

CRANERIDGE Winter Newsletter

December 2022



**Welcome
Home!**

Mission

Enhance our living environment through woodlands stewardship, shared property maintenance, and community building.

Vision

A community of friendly, caring, and respectful neighbors who cooperate with each other to maintain the health of the woodlands and grow the value of both our properties and our friendships.

Hello Neighbors!



President's Message

As I'm writing this, I'm wishing for snow for the Holidays, as I assume you all know that Craneridge is a very special and unique place, especially during the winter months. I hope we all experience a fantastic snow season.

I'd like to thank my fellow board members for having faith in my leadership skills and appointing me as President of this amazing community this past June. With this new position comes new experiences, new skills to learn and new understandings. It also brings great responsibility to facilitate the maintenance, improvement and upkeep of our community, while also keeping an eye on the future and the impacts that our decisions today have on tomorrow. As our community has a rich 50+ year history, it also brings an aging infrastructure that needs to be dealt with in a strategic manner. Threats to our community include an aging woodlands, invasive species that can kill our trees, an ever increasing deer population, creek erosion, aging pool house, shelters, and gas lighting, which all carry heavy financial implications for our community.

Am I equipped to handle all this and pave the way towards opportunities and improvements? No. Not alone. But I am equipped to facilitate and bring together all our Board of Directors and Committees to work on these important issues.

This past year the board has been working hard to improve our own internal relations and processes in preparation of strategic planning for the next 3, 5 and 10 years. To do so, the board has worked hard on understanding our similarities, our differences and most importantly our shared mission and values. I'm thankful to work with a board that represents an array of ages, genders, and years of residency. I'm also thankful that we each bring with us different perspectives, which makes for complicated discussions, but ones that we must have as a community to move forward. Afterall, if the board and the community was an echo-chamber of the same opinions and perspectives, we would never work towards changes and improvements.

With that, I ask that you leave room for your own flexibility of thought. Moving forward as a community, we will need to make some hard decisions and changes to progress and implement our shared mission. What works in one place or worked in the past may not work the same way in another time, place, or with a different situation. Flexibility requires humility and open-mindedness, and it can be scary to do things differently. This won't be an easy undertaking, but it is an essential one for a healthy community.

I'd love to hear from you and get to know your perspectives and ideas moving into our strategic planning this spring. With that I invite you to connect with me and openly invite phone calls, texts or e-mails. I also encourage you to take an active role in our community improvement initiatives, as we are always looking for new volunteers to serve on our committees and at the board level.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Shannon Wichlacz
Craneridge President
716-432-4778 | scmenter@yahoo.com

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Woodlands Committee News

Article About Our Invasive Shrub Removal Published in Great Lakes Center Newsletter

An article about the Woodlands & Habitat Committee's partnership with WNY PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) was recently published in the Great Lakes Center Fall 2022 Newsletter. The article highlights our efforts in the summer and fall to remove several invasive plants and shrubs in Craneridge. These invasive shrubs were outcompeting our native understory plants. Because our insects, pollinators, birds, and other wildlife have not evolved with these new invaders, they do not recognize them as habitats, or the berries provide far less nutritional value.

To read the article, go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycknh7ts>



The WNY PRISM crew worked with the Craneridge Association to remove bush honeysuckle from an area selected for treatment.



The WNY PRISM crew and Craneridge Association members after their successful day removing bush honeysuckle and multi-flora rose from the property.



Stay Current on Woodlands & Habitat Happenings and Resources

- Over 60 Craneridge neighbors have already joined our private, residents-only Woodlands & Habitat Facebook group. If you haven't already, join us! We regularly post events, activities, and links to many resources that help us all learn more about our wonderful, wooded neighborhood and how we might preserve it for the future.

www.facebook.com/groups/craneridgewoodlands

or just scan this QR code!

Stand Guard Against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Introducing Craneridge's “Take a Stand” program

There is no doubt that we benefit from a truly unique wooded neighborhood. Generations of families have enjoyed the beauty of our trees and all their wild inhabitants. We are lucky to live here.

