



# Quarry Bulletin

November ~ December, 2018



## 2018 Year End Round-up

*We have so many fine neighbors to be grateful for at VSR. Here are just a few and we know there are so many more...*



**Barbara West** is a standout for her passion and commitment to the VSR exercise program. After 14 years of excellent management, Barbara has retired as coordinator. She brought us certified instructors who have guided and motivated many residents. We are stronger in body, mind, and spirit due to her dedication and encouragement these many years. *Thank you*, also to **Susan Hill** for filling big shoes.

**Joan Murphy** was Editor of the *Quarry Bulletin* until elected this fall as our newest Trustee. In addition, Joan is the Trustee Board liaison to our Social Committee while also being employed fulltime! Thank you for your dedicated commitment to our village, Joan. **Sandy Kelly** is now the *Bulletin* Editor.



Frequently first to put a hand up to help, **Peg Martin** jumped right in attempting to continue the mail recycling initiative in the clubhouse. It is clear the majority of VSR residents do recycle their paper and mail since Peg ran out of room in her own bins! ☺ We are discontinuing this volunteer effort. It is too much for one person to handle. Thank **YOU** too, for bringing all your mail home to recycle.

**Skip and Pauline Giles!** What more can be said? If you have not attended an event organized by this dynamic duo you cannot imagine what you are missing. In November, it was hard to believe that they could outdo themselves bringing in fabulous entertainment but, *Jimmy Mazz* came to town and no one disagreed, this was the best performance yet! And, for the third year, we needed to hold our holiday celebration at a bigger venue! We were back at the Parish Center for the Arts enjoying *Annie and the Orphans* and a nice meal catered by Hart's Turkey Farm.

**Buzz & Nancy McArdle** had a great idea and stepped up to make it all happen very quickly. Together, along with a cadre of Village cooks and helpers, they orchestrated a Ham and Bean Supper that 85+ generous residents attended for a delicious meal in trade for food and donations for the Westford Food Pantry at the Cameron Senior Center.

Noticed the new Christmas tree in the clubhouse? It is a beauty. Thanks to funding from the Social Committee, **Jayne and Paul Currier** picked it up and even put it together. The large wreaths were hung again by **Buzz!** Oh, and the lights which decorate the trees and bushes outdoors...yup, **Buzz and Paul**, plus elves **Phil Macpherson, Bill Nussbaum, & Steve Currier!**

## *News You Can Use*

### **VSR Board Approves Park Bench Program**

*~ Contributed by Buzz McArdle*

At the October meeting of the Board of Trustees a program to install park benches throughout the community was approved. There will be no VSR budget funds utilized for the project and the entire project will be paid for by residents' voluntary contributions.

As the VSR community ages, all residents are encouraged to exercise on a regular basis and we have excellent sidewalks for this purpose, but occasionally people may wish to stop and rest, chat with a neighbor, or just sit quietly and enjoy our beautiful quarry. The benches will be strategically located along the walkways, but no bench will be placed in front of or across from any housing unit. A test program of two older benches was conducted last fall placing them at the quarry, in front of the clubhouse, and along the walkway on the front lawn and many residents used them as a respite.

The 4 and 6 foot benches, manufactured by The Bench Factory of Batavia, Illinois, will not have memorial plaques, as they will be gifts from the entire community. Each of the six benches will cost about \$900 each, and they will be constructed of materials that require minimal maintenance, and installed by volunteers headed up by Buzz McArdle and Jack Bilodeau. Installations are scheduled for the spring of 2019.

All financing will be done by voluntary contributions similar to the flag pole program of several years ago headed up by Tink Nussbum, who has again volunteered to chair this fundraiser. If you would like to contribute to the program please contact any member of the committee, Tink Nussbum, Pauline Giles, Christine Caterino, Barbara West, Linda Barry or Nancy McArdle. You can also just drop a check into the collection box marked "benches", and once again, "Thanks for Giving". All donations will be considered anonymous.



*Louise O'Donnell enjoying a break.*

### **'Tis the Season, a new holiday tree adorns our clubhouse...**



Social Committee approved funds to replace the donated tree that we used over the past years. The tree had been well used and loved but safety became a concern.

After visiting numerous stores and researching online, Jayne Currier and Sandy Kelly settled on a realistic 7-foot natural fir with 2000 microdot lights! After a bit of wheeling and dealing, Jayne and Paul picked up Home Depot's floor model at a discounted price and they gave them a wonderful storage bag to keep it in! Jayne and Paul delivered and put it together for us and Social Committee members decorated it to kick off the season. The season begins!

