

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### 2005 Outlook



by George Heiter, VSR Board of Trustees

First of all: a very happy, healthy and successful New Year to every member of our - now almost complete - Village! We are all looking forward to the first full year of operating and shaping our community in such a manner that we can all share in the pride of ownership and pleasure of residency.

At the last meeting of your Board, 6 December, we noted that financial information will not be routinely available for the first Monday of the month. Therefore we have changed the regularly scheduled Board meetings to the third Monday of the month, starting at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. The next meeting is scheduled for the 17th of January 2005. We hope you will take the opportunity to attend these meetings, which always begin with Unit Owner input. If you are concerned about a particular issue, we would appreciate a note (e.g. per e-mail) to any of the board members in advance of the meeting to allow us some preparation time. Please note that the minutes of the Board meetings are available in the clubhouse library for your information. The "Village Meetings" on the first Thursday of the month will continue as before, with the next, scheduled for 6 January 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

Letters containing the 2005 Condo fees ( 8% increase over 2004) and Water/Sewer fees (unchanged from 2004) were mailed to the individual unit owners early in December.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### New Snow Contract



by Nick Johnson, VSR Board of Trustees

I wanted to give you an update on the problems we have had regarding driveways with the last storm and our actions to date.

In December, I toured the property with Glen of TRUGREEN. He is now in charge of both snow removal and landscaping services for the Village at Stone Ridge.

The basic problem was that the snowfall was so small they did not do a full treatment because they assumed everything would melt in a couple of days, which, of course, it did. The storm was about 2" and our contract with them says they will plow if it is 2 or more inches. BUT, and a BIG BUT, as we saw, that left 2 days for us all to fend for ourselves mostly. And of course there are about 5 driveways that cannot be negotiated if there is any snow or ice on them.

On my tour I outlined the problem and identified those driveways that need special attention and we now have TRUGREEN more aware of how important it is to pay special attention to these driveways. We had previously covered this with their VP's but it was not clearly conveyed. In any case we identified 53/55 Stone Ridge, 23 Stone Ridge, 21 Sandstone and 10 Highland. In addition, I had them move some of the sand barrels to other steeper driveways that might also present a problem.

In the future, with heavier storms, all the unit walkways and driveways will be cleared after the storm passes, within 8 hours per the contract. This should ensure we will all be able to access the roads.

If an individual owner has a problem, she/he should contact Richard Fitzgerald at Great North, 603-891-1800 during business hours. George Heiter and I have already discussed the need for a local contact number.

In the event of no response or help from Great North (please only after they do not respond) you may call me at 978-392-5859. This should not occur but if it does I will attempt to expedite the appropriate help. I already receive many calls and would like to minimize them.

If anyone has any questions, please email me or discuss the problems when we meet at our regularly scheduled gatherings.

### WELCOME!

To our new neighbors arriving in this month of January.

**On Stone Ridge Road**  
8 Ruthann Dillon

**On Gatecrest Road**  
2 Frank and Elaine Tino

**GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS** (Continued from page 1)

These fees can be submitted with a single payment in the envelopes provided with in the same letter.

As a reminder, please call Great North Management at: 603-891-1800 if you encounter any problems at your unit. For clarification of responsibilities, please refer to the December 2004 issue of The Quarry Bulletin.

Thank you, again, for your past strong support and we hope you will continue your involvement in our "Village".

**No More Paying Twice for Trash Pick up**



by Judy Culver, VSR Board of Trustees

On December 14, your Board of Trustees and several VSR residents attended the Westford Board of Selectmen meeting and listened to a brief presentation and discussion regarding our request that the Town's trash hauler provide curb-side trash pickup at VSR.

The Selectmen unanimously approved a motion by Chris Romeo that curb-side pickup be extended to the Village at Stone Ridge, as it is currently being picked up in other condo complexes in Town.

VSR residents will now receive a Town service, which we have been funding through our local property tax but have not yet received.

The date for service transition to occur will be set shortly, but this date will not affect residents, as there will be no difference in the schedule pickup currently in place. Thursdays will remain our weekly trash pickup and bi-weekly recycling day, BUT you should be aware that the Town's trash hauler comes much earlier in the day than our private vendor.

There will also be no difference in the budget recently approved by the Board of Trustees, since we hedged our bets that the request would be approved and budgeted \$0 for residential trash removal.

There are very detailed guidelines printed in the Blue Pages of the 2004 Roudenbush Westford Directory for the types of items allowed to be placed curb-side, as well as information regarding removal of bulk items. Please feel free to call me at 978-692-7433 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the process and procedures which the Town has in place.

