



the Village at Stone Ridge

Quarry Bulletin

July ~ August, 2011

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN

It came right down to the wire (one day after deadline) – but we finally have a candidate who has accepted his nomination – Stephen Currier of 2 Landview Rd. Thank you so much Stephen. See page 2 for his biographical data and for the election procedure timetable.

Single Life at the Village of Stone Ridge ~ Who Needs a Dating Service?



***Center stage at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden Luncheon—
Frank Bashore, the babe magnet. (Story on page 4)***

Volume 8

Special Interest Articles

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BIOGRAPHY OF CANDIDATE STEPHEN CURRIER

I am a graduate of Boston College. My entire career was spent in Information Technology (IT) managing projects and other professionals at large insurance, personal care products, high tech and financial services companies. My last position was as director of software engineering/development until early 2009. Since that time I have become a certified project manager (PMP), earned a green belt in Six Sigma (process improvement) and served as volunteer coordinator at Greater Nashua Habitat for Humanity.

I am a husband of nearly 38 years, a father of two sons and a 'papa' of three boys and two girls ages 3 and 15. Middlesex County has been my home my entire life, having been born and raised in Lawrence, raising our family in Andover and downsizing to Westford (the other side of town).

I visited an open house at the model units on Rockwell Rd when the rest of the place was just mud and rocks, and from that time on I thought VSR would be a great place to live. I followed the development over the years and finally convinced my wife Clara to make the move. So we purchased the last "never-lived-in-unit" built in our Village, which was Beyond the aesthetic beauty of the village, which had to that point been the attraction, we soon found out, after moving in late November 2005, what a vibrant and welcoming community we had joined.

With great enthusiasm and anticipation, I look forward to serving on the Board of Trustees and to add, in whatever way I can, to the continued success and vitality of our Village.



ELECTION PROCEDURE TIMETABLE

- Thursday Night Village Meeting, Sept. 8
- Candidates Night – question and answer forum
- Ballots mailed to residents on or before Aug. 31
- Cast ballot before Sept. 28 midnight
- Results announced by Oct. 5



Photos by Dave Auld

A MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE RESIDENTS WHO HAVE PASSED

At our Memorial Day Cookout on May 30, we gathered around our flag shortly after 1:00, and Frank Bashore lowered the flag to half mast while Nick Johnson led us in a tribute to Veteran Norm Swanson and other residents who passed during the last year: Peggy Bashore, Agnes Hyle, Marlene Mallory, and Ruth White.

And now we have a VSR chorus! After several nighttime rehearsals, the Chorus made its debut on this Memorial Day, first singing Amazing Grace, then Hymn to Freedom (in four-part harmony) and then they led the rest of the villagers in a zippy medley of Americana. Ruth Ann Dillon was at the piano and Donn at the podium leading the group. Hopefully the audience had as much fun as the singers. The VSR Chorus will perform again! Date to be announced.

The 68 Villagers who attended the cookout certainly left sated with food after making quite a dent in the hot dogs, hamburgers, turkeyburgers, and several tables laden with all those delicious sides our Villagers bring. And for dessert who can beat Kathy Abate's flag cake with strawberries and blueberries supplying the colors!

And the winner of the 50-50 was Dorothy Moran, who headed right to the pet store.

LET'S TALK ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS

Communications in our Village began in 2004 with a small committee of five to put together a bulletin. Richard Diaz chaired the group. In 2007, at the request of the Board of Trustees, a larger Communications Committee was officially formed with Louise O'Donnell as Chair. It included Richard Diaz, Nany Diaz, Shirley Chambers, Barbara Leary, Harriet Shanzer, and this year Sandy Kelly joined us to take over Nany's role as Production Manager of the Bulletin.

Committee functions include:

Publication of the Quarry Bulletin six times a year: Shirley Chambers & Sandy Kelly

Website Management: Harriet Shanzer

News You Can Use and timely notices: Carlene Craib

Residents' Directory 2008 & 2010 (with the help of many volunteers): Cathy Shreve, Shirley Chambers, Dorothy Moran, Nancy Sharpe, and Carol Shyavitz

Data Management: Carlene Craib

Election Management: Barbara Leary

Village meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month with topical items every month. Some of the subjects presented at these meetings were budget and finance reviews, rules and regulations updates, and candidates' night.

Appleby & Wyman's VP Bob Emerson gave us valuable advice about insurance here in our Village (Bill Nussbum). In a question and answer format Al Garside told us about the quarries in Westford and gave us the history of VSR's quarry. Doug Craib explained our Village's trail system, and Bob Eddy took us on a tour of the Waste Water Treatment facility. Louis Frampton told us all about shrub care, and Sandy Collins described the Town of Westford's Emergency Preparedness. Thanks to Linda Barry we learned how to use the automatic defibrillator and now know where it's kept here at VSR. Ellen Harde gave us a wonderful overview of Westford's history, and TruGreen's Branch Manager John Lawrence brought us up to date on landscaping plans for our Village. A group of long-time Westford residents shared some townie secrets with us (Carlene Craib & Joan Roy). Rose O'Donnell took us on an African safari and to beautiful Antartica with her wonderful slide shows.

