

The Village at Stone Ridge

THE QUARRY BULLETIN

VOLUME 4

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AND YOU THOUGHT THIS WAS OVER

... 11 inches and drifts on March 16th with the beginning of Spring only a few days away!

WHO HAD THE BETTER BATTER?



Our annual Pancake Breakfast on March 18th was as usual a source of fun and camaraderie. We had two of our villagers flipping the flapjacks: Lois Frampton and Ruthann Fisher. Lois did her customary sour dough pancakes (started the yeast dough several days ahead so it could rise). Ruthann did the quick-and-easy variety (Aunt Jemima) which is a more conventional pancake. The votes are in, and it was a tie. Thank you to our cooks, Ruthann and Lois.



The foods our villagers brought were also delicious: cheese souffles, crispy bacon, link sausages, many egg combination dishes, a nice big bowl of cut-up fruit, lots of pastries and muffins, and of course, OJ, coffee, and tea. Everyone went home feeling quite replete. In fact, one of our partakers went immediately to the treadmill in our work-out room before heading home.

Everyone was well-behaved on this nice sunny day except one group. We had a table of "flashers." It was not nice to see. No names mentioned this time!

Photo shows Lois hugging the antique yellowware bowl she uses to mix her pancake batter. She cherishes the bowl since it had been her mother's.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

From Your Board of Trustees



By George Heiter, Board of Trustees

CLUBHOUSE RENTAL VIA THE WEB

As you may have noticed, the VSR website (villageatstoneridge.com) has been growing with new features added continuously. Our webmaster, Len Halio, has just completed coordination of the Clubhouse Rental Process with Great North, allowing you to rent the Clubhouse on-line. Here is what you do:

- Log into the site, select the Clubhouse calendar to see if your date is available. Rentals are indicated by blue backgrounds with renter's names showing. A "T" preceding this information indicates "tentative."
- If your date is available, click on the scheduling request on top of the calendar and complete the form.
- Print out the form, sign it and send it, together with your two separate checks (one for the rental fee and one for the deposit), to Great North for finalizing the reservation.
- Click on the "submit" button to send an e-mail request to Great North. They will enter your request as "tentative" into the calendar until your payment is received (this is intended to decrease the likelihood of double reservations on the same date). The "T" is removed when your payment is received.

If you do not have web access you can, as usual, still call Great North, check availability, request a form and mail in your reservation.

VILLAGE HOUSEKEEPING

NO CHARCOAL GRILLS

In our negotiations with insurance companies for the renewal of our Village insurance policy, we have been informed that charcoal grills are not permitted on these premises; only gas (fixed installed) or propane can be used as fuels. If you own a charcoal grill, please do not use it within the Village. In addition, all grills are required to be placed as far away from the house as possible i.e., at the far end of the decks. Please be mindful of the dangers of any open flames!



ICE ON DRIVEWAYS

With the thawing and re-freezing cycles upon us, your driveway may become a nice skating rink when you wake up in the morning. Contracting for repeated selective applications of sand/salt to alleviate this problem is not feasible. Please go to the sand barrels positioned



along the roadsides throughout the Village and fill a bucket to keep in your garage. When the condition arises, spread the sand/salt over the limited areas of your driveway. This saves us money and helps to keep our condo fees down.

A TIDY MAILROOM

As the winter wore on, lugging home all of the extra (junk) mail items, including some phone books, became a real burden. As a result, our mailroom has become rather unsightly. Please be considerate of others who have the courtesy to carry piles of papers to their recycling bins, and of our Village's appearance and do not discard unwanted mail in the room in front of our mail boxes. Thank you very much for your extra efforts!



VILLAGE TRAFFIC

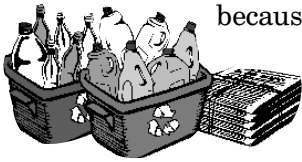
Although we have a divided highway as an attractive entrance to our Village, this does not mean that we should use highway speeds as we approach the Clubhouse. The posted speed limit is 15 mph (as also spelled out in the VSR Rules and Regulations, Rule 9), but the Clubhouse intersection is frequently approached at more than twice that speed. Not only is that illegal, but also it poses high risks to walkers and other foot



traffic in the area. In addition, please remember that the road right in front of the Clubhouse is a one-way street going south. Cars pulling back out into entering (and often speeding) traffic have caused several "almosts." The transformers located on that corner present an additional obstruction by blocking some visibility. Please be considerate while we are trying to improve signage. On the brighter side, apparently the one-way sign installed at that corner has significantly decreased the number of cars traveling down the entrance way. Remind your visitors that this is one-way as they leave the Village.

