

the Village at Stone Ridge

Quarry Bulletin

November-December 2015



NEIGHBORS GATHER TO RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Lots of laughter and good cheer were on display as Villagers gathered at the Clubhouse on December 5th to start the holiday season. They admired the lovely decorations provided by the Social Committee as they snacked and sipped and caught up on neighbors' news. Red was the color of the evening and many showed their holiday spirit with holly bowties. Co-organizers of the evening, Sandy Kelly and Gail Sergenian, were easily the most "decorated," as they encouraged us to find the hidden chipmunks, guess the number of ornaments on the tree, and have our photos taken with holiday props. Look for those portraits on the website as well as the poem they recited, a Village-personalized *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*.



Sandy Kelly, Joyce Minosh, and Gail Sergenian show their Christmas spirit.



Jean Guthrie, Lorraine MacPherson, Charlie Ryan, and Phil MacPherson enjoy the party.



Lucille Borrello and Wendy Wolfberg



Charlotte Demetri, Judi Gilmartin, and June Halio

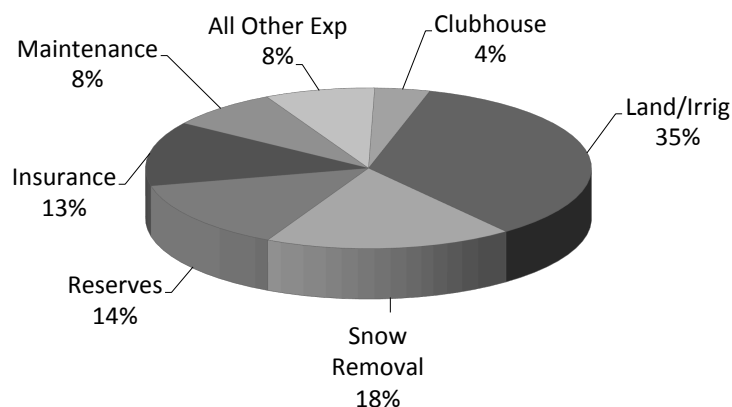
BUDGET SET FOR 2016

The Finance Committee presented its budget for 2016 at the November Village meeting. Tom Barry, Budget Committee Chair, gave a thorough presentation about the current state of our finances. This report is available in the clubhouse library for anyone who would like to see the entire presentation. Tom first recognized Ken Hyle, who is stepping down after eleven years, for his exceptional service to the Finance Committee. Thanks, Ken! He also noted that this budget represented approximately 160 man/woman hours of work and had the input of forty-five committee members.

Tom then announced that, after much deliberation, the Finance Committee voted and the Board of Trustees approved their recommendation to raise the condo fees for the coming year by 4%, and due to the shortfall in our contingency account, (nearly depleted by last year's record snowfall and associated repair needs) to assess a supplemental amendment of two month's 2015 condo fee, spread over five months. This will keep our base payments lower and resolve our cash flow problem immediately.

Many thanks to all who participated in this year's budget deliberations, especially to Finance Committee members: Ron Caterino, Chair, Peter Abate, Board Liaison, David Auld, Tom Barry, Budget Chair, Doug Craib, Eli Demetri, and Tom Sangiolo.

2016 Operations Budget by %



Book Club News

By Dianne Marston

The VSR Book Club continues to be an important part of the social and intellectual fabric of our community life. The suggested books are widely read throughout the Village and many of the readers gather together every six weeks to discuss the chosen book. We invite you to read along with us and welcome you to our discussions. Our meetings begin with a social hour at 1:00 p.m. followed by the book discussion at 1:30.

On December 17th our meeting will focus on the writings of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Many of you may remember her as the author of the Little House on the Prairie books based on her childhood in a settler family. Villager Judy Culver, who has recently visited the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historic Home and Museum in Mansfield, Missouri, will lead the discussion and share with us some of her enthusiasm and insights. Join us as we look back on this nostalgic period. Read or re-read any of Wilder's children's novels or her autobiography, *Pioneer Girl*.

At the following meeting on January 28, we will be discussing *Emily Alone* by Stewart O'Nan. "This is a character-driven look into the life of an 80-year-old woman as she nears the end of her life. Emily Maxwell is a widow living alone in a changing Pittsburgh neighborhood. Her children are scattered and visit infrequently and she feels that, because of her strongly expressed opinions, she has built a wall between herself, her children, and her grandchildren that is difficult to easily breach. Her closest friend is her sister-in-law, Arlene, and the two of them have fallen into long-established routines that define their lives. When Arlene faints and is rushed to the hospital, Emily's life quickly changes. She discovers that she is more independent, more adaptable, and more capable than she realized. O'Nan captures the small challenges, sweet joys, and physical and emotional hurdles associated with an elderly person living alone with sensitivity, compassion, and humor." (*From a reviewer named Judy*)



