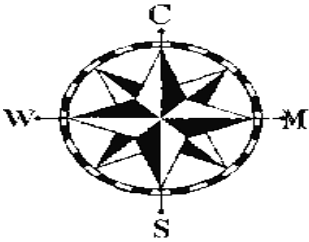


Westmoreland County Medical Society

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

FIRST QUARTER 2017



Bulletin

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Pennsylvania Medical Society

Take Action



Senate Bill 25 - legislation that allows CRNPs to practice independently and eliminates the requirement that they collaborate with physicians - was recently re-introduced.

CRNPs are already beginning to contact their Senators in large numbers to support their independent practice. The physician voice needs to be heard loud and clear to protect quality patient care and patient safety in Pennsylvania.

Between now and March 20, the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) encourages Pennsylvania physicians to schedule an appointment with their Senator while they are in their home districts to discuss this bill and express their opposition.

Though it's preferable for you to set up a face-to-face meeting with your Senator, you can also send them an email or call them using PAMED's online grassroots action tool. If you are sending an email, we strongly encourage you to customize the email and share your own stories, experiences, and perspective related to why SB 25 should be opposed.

PAMED continues to strongly oppose this bill, and supports a physician-led, team-based approach to care. Physician-led, team-based care emphasizes increased coordination and integration among providers, rather than provider autonomy. Eliminating the collaborative tie that currently exists between CRNPs and physicians is contrary to these proven concepts and would only serve to further fragment patient care and jeopardize patient safety.

More information:

- Addressing misleading claims made by proponents of SB 25
- FAQ on the Collaborative Agreement
- Education & Training differences: CRNP vs. MD/DO
- Seven reasons to oppose SB 25 and keep the team together

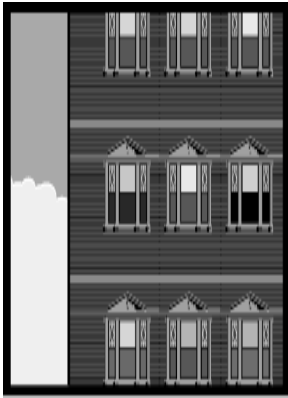
SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY

MAY 24, 2017

**WCMS
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING**

**DENUNZIO'S
ITALIAN
CHOPHOUSE
LATROBE, PA**



Westmoreland County Medical Society

Published 4 times a year by the Westmoreland County Medical Society in the interest of the medical society.

The opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Westmoreland County Medical Society.

The editorial staff reserves the right to exclude any advertisement which, in its opinion, does not conform to the standards of the publication. The acceptance or rejection of any advertisement does not imply the endorsement or lack of endorsement by the Westmoreland County Medical Society of any company or its products.

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For health insurance inquiries, please contact IntegrityFirst Corporation by calling 412-563-2106.

All changes to health insurance must be submitted in writing to Integrity First Corporation,

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or you may fax them to
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For the latest physician job openings see the JOB BANK at www.pamedsoc.org

The County Medical Society office can be reached at (724) 837-5050

Office Hours:

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Afternoon Hours by
appointment only

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wcms@juno.com

Website:

www.wcmspa.org



Don't let sticker shock get you down ...

PAMED protected physicians from unnecessary regulations, affected change on the state and national level, and provided education on child abuse reporting, opioid abuse, and leadership.

Don't let sticker shock stop you from renewing your membership. Go to www.pamedsoc.org/stickershock to hear why physicians across the state are paying their membership dues.

To renew your membership go to www.pamedsoc.org/renew.

Questions? Contact PAMED's Knowledge Center at KnowledgeCenter@pamedsoc.org or call 855-PAMED4U (855-726-3348).



WE'RE HERE FOR *YOU!*

As the endorsed health insurance administrator of the Westmoreland County Medical Society, our goal is to be your helpful partner in making important insurance decisions such as:

- Questions on existing coverage or alternative options
- Ready to change over to Medicare
- Individual coverage for your child coming out of school

INtegrity First Corporation can also assist members with other lines of insurance such as:

- Professional Liability
- Life/Disability
- Bonds

**“INtegrity First Corporation...Where the customer never comes in second.
That’s Our Policy.”**

Phone: 412-563-2106

Fax: 412-563-6109

Email: info@integrityfirstins.biz

Or visit our website (www.integrityfirstins.biz) and click on to your WCMS page.

HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT IS APRIL 1, 2017

The open enrollment period for the WCMS health insurance program begins April 1, 2017. The WCMS program includes 6 medical insurance options, 2 vision insurance options and 1 dental insurance option. The medical and vision insurance is through Highmark and the dental insurance is through United Concordia. Take advantage of one, two or all three options! Members of the Westmoreland County Medical Society and their employees are eligible to participate. Not a member of the society, call Elaine at 724-837-5050 for a membership application or go online to apply for membership at www.pamedsoc.org.

For complete details on any of the programs, please call INtegrity First Corporation at 412-563-2106. You can also obtain plan highlights and enrollment information at INtegrity First Corporation's website at www.integrityfirstins.biz.

**Don't delay,
Open Enrollment ends on June 30, 2017.**

Renewal Rates for Westmoreland County Medical Society

Monthly Rates

April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018

(The rates below include an administrative fee)

Traditional Blue Cross Blue Shield Major Medical Group 51474-00

	Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
Total	\$954.87	\$2245.60	\$2353.37	\$2836.34	\$2944.11

Group 51474-01

	Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
Total	\$1138.86	\$2796.80	\$2825.31	\$3389.48	\$3418.00

PPO High Deductible Health Plan Group 013818-00

	Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
Medical/ Surgical/Rx	\$892.98	\$2148.50	\$2148.50	\$2405.68	\$2762.88

PPO Blue High Deductible Value Plan Group 013819-00

	Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
Medical/ Surgical/Rx	\$981.75	\$2362.10	\$2362.10	\$2644.84	\$3037.54

PPO Split Co-Pay Group 013820-00

	Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
Medical/ Surgical/Rx	\$1041.60	\$2506.10	\$2506.10	\$2806.08	\$3222.73

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

**PPO Enhanced
Group 013821-00**

	Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
Medical/ Surgical/Rx	\$1102.32	\$2652.18	\$2652.18	\$2969.64	\$3410.57

**PPO Enhanced
Community Blue
GroupCB01382110**

	Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
Medical/RX	\$1046.80	\$2518.58	\$2518.58	\$2820.07	\$3238.77

**Vision Enhanced
Group 80963-01**

Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
\$8.13	\$16.23	\$24.35	\$16.23	\$24.35

**Vision Basic
Group 80963-00**

Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
\$7.25	\$14.49	\$21.74	\$14.49	\$21.74

**United Concordia Dental
Enhanced Program
Group 847466-001**

Individual	Parent/Child	Parent/Children	Employee & Spouse	Family
\$41.15	\$128.08	\$128.08	\$128.08	\$128.08

**Please Note: Medical and Dental rates are valid for one year.
Vision rates are valid for two years through March 31, 2019.**



VICTORY: ANTHEM-CIGNA MERGER BLOCKED BY COURT

In a significant win for organized medicine and the nation's patients, federal judge Amy Berman Jackson blocked the proposed Anthem-Cigna merger. The judge found that the merger would have substantially lessened competition for the sale of health insurance to national employers resulting in higher prices and diminished prospects for innovation. In a historic, stunning affirmation of the position urged by the AMA and consequently adopted by the government, Judge Jackson concluded that an enhanced ability to coerce physicians to accept lower reimbursement is not a merger efficiency defense. She determined that it would not benefit consumers and "would erode the relationship between insurers and providers" and "reduce the collaboration" that is essential to innovation in payment and delivery.

The decision affirms the position urged by AMA and the 17-state medical association antitrust coalition members, particularly our partners in CA, CO, CT, GA, FL, IN, ME, MO, NY, OH, and VA. The AMA/coalition position was adopted in the plaintiffs' complaint, and the judge rejected the insurers' arguments that lowered physician reimbursement would benefit consumers and justify the merger.

The AMA and its coalition partners worked tirelessly to oppose this merger: updating our gold standard *Competition in Health Insurance: A Comprehensive Study of U.S. Markets*; preparing detailed market analyses specific to the proposed Anthem-Cigna merger; sending comprehensive, evidence-based advocacy letters to the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and state regulators after the merger was announced in July 2015; engaging like-minded stakeholders like the American Hospital Association and various patient coalitions, as well as the National Association of Attorneys General; conducting extensive physician surveys to gauge physician concern about the merger and presenting the DOJ and state regulators with compelling survey results; testifying in or submitting memoranda in various state insurance department hearings and/or attorney general investigations, and making that, and other evidence and testimony, available to the DOJ and state regulators; securing outside experts to buttress our arguments and strip down those of the insurers -- all demonstrating how the merger would harm patients and physicians.

This victory is the result of our relentless, focused and collaborative advocacy. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our coalition partners for helping us achieve this historic victory on behalf of our physician members and their patients. The impact of blocking both mega-mergers cannot be overstated. Our collective work on both mergers is, without a doubt, a model for future advocacy success.

