

VILLAGE WORK/PLAY DAY A BIG SUCCESS

by Ann Sullivan



The spirit of Earth Day exploded at VSR on Sunday, April 22. Thanks to the great organizational efforts of our Board, especially Bill Townsend and Eli, volunteers from all corners spread throughout our village well prepared for their tasks. Paint brushes, work gloves and window washing materials were all set out at the Clubhouse, and the volunteers' adrenaline flowed.

Bob Morton joined in with the trash teams on the eastern lands of the Village along with the Wests, Tink and Nancy Fletcher. You can see Bob knee-deep in the Quarry pond pulling limbs down with his rake, and Tom using his power saw to cut up dead limbs and trees. Susan Neyman, Paula Townsend and "your reporter" climbed the rear hill and into bushes on the western front. A dozen trash bags were filled with mainly recyclables that had blown into bushes and with winter debris.

(Continued on page 6)



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Barbara and Tom West

The Landscape Committee has met twice this spring and, along with representatives of TruGreen, our landscape contractor, has walked the village marking shrubs to be removed or replaced. Our funds are limited, but we hope to be able to replace and add bushes that will thrive in our somewhat difficult conditions.

So far this spring, the existing beds have been edged, new mulch applied, fertilizer and crabgrass control has been applied and a lot of cleanup and general maintenance done. Repairs will be made to the landscape damaged by snow removal, dead bushes removed and, as mentioned, new ones planted as our budget for 2007 allows. We will also be doing grub control and some work on the banks that really need improvement.

To keep our landscaping costs down, we need everyone's cooperation. Each of us can help by understanding that all of our property is common to everyone. Front and back yards do not belong to the unit owners, but rather to all of us. We do have some ground rules (pun intended); they appear in VSR's Rules and Regulations.

No one is to create a new bed for flowers or shrubs without approval of the Landscape Committee and the Trustees. Care must be taken when creating a new planting bed because it can easily increase our landscape costs by creating problems for mowing, mulching, trimming, etc. We have to pay for this and ultimately it will add to everyone's common fee. If TruGreen informs us that a bed or other planted area has been added, the owners who created it will be asked to remove it, or pay TruGreen to do it.

Planting of a shrub in an existing bed also requires the approval of the Landscape Committee and the Trustees. We are especially concerned about plants that are invasive such as barberry and those that are expensive to maintain such as lilacs, as well as shrubs planted too close to buildings, drives, or walkways. We have developed a list of bushes that are recommended and have been found to do well in our area. We will be happy to discuss suitable plantings with you.

If anyone has edged a planting area with stones or rocks, we would really appreciate if you would remove them, especially any on the banks. Edging of any kind makes mowing much more difficult.

Residents may plant annuals and perennials in existing beds without permission, but these additions must be in keeping with the existing landscaping and you must maintain anything you plant. In the fall, please cut down plantings, except for tall grasses. Cutting off dead stems will not affect whether or not the plant comes back in the spring.

If you are considering any changes to the existing landscaping, please submit to the Landscape

Committee for their review and approval a description of what you want to do. If it is a proposal for a new planting bed or the addition or removal of grass, TruGreen will be asked to comment on its economic impact. The Trustees will have the final say on approval.

If you have any concerns or issues regarding the landscaping, please email us at tom@bbpinc.com.

SPRINKLER REPAIR PROCEDURES

Doug Craib and Bob Eddy
Co-Chairman, Sprinkler Sub-Committee

Did you know that there are three wells, several miles of underground pipe and control wires, numerous valves, and more than 1463 sprinkler heads in the Village irrigation system? The Sprinkler Sub-Committee has established some procedures to deal with the damage and failures that occur within a system of this size and complexity.

Residents should report all problems with the irrigation system to Great North Property Management by phone (603-891-1800) or fax (603-891-0086) during normal working hours, unless there is an



emergency such as a broken sprinkler pipe that is gushing. Please remember that if you call outside of normal working hours, at night, during the weekend, or on a holiday, the Village gets charged

a minimum of \$80. just to take the call.

Great North will refer all sprinkler problems to the Committee who will evaluate the situation, correct it if they can, refer it back to Great North who will forward it to TruGreen for repair, or place it on a repair backlog list for future correction as funds become available. Items given to Great North and forwarded to TruGreen for repair will normally be corrected during TruGreen's weekly maintenance visit.

