



Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek Civic Association

News & Views

www.ckmcca.org

February 2012

Please Join Us For Live Entertainment & Friendly Chatting At the 2012 “Not Just Wine & Cheese” Party

(This is an adult only event and includes Beer, Wine, Soda, Light Snacks and Desserts.)

Sponsored by the Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Civic Association.



LIVE MUSIC

50/50 RAFFLE

Saturday, March 3, 2012

From 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Locust Lane Club House

The following charges will be taken at the door to help cover the cost of refreshments:

\$7.00 per person for CKMCCA Members

\$10.00 per person for Non-Member Residents

DUES CAN BE PAID AT THE DOOR

R.S.V.P. to Deb Jackowski at remydog@earthlink.net or 371-9930 and please confirm how many will attend. Food donations are appreciated. Please let us know if you can bring an appetizer or a dessert.

We need volunteers to help set-up and decorate on Friday night. If you can help please let us know. Thanks!

SEE YOU ON THE 3rd!!

Community Corner

Announcements and Events Organized by Members of Our Neighborhood



twitter.com/cliftonknolls

[@cliftonknolls](https://www.facebook.com/cliftonknolls)

For those of you familiar with Twitter, you know that it is a quick and easy way to keep up with what's going on with people, organizations or companies that you follow. CKMCCA just opened an account on Twitter. Follow us! We're cliftonknolls.

We plan to use the account to send out short messages about things that are of interest in our neighborhood—meetings, emergencies, reminders, etc. Its also a way for you to contact us. Twitter is easy to use, and can be used on computers and many mobile phones. Visit twitter.com for more.

And we're on Facebook too! We're a group—do a search for Clifton Knolls Mill Creek Civic Association. Feel free to add to our growing page on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Clifton-Knolls-Mill-Creek-Civic-Association/170801116270758>

New To Clifton Knolls or Mill Creek?

First of all, welcome to our neighborhood, which is now your neighborhood. Many of us have been here since the neighborhood started in 1960, and some of us have only been here a few years. But one thing we all have in common is wanting to live in a neighborhood that is clean, safe, and reflects our pride in living here.

The Clifton Knolls-Mill Creek Civic Association has been a part of the neighborhood since August 1962. The CKMCCA is not a homeowners association that everyone must join, and imparts universal requirements, like mailbox styles. We are a true civic association—our goal since our inception has been to make our neighborhood better by fostering a sense of community.

To that end, the CKMCCA sponsors a number of events in our neighborhood, from the Halloween parade and party every fall, to the neighborhood garage sale every year, to the summer picnic, winter wine and cheese party, and college scholarship. CKMCCA also publishes this newsletter (which goes to everyone in the neighborhood), and the annual directory (which only goes to dues-paying members of the CKMCCA).

As someone who is new to our neighborhood, we ask you to contact us to give us your contact information to put in the next version of the directory, and to provide us with your e-mail address, so we can get in touch with you between issues of the News and Views. In return, we'll give you a free copy of the latest CKMCCA Neighborhood Directory, regardless of whether or not you join the Association. Thanks for choosing to live in our neighborhood!

Happy Housing!

By Genie Bassett

With the mild winter we have had, we can hardly wait for Spring to appear—the crocuses to poke their heads through the ground and the PJM's to blossom in all of their glory. Oh yes, it is still a bit away but we can enjoy the vision in our minds and get ready to enjoy the warm weather again.

Meanwhile, let's make the most of the winter and think about what we can do to make our homes more enjoyable and pleasant throughout the year.

Let's begin with the inside. Are your wall colors up to date? If so, congratulations! You know how great today's colors make you feel. If you haven't painted for a while, perhaps it is time to think about doing just that—or having it done.

If you love to decorate and select your own colors, you are all set. If you would like some assistance in being up to date on "what's in" today, some paint stores have excellent staff who can assist you in selecting your paint colors. You might like to take some samples of the dominant colors in the rooms you are going to be painting (arm covers from sofas, chairs, etc, drapery samples) to help in determining your new colors. You might want to take a couple of shots with your digital camera to show the sales assistant.

Since you are painting, you might also take a good hard look at your furnishings. Are the colors of your, sofas, love-seats and chairs what you would like today? If you think you might like something different, you might want to consider slip-covers, or new accent pillows. Window

treatments, too, make such a difference in a room. Are yours today's styles?

