



Quarry Bulletin

May-June 2016



Dave and Loretta Auld join in the patriotic sing-along.

VSR REMEMBERS AND HONORS

By Barbara Leary and Wendy Wolfberg

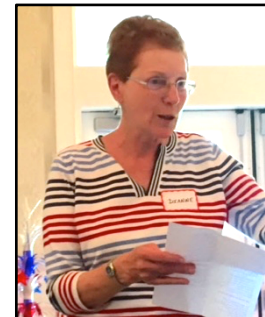
Voices were raised for a wonderful Memorial Day event. Almost sixty people attended, and despite the initially drizzly weather, everyone had a good time, and the sun started to shine by 2 p.m. It was another fun VSR event, organized by Clara Currier and Gail Sergenian with the assistance of the Social Committee. Don Chandler started us off with a raising of the flag, and Nick Johnson gave a short history of Memorial Day as part of a lovely flag ceremony



Wendy Wolfberg shows her patriotic spirit.

that honored both those departed in service to their country and those whom we've lost here at the Village in the past two years (no Memorial Day event was held last year.). Yummy burgers and dogs were grilled to perfection by Peter Abate, Dom DeFronzo, and Dean Hubbard, (Roni and Dean, you will be missed around the Village and we thank you for all your years of volunteering your time and talents!) accompanied by many

delicious side dishes and desserts. Thanks go out to pianist Ruth Ann Dillon and Wendy Wolfberg who led us in *God Bless America*, and also Dianne Marston, who led a patriotic sing-along before dessert. A lively scavenger hunt followed. David Auld (former dedicated Trustee) was one of the winners of the most patriotically dressed attendees prizes. Thank you all!



Dianne Marston leads a sing-along.

WORK/PLAY DAY BRINGS OUT MANY VOLUNTEERS



Once again our Work/Play Day efforts saved the Village thousands of dollars in maintenance as crews fanned out to clear brush, scour the clubhouse interior, put up signs, do trail

clearing, wash windows, work on drainage ditches, and polish up the gym equipment. Plan to set aside the first Saturday in May and join the fun next year. Kudos and thanks to organizers, Larry Wiederholt, Nick Johnson, and Don Chandler, and to the volunteers.



Above left: Larry Wiederholt attacks the screens. Above right: Judy and Rick Culver make the fitness center shine iinside and out.



Above: Sandy Kelly, Joan Roy, Dorothy Moran, Rosalie Johnson, Barbara Tobiason, Nancy Sharpe, Edythe Salzman's niece (a working guest!) and Edythe Salzman get the kitchen in shape.



Right: Jack Gilmartin, Paul Currier, and Jack Bilodeau find the fun in replacing brick walkways.

FIRST THE WORK – THEN THE PARTY

By Buzz McArdle

Although there were no big winners as the favorite won, the Kentucky Derby party was a huge success with lots of interesting and fun costumes and mint juleps flowing all evening. Special thanks to Nancy McArdle, bartenders Jack Gilmartin and Jack Bilodeau, and for handling the wagering, Paul Currier and Carl Erickson. About forty people attended, and the dancing went on until late at night. Great thanks to Sharon Erickson, Janie Currier, Judy Gilmartin and others for cleaning up the next day. Cleaning up the following morning is hopefully now the rule, which allows the party to continue unabated.



Left: Gail Sergenian and Mort Silverman strike a vintage pose. Below: The group celebrates – left to right: Jayne Currier, Linda Barry, Loretta Auld, Joyce Minosh, Buzz McArdle, Sandy Kelly, Charlie Ryan, Gail Sergenian, Nancy Sharpe, Judi Gilmartin, Mort Silverman, Clara Currier, and Rosalie Johnson



Supplemental Amendment Ends

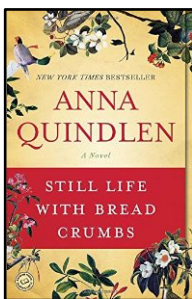
By Peter Abate, Trustee and Finance Committee Liaison

The assessment imposed on VSR residents with a final payment date of May 10, 2016 has been a success in meeting our objective of bringing the cash contingency account to the desirable level of two months of 2015 condo fees or \$75,800.00. This cash account is used to supplement the operating cash account when unexpected and unbudgeted expenses arise, as was the case near the end of 2014 and the beginning of 2015. The Board thanks all of the residents for the success of this effort.

