

MEMORIAL DAY AND 4TH OF JULY COOKOUTS

by Shirley Chambers



We had a gift of wonderful weather for our Memorial Day cookout. Just before 1 pm we gathered around the flag for a brief observance in memory of all who have sacrificed their lives for this country and for the many freedoms they have given us. Old glory waved proudly at half staff as Doug Keele led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then paid honor to Harry O'Donnell for all his efforts at keeping our flag at the proper staff daily. In the beginning, until we got spotlights on it, Harry retired the flag each night and raised it each morning.

And then on July 5 we did it again, another cookout – this time to celebrate our Declaration of Independence and our country's birthday. Thankfully the gods gave us wonderful weather once more. The Clubhouse was beautifully decorated in red, white, and blue. Even many of our residents wore our flag's colors, helping to carry out the theme.

(Continued on page 6)

VILLAGE FORUM?



by **Ron Caterino**, *Trustee*

During the past 25 years I have been privileged to participate in an organization called Young President's Organization and its successor, the 49'er group (Old President's Organization). The basis of both of these fine organizations is use of what is called a "Forum" experience. This forum is a group of members who meet on a regular basis in an atmosphere of trust and openness to share in each other's business, family and personal experience. I personally have benefited greatly from participating in my Forum exchange.

As most Village residents know, I recently retired. Since my retirement I have been totally immersed in all of the intricate administrative details involving health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, future Federal tax implications, senior saving opportunities, etc. During this short time period I personally have received some very sound advice and solid recommendations from several VSR residents, which leads me to the rational that we have some very talented and knowledgeable people here in our Village, and my thoughts are how best to share these talents.

During the June Board of Trustees meeting I asked the other Trustees if they thought the idea of initiating a "Village Forum" to discuss these and other issues had merit, and I was encouraged to write this article to solicit your level of interest.

If there is sufficient interest I would propose initiating this fall our first "forum" meeting, open to all interested Village residents, with a definitive well-publicized agenda, and I would be happy to moderate the first several meetings.

If this concept appeals to you, could you email me at roncaterino@aol.com indicating your interest and/or perhaps your talents or questions. Should the interest persist, further details will be posted on the bulletin board.

FRANK ACED IT

Back in May after 15 years of golfing Frank Tino finally got a whole-in-one. This certainly was an occasion for much celebration. Yes, all the drinks were on him that day. He was playing 18 holes at the Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua, NH in a foursome. This happened on the par 3 second hole where, fortunately, Frank had a nice clear view when that ball went into the cup. Now that's exciting! He used a 7-wood for this 213 yard drive.

Congratulations Frank.

LANDSCAPING SUBCOMMITTEE

Wildlife Roams Stone Ridge



by **Lois Frampton**, *Chair*

Our local deer have been hungry despite all the lush growth in the woods. They have been eating our hosta, a deer favorite. Spray the hosta with a product such as "Liquid Fence," which you can buy at Cataldo on Rt. 110 in Littleton or any nursery that carries supplies. One spraying will last 3 months, but you need to spray new growth. If you have only a few plants to do, call me at 978-692-4095, and I will come do it.



Quite a few people have seen a fisher wandering the neighborhood. Fishers are vicious weasels that eat cats, rabbits, chipmunks, and even raccoons. They are slightly bigger than a cat, have mink brown fur, a long furry tail, and a snout longer and more pointed than a cats. Stay away



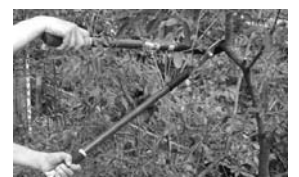
from it if you see it and do not let cats or small dogs out without supervision. Lots more information can be found on the web.

With all the rain that we have been having there is no need to water your new shrubs right now. However, if we go for more than a week without heavy rain, please give them each about a bucket of water every 4 or 5 days.

The Landscape Committee has received complaints about shrubs planted and borders dug without receiving prior permission from the committee. We are anxious to have our community look its best and will gladly approve proposals with the "right" plants in the "right" places.

Shrubs need to be planted at least 3ft from buildings and in the right location to thrive. The committee has considerable experience on what does best in the village. We also need to be sure that new borders will not raise our lawn mowing and weeding expenses. Finally we all live quite close to our neighbors, and what looks wonderful to us might not look as nice to them. It is a good idea to discuss new plantings with them first.

The Landscape Committee will sponsor a pruning workshop in early fall. Now is not a good time to prune anything except for branches that are obviously dead.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



by **Louise O'Donnell**, Chair

There will not be a First Thursday Village Meeting in July because of the extended July Fourth weekend. We will resume these meetings in August. Topics for meetings in August,

September, and October will be:

- Budget
- Candidates' night
- History of our quarry and the stone buildings in our Village
- Lois Frampton will tell us when and when not to prune our shrubs

We will have posters in the Clubhouse lobby announcing more precise information.

