



*The Village at Stone Ridge*

# THE QUARRY BULLETIN

VOLUME 2

ISSUE MARCH 2005

## The Quarry in Winter



*I was taken by the beauty of the Quarry, as the last snow flakes settled on the surrounding trees of our diamond cut panorama. As I was looking through the view finder, I was mesmerized by each framed picture I took and hoped I would get a good one to preserve. I spent just enough time there to realize how cold I was getting.*

*This was the storm on February 11th and I was glad to have had the opportunity to go down and take these pictures while the snow was clean and fresh. I look at the pictures now and remember how much I enjoyed being there on that day, to admire this beautiful view that we all now have to share.*

*I had my fun taking winter pictures, but now, like everyone else, I am ready for spring!*

—Nany Diaz

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### From the Management

All unit owners recently received a survey form from the engineering firm of The Reserve Report Company. Since this firm is under contract and the survey is an essential part of their work, they will need your reply no later than March 7, 2005.

Included in the survey mailing was a request for a copy of each owner's list of upgrades that were purchased in the original sale from Guthall. It is important to include these documents in your response, since it will determine insurance coverage in the master insurance policy for the Village.

### Lighting Maintenance

#### Clubhouse, Fence Posts and over Garage Door Light Bulbs



by Larry Anzivino

The cost of bringing a service man out to change the bulbs in the areas noted above is about \$80.00 per call, when having Great North do it. These charges eventually have an effect on the condo fees. Therefore we have set in place a program to address the issues ourselves and at no cost beyond the purchase of the bulbs.

We now stock the correct size bulbs and will replace them ourselves as needed. When a light goes out in the above mentioned areas you can contact Larry Anzivino by e-mail [Lionlamb2@aol.com](mailto:Lionlamb2@aol.com) and he, or one of a team of five volunteers, will come to change your bulb in a timely fashion (2-4 days).



### Curbside Trash Pickup



by Judy Culver, Board of Trustees

The Town's pickup service is now merely routine at Stone Ridge. The only difference any of us will notice is that 1) legal holidays do change the trash pickup day, following the same calendar as the recycling pickup service AND that 2) the workers do not wheel barrels to curbside which the former truck driver did for those owners with steep or difficult driveways.

If you have a problem with bringing the barrels to the curb, please ask for help, or if you abut a unit with a difficult driveway, please offer your help.



#### A reminder

The Blue Pages in the 2005-2006 Westford Directory contain the current regulations as well as bulk item pickup and recycling information.

## IT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION

by Richard Diaz

On Sunday, January 23, 2005, the Boston Globe published an in-depth article on Property Taxes and the averages in change from 2004 to 2005. Only three hundred five of three hundred fifty one cities and towns were reported because forty six municipalities had not filed 2005 projections.

This caught my attention, not only because it was well written but it was so universal in scope. I looked it over a dozen times before I could place it into a perspective that I could understand. The taxes represent the average yearly tax bill for a single family home as reported to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

The following is the distillation of that information for the extremes (highest and lowest) and Westford with the surrounding towns:

Town	Ranking	2004	2005	% Change
Everett	1	\$1,855	\$2,376	+28.09 %
Hanson	305	\$3,476	\$3,218	-7.04 %
Abington	286	\$3,623	\$3,623	0 %
Chelmsford	118	\$4,212	\$4,467	+6.01 %
<b>Westford</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>\$5,396</b>	<b>\$5,704</b>	<b>+5.71 %</b>
Groton	142	\$5,392	\$5,688	+5.49 %
Littleton	157	\$3,917	\$4,119	+5.16 %
Pepperell	161	\$2,969	\$3,121	+5.12 %
Tyngsboro	249	\$3,911	\$4,024	+2.89 %
Lowell	29	\$2,216	\$2,478	+11.08 %

The article went on to identify the disparity between residential property and commercial/industrial properties. Identifying an increase of residential property by 17.2 percent as compared to a 4.7 percent increase in commercial and industrial properties.

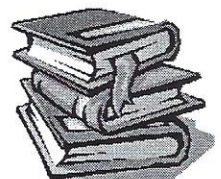
Governor Mitt Romney was asked to comment on properties taxes, during an interview that took place on Friday, January 21, 2005. His comments put the onus on local officials. It seems that cities and towns assess commercial/industrial buildings based on the income of rents and other sources versus residential properties based on market values.

