

Quarry Bulletin

September-October 2014

ANNUAL MEETING 2014



A large number of VSR residents gathered in the clubhouse on September 23rd for the 2014 Annual Meeting. The Trustees gave a thorough, well-illustrated look at the important events of the year. From the purchase of a new ZeeWeed filter for the water treatment plant, to the addition

of monthly Happy Hours at the clubhouse, the Trustees informed homeowners about the work of VSR Committees, highlighting the accomplishments and activities and thanking the members of each one. The trustees also thanked Steve Currier for his three years of service on the Board and presented him with a gift on behalf of the residents.

The Trustees have organized themselves for the 2014-2015 year as follows:

President	David Auld
Vice President	Larry Tobiason
Secretary	Dorothy Moran
Treasurer	Peter Abate
Trustee	Sandy Kelly

Committee Liaisons

David Auld	Legal
Larry Tobiason	Water and Sewer, Architectural Standards and Review
Peter Abate	Finance
Dorothy Moran	Communications, Social Committee
Sandy Kelly	Property



VSR residents thanked outgoing Board of Trustee member Steve Currier for his three years of service to the Board.

The Board of Trustees thanks the many residents who volunteer their time to VSR. It is because of our volunteers that the Village at Stone Ridge is such a great place to live, and because of their generous efforts, we save thousands of dollars each year.

VSR GOLFERS VIE FOR GLORY

By Buzz McArdle



Championship Team: from left, Fred Lemire, Nick Johnson, and Jim Stabile

If you stink at golf, then this was your chance to shine. The first annual VSR Bad Golfers Tournament was held at Overlook Country Club this August and was attended by some of VSR's finest and not so finest golfers. The best ball scramble event was organized by Jack Gilmartin and

Buzz McArdle and was followed up by a cookout at the clubhouse. Prizes were given for closest to the pin and longest drive, both one by Fred (the ringer) Lemire. According to all of the entrants, all had a great time and most can't wait until September 2015 for the next Bad Golfers Tournament.



Above: Paul Courier adds a little mustard to his dog (no roll), while Eli Demetri and Chuck Crissey watch and wait. Left: Dom Defronzo grills burgers and dogs for the golfers.

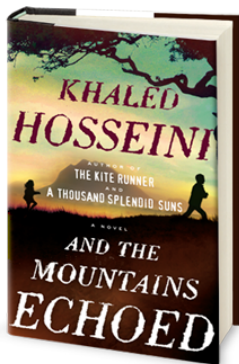


FALL TRAIL WORK
From left, Jack Bilodeau, Doug Craib, and Frank Bashore work on the trails, cutting back summer growth and repairing blazes.

BOOK CLUB NEWS

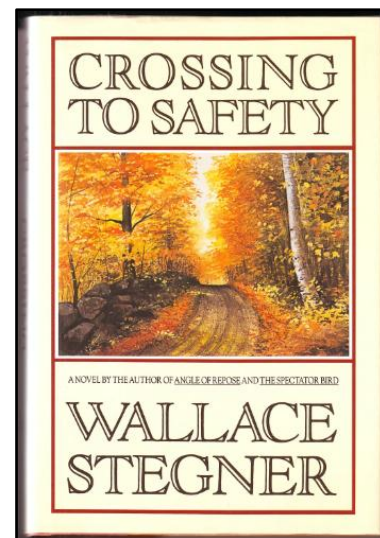
By Dianne Marston

The VSR Book Club continues to thrive. We meet every six weeks in the Clubhouse to socialize and to discuss a book that the group has chosen. There are usually about 15- 20 men and women in attendance. Our last discussion was about the true story of Helga Estby, an immigrant woman who walked across America with her daughter in 1896.



Our Oct. 30 meeting will feature a book by one of our favorite authors, Khaled Hosseini, who was born in Afghanistan. His first novel, *The Kite Runner*, was # 1 on the New York Times Bestseller list. Our next selection is his current novel, *And the Mountains Echoed*. This book “spans several generations and moves back and forth between Afghanistan and the West. When we first meet the novel’s two central characters, they are children living in a remote, impoverished Afghan village. Abdullah is 10, and his beloved baby sister, Pari, is 3.” (Michiko Kakutani, *NYT Book Review*) “While events ricochet between countries, Hosseini’s recurrent concern is the same: the relationship of Afghanistan to the wider world; what its traumas have done to those who remain and what happens to those who leave and then come back to rediscover their country.” (Alexander Linklater, *The Observer*)

On December 11 we will discuss Wallace Stegner’s *Crossing to Safety*. “Called a ‘magnificently crafted story . . . brimming with wisdom’ by Howard Frank Mosher in *The Washington Post Book World*, *Crossing to Safety* has, since its publication in 1987, established itself as one of the greatest and most cherished American novels of the twentieth century. Tracing the lives, loves, and aspirations of two couples who move between Vermont and Wisconsin, it is a work of quiet majesty, deep compassion, and powerful insight into the alchemy of friendship and marriage.” (From the Trade Paperback edition)





WINE TASTING 101

By Joyce Minosh and Larry Anzivino

Please set aside the evening of Friday Oct. 24th for a rare treat. We are going to have a wine event at the clubhouse that will concentrate on the art of wine pairing. There will be an opportunity to sample a variety of wines, discuss how they complement different foods, and have several small tasting samples while learning a little bit about the science of wine pairing. This is not a food event but an entertaining evening learning about wine.