The presentations during the past year have been very well received and very informative. We are striving to present subjects that are of interest to everyone in our Village. If you have any suggestions for topics, please send an email to: harlouod@comcast.net. Any ideas will be greatly appreciated.

ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS AND REVIEW COMMITTEE

Three New Types of Unit Modifications Approved



by **Judy Culver**, Chair

Yes, unit owners can make changes to their units. But any EXTERIOR changes MUST be recommended by the Architectural Standards and Review Committee (ASR) and then approved by the Board of Trustees before construction or installation can begin. INTERIOR changes such as the addition of gas pipes or plumbing also require review and recommendation by the ASR Committee.

Over the past three years modifications such as deck expansions, front stoop modifications, driveway widening and gutter extensions have been approved. Conversion of basements with gas-burner fireplaces have also been approved.

Three new types of changes to a unit exterior have been approved by the Trustees in the past few months. Following a careful and lengthy review, the ASR and Legal Committees have approved specifications for the following: rear/side patios, deck awnings, and deck privacy screens. Specifications detailing the installation requirements for each of the three will shortly be posted on the VSR website. In the meantime, copies can be obtained from the folders kept in the Clubhouse Library. Owners will also shortly have access through our website to the legal forms required to request a unit modification.

As a reminder to all unit owners, any changes in the original footprint or interior structure, as delivered by Guthall to the first owner of the unit, require approval by the Board of Trustees. The ASR Committee reviews the change requests by unit owners to ensure conformity with the existing appearance of VSR units. Each request is unique and is reviewed with the same degree of attention by ASR Committee members.

Contact Judy Culver at 978-692-7433 to ask that your request for change to your unit be scheduled for review by the ASR Committee. Our usual meeting date is the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm.

LIBRARY NEWS



by **Linda Anzivino**

Thank you to the Caterinos and the Wests for their donations to our VSR Library of more than thirty new hardback books. Many of these new books are by your favorite authors such as Ludlum, Grisham, Patterson and Binchy, so please check them out. Also, for all of you sports fans please note that we now have the following:

Never Give Up (My Stroke, My Recovery & My Return to the NFL) by Tedy Bruschi and Michael Holly

Patriot Reign - Bill Belichick, The Coaches, & The Players Who Built A Championship by Michael Holly

Faithful - Two Diehard Boston Red Sox Fans Chronicle the Historic 2004 Season by Stewart O'Nan and Stephen King

Summer is a great time for relaxing and reading for pleasure. Take a book to the beach and enjoy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE READ

On Thursday July 24th, Freedom Carpets will be cleaning the carpets in the Clubhouse including the exercise room. Therefore the Clubhouse and the exercise room will be closed from 9 am on Thursday July 24 through 5 pm on Friday July 25 to allow the carpets to dry thoroughly.

QUARRY SHORTS

Slow Down and Enjoy These Summer Months

As Willie Shakespear wrote: "Summer's lease hath all too short a date." Sultry, steaming, sweltering July and August. Slow down, or stop. It's time to shed ambition and expectation, along with clothing, cell phones, and calendars. Look for a shady nook, a cold drink, a cool breeze – whether indoors or out, and read a book. There are many good titles in our Clubhouse Library right now. Not only is reading relaxing, but it allows you to enter other worlds and it also promotes good brain health.

Changes in Email Addresses

Please make the following email changes in your Residents' Directory:

For Henry and Sherry Mollenhauer:
hmollenhauer@comcast.net
smollenhauer@comcast.net

For Larry and Linda Anzivino:
Lionlamb1@comcast.net

Are Your Window Pane Inserts a Pain?

Don Shreve sends us this helpful suggestion. Did you know your window panes are designed to snap into place? Take one completely out and look at the flat side. Notice that the sharp metal tabs on the ends are on hinges. If the tabs are opened one eighth of an inch or so, and the tab points are carefully inserted into the window frame, the inserts will snap into place. Try it! No more inserts propped up against the window! Thank you, Don.

Please Keep Them Coming

Dottie Hall thanks all of you who have saved the tabs from pop cans for Shriner's Hospital, and she hopes you will keep them coming. If you recall, one pound of these tabs gets one hour of free dialysis for a child. Deposit them in the receptacle in our library marked TABS FOR SHRINERS.

Helping to Light Our Way

You have no doubt noticed the activity in our Village to install additional lighting. Four new lights are being installed on granite posts: two between 24 Stone Ridge and 28 Highland, and two between the Clubhouse and Highland. The electrical lines are being run now. More lighting will be added next year.

