

Mama Mia - What a Spaghetti Party!

by Shirley Chambers

The sign over the entrance to our Clubhouse on the evening of April 12th read BOUNA SERA, and it was indeed a BOUNA evening, in every way. Fifty-eight residents devoured 16 lbs of spaghetti, 160 meat balls, and 24 cans of tomatos mixed with 18 cans of tomato paste. The green salad and garlic bread topped off the meal just right. Every detail was covered, even the bottle of salad dressing on each table disguised by being costumed nicely in an Italian design cloak.

Our Clubhouse great room was appropriately arranged with long tables covered with (what else?) red and white checkered tablecloths. How Ruthann Fisher and Dorothy Moran managed to have all the food ready at once and all hot and all delicious – absolutely remarkable. These Social Committee co-chairs and their excellent helpers began the on-site preparations very early Saturday morning and, of course, much planning went on days ahead of that as well.

When cooking for a large crowd the logistics become exponentially more complicated, but Ruthann claims it was a matter of simple mathematics to her. Our own wine bottles handily placed on our table in front of us completed the setting. This was good “grub” from the beginning (delicious appetizers) to the end (desserts galore). Most of us were too replete to partake fully of the sweet stuff, although we tried.

Nany Diaz was, as usual, very active during the evening hopping about taking pictures. She was also responsible for many of the artful decorations, as well as the Bouna Sera sign. A number of VSR residents have told me that they look forward to having lots of party pictures in the Bulletin; photos help tell the story (and besides I think we like to see ourselves in action). And so the photos accompanying this writing complete the tale better than I can with words. (Continued on page 5)



7:00 am and Ruthann starts the spaghetti sauce



Dinner prep and set-up crew: Cathy Shreve, Joan Roy, Shirley Chambers, Judith Premru, Ruthann Fisher, Ruth Ann Dillon, & Barbara Leary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



by Louise O'Donnell, Chair

Our 2008 Village Residents' Directory has been out for a month now, and hopefully everyone has a copy. I wish to thank all who helped in any way to produce and distribute this valuable document: Nany and Richard Diaz, Barbara Leary, Gail Sergenian, Kathy Abate, Shirley Chambers and Carlene Craib. Many hours were spent on this project by willing volunteers. Kudos to them all.

Our First Thursday Village Meetings over the last few months have given us a deeper insight into what keeps our Village vibrant and functioning. We are grateful to those who hosted and presented topics, and to the many villagers who attended. We will continue to have these meetings during the summer months, but those with specific topics will begin again in the fall. If you have any ideas for subjects for these summer meetings, please email me at harlouod@comcast.net and we shall endeavor to research them and find knowledgeable presenters.

LANDSCAPING SUBCOMMITTEE



by Tom West, Chair

As a result of the spring clean-up by TruGreen and the Stoneridge Work/Play Day, the grounds look quite good. Thanks to everyone who participated; a lot got accomplished from a landscape perspective. TruGreen did an excellent job in cleaning up the sand and gravel left over from the snow removal.

This subcommittee has had one meeting as of this writing with another one scheduled for May 6. We will be walking the grounds checking for dead bushes and trees with the goal of replacing as many as we can with the funds allocated to the committee. Although we probably won't be able to replace as many as we would like, we will do as much as we can. We also hope to have some funds available for bush trimming.

If you have a landscaping issue or concern, please email me at tom@bbpinc.com



SPRINKLER SUBCOMMITTEE

Sprinkler Repair Procedures



by Doug Craib and Bob Eddy, Co-Chairs

The three wells that furnish water to our Village's sprinkler system were activated for the season during April 22 to 23. This year the sprinklers for each zone will be on longer, but will run every other day. According to the experts, this is better for the turf.

The Sprinkler Sub-Committee has established some procedures to deal with the damage and failures that occur with a system of this size and complexity.

Residents should report all irrigation system problems to Great North Property Management by phone (603-891-1800 or 800-221-0210) 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 \$80.00 just to take the call.

Great North will refer all sprinkler problems to the Committee, and they 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 reporting resident as to the corrective action taken.

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

DOORS AJAR

We repeat here information written by Larry Anzivino that appeared in the Nov 2004 issue of the Bulletin, since we need a reminder of the importance of Clubhouse security.