Andrew Ehrlich from Wine Cask Cellars in Acton will be the presenter. Andrew is a veteran of the wine business and an expert on the pairing of wine with food. We have attended a number of wine tasting dinners that he has presided over, and have been looking for an opportunity to share his insights with the rest of Stone Ridge. You will find him to be knowledgeable, entertaining, and a great wine educator.

The evening starts at 7:00 PM and the cost is \$20. Check the bulletin board in the clubhouse for sign up sheet.

FIRST THURSDAYS AT THE CLUBHOUSE

By Joyce Minosh

We have very excited to announce some of the events that will be happening on our First Thursday fun get-togethers at the clubhouse. The following are already scheduled, and we have more exciting speakers that we are working with. In December the Upbeats band from the Westford Senior Center will play for us. The First Thursday in January is the New Year's party. In March we will have Bud Elwin, aka Ted Williams.

If you know of someone who would be a great speaker for these events, please let me know, and I will be happy to follow up and schedule them into our event calendar.



Walter "Bud" Elwin Jr. (right), and Red Sox great Luis Tiant at the Red Sox fantasy camp.

(Photo courtesy of FenwaySportsGroup)

Care of the VSR Waste Water System

The Village at Stone Ridge is not connected to municipal sewerage. The major components of our waste water system are 36 grinder pumps, a large holding tank, a high tech treatment plant, and a leaching bed. A major portion of your monthly Water & Sewer fee is used to keep this system running smoothly.

Because of the nature of our waste water system, **garbage disposals are prohibited** in the village. The following items should **NOT** be introduced into our sewer system: They will clog the grinder pumps.

Glass	Kitchen grease	Dental floss
Metal	Animal fat	Kitty litter
Seafood Shells	Diaper or rags	Swifter pads
Fish tank gravel	Plastic objects	Baby wipes

In addition, **NEVER** introduce any of the following into any sewer:

Paint	Gasoline	Strong chemicals
Lubricating oil/grease	Explosives	Flammable materials

Grinder pump alarm signals

Each grinder pump is designed to produce an alarm signal in the event of failure. The alarms are located on the wall of a unit in the vicinity of the pump. A light flashes and an alarm sounds when the alarm is activated. If you observe an alarm you should call EMI (603-622-7000) and report it.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Bob Eddy (right) has retired his volunteer's hat and gloves after many years of service to the Village at Stone Ridge. Bob co-chaired the irrigation and snow plowing for many years, served on the Water & Sewer Committee and also served on the Search Committee that evaluated the proposal for changing contractors for the Water Treatment Plant. He was a long time member (8 yrs.) of the Property Committee and an active participant in our Work – Play days. Bob was very diligent about getting a proper Handicap Space in front of the Clubhouse and personally painted the road markings.



Recently, Bob did a very comprehensive 'Real Deck Life Cost Analysis', which was a study to determine the life cycle costs of AZEK and Pressure Treated Wood for the rear decks in the Village. This study has proven to be an extremely useful tool.

On behalf of all the residents of the Village at Stone Ridge a big thank you to Bob Eddy.

Editor's Note



The Quarry Bulletin is the product of many willing hands. Each month faithful columnists pen their articles and Board and Committee members send timely updates and information about the Village. One person who helps me enormously but who has gone unrecognized until now is my eagle-eyed proofreader, Louise O'Donnell. She makes sure the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed, and she makes sure my most egregious mistakes are corrected before the Bulletin reaches your hands. Thanks to all of you who contribute to the QB and especially this month to Louise!

A Summer Morning (August 18, 2014)

By Dianne Marston

How can I believe this beautiful day?!
Perfect in every way.
Blue sky overhead, cool fresh air
Nature at its most glorious self.

Walking through the Village
With all its sights to see
Refreshed by wispy breezes
Bending all the trees.

Flowers bloom profusely
Yellow, orange, and red.
Beauty surrounds me as I go
As willows bend their heads.

Stopping at the Quarry...
Still, clear water mirrors the cliffs.
Small hungry fish swim near shore
While down deep "Big Walter" lurks.

Searching the woods with my eyes...
Are there any bears?
Perhaps a bobcat strolls among the trees.
... A snake could be anywhere.

Listen to the sound of birds,
Singing their morning song
Watch the flight of a goldfinch
As it skims along.

How blessed am I to live here,
Among these peaceful sights.
My heart bursts with gratitude
For each treasured day of life!



