



## the SAGA OF the SIGN

### *The Saga Of The Sign*

As you probably know, on January 15, 2022, a car drove through the Colonial Terrace sign at the intersection of Wickapecko and Bimble, before driving through the house across the street and into the lake. Luckily none of the five people in the car were injured and fortunately our new neighbors, the Husars, were able to get their home repaired and move in.

You may also have noticed the Colonial Terrace sign has not yet been replaced. At the time it was destroyed, CTPA contacted the owner of the company that fabricated the original sign and discussed the sign design with him including details of colors and material. He gave us an invoice with the costs to replace the sign and we forwarded those to the insurance company. We received a timely insurance payment and gave a 50% deposit of \$2,291.69 to the sign company. When the original promised date slipped by, we were given excuses about the sign, but it was still promised for installation and delivery before our annual tree lighting. Eventually, the sign company became virtually impossible to connect with in any fashion, whether through phone, email, or physical visits to the shop.

When communication was cut off, we tried to have our deposit payment reversed through the bank, but our request was denied and our appeal to that decision was unsuccessful. We also contacted the Monmouth County Consumer Affairs and were ultimately told that the business no longer existed.

A police report was filed, and ultimately a detective was able to locate the owner of the business, who claimed to feel bad about the situation. He felt he had shown "good faith," by putting posts in the ground at the beginning of December. The detective felt the owner would probably not be able to refund us any of the money we had paid him as he filed for bankruptcy. Upon a lawyer's advice, it was suggested we file a claim in small claims court (\$200 to file) but even the lawyer felt this might be a longshot as there are probably others seeking restitution. The detective confirmed those suspicions.

In researching other sign companies, it seems we can get another sign made, but it will require much more money than we currently have in our coffers. We are exploring creative ways to raise the additional money needed to replace our neighborhood sign, and we're looking forward to our Summer Fun(d) Day as a starting place. We have set a goal to raise \$3,000, which, along with the money left from the insurance claim should pay for a new sign! Any ideas or donations are welcome!