorites, religious spirituals, American folk songs, sea chanties, Broadway show tunes and patriotic melodies.

Your fellow residents have been working hard since January to bring you a fun afternoon, so do join us as we RING and SING for your pleasure.

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## RING PITTSBURGH A REMARKABLE BELL CHOIR

By Jane Lavender - #253



**Ring Pittsburgh** was founded in 2016 as an auditioned community of musicians skilled in the art of handbell ringing. This unique ensemble takes a musical art form found mainly in church and worship settings and translates it to a professional concert setting. These seasoned ringers educate and entertain audiences across southwestern Pennsylvania.

We will be privileged to have them with us in the Auditorium on **May 12th** at 7:00 p.m. Check your calendar now so that you won't forget the date, and then come and enjoy!



## SING-ALONG & SNAX

By Jean Henderson - #346



Photo by Jan Wendt

Summertime! And time again for singing and snacking at the Pavilion.

Starting Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m., come sing oldies and enjoy snacks every first and third Wednesday through October 7. No gathering on July 1.

Chairs, fire pit, song sheets, and snacks are provided. No rain dates if the weather's bad. Bus provided from the Center to and from.

Hope to see you there!



# BONDI DEPARTS “BEST NEIGHBORHOOD EVER”

By Jan Wendt - #158

In January of 2000, Mark Bondi arrived on campus, armed with his MPA from Pitt and a JD degree from Duquesne Law School to become Sherwood Oaks new Chief Operating Officer. Within six months, his immediate superior retired, and Mark moved to the corner office and took on the role of President.

The young administrator had grown up in McKeesport, PA, the youngest child of a surgeon father and a nurse mother. He has two older brothers and sisters. Mark has an interest in history, and we shared stories of our WW II Mash Surgeon fathers. His dad returned after the War and spent the rest of his career doing general surgery at McKeesport Hospital.

At Sherwood Oaks, which in 2000 had no Lakeside Apartments, Oak Grove Center or the 600 carriage homes, Mark had the opportunity to know three of the four “remarkable women” whose vision shaped SO in the 1980’s. He recalls, “they imagined a community where seniors could live safely, comfortably, and with dignity – a place that felt both supportive and neighborly. Looking around today, I believe they succeeded in turning that vision into a lasting reality.”



Mark Bondi as SO Oaks new COO in 2000

After 16 years at the helm, Mark was called to head all UPMC Senior Communities, and Annette McPeck succeeded him here. Mark enjoyed the new gig, which was impacted significantly by the Covid-19 Pandemic and found it a more “bureaucratic” position. He enjoyed getting out when he could to the various community campuses. In 2024, Annette stepped down and Mark answered the call to return and finish his career by seeing us through the ensuing two years and the connection with Presbyterian SeniorCare.

Looking back, he points to three significant achievements: the *First Impressions* improvement project, which transformed our lobby and gallery and filled the building with more natural light in 2003; the *Renewing the Dream* capital campaign which made private rooms the standard in Skilled Nursing and created an exceptional environment for memory care in 2008; and, more recently, the partnership with Presbyterian Senior Care Network “which has strengthened our mission.”

Married to Michelle, Mark is the father of four and grandfather of three and enjoys golfing in his down time. He says he could envision making Sherwood Oaks his home when the time comes to downsize.

“When I think of my fondest memories here, they always come back to the people; the residents, staff, and community members who make Sherwood Oaks such a special and vibrant place. Honestly, I think it’s the best neighborhood ever.” He says he “truly believes that Sherwood Oaks is well-positioned for continued success, and its best days are still ahead.”



**Left** – Mark Bondi (L) greets his successor, Mark Nord (R) in the Lobby atrium. Photo by Jan Wendt.

## INTRODUCING A CONCIERGE:

### JULIE MORELLI

By Rosemary Coffey - #113



Photo shared by Julie

Julie has been one of our concierges for the past four months. Her connection to Sherwood Oaks is through her mother, Nancy Elliott, who has been living in Unit #118 for about a year. Julie's acceptance of a job here has meant that she can manage working and tending to her mother at the same time; meanwhile, Nancy is definitely doing her part by hosting Julie's dog, Gracie, while Julie is at work, and even taking her for at least one walk during the day.

Julie previously worked from home for five years doing customer service for a local plumber, but she eventually concluded that she needed to get out of the house and talk to people.