Book Club News

By Dianne Marston

The VSR Library was overflowing with well over twenty participants on June 2, when we welcomed our guest author, Emily Ross, who was accompanied by her writing collaborator, Kate Leary (Barbara's daughter). Emily is the author of *Half in Love With Death*, a young adult psychological thriller. Along with the discussion of the novel itself, the group was very interested in hearing from the author about the long, involved process of writing her first novel, as well as getting it published. She was welcomed warmly and was delighted to be here for our discussion. Following the meeting Ms. Ross autographed copies of her book.



On July 14 we will meet again to discuss *Still Life With Breadcrumbs: A Novel* by Anna Quindlen. "Brilliantly written, powerfully observed, this novel is a deeply moving and often very funny story of unexpected love, and a stunningly crafted journey into the life of a woman, her heart, her mind, her days, as she discovers that life is a story with many levels, a story that is longer and more exciting than she ever imagined."

[Amazon review]

Our August 25th meeting will feature *The Wright Brothers*. "The #1 *New York Times* bestseller from David McCullough, two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize – the dramatic story-behind-the-story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly – Wilbur and Orville Wright" (Amazon review)

As always, you are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings. We begin with refreshments at 1:00, followed by the discussion at 1:30.

DECK PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

By Buzz McArdle

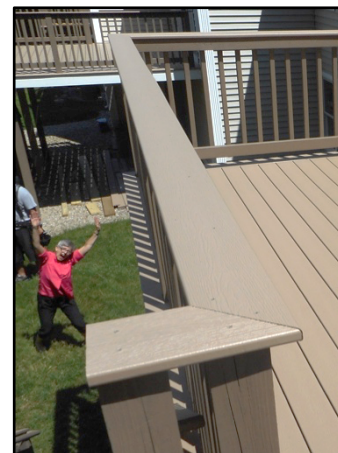
With the final boards being nailed on to Ken Hyle's home (1 Sandstone), the first phases of our deck project will be completed. The project, which was approved by the Board of Trustees last winter, is moving along ahead of schedule. The project is organized by clusters of about ten homes in each cluster with nine clusters in the project. The project is scheduled to be completed in the fall.

As you drive around you will note materials in the driveways of the volunteers who donated use of their driveway to store the materials. Additionally, some materials are placed in back yards to speed up delivery of decking to the decks. Many thanks go out to the folks who gave up half of their driveway for a few weeks.

In concert with the deck project was the installation of hand grab rails on any set of stairs of 4 steps or more. This is a requirement of the American Disabilities Act and also of the town of Westford. Patrick Fleming Construction completed all the railings with the local help of Fred Lemire and our Property Committee co-chairs, Don Chandler and Nick Johnson.

The finishing touches on Sandstone (cluster 1 and cluster 2) will include white deck risers and white skirt trim around the perimeter of the decks, enabling the town to sign off on the building permits. Before Total Deck Company (TDC) puts the new Duralife decking on, the deck is completely inspected for deficiencies and flaws, which are noted, approved by VSR as change orders, and corrected. Additionally, stair step blocking, hurricane brackets, and support beam brackets are being installed to update the decks to current building code. Clusters 3 and 4 construction will begin about June 10 and will be comprised of all of Gatecrest Road, Landview Road, and the top of Sandstone Road from 17 to 27. You can follow the progress of the project by noting the stickpin on the diagram in the front lobby poster. This is an indication of when you should clean off your deck. The contractor or volunteers are removing grills.

