



Silver Hills  
Historical Society

THE CLARION

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Kelly Carnighan above thanking Charlie Ellis after Charlie cut the yellow ribbon officially opening the Silver Hills Tennis Court.

The June newsletter is coming to you a bit late in order to cover the Silver Hills Tennis Court event held July 9, 2022.

Wimbledon's center court is 100 years old this year. The game of tennis was first played on Silver Hills 116 years ago.

The Silver Hills Historical Society was established October 12, 2012. In October the Society will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has been a great experience documenting and sharing the history of Silver Hills, beginning with the Silver Hills trolley car line and the opening of the trolley car line trail. The Society has paid tribute to Ridgeway, Greystone Gables, George Morrison, Crestview, and the Highland Country Club. We now pay tribute to the history of tennis on Silver Hills with the grand opening of the Silver Hills Tennis Court, formerly the

Benjamin tennis court.

Minna and Clarence Benjamin built the court in the early 1970s. It was played on for nearly 40 years. Play ceased twelve years ago, and the court was left as a reminder of a tradition established on Silver Hills over a century before.

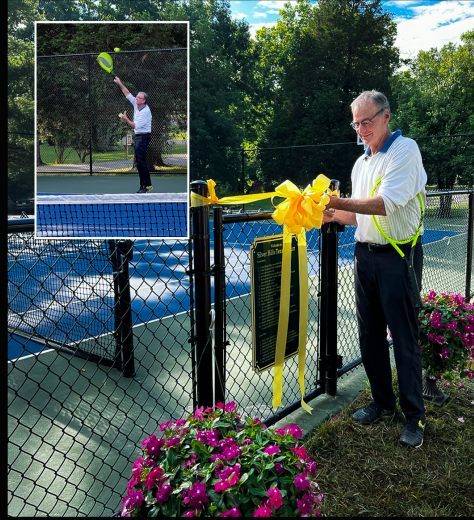
The game of tennis was ushered into New Albany in 1906, when the Highland

Country Club was built on Highland Avenue, Silver Hills. Two tennis courts were constructed. The club had 60 members when it first opened. They were mostly residents living on Silver Hills. The founders confidently anticipated the membership to quickly grow to 100 members. In 1910 the club hosted a tennis tournament drawing some of the finest tennis players from the three Falls Cities. Spanning 116 years, twelve courts have been documented on Silver Hills.

The Wiley Ellis clay court was constructed from clay hauled in from the Ohio River. It was located at the corner of Highland Ave and Riddle Road across from the Ellis home. It was Silver Hills' most iconic of all courts. The Ellis home was built by William Lewis in 1891. Ray Ellis, Wiley's father, purchased the house in 1916.

# Silver Hills Tennis Court Grand Opening

Top row, Tina Kelso , Charlie Ellis, Susan & Jim Walker.



Middle row, Pickleball Players:  
Rod Haywood, Ric Manning,  
Rachel and Hanna Gish.

Tennis Players: Kelly Carnighan,  
Nick Stein, Steve Gohmann, Jim  
Breece. Official - Charlie Ellis.



Court side spectators watching opening tennis match.



The Ellis court was the center of community entertainment for nearly 30 years. Neighbors, kids, and friends gathered on weekend mornings and summer evenings to watch Wiley's friends play tennis. Spectators sat on old bus benches, metal lawn chairs, or on the ground, to watch the spectacle being played out on dirt. It was much more than that. It was where Wiley taught the younger generation on Silver Hills to play tennis, a generation that carried on the tradition long after Wiley and his friends passed away.

The last remaining artifact from the Ellis court was the yard hydrant installed when the court was built in the 1950s. Water was needed to hose down the clay sur-



*Pictured above is Tony Breece hitting tennis balls in his wheelchair with Bob Sisk. The center picture is Charlie Ellis, Brenda Lewis, and Tony. Tony and Brenda are from Barboursville, WV. Tony suffered a stroke over a year ago. He is an inspiration to us all, for he was determined to hit the tennis ball once again.*

face and mix the lime to line the court. The hydrant was relocated to the Silver Hills Tennis Court. It is a reminder of the historic past, and the future to come.

