

AND NOW YOU KNOW

by Shirley Chambers



PHOTO: SHIRLEY CHAMBERS

That David Auld and Peter Abate won the election and will be our new Trustees for the next three years. We are so grateful to Joel Shyavitz for throwing his hat in the ring. It was unquestionably a hard choice for us with three such great candidates.

The new Board of Trustees met on Oct. 11 to reorganize for the coming year. Carlene Craib was elected as President, Bill Townsend as Vice President, Frank Bashore as Secretary, and Peter Abate as Treasurer.

The new Board's liaison committee assignments were made as follows: Finance and Budget—Peter Abate, Legal—David Auld, Architectural Standards and Review—David Auld, Property Management—Bill Townsend, Waste Water Treatment Plant—Frank Bashore.

TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE 2011 CONDO FEES UP 7.89%, WATER AND SEWER FEES REDUCED

At the Nov. 4th First Thursday Meeting Ken Hyle, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, reviewed the 2011 budgets approved by the Board of Trustees. He explained to the unit owners that the increase in the condo fees is necessary as we continue to repair and pay for the damages from the Ice Dams and the replacement of the wet siding that was discussed last year. As we go forward, he said we will need about \$55,000.00 to cover the cost of repairing and maintaining the decks. This project will be ongoing for two to three years.

Ken also noted that in our nine years here, this is our fifth increase, while three years saw no increase and one year had a decrease.

As a result of good planning and management by the Water & Sewer Committee (and no surprises), the finances in this area are such that the monthly fee is being reduced from \$125.00 to \$115.00.

Peter Abate, Treasurer and Liaison to the Budget and Finance Committee, thanked Ken and all the members for their work and time in completing this task. And we Villagers also wish to express our gratitude to Ken and his committee.

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY
CARLENE CRAIB
AT VSR'S ANNUAL MEETING ON
SEPT. 29th 2010**



In preparing for the Annual Meeting tonight, I spent an enjoyable half hour reading over the Quarry Bulletins beginning with April 2004. What a treat to see the breadth and depth of involvement by the residents of the Village over these past six years! From the enormously popular and fun social events to the informative and timely articles about the infrastructure of the community, the Bulletin makes clear the level of commitment we all have to making this a wonderful place to live. And of course the names of its leaders were impossible to miss.

There was Ron Caterino, member of the Transition Committee and Finance Committee from the beginning, chair of the Finance Committee and then elected to the Board of Trustees in 2007. His attention to the details of our financial affairs has contributed to our firm financial footing and to a complete understanding of the finances of the Village. I venture to guess that not many condo association Finance Committee chairs actually visit Great North each year to review the accounting practices and make sure they understand each nuance. Ron has served as Vice President/Treasurer of the Board and has consistently been an informed and impassioned champion of excellent management of the Village. He has assured us that he will stay on the Finance Committee in the days ahead. On behalf of all the residents, thank you, Ron, you will be missed.

Right there beside Ron's name in all the reports about the Village from the very beginning is Tom Barry's. He too served on the Transition Committee and as Finance and Budget Committee chair. He was instrumental in setting up our escrow accounts and along with Ron and Ken Hyle, obtaining CD's to optimize our investments. In 2004 he was elected to the Board of Trustees and in 2007 he became chair. Since then he has led us through storm (literal) and calm, always with intelligence and single-minded purpose to make this an efficiently run community that offers quality of life for everyone. His organizational skills are unsurpassed and his grasp of the details of everything in the Village from the water and sewer system to the nuances of drainage never ceases to amaze me. He is always there, whether it is setting up for an event, handling a resident concern, visiting the bank to squeeze a few more points of interest, negotiating a contract, or following up with National Grid! He steps off the Board, but he, like Ron, promises to stay involved and assist the new Board with his expertise. I know we will rely on him, and we thank him heartily for his long excellent service to the Board and all the residents of the Village.

**2010-2011 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.

Removal Procedures

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 Elaine Devlin at Great North Property Management. Elaine's phone number is 1-800-221-0210. Each telephone report should be followed by written confirmation sent to her at: Great North Property Management, 76 Northeastern Blvd. #28, Nashua, NH 03062.

