



THE QUARRY BULLETIN

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2009 Board of Trustees and Liaison Assignments

by Tom Barry, President Board of Trustees

As part of the Annual Meeting held on September 24, 2008, elections were conducted to fill one position on the Board of Trustees. Carlene Craib was elected by a unanimous vote to fill the three-year term. The Trustees wish to thank all those residents who submitted nominations as well as all those (approximately 70%) who cast a ballot during the election process.

On Monday, October 20th, the Trustees held a working session to organize the new Board for 2009. This resulted in no changes to the existing positions, which are as follows: Tom Barry, *President*; Bill Nussbum, *Vice-President*; Carlene Craib, *Secretary*; Ron Caterino, *Treasurer*; and Eli Demetri, *Director of Property*.

Agreement was also reached during the working session to continue with the same committee liaison assignments:

Ron Caterino – *Finance and Social Committees*

Bill Nussbum – *Legal and Architectural Committees*

Tom Barry – *Water and Sewer Committee*

Carlene Craib – *Communications Committee and Property Committee Assistant*

Eli Demetri – *Property Committee*

During the Annual Meeting I noted that we have VSR residents filling a total of 91 positions on the seven standing committees. Some of those residents serve on multiple committees. This sense of volunteerism in the Village is what makes the Village of Stone Ridge a great place to live. The warmth and caring of neighbors for one another is beyond description, and certainly far beyond what any of us could have dreamed prior to moving to this Village. Let's keep this sense of community alive forever here at the VSR. Please consider joining a committee and feel free to call any Trustee or Committee Chair for more information.

*There is a destiny that makes us brothers;
None goes his way alone.
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.*

–by Edwin Markham, American poet and author

***THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN 2009 OPERATING CONDO FEES, BUT THE W&S
FEE WILL INCREASE FROM \$100 TO \$125/MONTH.***

See the Finance Committee's Report on page 2.

TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE 2009 CONDO AND WATER & SEWER RATES

by *Ken Hyle, Finance Committee Chair*

The Finance Committee completed its 2009 budget recommendations which were approved by the Trustees late last month.

At the first Thursday meeting on Nov. 6, I was pleased to report that the Trustees have approved no increase in the 2009 operating condo fees. However, the Board approved the Finance Committee's recommendation for an increase in the 2009 Water and Sewer fee from \$100 to \$125 per month.

The Operations Budget

The approved Operations Budget for 2009 is \$416,000, which represents a \$9,000 increase over anticipated 2008 actual expenditures.

In spite of the increased costs, by using a surplus from 2007/2008 we were able to forego any increase in the 2009 condo rate.

It is interesting to note that since our first budget in 2002, the annual average increase over the past seven years has been a modest 1.3%.

The Water & Sewer Budget

The Board also approved the Finance Committee's recommended budget for 2009 of \$165,000, which includes recovery of a projected \$20,000 loss in 2008. This 2008 loss resulted from the repair and replacement of the grinder pumps (\$29,000 vs a budgeted \$3,000). To recover this 2008 loss we must increase the W&S rate from \$100/month to \$125/month.

DECEMBER VILLAGE MEETING



by *Carlene Craib*

Plan to attend the upcoming Village Meeting on December 4th for a special program devoted to senior health issues. Our speaker that evening will be Sandy Collins, Director of Health Care Services for the Town of Westford. Sandy will discuss the Town of Westford Emergency Preparedness Initiative and will also give us an overview of health services available from the town and other related providers.

In addition, Linda Barry will introduce us to our automatic defibrillator located in the Clubhouse near the fitness center, and talk about how to operate it. This promises to be a very informative and timely presentation. Don't miss it!

2008-2009 SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES

by *Bob Eddy & Doug Craib,
Snow Removal Co-chairs*

The following snow removal procedures will be used by TruGreen, the snow removal contractor, for this upcoming winter.

When snowfall total reaches 2 inches or greater, the streets will be plowed and the seven priority (hilly) driveways will be plowed and sanded. During the storm, special attention will be given to repeat plowing and sanding of the streets and these seven driveways. When the storm is over, the first priority will be to clear the streets and the seven priority driveways.