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PA.'S LAW ON PRESCRIBING OPIOIDS TO MINORS: AN IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR PRESCRIBERS

Pennsylvania's law on prescribing opioids to minors—Act 125 of 2016—was signed by Governor Wolf on Nov. 2, 2016. The law stipulates that, except for specified exceptions, a prescriber:

- May not prescribe more than a seven-day supply of an opioid to a minor if a parent or guardian signs the form on behalf of the minor authorizing the prescribing of the opioid; or
- Is limited to no more than a single, 72-hour supply of an opioid to a minor if an authorized adult (other than a parent or guardian) signs the form on behalf of the minor authorizing the prescribing of the opioid. In addition, when an authorized adult is present instead of a parent or guardian, the prescriber is required to indicate on the prescription the quantity that is to be dispensed pursuant to that prescription.

Pennsylvania's state licensing boards were required to create the consent form that prescribers need in order to fully comply with the law. **Physicians and other prescribers should be aware that the consent form was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on Feb. 4, 2017, and is now available online.**

The form requires details such as the name of the medication, quantity, amount of initial dose, and number of refills. It also requires the prescriber to certify that he/she has discussed the following items with both the minor and the minor's parent/guardian/authorized adult:

- The risks of addiction and overdose associated with the controlled substance containing an opioid.
- The increased risk of addiction to controlled substances to individuals suffering from mental or substance use disorders.
- The dangers of taking a controlled substance containing an opioid with benzodiazepines, alcohol or other central nervous system depressants.
- Any other information in the patient counseling information section of the labeling for controlled substances containing an opioid that is deemed necessary.

The completed form must be maintained in the minor's record with the prescriber.

More Resources on Act 125 and Other Recent Opioids Laws in Pennsylvania

For more details on the requirements for prescribing opioids to minors—including exceptions to the law and answers to frequently asked questions—check out PAMED's *Quick Consult* publication on Act 125 and other new opioids legislation. Access the *Quick Consult*.

PAMED members with questions can also contact our Knowledge Center at 855-PAMED4U (855-726-3348) or KnowledgeCenter@pamedsoc.org.

There's an APP for that.



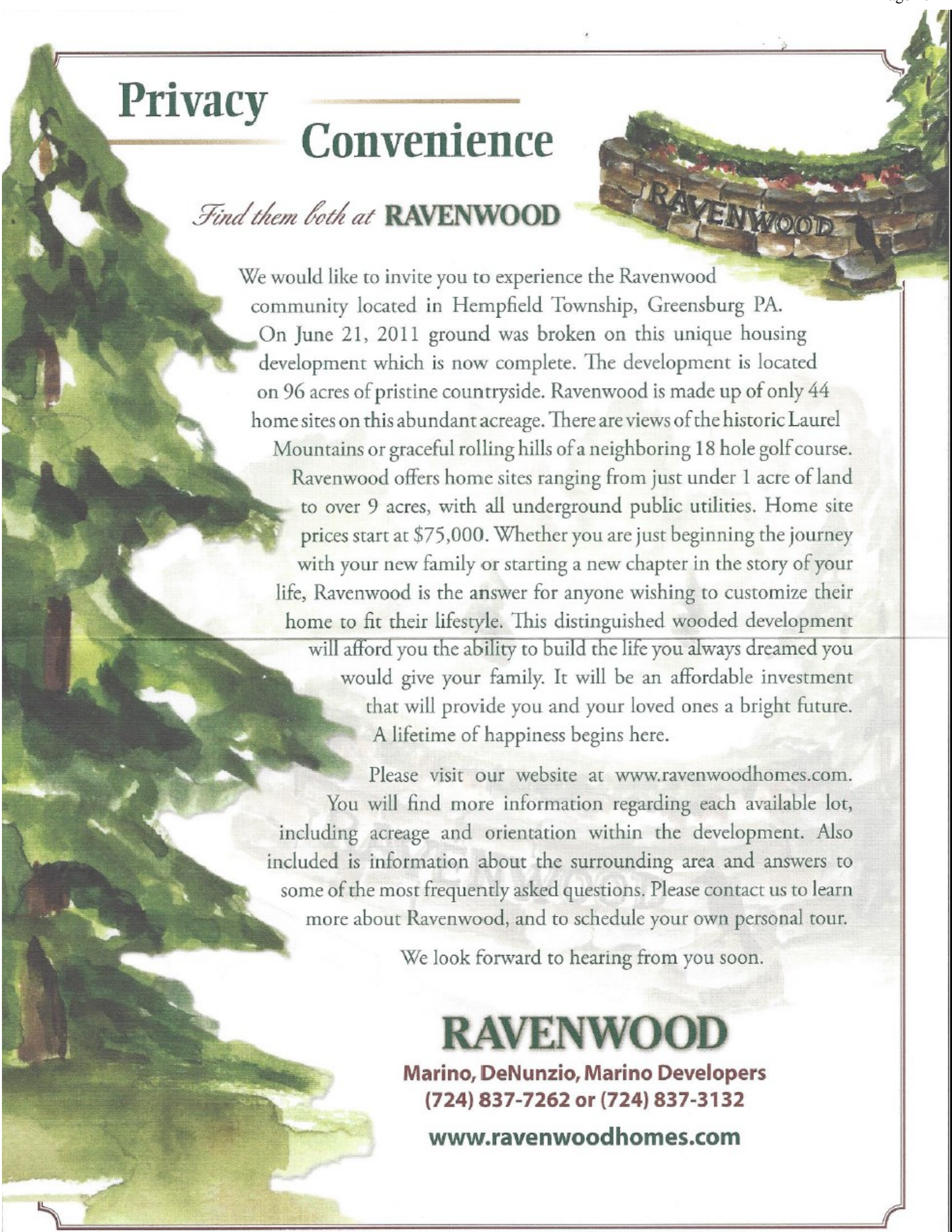
PAMED's New Mobile App now available
from the App and Google Play stores.

