



THE QUARRY BULLETIN

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Volunteerism Remains Alive and Well in Our Village

by Bob Eddy

I recently met a couple who were looking at units for sale in our village. They asked if they could see the clubhouse, and in the course of our conversation I told them about our high level of volunteerism. Paul Okonak from Great North Property Management has commented on several occasions that the number of volunteers in our village is quite extraordinary compared to the other properties that he manages. So I set out to identify the folks who work behind the scenes and help make our village such a beautiful and wonderful place to live. They include the behind-the-scenes trustees, committee chairs, and all the other folks who step up to help. All volunteers!

Massachusetts law sets out rules for condominium associations. I suspect that the only legal requirement is there are a few elected officials such as a president, treasurer and secretary. The Village of Stone Ridge goes far beyond that. As of this writing, there are 69 people who volunteer, many for more than one function. Paul was right, that is extraordinary.

A couple of anecdotes: The Trails Committee recently did some work on the Long Trail. Although it was wet in spots, it wasn't too muddy to rake and prune. We decided to wait for drier weather to start work on the trails by the ponds. That afternoon I ran into a resident who had a large trash bag filled with litter she had just picked up on the pond trails. She was prepared, rain coat, boots and all, whereas we had been in sneakers and hiking shoes. The resident saw a need and took care of it. On another day, a resident was raking the grass beside Stone Ridge Road. When asked why, he responded that he was tired of looking at all the pine cones.

Volunteerism at VSR has a practical financial aspect as well as fostering community spirit. The electric crew has saved us hundreds of dollars by replacing the outside light bulbs. The irrigation group has learned how to adjust and clean sprinkler heads, saving money on service calls. The Finance Committee does such a great job preparing the annual budget that the management company doesn't even get involved. The property guys prune and cut down trees. All this helps keep our condo fees low. These are just a few examples. I'm sure there are many more. Whatever skill we need, we always seem to be able to find it in the village. How lucky we are to have such a willing talent pool!

The premier volunteer event of the year is, of course, Work/Play Day. We wash windows, clean the clubhouse, paint signs and building trim, prune bushes and trees, pick up litter, and remove silt fence, hay bales, and sprinkler tubing. Then we have a party. Folks who are going to be out of town even do chores ahead of time so they can be a part of this effort.

So, as Paul Harvey would say, "Now you know the rest of the story." Please go to VSR's website and take a look at the complete listing of all the current volunteers in our village. These are the folks who help make the Village of Stone Ridge such a wonderful place to be. THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL! If you would like to get involved, just contact any committee chair and tell them you would like to participate. Everyone is welcome. No experience required.

**Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless!
(author unknown)**

NOTES FROM THE LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

by Barbara West

Planting Flowers: John Remington, Area Manager for TruGreen Landcare, has sent us some good flower planting directions.

Transporting: Be sure plants are covered or tarped if they are transported a long distance or at high speeds.

Before Planting: 1. Submerge the entire tray (especially the pots) in a wheelbarrel filled with water and a diluted mix of Miracle Gro until they stop bubbling. Be sure not to spill water onto the turf since it will leave greener fertilized spots on grass.

2. Rake off all mulch from planting area. If excess mulch, rake off top 3" and leave bottom layer of old mulch and incorporate into soil.

3. Top dress area to be planted with 10-10-10 fertilizer and Osmocote; turn soil and mix fertilizer evenly in soil. Rake out to smooth soil.

Planting: 1. Install plants gently and firm the soil around the plant to eliminate air spaces.

2. Re-install existing mulch to a depth of 2 to 3 inches. Heavily water entire planted area with gentle spray from watering wand.

Planting area should be heavily watered every third day (with no rain) throughout the summer. The water soluble fertilizer Miracle Gro can also be applied every other week as required.

If Your Need Help, the Landscaping Committee has arranged for a member of the TruGreen staff to do any odd gardening jobs for residents. They are not to be landscape issues, but if you want to replace a bush (must go through Landscaping Committee first) or plant annuals or flower boxes, please call Barbara West and she will make arrangements. (978-692-3262). There is a \$35.00 per hour charge. Please make sure you go through Barbara West.