For the clearing of other driveways, the first storm of the season will be considered Storm #1, and the Storm #1 clearing procedure outlined below will be used. The following storm will use the Storm #2 procedure and so on.

Storm #1: One plow truck starts clearing driveways at 61 Stone Ridge and continues to the end, then starts at 2 Sandstone and continues to the end. The second plow truck starts at Rockwell, then goes to 2 Highland and continues to the end. It then starts at 1 Gatecrest and goes to the end, then to Landview.

Storm #2: One plow truck starts at 33 Sandstone and continues to the end, then starts at 3 Stone Ridge and continues to the end. The second plow truck starts at Landview, then to 17 Gatecrest and goes to the end. Then it moves on to 28 Highland and continues to the end, then moves on to Rockwell.

Storm #3: One plow truck starts at 2 Sandstone and continues to the end, then goes to 3 Stone Ridge and continues to the end. The second plow truck starts at 2 Highland and goes to the end, then starts at 1 Gatecrest and continues to the end. It then does Landview followed by Rockwell.

Storm #4: One plow truck starts at 3 Stone Ridge and continues to the end, then starts at 2 Sandstone and continues to the end. The second plow truck starts at 28 Highland and continues to the end, then to Rockwell. It then goes to 1 Gatecrest and continues to the end, followed by Landview.

Snowplow Damage Reporting Procedure

If your unit has been damaged by snow plowing -that is garage, siding or fencing-please contact Paul Okonak at Great North Property Management. Paul's phone number is 1-800-221-0210. Each telephone report should be followed by written confirmation sent to him at: Great North Property Management, 100 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, NH, 03060.

We will request a snowplowing damage report from you at the end of the winter for nowplow damage to your landscaping, driveway, or sprinkler system.

BIG NOISE FROM TREATMENT PLANT IS NOT CATASTROPHIC



by **Dean Hubbard**, WW Treatment Plant Committee Chair

Several walkers have asked about the big noise that periodically comes from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Some walkers have described it as the sound of an Everglades air boat. Another senior walker thought it was the "Big Noise from Winnetka." In fact, the noise is much more mundane. It is the weekly testing of the electric generator that is housed in the plant. This generator supplies electric power to keep our treatment facility and grinder pumps operating in the event of an electrical power outage. Startup of the generator is automatic with the loss of power from National Grid. To ensure that the generator is ready to go, it is tested every Monday around noon for a period of about one half hour. Since this testing is done automatically, no operator will be seen. So the next time you hear the big noise, rest assured that everything is working as it should.

STATUS OF VSR MARKER

Back in August Tom Barry learned from Roger Pelletier of Gate City Monument that if our logo was carved on the proposed rock in one line, the letters would be only 1.75 in. high, and that even if the logo was divided into two lines, the letters would be only 2.25 in. high. He said that the base for the proposed rock would cost \$600 and would extend 2 ft in the ground and extend 8 in. above the ground. So the stone we had chosen is much too small and not adequate.

Roger suggested Tom select a piece of granite that is appropriately sized for the logo and that could be partially buried in the ground, thus eliminating the need for a base. Roger gave Tom some mockups of the type of stone he recommends and gave him a quote. This marker would be 5ft 5in. wide and about 42 in. above ground. Bill Nussbum suggested that the Landscaping Committee look at the proposals, and Carlene Craib suggested we get another quote from Al Garside.

Al Garside has now visited the site to review the location, and he will provide us with a quote. Once this quote is received, the proposals can be reviewed and a vendor selected. Work will not be able to begin until late Spring 2009 after the ground thaws and dries out.

FIRST VSR RETIREE'S FORUM

Minutes taken by Carlene Craib

Approximately 35 people attended this first VSR Retiree's Forum held on September 17th. Ron Caterino welcomed all participants and explained how he got the idea for this group. He was part of YPO, Young President's Organization, a business forum that served two functions: a membership meeting of company presidents and, even more useful, a breakdown into individual forum group meetings. Usually about 10-12 people would get together to discuss their problems, business or personal. Although this is not the purpose of this group, it did give him the idea for the VSR Retiree's Forum.

When Ron retired his year, he began investigating what retirement was all about. Several other people in the Village contributed to this search for information. He participated in a "Welcome to 65" seminar sponsored by Harvard Pilgrim Health and found it to be an eye-opener. This was the impetus for organizing this group at which Village residents could demonstrate their expertise in a variety of areas common to retirement.

The only rule Ron feels applies to this group is that there is no bad idea. He is willing to work on the first couple of meetings, and after that he intends for it to take on a life of its own with others leading and giving feedback. It can continue as long as there is interest. Ron asked those present for input as to what might be of interest to this group. He called this process "putting the item in the parking lot." He first listed some topics that he thought important: gap insurance (13), Medicare issues (11), prescription drugs (6), etc.

Some of the other topics coming from the floor were: retirement plan withdrawals (10), tax ramifications of retirement (10), long-term care insurance (4), investment advice (4), volunteer opportunities (13), health care proxy and other health care legal issues (6), wills, estates and trusts (9), psychological effects of retirement (6), education opportunities (4), dietitian (19), travel/group trips (15), airport credits (8).

Since Ron's initial Forum meeting, he has met with Doug Keele who has offered to help in organizing some of the first few meetings.

A meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse to learn about Medicare and Gap Insurance. Ron has arranged for an outside resource from the health care industry to discuss the transition from paid health care to Government-sponsored Medicare and available gap insurance.

Doug is currently working on a presentation for early December on Financial Planning for Seniors. These two subjects should address several of the key issues brought up at the September Forum organization meeting.

VILLAGE MEETING ON GRANITE QUARRYING IN OUR TOWN

Shirley Chambers, Moderator – Al Garside, Speaker

On October 2, forty-four residents and a guest gathered for a Village meeting on quarrying in Westford. Shirley Chambers opened the meeting explaining that she had been researching this topic for two years, but had been unable to find out the owner and thus the name of our VSR quarry. She invited Al Garside to come speak to our group hoping he could provide some answers. He was superintendent of a granite quarry in Milford, NH for 30 years and currently runs a monument business in Westford. This was (by his request) a Q and A format. Initially he reminisced about some of the quarrymen with whom he had worked – Dogface and Bubba for example. There were many questions from the audience. These Q and A's are taken from Carlene Craib's minutes of this program, with some additions and modifications.

Q – *What is the explanation for the many small quarry holes we've found here on our property?*

A – Between here and Milford, NH there were 125 small quarries. These small holes are called “motions,” and they were places where two or three men would work, mostly cutting paving blocks after the first World War. These quarries supplied all the stone for the WPA. The blocks were loaded at the quarries and taken to train depots for transport. Train tracks are still visible near St. Catherine's Church.

Q – *How many quarries were there in Westford?*

A – Johnny Vieira owned the quarry here in your Village. he died in 1956 at age 68. After that Frank Prescott bought the quarry. Al was not able to speak to him because of ill health. There were many others in Westford, 10-15 square miles of rock that many people began to quarry. Some of them were Fletcher's, Guilmette's, Merrill's, and Verna Morris's. Only two are still active.

Q – *What was the purpose of the big cables that we see sticking out of the ground here in our Village?*

A – They held the derrick used to take granite out of the quarry.

Q – *Was there medical care on-site for quarry workers injured while working?*

A – Fletcher Granite had an RN on duty all the time. Most of the injuries were back injuries or fingers.

Q – *Where did the workers live?*

A – Workers lived at the Cobblestone Inn (the building on Rt 40 with the cobblestone porch) and other boarding houses, many along Rt 40.

Q – *What was the function of the two stone buildings on our property?*

A – One was a blacksmith shop and the other the compressor house. The compressor house pumped water

out of the quarry to cool bits and keep the dust down. Blacksmith Estates off Rt 40 was built on land that was the blacksmith's at Fletcher's.

Q – *What year did the operation begin at our quarry?*

A – In the early 1950's it was still working, but it began long before that.

Q – *Did they work all winter?*

A – In really cold weather they would have stand-by, meaning they waited four hours and got paid for two. If the weather warmed up they went to work; if it did not they went home.

Q – *Did the pumps run all the time?*

A – Yes, they had to keep it pumped out, and then they would circulate the water back with an abrasive.

Q – *Would they work the quarry all the way down to the bottom?*

A – Yes, you have to keep water pumped out and keep quarrying down. The granite quality improves the deeper you go.

Q – *What were the hours for workers?*

A – As superintendent, Al said he worked all hours of the day and night. Sometimes people came back at night to get pieces of granite illegally.

Q – *How old did you have to be to begin working in quarries?*

A – You had to be 17 and you had to know someone to get into the quarry work.

Q – *How much did you earn?*

A – All the granite would come out and be taken over to the rail yard, and each person had his own berth and put his production onto the trains. Typical production was 300 4x4 blocks a day for \$ 0.80 an hour.

Al Garside left us with a very thought-provoking statement: “Some of Westford's granite is now being sent to China to be polished.”



PHOTO: SHIRLEY CHAMBERS

HARVEST HOP

And hoppin' it was with our talented DJ's Ray and Ann Marie Barnes at the helm. We ushered in our crisp new fall season on Oct.18 with a wonderful musical evening created by Ray and Ann Marie. It was their personality that was the spark that livened up the crowd and made us want to move our feet onto the dance floor. The spirit of the party glows with their cleverness for fun and games and for the energy they instill in us. How lucky we are to be able to add Ray and Ann Marie to the list of residents who volunteer their talents for the good of the Village. Thank you both so much.

And while we are thanking people, what about the ladies who brought all the creative appetizers and seasonal desserts that were bliss to our discriminating taste buds. We are not overlooking all the planning and work done by our two co-chairs Ruthann and Dorothy, their faithful committee, and those movers of furniture. We are indebted to all of you.

—Your Editor



LIBRARY NEWS



by **Linda Anzivino**

“When others fail him,
the wise man looks
To the sure companionship of books.”
—Andrew Lang

Please note some recent additions to your library:

The Tin Roof Blowdown by James Lee Burke

This is a crime novel set in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

Spring Collection by Judith Krantz

The world of fashion and two great cities – New York and Paris – take center stage in this work of fiction.

The Friday Night Knitting Club by Kate Jacobs

This popular best seller is now available in paperback and audio cassettes. A little yarn shop in Manhattan's Upper West side is the setting for an interesting array of characters, each with their unique set of problems.

Red House by Sarah Messer

A mostly accurate account of New England's oldest continuously lived-in house. This is a humorous and passionate memoir.

Compulsion by Jonathan Kellerman

If you enjoy probing the depths of the criminal mind, then this whodunit is for you. Bizarre acts of cruelty, psychopathology, luxury vehicles and much more await.

KARAOKE NO. 4 – This High Octane Party Blew Us Away

by Shirley Chambers

Ella Fitzgerald said “The only thing better than singing is more singing,” and so she surely would have been cheering at Skip's Karaoke No. 4 on Nov.15th. He topped himself; for each year this party gets better and better. You've got to agree that Skip has earned his title as Grand Poobah of Karaoke. As in the past, Skip started things rolling with his renditions of some Nelson songs, both Willie and Ricky: *Always on My Mind* and *In the Still of the Night*.

There was a great deal of lively and excellent group singing at this party. The ladies performed honorably with *Put Your Head on My Shoulder*, and the men did their annual tribute to the Sox with Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline*. Some of the “acts” had been rehearsed for many weeks. When Frank Tino sang Dean Martin's *Everybody Loves Somebody Sometimes* with that great set of pipes of his, many of us swooned. Phyllis Duggan and Loretta Auld brought the house down with Judy Garland's tribute to Clark Gable, *You Made Me Love You* with David Auld aptly playing Clark. One of my personal favorites was Skip and Pauline doing Johnny Cash and June Carter's *It Ain't Me Babe* from the movie *I Walk the Line* because Skip somehow managed to get his voice to sound a bit like Johnny's gravelly bass-baritone, not easily accomplished.

One of the very entertaining big “production numbers” was *Mama Mia* featuring Dianne Marston, Barbara Leary, Pauline Giles, Joyce Minosh, and Judy Premru all in costume. And of course we always must have our Village People doing *YMCA*. Usual cast (Carl, Peter, Len, Larry, Tom Barry and Tom West), but this year Bill Nussbum was the Indian. Dressed in bed attire, Tink and Pauline managed to pull off *Dream Dream Dream*.

