

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Heroes,

The Club has really changed shape since the storms ravaged the facility. In a short 15 days we have removed an estimated 100 tons of mud, rock, debris, and trash, repaired damaged power infrastructure, built a stream storm wall and are laying nearly 130 tons of Har-Tru court surface. We have used an unfathomable amount of water to pressure wash many places 3,4 even 5 times.

While the "we" includes some great professional experts and their crews, the bulk of the effort has been achieved by our wonderful staff and even members of their family. The membership cannot stop talking about how the staff's efforts have gone beyond expectations.

The board met to discuss the status and we are pleased to report that most of the tasks required to open are nearly complete. To bring the Club to an acceptable level of service we have a few Allegheny County items to finish, a few safety issues to resolve, and there are 90 tons of Har-Tru to lay, compact, grade, compact and grade again before we open. The staff and the board feel very comfortable declaring the Club will be ready soon with some summer left.

We hope everyone can join us for this exceptional event where we will celebrate our staff, heroes, and friends at the Grand Opening on Friday July 27 from 6pm – 9pm at the Pool Bar and Tennis Deck. We hope to have the Pool and other facilities open and available as well. We will continue to communicate the availability of facilities as they become operational.

We have had such great response from the membership to these events that it just reminds us why we love this little piece of tranquility. We are also grateful to our friends and neighbors for their help, allowing us to cope. In order to share what a great place, staff and membership we have, the board wants you to show off the Club. For the month of August, we will wave all guest fees as a sign of gratitude and to let us brag a little.

The finance committee is reviewing the monetary costs of the storm. We have some insurance funds coming, we have some reserves, and we have money allocated for Long Range Plan projects this year, which is all being applied to cover the storm damage expenses. The good news is we can manage the costs without a member assessment, but we will be consuming all the buffer and there will be some projects which will need to be addressed next year. More detail is coming in the newsletter where we discuss the need to help re-establish reserves and fund the extra touches this year by introducing a special Facility Fund.

Many members have approached the board about recognizing the staff's extra efforts in some special way. While thinking of all: the focused efforts; the extra time; the ruined shoes and socks; and the odd illnesses, we hope the membership will show their support by paying into a special fund we have started.

We are asking that you note any extra amounts you can give in your bill as going to: STAFF Fund and the Facility Fund and know it will be put to great use.

One evening in early August the Club will close early to host a special event for the staff and their families.

We really have a wonderful place and a special group of people. Thank you all and see you soon.

Skip Fox
President, Board of Governors
Fox Chapel Racquet Club