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

SOCIALIZE - EXERCISE - MINIMIZE



by Doug Craib

A dozen of your neighbors recently got together for some coffee and donuts, some exercise, and some hard work to help keep our condo fees at a minimum. On October 14th two groups organized and began the process of clearing two of our detention basins. These basins are designed to hold back storm water runoff from our Village's roads, and slowly release the water into the ground. In addition, the basins filter out sediment. We have five basins on our property, each covering roughly a quarter acre. They must be kept clear to work properly.

Photo No. 1 shows some of the first group starting work at the basin by 29 Sandstone. A small forest had grown up here over the years and needed to be removed. In addition, thick vegetation on the sides of the basin required mowing.

At the same time a second group of Villagers was working at the basin behind 43 Stone Ridge. The MacPhersons had already taken one of their weekends and cut down the trees for us. We then carried the huge pile up the Pond Trail to the road so that TruGreen could take it away.

While part of the crew at the Sandstone basin cleared and mowed, others were moving debris up to the road. Photo No. 2 shows Dick Coleman lugging one of the larger trees. We are continually grateful for the

degree of volunteerism here at the Village. These efforts have a direct impact on keeping our condominium fees as low as possible while maintaining the Village infrastructure and beauty.

Photo No. 3 shows what the basin on Sandstone looked like in the early afternoon, a great result from a lot of hard work! By the time you read this we hope to have completed one or two more of our detention basins, saving the Village some money while getting some exercise and having fun all at the same time.

Thanks to all who worked on this project, and keep watching the bulletin board for similar upcoming opportunities.



Photo No. 2



Photo No. 3



Photo No. 1



CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

by Loretta Auld

I wish to thank the volunteers who have checked the clubhouse rentals for the months of July-Aug (Linda and Larry Anzivino), Sept-Oct (Chris and Dom DeFronzo), Nov-Dec (Susan and Donn Hill). Joan Roy and Louise O'Donnell will be the contacts for volunteers for this important task in the future. Joan Roy is the point person who will call Great North for the release of the rental security deposit. Friederike Heiter will maintain the care of the calendar dates in the foyer.

Please note we need volunteers to check the integrity of the clubhouse after rentals in order to continue the rental use of this facility.

POULIN PLAYED THE ORBISON PERSONA TO THE HILT

by Shirley Chambers

Here we go again filling our clubhouse with those little round tables (cabaret style), but this time 80 people had to be seated, so the tables each had to accommodate 5 or 6 people - and it worked. Once more Skip and Pauline set the stage perfectly. After the "boys" emptied the room of furniture, they then set up 80 chairs in 12 minutes, according to Skip. Will they beat that record next time?

Mark Poulin opened the evening with some Beatles songs. After a quick exit, he reappeared as Roy Orbison sporting the black outfit, wig, and those big sunglasses, and his rendition of him was visually and vocally right on. Mark has been performing this tribute to Orbison for more than 15 years, so long that he's beginning to really "become" him.

Mark's choice of Orbison's songs pleased the crowd. My favorite number during the evening was when Skip joined Mark singing *Claudette*. Others agreed, because it brought down the (club)house, so to speak.

Our wild and wacky "girls" got their therapy by dancing up a storm in the hall, and of course later, as has become the custom, conga-lining amongst the tables. Tom West tried to trip them by scrunching down in front of the leader, with Barbara hopeful that he would be able to get up again.

Never let it be said that we Villagers don't know how to have fun! This was an altogether pleasant evening of music, conversation, wine, and dancing, and again, thank you Skip and Pauline for going to such great lengths to see that we are so elegantly entertained. And thank you Social Committee for the deserts and coffee at the evening's end, not to mention all the little things the Committee members do at all our parties to make everything run smoothly.



"Another great evening ... the clubhouse looked great - a touch of class at VSR." JG

"Thanks, last night was fantastic. Everyone had a great time. I have only one question—who's on deck?" JM

"Thank you again for orchestrating such fun for all of us Village People! It was outstanding as was your Claudette duet with Roy." BL

"Thanks for the fantastic show Tuesday night. ... We truly understand the full extent of effort required to plan and run something of this magnitude. You are truly our hero." C&RC

PHOTOS: DAVID AULD AND TOM BARRY

THE VSR FAMILY Taking Care of One Another

In the works is a new VSR group forming to offer assistance to people in our Village who may need help of some kind. They call themselves HELPING HANDS, appropriately named since they will, when needed, drive you to appointments, pick up groceries or prescriptions for you, get you to a post office, cook you a meal, etc. This is for residents who may be shut-ins, recuperating from surgery or illness, or during times of bereavement. It is for people who may, at some point in their lives, need help and may not have family nearby.

