



The Village at Stone Ridge

THE QUARRY BULLETIN

VOLUME 2

ISSUE NOVEMBER 2005

SPECIAL MEETING *of Unit Owners Called for December 8*

Unit Owners who attended our Annual Meeting in September will recall the Trustees stating their concerns over several deficiencies in our Master Deed and Trust Documents. These documents and parliamentary processes have an important bearing on many of our operating procedures here at Stone Ridge.

After a great deal of discussion and deliberation, the Legal Committee has proposed to the Trustees that we take immediate steps to correct the documentation and processes. Presently, the Master Deed requires 100% approval of the Unit Owners in order to make any changes in the Condominium Documents, which are filed with the Massachusetts Registry of Deeds. As you can imagine, this renders it virtually impossible to correct these inequities. The Legal Committee has suggested that an 80% Unit Owner approval is more reasonable and will provide the flexibility needed to make desirable changes. The average level of participation in our elections has been under 80% (with not all units sold).

Our Legal Counsel recommends that the Trustees call a special meeting of the Unit Owners for the specific purpose of approving an Amendment to allow this change. We will need 100% approval from the Unit Owners to accomplish this, so your total cooperation is crucial to our success.

The date for this Unit Owners special meeting is set for December 8, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse. All Unit Owners will shortly receive, by US Mail a Proxy, concerning this issue, with a method of notifying us of your intention to attend the meeting.

Again, this is extremely important. Your participation is imperative.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Legal Committee:

Eli Demetri, Chairman,

Mike Gallant,

Len Halio,

Dean Proyou,

Joel Shyavitz,

Herb Shanzer,

or Bill Nussbaum, Trustee Liaison.

All questions you might have on this issue will be researched and answered.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The VSR Board of Trustees



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

From your Board of Trustees

by Judy Culver



Deck Staining Status

At the Annual Meeting, our Property Manager Paul Okonak reported that he had secured a bid for staining the decks of 42 units, representing the first third of the units constructed in VSR. Because of the late bid, the timing of the work was dependent upon the contractor's work schedule and the weather. Regrettably, it is now too late in the Fall for the work to be performed satisfactorily.

Paul reported to the Board of Trustees on 24 Oct. that the contractor will hold his price and undertake work on the 42 units in early Spring of 2006. The budgeted 2005 funds for this will be rolled over into the 2006 budget and combined with 2006 funds to also stain the decks of the second third of the units. Paul will request that the contractor undertake work on the approximately 75 units in the same early Spring period.

In 2007, decks of the remaining third of the units will be budgeted for staining, thus completing the initial three-year maintenance schedule.



Don't Bother the Help with Landscaping or Watering Questions

Do you know what the best plants for the front entrance are? Do you pine for your former gardens and yearn to design other garden areas? Do you believe that some areas at VSR are sprinkled too much or too little? Should the shrubs be shaped differently? Are some plantings placed in inappropriate areas?



All of these areas fall under the purview of the new Landscape Committee, an offshoot of the Property Committee.

The landscaper for VSR, TruGreen LawnCare, has informed our property manager that residents often approach the landscape crew with many of these questions, hindering the completion of their work. Moreover, the landscape crew generally cannot answer these questions.

This committee's co-chairs Skip Giles and Tom West are the only VSR residents who are authorized by the Trustees to communicate with our landscaper TruGreen and its employees.

The Landscape Committee meets monthly to review, ponder, and discuss any suggestions for, or problems with, TruGreen. Residents are encouraged to contact either Skip or Tom with any items that you wish reviewed at a meeting. The chairs will take any requests for action resulting from the monthly meetings to Glenn Hilson of TruGreen or to the Board of Trustees for resolution and/or action.

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Tom West and Skip Giles

At a recent meeting of the Landscape Committee Skip Giles and Tom West were named its co-chairs. This meeting was attended by Lois Frampton (our chief landscape advisor), Sharon Erickson, Gail Eddy, Nancy Fletcher, Barbara West, and Tink Nussbum. Other members who were unable to attend this meeting are Pauline Giles, Ed Kern, Carole Shyavitz, and Roni Hubbard.