The Committee will provide feedback to the resident as to the corrective action taken.

Please help us to maintain this complex system by adhering to the above procedures.



A REMINDER

Your garage door opener remote keypad will occasionally need a battery replacement. It takes a 9V battery.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING FOR THE 2007 SEASON



Once again, the publicly-funded Central Middlesex Mosquito Control Project will be spraying for adult mosquitoes in our Village at Stone Ridge. Spraying, which is usually done in the evening, will begin some time after Memorial Day. You will no longer have to sign up for treatment since all of our streets will be sprayed. In the past, only two or three treatments were needed per season. A notice of each scheduled spraying will be posted on the Clubhouse bulletin board. If you have any questions, you may contact Larry Lief of Gatecrest Road via his e-mail address, kbklarry@gmail.com, or his home phone, 978-692-9675.

VSR



NEWS

by Dianne Marston

After reading and discussing the historical fiction book, *MR. EMERSON'S WIFE*, the Stone Ridge Book Club visited the Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord on Friday April 27th. We were given a very informative guided tour of the home where Emerson and his family lived during

the 1800's. The house has remained very much as it was during Emerson's lifetime and very much the way it was described in Amy Belding Brown's novel. The group then enjoyed having tea at Concord's Colonial Inn. Everyone learned a lot and had a lovely afternoon!

Our next book discussion will be held on Thursday, June 21. We will be discussing *WE ARE ALL WELCOME HERE*, a novel by Elizabeth Berg. It is set in the summer of 1964 in Tupelo, Mississippi. It features three women, each struggling against overwhelming odds for her own kind of freedom. Everyone is welcome to join the discussion, beginning with refreshments at 1:00 p.m.

To all of you who donated your time and elbow grease to assist on the April 22nd clean-up project, which has saved our villagers considerable \$\$\$'s,

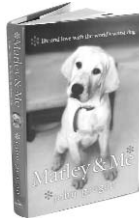
We all Thank You!

LIBRARY NEWS

by Linda Anzivino

Several new shelves have been added to our library. These will help to accommodate the many new books that have been recently donated. Thank you to all who have given so generously!

Please be sure to look for two new hardbacks:



MARLEY AND ME
by John Grogan



and
WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
by Sara Gruen

MOVIE NIGHT



Save the Dates!

June 21

July 19

JUNE 21

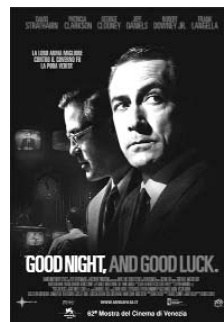
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



Will Smith stars in the inspirational true story about a salesman and his five-year-old son and their struggles to

make ends meet. With confidence and the love and trust of his child, Smith rises about the obstacles to become a Wall Street legend. Nominated as one of the best movies of the year.

JULY 19 GOOD NIGHT & GOOD LUCK.



It's 1953 during the Communist scare in this country when TV was an infantile media and a novelty in American living rooms. During telecast hearings Sen. Joseph McCarthy uses fear, falsehoods and belligerence

to become a very powerful man. Edward R. Morrow, who had his fill of the Senator's tactics, fights back and exposes him for the fear monger he was. A media and a nation are going to change!

Come and enjoy three great movies in a comfortable environment with friends.

– Dorothy Moran

AREA DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

RICARDO'S

Café Trattoria

Reviewed by Paul Currier

Jayne and I are always searching for restaurants in the area. We enjoy discovering new eateries that combine good food, good atmosphere and good entertainment. We found one and thought we would pass it along to the Village for those who have not yet discovered it on their own.

Ricardo's Cafe Trattoria, 110 Gorham St. in Lowell is worth a visit. We had Valentine's dinner there on Thursday after the storm, and we both thought it was great. Although Ricardo's specializes in Italian food, they also have steak, chicken, lamb and pork entrees. Another pleasant experience is the fried clams. Since they are not always on the menu, you'll have to ask for them. On another night we had them as an appetizer, and they were fantastic!

The atmosphere is North End style dining, casual and comfortable, and with a jazz combo entertainment on Thursdays through Saturday. They are closed Sunday and Monday. The owner, Ricardo, is actually Irish, and he is there to greet and seat you five days a week. He also enjoys picking up the mic on occasion to the delight of his patrons.