When she is not working, she interacts with her three adult children living in the Pittsburgh area and her three grandchildren. Her son in Zelienople works in nuclear energy, dealing with power plants all over the world; one of her daughters owns her own flower farm in Mars; and the other daughter works as a relationship therapist on the North Side of Pittsburgh. She hosts all of them at her house for dinner a couple of times a month.

During her working hours, she is learning a lot, including the names of all the residents and the staff. There are about 300 of each, so she has a lot of folks to keep track of.

Meanwhile, she has been settled in Cranberry Twp. for the past eight years, a time which has also included a trip to Italy, the site of her origins. After reconnecting with relatives in Rome, she is now studying Italian in anticipation of another trip someday soon.

Welcome to Sherwood Oaks, Julie! We are glad you're here for us.



## CHECK OUT YOUR JEWELRY!

By Joan Rycheck - #193



I need your help! The Gift Shop is running low in our jewelry area because so many have been buying our wonderful gems.

If you, your family members, and friends would share your no-longer-wanted jewelry with us, we would be so grateful.

We need necklaces, rings, earrings, bracelets, and pins.

Please drop your goodies off at the Gift Shop so we can add more sparkle to the jewelry section. Thanks.

## HEALTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATES

By John Houston - # 618

The Health Affairs Committee met on March 20th and the following topics were discussed: Mark Nord reported that in February there was a surge of night-time falls in Independent Living. The reasons for this are not clear. However, falls among older adults are common. Medicare annually spends more than 30 billion dollars for medical expenses associated with older adult falls. This is approximately 6% of the total of annual Medicare expenses. If you haven't done so already, you might consider asking Sherwood Oaks to do a risk assessment to reduce the chance of falls.

Our Skilled Nursing CMS rating has been reduced from 5-star to 4-star. This was the result of a patient, who last August left the Skilled Nursing Unit without the authorization or knowledge of the staff. The patient returned with no adverse consequences. In the parlance of CMS, this is called an elopement and is considered serious enough to result in a reduction of our 5-star to a 4-star. Skilled Nursing is still providing the friendly and excellent care it always has. The Committee felt this reduction was an overreaction to a minor infraction.

Continued Learning sponsored the appearance of Dr. William Ayoub on April 13th to speak on the topic of Arthritis. The presentation was excellent and well attended.

If other medical topics are of interest to you, please contact Warren Howe, Chair of the Health Affairs Committee, and the Committee will attempt to find a speaker to discuss your topic.



The Bennardos, Stovers, Kretchmars and Diane Neely enjoy the fare at the Big Knob Pancake Breakfast, a Trips & Tours Event

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## CURIO CABINETS FOR MAY/JUNE

By Janet Desko #210

Wow! What a beautiful turnout of Collections! This was a very popular theme, and we will probably do it again next spring. So many new residents, with so much to share.

Please pick up your **“Collection”** on **Tuesday, May 5**, from **10:30 a.m. – noon** and from **4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Our next theme will be **“Celebrating Women”** in honor of Mother’s Day. Let’s take time to honor our wives, daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, teachers, female mentors, etc. Please bring your pictures, sentimental items, jewelry, dishes, vases, and keepsakes that evoke memories of the special women in your life.

On **Thursday, May 7**, bring to the curio cabinets your new **“Celebrating Women”** items from **10:30 a.m. – noon** and from **4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Thanks to all of you, again, for participating in keeping the curio cabinets an important part of life at Sherwood Oaks.

## COMMITTEE WINS STATE AWARD

By Lori Greer, Administrator Personal Care and Oak Grove Center

This year, we are proud to announce the **Sherwood Oaks Resident Association Vigil Committee** has been recognized as the **PALA (Pennsylvania Assisted Living Association) Best Practice Award for 2026**. This award recognizes communities who create innovative programs or unique approaches to provide the best services possible to its residents, employees, guests, and local community.

The Vigil Committee is a group of Sherwood Oaks residents who volunteer their time to fellow residents and families during end-of-life care. The committee members hold vigil at the residents' bedside providing support including quiet companionship, prayers, music, reminiscing, etc. as the person transitions from this life. Their team collaborates with our nursing team to ensure an individualized approach for each resident.