The Governor, in the same interview, said that he would offer some solutions to the problem, in the future.

Or...we could designate a time (preferably in the dead of night) and date to gather at the quarry pond with all the tea that we can muster and have a party. That should shake people up.

Love to Read? If you are  
looking to join a

## Book Club



Jackie Tucker is very interested in forming one at the clubhouse. Please call 978-692-4180

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

### *Herbert & Harriet Shanzer*

by Shirley Chambers

Meet some really nice folks – the Shanzers. Deciding which one is more charming, Herb or Harriet, is a real toss-up. I call it a draw.

As I entered their home on Stone Ridge, I noticed sufficient oriental decorative objects to prompt my asking if they had visited the Far East. Yes, they lived in Japan shortly after they got married. Herb was there working for UNIVAC. Subsequently they lived in Switzerland and Spain as UNIVAC moved them about. When Harriet became pregnant she returned to the States, and Herb joined her there after the birth of their daughter.

Before Harriet met Herb she used to baby-sit his sister's kids. From that association a blind date was arranged for the two, and that evolved into a romance and finally a wedding. They have two children: a daughter Robin who lives in New York City, and a son Michael who lives in Framingham. So far there are no grandchildren, but they do have some grandpets: three cats, two parrots, and a turtle.

During the 1970's the Shanzer family lived in Westford and their children were in this town's school system. After that they moved to Chelmsford, Texas, and then Sudbury where they have spent the last twenty years. The Shanzers moved into our village in July of last year, and as they passed papers they had the distinction of being the seventy-fifth percentor, who pushed us over the line transferring control from Guthall, LLC to unit owners. And didn't that set off some bells and whistles!

Harriet got her master's degree in math/computer science from the University of Lowell and taught calculus and computer courses there. For the last four years she's been employed by ORACLE, a data base products company in Burlington. Before that she worked

as a software vendor for the health care industry.

Herb got his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from MIT, his master's degree in business administration from Drexel, and (as he puts it) his doctorate from the college of hard knocks. He spent thirty five years in the high tech computer industry in

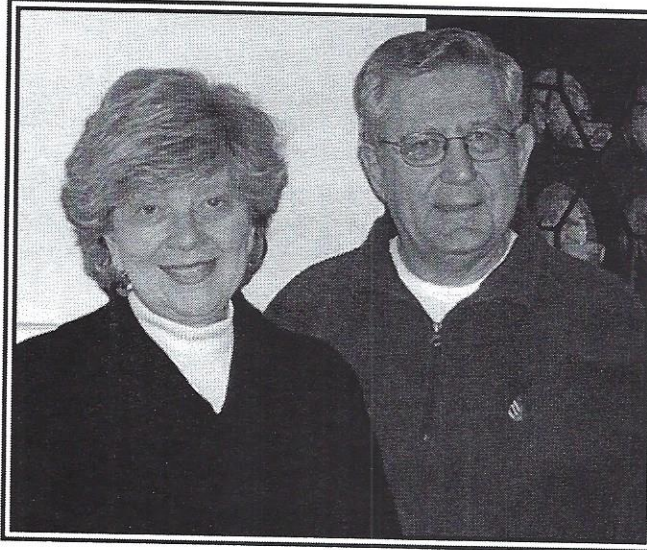


PHOTO: NANY DIAZ

engineering, marketing, and running businesses in both large and small companies. Since he retired ten years ago he has been managing investments for clients as an independent investment advisor specializing in no-load mutual funds. Although he does not actively market his services, I think he could be persuaded to take a few VSR'ers under his wing. To me his investment philosophy seems terribly sound, and who doesn't love NO-LOADS?

Harriet is fascinatingly creative. She has started the group, here at the Village clubhouse, calling themselves Knit, Stitch, & \*Itch. I've seen some of her handiwork, and it's amazing. The group meets weekly at the clubhouse at 7 pm on Wednesday, in case any of you would like to join them. The participants largely do their own thing. Rather than have a structured group, they prefer to freewheel it sitting with compatible company gabbing and keeping those fingers busy.