We all know that we can't usually do everything all at once. But making a plan and then researching the details can in itself take time—and effort—and can really be a lot of fun and so very rewarding to having an "updated look." The planning and research can all happen in these winter months—and either doing it yourself or getting on the schedule of a painter and/or decorator is also so very important.

Remember the resource that our library holds for us (within walking distance for many of us!) The shelter magazines hold a wealth of ideas. Just taking advantage of the beautiful reading settings at the library to sit in the sunny areas and look

through the magazines for ideas can be a wonderful way to do some research, take advantage of our great library and spend some glorious time in the winter.

And always remember that updating does not always have

to be an entire room or be costly. One of the things that Chuck and I did last year was to purchase a new brushed nickel fixture for our kitchen eating area and brushed nickel knobs for our cabinets. Since we had remodeled the kitchen about 15 years ago, this small update is something we are really enjoying and made the room look much for "today."

You might like to select a room or two to do right now and make a plan to update a few rooms every year. That keeps our homes in a state of updating as we move along in our daily lives. As always, enjoy each day—and our lovely spacious homes.

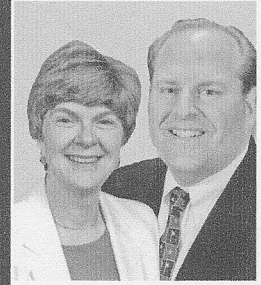
Happy Housing!



Bob Sanderson & Genie Bassett

Bob and Genie sell homes!

Call Bob at 378-6540
or Genie at 371-3594



KELLER WILLIAMS
R E A L T Y

CLIFTON KNOLLS/MILL CREEK PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Once again, the Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Park District Advisory Committee would like to update our community on the various changes and upgrades that were accomplished over the 2011 season.

The results of the survey that was sent out in September are still on hold and will be described in a later News and Views. A mailing snafu has necessitated re-mailing the survey to addresses that were overlooked by the post office in the initial mailing. When we receive and tally the additional surveys, the report will be issued.

A request by the Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association resulted in an update on the Clifton Park.org site. (Go to Town Hall and under Town Departments click on "Park, Recreation and Community Affairs". A listing of Park District Advisory Committees is reached by clicking "Parks" in the left column then "Park District Advisory Committee" on the right near the top.) Also, the CKMCCA has included the park committee in its email distribution list. Interested community members are invited to attend any park district meetings which are held on the fourth Tuesday of most months in Room B of Town Hall at 7p.m. (On the Cliftonpark.org website click on the Community Calendar Icon at the top of the page, then click on the fourth Tuesday of that month for any changes.)

This was a productive year for the completion of several landscaping projects. The shoulders of Par Del Rio and lower Broadleaf were raked, smoothed and seeded. An area west of the deck on Valencia was installed with a new bench, shrubs and some bollards as an attractive way to inhibit vehicular traffic on the grass. The shrubs in the area surrounding the Mill Creek Entrance sign at Brookwood and Orchard Park Drive were trimmed and mulched with some perennials added. And on the other end of the development, trees and shrubs have been planted on the berm between the parking area next to the basketball courts. Behind the tennis courts, the scrub brush and Locust trees were removed. (The Locust trees are considered "junk" trees because limbs splinter off randomly and leaves fall on and ruin the tennis court surface. Hurricane Irene demonstrated the danger that this grove posed because several large, main branches were ripped from four or five mature locust trees.) The area was filled in and leveled. In the spring, shorter shrubs and trees will be planted to beautify the area and the grounds will be seeded. The perennial gardens throughout the parklands continue to be maintained. Mums were planted in the fall. It was gratifying to see residents taking photos of the beautiful chrysanthemums in our park.

Other improvements in response to neighbors' requests include, refurbishing of the volleyball courts and nets on Locust LaneField; clearing out of old tree trunks, dead trees, brush and vines in the area of the Upper Beechwood Pond and on Belmonte Lane behind the post and three rail fence; and resurfacing of the tennis courts with the addition of pickleball lines on one court. (Pickleball is a sport which is fast becoming a favorite with many residents. It is a combination of ping pong and tennis. Check it out

Continued on next page...

Parks District Update, continued

...continued from previous page

on Google to see if you might like to learn to play. There is a very active pickleball contingent all year long at the YMCA .) Another improvement is the rebuilding of the tennis court backboard, to be completed and painted in the spring.

Other repairs and additions to our parklands included two more benches: one on the Par Del Rio pathway and another near the newly created parking area west of the basketball court. The pathways around all the ponds were remulched by our faithful young summer help, Darrin, to keep them as dry and walkable as possible. A new bike rack will be installed on Locust Lane to replace the damaged one.