The Vigil Committee has been a great support to families who live out of town or want to step away for some time knowing

their loved one is not alone. The volunteers have also been able to share with employees and families some stories and history they have personally experienced with the individual. Collectively, the Vigil Committee supports our mission of person-centered care and a peaceful transition at the end of life. We thank each volunteer for the gift of time and support to the Sherwood Oaks Community.

Sherwood Oaks maintains active membership with PALA. The Association is exclusively dedicated to the interest and advocacy for assisted living and personal care homes throughout the state. Each year, PALA presents the Keystone Awards recognizing outstanding individuals, programs, and innovations making a difference in communities throughout Pennsylvania.



Members of the Vigil Team  
Photo by Roberta Breninghouse

The nomination and this article were submitted by members of our leadership team, Roberta Breninghouse and Lori Greer.

If you might be interested in serving as a Vigil Volunteer, contact the coordinator, Jan Wendt at #8158.

## CARE FOR EVERY RESIDENT

By Mary Kretchmar - #287

Lunchtime at Sherwood Oaks recently came with an unexpected bit of excitement—and a wonderful reminder of what community really means.

As Peggy and Sandy Rubel and I were finishing up our lunch, Peggy looked out toward the lake and noticed a car stopped on Norman Drive across from the pier. Seems a rather large snapping turtle was slowly attempting to cross the road. Not exactly a quick trip for this determined traveler!

Enter Security Officer Bob Batykefer.

With calm patience and a snow shovel (which demonstrated a healthy respect for his shelled friend), Bob stepped in to make sure the turtle made it safely to the other side. We watched from the dining hall windows, cheering him on as this gentle rescue unfolded.

It's safe to say this particular "resident" may not have a room number—but it made it home safely just the same, thanks to Bob.

When asked about his good deed, Bob simply smiled and said, "We look after all our Sherwood Oaks residents."

A big thank you to him for reminding us that kindness comes in all shapes...and shells!

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*"Few people know how to take a walk. The qualities are endurance, plain clothes, old shoes, an eye for nature, good humor, vast curiosity, good silence and nothing too much."*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

## BIRD BUDDY DELIGHT

By Janie Cindric - #224

What meaningful gift do you get your parents at this point in their lives? Our son Tom knew our joy in watching birds, so he gifted us a Bird Buddy for Christmas. We left it in the box until his brother Chris and his daughters came and assembled it for us. It was quite the family project.

What fun we have had as the app alerts us to visitors and the camera takes a picture or sometimes a video of the visit. At the end of the day the app supplies a summary of the visitors.



Photos submitted by Janie Cindric

A recent message said, "You can expect to see a squirrel at this feeder at 7 a.m." Yes, a squirrel. Guess what, he was right on time this morning! We also have a very industrious chipmunk that finds his way to it!

Our dog, Maisie, is on high alert for those particular visitors! My favorite is the tufted titmouse and Tom's is the cardinal.

We are blessed to enjoy nature and this unexpected gift of technology continues to enhance our pleasure!

## CARING FOR WOODEN PLANTERS

By John Bridges - #122



Several of these have recently been brought to the Wood Shop in a sorry state. Examination has shown that there is often too much rotten wood present to make repairs possible. Putting damp soil in contact with wood is a recipe for disaster; I would not expect a lifespan of more than a year or two.

Commercial treatments are available using higher concentrations of special preservatives to protect wood. But these are only available commercially in larger sizes, such as 6" x 6" as used in the raised garden beds at Sherwood Oaks.

A better solution (if you want to grow a few plants at waist height without stooping) is to use the planter for a collection of plastic pots standing in saucers. Thus, the wood would not be continually in contact with its greatest enemy, moisture,

On a more technical note, if fungal decay is to be avoided, the moisture content of wood should be kept below 25%. At any percentage above that, there will be free water in the wood cells to quench the thirst of hungry fungal spores. This contradicts the habit of safely storing or sorting logs after felling, and before sawing by keeping them submerged in log ponds without access to air and oxygen.

## "HOW WE LOVE YOU, OUR DEAR OLD SWAN-EES!"

By Jan Wendt - #158

Sherman and Oakley first arrived on campus on March 21, 2016. Their acquisition was the brainchild of former Senior Director Annette McPeck, who was convinced the swans would put an end to the mess left behind by flocks of geese.