The committee's purpose is to oversee landscape operations and to make recommendations for proper maintenance and improvements to the Trustees for their consideration. We want to make sure that the landscaping at Stone Ridge continues to enhance the appearance of the village and at the same time remains within our budget constraints.

The Trustees were sent some recommendations by this committee along with a budget for these items. If you have any concerns or recommendations please email Skip Giles at skip.giles@comcast.net or Tom West at tom@bbpinc.com. No telephone calls please. We have no authority to take any action at all. We will simply pass this information on to the Trustees along with our recommendations. We will keep you informed of any decisions by the Trustees that impact the landscaping.

At the 24 Oct. 2005 Trustee's meeting, funding was authorized for four of the priority items recommended by the Landscape Committee for this year: removal of identified Rugosa Rose bushes, Wisteria, and dead bushes, and the planting of three trees and arborvitae.

LANDSCAPE UPDATE

Wisteria, Rosa Rugosas, and dead branches will be removed in the next few weeks. Necessary replacements will be made in the Spring.

Tom West and Skip Giles

ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD AT ANTIQUES ROADSHOW

by Shirley Chambers

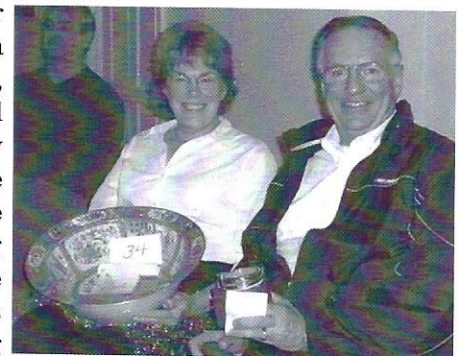
The SHOW got on the ROAD the evening of October 18th as residents and their guests carried into our Clubhouse their items to be appraised. As they entered, numbers were given to each indicating first-come, first-appraised. If Sharon Erickson's piercing shriek of joy when her wonderful Mettlach stein was appraised for \$800 to \$1,100 is any indication, then the event was a bounding success. The crowd was exuberant and the evening both entertaining and educational.

The five ladies on the panel were introduced and welcomed. Mary Wescott from Acton acted as head honcho. She is a professional appraiser (a member of the International Society of Appraisers) and lecturer with far-reaching knowledge over a broad spectrum of antiques



Judy Waner, Pat Stauble and Mary Wescott about to have a copper boiler appraised.

have anything paper in a frame with a WOODEN back, remove the wood (which will eventually stain it) and replace it with acid-free paper and some other backing. These were some handy little tips passed on to us during the evening.



Tink & Bill Nussbaum showing off their large Rose Medallion Bowl.



The Appraising Panel (L to R) Judy, Pat, Mary, Shirley and Polly.

and collectibles. The other four ladies on the panel are antiques dealers with 30 to 40 years experience in the business specializing in early country furniture and accessories, folk art, samplers, quilts, hooked rugs, lighting, and paintings. Their knowledge is also extensive but more in line with their individual specialities. As a group, the five had most of the antiques domain covered. Pat Stauble's shop in her home on Rt. 1 in Wiscasset, Maine, was featured in the Jan/Feb 1999 issue of "Country Home." This past spring Judy Waner opened a very large group antiques shop called The Blythe House, also on Rt. 1 in Wiscasset. The other two panelist were your very own Sandstone residents Polly Byrne and myself. All these ladies are friends of mine and acted without compensation as a favor to me. I thank them very much, as I'm sure you all do.

About 60 items in all were brought in for appraisal. We had some good laughs and we learned some things too. For example, we learned that if you have a family treasure handed down to you, collect all the information you can glean from family members and write down its history of ownership. Keep this piece of paper with the item because this becomes its provenance and makes it much more valuable now and in the future. We also learned that if you



Mary watches as Polly appraises a corner chair.

We had some very interesting and exquisite items to appraise. I particularly liked the very early coin silver chalice and the large Rose Medallion bowl. The three chairs that were brought in got a good going-over and proved to be of significant value. A big trunk in poor condition turned out to be an old Louis Vuitton piece, and since it had such exquisite appointments Mary suggested that it was well worth having the leather repaired. The piece that got the biggest laugh was the light-green electric lamp/clock with the venetian-blind shade. It was just funky enough to be worth quite a few \$\$\$'s, so guess who has the last laugh!