HELPING HANDS will shortly be soliciting volunteers to perform these tasks. Watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board or call Louise O'Donnell (978-589-1175) or Joan Roy (978-692-6513) for more information. This group will also make a presentation at our December Village Meeting.



DROP-IN COFFEE

On a lovely fall morning 45 residents connected with neighbors after the summer months of travel and various other activities. The Danish pastries, bagels with three choices of cream cheese, donuts, warm croissants with butter and jam, and lots of coffee and conversation helped to make it a most enjoyable gathering. An unexpected special touch was the celebration of George and Friederike Heiter's 50th wedding anniversary on that day (Sept. 25th).



ARTIST MARIE STABILE WINS MASSACHUSETTS HOLIDAY GREETING CARD CONTEST



We are forever rediscovering the amazing talents of our Village residents. Gifted artist Marie Stabile entered this year's contest for seniors as an amateur. The theme was "December Holiday at the State House," and Marie did her prize winning rendition from memory and imagination. This is the holiday card that will be sent out from Secretary of State Galvin's office for 2010. Her winning painting has been on exhibit at the Commonwealth Museum at Columiba Point in Boston since Oct.26th. It is being reproduced and will be sold at the State House and in the Museum. Probably Marie will have some copies for sale here in the Village. Check with her later.

By the time this issue of the Bulletin is in print, Marie, as the winning artist, will have received an Affirmation of Award (Nov. 5) at a ceremony at the Museum. You perhaps saw the invitation to all on the bulletin board

inviting her friends and family to a brunch in her honor at the museum.

Marie has been painting for some 30 years and for a time studied under Robert Douglas Hunter, one of the most important of the "Boston School" painters. She has currently been teaching painting (all media) at two Westford senior centers, and in the winter teaches at the SEA Colony in Palm Coast, FL. She so willingly shares her talents with others, and it's interesting who inspired her to start teaching - her next door neighbors, the Johnsons. One day Nick and Rosalie said "Could you show us how to paint?" And thus was born in 2006 her first class, the end result of which is the painting of VSR's clubhouse now hanging over our fireplace mantel there.

Speaking for all at VSR, congratulations Marie, you're a gem.



Pulling Another Cork at VSR

Matchmaker, Matchmaker, Make Me A Match...

The **Holiday Season** is closing in fast. Soon the fireplace will be roaring and Nat King Cole will be playing on the Bose. My role at this time of year is to make sure we're well stocked with the wines that go best with the traditional holiday dinners. So, I put on my Friar Tuck robe, light a candle and head down to the dark corners of Quarry Cellar's to take that all important inventory.

In annual holiday traditions many families will be serving either turkey, ham, or a beef tenderloin. It mirrors that famous Norman Rockwell painting of the holiday dinner with family around the table. So let's take a moment in this issue and look at pairing some wines with those great dishes.

Keep in mind that all of the wines noted here range between \$8 to \$14 and can be purchased at the N.H. Liquor Store, located at exit 6, behind the Christmas Tree Shop. They have the larger and more complete selection.

First we start with a **Sparkling Bubbly** for an aperitif. Opening a bottle of Champagne is a time honored ceremony that brings together everyone in the group. The perfect way to set the festive atmosphere from the pop of the cork to those bubbles floating their way to the top of the flute.

Recommend **Cristalino Brut**, from Spain.

On to the dinner table:

WITH TURKEY—you could go with a **Beaujolais**, but **Pinot Noir** is probably the best choice for reds. Fruity wines such as a German **Riesling** or Italian **Pinot Grigio** are very good choices.

WITH HAM—if glazed, go with the German **Riesling**; if roasted without sweet glaze, select a red **Burgundy** or domestic **Pinot Noir**.

A BEEF TENDERLOIN is best partnered with red wines, particularly full-bodied Napa **Cabernets** or **Bordeaux**.

Recommend: **Cabernet** and there are dozens, but I have taken a liking to Chateau Ste. Michelle, J. Lohr, Rodney Strong, and R&V Vineyards.