Once approval came from UPMC, "the boys" set sail on Lake Sherwood and have been amusing us ever since. A contest was held to name them, and the monikers stuck.

They do their job with the geese and keep us entertained season in and season out. Let's watch to see how they celebrate their big day.



## Shared by Diane Horn - #203



*There came to my window  
one morning in Spring,  
A sweet little robin, she  
came there to sing.  
And the song that she  
sang, it was sweeter by far.  
Than ever was heard on a  
flute or guitar.*

## TRIPS & TOURS TRAFFIC

By Maggie Bennardo - #211

As reported in March, we embarked on a new adventure in conjunction with Dining Services:

The in-house Elegant Tea Party on March 20 in the Cranberry Lake Grill was a great success (see photo on back cover). Participants numbered 30 in all. Some dressed “to the nines,” all enjoyed the formal tea menu. Thanks to the Dining Services staff for a job well planned and executed.



Photo by Maggie Bennardo

The April 8 Wine Tasting in The Card Room featured nine different wines. Elizabeth Langdon, a professional wine expert, led the 25 participants through the tasting process, incorporating each wine’s history, regional characteristics, pricing, and selection criteria. Again, the Dining Services staff provided excellent execution and appropriate pallet cleansers supporting this well received adventure.

Trips & Tours will, in the future, continue to explore possible on campus events so ALL residents have chance to participate.

Many of you expressed interest in longer distance trips. To address these requests, we will be posting “INTERESTED? – Suggestions” on our board in the Mailroom. SO transportation is not able to provide overnight buses, so planning those events takes on unique logistics.

Check Channel 950 for T&T upcoming events and event detail postings.

Hope to see you on the bus soon!



Photo by Maggie Bennardo

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SPRING FOOD BANK DRIVE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

The Spring drive for the Lighthouse Foundation Food Bank produced 150 pounds of food and nearly \$850 in cash donations. Many thanks to those who participated.

Watch for the Summer drive in July.

COOPER'S CLIMATE CAPSULE

By Bruce Cooper - #735

"We are the pivot generation – before us, normality; after us, potential chaos." So says Irish journalist Philip Boucher-Hayes in the first of three *Global Warning* documentaries that will be shown on Channel 950 in May, June, and July.

Episode 1, *Into the Storm*, highlights the immediate and escalating effects of climate change. It opens in Ireland, where extreme weather events are becoming increasingly common. In Greenland, it explores the rapid melting of the ice sheet, with potentially devastating consequences - rising sea levels and disruptions to the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), the main ocean current system in the Atlantic Ocean.

As I write this article, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere stands at 433 ppm. Science tells us that any level above 350 ppm will warm the planet over time. So, not only do we need to completely stop belching greenhouse gases into the air we breathe – we must also quickly find ways to remove more than 20% of those gases in order to bring our planet back into some kind of equilibrium.

What to do?? Here are some actions:

- Shift from fossil fuels to renewables to reduce carbon emissions;
- Implement strategies for sustainable population growth to lessen environmental impact;
- Protect and restore ecosystems that play crucial roles in carbon storage and biodiversity.

Watch *Global Warning - Episode 1 - Into the Storm* on Channel 950 on Monday, May 11, at 10:00 AM. Encore presentation on Wednesday, May 13, at 3:30 PM.

CONTINUED LEARNING

By Jno L. Hunt - #308

Despite ongoing challenges with our AV system, we enjoyed presentations in April on "The Art of Money," "When Joints Speak - Arthritis," and "Earth Day, How Are We Doing?"

We already have a full series of speakers lined up for September and October on a wide range of topics. More details to follow in September.

In the meantime, enjoy our presentations on Channel 950. Initial airings on Tuesdays are at 10:00 a.m. and encore presentations are on Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

MAY:

Tues., May 5: "Holst & Vaughan Williams—Making Music English." Encore on Thurs., May 7.

Tues., May 12: "The Brain—What is Reality?" Encore on Thurs., May 14.

Tues., May 19: "Patagonia—Bottom of the World." Encore on Thurs., May 21.

Tues., May 26: "The Holy Land Revealed—Lectures 25 & 26." Encore on Thurs., May 28.

CHAPEL NOTES

By Gary Brandenberger - #602
For the Chapel Committee

Services at 2:00 P.M. in the Card Room

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend.