Sadly, many of our trees are now facing some serious health threats. ***Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)*** is in the Western New York area and is spreading. Nearly all Eastern Hemlocks that are infested with this aphid-like tiny insect will die. About half to two-thirds of Craneridge is heavily populated with Hemlocks.

There is hope, and treatments are currently available, but on a larger scale, these solutions can be costly. Cornell University is actively researching and testing wider scale “bio-controls” (good insects that eat the bad bugs). **The most important thing to do now is to be on the lookout.** We want to spot infestation early on so we can be proactive with next steps.



The Fun Fact:

The hemlock tree is self-pruning. When certain leaves or twigs of the plant begin to weaken, a resin deposit begins to form at the base. The offending branches are sealed off from the rest of the tree so as to save resources like water and minerals. Eventually, the weakened branches break off through natural processes.



Adelgid infestations are recognizable by the appearance of tiny "cotton balls" at the base of hemlock needles.

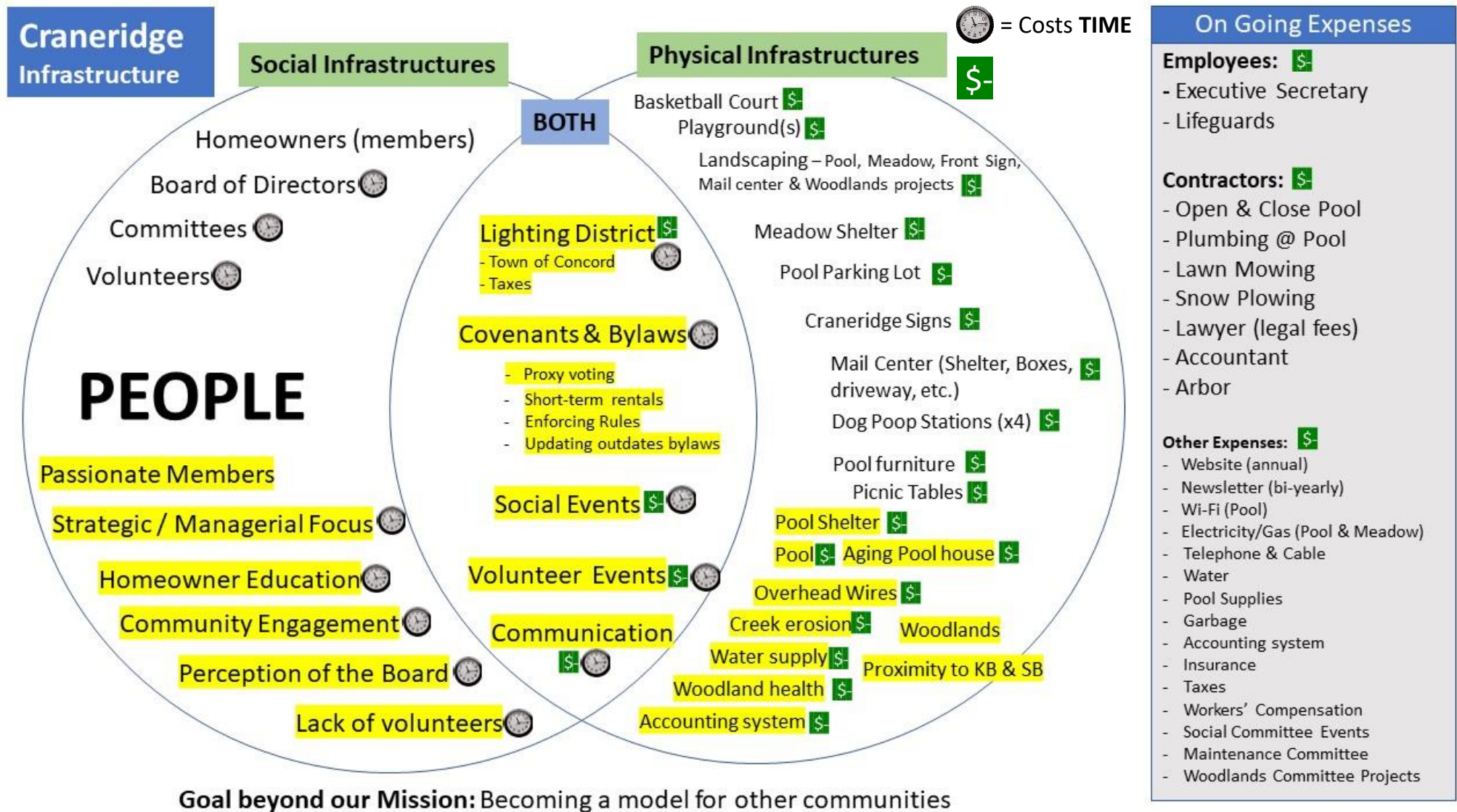
To support this effort, the Woodlands & Habitat Committee is launching **"Take a (Hemlock) Stand."** We'll share more details over the next couple weeks, but here's the scoop:

- Identify 4-6 Craneridge neighbors who want to be "HWA Hunters." These will be folks who already enjoy spending time outdoors and are comfortable in winter conditions. No tree climbing is required!
- HWA Hunters will receive special training and will also upload HWA findings (or "it's not here" findings) to a special phone app. They'll become our Craneridge experts and our onsite resources.
- We'll post online a "How to ID" handout and other resources for HWA Hunters and neighbors.
- Any neighbor who wishes to "Take a Stand," after speaking with a HWA Hunter, can focus their searches in their own Craneridge property or elsewhere in the area including in Sprague Brook Park.

Want To Be a HWA Hunter?!

Contact Gwen Alegre at gwenalegre@gmail.com or 716 480 1159. *Training will be scheduled for January.*

What Do Your Assessments Pay for? - A Value Matrix of Craneridge - Inputs & Outputs



To better understand the infrastructure of Craneridge and to look ahead strategically and financially, the Board needed to understand the infrastructure of Craneridge. Our strategic planning process is ongoing and we are currently undergoing a Reserve Study & Funding Analysis to help inform the planning of our next 3-year Budget and annual assessments. However, the Reserve and Financial Study is not capable of measuring an important and often overlooked aspect of our community: the Social Infrastructures. The Venn-Diagram above highlights the Social AND Physical Infrastructure of Craneridge. Often times, members will ask why they need to pay the assessment if they don't use the Pool or any of the shared amenities. Hopefully, this diagram illustrates that your assessments contribute to the assurance of a quality of life within a very unique community. In order to keep this community healthy and unique, we ask that our members help the board work towards our **Mission** which is to *enhance our living environment through woodlands stewardship, shared property maintenance, and community building*, and our **Vision**, which is a *community of friendly, caring, and respectful neighbors who cooperate with each other to maintain the health of the woodlands and grow the value of both our properties and our friendships*.

Social Committee Events – Photos!!!

School's Out Party - June 24th



Luau & Tiki Party - July 23rd



Craneridge Jazzy Evening- August 27th



VOLUNTEERING

MATTERS

Craneridge is a small community that is entirely run by volunteers. As such, we'd like to thank the community members who serve on all our Committees!

Social Committee Volunteers needed !!!!

Do you like planning parties and get-togethers? Do you excel at delegating responsibilities? The **Social Committee** would LOVE your help! The Committee is the backbone to our Community Building efforts. Have new ideas about how to boost socialization in Craneridge? ***Please Join us!!!! Having Fun Matters!!!***

The HOA Bylaws are currently under review for possible update/changes.

If you would like to be involved, please consider joining the committee! The objective of this committee is to review the bylaws for potential problems or changes. ***Please help us!!!!***

The following Committees provide the backbone of Craneridge

- Architectural
- Maintenance
- Social
- Pool
- Woodlands
- Finance
- Bylaws
- Lighting
- Communications
- Welcoming
- Recreation Complex

Thank you!

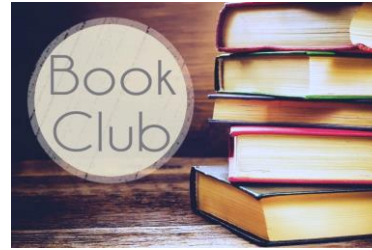
**& all our Dog Poop
Station Clean-up
Volunteers!**

To Volunteer e-mail: ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com

Craneridge Book Club Celebrates 25 Years

This February will mark the 25th birthday of the Craneridge Book Club.