The pictures below are of the finished product. If you look carefully you can see Jane Currier excitedly waving about her new deck.





HAVE YOU CONSIDERED RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES? OR HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT IT?

By Ruth Coleman, Chair of the Election Commission

Our Village stands out for many things: wonderful people, beautiful landscaping, lots of varied activities, and more. We are fortunate to have both an excellent Management Company (Evergreen) and outstanding Board of Trustees, which work closely together. As you probably know, the Board is made up of five Trustees with staggered three-year terms. Each year one or more terms becomes open, and we hold nominations in mid-summer, followed by an election in September. This year there will be two open positions.

But what does the job entail? There is, of course, the monthly open meeting to conduct business and review the work of each of the standing committees. Each Trustee is assigned to one or more committee as a liaison. The Trustee attends those committee meetings and reports back a summary of activity and issues at monthly Board meetings. It is helpful for a resident to have served on a committee prior to becoming a Trustee to become familiar with how things function, but not required. The Board also works on contracts, special projects and any problem issues that may arise in the Village.

I asked current (and some former) Trustees to share what stands out about their experience, and here are some of their comments:

- “an opportunity to learn more about the Village than I ever imagined”
- a way to “utilize skills and knowledge accumulated over the years of your professional career for the benefit of your neighbors and friends”
- “Helpful qualities for a Trustee include: analytic and communication skills, teamwork, empathy, humor, leadership skills, and an ability to think outside the box on occasion.”
- an opportunity to “better know and understand our neighbors”
- meeting “many wonderful people”
- Working together collaboratively helps “get things done efficiently and helps us (VSR) save money.”
- an experience that “involves some work, but is enjoyable and satisfying”

As Election Commissioner I hope you will consider running. Please be in touch if you have any questions.



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Larry Tobiason

Village residents are very involved in the background operation of VSR with our managers, Evergreen Management, through various committees and subcommittees such as: Finance, Social, Property, Landscape, Water and Sewer, Architectural Standards, Communications, and Legal, that help shape what you see and feel as you live here.

Serving on one of these committees enhances the experience of living here by your own involvement with other residents and the knowledge that you are adding to the quality of life of all residents. Where are your interests? If you have some particular skills or interest in one these committees, attending a meeting will give you insight as to how residents can be involved in that element of our organization. Keep in mind that involvement in these committees does not fall on one person but on the committee as a whole. The members debate the merit of the subject at hand and their decisions are guided by affordability and the current needs of the Village. Look at participation as your opportunity to invest your talents and enthusiasm into the community in which you live. The Village needs you, so please make your wishes known to the chairman of the committee for which you have an interest. There is information about the committees and their chairs as well as when they meet on the Trustees' bulletin board in the mailroom.

Coming to a Board of Trustees monthly meeting will allow you to see how all of the committees participate in the whole, from individual projects to contributing to the budget deliberations each year. In the next few months, the Trustees, through the election commissioner Ruth Coleman, will seek nominations for the Board for two positions for three-year terms each. (See related article on page 6). Perhaps one of those new Trustees could be you!

Whether you have an interest and the time to serve on a committee or as a Trustee, your participation is most welcome. Evergreen Management considers VSR as unique among its clients for the level of volunteerism and the high quality of those who take on the responsibilities of overseeing the management of our community. Let's live up to our reputation! Volunteer today!

Newsletter



Three More Issues

Speaking of volunteers (see above) here's your chance. December will be my last issue as editor of the *Quarry Bulletin*. Call or email me (978-692-7387, ccraib@comcast.net) to talk about how you can be the next editor. It's a job that requires a few concentrated hours every other month, and it's creative and fun! Carlene



Important Care Instructions For New Plantings

Our landscape contractor, Morin's, has compiled some hints to help you assure that any new plantings done this summer survive and thrive.

