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# The Inverness "I"

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Vol. 14. No. 4.

October 2023

## From The Staff

In the July issue of the Inverness "I", we spoke of the changes to our village newsletter as George and Barbara Colby, founders and extraordinary editors of the "I", retired. Since then we have welcomed a new member to our staff, Louise Davidson, and will somewhat alter the format of the "I".

It seems appropriate that these changes should begin in October, when fall often brings the beginning of some change in our lives. I always think of the character Jordan Baker in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* at this time of year. She is sitting with Daisy, Gatsby, Tom, and Nick in a non-air-conditioned suite in New York City, in the heat of late summer, and to be positive and encouraging, she says, "Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

Many of us think of fall as a beginning. We can remember the excitement and anticipation of returning to school or college where there were many beginnings and many reunions with friends. Here we have the pleasure of welcoming back neighbors and friends who have been on vacation or have stayed at a second home for the summer.

In the fall there will be beginnings here in Inverness as we look forward to the various activities planned for us by the Social Committee. We'll be able to take long walks on the trails and enjoy pop-up cocktail parties on the cul-de-sacs in the cooler weather. And perhaps we'll experience a beginning when we participate in some new activities in Inverness or welcome new neighbors, for "life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

**Carol Ellis**

## From The Village President

In a recent publication from my church there was a passage called "A Prayer for Growing Old Gracefully". The first verse is:

Lord, Thou knowest better than I myself  
that I am growing older and will someday  
be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of  
thinking I must say something on every subject  
and on every occasion.

With that in mind I will try to keep my subjects to a few and my words even fewer.

This is the time of year when our thoughts turn towards the approaching two seasons that many love and hate...fall and winter. It is also the time of year that we must start looking seriously at our village budget. The current year has proven to be both healing and happier than the previous two as a result of the pandemic. But it has also proven to be a more expensive year. Almost everything has increased in cost and many items continue to increase regularly, e.g., gas. One of the increases that is greatly anticipated at the time of this writing is a significant increase in the landscaping budget. Our contract with Hershey's Mill Landscape Division (HMLD) expires 12/31/23. Currently there are, I believe, twenty villages that use HMLD. At the current time, every homeowner in those villages is paying approximately \$91.00/month for their services. A number of us in Inverness are talking with other villages and in particular those villages that use contractors other than HMLD. Although those conversations at this writing are inconclusive, it appears that any landscape service outside of HMLD will be more costly than HMLD. Why? The answer is volume.

*Cont'd on page 2*

### From The Village President (cont'd)

Even with twenty villages, HMLD has a very difficult time retaining a necessary number of employees, despite significant pay increases. In addition to increases in pay, HMLD is faced with significant increases in materials and equipment. This is not unique to HMLD and is mirrored throughout the landscape industry. More updates as additional information is collected.

On another note, I cannot tell you how many times I have been told by those outside of our village how attractive Inverness is. This has been enhanced significantly by the siding project. Each of us has also realized incredible increases in our property value both because of market situations and because of our continued effort to maintain our village. It is hoped that we will continue to do this in the future. That being said, another item that is frequently discussed among the council members and other village volunteers is future planning. We are constantly monitoring our infrastructure as well as listening to the concerns of our owners. Various items that require constant scrutiny are our roofs, walkways, roadways, sanitary sewer system, as well as our storm water management system. None of these are low ticket items. When a repair or replacement is needed, we are talking about many thousands of dollars.

Although we are not yet where we need to be financially to tackle another major project right now, we are headed in the right direction with our reserve fund being at its highest in many years. Each of you needs to be thanked for this as a result of your continued financial support. We are attempting to form a Long-Range Planning Committee whose job would be to analyze these individual components of our infrastructure, propose a plan of time and action and present a fiscal blueprint for funding these improvements. Please consider offering your services to this committee if you believe you have talent that can be used. You may contact any council member for additional information.

The closing verse of the above noted prayer is as follows:

Keep me reasonably sweet, for a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people, and give, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

Best!