Would everyone please take care to close the outside doors of the exercise room and those doors on either side of the fireplace in the great room by pulling them shut tightly. Although it is not readily noticeable when walking through, they are often ajar, leaving the clubhouse open to looters, trespassers and unwelcome guests. If you push on the doors without using the bar or handle they should not open. These doors must be closed securely and checked with a push on the frame to make sure they are locked.

DOUG CRAIB LEADS TEAM IN IMPROVING VSR'S WALKING TRAILS

At our First Thursday Village meeting for May, 35 residents enjoyed a very interesting and informative presentation by Doug Craib on VSR's trail system. Doug reminded us that this Village is a beautiful area, but its beauty extends beyond our yards and roads. Earlier this year the Board of Trustees wondered if there was something we could do to improve the trails. A volunteer group formed to assess the current status and make some plans for improving the trails.

What the team found was a nice collection of trails that have many interesting features. Not wanting to encroach on other private property, the group first tried to locate our property boundaries. Using the Westford Assessor's website they created a map showing our 100+ acres in Westford, approximately half of which is open space. A copy of this boundary map is on our website along with the current trail map. About 40 boundary corners encompass our land including three different frontages on Tyngsboro Road and high and dry land suitable for trails as well as quite a bit of wetland.

The team next began to do trail clearing and marking, removing brush, attaching blue trail blaze ribbon, placing strategic logs to keep hikers on the trail, and identifying debris to be removed. They found a lot of junk, including more than 40 car and truck tires, and arranged for it to be hauled away. Initial work on Trail 1 is now complete and there are three access points from roads. The Sandstone access was moved slightly to make the entrance to the trail easier. The trail goes over ledge, past a mini-quarry, by a vernal pool (only visible in early spring), between two large boulders, through a boulder field, and on through a pine forest, all in about a quarter mile of trail.

Trails 2 and 3 are on land that juts into the pond. The group has begun working on these trails, and

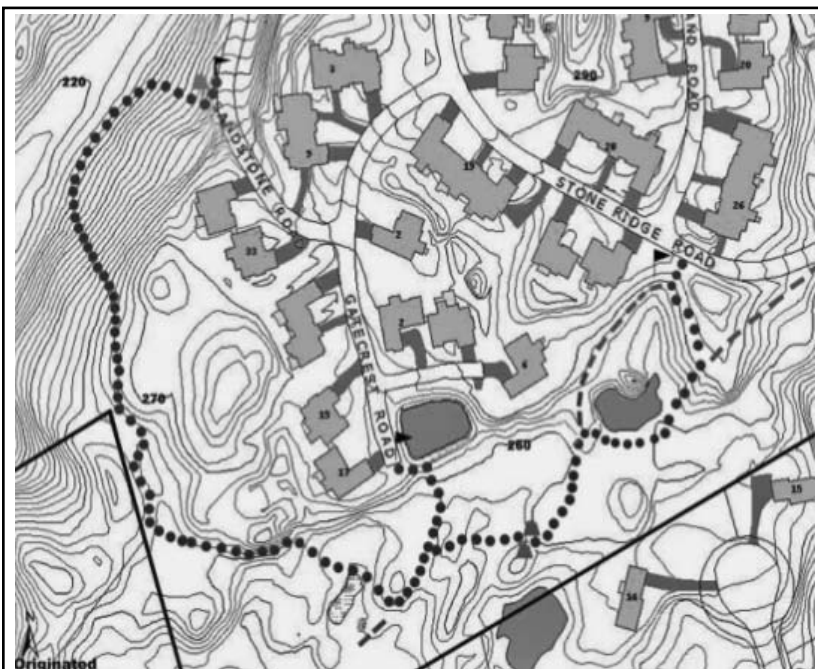
improvements will be ongoing. During recent walks in this area beavers, a mink, and an osprey have been spotted. The beaver activity is intense in this area, but our pond level control system allows for water flow despite their attempts at damming.

The trail crew encourages everyone to take advantage of the lovely natural resources in our Village. Just be sure to wear shoes that provide good support, long sleeves and pants, and check for ticks after leaving the trail. Respect property boundaries and avoid building spur trails by taking shortcuts. They also ask all residents to maintain the trails' attractiveness by not dumping unwanted plants etc. in the vicinity of the trails.

If you would like to join the crew, let Doug Craib know by email (ccraib@comcast.net) and he will add you to his notification chain.



Trail crew: (left to right) Joyce Minosh, Bill Townsend, Don Shreve, Bob Eddy, Frank Bashore, and Doug Craib. Not pictured is Ken Fisher.