Another plus is the great martinis. Dennis, our bartender, offers a great martini with over 45 styles of martinis. He mixed Jayne a special request melon martini, which she said was delicious.

We encourage our Villagers to give Ricardo's a try and call in advance for reservations (978) 453-2777



Reviewed by Shirley Chambers

There are a plethora of Italian restaurants in our area. Most are pretty good, but some outshine the others, such as Ricardo's reviewed above by Paul Currier and the one I'm recommending here. On Main Street in Groton, across from Donolan's Market, you'll find Filho's Cucina open 11am to 8pm Tuesday-Thursday, 11 to 9 on Friday and Saturday and 4 to 8 on Sunday. Closed on Monday. They have wonderful Italian cuisine, reasonably priced, and this is one of my all-time favorites. Limited seating, but they do a big takeout business.

Everyone eats to live, and some live to eat. But then there are those of us for whom eating is a way of life and life is a way of eating. "Mangia che ti fa bene." Ben Venuti! Osvaldo and Rachel Filho, Chefs/Owners.

Le Lyonnais



Reviewed by Phyllis (LeBlanc) Duggan

A little bit of Paris in Acton, and what a perfect opportunity to treat that special someone to an evening of dining at a tres chic restaurant! Needless to say, I think it is wonderful. Prices are just a little bit higher than average, but indulge yourself, savor the mussels appetizer—c'est magnifique. The lamb is superb, as is the seafood crepe. Floating island is usually my choice for dessert.

In 1971 Gerard and Joan Labrosse converted their lovely home at 416 Great Road (Rt. 2A ½ Mile from Rt 27 intersection) into Le Lyonnais Restaurant. There are four separate dining rooms, and each has its own cozy country atmosphere. Chef/proprietor Gerard has created a menu of hearty country fare showcasing his classical French training that began when he was a young apprentice in the Lyon countryside. The menu is fairly extensive and is predominately French fare, although they have other teasers as well. You should also ask for their crepe menu. Full bar is available. Reservations preferred. Call (978) 263-9068.

PERCEPTIONS

by Louise O'Donnell



A Life Without Books

Can you imagine it? Oh, no, I surely can't. Ever since I was a young girl I've had a love affair with books. Every few weeks my sister and I would trudge the one mile from our house to the Thomas Crane Public Library in Quincy. The tall, thin lady Librarian greeted us with a huge smile and, through their summer reading program, introduced us to the magic world of books. We were transported to other eras and to other countries; we learned about important people who lived long ago. Their adventures became ours vicariously. She gave us gold stars for each book we read. This experience is probably largely responsible for my love of the written word today. I also inherited the love of books from my mother who, though she was but a child when she immigrated here from Italy, became the editor of her school newspaper. She too loved the written word.

By some sheer bit of luck (or destiny, if you will) I met and married a man who shares my enjoyment of reading. We spent many of our free hours reading, and by the time we left Burlington for Westford we had accumulated hundreds of books. We donated around 400 of them to the Westford Library and kept about fifty of our favorites. We have since donated some of these to our own VSR Library, which we often visit to avail ourselves of the many fine titles there.

We are now members of the Fletcher Library, where our remarkable daughter-in-law Sandi (a gifted author herself) volunteers. It truly must be in the genes since our ten-year old granddaughter Laura has a most vivid imagination and loves to plot out long adventures.

I write this article as a **tribute** to Linda Anzivino and the Library Committee for restoring order to our Clubhouse Library. Thank you Linda, Cathy, Ann, and Larry for creating a haven out of chaos. Thank you also to all those who have donated the wonderful treasures for us to enjoy.

JUDY CULVER WINS SEAT ON WESTFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Many of our villagers showed up at the polls on May 1 to help our trustee Judy Culver get elected to the Westford School Committee. She wishes to thank all of you for your support. Judy has had a life-long commitment to public education and has a wide range of town experience and knowledge. Her 21 years of dedicated service on Westford School and Finance Committees makes her eminently qualified for the seat she has won, Judy and husband Rick have lived in Westford since 1971. Each of their three children graduated from Westford Academy and went on to college. Now she has grandchildren enrolled in Westford's pre-school and kindergarten programs.