Did you know we have a Trustee who is a good singer? Well, we do - Tom Barry. Tom and Linda (who also sings a good note) Barry gave us a heart-warming version of *I've Got You Babe*. And all the gals thought Tom looked pretty darn sexy with that black moustache. Linda says no to his growing one. A favorite of mine during this evening was Larry Anzivino and Phyllis Duggan doing *You Don't Bring Me Flowers*. Their harmony blew me away!

Skip's *Wild Thing* dedication this year was to Rainey Keele; he and Doug sang it to her teasingly. Larry and Linda sang *Chasing That Neon Rainbow*, which went well; in fact, so well that Larry knocked her off her feet - literally! With hip girations, black wig, sideburns, and his hilariously camp rendition of Elvis Pressley's *All Shook Up* - who else was center stage but - Larry A.

Skip, you did it again! Thank you for all your unbounded enthusiasm, all the equipment you must assemble, and for setting the stage that allowed us to have such a fun-filled evening. We know this is your passion, but it is also significant labor on your part. Many huzzah's for all the clever, willing, and talented participants, for those who brought the excellent snacks, and for the Social Committee's help.





ABSOLUTELY SOCIAL



by **Ruthann Fisher**
&
Dorothy Moran
Co-chairs

After a fun-filled evening at the Harvest Hop, the Social Committee next hosted an "open house" on November 3 – a successful endeavor with 16 residents attending. Potential new members made good suggestions for future activities such as a beer and pizza night/sing-a-long, and a ladies' luncheon at the Clubhouse.

Be sure and mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Sat. Dec. 13 Annual Holiday Party
- Wed. Dec. 31 Annual New Year's Eve Party
- Sat. Jan. 17 "A Taste of Soup"
- Sun. Feb. 15 Pancake Breakfast
- Sun. Mar. 8 Sunday Brunch
- Sat. Apr. 25 Italian Night

Check the Clubhouse bulletin board for details as these dates approach.

Next Social Committee meeting is on Monday Dec. 8th at 7 pm. New members are always welcome.

QUARRY SHORTS

Change in e-mail Address

Please make the following change in your Residents' Directory for 2008 of Sandy Kelly's e-mail address:

ms.sandy@gmail.com

Destination Sturbridge Village

Joan Roy reports that the VSR Women's Group ushered in the fall season with an excursion to Old Sturbridge Village on September 24th.

Joan along with Jean Willets planned this outing - a perfect day to travel back into a New England country town of the 1700 and early 1800's.

Joan says that they all enjoyed the setting, the excellent docents, a simple lunch, and of course the museum shop. All agreed that it was a delightful day and one worth repeating.

To Find Peace in Your Life

By following the simple advice heard on the Dr. Phil show, you too can find inner peace. Dr. Phil proclaimed "The way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you have started and have never finished."

So I looked around my house to see all the things that fit this category, and before leaving the house this morning I finished off a bottle of White Zinfandel, a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream, a package of Oreos, the remainder of my old Prozac prescription, the rest of the cheesecake, some Doritos, and a box of chocolates. You have no idea how freaking good I feel right now.



by **Dianne Marston**

The VSR Book Club has welcomed several new members at our recent meetings. We were pleased to have Reeno Agha and Friederike Heiter join our discussions to share their personal stories about living in Pakistan and

WWII Germany, the settings of two of our latest books. They each added so much to our understanding of the books!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, December 4. We will discuss the historical fiction novel *March* by Geraldine Brooks. This is a fascinating look into the lives of the fictional March family of *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Brooks tells the story of Mr. March as he leaves his family behind to aid the Union cause in the Civil War. His experiences utterly change his marriage and challenge his beliefs. This is "a beautifully wrought story about how war dashes ideals, unhinges moral certainties" *Los Angeles Times Book Review*

If you like mystery, read the book for January 8. It will be *The Dante Club* by Matthew Pearl. It is "delightful and suspenseful, an unexpected story about Boston's literary giants tracking a post-Civil War serial killer. The Dante Club is a unique, ambitious, entertaining read, a historical thrill with a poetic streak." *Baltimore Sun*

All are welcome to join these discussions. We'll hope to see you on December 4 and January 8. Happy reading!



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