We will continue to present subjects of interest. If you have any ideas for future topics please let Louise O'Donnell know.

The latest endeavor of the Communications Committee is Helping Hands, which was created to assist our Villagers when they are in need of assistance. The group includes Cathy Shreve, Ann Sullivan, Joan Roy, Judy Premru and Louise O'Donnell.

The Wonderful Things our Westford Library Makes Available to Us

by Louise O'Donnell



At our Village meeting on June 2 our guest speaker was Nancy Boutet, the delightful and fun-loving Youth Services Librarian from the J.V. Fletcher Public Library. She brought us up to date on all our library has to offer, including a new system adopted on May 31 called EVERGREEN, an open-source integrated library system used by hundreds of libraries nationwide.

The library's offerings include databases and electronic books to music and to reference collections, and she explained audio books such as Playaway, the all-in-one audiobook that is small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, no cassettes, no CD's, no downloading, just press PLAY! We were reminded that the library has reading programs both for adults and for children.

Nancy also explained the summer programs to keep visiting grandchildren busy. She brought along a robot (R2-D2) who quivered at the mention of Darth Vader. It was a delightful evening with Nancy.

Trip to Tower Hill Botanic Garden
by Shirley Chambers

Twenty five residents rode happily on a chartered bus (entertained sporadically by Elaine Tino) to visit the Tower Hill Botanic Garden located on 132 bucolic acres in Boylston, MA. Tower Hill is described as a world class garden that’s always in season. They have eight innovative display gardens, and the tour of those we got to see was refreshing, educational and beautiful. Our tour guide was excellent, imparting very interesting information as we went along.

The group had lunch at the Twig’s Café on the premises where the photo on the front of this Bulletin was taken. It was called to our attention that some of our ladies were imbibing before noon! Undoubtedly the drizzly chilly weather fostered this early activity.

The tour, our luncheon, and our chartered bus ride were all set in motion by Joyce Minosh who is an old hand at directing this sort of thing. It is, indeed, her forte. Thank you again, Joyce, for a most enjoyable day.

4th of July Cookout – the Beginning and the End

The room was ready for the 58 Villagers who came to eat, chat and celebrate. And at the end of his busy day, Master Griller Dom DeFronzo rests on his laurels. The jollity and conviviality during the day were only excelled by the wonderful patriotic decorations and the good food. Our Villagers really know how to celebrate (and how to eat).

Don Shreve won the 50-50. Thank you Social Committee for another outstanding event.



***I LOVE COFFEE, I LOVE TEA - -
 I LOVE THE JAVA JIVE AND IT LOVES
 ME. COFFEE AND TEA AND THE JAVA
 AND ME – A CUP A CUP A CUP A CUP,
 ...BOY***



Do you remember the old 78 rpm Decca record with the Ink Spots singing this in 1940?

We now have a Keurig one-cup coffee making machine in the Clubhouse kitchen. If you are attending a meeting, reading a book, knitting, or playing cards, you can enjoy a hot cup of java by following the instructions posted and leaving 50 cents to cover the cost to us. Look in the refrigerator for milk/cream.

This is another nice thing the Social Committee has provided for us. Elaine Tino did the comparison shopping, got the best price, and put the Keurig in place in our kitchen. Thank you “little elf.”



SPINNERS vs ABERDEEN IRONBIRDS

by Joyce Minosh

**IS SEPT 25 ON YOUR CALENDAR
CIRCLED IN RED?**

IF IT ISN'T, IT SHOULD BE since it will be a SS (Skip Special). This time he's bringing us a man they call "The Real Diamond." Because he so realistically sings like Neil Diamond, it's hard to believe Neil himself isn't there in person. The evening's program will be a tribute to Neil Diamond with a special tribute to Christina Aguilera as well. Incidentally, this entertainer is coming to our Village all the way from Pennsylvania. We shall make him welcome!

You know you can count on Skip to bring you something very special, just as he's done over the years since '06 with five karaokes, then a night with a Rod Stewart impersonator and finally an evening with a Roy Orbison sound-alike. For these last two, Skip and Pauline created a cabaret-type setting in the Clubhouse.

And don't we at VSR know most of the Neil Diamond songs now, especially Sweet Caroline, America, September Morn, and on and on. It surely will be a glorious singing night. Don't miss it. Get your name on the sign up sheet quickly, it will be a full house.

