


the Village at Stone Ridge

QUARRY BULLETIN

November - December 2013

TRUSTEES APPROVE REDUCTIONS IN FEES

By Ken Hyle

Ron Caterino and Ken Hyle, Budget Committee Co-Chairs, presented the approved 2014 Budget to the Village unit owners at the first Thursday meeting on November 7. **On January 1, 2014 Condo fees will be reduced 10% and Water & Sewer Fees reduced to \$110.00.**



Ken thanked the Budget and Finance Committee members for all their work (over a hundred hours), as well as the more than forty-five Villagers who participate in the various Committees that had input into this process. Ron reviewed the primary reasons for the reduction:

- exemplary work by three *ad hoc* committees in negotiating new contracts for:
- landscaping/snow removal, condo management, and water & sewer management
- fiscal conservatism – Seven years ago the Finance Committee chose to initiate a contingency fund equal to two months operating expenses for unforeseen expenses. This contingency fund is now fully funded requiring no further monies in 2014.
- volunteerism – The extraordinary volunteerism in this community helps us to control our expenditures, thus affecting the monthly Condo fees.
- superior Committee management – The tireless work of the Committee chairmen and their members helps to control costs while enhancing the vision for the Village that we all have grown to love.

All of the above have resulted in two years where we have had lower costs than planned and thus generated a profit. Consequently we are utilizing a great deal of that profit by projecting a loss in 2014.

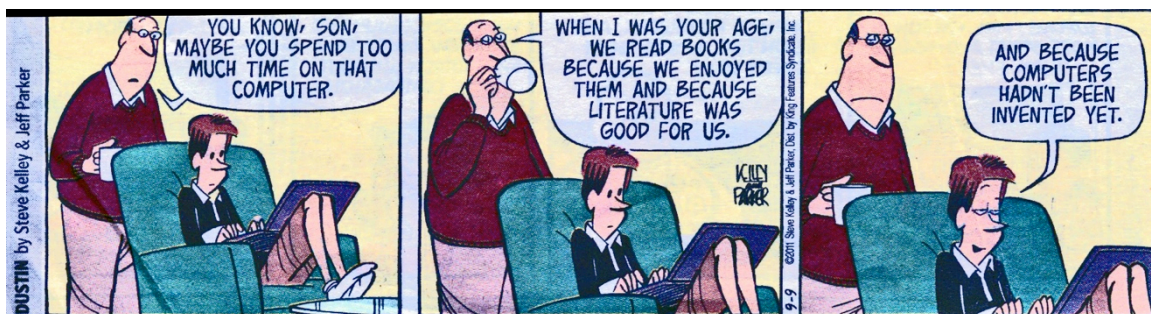
LIBRARY MUSINGS

By Linda Anzivino

“Properly, we should read for power. Man reading should be man intensely alive. The book should be a ball of light in one’s hand.” Ezra Pound

Some miscellaneous thoughts:

- One of our generous benefactors just donated over twenty-five of the latest hardcover novels from the likes of Grisham, Sanders, Baldacci, Patterson, Silva, Coben, and more. We are so grateful and know that they will be well read.
- I recently read Pat Conroy's small book called *My Reading Life*. His love of books is the subject of this passionate and often funny memoir. During his sophomore year in high school, a charismatic English teacher told him that he should read 200 pages a day. “I thought he was serious!” Conroy says, “So I did that, and I've tried to keep it up. Sometimes I don't make it, but usually I do. Usually I go beyond that.” Also, he says “We have books in almost every room. These books mean a lot to me. I love them. I like to handle them. I can look up from my desk and see walls and walls and walls of books. It’s an extraordinary beauty for me.”
- David McCullough, the Pulitzer-winning biographer was asked: Were books important in your childhood? His reply was “On Christmas morning when I was a child, my mother would leave a book wrapped at the foot of the bed, which was a hint that Santa had come. It was also her way of keeping us in bed a little longer before we went downstairs. So I’ve always associated books with happiness and gifts. And they are. I can’t get enough of them.”
- There still seems to be a number of people who do not know that we have a very large supply of audio books on cassettes and discs. They are located in the shelves underneath the books on the left side of the fireplace. There are also a few DVD's and many cookbooks so please look behind the doors and help yourself!
- Don't forget – READ MORE in 14!!



Submitted by Linda Anzivino



VSR Book Club News

By Dianne Marston

Our VSR Book Club met on October 24 to discuss *The Orchid House*. A large group of almost twenty enjoyed a delightful discussion as well as delicious refreshments.