LIBRARY NEWS

by Linda Anzivino



Do you want to make a guess as to how many books are now in YOUR library?

If you guessed more than nine hundred you would be correct, isn't that wonderful!

Please be sure to stop by and check out some of the recent additions including several that are on the best selling lists.



Happy summer reading!

OOPS

We got it wrong in the last Bulletin. Sorry. The correct e-mail addresses for the Abates are:

**pabate@yahoo.com and
kathyaabate@yahoo.com**

Please make this notation in your Residents' Directory.

Remember - No Charcoal Grills

Our Village insurance policy does not allow us to use charcoal grills on these premises. Only gas (fixed installed) or propane can be used as fuels. 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.



by **Dianne Marston**

On April 10 the Book Club members and other guests met to "indulge" in a wonderful afternoon of refreshments and discussion of two books on Tuscany. We were privileged to have Joyce Minosh, our resident travel expert, share her slides of her travels in Tuscany. Joyce set the mood for us with her beautiful pictures and insightful commentary. We all learned a great deal from her presentation and from reading and discussing the books.

All are welcome to join us for our next meeting on Thursday, May 15 at 1:00 pm at the clubhouse. The book to be discussed is *The Secret River* by Kate Grenville.

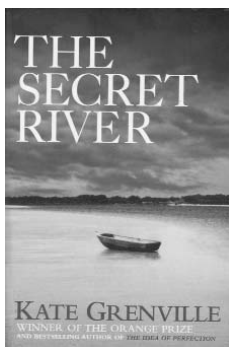
This beautifully written novel is about early white settlers in Australia and about the impact of such settlement on the indigenous inhabitants. It is also a novel about opportunities and opportunism. It tells the story of William Thornhill, an illiterate Thames River bargeman who is transported as a convict to New South Wales in 1806. Grenville's descriptions of the territory and the frontier life immerse the reader in the day-to-day struggles of the characters.

June 26 meeting: *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See

VSR



NEWS



BOWLEG and BONO

Appalachian Trail Journey

**A Future VSR Woman's Group Presentation
as Reported by Paula Townsend**

With a drop-out rate of 84%, hiking the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine is a formidable challenge. Come to the clubhouse and meet Robert Anctil and his dog, Bono. See pictures and hear adventures of their Appalachian Trail journey. All residents are welcome. Watch the bulletin board for further details.

During his career in martial arts and fitness, Robert has accomplished many personal goals, one of which is being named one of under a hundred people in the world to run a marathon on all seven continents. In doing so, he raised \$50,000 for cancer research. This feat surely helped prepare him for his Appalachian Trail trip.

Bono, a spirited and well-behaved English and American Black Lab mix, has many hobbies including snowmobiling, jet skiing, four wheeling and chewing sticks. He has been training for this journey since he was a puppy, two-and-a half years ago.

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, June 11, 2008 1:00 - 3:00 pm

QUARRY SHORTS

REMOVE MOLD AND MILDEW

Sections of house siding will be washed during the month of May to remove obvious mold and mildew.

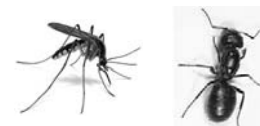
DECK STAINING

Staining of front and back decks will begin again in late June.



ANTS AND MOSQUITOES

We have been spraying outside for carpenter ants, and later on the town will be spraying for mosquitos



DECK AWNINGS

The Board of Trustees at its April 21st meeting voted to allow deck awnings in the Village. Specifications for awnings and rules and regulations for their use are being finalized. Anyone contemplating adding an awning should contact Judy Culver, Chair of the Architectural and Standards Review Committee.

Mama Mia - What a Spaghetti Party! (Continued)



We can usually count on Ruth Ann Dillon to liven up things with music. Sheets printed with the words to Italian-themed songs were passed around, and we sang our hearts out, albeit not always harmoniously, to her piano accompaniment.



Mama Mia, this was some party! It's gotten rave reviews throughout our Village. Thank you to our new co-chairs Ruthann and Dorothy, to their hard-working Social Committee, and let's not forget the ever dutiful stevedores who are always there to move the furniture about. Bless them and keep their backs strong!