VSR Goes Green

In January of last year Mass Save was contacted to perform an Energy audit at VSR. They had a backlog of several months and VSR was put on their wait list. Since then contact was made with them on a regular basis and VSR finally got on their list of active clients. The program offers FREE LED light bulbs that use a range of 3.5 watts to 15 watts of power but give the brightness equivalent of 25 watts to 85 watts, resulting in a significant savings in electricity. The program also offers free water conservation devices, free Smart Power Strips, a free Therma-Dome to seal your attic stairway opening, and a free air leakage test to target any leakage in your home.

VSR ordered over 4000 bulbs for homeowners, 200 bulbs for outdoor garage



The pallets arrive at the clubhouse.

lighting, and nearly another 200 bulbs for common areas such as the clubhouse and fence and granite post lighting. Mass Save will replace the entire light fixture on the streetlights with those that use LED lights for a \$10.00 fee. The program was well received with **over 80% of**

VSR residents participating. Mass Save told Peter Abate that they normally get about 20-25% participation. On September 19, eleven

pallets of bulbs were delivered to the clubhouse and were distributed to homeowners by volunteers. Thanks go to Larry Anzivino, Tom Barry, Frank Bashore, Jack Gilmartin, Ken Hyle, Doug Keele, and Buzz McArdle for distributing the pallets of boxes in a very efficient manner. Installation assistance of ceiling and garage lights is available through the property committee. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the clubhouse



The crew gets ready to distribute the boxes.

This program is paid for by National Grid and NSTAR under the Mass Save Program. The money actually comes from a small "Energy Conservation" charge on everyone's monthly utility bill. If you are replacing CFL light bulbs (the curly ones), they contain mercury and cannot be thrown in the trash. Places such as Home Depot have locations in their store where they can be deposited.

Groovy Movies

By Gail Sergenian

Carmen

Bizet: Carmen/Garanca, Alagna/Met Orchestra DVD 2010

This is the best **Carmen** I have ever seen, and a great introduction to the opera art form. Almost everyone has heard the beautiful music from Bizet's **Carmen**, but the acting in this performance is also incredible. Elina Garanca is the epitome of Carmen: beautiful, sensuous, magnetic. Her presence on the screen is riveting. Her voice is lovely as well, and yet she was a substitute for the originally scheduled performer. All of the acting and singing are top-notch in this realistic interpretation. Richard Eyre was unanimously praised for his direction. He places the action in the 1930's, during the Spanish Civil War. This helps to emphasize the political nature of the piece, and the tension between the people from the town and the military.

I have always loved opera music, but my real enjoyment coincided with the advent of supertitles. When I lived in the New York area, I sometimes took my children to see performances at the New York City Opera, the first company in the United States to provide these protected translations. The high definition transmissions from the Metropolitan Opera make the performances even more accessible. Everyone has the best seat in the house! To add to our enjoyment and understanding, performers from other pieces interview various individuals involved with the production.

View this DVD to see what the excitement is about, or, try some of this season's presentations at the Lowell Showcase Cinema and the AMC Burlington (with the same comfortable reserved seating offered in Tyngsboro). But order in advance to ensure getting a ticket. Check out the schedule at:

<http://www.metopera.org/metopera/liveinhd/live-in-hd-2014-15-season>

VSR Website is Updated

The redesigned Village at Stone Ridge website contains the *Quarry Bulletin*, the Calendar of Events, a list of Committee meetings, clubhouse rental forms, and information about social events and other interesting happenings at the Village.

On the Evergreen Management website are Village financials, Board of Trustees minutes, organizational information, Rules and Regulations, ASR Specs, and other material available only to Village residents.

Take a minute to visit each website. There is a link on the VSR website to the Evergreen Management website and there is a link on the EMI website to the Village website.

CAPS FOR KIDS



Many in the VSR knitting group take part in the Caps for Kids program

sponsored by Dana Farber. Each year, this program collects hats, mittens, and other hand-knitted items for kids in need in the Boston area. At left is Linda Barry holding a couple of the hats made this year. She collects in the Village and takes them into Dana Farber. If you knit or crochet and would like to participate, give Linda a call at 978-692-4958.

First Thursday Presentation

Chip Barrett (below), Superintendent of the Westford Highway Department, recently spoke to residents at a First Thursday meeting. He gave a very interesting talk about the history of the bridges, roads, budget, and awards that



Westford has received for its innovative approaches and budgetary ideas. Many of these were suggested by Chip, and he was recently honored with the Member of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association.



Social Committee Dates

- October 18 Drop-in Coffee
- October 24 Wine Tasting with Food
- November 15 Skip Giles Presents: Oldies Night
- December 6 Holiday Party

QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

Editor: Carlene Craib

Contributors:

- Peter Abate*
- Dean Hubbard*
- Dianne Marston*
- Buzz McArdle*
- Gail Sergenian*

This month's photographs are by Buzz McArdle, Joyce Minosh, and 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 ccraib@comcast.net

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