Reconstruction of the Benjamin tennis court was made possible by Kelly Carnighan and 42 individual donors. A plaque was made in recognition of those who do-

nated to the project. Nancy Stein had the honor of unveiling the plaque prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony. On behalf of the community of Silver Hills, we thank each and everyone one who made this all possible.

Charlie Ellis performed the ribbon cutting officially opening the Silver Hills Tennis Court. Following the ribbon cutting Charlie served the ceremonial first serve to Kelly Carnighan.

Charlie was born and raised on Silver Hills. He was Wiley's youngest son. Wiley taught Charlie how to play competitive tennis. Charlie is currently the head coach of division one collegiate tennis at Binghamton University, New York.

Following the ceremonial serve, everyone was entertained by three exhibition matches beginning with men's doubles played by Nick Stein, Steve Gohmann, Jim Stein, Jim Breece, and Kelly Carnighan.

Pickleball was next played by Ric Mannig, Rachel & Hanna Gish, and Rod Haywood. Women's doubles tennis was played by Gail and Linda Stein, Ann Offutt, and Jenifer Schultz. The court was then opened to anyone wanting to play.

Our special guests were Ann Benjamin Zimmerman and New Albany Mayor, Jeff Gahan and his wife, Susie.

Guests were treated to live jazz music by Jamey Aebersold, and fine cuisine by A Full Plate of Louisville. The evening ended with a display of professional fireworks.

Ric Manning, Steve Gohmann, Paula Stein, Jimmy McClure, and Dan Baker provided much needed help in setting up the event. We thank these people for their time and commitment to making the opening of the Silver Hills Tennis Court a huge success.

*Photographs Courtesy  
Ric Manning, Tony & Jimmy Breece*



*Above, the parade making its way up Ridgeway Ave. Left, Beau Miller hug.*

Morgan Sprigler organized the third annual Silver Hills Easter Parade Saturday, April 16. The Parade made its way around Crestview, back onto Sunset, up Knob, south on Highland, and around on Ridgeway, where it ended at Greystone Gables. The weather was perfect the morning of the parade. Kelly Carnighan's 1924 Model T Ford was able to run cool and not overheat. Those who participated in the parade were the Easter Bunny, Kelly Carnighan, Paul Kiger & Friend, ReMax Van, Cindy Miller, Jessica, Matt & Theo Bergman, Gus Bergman, the Brown Family, and the Schremser Family.

## *In Loving Memory Robert Caesar*

**Caesar Pitch-In Dinner** held in April was lightly attended. Jean passed away in 2018. It was decided to host an annual Jean Caesar pitch-in dinner in April. The first dinner was held in 2019. COVID forced us to cancel the dinners in 2020 and 2021. We again hosted the Caesar pitch-in dinner this past spring. Tragically, Bob Caesar suddenly passed away on April 11, 2022. This year's dinner was in memory of both Jean and Bob Caesar.

Jean and Bob were married in 1975. In 1976, they moved to Silver Hills, where they bought the house on Camp Ave built by Russell and Margaret Bowling in the 1930s.

Andrew Bowling, Russell Bowling's father, bought several lots beginning at the corner of Adams Street down Camp Ave.



*Robert Charles &  
Alice Joan Snider Caesar*

In 1910, Andrew built a small farm house at the corner of Adams Street. The property was once part of John Owen Greene's Fruitland Farm. In 1891, Greene subdivided the property and established plat 381. John Otto Endris founded the J.O. Endris &

Sons Jewelry store in 1880. Bob's father bought the Endris Jewelry store in 1968 from Endris Furlong. Endris was John Otto Endris' grandson. Bob joined his father in the business, eventually becoming sole owner. This led Bob into leadership roles in New Albany: City Council, Redevelopment Authority, Indiana University Advisory Board, Develop New Albany, Art Council of Southern Indiana, One Southern Indiana, YMCA Pace Setting Committee, Chairman of the New Albany Bicentennial Committee, New Albany Caesars Foundation, and ten years Co-Director of the Silver Hills Historical Society.

Bob served Silver Hills with passion. What he did for our community needs to be recognized and commended. He will be missed here on Silver Hills.