FLYING GARBAGE

Even though the winter storms may soon be over (wishful thinking), our Village will still have to contend with stronger than average wind gusts because most of our units are situated on a hill. Particularly during the last two storms, a number of still-filled trash cans and recycle bins were blown over or even away from their driveways. This caused their contents to be scattered and left behind on the roads - not a pretty sight in our neighborhoods.



First: Thank you to those residents who found it worthwhile to pick up the items from the street and take them home to be added to their own trash for the following week's pick-up. This was very thoughtful and is highly appreciated by all of us.

Second: Please make sure that your trash cans and recycle bins are marked with your address. Most cans were marked when they were distributed to the first owners.

Third: Please make certain that cans are not overfilled, lids are tightly closed and the contents are in bags. Also, please place a heavy item (e.g., bags filled with paper and magazines for recycling) on top of the recycle bins to prevent empty or light plastic containers from becoming airborne (see Rule 7 of the VSR Rules and Regulations.)

We shall all appreciate your careful and concerned cooperation in trying to keep our Village neat.

WORK/PLAY DAY

Save the date April 22.



On that date, volunteers will get together to help out in a general cleanup/fixup effort followed by a cookout at the Clubhouse.

Join your friends and neighbors in saving VSR \$\$\$'s while having fun at the same time.

Look for a signup sheet on the Clubhouse bulletin board giving more details.

CLUBHOUSE EXERCISE ROOM WAIVER

By Bill Nussburn



By now you have all received the Village Clubhouse Waiver we have been requested to sign in order to satisfy liability insurance requirements. Hopefully, all residents who may at any time use the exercise room and its equipment have by now signed the waiver and returned it to Great North in the franked envelope provided. This is important so that we can be insured properly. Do it now please, if you haven't already acted on this.

Individuals who are unfamiliar with the exercise equipment should not use it until they have been shown the proper methods. Call either Barbara West or Jayne Currier, Co-Chairs of the Fitness Center, and let them know you would like some instruction. Early in our history here a fitness equipment orientation was presented by accredited instructors. If there is enough interest we could perhaps put together another group clinic for newer residents.



A NEW LOOK FOR OUR LIBRARY

Have you noticed that our Clubhouse Library looks different?

The books have all been sorted and are now in alphabetical order by author (left to right facing the fireplace). The many duplicates were passed on to the Westford Library for their book sales.

We have provided a basket for returned books and one for contributions of up-to-date books. This will help us maintain order while allowing for new



additions. Please enjoy the many excellent choices of books and audio cassettes that are available.

A special thank you goes to Cathy Shreve, Ann Sullivan and Larry Anzivino for all their help.

-Linda Anzivino, Library Committee

AREA DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

By Shirley Chambers

Here is a new one you might not know about yet. It is ***Belle's Bistro*** at the corner of Rt. 110 and Power Rd. It used to be Ye Olde Beef-n-Ale, a sort of dive bar. Belle's is a swanky restaurant with limited seating (they say 65?) so a reservation is recommended but not essential (call 978-692-4444). Their claim is "Fine dining in a casual atmosphere. Over 20 wines available by the glass and more than 20 different martinis." (This explosion of martini varieties is a fairly new innovation, which I think began with the Cosmopolitan introduced by the "Sex and the City" TV program.) Try their pomegranate martini. Belle's is cozy, comfortable, bartender-friendly, and has good service. The prices are somewhat higher than average. Rack of lamb is recommended, also our own Roni Hubbard says their shrimp scampi is wonderful. Another of our villagers has eaten there several times and describes it as an excellent adventure. Give it a try and see what you think. We surely need a first class restaurant in Westford. Belle's is open Tuesday though Saturday at 5:00pm.



Proceeding down Power Road a bit, let us not overlook ***The Outlook Restaurant*** at the Nashoba Valley Ski area.. It's on the second floor over the main Lodge. Bet a lot of you don't know about it even though it has been there for many years! They serve lunch daily from 11:30 to 4 and dinner from 5 to 10. In the winter if you're lucky and can get a table near the window, you can watch the skiers fall down the hills, and you might even get a glimpse of our own Nancy Fletcher swooshing down a slope or two. In the summer the restaurant hours may change somewhat, so give them a call first. They have a menu to satisfy most every taste, and their prices are average. Also at the ski area is a Swim Club (modest fee) using their man-made lake that is fed by natural springs. If you have your grandchildren visiting this summer, remember they have a day camp there with many unusual activities. Sometimes there's a naturalist available to take the kids on nature walks. Call them for more information



All jazz aficionados should know about the ***Acton Jazz Cafe*** on Great Road (Rt. 119) in the rear of the Workers' Credit Union. I guess you would call it a pub coffee house restaurant. It is reputed to be one of the most highly regarded venues for live jazz and blues in New England. The cafe offers live music every night except Mondays and Tuesdays in an intimate and artistic atmosphere; it opens at 6pm Wednesday through Saturdays and at 4 on Sundays. Sunday is their JAZZ JAM, and this is what caught my attention. I have gone there several times with a friend and am thoroughly delighted with the experience. There is a \$5.00 cover charge, and it is worth many times that. They have OPEN MIC for piano, bass, drums, sax, and voice (this is not karaoke). You can give Gwenn, the owner, a call to see what the schedule is for the night you want to go (978)263-6161 and perhaps make a reservation. Musicians sit in for a set or two and then rotate with another group of artists. There is a bar and interesting appetizers to munch on. If you like jazz, this is a MUST.