As the cold weather settles in, watch for a new ice rink to be set up on Locust Lane Field instead of on the basketball court. This is the committee's attempt to test if the ice will remain longer on a bed of snow on the field rather than melting quickly on the black surface of the basketball court.

A big Thank You goes to those who faithfully watered the planters on the Beechwood and Grooms/Barney Entrance Markers: Jean Teal, Doreen Croteau, Claudia Hroncich, and Sheila Suozzo.

Also, a big thank you to Keri and Lee Horton for their care of the plantings at the Beechwood Entrance Marker and to Nancy and Bill Connor who beautify the marker at Vischer Ferry Road and Greenlea with seasonal attractions and Miguel and Yocasta Favian for their mowing of the area around the marker at Grooms and S.Barney. Also special thanks go to Mike Blais and Pam Stafford who care for the Moe and Par Del Rio marker. Our paid landscapers, Cliffside Landscaping and A-Z Property Management also did a very good job in maintaining the trees, shrubs and perennials throughout the seasons.

And lastly, the committee continues to look for answers to the problem of maintenance of our three ponds. We have some engineering studies regarding different alternatives. At the moment, the most cost effective process seems to be our continuing application of algaecide each year and herbicide every three years. This is always done with DEC approvals. We also have herb eating fish in the ponds which are added as the older fish die off. The abundant rains this year seem to have helped to keep the ponds looking at their best. The deeper the water, the more difficult it is for the sun to warm the nutrients which encourage more vegetation.

The committee would like to thank our Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek community for another very supportive year. We greatly appreciate the thanks and positive comments we receive throughout the season. You can reach us with any concerns through ckmcparkdistrict@ckmcca.org.

Sincerely,

Judy Hughes, chair; Joyce Savage, V.Chair; Loretta Parsons, Minutes Taker; Marlys McGinnis, Finance Officer; Kathy Anselment; Claudia Hroncich; Ron Johnson; John Lavi-ano; Pat Miller; John Rinebolt; Tom Sargent; and Sheila Suozzo.

SAVE THE DATE

for



CKMCCA Daddy Daughter Dance

Calling all Daddy's, Grandpa's, and Uncles. Bring your special girl(s) ages 12 and under to CKMCCA's inaugural Daddy Daughter Dance. Enjoy good food, new friends and most of all DANCING !!

MARCH 24, 2012

6:00 -8:00 P.M.

Locust Lane Clubhouse

R.S.V.P. BY MARCH 17 to

Brent or Candice Vild

(518) 557-7471

Venture48@gmail.com

Please bring a NUT FREE snack or dessert to share

COMPUTER LESSONS IN YOUR HOME

You and Your Computer can be Friends

I will come to your home and help you feel more comfortable using your computer, by customizing the lessons for you.

Lessons include:

- Getting to Know Your Computer
- E-Mailing
- Web Browsing
- Internet
- Using Windows
- Understanding Applications
- Internet Applications

*** Other Computer Related Lessons as Desired



I have lived in Clifton Knolls for 26 years. I started using computers in 1980, when the first home computers came on the market. I am still fascinated by them and I love sharing my knowledge with others.

Joan Wagner

E-Mail: Jwagner1@nycap.rr.com

Phone 371-1069



A wide-angle shot of Mr. Twisty entertaining the kids after our Halloween Parade on 10/30/11.

Want to help make the CKMCCA a few bucks? Make www.ckmcca.org your home page, (or bookmark it) and when you want to do a google search, just do it off the CKMCCA page. CKJMCCA makes a few cents every time a google search happens off the search box on our page. Those cents add up, and help us defray the costs of what we do in the neighborhood!

Halloween Party—A Big Success!

Thank you to all of the Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek residents who pitched in to help make the 2011 Association Halloween Party a great big success. After the parade, we were able to host a bunch of games and distribute some goodie bags. We would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all of the generous donations from residents toward the party and goodie bags. Mr. Twisty helped us celebrate this year!



Call For Applications: CKMCCA Annual Scholarship Award 2012

Your annual dues to the Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association helps our neighborhoods have the children's Halloween party, have the adult wine and cheese party, maintain our neighborhood entrance markers, and publish this newsletter and our annual directory. For the past several years, it has also granted a scholarship to a different deserving neighborhood student each year.