CLOGGING IN THE OLD VSR CORRAL

By Larry Anzivino

It all began with “Hello, I’m Johnny Cash,” as Brian Chicoine, Vicky St. Pierre, and the Tennessee Three took us through a memorable evening of Johnny and June Carter Cash songs. They immediately put us on a train with *Folsom Prison Blues* followed by a number of the hits that we all remember as Cash standards. But then came the clogging, which Vicky, on a platform of hardwood, performed through the entire number of *Tennessee Flat Top Box*. And, true to the lyrics of that song, all the folks “from nine to ninety were slappin’ their fingers and tappin’ their toes” as we all really got into it, with some even wishing that petticoats would make a comeback. Following that, Brian and the boys moved into a few of Johnny’s hits that I dare say we haven’t heard since we were youngins ourselves. How about their great rendition of “Ghost Riders In The Sky”? By the second verse they had everyone joining in with our best “Yippie yi yay, yippie yi ooh.”

An evening of great entertainment by one man in black, Brian Chicoine, accompanied by a great Tennessee Three, and of course Miss Vicky, brought an outstanding tribute to another man in black, Mr. Johnny Cash.

Just when the group thought they was done, the cowboys and cowgirls hooped and hollered for more. The fact that the group couldn’t squeeze by us to git out the door may have coaxed them a bit too. Well, you guessed it, we hitched us a ride on the “Orange Blossom Special.” Before ya knew it everyone was on their feet, and who could blame them, ‘cause when Brian played them there dual harmonicas for that number you could have mistaken it for a train comin’ through the station. Yup, they brought us in on one train and a few hours later took us home on another one. **WOW!**

Skip and, of course, Pauline, I think we’re getting spoiled by you two. Great evenings like this one don’t happen without hours of work over a stretch of many weeks. Each event sees attendance grow, almost to a scary number, so I guess that says how much we appreciate it and love what you’re doing. Again, thank you both. Oh, and thanks for the neckerchiefs. We reckon you’ll see ‘em on us again sometime soon.

See more photos on page 6.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT DRAWS AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD

What a festival of food and fun was in store for a great crowd of neighbors at the International Potluck Dinner recently. The food was fabulous: you could eat your way around the world from Spanish tortilla to Chinese pot stickers. After dinner we were in for a treat as Ruth Ann Dillon and Susan Hill (seen at right)



led us on a musical world tour. Ruth Ann, although recuperating from surgery, taught us an Africa song, and we had a song sheet with words to enable us to join in on several other international tunes.



Tom Sangiolo and Dom DeFronzo (left) were at the top of their games as they led us in favorites, and Dianne Marston taught us a lively German song as well. With Dom's help, Gail Sergenian then tested our knowledge of all things international with a great trivia contest. Thanks to Gail Sergenian and Edythe Salzman for their leadership and all the other members of the Social Committee who worked on this event.

We appreciate the many volunteers who help us set up, move furniture, and clean up. Kudos to the men who show up every time to move the furniture and to everyone who helps clean up. Special thanks go to Jayne Currier who is always the last person to leave the clubhouse after an event, as she is a trouper in washing dishes. Thanks everyone!



Our newest residents: (left) Bob and Joan Murphy, (right) Luise Sandholm, joined the fun. Luise even danced the Have Nagila as we all sang along.



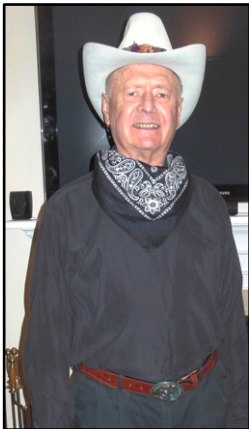
Groovy Movies

By Gail Sergenian

Witness for the Prosecution (1957)

In my opinion, this is the best Agatha Christie film ever made. As with all Christie tales, there is a twist to the plot. I dare you to detect it if you are not familiar with the story. Even if you are, you must admire the way it is done. Billy Wilder directed the film and co-wrote the screenplay, making some additions to the story and stage play, which enhance our enjoyment. The acting is superb. Charles Laughton plays the defense attorney who, because of a heart ailment, is hoveringly attended by nurse Elsa Lanchester. Laughton's performance takes your breath away. He is also very funny, especially in his comic banter with Lanchester. Tyrone Power plays the charming young man accused of murder. Marlene Dietrich, who plays his wife, is at the top of her form.

This film has no computer-generated action, but it will hold you in suspense, give you some laughs, and leave you having seen a real gem.



Villagers love to party western-style! Clockwise from top: Nick and Rosalie Johnson, Len and June Halio, and Linda and Tom Barry.





Clubhouse Chairs

We have completed the sale of the old chairs in the clubhouse and the purchase of the new. We now have seventy-five of the newer folding type and three carts to stack the chairs on. **Please, when re-stacking chairs onto the carts, only put twenty-five on each cart.** We are leaving two carts in the men's room and one in the hallway to reduce congestion. Also, when borrowing chairs for family events in your home please let Larry Anzivino know when and how many you are borrowing. We always want to know where they are, especially when they might be needed for larger events or meetings.