Mark Your Calendar Now

Our Annual Meeting, which is always on the last Wednesday in September is scheduled for the 24th this year.

There will also be a candidate's night in September.



by *Dianne Marston*

VSR



NEWS

Would you like to be part of an interesting group of people who enjoy reading and sharing their reactions to books? The VSR Book Club meets about every six weeks to discuss a book that the group has chosen to read. At the meetings we have refreshments, connect with fellow Villagers, gain new insights into the book, ourselves, and others, and most of all have FUN! All are most welcome to come, even if your schedule does not permit you to come each time.

The novel for July 31 is a light, summer read. It is the first in a series by Joan Medlicott: *The Ladies of Covington Send Their Love*. It is about three widowed "60-something" women who live together in a run-down North Carolina farmhouse. The author "is attuned to the nuances of Southern life and draws her characters with affectionate understanding. In the end the ladies of Covington send their love—and an inspiring message of self-acceptance, courage, and survival." (Dallas Morning News)

The September 11 selection is a non-fiction book: *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace—One School at a time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. This is the inspirational story of Greg Mortenson's attempt to climb K2, the world's second tallest mountain, which ended unsuccessfully. "Dangerously ill when he finished his climb in 1993, Mortenson was sheltered for seven weeks by the small Pakistani village of Korphe; in return, he promised to build the impoverished town's first school, a project that grew into the Central Asia Institute, which has since constructed more than 50 schools across rural Pakistan and Afghanistan." (from Publishers Weekly)

GET OUT FROM UNDER UNWANTED MAIL

The information printed here appeared recently in the Lowell Sun online, and it is submitted by Linda Barry in the hope that it will help you as much as it did her in getting rid of the piles of magazines that come to our mail boxes. If you're tired of this excess junk, you can get your name off these lists with a little effort. Your mail box and the environment will thank you.

A free service, CatalogChoice.org will help de-clutter your mail box. After signing up, you select the catalogs you no longer wish to receive and they take care of the rest. It can take up to 10 weeks for it all to kick in, but once you register you can keep coming back to delete future unwanted.

VSR'S SNAPPY NEIGHBORS

by *Wendy Wolfberg*

The Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) or “snappers” are common throughout much of the USA, and we have them here at VSR. Smaller but more aggressive than the larger Alligator Snapping Turtle, snappers grow to over a foot in length and thirty pounds in weight. They have a powerful beak-like jaw, long sharp claws, a highly mobile head and long neck, which can reach back as far as two thirds across the shell's length!

Snappers grow fast, perhaps explaining why they are always hungry. They are voracious eaters and love the water yet will travel far for a meal. More aggressive on land than in water, beware, they can charge their food. They have a surprisingly wide throat and can gulp huge pieces of food. They prey on anything they can swallow and can snap with amazing speed and power—enough to take off fingers!



PHOTO: RONI HUBBARD

If you're poking around a pond this summer, it might be helpful to know that snappers like to wait and hunt from a chosen, well camouflaged place of water, mud, driftwood and plants. When bothered, they will defend themselves and try to bite any part of the intruder. Even a small snapper is relatively powerful for its size. If moving it is absolutely necessary, scoop and lift the turtle just off the ground with a shovel (especially a snow shovel).

Snappers mate from April through November with their peak laying season in June and July. Living 30-40 years, our neighbors will be with us for some time to come. If you're a snapper soup lover and are thinking to rid us of our snappy neighbor, don't risk it. Besides, Bookbinders, the famous Philadelphia restaurant renown for snapper soup, now sells it in a can.

Wendy was inspired to write this article after witnessing a group of VSR gals trying to get the above-pictured snapper across the road. They did know to keep their distance and they used sticks to push this snapper back in the water.

BIRDING AT 51 STONE RIDGE

by *Don and Cathy Shreve*



We are fortunate to have the dense woods close to our deck and enjoy the many species of birds that frequent our feeders. We use black oiled sunflower seeds, a finch mix (which can be used in a thistle feeder) and suet cakes.

We feed the birds all year long since we read in an Audubon publication that feeding in all seasons does not affect the bird's natural foraging instincts. At last count, we have about 18 species; common among them are the goldfinches, sparrows, house finches, chickadees, robins, grackles, redwing blackbirds, nuthatches, tufted titmouse, juncos and blue jays.



Tufted titmouse

Interesting are the cowbird, a white pigeon, three pairs of rose-breasted grosbeaks, a pair of cardinals, eastern phoebes, northern orioles, downy woodpeckers and hairy woodpeckers. An unidentified hawk perched in a tree to watch the birds feed, but flew away without getting a meal. We especially enjoy the gorgeous male rose breasted grosbeaks and the many bright yellow goldfinches.