SUNNY SKYS FOR VSR'S SPRING SPRUCE-UP

by Ann Sullivan and Shirley Chambers

In April 1776 teachers, farmers, store clerks and millers were among the rag-tag Minutemen arriving at Concord and Lexington pre-dawn to defend their lands. On the anniversary of that date 233 years later, armed with Windex, plastic bags, paint, saws and lots of elbow grease, more than 55 volunteers came to answer the Work and Play call at Westford's VSR. What a difference a couple of hundred years make! Ken Fisher, Bob Eddy, Donn Hill and Bob Morton used gas engine saws, pruning shears, latex paint and worked on downspout extensions none of which was around that many years ago.

This year women wearing shorts and jeans worked alongside the guys; no mob caps or long skirted gowns. Nor did they carry hand-woven baskets full of home-made breads and cookies; instead they hefted big plastic bags of trash and debris they had gathered across our acres. Charlotte, Vicki, Elaine, Jeanie G, Susan N, Clara C, Jean W, Karen M, Dottie P, Tomi N, Tink, and Paula were the stalwart trash collectors. Some took the high road and some the low road and found treasures such as six cans of unopened beer, an egg carton, flower pots, a dead mouse in a bottle of water, dog poop neatly tied up in a bag, and used condoms (lower road parking lot). They also rescued a baby turtle trying to cross the road.

Since the Abates couldn't be around on this date, Peter took it upon himself to do his part several days before Work/Play Day by painting the white signposts along the road. A commendable jesture, Peter, thanks.

The Clubhouse window washing crew did a thorough job inside and out; the windows now sparkle thanks to Frank T, Larry A, Dom De, and Joan R. Dom demonstrated the removal and reinstallation of the window mullions. If you've tried this you'll know how tricky it is.

Donn and Susan Hill spent most of the day on their hands and knees around the Clubhouse's grounds meticulously removing from the low lying plants and from those just trying to sprout up, the great piles of mulch Tru-Green had spread around several days before. A neat and tidy job, Hills!

Believing that when all the trees leaf out at our quarry its view will be blocked, Lois Frampton had spent much time tagging many of the trees for removal and clearing. As Lois said when interviewed, "the goal here is to clear the front view so that when the leaves do come out the quarry can still be seen." Paul Bunyan had nothing on our lumberjack team clearing the quarry: Ed K, Joyce M, the Wests, Skip, the Erickson, Louise T, Steve C, and Jack G. Heavy work that! Now when the green veil of leaves bursts forth we will be able to enjoy even more the view of "one of the jewels of the VSR." (How's that for realtor language?)

Carlene C reminds us to give a special shout-out to the team captains: the Wests, Bill N, Larry A, Dom De, Paula T, and Bob E, and an extra-special salute to Eli Demetri and Bill Townsend who spent many hours before the event canvassing the Village to determine what needed to be done, doing prep work, assembling materials, and organizing the crews. Surely we have unavoidably omitted some the volunteers' names, but we thank all of you, named or not.

For the second year in a row we were blessed with excellent weather, for which we are indeed grateful. Also, we party as well as we work, so at about 6 pm the hungry workers reassembled in the clubhouse to be treated to hot dogs and hamburgers especially grilled for them by Chef Dom De and to the tasty extras (Elaine T's bow-tie salad*, for one) so nicely presented by Ruthann Fisher and Dorothy Moran and their great Social Committee. Did anyone notice the sheet cake iced and decorated with VOLUNTEERS- WE THANK YOU. As Carlene commented, "everyone's willing spirit is just more evidence of how lucky we are to live in this Village."

**If you would like Elaine Tino's recipe for bow-tie salad, give her a call at (978) 692-9153.*



PHOTOS: NANCY DIAZ

An Elegant Wine Tasting Treat for VSR'ers

by Shirley Chambers and Photos by Mike Gallant

On April 5th our Villagers were treated to a very well planned and very sophisticated wine tasting party initiated and hosted by Larry Anzivino. We started at 6:00 in order to fit in all the six courses of appetizers with the appropriate wines.

Chef for the evening was Mark Levine, who prepared all the food in our Clubhouse kitchen as we watched. This was made possible through the ingenuity and efforts of Len Halio who had set up a camera in the kitchen with a large viewing screen in the main room. Mark Levine, by the way, has very impressive culinary credentials, but in addition (and incidentally) is the son-in-law of Tom and Barbara West. All this exquisite food was served to us hot-off-the-stove by members of the Levine family with Tom and Barbara helping when needed. What a crew!