Cataldos Nursery suggests using Miracle Gro Bloom Booster after 2 to 3 weeks of planting annuals and perennials, especially in your flower boxes.

VSR YOGA CLASS



Claire, Louise, Kathy, Dianne, Barbara, Nancy, Elaine, Barbara, June, Lucille, Reeno, Tom, Shaama, Dottie, Niwas, (missing from photo: Rosalie, Gail, Sharon)

WALKING OUR VILLAGE TRAILS

by Joyce Minosh

Thirty five walkers met at the clubhouse on April 13th for a "walk-about" on the VSR trails. It was a nice, warm beautiful day, just perfect since the black flies weren't out yet. The Trail Committee had worked very hard during the preceding few weeks clearing the trails of winter debris and putting them in tip-top shape.



Our Village has two "official" trails, the Pond Trail and the Long Trail. We started at the trailhead of the Pond Trail located just beyond our clubhouse. We had one detour as a result of the heavy rains. Even so, the views of the pond were beautiful, and we were able to identify a beaver lodge and many tree trunks left from the beaver's cuttings, as well as a few that were man-made.

The trailhead to the Long Trail is just behind the Barry residence; it passes Barry's Pond and meanders through the woods behind the Village. The trail goes deeper into the woods, and at some points it's hard to believe you're so close to our Village. We passed large boulders, vernal pools and old stone walls.

The Trail Committee posted some temporary signs identifying a few of the trail highlights such as Erickson Island, Grandkids Pass, Bashore Extension and Craib Loop. But the most significant point of interest was Harry's Rock. With permission from Louise, Harry's Rock will become a more permanent site.



After their walk, the Trail Committee gathered at the clubhouse for wine and cheese. For those of you who missed this interesting event, it will be repeated in October when we will be able to view fall's beautiful colors.

Be sure to take a moment and thank the members of the Trail Committee, headed by Doug Craib, for their work and dedication to the trails in our beautiful Village.

Arts & Crafts Exhibited by Villagers

The Social Committee sponsored an Arts and Crafts Open House on April 24 from 1 to 4 pm. This was a good little show at which our Villagers were able to exhibit their talents in painting, photography, miniature making, knitting, quilting, embroidering and various other needlework. What a variety of creativity!

Those participating were Reeno Agha, David Auld, Shirley Chambers, Carlene Craib, Dom DeFronzo, Phyllis Duggan, Lois Frampton, Friederike Heiter, the "knitting group," Tink Nussbum, Judy Premru, Ana Prip, Gail Sergenian, Mort Silverman, Ruth White (Kathy Lemire's mom) and Jean Willets.

Some of the artists donated items that were raffled off at day's end: framed photo by Lois, knitted socks by Ana, girls bead-trimmed socks and crocheted scarf by Phyllis, framed painting by Dom, knitted scarf and decoupage plate by Friederike, bottle of wine and knitted scarf by Irene. Thank all of you for your generous donations.



Dollhouse miniatures made by Shirley using 1-in. to 1-ft scale. Oriental rugs were petitpointed, and braided rugs were made from strands of embroidery floss tightly braided and then sewn together. She copied her own antiques to make the wooden accessories.



Fun stuffed toys made by Ruth White, Kathy Lemire's mother.



PHOTOS: DAVID AULD

Dom DeFronzo's paintings. He says he applies his water colors with a "heavy hand."



In the foreground is the knitting group's display of choice items, each identified with contributor's name. Next to it is Frederike's lovely intricate needlework, and to the left is Mort on deck to answer questions about his striking paintings.



A photograph Lois took in France of St. Cirq La Popie that she first printed on cotton and then overlaid it with one printed on silk to give a 3-D effect.



Tink's charming paintings are water colors, and a few acrylics.



Dave's display of his amazing color photographs drew much attention. The morning glory to the right titled "Beauty in the Dark" was a favorite

OUR NIGHT OF MERRIMENT WITH RICK LARRIMORE

by Shirley Chambers

The panorama of small round tables neatly set with white tablecloths, wine goblets over cranberry colored napkins, and bowls of snacks (see photo) was an enticing prelude to the entertainment in store for us on this Tuesday night – a night of merriment arranged and put in place by Skip and Pauline.