 **KNIT, STITCH & ITCH**   
**A Reminder**

That the Knit, Stitch, & Itch group meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

Come and join us and start a new project, continue with your current project and share ideas with us.

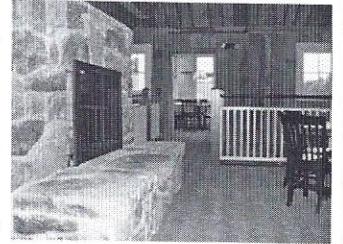
If you want more information, call Harriet Shanzer at 978-392-1508 or e-mail: heshanzer@comcast.net

**RAVE REVIEW**

by Rick Culver

Judy and I enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the new Gibbet Hill Grill in Groton a few days ago. This is a new restaurant which opened just two months ago and is receiving rave reviews from other clients. We join the chorus of satisfied diners.

Dinner is served inside a huge barn-like building, complete with rafters, farm implement decor, and a woodsy smell from the enormous entry fireplace.



The menu consists of gourmet items such as crab topped grilled salmon, goat cheese raviolis and down home meat loaf or chicken pot pie.

The seating is comfortable, the servers friendly, the parking lot is ample. Lunch is not available as yet. We were told that the restored barn on site will soon be available for weddings, reunions, receptions and other functions.

The thorough web-site at [www.gibbethill.com](http://www.gibbethill.com) provides more details including menu offerings, wine and beer lists, with prices.

Take a look, have a meal and then enjoy this addition to the limited restaurant offerings near our Village. It is just 9 miles from Stone Ridge, where Rte 40 intersects with Rte 119 in Groton.

The drive is pleasant and the meal is delightful.

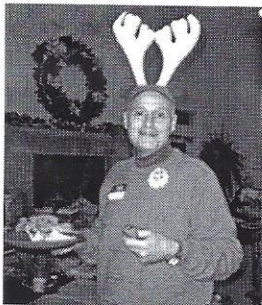
**An American Detailed in Iraq**



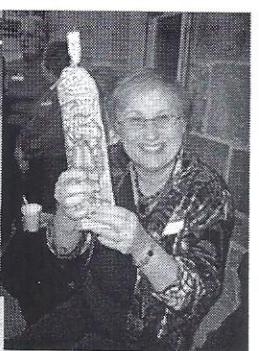
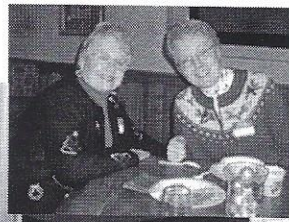
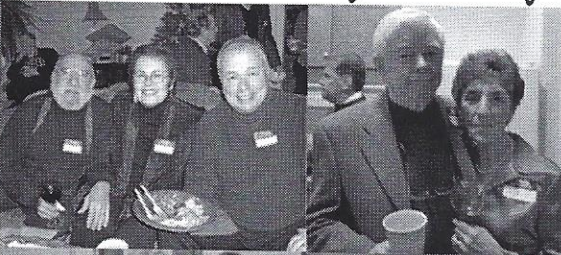
PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

With the seeds of liberty planted, some care is required before this lawn of freedom can be left to its rightful owners.

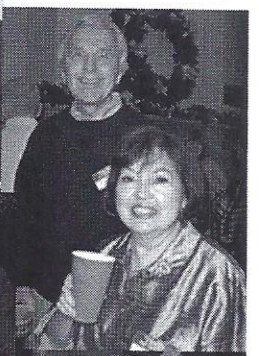
# Our Holiday Party



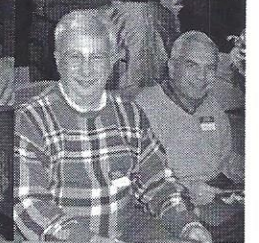
Most wonderful reindeer of all



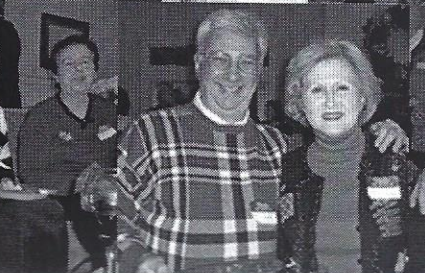
Most popular gift, "The bag"



The ladies - Naughty...but nice



Looking good, Larry and thanks!



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

### Lois Frampton

by Shirley Chambers

Lois lives on Stone Ridge Road with her 12-year old twin boys, Bert and Ernie. Ernie (the black one) is a big, purring pussy cat, who loves to be petted and pampered.