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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Jennifer L. Sepp, DO	Thomas E. Lace, MD	Douglas Klions, MD
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Nutan S. Shah, MD	James Douglas Mills, MD	Govindaraj Mohan, MD
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Mathew R. Cole, DO		Arshad Khan, MD
Nikhil Ramesh Hirji Asher, MD		Michael Szwerc, MD
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Stephen John Wynert, MD		Mehdi Javan, MD
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Privacy Convenience

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We would like to invite you to experience the Ravenwood community located in Hempfield Township, Greensburg PA. On June 21, 2011 ground was broken on this unique housing development which is now complete. The development is located on 96 acres of pristine countryside. Ravenwood is made up of only 44 home sites on this abundant acreage. There are views of the historic Laurel Mountains or graceful rolling hills of a neighboring 18 hole golf course. Ravenwood offers home sites ranging from just under 1 acre of land to over 9 acres, with all underground public utilities. Home site prices start at \$75,000. Whether you are just beginning the journey with your new family or starting a new chapter in the story of your life, Ravenwood is the answer for anyone wishing to customize their home to fit their lifestyle. This distinguished wooded development will afford you the ability to build the life you always dreamed you would give your family. It will be an affordable investment that will provide you and your loved ones a bright future. A lifetime of happiness begins here.

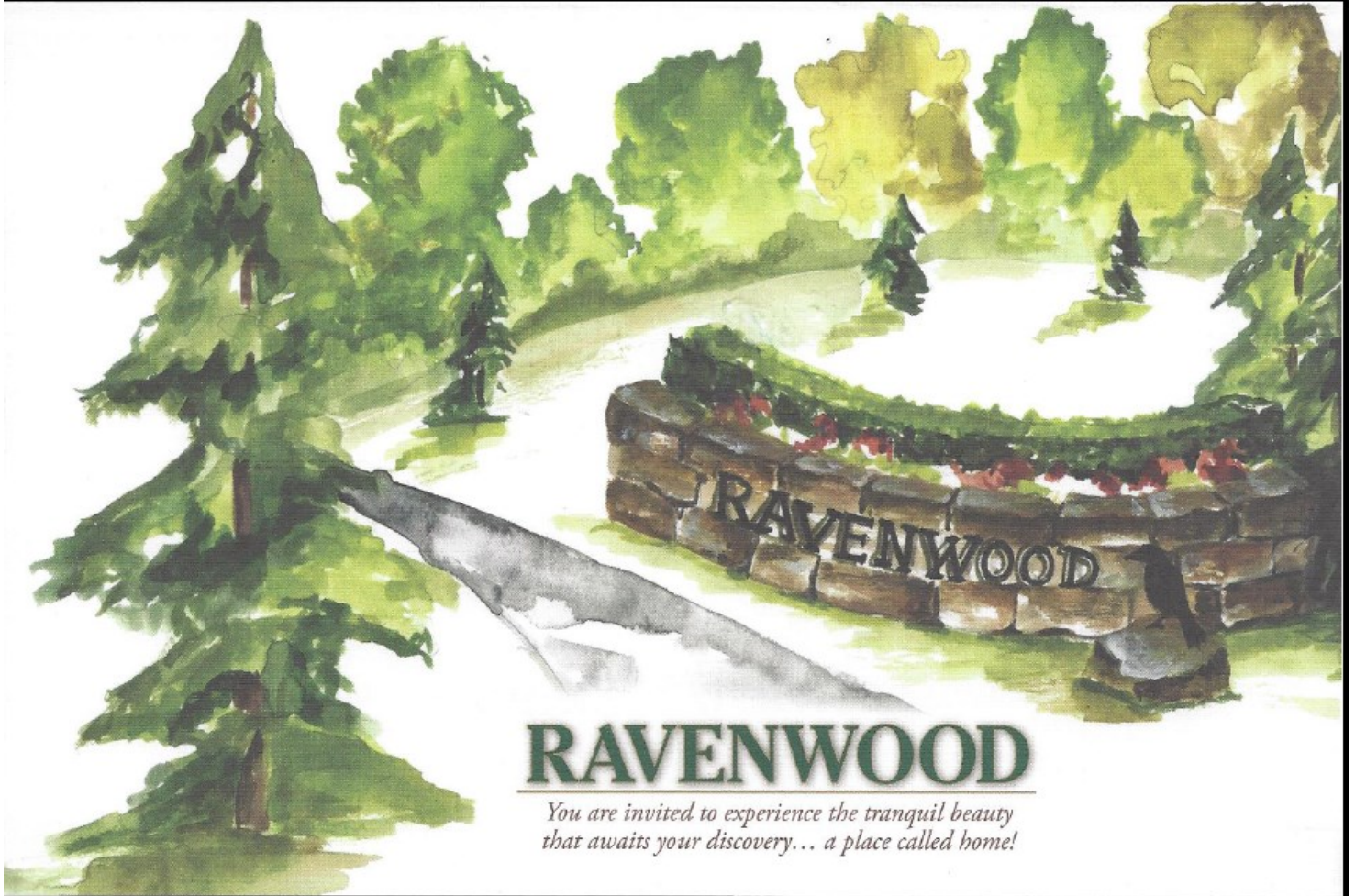
Please visit our website at www.ravenwoodhomes.com. You will find more information regarding each available lot, including acreage and orientation within the development. Also included is information about the surrounding area and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. Please contact us to learn more about Ravenwood, and to schedule your own personal tour.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

RAVENWOOD

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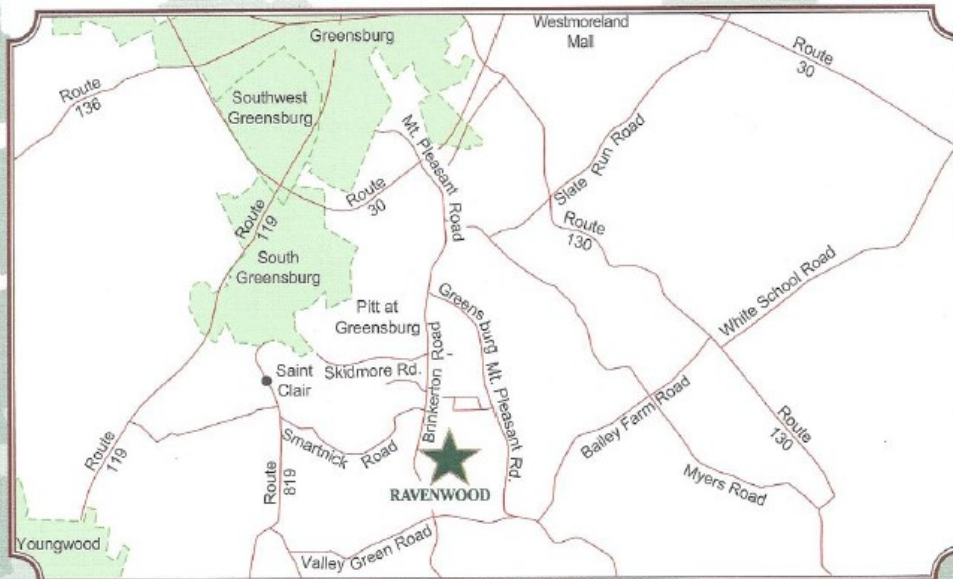


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Seclusion and tranquil privacy and yet convenient to all the places you need to be, Ravenwood's location offers the best of both worlds. You are just minutes away from downtown Greensburg, malls, shopping, restaurants, cultural and recreational amenities. Ravenwood's proximity to Route 30, The Pennsylvania Turnpike, Route 66 Tollway and I-70 provides easy access to Pittsburgh and all of your destinations.

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