



*The Village at Stone Ridge*

# THE QUARRY BULLETIN

VOLUME 6

ISSUE MAY/JUNE 2009

## ***Hear Ye! Hear Ye!***

*Yes, we mean all of you residents. We have a serious situation. If we are alarming you, we mean to do so. Our insurer is adamant about the issue of unauthorized use in our exercise room. Our trustees must show that they have used due diligence in notifying residents about the policy. A serious financial impact on each and every RESIDENT can occur unless WE ALL do our part. Only RESIDENTS, i.e. those who have a mailing address here at the Village of Stone Ridge, may use the facility and then ONLY if they have signed a waiver allowing them to do so.*

*Unfortunately, this means that friends and children of our residents are NOT PERMITTED under any circumstances to use the exercise room. This rule is being violated by some. It is up to all of us to help enforce this policy even at the risk of upsetting your friends and neighbors at Stone Ridge. Please do not just look the other way. We need your help.*

*Any RESIDENT who has not signed the waiver and who wishes to use the exercise room may go to the VSR website, [www.villageatstoneridge.com](http://www.villageatstoneridge.com), or contact Len Halio to get a copy of the waiver.*

### **SPRING OPENS WITH A MYRIAD OF VSR SOCIAL GATHERINGS**

*This Bulletin issue is filled with stories about Spring's busy social events in our Village. Be sure to read Country Roads, Take Me Home; Molto Bene; Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's Off to Work We Go; and VSR Women's Group announces its plans for curious and interesting future events.*

## VILLAGE MEETING FOR JUNE

Carlene Craib is putting together a panel of long-time Westford residents to share with the rest of the Village some of their “townie” secrets and favorite town haunts. This should make for an interesting Village meeting on June 4th. If you would like to be on the panel let Carlene know [craib@comcast.net](mailto:craib@comcast.net).

There will not be a Village meeting in July.

## NEED STONES?

If you are energetic and want some stones for use around your unit in drainage areas such as gutter/ downspout runoffs, they are available for your taking just below 31 Sandstone Rd. Residents alert - give your back a break - in any quantity these are very very heavy so be prepared to take a few at a time.

## WESTFORD TOWN QUILT

by *Louise Theofilos*

Pictured here is the quilt depicting various historical buildings in Westford that has been donated to the Westford Historical Society and will be on display in several locales for all townspeople to see. It was made by a group of young women calling themselves The Nashoba Quilters, two of whom are in the photo – Cindy Lee Gee and Elaine Nicholson.



## STOP SIGN FOR SAFETY

To try to prevent accidents with drivers exiting from the ball field onto Stone Ridge Rd, several VSR volunteers on Work/Play Day installed this STOP sign at the exit.



*Bill Townsend and Ed Kern (front row kneeling) and Ken Fisher, Peter Abate, and Tom Barry (standing)*

## LIBRARY NEWS

by *Linda Anzivino*



*“The world is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page.”*

–St. Augustine

This month the library would like to thank Michael Gallant, Linda Barry and Joyce Minosh for their generous donations of more than fifty books. Joyce has also contributed an autographed copy of her own book, *Caravan Days*. (If you are interested in purchasing a copy for yourself at minimal cost, please call or email Linda Anzivino.)

It seems that many of you like to read a book stripped of its dust cover. If this is the case, PLEASE remember to recover the book before returning it to the library.

Hardback copies of two books that are still at the top of the bestseller list are now available in our library:

*The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski  
*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows

Summer is right around the corner. Plan now to pack some books in your luggage and enjoy those days on the beach!

## COUNTRY ROADS, TAKE ME HOME

by Jean Guthrie and Shirley Chambers

What an enlightening 1-1/2 hour bus tour of Westford we had on April 18th with commentary by Ellen Harde (Town Moderator and town historian extraordinaire). We are deeply indebted to Ellen for her participation. Ellen is a walking history book; she herself has played an important part in Westford's history and remains one of its major benefactors. We all learned a great deal about our town's back roads (some bumpy ones) and its picturesque historical landscape. A truly great trip!

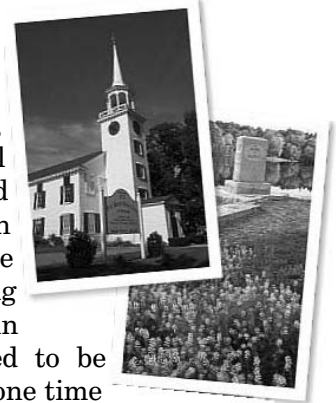


We (Jean and Shirley) are co-authoring this article since we have each lived in Westford for 40 years plus. We were seatmates during the bus tour, and how utterly amazing it was after living in Westford for all those years to discover the things we didn't know about our own town. During the ride we traded comments back and forth with: "Did you know that? Never heard that before! Where was I when that happened?" And so we went on in awe. Also on board were a number of other residents who have a great many years vested in Westford, those who lived on Kirsi Circle for example.

We drove by quite a few of Westford's lakes, ponds, and beaches with Ellen explaining how some got their names: Flushing Pond (humor, but not what you think), Keyes Pond (an early settler), and Long-Sought-For Pond (obvious). She pointed out that, appropriately, the roads leading to this pond are Pond Rd, Sought For Rd, and Long Rd.

On the east side of our town as we passed the large apple orchards that abound on Frances Hill and Tadmuck Hill (Drew's, Anderson's, and Hill's), Ellen reminded us that these represented one of the three main industries in Westford in its early days (worsted yarns, apples, and granite). Recalling that we were

also once a mill town, Ellen pointed to one mill complex on Brookside Rd in Nabnasset that had been condolized, and told us the Abbot Worsted Co. building (later Murray Printing) in Forge Village is scheduled to be condoed in the future. At one time there were nine train depots in Westford; before the advent of autos that's how many folks got around.



The Russian Brotherhood Cemetery on Patton Rd, which is privately endowed (never knew that), was interesting. We could even read from the bus some of the names such as Belida inscribed on the tombstones. We toured all the villages that make up our town: Forge Village, Nabnasset, Graniteville, and Westford center. What a suprise to find out the area around Kimball Farms (one of Westford's best known landmarks) is not considered to be in any of these sections. Apparently it's in a world of its own! When people who resided in Nab, Graniteville or Forge were asked where they lived, they all said the name of their village, not Westford since the center was considered to be for the hoy paloy!

We owe thanks to Joyce Minosh, our eminent travel savant, for arranging this wonderful bus tour. Joyce had collected \$10 from each of us making this tour (48-some filling the bus). After expenses, \$315 was donated to the Westford Historical Society in the name of VSR, and we have already had a note of thanks from them telling us the money will be used to keep the trees, benches, and bandstand on the common in good repair.



## FORWARD PLANNING BY VSR WOMEN'S GROUP

The original concept of the VSR Women's Group was to plan and execute an interesting activity for every other month. We now have a proposed schedule of events we wish to undertake, and leaders have been assigned to do the preliminary groundwork necessary to set these activities in motion. Watch for sign-up sheets with specific dates. All residents are welcome, gender not an issue!

- May 15 Buffet luncheon at the Elegant Chef, Nashoba Tech's Culinary Arts restaurant, Westford
- June Pickity Place in Mason, NH, for a gourmet 5-course luncheon in herbacious settings
- August Nancy's Air Field Cafe in Stow, MA, good food and genial and unusual ambiance
- October Channel 8 TV public access Cooking Adventures with Mary, Hudson, MA
- January TEA at our Clubhouse – expect a real winner
- March Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH

## FROM GRANDPA'S HAPPY STORY COLLECTION

A grandmother was telling her little daughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. We had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed taking this all in. At last she said, "I wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised, "mine says I'm 4 to 6."

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lives. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

My grandparents are funny; when they bend over you hear gas leaks, and they blame it on their dog.

–Submitted by Grandpa Bob Eddy

## VSR BOOK CLUB NEWS



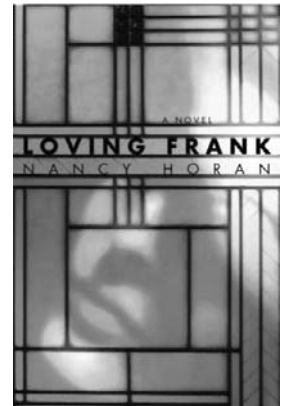
by *Dianne Marston*

On May 14 the VSR Book Club meeting discussed the novel *The Last Chinese Chef* by Nicole Mones. The next meeting will be at 1:00 pm on Thursday June 25. We will discuss Nancy Horan's book *Loving Frank*. This historically imagined novel relates the tragic relationship between Frank Lloyd Wright and Mamah Cheney in early 20th century America. They left their families behind to live and travel together, going first to Germany where Mamah found rewarding work doing scholarly translations of the Swedish feminist Ellen Key's books.