Larry had done his research well and had chosen just the perfect wine and food pairings. You can see this for yourselves from the menu shown below. We got a wine education from Larry teaching us the nuances of taste, color, and aroma, and even showing us the various contrivances for getting that cork out of the bottle. He didn't miss a trick.

I am very impressed with the amount of preparation that I know was necessary to pull this party off, and pull it off they did. Without question, Linda A. helped a great deal with the behind-the-scenes preparations for this event. We even each had a wine glass with our name on it (what class!), we had water to rinse our glasses between courses, and of course the "spit buckets" essential for wine sampling.

By the way, Larry, is it strictly by chance that the last four letters in your name are VINO? And hello Mark, the last four letters in your name are VINE?. Mark is no longer a full-time chef. He teaches 8th grade English in Littleton and does some catering on the side.

Our dedicated host kept the evening moving smoothly. There were wine-related games, such as guessing how many wine corks were in the big jar and a quiz on which most of us scored quite low except the Shanzers, who had one leg up by being wine connoisseurs themselves. Larry said most of the wines we were served were in the \$10 to \$15/bottle range, that the expensive wines were not necessarily any better than the less expensive ones. It's supposed to be an art to find a great \$10 bottle of wine, but I think Larry did it, more than once.

We were first greeted with a taste of pate' de campagne w/mustard & cornichons served with a sparkling aperitif.

1st COURSE - mozzarella made on site by Chef Mark, served on bread w/pesto - Clean Slate - Riesling from Germany

2nd COURSE - spring rolls - Oyster Bay - Sauvignon Blanc from New Zealand

3rd COURSE - frico - Hopler - Gruner Veltliner from Austria

4th COURSE - garnished potato skins - Monticello - Rioja Crianza from Spain

5th COURSE - duck wraps - Angelina - Pinot Noir from Russian River Valley,, CA

6th COURSE - dessert - pain du chocolat - Dolceoro - Moscato D'Asti from Italy

Our dessert wine was sweet and a five-percenter, which guaranteed that most of us left the party happy.

Thank you so much Larry and Linda and the Levine family for a thoroughly enjoyable and elegant evening.



ABSOLUTELY SOCIAL



by *Ruthann Fisher*
&
Dorothy Moran
Co-chairs

We've had great feedback on our Italian night adventure - wonderful chow, wonderful decor, wonderful party, wonderful attendance, and we thank our wonderful serving and clean-up committees. Doesn't time go fast when you're having fun!

Cooking for the tired and hungry workers who participated in VSR's Work/Play Day was rewarding - they loved everything Dom BBQ'ed for them and all the side dishes some of our residents (wonderful cooks that they are) brought as well. Thank you everyone.

Now for the Memorial Day Cookout planned for May 26th - just wait and see what we've got planned to adorn your hot dogs and hamburgers! "They" will love the special "condiment bar" we'll have set up especially for them. Hope this piques your curiosity as well as your appetite.

Plans are being formulated for our 4th of July cookout, which will be on July 6th.

So far, it looks as if we're having a pretty darn good social year, let's hope we're on a roll!

A BIG THANK YOU TO BOB EDDY

by *Louise O'Donnell*

At a first Thursday meeting (April 3), Bob Eddy gave an in-depth presentation of our Waste Water Treatment Facility and distributed a handout detailing its features. With humor and knowledge of his subject, he led us through the process of how the plant works, the ramifications if it malfunctions, the alarm system, and the grinder pumps and how they work. This is a very complex system, but Bob made it easier for us to understand the mechanics of the operation.

Bob also offered two guided tours of our facility on two different days after the meeting.. Both were well received by the participants who felt they learned even more about the system's functioning by seeing the described components first hand. He knows his subject so well that we are lucky to have him and those who assist him as guardians of this very important plant.

GONNA BE A BEAR

In this life I'm a woman. In my next life, I'd like to come back as a bear. When you're a bear, you get to hibernate. You do nothing but sleep for six months. I could deal with that.

Before you hibernate, you're supposed to eat yourself stupid. I could deal with that too.

When you're a girl bear, you birth your children (who are the size of walnuts) while you're sleeping and wake to partially grown, cute, cuddly cubs. I could definitely deal with that.

If you're mama bear, everyone knows you mean business. You swat anyone who bothers your cubs. If your cubs get out of line, you swat them too. I could deal with that.

If you're a bear, your mate EXPECTS you to wake up growling. He EXPECTS that you will have hairy legs and excess body fat.

Yup, gonna be a bear!



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