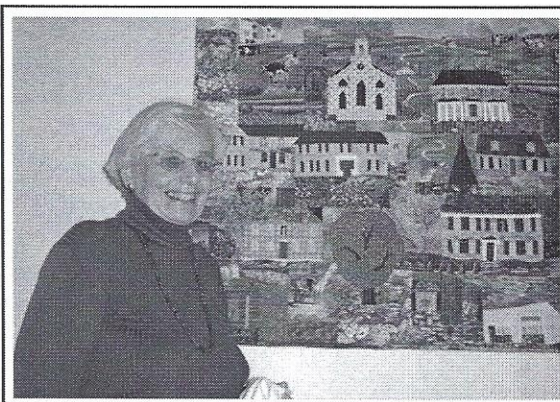
Lois was born in Brooklyn near Prospect Park, has degrees in mathematics, and has two grandchildren, Emily (13) and Michael (10) Zehngut. They live in Westford with her daughter Carol and son-in-law Marc.

Lois is a very handy person around the house. She refinishes furniture (has done a few of her own antique pieces) and has learned to do some electrical wiring including installing her own light fixtures. She also plasters, paints, wallpapers, and is good at fixing toilets (a talent too often needed with our low-flow models, here at VSR). Her skills have remodeled every house she's owned. Once the renovation is complete and she is satisfied with the garden configuration, she moves on. She has done so five times since 1977, in Massachusetts alone.

Being a very serious gardener, she was met with a challenge here at VSR where we can do nothing that impedes grass cutting. Lois did, indeed, find a way in her back yard between large boulders and trees where there was no grass and could be none. She had to pry out a good many huge rocks and stumps to expose soil and now she has her garden. When Lois moved from her condo in Lincoln to VSR she brought with her 105 plants, not counting daylilies and orchids.

As you may have gathered from the above, she is an indoor gardener as well. Her windows are loaded with orchids. I discovered she sometimes talks to her plants, threatening them: "If you don't produce a bloom soon, you'll go out in that big green can for Thursday's trash pickup." In addition to all this, she does flower arranging. For the last 14 years she has been running Fabulous Flowers, Flowers for Special Occasions. Since Lois doesn't advertise, she does only a few events, each year, mostly weddings. Recently she did the flowers for her granddaughter's Bas Mitzvah. She also participates in amateur flower arranging events such as the upcoming "Flora in Winter" at the Worcester Art Museum.

Lois has had a brilliant career. In days of yore when she was coming up through the ranks, for a woman to get proper recognition for her professional abilities was a tough call. Some of Lois' credentials were presented to us in the August issue of *The Quarry Bulletin*, when she was a candidate for the first Board of Trustees. There we learned that she retired from the MITRE Corp. in 1996 where she was a Principal Scientist. Before that she



worked for the Digital Equipment Corporation for 19 years.

She was the first woman to be promoted to Consulting Engineer and was a Senior Manager of Network Architecture when she left them.

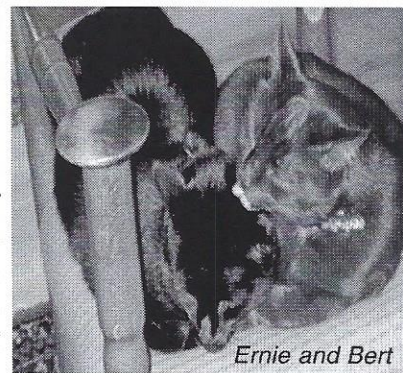
Now that Lois has retired, her hobbies are in full bloom. She is truly passionate about quilting as well as flowers. I was treated to a tour of Lois' home, so I got to see some of her wonderful quilted

pieces. These are mostly done in sizes suitable for wall hanging (approx. 40 inches square). I've had enough personal experience with quilts to be able to judge their excellence and excellent they are. One that particularly attracted my attention was "Remembering Still River." At one time she had lived in (and of course remodeled) a 1796 cape in a village next to Harvard, Mass. She worked from photos and did a folksy rendering of the village. The photos are attached to the back of the quilt for reference. Incidentally, stuck to the door of her refrigerator are a number of blue and red winning ribbons for competitions she has entered both for quilts and floral arrangements. Lois admits to being very competitive.

I was also intrigued by one of her "challenge" quilts in which the criterion was to use 60 different fabrics. This she did, building them into a trellis in a floral design. Interesting! I, as well as most of my antique dealer colleagues, consider quilts (whether new or old) to be American folk art which as such, rightly deserve to be hung on walls as much as a well executed painting. Lois says one of the best parts of quilting is buying fabric, much more than one can realistically use. Several years ago she started dying her own fabrics, so now she has even more and storage has become a problem.