When the Shanzers lived in Europe,

they developed their taste for fine foods and wines. They are bona fide wine connoisseurs. They have a wonderful "wine cellar" in their basement filled with mostly (98%) red wines. Herb says he has one case of truly good aged Bordeaux that he reveres. It wasn't that much money when he bought it twenty years ago, but he now feels he maybe he should sell it since it's become a bit too expensive to drink. Any bids? They prefer the French, Australian, Spanish, and South American wines. In their estimation the California wines are over-priced today.

Harriet loves to cook, and Herb proclaims her expertise. She has a very large cook book collection and she uses her books often. It was much larger before she had to cull them out for the down-sizing move to VSR. I insisted Herb tell me his favorite dish: Coquilles St. Jacques. When I reminded him that the cream sauce on the scallops might be loaded with cholesterol, he said "if you read all the literature today about what food is good for you and what is bad for you, they constantly change conclusions. The secret is to find the article that says what you want it to say, and then stop reading". Herb and Harriet are looking forward to better weather when they can get out on their deck and use their charcoal grill. What tastes better than a real charcoal broiled steak and a nice bottle of wine?

The next major milestone in the Shanzers' life is turning 65 and getting Medicare. What other time in our adult life do we want to be older than we are? There's a lot of charisma in the Shanzers' household. Herb has an infectious laugh; Harriet has a devilish smile. There is also a spirit of independence, each maintaining his/her own space, and this has helped make this marriage endure happily for forty-two years.

We all wish our neighbors the Shanzers good stitching, good investing, good wines, and bon appetite.

## WELCOME!

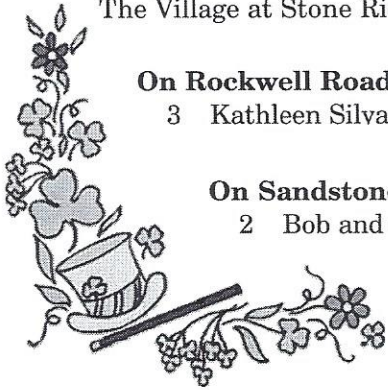
To our new neighbors arriving in time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, Easter and most awaited spring. Welcome home, to The Village at Stone Ridge.

**On Rockwell Road**

3 Kathleen Silva

**On Sandstone Road**

2 Bob and Gail Eddy



## ROBINSON SCHOOL GREENHOUSE

### Are you a Gardener?



by Judy Culver

Do you miss your former beds and borders? Would you like to be part of developing a serene, park-like space? If you answered YES to one of these question, the Robinson Elementary School (grades K - 2) School Advisory Council can use you.

Parents, staff and the School Advisory Council erected a greenhouse last year with an eye towards enhancing the curriculum and school grounds. Last June, the greenhouse was officially opened with a grand ceremony followed by the parade of 2nd graders crossing over a symbolic wooden bridge to 3rd grade. This is the first year that the greenhouse will be incorporated into Spring lesson plans for studying plant life cycles. Beds have been laid around the greenhouse but need nurturing and ideas. A compost bin has been installed. Some shrubs and bulbs were planted last year.



If you are interested in offering your time, ideas or experience in helping the Robinson School team build a functioning greenhouse with sustainable and beautiful gardens, please contact me at 692-7433. I will be happy to arrange a tour of the greenhouse and grounds.

## PERCEPTIONS

### Aromas and the Mind

by Louise O'Donnell



I just put a pan of brownies in the oven. Sitting here at the computer, I can catch the aroma wafting up the hall to the office where I sit writing this article.

It brings back to mind the delicious aromas awaiting my homecoming from school way back in my childhood. I would hurry down Main Street to see and taste what the snack of the day was. Mom would have something fresh and delectable waiting for us and I still have mental and physical images of these treats. I have a vivid memory of looking on top of the stove for the crispy and chewy fried dough, eggplant with tomato sauce which just slid down my throat, homemade bread and tomato sauce or pizza slices. I mostly remember my mother in front of the stove stirring something tasty. These are some of the smells that my memory has retained through the years.

I remember the kitchen table holding staggering amounts of food on the holidays, and sitting there with relatives eating the goodies. I remember helping make cookies and all the other Italian delicacies Mom prepared.

Most of all when I remember our kitchen, as the old TV program said, "I Remember Mama".

I am no longer a child, but certain aromas give me total recall into the past. I wonder what images come to mind for my own children and grandchildren, and I fervently hope they will have similar memories some day.