The CKMCCA is again offering a \$500.00 scholarship award to recognize an outstanding high school senior who shows academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and involvement in the community. Besides showing these characteristics, the other requirements are that the student must live in the Clifton Knolls or Mill Creek neighborhoods, and their family must be dues-paying members of the Civic Association. Students are eligible regardless of the school that they attend, or even if they're homeschooled.

To apply for the scholarship, high school seniors are required to submit a letter describing their qualifications and interest in receiving the scholarship. Because the scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and civic involvement, it would be wise to include this information in the letter. A copy of the student's most recent high school transcript is also required. Other information, such as letters of recommendation, could prove helpful in the selection process, but are not required.

Applications are evaluated and ranked by a group of business, governmental, and academic leaders in the Capital District. They are not members of the Civic Association, to ensure their impartiality.

If there are questions regarding the scholarship or the application process, please contact:

Bryon Backenson
8 Eldorado Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-371-7931
pbryon@fastmail.fm

There is no formal application form. The application consists of the letter/essay, transcripts, and optional supporting documents. These should be submitted to Bryon Backenson at the address above by **April 8, 2012.**



Golf League Openings- The Clifton Knolls Men's Golf League has a few openings for the 2012 golf season. The League plays on Monday afternoon at the Town's Barney Road par three course. The tee off time is 2:45 PM. The League is handicap play with weekly and season prizes. Interested golfers should contact Jim Norris at 371-9516 or jnorris886@aol.com

Santa Claus Comes to Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek!

In what hopefully will become a yearly tradition, Santa Claus and a bunch of his helpful elves toured Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek on December 18, waving to families, and giving our hugs and goodie bags. He stopped by a week early to get one last personal look at all the boys and girls in the neighborhood!



Meet the CKMCCA Board (first in a series)

Chris Zinsley moved into Clifton Knolls in March 2008. Chris, his wife, Corinne, and their 2 kids, now 9 and 5, left Long Island and moved Upstate due to a job transfer. Chris has worked for the New York Lottery for over 10 years. He attended his first Board meeting in October of 2008, taking on the responsibility of coordinating membership and printing the Annual Directory. In April of 2010, he was elected President and still maintains the membership database and Directory.

Chris is involved in many activities outside of the Lottery and the CKMCCA Board. He has been a coach in Clifton Park baseball and coordinated the Sunday sluggers program last year. He has been a coach for Junior Plainsmen Football for the past 3 years, the last 2 as a Head



Coach in the Senior Flag division. Chris also organized and ran the Jr. Plainsmen Flag combine for the 140 players last year. He was also an assistant coach for his daughter's first year participating in Miss Shen softball.

When he does find some extra time, he and his family enjoy hiking the many trails in Clifton Park, bike riding, camping and geo-caching.

(PHOTO: Chris coaching the Jr. Plainsmen Giants.)

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Call for a FREE Estimate

CKMCAA 2011/2012 ADVERTISING NEWSLETTER and/or DIRECTORY

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED WITH THE AD COPY!

"News & Views" Newsletter:

The five issues of the newsletter are sent to every household (about 900 homes) in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek five times per season (October, December, February, April, and June).

Rates: 1/8 page (business card)	\$20	per issue
1/4 page	\$30	per issue
1/2 page	\$50	per issue
Full page	\$100	per issue

Please circle the ad size you want and check the boxes below for the issues you want your ad to appear.

April '12 _____ Summer '12 _____ October '12 _____ December '12 _____ February '13 _____

CKMCCA Directory:

The CKMCCA Directory includes names and addresses of everyone in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek, as well as a street map with numbered housing locations. It is issued once annually (usually in March) and is sent to all dues paying members of the Civic Association.

Rates: 1/8 page (business card)	\$95
1/4 page	\$165
Full page	\$225

Please circle the ad size you want.

Instructions:

Please include a copy of your ad submitted as "camera ready" and if possible in black and white print. For business card ads, please include a copy of your card. Send this form to:

Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association
P.O. Box 2
Clifton Park, NY 12065

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED WITH THE AD COPY!

Provide us your contact information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

See your ad at www.ckmcca.org by calling up the archived issues of the News & Views!

CKMCCA News

MEETING SCHEDULE

The CKMCCA regular board meetings of the 2011-2012 membership year will be held on:

March 14

April 11

May 9

June 13

We will send out an e-mail regarding the location of these meetings, and post them on CKMCCA.org as well. Meetings start at 8:00pm, and typically run 60-90 minutes, depending on the number of items on the agenda. All are welcome to come and participate, be it to suggest something that would enhance our neighborhood, volunteer to help in one of our existing events, or to raise an issue or two.