This lady does not know the meaning of idleness. What leisure time she has is spent reading mysteries (Miss Marple type) and, being a big radio aficionado, listening to folk music, BBC, and Garrison Keeler. She also takes time to snuggle with Ernie and Bert. Her engineering training is reflected in her general approach to life – plan things out with skill and craft.

To love what you do is one of the greatest joys in life.



## PERCEPTIONS

### When does a House Become a Home?



by Louise O'Donnell

When I was born, we lived in an apartment. When I grew a little older, we rented a house. When I was in grade school, my folks bought a large house, and rented the upstairs.

When I married, we lived in an apartment. Several years later, we bought a small ranch house. However, when our family included three children, we bought a large colonial where my youngest daughter was born.

Not once, in any of those houses, did I feel a kinship or an inkling that this was HOME.

The years flew by and one day, my youngest son called and said they were going to build behind the Butterfly Place and the view was beautiful. He lives on the Acton side of Westford and loved it, and was sure we would grow to love it too.

We drove up one Sunday and there was nothing built yet, but we (rather I) loved the spot and picked out a lot. My husband kept saying, months later, "we moved in bag and baggage," and sold our old house to our youngest daughter, who really wanted it.

The Village evolved, people moved in, construction progressed, and the neighborhood grew. The first night in our new house, I gazed out the window at the pond behind us and felt like I was on vacation.

A sense of peace came over me and I thought that this was

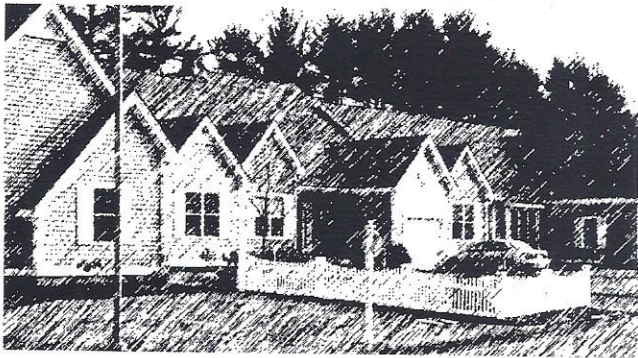


PHOTO: MARY DIAZ

the home I sought. Time has proved me right. When we return from errands or trips, the walls envelop me and I feel a kind of serenity. Our Village has become a wonderful place to live with friendly and caring people and an active lifestyle. I love it here, and after all the residences and houses that have been part of my life, I feel I am finally HOME.

### 1st ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP

by Barbara West

A great time was had by 19 neighbors at our first Annual Cookie Swap. Everyone had a really good time visiting and sampling those great cookies. It was a great way to start the holiday season. A special benefit was to take home 4 dozen cookies to either freeze for later on or sample in the coming days. A book of recipes will be distributed to all who attended. Hope this is a first of many.

## A SLICE OF LIFE

### A Present from Mike



by Mort Silverman

I grew up in a very unusual neighborhood. There were many kids my age or a bit older. Quite a few would later hold many important positions in the country; Dean of the JFK School of Government, Harvard, Chairman of the Board at Standard and Poor's, psychologists, psychiatrists, a chemist and E. L. Doctorow, who lived around the corner from me as a boy. It was a neighborhood rich in intellectual stimulation.

On the other end of society, there was Mel, who sold marijuana for a very good living and Paul who was a con man who dealt with stolen credit cards. I don't think either boy ever held an honest job in their lives. Paul lived with Mike, who was a social worker of questionable character.

When the holiday season arrived, Paul was constantly coming home with beautifully-wrapped boxes. That went on for many days, leading up to and after New Year's Day.

Eventually, Mike said to Paul, "Why don't you bring something home for me!" Well, Mike nagged at Paul with some regularity. Eventually, Paul relented and asked Mike what he wanted. Mike did not hesitate, confidently requesting a large color television set.

A few days later Paul came home with a huge carton containing a color TV set for Mike. Mike was ecstatic. He quickly opened the carton and set up the TV in a comfortable corner of the living room.

Toward the end of the month Mike received his monthly credit card statement in the mail. A quick review of the statement showed that the TV set had been charged to his account.

Paul had charged the TV set on Mike's credit card !! Paul roared with delight when he saw Mike's reaction. Mike steamed for weeks.

There is no free lunch, even among friends.