The rain held off as 21 of our Villagers headed over to Lowell to LeLacheur Park for a baseball game between the Lowell Spinners and the Aberdeen IronBirds out of Baltimore, MD. We had tickets to the Gator Pit that included an entrance gift of a Bobble Head baseball player (identity unknown) followed by an amazing feast of ribs, wings, hot dogs, corn, salads and all the ice cream you could eat.

While we were enjoying our feast under the stadium, the skies above cleared just in time for the 15 minute game delay, allowing time to wipe off our wet seats. There was never a dull moment on the field as each inning change produced some form of entertainment. We had two rows of seats in a prime location, and everyone seemed to enjoy the game as well. The Spinners won 5-4. Though many balls were caught by the spectators during the game, the only ones caught by our group were the two signed ones (gifted to me by the powers that be) that I tossed to them from all of 2 feet away. Big league, yes?

By unanimous vote, trekking to this baseball game will become an annual event for the Village.

**VSR Line Dancing Classes Will Start
Again on September 20 at 7:00 pm**

We have taken a hiatus with so many away this summer. But come September, classes will resume, and you are welcome to join us. It's good exercise for both body and mind. It's important for seniors to use memory. One way is to learn the names and execution of different steps -- scissors, sailor's shuffle, a hitch, and you already know the vine. Line dancing has changed during the last decade, we are now getting into the Latin dances such as the merengue, cha cha, rumba and mamba. The most recent trend is "Broadway" with Hello Dolly and Sweet Heaven, both of which we'll learn in class..

We all flub once in awhile, and so what? Just laugh at yourself and continue. It's good fun and exercise, and mind you, we do break a sweat!

*"I always eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life.
They do taste kind of funny,
but it keeps them on my knife."*

Anonymous

JUST THINK ABOUT THIS . . .

Our fellow residents out there looking high and lo for great entertainment to bring right to our doorstep. Skip's latest find – the Real Diamond – is coming to us on Sept. 25. And on Nov. 5 the Social Committee is bringing us a Mardis Gras Party with a live band (scouted by Barbara L. Judy P, Dianne M and Shirley C). What about that wonderful presentation we had in April – the Opportunes – brought to us by the Anzivinos. And think about this as well – we get to sit with our friends and neighbors sipping wine (which we didn't have to buy by the glass) and enjoying choice entertainment. And we didn't have to drive far and don't have to pay for parking. Boy, do we have it good!

Wildlife Sightings in Our Village

On that hot, hot Friday in July (the 22nd) Vicki Raultys saw a bobcat near her tulip bed around noontime. And Fred Prip verifies this sighting.

On about the 24th of July Joan Roy spotted a porcupine in her vicinity. Several other residents saw porcupines too. Some thought them ugly, some thought them cute. As they say: it's all in the eye of the beholder!

But what Jean Guthrie witnessed was amazing. She watched a fawn being born in her yard, the mother doe cleaning up after, and the baby's first few wobbly steps.

Shirley has a cast iron garden rabbit in her front yard. Lo and behold, one morning she saw a real live baby rabbit sitting beside it, presumably having a one-sided conversation! Sandy Kelly thinks the bunny may have wondered from its family as they frequently enjoy dinner in her back yard. Sandy also saw a fox walking toward her deck this summer.

The bird watchers are repeatedly seeing a beautiful golden hawk soaring above our Village. Undoubtedly it is a resident here!

Dianne Marston recently took Liam, her 6-year old grandson, to our quarry to fish. He caught 7 good-sized sun fish and then landed a biggie – “Big Walter.” It was a bass, the biggest fresh water fish he has caught in his lifetime. Both Liam and his ‘Mimi’ were thrilled!.



SIMPLY SOCIAL

by Loretta Auld & Joyce Minosh, Co-chairs

The beautiful days of summer generate opportunities to enjoy being outdoors here in the Village. New England provides such a diversity of places to go: beaches, lakes and mountains. It is a special time of year to gather with family and friends. We are looking forward to our scheduled events to have fun with our neighbors.

- Monday, September 5th 1:00pm Labor Day Cookout
- Sunday, September 25th 7:00 pm Neil Diamond Tribute
- Saturday, October 1st 10:00 am Drop-in Coffee
- Saturday, November 5th 7:00 pm Squeezebox Stompers
- Saturday, December 10th 7:00 pm Holiday Party
- Tuesday, December 20th 6:00 pm Caroling
- Saturday, December 31st 8:00 pm New Years Party



No Wonder Men are a Happy Lot

Submitted by Capt Bob Eddy

- Your last name stays put.
- The garage is all yours.
- Car mechanics tell you the truth
- You automatically know which way to turn a nut on a bolt.
- The world is your urinal.
- Same work, more pay.
- Wrinkles add character.
- Wedding dress \$5000, Tux rental \$100.
- People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them.
- A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase.
- You can open all your own jars.
- You get credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness.
- Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack
- Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.
- You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes.
- You play with toys all your life
- You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look.
- You can do your nails with a pocket knife.
- You have freedom of choice concerning growing a mustache.
- You can never be pregnant.