Stone Ridgers' Trip to Tuscany

Reported by Tom and Barbara West

Seventeen Stone Ridge residents left Boston on September 21, 2005, to spend eight days in Italy, focusing on the Tuscany region. The tour was led by Stone Ridge resident Joyce Minosh (owner of the Westford Connection) and husband Frank. Since only 22 people went on the tour, the Stone Ridge contingent made up the majority of the group. One does not really know one's Stone Ridge neighbors until you have been on a vacation/trip with them. They really are a great bunch - lots of fun, and of course a little red wine doesn't hurt!

We flew Air France to Paris and, after going through customs along with about 5,000 other people and a long walk to our connecting flight, 21 of us arrived in Florence. One of our tour group apparently got lost and missed her flight. No, it was not a "Stone Ridger." She did get the next flight and joined the tour in Lucca, which we visited on the way to San Gimignano.



his city along with neighboring Pienza. Along the way he told us that he was only the second person in Italy to make a blues recording on the harmonica. You can guess what he did at the end of the tour - he pulled a harmonica from his pocket and played a great blues song for us (good thing he didn't play a tuba). He was very good. Our next job was to match-make Ericka with Marco - more on this later.

On to Florence and again a wonderful hotel within walking distance of everything.

Here we saw Michelangelo's statues (including the impressive David), the marketplace, and the famed Duomo. So that we would better know our way around the city, we had a complete walking tour of Florence, which has a long history. One morning Joyce took the women to the food marketplace and shopping, and several of the guys decided to take a walking tour of the city, as someone said, to have a cappuccino and watch the Italian women go by. We walked and walked and finally one of the guys handed our map to a local. He stared at the map and then turned it over - apparently we had walked out of Florence. This long and scenic walk had allowed us to see most of Florence.

This was a wonderful trip and, as they say, "a once-in-a-lifetime experience." One nice thing about being over 55 is they could have taken us to the same place every day since most of us forgot what we saw the day before. But our tour director Joyce had everything planned out for us. We had great side tours, and yet still had plenty of time to shop, meet for wine every evening, go off on our own, and eat at different restaurants. Every evening someone would say: "Where should we go for dinner?" The response was always: "How about Italian!"

Never mind San Francisco, "We left our hearts in Tuscany." And on the way to the airport we all signed a pact in which we agreed that "what happened in Tuscany stays in Tuscany." Oh, and Erika and Marco - well last we heard they had e-mailed

one another several times and were meeting in Pienza. The Stone Ridge matchmakers m a g i c apparently worked. We will let you know.



The group gets together for dinner at the Clubhouse on October 27 to reminisce over their trip to Tuscany.

For more information on Joyce's trips e-mail: westfordconnect@aol.com



Just outside our hotel in San Gimignano

The first five days were spent in the delightful little medieval village of San Gimignano. Our hotel was right in the heart of the town providing easy access to the shops, restaurants, and to the many historic spots. We hope we can return to San Gimignano some day!

Every day brought new adventures. We boarded a big, new modern bus with an English-speaking Italian guide. Ericka was with us for three days, and in addition to a walking tour of San Gimignano, we toured Siena and Arezzo. She also accompanied us to the Chianti wine country with a visit to a winery and lots of wine tasting. These wonderful trips were broken up with antics on the bus rides. We learned that putting 17 over-55's on a bus together, especially after an Italian lunch punctuated with red wine, creates a rollicking good time. The one-liners and zingers went back and forth with everyone laughing. Even the five VSR non-residents joined in and now want to become Stone Ridgers.

Our guide in Montalcino was Marco, who showed us

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Bob "Red" & Jackie O'Keefe

by Shirley Chambers

Family, family, family, and that's what life is all about for most of us, but especially for the O'Keefes. And this played out particularly well on October 15th when they were given a surprise 50th wedding anniversary dinner party at the Danversport Yacht Club. All six of their children and all ten of their grandchildren were there. They had hurricane-like weather the day they got married a half century ago and the same kind of weather the day of their party. (What a bummer!)

Both Jackie and Bob were born in Sommerville, MA. Bob had a twin brother (both had red hair); unfortunately his twin died when he was 4 1/2. And what goes with red hair? You got it—freckles and more freckles. For some reason, those who have them, hate them; those who don't, think they're "cute."