CKMCCA DIRECTORY

We're now starting work on the 2011-2012 directory. This year, like last, we hope to do much of the updating electronically and/or through direct mail, so be on the lookout for information on that—you should have gotten yours already, or will get it very soon. And if you want to update your information, now, there's a banner link on the CKMCCA website. If you're interested in helping out with this process, please contact the Board. Thanks for your cooperation.

E-MAIL NEWSLIST

The News & Views gets published four to five times a year. Often times, there are things that arise between publication dates, and more and more, e-mail is the best way to get quick messages out. The Civic Association has an e-mail distribution list of about 400, but most of those are from individuals who have paid their Civic Association Dues. As paying dues is optional—but highly encouraged!—we don't get e-mail addresses from most of the approximately 900 homes in Clifton Knolls and Mill Creek.

In the past, we've used it to alert residents about power and flooding issues, send a head-start on leaf pickup, as well as reminders on neighborhood events. If you would like to be put on the e-mail distribution list, please send an e-mail to mailinglist@ckmcca.org.

Be assured that your e-mail will not be used for commercial purposes or spam, and when neighborhood-wide messages go out, all e-mail addresses are hidden, so people won't be able to get everyone's e-mail addresses. Thanks for your cooperation—e-mail really is the quickest way to get messages out these days.

CKMCCA NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

Before we know it, summer will be here, and we'll be getting ready for our annual neighborhood-wide garage sale. So in addition to making piles of stuff that you're going to want to put up for sale, please think about volunteering to help out with the garage sale. Helping can include hanging signs, creating and printing maps, and placing ads. If you're interested, please send a note to board@ckmcca.org

WANTED: LAYOUT ARTIST FOR NEWS AND VIEWS

Due to a busy schedule and some competing priorities, our current News & Views writer, editor, and layout artist is looking for some help. If someone has experience in newsletter layout, or is interested in learning how to do so, please send a note to board@ckmcca.org for more information. News & Views is currently laid out using Microsoft Publisher, but there are certainly other software alternatives out there that can be used.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Original art, done by an artist here in Clifton Knolls. About a dozen signed numbered prints that are framed and matted. Many are around 36 inches wide and 48 inches tall. Most are either Eagles or Indians. Contact Ed Wagner at ewagner1@nycap.rr.com for more details.



Spring is almost here. That means that its more likely that there will be kids playing bicyclists, motorcyclists, runners, and pets out on our streets. Take it easy when driving through our neighborhood, paying attention to your speed, and to the street signs!

We Need Ads! You Need Customers!

Notice that there aren't many ads in this issue? We need more ads to be able to keep producing News & Views, as well as support other CKMCCA activities. Your ad will reach over 900 homes, at very reasonable rates. Perfect for businesses located in the area, or home-based businesses in Clifton Knolls or Mill Creek. See the ad form on page 12 of this

Door to Door Sales?

According to Clifton Park Town Clerk Pat O'Donnell peddlers going door to door in the Town are required to have a license obtained from the Town Clerk's office. Residents should always ask to see a license issued by the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk. If an individual cannot produce a license, residents should immediately contact the Town Clerk's office at 371-6681, Town Security at 369-6651 or the New York State Police or Saratoga County Sheriff's Department

*Want to contribute to News & Views and make it a better newsletter? Send articles, classifieds, essays, or opinion pieces to:
newsandviews@ckmcca.org
Or contact Bryon Backenson at 253-7287.*

Clifton Knolls-Mill Creek Civic Association Board Information

CKMCCA Members

Bryon Backenson
Chris Collet
Keri Horton
Deb Jackowski
Kathy Lamanna-Friedman
Amy McGearly
Kevin Simon
Sheila Suozzo
Theresa Thompson
Chris Zinsley

Contact Information

To Contact the Board:

board@ckmcca.org

To Update Your Directory Information:

directory@ckmcca.org

To Submit Information to the News & Views Editor:

newsandviews@ckmcca.org

To Advertise in the News and Views or Annual Directory:

advertise@ckmcca.org

To Get Added to the CKMCCA E-Mail Distribution List:

mailinglist@ckmcca.org

Save the Date!—CKMCCA Annual Meeting

The CKMCCA Annual Meeting will be held on **April 25**. This year, we're going to focus on open space, parks, trails, and recreation in Clifton Park. We'll have representatives from the Town and the Town Open Space Committee on hand. The meeting will be held at 7pm, with the location most likely to be the Locust Lane Clubhouse. Look for further announcements over the next few months. If you have other suggestions for topics, please send a note to board@ckmcca.org.