Volunteer Spotlight

Did you ever wonder who put out the Food Pantry Box in the mailroom, empties

it when it is full, and delivers the food to the Westford Food Pantry? **Karen Morton** is our Food Pantry angel and we recognize her for enabling Village residents to participate easily in this worthy effort. There is a list in the donation box of what is needed. Please, no opened packages can be accepted. They will not accept wine, clothing, used eye glasses, VCR tapes, etc. Most welcome are toiletries such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, shampoo, conditioner, packaged disposable razors, deodorant, and toilet paper, along with clothes detergent, napkins, paper towels, dish and dishwasher detergent. Plastic containers are preferred.



We are happy to welcome Luise Sandholm to our neighborhood at 19 Sandstone Rd. .

Don Chandler has joined us also at 31 Sandstone Road. Don is the new Property Committee Co-Chair. He certainly caught on to our volunteer spirit quickly!

Deck Project Underway

By Buzz McArdle



The long awaited deck-resurfacing project has begun. James Enwright Construction Inc. installed a demonstration deck the week of December 1st at Jack and Theresa Bilodeau's home on Rockwell Road. (photo at left). The initial "demo

deck" is part of a study that has been ongoing for over three years beginning with recommendations made in a report by Bob Eddy in 2012. The Board of Trustees authorized a Deck Study Committee to investigate costs and approaches to replacing all pressure treated surfaces on one hundred decks of which thirty-five are grill decks. The Deck Committee is headed up by Ron Caterino and made up of members from the Architectural Standards Review, Property Committee, and the Finance Committee. The Committee presented its findings to the Board in November and was authorized to implement the first phase, which is a demonstration deck, to ascertain the viability and costs of the entire project that will begin in the late spring of 2016. The materials were obtained at no cost from the selected materials vendor, Duralife of Biddeford, Maine and Friend Lumber of Hudson, NH. Members of the Deck Committee visited the plant this summer and came away very impressed with the manufacturing and QA process. The composite product was selected from a group of five manufacturers because of its color, strength, weather ability, warranty, and reputation. After the New Year, a formal bid will go out to contractors for the entire project, which is expected to take about ten weeks.

The project cost will be absorbed by the Capital Reserve account, which is available for this purpose. The reduction in material costs allowed us to begin the project two years ahead of schedule, saving approximately \$40,000 in deck maintenance costs planned for the same period. There will be no cost to homeowners except for optional picture framing, the cost of which has yet to be determined. A sample of the picture framing and non-picture framing deck will be on display at the clubhouse.

SEEN AROUND THE VILLAGE



Wendy and Mike Wolfberg were returning to the Village a few weeks ago during daylight and were greeted by a porcupine (left) crossing the road. It was very large, slow, and black, and watched them warily. They noticed the quills on its back were missing and wondered what poor animal was walking about with a nozzle full of quills.



The clubhouse is beautifully decorated for the holiday season thanks to a group of Social Committee members. Shown above are Ruth Coleman and Gail Sergenian putting the finishing touches on the tree.



Dave Auld caught this winsome little groundhog (above) "smelling the roses" (aka zinnias) in his garden.



Jayne Currier and Dianne Marston both caught this beautiful scene at left recently as the sun glinted off the fall trees and highlighted our flag. To fully appreciate these photos you should see them in color, which you can do at our website: villageatstoneridge.com. You can see all our past Bulletins, recipes from Village cooks, winter hints, videos from events and many other photos. Thanks to Harriet Shanzer for maintaining the site!



ANNUAL CAROLING AND HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG

Save the evening of December 15th for two great events: first is the VSR Caroling, starting with a warm-up at 6:30 pm in the Clubhouse. No experience necessary! We will stroll the Village with Susan Hill as our leader, and stop at homes of shut-ins, or those who need a little extra cheer. If you would like to have us stop at your home, please call or email Louise Tahmoush or Ruth Coleman (in Directory). The second event is our Sing-a-Long. Everyone is welcome to come to the Clubhouse at 7:30 p.m. to join in singing holiday songs. This year we will have the Upbeats Band, including our own Joyce Minosh, playing for us. Come enjoy the band, singing, and refreshments with your VSR friends. Sign-up sheets for both events are posted in the Clubhouse.

MARK YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

December 15 Caroling and Sing-along 6:30 at the Clubhouse

January 1, 2016 New Year's Day Brunch Our traditional brunch will start the year off with delicious food and champagne. Watch the bulletin board in the clubhouse for signup sheets and details.

thank you...
...AND good-bye

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

We are losing **three** long-time members of the Social Committee in December and January and we will sorely miss them. Who will replace Kathy Abate, Ruth Coleman, and Judi Gilmartin? Well, no one can replace them, but we would love for some folks to step up to help us as we plan events for the Village!

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This month's photographs are by David Auld, Carlene Craib, Jayne Currier, Barbara Leary, and Sandy Kelly. 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

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