Our clubhouse was transformed into a cabaret setting, and it became alive with singing and dancing and laughter.



PHOTOS: DAVID AULD & TOM BARRY



Rick Larrimore (in his outrageous wardrobe) impersonating Rod Stewart was the perfect entertainer for us, and I think we were the perfect receptive audience for him and his buffoonery. Maybe he expected he would be entertaining a group of old fogies, but boy was he surprised when he found that we sure don't party "old."

Skip had deliberately seated many of our single ladies near the front knowing that Rick would play to them teasingly, and this he did throughout the evening with the crowd's laughing approval. He targeted Joan Roy numerous times trying to "seduce her" with his charms, but this beguiling lady repeatedly resisted his overtures. He did slip her his room key, which she is keeping "just in case." This was truly one of the highlights of our evening. Thank you Joan for being such a good sport.

His raspy Rod Stewart voice never faltered during his two hours of singing of 33 songs. He mostly did Rod's songs such as *Some Guys Have All the Luck* and *Have I Told You Lately*, sandwiched around a group of those old faithful American classics that are all good for dancing. He invited the crowd to sing along with him on some songs, and to dance in the aisles anytime we were moved to do so. And we were so moved often. At one time absolutely everyone was up dancing. He sang with Frank Tino, and his raspy and Frank's baritone blended nicely. Their rendition of *The Way You Look Tonight* was great.

Then there was Norman Swanson and his wacky hairdo cavorting around with the plastic guitar Rick tossed to him periodically.



PHOTOS: DAVID AULD & TOM BARRY

The warm night invited the opening of outside doors, which the ladies used to advantage by dancing in a conga line out one and back in another. When Rick handed Phyllis Duggan the mic, he was not prepared for what came forth from this gifted singer. Amazing! and he was totally astonished.

The music crescendoed as the evening drew to an end with Rick standing up on the fireplace hearth and everyone around him singing *Maggie May*. And what an ovation he got! I think Rick does a better Rod Stewart than Rod Stewart does.

Skip and Pauline received many emails after the party with comments such as "It was fabulous." "Thanks for making VSR a great place to live." "So fun!" "I came home all aglow." "You made an enjoyable night just perfect." "Thank Pauline for me also. Her touch was obvious in the clubhouse setup." "Awesome." "What a great time last night - and you and Pauline made it happen."

Did you see on our bulletin board the 8x10 glossy Rick sent us autographed "To VSR - My favorite kids! Rick"

VILLAGE EFFORT SPELLS SUCCESS FOR WORK/PLAY DAY 2010

by Paul Currier

Despite dreary weather with rain on and off for most of the afternoon, nothing could stop our village volunteers from completing their assignments.

Doug Craib and Larry Tobiason were in charge and made sure everyone had a list of tasks, necessary tools and equipment to complete the day's work. It all went smoothly from the minute villagers started showing up at 12:00 noon.

Signposts got painted, windows were cleaned, cabinets organized, trees and limbs were cut, debris and trash picked up, brick walkways leveled. The village sparkled at the end of the day, and of course the sun came out to shine on everyone who pitched in during the day.

We had several crews picking up debris around the village grounds. Jean Guthrie, Vicki Rauktys, and Susan Neyman were very diligent down around the ball field and Butterfly Place. Nobody can condemn the after-dusk parking lot visitors for leaving evidence of their nights work behind. But the line was drawn with this cleanup activity.

Also out and about picking up the grounds were Sharon Erickson, June Halio, Charlotte Demetri, and Elaine Tino. They had lots of laughs and seemed to be enjoying themselves as they scoured the village open space for pick-me-ups.



The paint teams were comprised of Jayne Currier, Gail Eddy, Eli Demetri, Peter Abate, Jack Gilmartin, and Norm Swanson. They had a big challenge with the sometimes driving rain. But they kept to the task and successfully completed all the painting of signposts and stop signs.