Congratulations, Judy, we are proud of you.

HIGHJINKS AT STONE RIDGE

When you get a bunch of Stone Ridge cutups together, you can expect some hanky-panky. In their discussion of our work/play day planned for April 22nd, Carl Erickson suggested that he bring his boat to the quarry pond so that he could get in there to remove dead tree branches and litter. So this started the ball rolling with everyone adding a little here and a little there with outbursts of side-splitting laughter accompanying each suggestion. There were visions of quarry cruises going round and round and round the pond. And thus a sign went up on the Clubhouse bulletin board reading MOONLIGHT CRUISE ON THE QUARRY, SIGN UP BY APRIL 1st. WINE PROVIDED BY QUARRY CELLARS. AARP CARDS REQUIRED FOR SENIOR DISCOUNT. And would you believe that people began signing up? Aren't we a gullible bunch?

Tink was the chief prankster here. She said "I was being a wimp thinking I would get caught. They won't want me to live here any more. Maybe I should call the moving van." She and Bill went to dinner that evening, and when they returned there was a FOR SALE sign on their condo. The next morning a SOLD sign went up over that. In retribution, OFFICE FOR QUARRY CRUISES went up on the West's condo, and a RESTROOMS FOR QUARRY CRUISES sign got plunked on the Erickson's condo. So we have tit for tat with more laughter. Finally someone printed in big red letters over the sign-up sheet APRIL FOOLS. Many people who didn't know about the April Fools connection asked about the "strange" sign-up sheet, and so this editor feels some explanation to them is warranted.

COUNTRY LINE DANCING JAMBOREE FRIDAY, JUNE 15TH FROM 7:30 TO 9:30 PM



IN THE CLUBHOUSE
WORKOUT ROOM

INSTRUCTION IN BASICS,
AND SEVERAL BEGINNER
LEVEL DANCES WILL BE TAUGHT.

VILLAGE WORK/PLAY DAY (Continued)

The Erickson families had brought a boat over to our quarry pond, which caused some excitement what with climbing rocks, cutting dead trees, and all but swimming in the pond. What a great cleanup job they did. Sharon



called Carl a "monkey" in the tree tops, and grandson Carl Douglas was sure he saw "a bass down there." Who dares to say he didn't? Oh yes, the mallards are back and looking for nesting real estate.

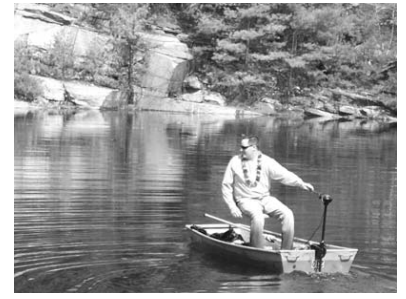
Believe it - thirty seven front porches were washed! As shown on the front page, Paul Currier looks as if he really means business. Not only does he have a big grin on his face, but also he's loaded with all the scrubbing and cleaning paraphernalia required for the job. Those poor guys: bet Bill T, Ken, and the Curriers as well as Len and Charlie were in tough shape on Monday morning. (I think the porches have since been stained.)



Standing on tip-toes, Tomi, Joan Roy and Rosalie scrubbed the outside of the Clubhouse windows, while Jean Guthrie and Susan Hill, atop stepstools, scrubbed the windows inside. Pat Beglay later inquired if this crew was for hire. I don't think so, Pat!



Window & Cleaning Crew



Deck Cleaning Crew

Our painters were great. Van Gough and Monet could have done no better. Linda Barry is a dynamo with a brush! Nick and Bill N did signposts gleaming white. (We are told that barber pole red stripes were voted out.) The Clubhouse trim, which was a really challenging job, showed great results as Len, Charlie, Ed Kerns and Eli did battle with badly flaking paint resulting from water run-off. Maybe next year a moat around the building would help and also be a novel touch.



Painting Crew



Pick Up Trash Crew



Dead Tress & Limb Crew



Barbeque & Catering Crew



At about 5 pm hungry workers arrived at the Clubhouse grateful to the generous, welcoming cookout crew. Tables and chairs were set out in sun and shade on the patio, Dom's burgers and hot dogs already on the grill. Other food as well as desserts capped the meal. Stories of the laborers' magnificent efforts grew and grew as each plate of food was devoured. Thanks caterers!