Bordeaux so many to choose from that I get a different one each time and anticipate the surprise. There are quite a few good choices between \$10 and \$15.

Look for a vintage 2005, as they say in the wine industry "it was a good year," and even the less expensive ones are good.

HURRAY FOR DESSERT—I thought it would never get here. Pick a pie - apple, pecan, pumpkin. Or go for another traditional family favorite. Cheese cake anyone? They all pair so well with a **Muscato di Asti** from Italy. It gets rave reviews each time we pour one.

—*Cheers and Happy Holidays from Quarry Cellars*

LIBRARY NEWS



by Linda Anzivino

"I've never known any trouble that an hour's reading didn't assuage."

—Charles de Secondant

There are several internet sites that may be of interest to people who love books.

Librarything.com is a cataloging and social networking site for book lovers.

Shelfari.com is also a social network where you can create a virtual shelf to show off your books, see what your friends are reading and discover new books.

Pagebypagebooks.com You can choose from hundreds of books to read online for free.

Cash4books.net This is a website where you can sell books and make some money.

Eatyourbooks.com let's you search it's database of 100,000 cookbooks. You can search by ingredient or make shopping lists and put an end to boring dinners!

Wikipedia.com Look up the word book and you will find all kinds of interesting facts including the history of books, book manufacturing, types of books, etc.

Also, with the holiday season in full swing, remember that a book makes the perfect gift and it is easy to wrap!

LOST THE KEY TO YOUR MAIL BOX?

by Shirley Chambers



After several long and exasperating conversations with Post Office officials (who insisted I go to the developer or to our condo association for keys), I learned this is what you have to do. Call a locksmith and have the lock changed. When you do so you will have to make arrangements for the smithy to get into the Clubhouse. Locksmiths are listed in the telephone book or googling will give you names of those in both the Lowell and Nashua areas. The Post Office mentioned Post Office Locksmith Shop (978) 453-6616, although they assured me there is no affiliation. It will probably cost you about \$20.

Wouldn't it be a good idea for all of us **today** to have duplicate keys made and tucked away "just in case?" Ace Hardware does a nice job of keys. Do not call Herb Shanzer. He manages the key cards for our Clubhouse doors but has no connection with U.S. mail box keys.

VILLAGE OF STONE RIDGE MARKER - FINALLY IN PLACE

Its history goes back to mid-2007 when the concept initially got off the ground. It was delayed and put on hold various times during the last three years awaiting various Town of Westford approvals. Early on, the Town twice declined its installation, but in June of 2008 Tom Barry picked up the project and began to move it through all the avenues of Town red-tape, one by one. Finally, based on the July 2010 approval by Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, the marker was ordered through Garside Granite products of Westford and put in place on Sept. 23, 2010.

The marker is 4 ft high x 6 ft wide x 8 ft deep. The stone is a Barre Granite, cut and engraved in Barre, VT using a full-scale blueprint that was computer-generated by J.T. Smith of Garside Granite Products. Both the front and back of the stone have a polished finish that will protect it for generations to come. Interestingly, the engraving was done by computer, and the lettering is approximately 1/4 to 3/8 in. deep,

and painted black. The tree in the logo is a combination of light, dark, and polished etching to give the branches and globe of the tree a realistic look. The top and sides of the marker are natural rough-cut granite. The marker sits on a concrete foundation that is about 8 ft long x 2 ft wide x 3 ft deep and is held in place by stainless steel pins.



ANOTHER ENTRANCING TRAVELOGUE BY ROSE O'DONNELL

Most of us will never get there, so traveling vicariously to Antarctica through Rose's beautiful photos with her enthusiastic commentary was spellbinding, even for the veteran world traveler. We thank her so much for taking us on this remarkable trip at our Oct. 7th Village Meeting.

Rose (Louise's sister-in-law) reminded us that the Antarctica continent contains 70% of the world's fresh water and 90% of the world's ice! Although no native people live there, no country owns it, and it's the coldest place on earth, it is nevertheless truly beautiful. As Rose's photos show, the icebergs and glaciers were breathtaking and inspiring and awesome.