### 911 EMERGENCY by Dorothy H. Hall

The Council on Aging is working with the Police Department to add/update emergency information to the 911 Police/Fire telephone system. This information will be entered into their computers to appear on their emergency screen if you ever have to call for assistance. I did leave some forms at the mail room recently and we know some people have submitted their forms to the Council on Aging already. I will be leaving more forms after the 1st of January for those individuals who did not get the form as of yet. Please take a form, complete it for your household members, and send it along to the Cameron Senior Center, PO Box 2223, 20 Pleasant Street, Westford, MA 01886. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 978-692-4363, or call the Cameron Center at 978-692-5523.



# Simply Social... By Donna Hudon

Happy New Year! May the year ahead be happy, healthy and prosperous for everyone! We certainly had a busy December.



Our holiday party was a great success with over eighty of our residents attending. It was wonderful to see the community coming together.

"Thank you" to Barbara West for coordinating the "Cookie/Candy Swap." There were over 20 delicious recipes and at the end of the evening, everyone took home over 4 dozen treats. Also, thanks to our judges (you know who you are) for choosing the over all "best" treat; congratulations to Ana Prip for that honor.

Forty one residents celebrated the New Year feasting on a sumptuous buffet. A champagne toast, noise makers, hats streamers and of course, Time Square, New York, New York brought in the New Year!

"Thank you" to Nick Johnson and Armand Francoeur for installing locks on the health club door and on the "storage" closet in the hallway.

"Thank you" to Jayne Currier, who has ordered the benches for the men's and women's shower rooms.

I spoke with the manager of the Butterfly Place recently, and they are looking for help in their gift shop this season, which begins on February 14th. If you are interested, please contact Sylvia by e-mail: bflybut@aol.com. Also, remember all Stone Ridge residents, along with their family members, are charged a special admission rate of \$5.00 per person.

We look forward to another fun-filled year and as always, everyone's ideas are welcomed. Our next event will be on February 12th. "The Traveling Vineyard" will hold a wine tasting and feature many wine accessories. Enjoy your day!

Next Social Committee meeting: Wednesday January 26th 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse Library.



## CLUBHOUSE BOOKINGS

|          |   |                        |
|----------|---|------------------------|
| January  | 5 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>                   | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  |
| January  | 6 <sup>th</sup>   | TBA                    |
| January  | 8 <sup>th</sup>   | TBA                    |
| January  | 17 <sup>th</sup>  | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  |
| January  | 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | TBA                    |
| February | 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  |
| February | 4 <sup>th</sup>   | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  |
| February | 19 <sup>th</sup>  | 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. |
| February | 21 <sup>st</sup>  | 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  |
| February | 27 <sup>th</sup>  | TBA                    |

For bookings of the Clubhouse, please call the Property Management at 603-891-1800

## SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Wednesday January 5, 12, 19</b>    | <b>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</b><br>Knit, Stitch & Itch              |
| <b>Thursday January 6th</b>           | <b>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</b><br>Monthly Business Meeting         |
| <b>January 17th</b>                   | <b>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</b><br>Board of Trustees "Open Meeting" |
| <b>Wednesday February 2, 9, 6, 23</b> | <b>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</b><br>Knit, Stitch & Itch              |
| <b>Thursday February 4th</b>          | <b>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</b><br>Monthly Business Meeting         |
| <b>Sunday February 6th</b>            | <b>5:00 pm - 10:00 pm</b><br>Super Bowl Sunday Supper        |
| <b>Saturday February 19th</b>         | <b>7:00 pm - 10:00 pm</b><br>Wine Tasting                    |
| <b>Monday February 21st</b>           | <b>7:00 pm - 9:00 pm</b><br>Board of Trustees "Open Meeting" |



## THE LAST WORD - Teacher's Pet

A kindergarten pupil told his teacher he'd found a cat, but it was dead. "How do you know that the cat is dead?" she asked her pupil. "Because I pissed in its ear and it didn't move," answered the child innocently. "You did WHAT!?" the teacher exclaimed in surprise. "You know," explained the boy, "I leaned over and went 'Pssst!' and it didn't move."

-Sent by Gabriella DiPrizio

## LOST & FOUND

Found one pair of prescription sunglasses. Please contact Nick or Rosalie Johnson by phone 978-392-5859 or e-mail. Happy New Year All

## ADVERTISE

Your business, personal sale items, function announcements, etc. in the Quarry Classified section. Cost is per line. Please call:

**978-692-0648**

for detailed information. Payment of advertisements will be by check only, made to the Village at Stone Ridge.

## THE QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

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GABRIELLA DIPRIZIO

The Quarry Bulletin is a monthly newsletter to keep you informed of any events and information for The Village at Stone Ridge. Contributor writers please send copy e-mail to: stoneridge14@comcast.net or direct mail to: 14 Stone Ridge, Westford, MA 01886.