## FYI

In case you were wondering, the Clubhouse is for unit owners. If you are planning a party or gathering of people that do not live at The Village at Stone Ridge, the Clubhouse must be rented.

For any gathering of Villagers at the Clubhouse, a rental commitment is not necessary. The only requirement, in that case, would be to make sure that the Clubhouse is not rented or committed. To rent, call Great North Property Management at 603-891-1800

The gym is available to unit owners twenty four hours a day, year round.



## REMINDER DOOR LOCK

The new lock for the gym door is now operational. If you are a newcomer to the facility and don't know or remember the combination to open the door, please call 978-692-0648.



There is only one unit left available For Sale on Gatecrest Road. Once this unit is sold, we will be one hundred percent occupied.

Maybe a celebration is in order.



# Simply Social... *By Donna Hudon*

March is the month of Spring. Another sign of Spring - Kimball Farms Ice Cream stand opens in 4 weeks!!



Fifty five residents attended the Wine Tasting hosted by the Traveling Vineyard on February 19th. It was great to see familiar faces and especially nice to welcome many newcomers to the neighborhood. "Thank you" to Joan Roy for coordinating this event. There will be more "tastings" in the future, so stay tuned.

It's wonderful to see our "sign-up" sheet for our "2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast" growing! Remember to mark March 13th, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm on your calendar and please sign-up soon!

The following is a schedule of our "Weekly Clubhouse Happenings". For further information on any of these activities, please call the contact person listed. Also, if anyone is interested in coordinating a particular activity, please give me a call.

We will be planning to go to "Tea" at the Stonehedge Inn in Tyngsboro, MA in March. If you have not been to the Inn, it's a lovely, relaxing way to spend an afternoon. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board with further information.

Next Social Committee meeting will be Wednesday March 30th, 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse Library. Enjoy your day!

A resident suggested that it would be nice to have a piano in our Clubhouse. If anyone knows someone who would like to donate such an item, please contact me.

## Clubhouse Weekly Happenings

**Wednesdays** - Stitch, Knit & \*Itch: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm  
Contact: Harriet Shanzer 978-392-1508

**Thursday Evenings** - Social get-together: 7:00 pm  
Just show up

**Fridays** - Quilting: 9:30 am - 12 noon  
Contact: Lois Frampton 978-692-4095

**2nd Friday of the month** - Canasta Club & Poker Game: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
Contact: Nany Diaz 978-692-0648

The exercise classes schedule is posted separately on the bulletin board.

## March Events Calendar

**Thursday 3rd** - Business Meeting: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

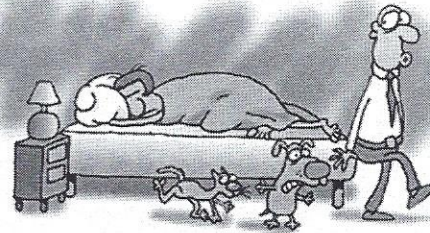
**Sunday 13th** - Pancake Breakfast: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Monday 21st** - Board Meeting: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

## Clubhouse Bookings

**March 13, March 19, April 16 & 30, May 22**

## THE LAST WORD The Silent Treatment



A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment.

Suddenly, the man realized that the next day, he would need his wife to wake him at 5:00 am for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, "Please wake me at 5:00 am." He left it where he knew she would find it.

The next morning, the man woke up, only to discover it was 9:00 am and he had missed his flight.

Furious, he was about to go and see why his wife hadn't wakened him, when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, "It is 5:00 am. Wake up."

Men are not equipped for these kinds of contests. God may have created man before woman, but there is always a rough draft before the masterpiece.

-Sent by Gabriella DiPrizio

## TRIVIA

### TRICKY QUESTIONS

1. How long did the Hundred Years War last?
2. What is a camel's hairbrush made of?
3. What color is a Purple Finch?
4. What was King George VI's first name?
5. Where are Chinese gooseberries from?

**ANSWERS**  
 1. 116 years 4. Albert  
 2. Squirrel fur 5. New Zealand  
 3. Crimson

### WONDERFUL WORDS

**Vacuity**(va-kyoo-i-tee) *noun*

Definition: emptiness of mind, lack of intelligence, interest or thought.

Sample Sentence: As they scribbled notes, the press was astounded by the display of vacuity in the speaker's remarks.