Male rose breasted grosbeak

An interesting and very unusual visitor at the sunflower feeder was a raccoon! He successfully knocked the feeder down several times, but not since the feeder has been wired to the hanger. Red pepper sprinkled on the railing seems to have deterred the critter!

LIVING CLOSE TO NATURE HERE IN OUR VILLAGE

On the morning of June 10th George and Friederike Heiter **EXCITEDLY** watched seven gray foxes frolic in the back yard between 24 and 26 Stone Ridge. There was Mama fox (called a vixen), Papa fox (called a reynard), and five baby foxes (called kits). And what's more, George got a picture of them and is sharing it with us here. Sightings of Mama and Papa have been reported by other residents.



Memorial Day & 4th of July Cookouts (Continued)

We need the WOW word to describe the food for these cookouts, both the planned menus and those delicious little sides our VSR's bring. And again Peter Abate took his position at the grill as co-chef alongside master griller Dom DeFronzo. What a team! The hot dogs and hamburgers loved their newly added condiment bar, and we included sausages for the July 4th party.



Social Committee Co-Chairs Ruthann and Dorothy are fantastic and right on the ball. The cookouts ran smoothly, with most residents eating outside at the tables that had been set up for them. And what loquacious groups we had!



Pledge of Allegiance



Interestingly, at the July 4th cookout many people stayed until about 6 pm at outside tables: girls with girls and boys with boys. And the laughter abounded, although the girls won on that score. As Peter commented: "This really feels like family."



In a rhetorical conversation with myself, I (your editor) said "SELF: thank those two gals and their committee and our chefs for all their work." And so thank you Ruthann and Dorothy and Dom and Peter and committee from all of us. You work so hard to make us happy.

FILE OF LIFE *by Ann Sullivan*

Let's not leave ourselves and the Westford EMT's in the lurch; be ready for an emergency as best you can. Calling 911 is great, as are those handsome guys in Westford who answer your call, but you need to plan more. Here's a not-too-original idea often on our to-do list, but too often not done. Do share with someone whom you trust the code number of your garage-opener pad and/or other information on gaining entry to your condo. And do also share the phone number of a friend or relative who is geographically near. A trusted neighbor might then reciprocate by sharing his/her information with you. Since there are issues of privacy in this, sharing with someone trustworthy is of course important.

Available from the dispatcher's desk at the Westford Fire Station is a magnetized refrigerator disk, the File of Life. It has an area in which you spell out your medical data and designate emergency contacts, and it directs the EMT's to a prepared list of medications, doctors, and special needs. These EMT's are great. I know, and thankfully my File of Life was ready. Is Yours?

This is a wonderfully useful system even if you live with someone because there are always times when one is alone and cell phones aren't always at hand. Remember, we in the Village care about one another, so when you pick up a File of Life, get some extras for your neighbors too. Also it's a good idea to have a copy of your File of Life in your car with you.

AREA DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT



Silo's Steakhouse

641 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, NH (Exit 12 off Rt 3)

Reviewed by Paul Currier

Jayne and I had an excellent meal last week at Silo's Steakhouse. In New Hampshire magazine's Best of 2007 contest, it was voted "best steakhouse in NH" for that year. The restaurant sits on the old Smith Farm property in a restored 1790 barn, silo and all! Present owners Dean and Sue Robbins converted the barn into Silo's Steakhouse back in 1994, and it has continued to win "best" awards since opening. The owners are, however, striving to become "more than just steak" as their website proclaims, and their menu demonstrates this. The daily specials offer a variety of choices beyond meat and potatoes. And to go along with chicken and pork loin dishes, you have two pasta alternatives, shrimp, lobster, scallops and the catch of the day.

Our night started at the bar, of course. A friend urged me to try the Espinaca dip. We ordered the appetizer at the bar, and just as it arrived we were seated. Oh, make sure you ask for seating in the loft. Downstairs is nice, but the best spot to enjoy the rustic and days-gone-by character of the barn is in the loft. The Espinaca dip arrives accompanied by corn chips for dipping. You can't stop eating it. But beware, it is filling. Dinners are served with salad and hot rolls with butter. By the time our entrees arrived we were half full already.