Water is essential to healthy growth

Sufficient water is the most critical factor in assuring the success of newly installed or transplanted plants. Our experience shows that 99% of all plant failures result from inadequate watering. Don't be fooled. Light rains and lawn irrigations systems won't provide ample water for landscape plants. Be proactive with watering so plants remain healthy. The limited root system of container-grown or balled and burlap plants makes them highly susceptible to damage from drying out. Don't wait until plants show evidence of decline to increase watering. Proper watering will encourage new root development which is essential to plant survival and long-term vitality. Frequent watering during hot, dry weather in summer and throughout the fall is an absolute must. When plants wilt and roots dry out from lack of water, they become stressed and will be more vulnerable to cold winter temperatures. Most cold weather damage and plant death over the winter can be traced to root loss during the previous summer. **The first month is critical. For the first three-four weeks, water plants three times a day.** After the first month, continue watering your landscape plants twice a week with enough water to soak the surrounding soil. Fall watering is beneficial for all plants, but is especially important for broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, Andromeda, and hollies.

Winter Protection

In exposed areas, protect broadleaf evergreens such as rhododendrons, hollies, and Andromeda from drying winter winds by wrapping them in burlap. Until evergreens are well established, application of an anti-desiccant coating such as "Wilt-Pruf" will provide additional winter protection by reducing moisture loss from leaves. You can minimize the potential for broken branches from snow loads or ice by building protective covers over shrubs or wrapping them with burlap.

Fertilization

Fertilization of newly installed landscape plants is **NOT** required during the first year. To give your landscape plants a good start next year, feed them in early spring with high quality organic or slow release granular fertilizers. For rhododendrons, hollies, and some evergreens, use an acidic fertilizer recommended for those types of plants.

SO WHAT ELSE DOES SKIP HAVE UP HIS SLEEVE?



The picture above shows Skip Giles' most recent event when "Neil Diamond" came to the clubhouse to entertain the overflow crowd. But Skip is never satisfied with a sold out smash; he has many more plans to delight all the music fans in the Village. On September 10, he will present an encore of a favorite, Judy Pancoast, singing Karen Carpenter songs. The details of what is planned for December are still under wraps, but you will be excited when all is revealed!

VSR TRAVELS THE WORLD – Spain and Morocco



By Joyce Minosh

Fifteen local Westford ladies, including eight from VSR (Left to right: Nancy Sharpe, Joyce Minosh (leader), Terry Bilodeau, Judy Premru, Jayne Currier, Barbara Leary, Susan Hill,

and Diane Marston) enjoyed a nine-night trip to southern Spain and Morocco this May. A highlight of the trip was our four days in Morocco where we appreciated the differences in culture and food. The Moroccan people were warm and friendly, stopping us often to ask our names or to welcome us to their country. We did not run into many American tourists and found that as much as we were observing them and their customs, they were just as interested in us.

SOCIAL NOTES



July 4th Cookout? This is always a bang-up event, but it won't happen this year without you! No one has signed up yet to take the lead on this. If you would like to volunteer, there is plenty of guidance and help available from the Social Committee. There are lists of tasks and items needed, sample publicity and sign up sheets and more. Contact Clara Currier for more information and help us keep this tradition going!

- September 5** Labor Day Cookout
- September 10** Skip Giles Presents: Karen Carpenter
- September 25** Songs for a Sunday Afternoon With Wendy
- October 1** Progressive Dinner



SPRING BRUNCH



The Social Committee presented a delightful Spring Brunch last month. Pictured at left top: Larry Wiederholt and Dianne Marston and left bottom: Joan Roy and Ann Sullivan.

QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

Editor: Carlene Craib

Contributors:

Ruth Coleman

Barbara Leary

Buzz McArdle

Dianne Marston

Joyce Minosh

Larry Tobiason

Wendy Wolfberg

This month's photographs are by

David Auld, Barbara Leary, Buzz

McArdle, and Joyce Minosh. The

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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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Issue 3



We are so pleased to welcome our newest neighbors, Deborah and James Connolly, to 3 Rockwell Road.