The largest crew was comprised of Len Halio, Bill Nussbum, Carl Erickson, Ron Caterino, Tom Barry, Donn Hill, Jack Bilodeau, and Phil MacPherson. They were cleaning out the wooded areas of dead trees and branches. This was a tough job for a tough team. They jumped in their vans moving from one location to another. It reminded one of the Concord Correctional Institute inmates. The only things missing were the orange jump suits.

We also had a team installing stop signs: Bob Eddy, Frank Bashore, and Steve Currier. The digging was difficult. We are not called Stoneridge for nothing! It's a pity Frank had to work so hard on his birthday. No mercy was shown by this crew.

The clubhouse brick walk got a makeover as well. There were several who lent a hand during the course of the afternoon. Domenic, the grill sergeant, DeFronzo was part of the hard working team, along with Frank Tino, Jack Gilmartin, and Jack Bilodeau. There may have been others who assisted, so pardon me if I missed a few.

Inside the clubhouse we also had a crew of workers. Carlene Craib was cleaning windows in the workout room. Nancy Sharpe was also helping clean and organize the kitchen.

After all the work was completed, we had our play half of the Work/Play Day. Dom and Pete grilled up the burgers and dogs and we all sat around munching and drinking until our bellies were full.

A big thank you to all who helped make this another successful Work/Play Day in the village.



Simply Social

Cathy Abate, Loretta Auld, & Joyce Minosh,
Tri-chairs

So far this year our social events have been a smashing success, as described in this Bulletin. Here are our plans for the balance of 2010:

- May 31 - Memorial Day Cookout
- July 5 - 4th of July Cookout
- Aug. 22 - Ice Cream Social
- Sept. 6 - Labor Day Cookout
- Sept. 25 - Chili Challenge
- Oct. 16 - Saturday Morning Coffee
- Nov. 13 - Karaoke
- Dec. 11 - Christmas Party
- Dec. 31 - New Years Eve Party

—Reported by Joyce Minosh

LIBRARY NEWS



by Linda Anzivino

On a recent weekend visit to New York City, Larry and I discovered a unique place to stay if you feel like splurging – the Library Hotel at 299 Madison Ave. @41st St. (www.libraryhotel.com). Each of the ten guestroom floors is dedicated to one of the ten major categories of the Dewey Decimal System, and each room has a collection of books and art relevant to one distinctive topic within the category of the floor to which it belongs. The lobby has two filled bookshelves. The guest “Reading Room” has many chairs, tables and a piano. There is also a fireplace room called the “Writer’s Den.”

You can step out of the front door of the hotel, look to your right and see the New York Public Library, which is just steps away. This is another great spot to visit. See the beautiful reading rooms and the unique gift shop.

Built into the sidewalk from the hotel to the public library are many brass plaques with reading-related quotes; for example “The reading of good books is like a conversation with the best men of past centuries.” (Rene Decartes.) Approximately a dozen others quote Dickinson, Yeats, Picasso, etc.



by Dianne Marston

VSR



NEWS

About 15 members were present for the April book club discussion centered around the Elizabeth Berg novel, *Never Change*. It was a thought-provoking book. If you have not yet read it, it would be a great summer read.

Our next meeting will be on May 27, at which time the novel *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford will be discussed. This novel “explores the age-old conflicts between father and son, the beauty and sadness of what happened to Japanese Americans in the Seattle area during World War II, and the depths and longing of deep-heart love. An impressive, bitter, and sweet debut.” (Lisa See, author)

On July 8 we will look at WWII from a different perspective. *City of Thieves: A Novel* is by David Benioff. “Benioff has written something truly remarkable. It is an unusual portrayal of WWII that combines the gruesome horrors of war with an often lighthearted innocence. Circumstances pair seventeen-year-old Lev with deserter soldier Kolya and they are appropriated to find a dozen eggs in a famished country for a Colonel's daughter's wedding. It is a unique perspective of Russia during the Nazi siege of Leningrad.” (Julie Merilatt)

Everyone is welcome to join us for refreshments and discussion of these books on May 27 and July 8!

A Quiet Spot - The past is within us, as the wise man said, and surely we all have a quiet spot that will bring it out. When the ever-onward rush of technology threatens to over-stretch our links to the past and to nature, take yourself to a nice quiet spot like our quarry. It will do a lot to set our world to rights.

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