I had a difficult time deciding what to order but settled on the Delmonico steak done medium rare. Jayne decided to order from the more-than-steak side of the menu and went with Absolutely Pasta. This was a mix of sauteed mushrooms, spinach, onions and marinated sun-dried tomatoes in a homemade Absolute vodka pepper marinara sauce and tossed with al dente garlic fettuccini. Now tell me that doesn't make you want to run out to Silo's this instant! My steak was done just right; it was delicious. Jayne's Absolute Pasta was magnifico! Unfortunately we had no room for dessert. As a matter of fact, Jayne had enough pasta left for lunch the next day.

So Village people give Silo's a try some night. You won't be disappointed. Life is good! Jayne and Paul

The Tea Room at Fruitlands Museum

Prospect Hill Rd. Harvard, MA Tel 978-263-3703

Reviewed by Shirley Chambers

And here's a real treasure, and so close to home too – The Tea Room at Fruitlands in Harvard, MA, which is less than 30 minutes from here. Nestled in apple country, it sits high on a hill and is framed by the natural beauty of central Massachusetts with views of Mounts Wachusett and Monadnock in the distance. As weather permits, the dining "room" is a really big white tent open to a breathtaking view. The amazing panorama view is just the beginning. The food is equally amazing. A nice assortment of speciality teas is available. The menu is fairly extensive, and some delicious seasonal specialities are offered as well. Prices aren't too bad.

In-door dining facilities are available when the weather gets too cold, so they are open every day through December. Since the facility is often hired out for weddings and parties, check before you go there. (Tel. 978-456-3703). The museums and galleries located on this beautiful site are another story for telling at another time. Call me if you want information on these.

VSR WOMAN'S GROUP TOURS BREWERY

In June the VSR Woman's Group toured the Anheuser-Busch Brewing plant in Merrimack, NH. They were impressed by the wonderful landscaping before the brewery's entrance. And the room at the beginning of the Tour Center reminded some of castles in England. The brewery's interesting exhibits told its history since 1852. The group then toured through the plant to see the various stages of beer making, bottling, and boxing. They got to sample some of the beer, and were then given pretzels to absorb the alcohol.

Anheuser-Busch is home to the famous Clydesdale horses, which originated in Scotland. Teams of Clydesdales are often seen in parades. The ladies went to the barns where the Clydes are stabled, and found that these beautiful animals were out in the corral beyond the fence on this day.



ABSOLUTELY SOCIAL



by *Ruthann Fisher*
&
Dorothy Moran
Co-chairs

Planning social events for the remainder of '08 has kept our committee busy. We now meet on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm. New members are always welcome.

On Memorial Day we enjoyed another fine Clubhouse cookout with Dom and Peter manning the grill. Prior to the repast we all gathered on the patio as Doug Keele led us in the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence for our deceased veterans, and last of all, acknowledgement to Harry O'Donnell for being our "keeper and raiser of the flag." Thank you, Harry!

By the time you read this we will have celebrated the Fourth of July – "deja vu" only gets better. Thanks to all of you who work and help to make our events successful and fun.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming social activities:

- Aug 10 – Sunday Coffee
- Sept 1 – Labor Day Cookout
- Oct 18 – Harvest Hop
- Nov 15 – Skip's Karaoke
- Dec 6 – Holiday Party
- Dec 31 – New Year's Eve Party

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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.

ON FATHER'S DAY...

by *Nany Diaz*

Our bird Pito, a cherished member of our family for 14 years now, seemed to be feeling unwell. We noticed that he was not himself during the last couple of weeks and wanted to be left alone. He took refuge inside a towel-covered laundry basket we have on the top shelf in our laundry room. He would get inside the basket under the towel and spend many hours there in the dark. He ate very little. We didn't understand this behavior in our normally happy bird.

We had a family get-together to celebrate Father's Day. Since we were busy with meal preparation, we paid little attention to Pito until everybody had gone. Poor Pito, he looked so tired and puffy. Later in the day he began to make strange noises. Richard and I had the feeling that our precious Pito was going to die.

We tried to make him as comfortable as possible. Every time he shook or made loud breathing sounds,



we became more alarmed. Richard took Pito into the bathroom and set him on the counter top hoping to comfort him with the image of himself in the mirror. Richard watched nervously as the noises Pito made grew more frequent and he got puffier and puffier as time passed. I could stand it no longer and left the bathroom resigned to the fact Pito was going to die at any moment.

Suddenly Richard called for me to come back. My heart stopped for a second and my legs grew weak as I ran back to the bathroom.

"LOOK, Richard said," and pointed. My mouth flew open and my eyes widened in amazement. I could hardly believe what I saw when I looked down. Our boy Pito had just laid an egg! Happy Father's Day, Richard, Pito is a girl!

New Words

These were real words altered by adding, subtracting, or changing only one letter, with their new definitions. INTAXICATION: euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

GIRAFFITI: vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

SARCHASM: the gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.