Discussion between two avid readers at a Craneridge function sparked the club's formation, and the group has been active ever since.



Although the focus is on discussing books chosen by members, the book club also provides an evening of fun and fellowship. We also focus our efforts on providing meals and other help to residents facing medical and other challenges.

While current members are all women, we certainly would not exclude anyone wanting to participate. We typically have one special co-ed meeting a year, which is scheduled for November in 2023.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday, January 19th** to discuss Horse, a widely acclaimed bestseller by Geraldine Brooks. Once finalized, our schedule for the entire year will be posted at <https://sites.google.com/view/craneridge-book-club-2/home?pli=1>. Anyone wanting to know more about the club or wanting to give it a try, may contact Jan Freeman at jmfdvm22@gmail.com or (716) 861-2020.

Dog Owners - Reminders

Just a reminder to dog owners to ***please continue to do a great job picking up after your dogs***

throughout the winter, both in our neighborhood and in the park.

Although it can be challenging to snag a snow-covered poop, your diligence will keep our neighborhood clean come spring.

Thank You!!!



Quotes about COMMUNITY

"The future of every community lies in capturing the passion, imagination, and resources of its people."

- Ernesto Sirolli

"For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other."

- Millard Fuller

"One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."

- Jean Vanier

"A small compassionate act enlarges the scope of community." - Mary Anne Radmacher

Craneridge - Board of Directors

Shannon Wichlacz (*term ends 2025*)

President

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Jeff Randall (*term ends 2024*)

Vice President

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Sam Lewandowski (*term ends 2024*)

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Shawn Johnston (*term ends 2023*)

Director

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Kathryn Orrange (*term ends 2025*)

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716-867-9147 | kaccles@hotmail.com

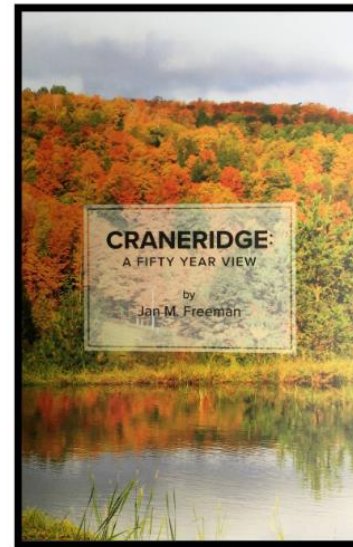
Kathie Sharp

Executive Secretary

716-425-1280 | ExecSec.craneridge@gmail.com

Copies of Jan Freeman's book CRANERIDGE: A 50 Year View are once again available!!!

At a recent board meeting, Jan was asked what inspired her to write the book: *"I go into the reasons I tackled this project more in the book's forward, but basically I realized that the rich oral history of Craneridge was in danger of being lost as many of the early and long term residents of our community move or pass away. I wanted all residents, past, present, and future, to understand and appreciate how Craneridge came to be and how the special people who reside here have shaped our unique and close-knit community. I also had the goal of making readers laugh a little by sharing some of the classic stories passed down through the years."*



If you haven't seen the book, it contains a history of Craneridge and the surrounding area, the amusing and heartwarming stories Jan alluded too, lots of other interesting information and tons of color pictures spanning decades.

Residents arriving in Craneridge since the rebirth of the Welcoming Committee will receive a complimentary copy courtesy of our Homeowners' Association. Others wishing to purchase a book may contact Jan at jmfdvm22@gmail.com or (716) 861-2020.

Good Neighbor Reminder!

Please be considerate of your neighbors and **keep loud noise to a minimum** (*i.e. parties, loud talking, machinery, and/or music*) during the hours of 11 pm to 8 am, especially during the weekdays.

Want to help save the HOA money on Newsletter printing and postage costs?

Sign-up via the link below:

<https://craneridge.org/signup>

Follow us on Social Media!