With your help, I will try to make this column a regular Bulletin feature. I plan to review various restaurants in this area, some old, some new, some gourmet, some just down-to-earth good eating places. Please let me know some of your favorites (978) 692-2423 so we can share this information with all VSR'ers. OR, better still, would any of you like to take over this column on a regular basis?

Breakfast Pancakes and more...



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

TO FORM A VSR WOMAN'S SOCIAL CLUB

Join us in the Clubhouse Library on April 17th at 7:00 pm. See sign-up sheet on bulletin board.

WEIGHT WATCHERS NOW MEET IN GRANITEVILLE

On Tuesday nights at 5:00 pm at the United Methodist Church, 10 Church St.

BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

A Reminder from Dianne Marston

March 29

Mr. Emerson's Wife
by Amy Belding Brown

April 27

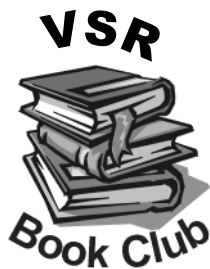
Field trip to Concord to visit the Emerson House and to have tea at the Colonial Inn.

May 10

Ellis Island
by Fred Mustard Stewart
This book is out of print, but can be ordered from Amazon.com as a used book or signed out from the Fletcher Library. (Let me know if you need help in ordering.)

Meeting time is **1:00 pm at Clubhouse.**

Watch bulletin board for more details.



MOVIE NIGHT



AT THE VILLAGE

Save the dates
**April 19
and May 17.**

Join us at the Club House
at

7:00 pm

for a relaxing evening with friends.



April 17 - Little Miss Sunshine

Nominated for four Academy Awards including Best Picture. When seven-year old Olive is invited to compete in the "Little Miss Sunshine" pageant in far-off California, the whole family piles into their rusted-out VW bus to rally behind her - with very funny results. The movie is rated R for language and some sexual implications.



May 17

The Illusionist

Oscar nominees Paul Giamatti and Edward Norton lead an all star cast in this masterpiece. The film is mesmerizing, beautifully acted and holds your interest to the very end.

-Dorothy Moran and Ann Sullivan

Social Happenings



By Roni Hubbard, reporting from Florida

Winter is nearly over, and I hope everyone has survived the frigid weather we had. I know that many of our Villagers went south for some of the cold season, including yours truly. We didn't do much socially during the months of January and February, but while I'm away there was a pancake breakfast in March. We will plan some sort of spring fling.

Since each of our parties blows the one before it out of the water, where do we go from our wonderful Holiday and New Year's Eve parties? Only UP UP AND AWAY, and we'll do it, I promise.

If you're going to drop books off at the Clubhouse library, please put them in the basket provided. Now that we have a Library Committee, keeping the Library organized should be possible, with your cooperation. Thanks for helping.

Editor's Note: Do you think our Villagers now in Florida derive some clandestine pleasure from discovering that those of us left here at VSR are having to endure nearly a foot of new snow, wind storms, and freezing weather while they are lolling about enjoying beautiful warm sunny days? Hey guys, shame on you, that's a little mean spirited.

THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW YOUR CELL PHONE CAN DO

EMERGENCIES - The emergency number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and Mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you. Interestingly, this 112 number can be dialed even if the keypad is locked.

HIDDEN BATTERY POWER - If your cell battery is very low, you can activate it by pressing the keys * 3 3 7 0 #. Your cell will restart with this reserve, and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery power. This reserve will get recharged the next time you charge your cell.

SAVE \$\$\$'s ON 411 INFORMATION CALLS - Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicles. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial (800) FREE 411 or (800) 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all. Program this into your cell phone now.

TO DISABLE A STOLEN MOBILE PHONE - To check your mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * # 0 6 #. A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it in a safe place. If your phone is stolen or lost, phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so that even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you'll know that the thief can neither use it nor sell it.



CAN YOU READ THIS?

This is one of the many tricks to speed reading. They teach you to look at the first and last letter of a word, and your brain will fill in the rest. Pretty cool! (Have fun, proofreaders!)

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