LIBRARY NEWS

by Linda Anziv

“My library was dukedom large enough.”
William Shakespeare

Here is a quote from a recent Boston Globe article: “Since 2004 Google Books has been scanning books and putting them online; the company says it has already scanned more than 15 million. Google estimates there are about 130 million books in the world, and by 2020 it plans to have scanned them all.”

What book has the distinction of being the most valuable book in the world? J.J. Audubon’s *The Birds of America*, published in 1840, sold for \$8,802,500.00 in March 2000 -- the highest price ever paid for a book. (According to the Used Book Superstore).

America’s oldest free public library is in Peterborough, NH. It began in 1833 with just a few bookshelves in the town’s combination general store, library and post office. The Peterborough Public Library is still open today.

There is a great bookstore in Meredith, NH where I recently purchased a bookmark that had the top ten reasons to read every day. Here they are and I am sure you could add many more.

Frees your mind

Impresses everyone with what you know

Develops your imagination

Chases away boredom

Teaches you something.

Sends you to the past or into the future

Takes you to faraway places

Introduces new people and cultures

Opens up a new world

Gives you serenity



VSR BOOK CLUB NEWS

by Dianne Marston

Seventeen members of the book club met on the beautiful summer afternoon of July 14 to socialize and to discuss *Testimony* by Anita Shreve. We grappled with some complex moral issues that were brought up in the novel, and the discussion encouraged a variety of views and opinions.

Our next meeting will be on August 25, at which time we will discuss another book by Lisa Genova, the author of *Still Alice*, and a relative of our own Louise O’Donnell. The latest novel, *Left Neglected*, relates the story of a 37 year old woman who sustains a traumatic brain injury in a car accident. She is “left neglect,” unaware of anything to her left, including the left side of her body. The author, who is a neuroscientist, personalizes this disabling brain condition in an irresistibly readable story. We hope that you will join us in reading this book and participate in our next discussion.

At the following meeting on October 6, the book to be discussed is *The Forest Lover* by Susan Vreeland. The story is about the courageous Canadian painter Emily Carr (1871-1945), who traveled through native villages and the wilderness of British Columbia in the early 1900s, often alone, on a quest to paint totem poles and other artifacts before the indigenous traditions died out and the poles were destroyed or sold. Vreeland, drawing on Carr’s many journals, imagines her experiences and vividly describes the obstacles Carr faced.

A copy of any of these books (and audio CD’s of them) may be requested from the Fletcher Library, ordered as a used book (Amazon.com etc.), or borrowed from someone who has finished reading it. Happy reading, everyone!



Pulling Another Cork at VSR in the Know or is it Wineaux?

Some of the frequently asked questions when giving tours here at Quarry Cellars:

How many glasses of wine are in a bottle of wine?

Not enough. However, a bottle contains 25.4 fluid oz. A 4-oz glass yields about 6 servings per bottle. A 5-oz glass (the typical pouring) yields about 5 servings. Good to know when you're planning on how much wine to have when inviting a number of guests over, or ordering by the bottle or glass when dining out. *At Quarry Cellars all of our glasses are 12 oz.*

On average how many pounds of grapes does it take to make a bottle of wine?

It takes about 2.8 lb of grapes to make one 750 ml bottle of wine.

I get a headache from red wine, am I allergic to it?

Most people think a headache after drinking wine is caused by sulfites. Red wine does contain sulfites, but if you were allergic to them you would be rushed to the ER. Your headache might be due to an allergy to histamines, which are common in red wine.

What is corked wine?

Wine that has been tainted by a faulty cork. Many winemakers concede that up to 5 percent of wines with natural corks are affected. You will know if your wine is corked by the smell; it gives off an odor of wet cardboard. That's why we sniff and swirl the wine at restaurants. And you thought we were snobs. *Shame on you!*

Does a screw-top bottle automatically denote a cheap wine?

No. The wine industry is moving toward screw tops because they are cheaper, create a better seal, and greatly reduce the risk of spoilage.

If I open a bottle for dinner and don't finish it, will it be good the next night?

Yes, sometimes it is even better. Be sure to close it back up with the cork or a cling wrap and put it in the fridge. You'll be pleasantly surprised at how different and good it will be.

Speaking of the fridge, most people store wine at room temperature, about 70 degrees. A wine served at 70 degrees can taste flat and almost tasteless. Red is best served at 58 to 60 degrees, so 15 to 30 minutes will do wonders to revive your red wine. As for whites, they will taste best at 50 to 55 degrees.

Quarry Cellars

15 mph

It has been observed that the speed limit in our Village is all too often being exceeded.

Let's slow down before something ugly happens and someone gets hurt.

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