Bob and Jackie were married when they were both quite young; she was 19 and he was just barely 21. Their wedding pictures told me that Bob was a tall (6'4") skinny kid with that red hair and freckles, and Jackie was a little bitty 4'11" trim, pretty lass. Bob's dad told him he wasn't "getting enough girl for the money." It's very hard to imagine this spunky little lady producing six babies (three of each kind) bing, bing, bing, one right after the other and three of them were ten-pounders (ouch). And by the way, four of them had red hair. Bob Jr. is the oldest, then Kathleen, John, Maureen, Michael, and Colleen is the baby. Just think, the O'Keefes wanted 13; they even had names picked out for all of them.

Before moving to our Village, the O'Keefes lived in Chelmsford for 36 years. Bob retired from New England Tel and Tel in 1994 where he was the motor vehicles foreman. Before that he was in the automotive business in Lowell primarily doing body work. He even taught auto mechanics at Nashoba Tech for a time. Son Bob Jr. owns the McKenna & O'Keefe automotive shop on Cambridge

St. The elder Bob goes there every day to help out, do some appraisals, and just hang out since he can't quite get this business out of his system. He even collects model cars and trucks - has about 100 of them. On one special occasion Jackie surprised Bob with a gift of a 1929 Ford coupe, and what a glorious and grand time he had restoring it! Jackie claims her husband is a real gentleman and a good person who has brought up their kids that way too. He is quiet, reserve, bashful, and totally honest. Daughter Maureen said amen to this and added she never ever even heard him swear. All of his kids think he's "a big teddy bear." We have another VSR family with old fashioned values, which I always find very appealing.

I met grandchild No.10, an adorable little 2-1/2 year old Chinese girl named Kelsey (the apple of Bob's eye). The O'Keefe daughters Maureen and Colleen are both single and have jointly adopted Kelsey. They live in Pepperell, and on week days Maureen brings Kelsey to Jackie for baby sitting. Maureen and Colleen are going back to China in the Spring of '06 to get another little girl (that will be No. 11) so Kelsey can have a sister and playmate.

In the sixth grade, Jackie had a pen pal in England. They faithfully corresponded during all these years, and in 1970 Josephine came to America to visit. When the O'Keefe's had their 25th wedding anniversary,

their kids gave them a trip to England to visit Josephine, and since then she has come to the U.S. again and stayed here in the Village with Jackie. Maybe some of you met her since she was a "walker." This is indeed unusual for pen pals to stay in touch for so many years!

Beautifully painted on the wall of their condo's bathroom are the words: DANCE as if no one were watching. SING as if no one were listening. LIVE EVERY DAY AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST. The words are familiar, but what good advice for all of us.



It's very hard to imagine this spunky little lady producing six babies bing, bing, bing, one right after the other, and three of them were ten-pounders (ouch).

PERCEPTIONS The Unsung Heroes



by Louise O'Donnell

They say "it takes a village" and we have certainly found this to be true here at Stone Ridge. So many people working together are helping this community become a better place in which to live. To all the residents who give unstintingly of their time and efforts, I wish to dedicate this article.

- To the Board of Trustees who endlessly give of themselves to address all our needs and problems. They give freely of their time to ensure we live a better life here.
- To all the various committees who pull together to keep our community running smoothly, installing lights, helping one another with small jobs, and working to assist with whatever problems that arise. Their efforts are appreciated.
- To Dottie Hall who cares about and works with the elderly in our town. She is personally responsible for inducing me to become an election officer (which I truly enjoy).
- To Carl Erickson who personally will pick up your car, take it to his station, fix the problem, and then return it to you, all with a smile.
- To Richard and Nany Diaz who established the Quarry Bulletin to keep us informed of all the happenings in the Village every month - an awesome job!
- To Shirley Chambers who has taken over the management of the Bulletin and writes a wonderful column in which we learn some personal things about our neighbors and thus become better acquainted with them.
- To Tink Nussbaum who, along with a group of concerned residents, came up with the idea of having our American flag proudly waving at the top of the hill, along with a commemorative stone marking the date it was erected.
- To Donna Hudon who, despite having a job, comes up with ideas for the many activities we all enjoy and who keeps our Clubhouse humming.
- To all the residents who look out for one another and help when needed.

I am sure many others here contribute, so please don't feel left out. Kudos to you all. We have some truly amazing people here at VSR, and I am grateful every day to be living here.

Book Club Report

by Gail Sergenian

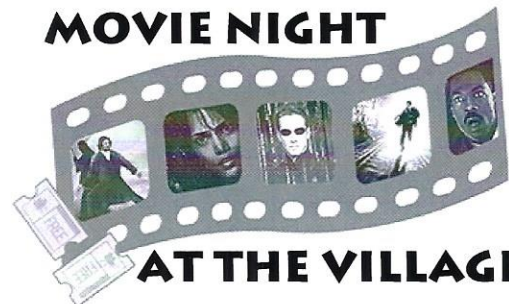


Join us for our November book club meeting on November 3rd. We will be discussing "My Sister's Keeper," by Jodi Picoult. This is a gripping and timely tale about a girl who was bred to be a genetic match to her older, leukemia-stricken sister. When she is asked to donate her kidney to, once more, save her older sister's life, 13 year old Anna sues her parents for the rights to her own body. The novel is fascinating in the way that it portrays incidents from the perspectives of each of the major characters. This will undoubtedly be a lively meeting!

On December 1, we will be discussing "Bel Canto," by Anne Patchett. This novel describes what happens when performers and dignitaries from all over the world gather in Japan to celebrate the President's birthday, but are unexpectedly taken hostage by a group of terrorists. Although some of the characters do not speak the same language, their unusual circumstances enable the development of relationships that will change their lives forever.

We always meet in the clubhouse at 1:00 for refreshments, and start our discussions at 1:30. We hope to see you there!

MOVIE NIGHT



AT THE VILLAGE

TWELVE ANGRY MEN

Henry Fonda stars

**November 10th at 7 PM
in the Library**

**Eleven jurors vote guilty;
the twelfth says innocent.**

Popcorn and lollipops provided. BYOB

FITNESS CENTER CLASSES

by Barbara West

As most of you know, Unique Fitness will no longer be teaching the exercise classes. They have started their new business Global Fitness and will not be able to come to VSR. We do have someone who will be teaching a 9:00 a.m. Wednesday morning gentle yoga class. She is very good, I hope you will all take advantage of this new class. It is perfect for beginners as well as those who have been in previous yoga classes. We do have some men in this class, so don't let the girls scare the rest of you gents away.

Her first class will be the first Wednesday in November. We are talking with instructors to fill Michelle's teaching position for 9:00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Come join us. Not only is this exercise good for us, it's also a lot of fun.



WE HAVE A PIANO NOW

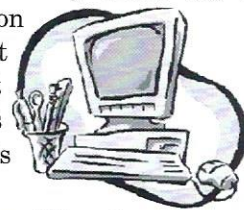


It finally got moved from the Westford Senior Center to our Clubhouse, thanks to Dotty Hall (at the keyboard).

It needs a little "spit and polish" and some fine tuning, but it's a good looking upright that will soon be ready for someone to give us a concert.

ARE YOU A COMPUTERPHOBE?

In Webster's collegiate dictionary (10th ed) a **COMPUTERPHOBE** (n) is a person who experiences anxiety about computers, especially about their use. That person has **COMPUTERPHOBIA** (n) and is computerphobic (adj).



So don't call yourself computer-illiterate when there's a nicer name for it.

TRIVIA

The liquid inside young coconuts can be used as a substitute for blood plasma.

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.

Oak trees do not produce acorns until they are at least 50 years old.

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.

Venus is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

Apples are more efficient at waking you up in the morning than caffeine.