On December 5 we will gather to discuss *The Summer Guest* by Justin Cronin. “A Maine fishing camp serves as the physical and emotional center for an extended circle of family and friends in this charming novel spanning three generations. On a single day in late summer, the rich financier Harry Wainwright, now dying of cancer, visits the camp he has frequented for more than 30 years. His visit prompts a flood of memories for each of the characters.” (from *Publishers’ Weekly*) “The beauty of *The Summer Guest* lies in Cronin’s ability to create meaning in each character’s situation. Whether dodging the draft on a fishing boat in rural Canada, serving up clams by Boston Harbor, saying goodbye to a loved one, or finding new love where you were once afraid to look, Cronin creates deep, sincere characters with whom readers feel a powerful sense of investment.” (from *Amazon.com*)

The January 16 meeting will feature the book, *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. “This is the inspiring *true* story of a son and his mother, who start a ‘book club’ that brings them together as her life comes to a close. Over the next two years, Will and Mary Anne carry on conversations that are both wide-ranging and deeply personal, prompted by an eclectic array of books and a shared passion for reading. Their list jumps from classic to popular, from poetry to mysteries, from fantastic to spiritual. The issues they discuss include questions of faith and courage as well as everyday topics such as expressing gratitude and learning to listen. Throughout, they are constantly reminded of the power of books to comfort us, astonish us, teach us, and tell us what we need to do with our lives and in the world. Reading isn’t the opposite of doing; it’s the opposite of dying. Will and Mary Anne share their hopes and concerns with each other—and rediscover their lives—through their favorite books. When they read, they aren’t a sick person and a well person, but a mother and a son taking a journey together.” (from *the Goodreads.com website*)

We hope you will join us at one of our future discussions!



THANKS Volunteer Spotlight

Our Social Committee works tirelessly to offer Village residents many fun and entertaining events each year. But every Committee needs a leader to set the agenda and make sure no details fall through the cracks. For the past two years **Joyce Minosh** (pictured right) has chaired the Social Committee with great enthusiasm and superb organization. She gathered us each month to plan upcoming events and organize volunteers to make them all happen. She was an unending fountain of ideas for trips and fun events, from herbs to Zentangle and inspired us all to come up with other suggestions of our own.



Joyce's contributions to fun in the Village are not limited to events right here at home, however, as she has led a number of tours to Europe for Villagers (and others) and has convened groups to take Road Scholar hiking trips across the US. Most recently she organized a trip to Yosemite that six of us participated in, and she is already thinking about next year's adventure!

Thank you, Joyce, for your willingness to help us keep dancing, singing, traveling, exploring, eating, learning new things, and most of all, having great fun!



Kitchen Makeover

Have you noticed the latest addition to our kitchen makeover? **Buzz McArdle** built a beautiful island for us, providing more counter space and hiding our trash and recycle barrels. It is beautiful and wonderfully functional. Thank you, Buzz, for this delightful enhancement!

WINTER HINTS



- Change batteries in smoke alarms, thermostats, and garage door openers.
- Shut off water valves in the basement to the outside faucets and open the outside faucets halfway to prevent freezing. Disconnect your garden hoses from the outside faucets.
- Make sure your outside heat exhaust pipe doesn't get buried in snowdrifts. That would shut down your furnace.
- Replace or clean (if permanent) the filter in your furnace.
- On snowstorm nights, consider leaving your outside lights on so the people doing snow plowing and shoveling can see.
- Consider keeping a small can of sand in your garage in case there is ice on your driveway or walkway. You can take sand from the barrels placed around the Village by Morin.
- As always, do not park cars overnight on any streets in the Village.
- If you park a car in the driveway, move it when the snowplow does the driveways.
- If any fence post lights or streetlights are out, notify Rick Culver or Bob Morton.
- Removing your window screens for the winter lets more natural light in and may protect them from winter damage.
- If you cover your outside air conditioner condenser to protect it from the snow, you should shut off the circuit breaker marked "A/C" in your circuit breaker box to prevent accidental starting of your air conditioner unit.

If you leave your condo seasonally or for any extended period of time:

- It is wise to turn off the water at the main valve while you are gone and reduce the hot water tank temperature setting to its lowest level to avoid possible overheating. When you return, reset the temperature and slowly turn the water back on while listening for any running water, which might indicate a rupture or leak occurred while you were absent, and a flood will be avoided.
- **HEAT:** It is crucial that you maintain the thermostat setting in your unit above 60 degrees Fahrenheit at all times. While it is important to save energy, many times the reduced heat is low enough to freeze a pipe or fire sprinkler, just enough to cause a rupture. The cost of a few dollars in an energy bill in the hard winter months is a sound investment when compared to a flooded unit.
- You should leave your bathroom vanity doors open while you're away, to allow heat to keep the sink pipes warm, especially if the sink is on an outside wall.

2013-2014 SNOW REMOVAL PLAN

Bob Eddy & Doug Craib, Snow Removal Co-Chairmen

Outlined below is the snow removal plan for the 2013-2014 snow season.