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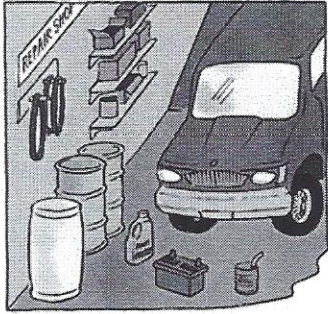
The Quarry Bulletin is a monthly newsletter to keep you informed of any events and information for The Village at Stone Ridge. Contributor writers please send copy e-mail to: stoneridge14@comcast.net or direct mail to: 14 Stone Ridge, Westford, MA 01886.

## YOUR CAR WILL LOVE THIS!

by Tom & Barbara West

Our SUV was recently in need of normal servicing. The dealers couldn't take the car for weeks; that was as bad as getting a Doctor's appointment. To the rescue: Stone Ridge's own Carl Erickson. Many residents may not be aware that Carl owns a full-service Mobil station in Lexington. We called Carl (actually since he lives across the street, we caught him coming back from the station) and told him of our plight.

Carl had a brilliant solution to our problem. He told us that he would take our vehicle to his station early Thursday morning, have the work done by his mechanics (who have been with him for years) and bring it back early afternoon. Sure enough, early afternoon brought a knock at our door - it was Carl bringing our vehicle back. He had done everything we asked, answered all of our questions and even made some suggestions for our vehicle's next visit. The bill was very, very reasonable and the service excellent.



Next time, your car, truck or SUV needs service work, even if it's just an oil change, call Carl. He'll pick up the vehicle, have the work done and return it to you the same day. He even had our vehicle inspected. So, have your auto work done by someone you can trust and get great service too. We recommend him highly. Carl did say that he would do this for any Stone Ridge resident. Great for people who only have one car.

Carl can be reached at 978-399-0201.

### A SLICE OF LIFE Southern Solutions

by Mort Silverman



In the 1960's, a young southern woman in my acting class told me a story about her youth in Georgia. Usually, on a Friday or Saturday night, she and a group of her friends would pile into a pickup truck or car and drive out to the countryside. There they found fields of watermelons...thousands and thousands of them.

Certainly the loss of one melon would not be a significant loss to the farmer, so they took one and enjoyed it, laughing and joking while they ate.

The group, after doing this for a period of months, found a sign in the field that read: "One of these melons is poisoned and you don't know which one!", signed, "The Farmer".

The next morning the farmer found another sign that read: "Dear Mr. Farmer, one of these melons is poisoned and you don't know which one!"

## Celebrating St. Patrick's Day

### Did You Know?

♣ There are 34 million U.S. residents who claim Irish ancestry. This number is almost nine times the population of Ireland itself (3.9 million). Irish is the nation's second most frequently reported ancestry, trailing only German.

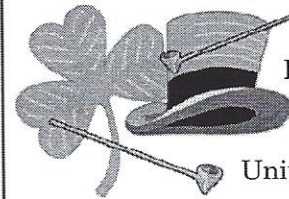
♣ There are three states in which Irish is the leading ancestry group: Delaware, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Irish is among the top five ancestries in every state but two (Hawaii and New Mexico).



♣ There are 54 counties where Irish is the largest observed ancestry group. Forty-four of these counties are in the Northeast, with 14 in New York, 11 in Massachusetts and five in New Jersey.

♣ In Middlesex County, Mass., 348,978 residents are of Irish ancestry. Among the 54 counties where Irish is the largest observed ancestry group, Middlesex had the highest population of Irish-Americans, with Norfolk County, Mass., second, with 203,285.

♣ A total of 4.8 million immigrants from Ireland have been admitted to the U.S. for lawful permanent residence since fiscal year 1820, the earliest year for which official immigration records exist. By fiscal year 1870, about half of these immigrants were admitted for lawful permanent residence. Only Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and Mexico have had more immigrants admitted for permanent residence to the United States than Ireland.



♣ The value of U.S. imports from the Republic of Ireland during a recent 10-month period (January-October 2004) was \$23 billion. Meanwhile, the United States exported \$6.6 billion worth of goods to Ireland.

♣ There are nine places in the United States that share the name of Ireland's capital, Dublin. Since Census 2000, Dublin, Calif., has surpassed Dublin, Ohio, as the most populous of these places (35,581 compared with 33,606 as of July 1, 2003).

Data courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau