



# THE QUARRY BULLETIN

VOLUME 6

ISSUE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

## ***TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE 2010 CONDO AND WATER & SEWER RATES***

### ***Condo Fees Up 8%, Water & Sewer Fees Remain Flat***

*by Ron Caterino, Vice-President/Treasurer, Board of Trustees*

*At the November 5th First Thursday Village Meeting, Ken Hyle, Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee, reviewed the 2010 VSR budget that has been approved by the Board of Trustees.*

*Ken noted that the preparation of this year's budget was exceptionally challenging as a result of three unexpected situations with which we had to deal:*

<i>Ice dam roof repairs</i>	<i>\$26,000</i>
<i>Under deck wall replacements</i>	<i>22,000</i>
<i>National Grid gas bill</i>	<i>25,000</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$73,800</i>

*These expenses were paid for by using the funds in our Contingency and Capital Reserve Accounts. To replace these funds and keep the rate increase at 8%, many items in the Operations Budget needed to be cut, such as landscaping improvements, deck staining and siding power washing.*

*Outstanding efforts by the Water & Sewer Committee resulted in a large reduction in our grinder pump replacement costs, which in turn resulted in no increase in our 2010 water & sewer rates.*

*Ken expressed his gratitude to all of the people in the Village (48 in total) who were involved in preparing their piece of the budget and especially thanked the current members of the Committee (Peter Abate, Tom Barry, Ron Caterino, Ken Fisher and Bill Townsend) for their long hours and dedication in completing this massive task.*

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*The Power Point slides used by Ken in his presentation are available in the Library for you to read if you missed the meeting.*

## ANNUAL MEETING

Every year at our annual meeting we hear our trustees report on the state of each of the projects under their jurisdiction. What a nice secure feeling learning we continue to live in such a well run community – a result of our very talented and dedicated leadership. It was refreshing to learn that the REIGNING FIVE also excell at comedy, and they all "worked the room."

Sadly, we say good-bye to Bill Nussbum and



Bill Nussbum



Eli Demetri

Eli Demetri as Trustees. Bill has served for five continuous years and Eli for four. To show our appreciation, they were each presented with a Globe Column clock personalized with their names engraved on the case. They have surely done their part for VSR, and now it's time to move on and give their Board seats to two of the three contenders. Undoubtedly, whether it be David Auld, Frank Bashore or Bill Townsend, they will carry the torch just as high as Bill and Eli have, and we are grateful to them for being willing to take on this responsibility.\*

The new Rules and Regulations document was distributed at this meeting. Contact Carlene Craib (ccraib@comcast.net) if you still haven't gotten your copy.

\*We know now that Frank Bashore and Bill Townsend won the election.

## NEW BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR 2010

The new Board of Trustees met on Oct. 7 to reorganize for the coming year. Elected were:

President: **Tom Barry**  
Vice-President/Treasurer: **Ron Caterino**  
Secretary: **Carlene Craib**

The following Board Liaison Committee assignments were made:

Finance & Budget and Legal  
**Ron Caterino**

Architectural Standards & Review  
**Tom Barry**

Property Management  
**Bill Townsend**

Waste Water Treatment Plant  
**Frank Bashore**

Social/Clubhouse and Communications  
**Carlene Craib**



First regular Board meeting with newly elected trustees

PHOTO: SHIRLEY CHAMBERS

## LIBRARY NEWS



by Linda Anzivino

*"Tis the good reader that makes the good book."*

–Ralph Waldo Emerson

Here is an idea for the book lover on your holiday gift list. Make a basket of "reader's goodies." Select several items from the list below, place them in an inexpensive basket, and wrap in cellophane. Or, put them in a tote bag with a pretty ribbon.

- book • reading glasses
- bookplates
- gift certificate to a favorite bookstore
- bookmark
- highlighter markers

- tote bag with book theme
- t-shirt (...so many books, so little time)

For some fun reading here are four books about books! *The Book Borrower* by Alice Mattison is about two decades of friendship and a borrowed book. *Shelf Life* by Suzanne Strempek Shea. Romance, mystery, drama and other page-turning adventures from one woman's year working in a bookstore. *So Many Books, So Little Time* by Sara Nelson. One person's plan to read 52 books in 52 weeks and the interplay between our lives and books. *The Man Who Loved Books Too Much: The True Story of a Thief, a Detective, and a World of Literary Obsession* by Allison Hoover Bartlett. This is a riveting story of an obsessed collector who steals books and a self-styled biblio-detective.

## OWNER-ADDED LIGHTING TO UNIT GROUNDS AND WALKWAYS—DON'T

*by Judy Culver, Architectural Standards and Review Committee Chair*



Following the discussion at the September Annual Meeting about the addition of walkway and other lighting fixtures, the Architectural Standards and Review (ASR) committee has discussed the safety and security issues raised by residents that night.

Not only does exterior lighting ensure safe walkways for each unit, but it also provides added security for the Village. Owners who have lived here for several years will remember that, for this reason, we were encouraged to keep our exterior lights (garage and front door) on all night. This practice gave needed lighting to unlit roads and front walks and limited any trespassers. Very few units follow this request today.

VSR Rules and Regulations define the usage, upkeep and preservation of the grounds and buildings expected of each unit owner. Reg 12 (exterior decoration of unit), Reg 13 (modification of unit) and Reg 16 (landscaping) apply specifically to installation of any exterior lighting fixtures, whether electrical or solar.

The ASR committee has determined that these Regulations already prohibit additional lighting installation by owners.

As always, on a case-by-case basis, these regulations

can be overridden by the Trustees if a compelling case to do so is first made by the unit owner to the ASR Committee. However, owners must understand that the effect of wiring and light fixtures upon underground sprinklers and TruGreen's mowing and plowing operations will necessarily influence any recommendation by ASR to the Trustees.

The very strong recommendation by ASR members to all unit owners is that SECURITY at VSR will be greatly enhanced and walking at night SAFER if exterior unit lights remain on overnight. Bulbs will continue to be replaced by VSR.

Several owners have already installed timers on their light switches so that lights are off during day-time hours. Timers can be bought at Home Depot and other hardware stores for a variety of prices. It has also been found that replacing the spotlight bulb over the front door with a CFL bulb seems to provide a wider arc of light on the front steps and walk. These are the new, spirally white bulbs known as Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs; they are available at Home Depot and other stores. A 65 watt CFL bulb actually uses only 14 watts, so that the cost of running the CFL bulb is one-third of the electrical cost of the spotlight bulb.

## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT

*by Tom West, Landscape Committee Chair*



With the budget allotted to the Landscape Committee, we have accomplished the following:

- Demulching of 1/5th of the property
- Planting of about 100 bulbs
- Mulched and cleaned beds to enhance property on Landview
- Sprayed flowering bushes for fungus
- Replaced or added over 60 bushes and 4 trees
- Applied lime to half of the property (the balance to be done next year – money permitting)
- Naturalistic pruning of shrubs was completed
- All spirea will be cut back when the fall clean-up is being done.

We want to thank all of the members of the Landscape Committee: Bill and Paula Townsend, Ed Kern, Gail Eddy, Jack Bilodeau, Judy Premru, Kathy Abate, Kathy Shreve, Lois Frampton, Louise Tahmoush, Nancy Fletcher, Phyllis Duggan, Rosalie Johnson, Sharon Erickson, Tink Nussbum, and

Barbara West.

A special thank you to Jack Bilodeau for the completion of the stonewall. It looks great. Also, thanks to Jack who along with Ed Kern, Bill Townsend, Doug Carib and Frank Bashore trimmed the tree line along the road from the bridge up. This saved us a lot of money. Also, for Ed Kern who faithfully tackles the tent caterpillars in the trees. And of course, our Landscape expert who is always there for us, Lois Frampton.

Since we will not have funds to fertilize our trees and shrubs for the next year TruGreen has given us some information to use if you wish.

They use a 14-14-14 landscape and ornamental all purpose fertilizer for the shrubs and 14-4-6 Woodace tabs for the trees.

With the completion of the fall clean-up, landscaping activities for this year are finished.

Again thanks to everyone for making VSR a beautiful place to live.

## UP THE HILL AND AROUND THE BENDS



by Shirley Chambers

We are getting ready for whatever wiles await us in the twists and turns of New England winter. November is a time for shining days and cool cool nights. And it is also sadly a time to put our gardens to sleep. We see TruGreens' final grass cutting of the season and the end of lawn watering, and we watch their orange-topped stakes being placed around our driveways and walks to mark their way for snow clearance. And we know what is ahead of us! After Christmas, those of us who don't make a beeline for Florida become the village nesters. We use the winter months to regenerate.

### Our Social Calendar Is Full

The VSR social calendar for Nov/Dec is packed with oodles of gala activities. The Karoke No. 5 party is reported herein. We have our annual Holiday party on Dec 12 and then our New Years celebration on Dec 31st. We are indeed a busy little village. Just give us something to celebrate and we jump on it!

### Hints for Making Ready for Winter

Here are some things we should remember to do preparing for winter. Though most of these things have become routine for many of us, we print them here as reminders and to assist our newer residents.

- Change batteries in smoke alarms, thermostats\* and garage door openers.

- Shut off water valves in the basement to the outside faucets.
- Then open the outside faucets halfway to prevent freezing.

### We Now Have Two Notaries in Our Village

Lorraine Facella at 61 Stone Ridge, (978) 496-1413  
Jean Guthrie at 9 Sandstone, (978) 692-1065

### Thank You, Louise O'Donnell

Louise has made the Architectural Standards files more user-friendly. You will find them in notebooks on a small table in the Clubhouse Library.

### Outside Exit Doors from Fitness Room

We love our Clubhouse and don't want anything bad to happen to it. So please make sure the outside door from the fitness room is TIGHTLY shut when you leave the building so that we don't invite trespassers, thieves, or vandals.

### Fundamental Forces of the Universe

According to Dave Barry, Magnetism is one of the six Fundamental Forces of the Universe, with the other five being Gravity, Duct Tape, Whining, Remote Control, and the Force that pulls dogs toward the groins of strangers.

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*\*Instructions for changing thermostat batteries can be found on page 8 of the Sept/Oct 2007 Quarry Bulletin.*



## VSR BOOK CLUB NEWS

by Dianne Marston

The VSR Book Club has been very active this fall. We had a wonderful discussion of *Ahab's Wife* in September.

The October 29th meeting featured the amazing novel about the life of a female mill worker in Lowell in the mid-1800's. *Call the Darkness Light* brought to light for the readers the extreme conditions that faced the girls who worked in the cotton mills. We were thrilled to have as our guest at the meeting a local "mill girl" who worked in the Abbot Worsted Mill in Westford in the mid -1900's. Mickey Crocker is a Westford legend with personal knowledge of Westford's interesting history. She regaled us with stories of her life experiences and of her time working at the Abbot Mill, a far different experience from the Lowell Mill. The Book Club members were both entertained by her humor and enriched by her knowledge. Several members will be visiting the Lowell

Mills as an extension of our reading experience. Thanks to Joyce Minosh for coordinating this trip!

The date of our next meeting has been changed to December 3. The book is *The Scenic Route* by Binnie Kirshenbaum. This is a novel about a middle-age divorced woman who gets laid off, but uses her severance money for a trip to Italy. There she strikes up a conversation with a handsome millionaire at a cafe and spends the rest of the summer driving around Europe with him. The January 21 meeting will feature *Trick of the Eye* by Jane Stanton Hitchcock. This gothic thriller is about a successful trompe l'oeil artist commissioned to work at a grand old estate on the north shore of Long Island.

On December 10 members of the Book Club will travel to the Concord Museum to visit the special exhibit "Family Trees: A Celebration of Children's Literature," followed by afternoon tea at the Colonial Inn. As you can tell, this is an active group that has a wide variety of interests and activities! All Villagers are most welcome to attend one or all of our events.

# Tex/Mex Party - A Winner

by Shirley Chambers



The Tex/Mex party got many hurrahs from all attending. The Social Committee did itself proud not only for the wonderfully appropriate decorations, but also for the scrumptious food. Many Diaz cooked many pounds of spare ribs, and our accommodating grillers Dom and Peter put the finishing glaze on them. We also had barbequed chicken, and residents brought the sides following the tex/mex cuisine theme.- chili, corn bread, southwestern salads, refried beans, etc. As usual, the desserts blew us away!

Our resident DJ's, Ray and Ann Marie Barnes, were not available to work this party, so on rather short notice we brought in a DJ from Connecticut (relative of a committee member), and he kept the party jumpin' with his well chosen selection of music lightly sprinkled with DJ patter. We were tested with a little trivia game playing the theme songs from various TV programs, many dating way way back (40 of them). Identifying each was harder than you might think, but the clever people at the winning table got a good percentage correct and earned their prizes.

Tables were covered in typical fiesta sun-kissed colors, with centerpieces of western bandanas tucked neatly in tall glasses. Dangling from our two chandeliers were clusters of big tissue paper red chili peppers. And how about those inflatable cactuses on either side of the fireplace! Our clubhouse was alive with many strings of chili pepper lights that we borrowed from a Village friend (thanks Charlie). The stage was set for fun and dancing, and there were generous amounts of each. Some of the line dancers were put through the paces learning a new dance called "Old Bones," which was orthopedically dedicated to our VSR residents.

Most partyers wore casual attire, but in keeping with the theme many were western-booted and cowboy-hatted. Dressing up/down makes for a fun evening, and this was indeed a fun evening for all and surely one we all agree should be repeated next year. The co-chairs Ruthann and Dorothy, that hard-working Social Committee, and those obliging furniture movers did it again - FIVE STARS.



## LIGHTS, CAMERA, SING -- NO. 5

by Joyce Minosh

Skip, you nailed it - you did it again - you hit another one (the 5th) out of the park. The evening started at 6:30 with a cocktail hour with appetizers galore and those formidably delicious desserts. While we all mingled and met some of our new and not-so-new neighbors, Skip and his crew were busy working out the kinks in the equipment.

The disco-mirrored ball was turned on for dance-land atmosphere, and the music began. Skip warmed up the mic with a few songs, followed by Larry Anzivino leading the group in *Coming to America, Today!* We always enjoy Phyllis Duggan who entertained us with her beautiful voice singing several songs. While Frank Tino sang *New York New York*, nine high-stepping "Village Rockettes" performed a dance that had been co-choreographed by Shirley Chambers and Chris Caterino just for this event. The successful rendition of *Mama Mia* from last year was joyously repeated on this night, followed by Joyce Minosh and Frank Tino singing *Bye Bye Love*, with one eye on the audience as their spouses walked by hand-in-hand. The "Mambo's" did their version of the rap song *Mambo No. 5*, complete with faux saxophones and special choreography.

*You Needed Me* was well sung by Pauline Giles and Tink Nussbum. And then two lavishly fedoraed divas, Loretta Auld and Phyllis Duggan, sang *Yes Sir, That's My Baby* while David Auld dressed in tux, top hat and cane blithly cavorted around the room a la Fred Astaire. And then the mic went to Tom and Linda Barry singing *Save the Last Dance For Me*.

We had some group singers entertain us also - The Lady Quarry Singers did their rendition of *The Rose*; then The Men Quarry Singers sang *Barbara Ann*. The audience joined in singing *Rolling on the River, Johnny Angel, Green, Green Grass of Old, and Oh Donna*. At one point during the evening an interesting "lady" appeared, took center stage, sat down and filed her nails as the men at the mic sang to her. She was really a "beaut." That was no lady - that was one of our Trustees.

The evening wouldn't be complete without Louis Armstrong aka Larry A. singing *A Kiss to Build a Dream On* and *What a Wonderful World*. At this point those folks standing in the back of the room with their arms folded found themselves up at the microphone joining in the singing fun. Maybe next year we can get them to do a solo?

And what a wonderful night it was, thanks to Skip, his computer helpers, the furniture movers, the cooks, the Social Committee, the singers, the watchers and the dancers. So Skip, our collective hat is off to you for your incredible efforts that made our evening such a wonderful success. This is really YOUR NIGHT!





## ABSOLUTELY SOCIAL



by Ruthann Fisher  
&  
Dorothy Moran  
Co-chairs

Our first-ever Tex/Mex night was held on October 17th with many residents attending. All Social Committee members (plus some of our men who helped with furniture moving) worked together to make this a fun evening. Accolades to our Nany Diaz whose creative efforts in the culinary and decor departments are unmatched.

By the time you read this, Skip's annual karaoke bash will have taken place. Always a big hit with everyone!

Our Village Holiday party will be Saturday, December 12th, and we'll ring in the New Year on Thursday, December 31st.

Our Social Committee meeting is held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 pm. All are welcome to join us at the Clubhouse. We sincerely mean this invitation - we'd like to have more members, and we're always open to new ideas for VSR social events.



**DO YOU GET THE POINT?** *We are inviting you to join the VSR Social Committee. We work, but we have fun too. Meetings are on the second Monday of each month. No, we don't usually serve wine!*

### ALL IN THE FAMILY

In western Massachusetts the Big E is a household word - yet not necessarily familiar to us in the eastern part of the state. The Big E is the Eastern States Exposition, an annual agricultural event held on the grounds in West Springfield. It is an enormous fair that goes on for ten days.

On the fair grounds there are craft booths, demonstrations, farm animals, the Clysdesdale horses, prize-winning produce, a midway, and cooking contests. This year's cooking contest was sponsored by Hidden Valley Salad Dressing Mix. Eighteen contestants competed with entrees, salads, and side dishes using the product. Among the competitors were VSR resident Joan Roy and her daughters Michele Curtis of Westford and Mary Ann McCue of Weymouth. Two out of these three emerged as winners!

Michele took 1st prize with her Hidden Valley Pizza, and Joan placed 2nd with her Hidden Valley Ratatouille. Prizes were a green ribbon and a modest cash award. It was a fun-filled day! Should you want a recipe, just call Joan.



*Welcome*

To Our New Neighbors

**Phil and Lorraine MacPherson**  
43 Stone Ridge Rd

**Man and Yon Kim**  
11 Highland Rd.

### GRANDCHILDREN PHOTOS KEEP 'EM COMING

Oh, those beautiful VSR grandchildren! The photos are coming in, and each one is more delightful to see than the next. Keep 'em coming. To reiterate, we want either digital or 35 mm prints. You can have the prints back if you so indicate. Please tell us their names, where they live, and what they call you. You may be in the photo with your grandchildren if you like.

Lots of folks have asked if we can wait until after Christmas since that's when the families will be together. The answer is yes, but let Shirley know ASAP if you will definitely be participating so a space can be saved for you. January 15th is the absolute deadline for photos. If we don't have them by then, you've missed out. Putting this issue together is a laborious task and will take Nany and I some time.

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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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