Frank and Mamah eventually settled in Wisconsin where they were hounded by a scandal-hungry press, with tragic repercussions. While describing Wright's towering ego, the book focuses on Mamah Cheney, an independent, educated woman who was on a quest for self-discovery despite the social consequences of her time. Mamah's bright, earnest spirit is particularly tender in the context of her time and place, which afforded her little opportunity to realize the intellectual life for which she yearned. Those who have read *Loving Frank* have found it to be both moving and tragic. We will surely engage in a lively discussion of this book. Please come if you are interested.

In connection with the reading of this book, the Book Club members have discussed a possible future luncheon and outing to the Frank Lloyd Wright Zimmerman House in Manchester, NH. Watch announcements for further details.

The next meeting will be on August 6. Check the bulletin board for an announcement of the book.



## NEW COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITY

A new Civic Committee is being formed to explore the possibility of petitioning Westford for expansion of town services to our Village. If you are interested in serving on this Committee call or email Peter Abate (978-692 4589) or [pabate@yahoo.com](mailto:pabate@yahoo.com)

# Molto Bene!

by Barbara Leary

Another night in the Village – not just any night – Italian Night! The second one took place on April 25th with 80+ Villagers attending. All were wine and dined thanks to Ruthann Fisher, Dorothy Moran and the VSR Social Committee, with extra help from several male Villagers who moved furniture and set up for this extraordinary event. The spacious way the tables were placed allowed people to move about with ease throughout both the great room and the Library while Italian music played in the background. Master Chef Ruthann cooked eggplant parmigiana, meatballs, and that wonderful sauce while Dorothy and crew organized for weeks to pull off this affair effortlessly. It was flawless, and the preparation paid off.

In addition to the incredible meal, appetizers were prepared with gusto by Nany Diaz (also our resident social photographer and skilled decorator), and a knock-your-sox-off rum cake from a Tewksbury bakery was served for dessert.

All were entered in three raffles just for walking in the door and paying a mere \$15 for everything except vino. The lucky winners of these items were Linda Anzivino (Larry kept wondering who was ringing that bell, but it was okay when that huge basket of goodies arrived at their table), Elaine Tino received the mini “meals on wheels” (where did you get that cart, Ruthann?), and Dottie Zahos loved her “bottle of wine/fruit of the vine.” Then, for those who participated, there was the 50/50 raffle. June Halio was the winner and professed “We really need this!”

Great fun and full stomachs were had by all (and there were even leftovers for “takeout”), and for those Red Sox fans – what could be better than win #2 out of 3 over the Yankees? Life is good! Thank you Social Committee, thank you set-up and clean-up crew, and thank you VSR for providing this wonderful climate in which to live. “Ciao a tutto,” Barbara.





# Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's Off to Work We Go

by Louise O'Donnell

Many hands make light work. Once again our Villagers came together to ensure our community retains its original loveliness. After the wild, crazy winter with its severe and dreadful ice storm, which caused our power to be out for 4-5 days, we really needed to clear up winter's debris. Our Work/Play Day on May 3 from 12 to 5 pm brought out an abundance of volunteers prepared to spruce up our community. Out came the gloves, pails, rakes, chain saws, trash bags, paint brushes, window spray, paper towels and more. The weather cooperated nicely, waiting to sprinkle only after the work was completed.

We thank all of the volunteers for their work, much of which would have cost us dearly if it had been necessary to contract it out. And thank you to all the project team leaders. One group was organized to trim brush and cut down small dead trees, and you will see in the photos brush trimmers Tink N, Chris C and Nancy F at work. When asked by a resident if any wanted a glass of water, the reply was they would come back when wine was offered. Note Bill N, Bob M, and Eli clearing away brush near the bridge, working like the beavers that inhabit that area, and they were later joined by Ron C, Carl E, and Tom B for some of the heavy work sawing and cutting huge branches elsewhere.

And then around the Clubhouse were the signpost painters and toucher-uppers galore - some with more paint on their person than on the signs: Nick J, Linda B, Mike G. Note that Dom and Frank T repaired the settling bricks on our Clubhouse walkway - only talented Italians would tackle that job. Bill T was seen everywhere since he was in charge of Misc. Projects - and there were many, one of which was setting up a new STOP sign at the ball field crossing.

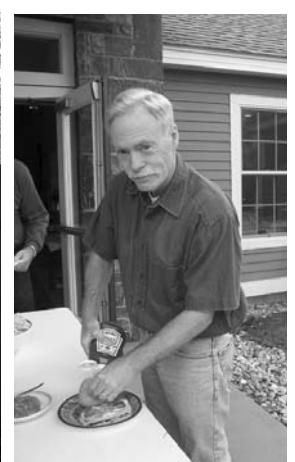
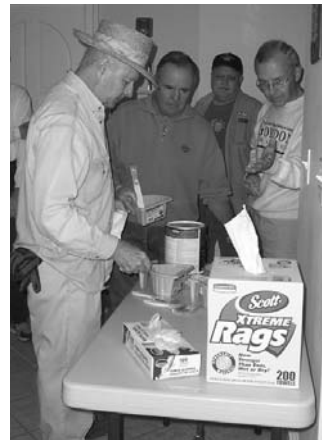
VSR has some bewitchingly charming trash - collecting "bag ladies." Just look at those photos of Karen M, Susan N, Violetta R, Gail E, Clara C, Charlotte D, Elaine T, Joyce M, Chris D, and Barbara L - what a lineup!

Rick Culver tackled fitness center scrub-down. And many hands spotlessly scrubbed the Clubhouse kitchen cabinets inside and out, and we noticed two "little" ladies washing those huge Clubhouse windows: Claire A and Joan R. Since Doug C and Bob E were in charge of trail and irrigation projects they led the team to remove any remaining visible erosion barriers and move a signpost for trail entrance.

Before the advent of our sprinkler system, a great deal of drip irrigation tubing was laid down to get our lawns and shrubs established initially. Those charged with cutting away the excess tubing (Doug C, Bob M, and Steve C) think it goes all the way to China). George H and Bob E can be seen cutting away tubing, and Don S did hose snipping in front of the Clubhouse.

After the hard work was completed, a cookout for volunteers was held with Master Chef Dom DeFronzo and Co-Chef Peter Abate again doing the honors. Hot dogs, burgers, potato salad, baked beans, etc. were served to a hungry and well deserving crew. Another successful Village project completed!

I had fun being a "roving reporter" accompanying Nany as she chased around taking the pictures you see here.





# ABSOLUTELY SOCIAL



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

On April 28th more than 80 residents attended our second annual Italian Night. Thanks to all our committee members who made it happen. And a special thanks to our Village men who were there on both Saturday and Sunday mornings to move furniture, set up, and break down. You are the BEST – we really appreciate your help.

Plan to attend the Memorial Day Cookout, which will take place on Monday, May 25th. Check the Clubhouse bulletin board for details.

Other up-and-coming events include the following:

Sun. Jun. 7 – Drop In Coffee

Sat. Jul. 5 – Cookout

Sun. Aug. 2 – Drop In Coffee

Mon. Sept. 7 – Labor Day Cookout

Social Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7 pm. New member are always welcome.

## EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS WITH MUSEUM PASSES

Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library offer free passes to Westford residents for the following museums in Boston: Boston Children's Museum, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, and the New England Aquarium. Other museums outside of Boston are Davis' Farmland and Maze in Sterling, DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park in Lincoln, Drumlin Farm in Lincoln, Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, New England Quilt Museum in Lowell, Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, and Worcester Art Museum in Worcester. This is not a complete list so check with the library for others.

You may reserve museum passes at the library or online up to 60 days in advance, with a limit of 2 passes per day. Call the library (978-692-5555) or go online ([www.westfordlibrary.org](http://www.westfordlibrary.org)) for more particulars. You will need a library card, easily obtained by simply asking.

## PACKING LIGHT, TRAVEL TIPS

by *Joyce Minosh*

More and More airlines are limiting the size and number of suitcases you can take on their flights. We flew on American Airlines recently and were charged \$15 per suitcase each way. Baggage fees on Continental, Delta, Northwest and United are also \$15 for the first bag and \$25 for the second. To avoid these charges, "packing light" becomes significant.

The airlines allow one carry-on size suitcase and one personal bag. The standard carry-on luggage rules are 22" x 14" x 9" and the weight varies from 26-40 pounds, Liquid requirements for carry-on are "3-1-1" (3.4 ounce bottles placed in a 1-quart size, clear plastic zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in screening bin). For all the reasons above, packing light becomes even more important. Here are some tips that you might find helpful:

- Use a packing checklist of things to bring and stick to it.
- Consider light-weight easily washed fabrics.
- Wear your heaviest shoes, and dress in layers on the flight.
- Coordinate your clothes around one or two basic colors and accessorize.
- Use multipurpose plastic packing bags for all items in your suitcase (one for shirts, one for pants, one for special occasions/misc., one for pj's, bathing suit and underwear, and one for cosmetics).
- Find out what amenities the hotel has (i.e., robes, hair dryers, shampoo) and don't pack those items.
- Remember, balled-up dirty laundry takes more space so use your original packing method to repack worn clothing.

For official TSA regulations:

<http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/simplify.shtm>

For more packing tips:

<http://www.alltraveltips.com.clothing.shtml>

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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.

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