Ed Isselmann



## Cocktails on the Cul-de-Sac

Our early attempts to schedule Cocktails on the Cul-de-Sac ran into some problems: smoke from the Canadian fires, rainy weather and too much heat. But as of now, we've had a couple of these get-togethers. It's a fun way to catch up with neighbors. The cul-de-sac changes each time a get-together is scheduled, and all are welcome, regardless of the cul-de-sac you live in. If your cul-de-sac has not been visited yet, we hope to continue these get-togethers as long as the weather permits. Watch your email for a group message to all of Inverness from Terry Marran. Since these get-togethers are weather dependent, you may not get your invite until the day before or the morning of the event. All you need to do is bring a chair and your beverage, and a snack if you wish.

Looking forward to seeing you!

### The Social Committee





## Bocce Social Event

September 13 turned out to be a beautiful evening as over 35 Inverness residents gathered at the bocce courts for games, refreshments and socializing. As always, the appetizers and desserts which everyone contributed were delicious! We played 7-point bocce games to allow time for more people to have the opportunity to play. We even had some new players join us. Since there is no pavilion by the new bocce courts, we were fortunate to have a pop-up canopy which Ed Isselmann supplied, and many helpers to assist him in setting it up. Thanks also to Tre Carrone for bringing the paper goods and utensils. All in all it was a great social gathering!

Mary Lou Perry





## Landscape Committee Report

The end of summer is the time for the Landscaping Committee to get a renewed focus on our next projects. We have funds in our budget for tree work, regrading foundations and general landscaping projects. Once again we will work to finish projects started in the spring by reseeding areas and planting replacement shrubs and trees. Each foundation regrading project is unique and some are not obvious, easy fixes. We have completed several with villagers reporting the leaks have stopped; several others are improved, but water during the heaviest rain still finds a way in. We will continue to add houses to the list requiring attention. Please let CSK know if you discover runoff has found an entry point.

Harlan responded to an emergency tree removal request. The leaning pine tree behind 773 had lost roots and was beginning to pull out of the ground after each hard rain. We want to track this type of tree movement. Please contact CSK if you notice a tree beginning to lean so we can monitor the situation.

At the time of this article's submission, HMLD had not come through to perform the annual shrub trimming and general clean up. This is contracted work and it will be completed as the trimming crew works its way around the villages. We lost our momentum in arranging new projects when the assistant operations manager left HMLD in late spring. The notes taken at the walk through are available and will be reviewed for the coming year.

**Barbara Crispin**  
Chair

The Landscape Committee Designs the Plantings for the Village Entrances and the Flagpole Island.



One of the Entrances to Inverness Village



The Inverness Village Flagpole Island

## Social Committee Report

The Social Committee's summer hiatus has come to an end. We are planning social events for this year based on the surveys you filled out last spring. We hope to include as many of them as we can. We look forward to a year of enjoyable get-togethers!

**Bev Cella and Mary Schreiner**  
Co-chairs

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## Decorating Committee Report



The Decorating Committee has added autumn décor to our village. The flag pole island, the Inverness Village sign on Chandler Drive, the house numbers sign at the entrance to our village, and the entrances to all of the cul-de-sacs have been transformed for the season.

**Barbara Harvey**  
Chair

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## Maintenance Committee Report

### Sidewalks

The sidewalks have signs of aging with its cracks and holes, and are in need of repairs. Thanks to Dave DeNight, a complete analysis of the sidewalks and driveways in Inverness has been completed. Next is to find a paving contractor, and what we can afford to do with the funds in the budget.

### Lighting

The light bulbs that came with the fixtures have not been lasting as would be expected. Occasionally you can find me out late at night looking for and replacing failed or failing bulbs. If you see one that needs attention, please send a message to CSK.

### Gutters and Downspouts

Inverness hired a contractor in spring to clean out the gutters. Since then, I have seen only a few gutters that are clogged, and there have only been a few gutter repairs. We are still seeing drainage issues. Recently HM landscaping was hired to put a camera through the drainage pipes with problems. This will help us to diagnose the cause of the problem. We are waiting to hear from HM as to what they found.

**Carl Griffin (and Louise DeNight)**  
Maintenance Committee

## Architectural Committee Report

The Architectural Committee has nothing to report for this issue.

**Mary Cairns**  
Chair

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## Getting to Know You

Sandy Flatland  
771 Inverness Dr.



Sandy was born in Boston and grew up in Dedham, MA. She taught Kindergarten for three years until she married and had children. She has a son who lives in Maryland and he has one daughter. Her daughter, in Downingtown, has one daughter and one son.

Sandy's husband was transferred to Wayne, which led to the family's relocation. Sandy became a travel agent in Wayne for seven years until she retired. They enjoyed travel agent perks to expand their travels. New Zealand and Australia, Sweden, France and England were only some of their destinations. Sandy's husband's father was born in Norway, and at age 21, landed in Ellis Island, when his family came to the US. A trip to Norway to visit her husband's family was a very special trip.

Sandy and her husband were familiar with Hershey's Mill having lived in Glenwood Village for 18 years, followed by some time in Brighton. Sadly, Sandy's husband passed away last January. Sandy began looking for a place to rent which brought her to Inverness.

As for activities, Sandy has been playing tennis since she was eight years old. She has been a member of Martin's Dam tennis club in Wayne for many years and still plays there. Other interests include dancing in the HM Player's shows.

You might have passed Sandy walking her 16 year-old beagle mix, Hannah, in the neighborhood. If you should see them, make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to our village!

**Pat Aubry**

***Welcome to Inverness Village Sandy!***

**Upcoming Events - Hershey's Mill*****Inverness Village Open Meeting***

Tuesday December 5 at 7:00 PM  
HM Community Center

***Hershey's Mill Singers***

Saturday, December 2 at 7:00 PM  
Sunday December 3 at 3:00PM  
SS Peter and Paul Church, Boot Road

***Hershey's Mill Holiday Tree Lighting***

Sunday December 3  
HM will later announce the time  
HM Community Center  
(Refreshments, singing carols with the Hershey's Mill singers, visit from Santa)

***Inverness Holiday Gala***

Saturday December 9 at 5:00 PM  
HM Community Center

**Local Area Events of Interest**

Household Hazardous Waste Event  
Saturday, October 7

Government Services Center  
601 Westtown Road, West Chester  
NO ELECTRONICS ACCEPTED

***Pre-registration required.***

***Register at: [chestercountyswa.org](http://chestercountyswa.org)***

E-Recycling Event

Saturday, November 4 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

East Goshen Township Park

See *East Goshen website* for details:  
[eastgoshen.org](http://eastgoshen.org)

Past issues of *The Inverness "I"* can be accessed from the Hershey's Mill website:

**[www.hersheysmill.org](http://www.hersheysmill.org)**

Go to the "Villages" tab and click on "Inverness"  
Scroll down and you will see a link to previous issues of the newsletter.

*The online newsletter is in full color.*

**Inverness Directory Updates**

*Please contact Mary Lou Perry if you have any changes to your Inverness Directory listing.*

**In Memoriam*****Chip Poole***

(Formerly #760)  
September 2, 2023

*Our sincere condolences to Barbara and her family*

**Inverness Village Council Members**

President	Ed Isselmann
Vice President	Penny Zimmerman
Secretary	Terry Marran
Treasurer	Richard Hammock
Council Coordinator	Marilyn Foley
Managing Agent	Janet Burgess
	Caroline DeCray

**The Inverness "I" Staff**

Editorial Staff

Carol Ellis  
Pat & Jim Aubry  
Mary Lou Perry

Design and Layout

Louise Davidson



Hello Inverness Village neighbors! I'm Louise Davidson, and I've joined the Inverness Village "I" staff as the new Design and Layout member. Mary Lou Perry has acted in this capacity for the past 7 years, and I'm sure you agree that she's done an outstanding job! Fortunately, Mary Lou will continue as a staff member, providing articles of interest to us all.