When snowfall total reaches 2 inches or greater, the streets will be plowed and the priority driveways will be plowed and sanded. When the storm is over, the first priority will be to clear the streets and the priority driveways.

Plow Routes

- Storm #1: Start at Rockwell, then 3-61 Stone Ridge, then 1-33 Sandstone, then Gatecrest, then Landview, then 28-1 Highland.
- Storm #2: Start at Landview, then Gatecrest, then 33-1 Sandstone, then 1-28 Highland, then 27-3 Stone Ridge, then Rockwell, then 61-24 Stone Ridge.
- Storm #3: Start at 1-28 Highland, then 24-61 Stone Ridge, then Rockwell, then 1-33 Sandstone, then Gatecrest, then Landview, then 3-27 Stone Ridge.
- Storm # 4: Start at 61-3 Stone Ridge, then 1-28 Highland, then Gatecrest, then Landview, then 33-1 Sandstone, then Rockwell.

Priority Driveways

15 Sandstone, 21 Sandstone, 4 Stone Ridge, 7 Stone Ridge, 23 Stone Ridge, 53/55 Stone Ridge, 10 Highland.

Snowplow Damage Reporting Procedure

If you have snow removal issues or if your unit has been damaged by snow plowing – that is garage, siding, fencing – please contact Linda Cyr at Evergreen Management Inc. Linda's telephone numbers are 1-800-973-4300 or 978-258-2927, and her email is LCyr@evergreenmgt.com.

We will request a snowplowing damage report from each unit at the end of the winter for snowplow damage to your landscaping, driveway, or sprinkler system.

“Flushable” Wipes Blamed For Clogging Sewers

by Joyce Minosh

A recent article in the *National Post* disputes the label “safe for sewer and septic systems” on the flushable cleansing cloths found in local supermarkets and used by a large portion of the population. I am sharing this article in an effort to help the Village to avoid spending money on pump outs and grinder replacements. “These wipes are a 6 billion dollar a year industry. Wastewater authorities say wipes may go down the toilet, but even many labeled flushable aren't breaking down through the sewer system. That's costing some municipalities millions of dollars to dispatch crews to unclog pipes and pumps and to replace and upgrade machinery.” If you would like to read more about this problem here is the link.

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/09/23/flushable-wipes-blamed-for-clogging-sewers-as-desperate-town-tracks-down-repeat-cloggers/>

AN APPRECIATION

By Louise Theofilis

Since May 2004, the *Quarry Bulletin* has been a very important part of our Village life. It was the brainchild of Richard and Nany Diaz who assumed the roles of Managing Editor and Production Editor. Thanks to Richard and Nany the Bulletin had it all: important and timely information and reminders for residents, Social Committee news about upcoming events, words of welcome, and more. But this was just the beginning of the contributions Nany Diaz made to our community. She was always there to help the Social Committee decorate the clubhouse for events and contributed delicious and interesting food and desserts for these occasions. She was an expert gardener and her beautiful flowers in her yard were a delight to all passersby. She planted lupines, cosmos, and many other flower varieties, as well as pumpkins for the grandchildren and even an apple tree, now three feet high. The Village was saddened by the news that Nany was ill and her passing came all too soon. We appreciate all she did for our community and remember the joy she brought to everyone.

Editor's note: All the Quarry Bulletins are archived on our website: villageatstoneridge.com. It was a memorable trip through time to look back at them recently. I encourage everyone to take a look, especially those new to the Village. And, Snowbirds, don't forget to look for the Quarry Bulletin online, in full color!



*Buzz McArdle set up the Christmas tree in the clubhouse. Thanks so much to **Elaine Tino** for donating this beautiful tree.*



*The Social Committee is responsible for all the festive decorations in the clubhouse. Thank you to all who participated in the decorating effort! Above, **Louise Tahmouh** and left, **Judy Gilmartin** and **Joan Roy***



UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

- December 7** VSR Holiday Party – Join the neighborhood for catered appetizers and a very special dessert. The Village Chorus and Donn Hill will entertain us at the piano, and there is rumor of a special surprise performance as well!
- December 17** Christmas carolers will again be singing in the Village at 7 p.m. with cookies and cider to follow at 7:30. All Villagers are invited for cookies and cider and a sing-along following the caroling at about 7:45.
- January 1** New Year’s Day Champagne Brunch, 11 a.m. at the clubhouse – Don’t miss this! There will be delicious breakfast strata, salads, and dessert with champagne or kir royale.



Ann Sullivan helps decorate the tree for our holiday season.



QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

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This month’s photographs are by Carlene Craib. The Quarry Bulletin is a bi-monthly newsletter to keep you informed about events and information for The Village at Stone Ridge. Contributing writers please send copy to Carlene Craib.

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