Rose is one gutsy lady; this was not a trip for the timid. Just getting there was remarkable. Rose said

"It took five days to reach the Antarctic Circle where we began seeing icebergs and the other wonders: one day to Buenos Aires, one day in Ushuaia, two days crossing Drake's Passage, and one additional day at sea sailing straight south to the Circle. Then we started making the landings and seeing the sights. Amazingly, it took only three days to get home since we were already at the top of the Antarctic Peninsula: two days to cross Drake's Passage and one full day of flying home."

Anyone who couldn't be at the showing, or any who would just like to see the pictures again, the URL is: <http://picasaweb.google.com/rose.odonnell>. If you want to copy any, Rose says they make good computer wallpaper.

carpe diem

Naturalist/essayist John Burroughs wrote "I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read and all the friends I want to see."

And how can we ignore Dr. Seuss when he asks:

How did it get so late so soon?

It's night before it's afternoon.

December is here before it's June.

My goodness how the time has flown,

How did it get so late so soon?

Our old friend Emily Dickinson insisted "That it will never come again is what makes life so sweet."

"So much of our time in preparation, so much is routine, and so much retrospect, that the path of each man's genius contracts itself to a very few hours."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Things which matter most should never be at the mercy of things which matter least."

~Johann von Goethe

Simply Social

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

We'll report on Nov.13th's Chili Challenge in the next Bulletin. There was much excitement over this one. We're nearing the end of 2010, a year that's been loaded with wonderful social events, but we still have a few to go:

- Trip to Peabody Essex Museum on Nov. 19
- Trip to see Music Man on Nov. 21
- Holiday Party on Dec.11
- Caroling on Dec. 21
- New Year's Eve Event on Dec. 31

WHISTLER HOUSE MUSEUM OF ART

by Joyce Minosh

Twenty folks from our Village visited the Whistler Museum in downtown Lowell on Oct. 31. The artist James McNeill was born in this house on July 11, 1834. The museum maintains a permanent art collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century American art. Curator of the museum Michael Lally was entertaining, knowledgeable and held our interest throughout the visit.

After our tour of the permanent collection, we also enjoyed learning about the donation of the works of Arshile Gorky, an artist from Rockport, MA. The Parker Gallery behind the museum also houses the temporary collection of Meredith Fife.

This educational and entertaining visit was enhanced by the wine and cheese offered in the main salon. I think folks were surprised at how much they enjoyed visiting this "jewel of Lowell."

Our next museum visit will be on November 19th at the Peabody Essex Museum. Look for details on the sign-up sheet at the Clubhouse.

COME JOIN IN THE FUN

Line Dancing every 2nd and 4th Tuesdays.
We're all beginners. Come to the workout room
and learn the basic moves.

Next class is Dec. 14th at 7:00.

There's a Japanese Proverb that says
"We're fools whether we dance or not,
so we might as well dance."



by Dianne Marston

VSR



NEWS

Indulgence!! That word might describe what happened on Nov. 4 as 19 members of the VSR Book Club met. Upon arrival, there was much socializing with VSR neighbors while enjoying delicious refreshments. We then engaged in a thoughtful discussion of the *The Glass Castle*, a heart-wrenching memoir, by Jeannette Walls. It had touched each of us in many different ways. Despite the rain and cold outside, we were warmed by hot tea, the spirit of friendship, and an intellectual and emotional pursuit of understanding the human spirit, as portrayed in this book.

We invite you to join us at our next meeting on December 16 when we will discuss *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers. This true story was unanimously chosen by the group. It is a riveting, intimate, wide-scanning, disturbing, inspiring nonfiction account of a New Orleans couple caught between the response to Hurricane Katrina and the war on terror. It is the winner of countless literary awards. Surely there will be much to discuss after reading this book.



The January 27th meeting will feature the best selling *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. This novel is a saga about love, medicine, and exile, moving from Ethiopia to New York City and back again. It is an unforgettable story of two brothers whose fates are forever intertwined. It is described as "enlightening, absorbing, vivid, thrilling, and vastly entertaining"!

THE QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

Property Management

ELAINE DEVLIN

Managing Editor

SHIRLEY CHAMBERS

Production Manager

NANY DIAZ

Contributing Writers

LINDA ANZIVINO

LORETTA AULD

SHIRLEY CHAMBERS

CARLENE CRAIB

DOUG CRAIB

BOB EDDY

DIANNE MARSTON

QUARRY CELLARS

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: 7 Sandstone Rd., Westford, MA 01886.