Many who worked may not be mentioned here because I, too, ran out of adrenaline. The Anzivinos, Dohertys, Clare A and Carlo, as well as others rid us of trash, added elbow grease, pitched in where needed and gave lots of advice. Many hands make light work, and brought our neighbors together in laughter and community bonding. Another Utopian day! Thanks to all.

Social Happenings



By Roni Hubbard

This has been a quiet time for most of us just recovering from the long cold winter.

The Social Committee has worked hard to organize the Clubhouse cabinets and closets. We now have a new closet, and I would like to request that nothing more be added in the way of dishes or kitchen items since we are already overstocked. If you have something you wish to donate, please just give me a call and we can discuss whether it is something we really need. I know everyone means well, but we are overwhelmed by all the new stuff that keeps showing up.

Our next event will be the Memorial Day Cookout on Monday May 28. I thought this date might work well for those away for the long weekend who would be coming home that Monday. We are looking into having another brunch between the cookout in May and the one on July 1st, but fitting it into the schedule could be difficult. Just keep watching the bulletin board for new events. Which brings me to another subject. Please do not arrange any function that is open to the entire community without first letting me know the date and putting it on our website calendar. If everyone keeps arbitrarily putting events up without checking, we are bound to run into duplications. Please contact me before making any plans to use the Clubhouse for any reason other than a rental, which is done directly through Great North on our website or by calling Great North. I appreciate your cooperation.

Be sure to check out our well stocked and, thanks to Linda, Cathy and Joan, well maintained library.

THE SOUNDS OF SPRING

ZONES OF PEEPERS

By Carl Little
Down East Magazine, April 2007

*Driving home from a party, parsing
conversations, car windows down
to greet first real summer heat,
we pass through zones of peepers -*

*not song, not chorus, though
scientists no doubt find pattern
in the high-pitched whatever it is.
Nor peep, which reminds you of*

*silly chicks falling over each other
between Pretty Marsh and Somesville,
every hundred yards it seems,*

*brings piercing sounds, somewhat
alien in tone and thus eerie,
magical too, like fireflies but auditory,
not synthesized though somehow perfect,*

*cacophony of the higher ranges,
tiny frogs doing their spring thing,
flinging music into dank milieu
of pond edge and marsh, inspiring*

*a certain joy in our recap of the evening
as if every fault could be forgiven
when you consider the rest of the world
wild and wet and flipping out.*

Submitted by Barbara Leary
For the enjoyment of all at VSR

NEW VSR WOMAN'S CLUB

The first official meeting of the VSR Woman's Group was held on 17 April with about twenty villagers in attendance. Dorothy Moran and Ruthann Fisher led the discussions. Those in attendance broke into groups. They decided that there would be an event every other month, with each group being responsible for all the preparations for their particular activity including transportation, reservations, tickets, etc. These events can take place daytime or evening, weekdays or weekends, whatever best suits the particular event. The activities can range from special luncheons, museums, plays, garden tours, crafts, symphony, and jazz concerts. They can be off-site or on-site.

The first event will be in August arranged by Ruthann and Dorothy, and then there will be one every other month thereafter. Already in the planning stage are a flower arranging class, a trip to a museum, and a few fun luncheons. Watch the bulletin board for sign-up sheets. It is understood that these activities will be open to all women at VSR, whether they belong to the club or not.

THE QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

Property Management
PAUL OKONAK

Managing Editor
SHIRLEY CHAMBERS

Copy Editors
ARMAND FRANCOEUR
LOUISE O'DONNELL
GAIL SERGENIAN
TOM WEST

Production Manager
NANY DIAZ

Contributing Writers
LINDA ANZIVINO
SHIRLEY CHAMBERS
PAUL CURRIER
DOUG CRAIG & BOB EDDY
PHYLLIS DUGGAN
RONI HUBBARD
DIANNE MARSTON
DOROTHY MORAN
LOUISE O'DONNELL
ANN SULLIVAN
BARBARA & TOM WEST

The Quarry Bulletin is a Bi-monthly newsletter to keep you informed of any events and information for The Village at Stone Ridge.

Contributing writers please send copy by e-mail to: SS.Chambers@comcast.net or direct mail to: 14 Stone Ridge, Westford, MA 01886.