Sunday, May 3

Rev. Joe Toomey
LifePointe Alliance
Cranberry Twp.

Sunday, May 10

Rev. Nate Glover
Urban Impact
Pittsburgh, PA

Sunday, May 17

Rev. Dan Davis
Christ Church at Grove Farm
Sewickley, PA

Sunday, May 24

Rev. Todd Allen
Park Presbyterian
Beaver, PA

Sunday, May 31

Rev. Stan Keehlwetter
Heritage Presbyterian
Franklin Park, PA

*“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and put
a new and right spirit within me.”*

Psalm 51:10

TAIZE SERVICE OFFERED

By Jean Henderson - # 346

A second Taize service will be held on Monday, May 11, at 1:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.

This ecumenical service encourages worshippers to use prayer, readings, simple chants from the Taize community in France, and silence to become closer to God. It lasts about 45 minutes. A packet of materials will be provided.

Our first Taize service at Sherwood Oaks, held in early March, was well attended, and favorably received.

All are invited.



Photo by Lee Wierman

WORTH A LOOK
Books New to Our Library

By Barbara Christy - #237

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi. Fiction. This author looked at the dysfunctional world around him and decided to write a book about “nice.” He has succeeded. Theo arrives from Portugal to the Georgia town of Golden and settles in by taking coffee every morning in a local coffee shop. The walls of the coffeeshop are covered with 92 pencil portraits of local inhabitants. Theo decides to purchase then and return them to the “owners,” the people who are the subjects. As Theo returns the portraits, life stories are exchanged, he develops relationships with the citizens of Golden, and Theo discreetly finds ways to ease their burdens. Intrigued by a sketch of a lone tree in a field that belonged to the artist’s mother, Theo also develops a close friendship with the artist, Asher. By autumn, Theo has become a part of the community and his death in a fall from a balcony begins an investigation that reveals his true identity. This heartwarming tale evokes the power of creative generosity and shared artistic appreciation. F LEV Note: interviews with the author are available on YouTube and are fun to watch.

The Night Guest by Hildur Knútsdóttir. Fiction. This is a stark, elegant psychological ghost story set in Iceland. Iðunn has isolated herself as she is grieving the loss of her sister and the end of a relationship. She searches out a physician because she is waking up each morning feeling physically exhausted – as if she has been slogging through mud all night. Her blood work is normal, but she starts finding bruises – big bruises and blood – all over her body as well. With no obvious reason for her trouble, she begins seeing a psychiatrist but, feeling worse, she also sets

up her phone camera to film herself during the night. She sees herself getting out of bed and not coming back until 4 hours later. Her digital watch shows she has walked 46,000 steps. Neighborhood cats, that she has befriended for years, begin avoiding her, then hissing at her. What is happening to her? F HIL

How to Cook a Coyote by Betty Fussell. Non-fiction. This 98-year-old author has a lot to say about the joys of getting older. And she says it in witty and wonderful ways. Recounting life in her Santa Barbara retirement community she describes things like the breakfast club – always sitting at the same table at the same time and ordering the same food – as if it were Sherwood Oaks. But she has new viewpoints to share as well. How to cook a coyote is not just a title, it is a real recipe, and she would share her tamale- with-coyote filling with you if she could. Coyote is also the Navaho animal spirit that presages death and awareness of him filters through much of her writing. Full of life and laughter, wisdom, and wit this little book is a gem that Sherwood residents will enjoy. 920.72 RUS

Family of Spies by Christine Kuehn. Non-fiction. This is a true story of WWII from the other side – a Nazi family is recruited/forced to move to Hawaii to become spies prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Decades later, a granddaughter is contacted by a documentary film maker for details about their activities. But Chris, the granddaughter, knows nothing about this part of the family history. As she searches, she is horrified by what she discovers. Her father, living in Florida and descending into dementia, finally acknowledges the truth. For Chris, first comes the horror, then questions – why we her grandparents not executed? Finally, she accepts the reality, and the reconciliation begins. 320.12 Kue