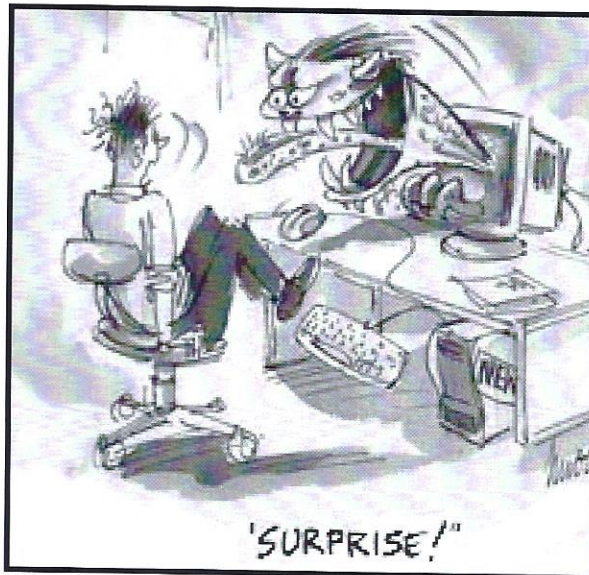
Most dust particles in your house are made from dead skin.

Walt Disney was afraid of mice.

A cow can be led upstairs, but not downstairs.

Pearls melt in vinegar.

— Sent by Bob Eddy





Simply Social... *By Donna Hudon*

What a great turnout for our Stoneridge Antique Road Show! Many thanks to Shirley Chambers, Polly Byrne, and ladies Mary, Pat, and Judy for their time and expertise. The evening proved to be fun and educational, and very rewarding to a few of our residents. Thank you to our Social Committee members who donated the refreshments for the evening. Could this turn out to be one of our "annual" events?



Well, we have our piano!! Thanks to Dottie Hall and the Senior Center. Several of our residents have offered to "clean up" the exterior, and we will have it tuned up just in time for the holiday season.

Please note that our 2nd Annual Arts Festival has been changed to Saturday, November 19, 2005. The sign-up sheet is only for those EXHIBITING in the show. We had to move our "Wine Tasting" from October to November 5th.

Plans are underway for our New Year's Eve Party (you can never plan too early). Once again, it will be catered. Watch for further information and sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. This event requires payment in advance.

Don't forget the Holiday Party on December 3rd. Everyone is asked to bring a dish for the buffet. More information to follow on the bulletin board.

November 20th is our Sunday Brunch hosted by Jayne and Paul Currier. Watch for further notice on this.

Enjoy your day!

COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUBHOUSE

Thursday–November 3 Book Club 1:00 p.m.

Thursday–November 3 Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Saturday–November 5 Wine Tasting
by Fallon Wine & Spirits 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday–November 10 Movie Night 7:00 p.m.

Friday–November 11 & 25 Poker Game 7:00 p.m.

Friday–November 11 Canasta Club 7:00 p.m.

Saturday–November 19 Second Annual Arts Festival
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Sunday–November 20 Sunday Brunch

Monday–November 21 Board of Trustees Meeting

Saturday–December 3 Holiday Party

Thursday–December 8 Special Unit Owners Meeting
7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse

Monday–December 12 Cookie Swap 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday–December 31 New Year's Eve Party

CLUBHOUSE PRIVATE BOOKINGS

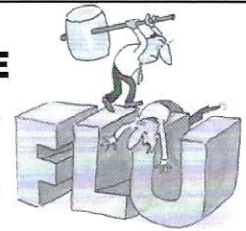
November 6th, 8th, 13th and 24th

December 4th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 26th

SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 16, 2005, 7:00 p.m. at the Library

HOW TO AVOID THE



Eat right! Make sure you get your daily dose of fruits and veggies.

Take your vitamins and bump up your vitamin C.

Get plenty of exercise because exercise helps build your immune system.

Walk for at least an hour a day, go for a swim, take the stairs instead of the elevator, etc.

Wash your hands often. If you can't wash them, keep a bottle of antibacterial stuff around.

Get lots of fresh air. Open windows whenever possible. Get plenty of rest.

Try to eliminate as much stress from your life as you can.

OR

Take the doctor's office approach.

Think about it...

When you go for a shot, what do they do first?

Clean your arm with alcohol..

Why?

Because alcohol kills germs.

So.....



I walk to the liquor store. (exercise)

I put lime in my Corona...(fruit)

Celery in my Bloody Mary (veggies)

Drink outdoors on the bar patio..(fresh air)

Tell jokes, laugh..(eliminate stress)

Then pass out. (rest)

The way I see it...

If you keep your alcohol levels up, flu germs can't get you!!!!

My grandmother always said, "A shot in the glass is better than one in the ass!"



Live Well

Laugh Often

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