**On March 11
Daylight Savings Time begins—
remember to
Set clocks forward one hour!**

Erik Rossi

Electrician—Clifton Knolls Resident

Troubleshooting

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***Yes, I work on low voltage systems like
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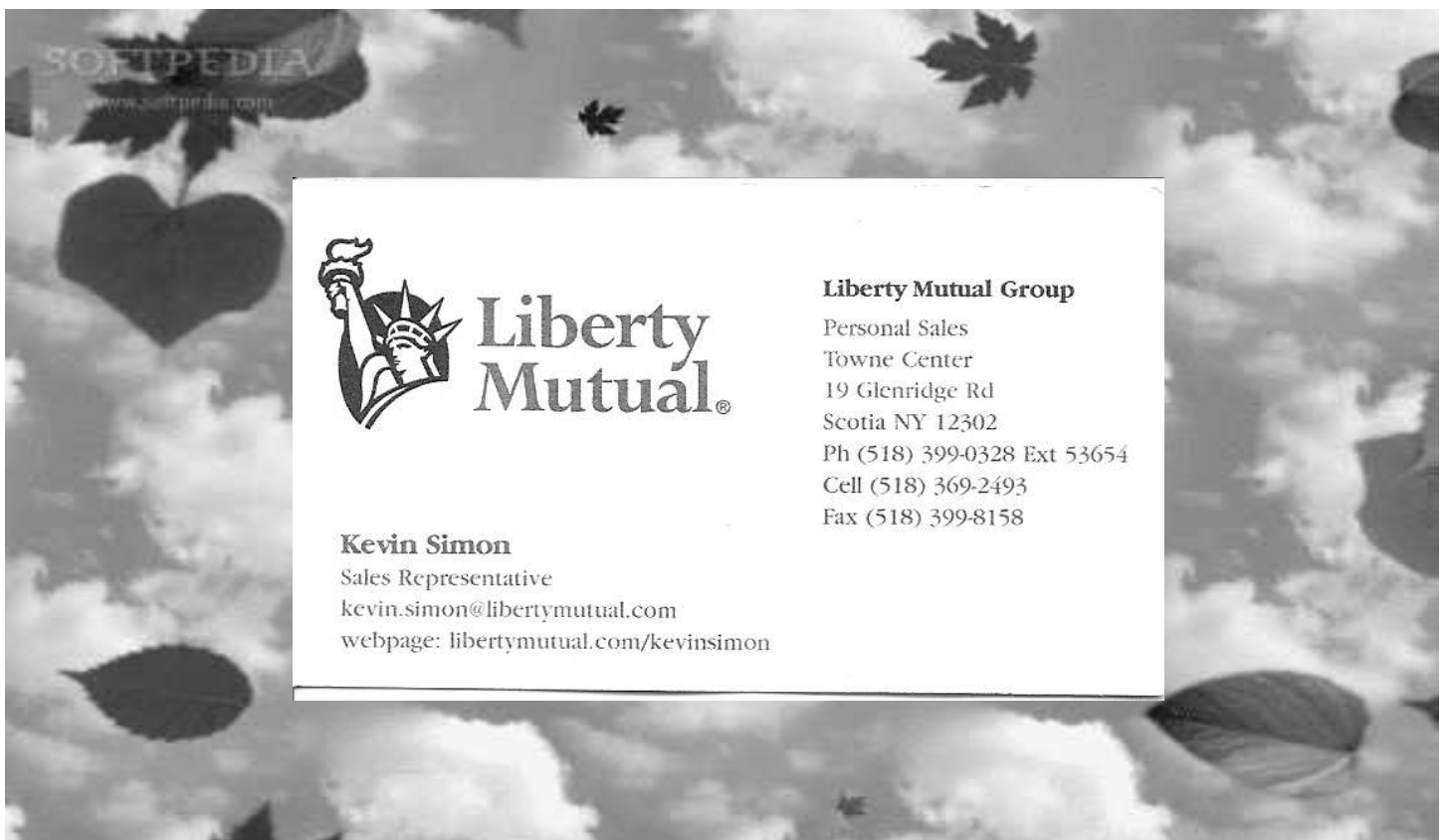
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Opinions in submitted pieces are those of the respective author, and not necessarily the opinions of the Clifton Knolls/Mill Creek Civic Association. Advertisements are solely responsible for the content of their ads.