THE COLETTA MCKENRY LIBRARY ACCESSIONS
FICTION, INCLUDING LARGE TYPE AND DVD's

*Reviewed in Worth a Look

Big Shot	Farnsworth, Christopher	c2026.	F FAR
Cross & Sampson	Patterson, James	c2026.	F PAT
The Invisible Woman	Patterson, James	c2026.	F PAT
It's Not Her	Kubica, Mary	c2026.	F KUB
Missing	Jackson, E. A.	c2026.	F JAC
The Night Guest*	Knutsdottir, Hildur	c2024.	F HIL
None of This Is True	Jewell, Lisa	c2023.	F JEW
Pendergast: The Beginning	Preston, Douglas J.	c2026.	F PRE
Stolen in Death	Robb, J. D.	c2026.	F ROB
Wild Dark Shore	McConaghy, Charlotte	c2025.	F MCC

NONFICTION, INCLUDING BIOGRAPHIES

The Fatal Shore	Hughes, Robert	c1987.	994 HUG
The Situation Room: The Inside Story of Presidents in Crisis	Stephanopoulos, George	c2024.	973.09 STE
The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder	Grann, David	c2023.	910.916 GRA L.T.
When You Come at the King: Inside DOJ's Pursuit of the President, from Nixon to Trump	Honig, Elie	c2025.	353.4 HON



WHAT'S NEW WITH SORA?

(SO Residents Association)

By Thea Stover, Sec'y - #606

Note: Complete minutes are always available for review on the SORA Bulletin Board in the Mailroom and in the SORA binder in the library.

The Board met on April 6, 2026, with the following information shared:

Finances: Memorial/Special Projects Fund balance is \$22,308.94 and the Employee Appreciation Fund balance is \$24,186.30.

Bells and Choir: The Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 6 at 4:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.

Sing-along and Snax: Events will be held on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Pavilion, starting on May 20 and ending on October 7.

Sherwood Gifts: With sales of over \$4,000 last month, another donation of \$5,000 was made to the Special Projects Memorial Fund.

Pool Room: There is a men's foursome playing on Thursdays and Chair George Steffey is in the process of putting together a women's group for Tuesdays.

Civic Affairs: The goal of the committee is to encourage all residents to vote. Tables will be set up in the lobby to register voters and assist with mail-in ballots.

Art Studio: There will be watercolor classes beginning in May.

Landscaping: Five brown Trex benches have been ordered. Work on downspouts and swails continues.

Security and Transportation: A quote has been solicited for additional security cameras for the gatehouse, Oak Grove

Center parking lot and Lakeside Apartments parking lot. The committee is seeking new members.

Administration: With Mark Bondi retiring, this was his last Board meeting. He has been in discussions with Armstrong for some time, working to bundle television, telephone, and internet services.

Independent Occupancy as of April 1 is 70%. The newer and renovated units are over 90%.

Activities Fair: There were 39 activities represented and over 150 people attended the Fair.

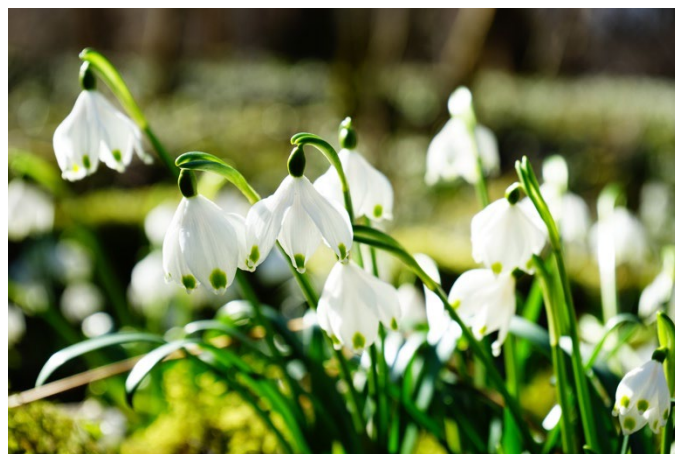
July 4th Celebration: The Ft. Pitt Museum Tour on Tuesday, June 30 will be at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at the Rochester Inn.

Computer Room: This room will be named in honor of Scott Desmond who volunteered there for many years and recently died. There will be an unveiling of the plaque in the near future.

Welcome to Mark Nord: This will occur at the May Board Meeting.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 1:30 PM in the Card Room.

Residents Quarterly (ANNUAL) Meeting: Tuesday, June 9 at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium for the election of new officers and directors.



LADIES AT TEA

March 20, '26



Photo by Dining Services