## **Annual Finance Meeting was held November 1<sup>st</sup>**

VSR once again has a small 2.3% increase in our HOA fees for 2019 and Water and Sewer costs remain the same. Under the diligent leadership of Ron Caterino and Tom Barry, the Finance Committee members, Tom Sangiolo, Peter Abate, Doug Craib, David Auld and Eli Demetri have continued to hold our expenses at a reasonable cost while assuring our reserve accounts continue to grow for future needs. Having our own personal Finance Committee at VSR is one of the unique aspects that makes our neighborhood so special and helps to keep it so well maintained.

## **And from our Legal Chairperson, Bill Nussbum**

As winter approaches a few comments on the exciting world of insurance here at VSR might be helpful! You may have heard me speak ad nauseam about Unit Owners raising their **Homeowners Coverage** from \$5,000 to \$10,000 dollars.

The reason: If you do not, and a loss occurs, say from an ice dam on your roof that costs \$7,500.00 to repair, you will personally be responsible for the difference over \$5,000, which in this instance would be \$2,500.00. If you raise that limit to \$10,000, you will be covered by your homeowners' policy.

To accomplish this with your insurer, just call them and say you want your Limit of Liability on your HO6 Dwelling Coverage to be \$10,000.00 dollars. While on the subject of your insurance broker, it is important that you also discuss your entire HO6 with them. Coverage varies from every insurer. For example, while our Master Insurance Policy does have coverage for sewerage back up losses over \$10,000, the individual Unit Owner may not have such insurance, so depending on your location in the Village this is a consideration.

## **Keeping Winter Snow in Check**

Plowing of streets and priority driveways will begin when snow depth reaches 2 inches, or when a storm of lesser accumulation ends. If accumulation during a given storm exceeds 6 inches, a partial cleanup of driveways and parking spaces will be performed. When the storm is over, the first priority will be to clear the streets and the priority driveways. Thank you Doug Craib for always following up on our snow removal contract and procedures.

## ***SNOW REMOVAL PLAN 2018-2019 season***

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.

## Why recycle?

~ Contributed by Sandy Kelly

Simply put, it helps our environment and it saves the town money \$\$\$\$. Westford's trash is incinerated by Corvanta which has several locations in the state. All recyclable materials are brought to Integrated Paper Recyclers' processing facility in North Andover. An estimated 5000 tons of paper and 1000 tons of commingle are handled and processed by IPR monthly. The town is charged a tipping fee by the ton. Westford began recycling in 2006 and the tonnage saved from the incinerator continually rose each year until 2016. In 2017 there was a decrease in recycling activity by 300.8 tons. Despite the downward trend Westford still had a tipping fee *reduction of \$5,094*. Throwing your waste paper and plastic into your recycle bin saves tax dollars and reduces carcinogens being emitted at the incinerator. It is a personal decision of convenience, but it is clear by the amount of our mail that goes into the recycle, VSR residents are strong supporters.

## Not Sure if IT can be recycled?

~ contributed by Richard Coleman

**HERE IS THE ANSWER FOR EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING**

Just type into your web browser "recyclopedia MA".

Or go directly to:

<https://recyclesmartma.org>

Then find the search box:

Recyclopedia: Can I recycle this?

Search

If you missed the polystyrene drop off this year, expect one next Fall (no items that once contained food or drink - thank you).

## Webpage Factoid ... just for fun!

Did you know that in the month of November alone the VSR website, maintained by Peg Martin, had 389 unique visitors and had been viewed 905 times! Thank you Peg for your wonderful contribution to our village and keeping the website attractive and up to date. If you haven't taken a look, in addition to the monthly social events calendar you can find photos that residents sent to Peg, recipes from past events and login access to our Management Company which is password protected. If you need the login in info contact Sandy Kelly or any Trustee.

<https://www.villageatstoneridge.com>

TRUSTEES/COMMITTEES

CALENDAR

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

RESOURCES

VILLAGE PHOTOS

## If you haven't had your photo taken yet...Do not be camera shy!!

Larry Leif is donating hours of his own time to wait for YOU at the clubhouse.

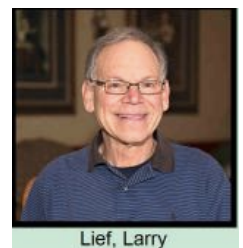
**New SIGNUP dates are WED Dec 19, 7-9 PM or TH Dec 20, 2-5 PM**

if you have not already had yours taken for the new Village Photo Directory.

This directory is now available on our website BUT is also password protected.

Not sure who you were talking to at the mailboxes? Don't know who the trustees are?

Who is who at VSR? Check out Larry's beautiful work at <http://larrylif.fotofellow.net>



Lief, Larry



# Village Fun

## Record Turnout for Ham and Bean Supper!

Over 85 people attended the first annual Ham and Bean Supper and "Thanks for Giving" fundraiser for the Westford Food pantry. All the food for the dinner was cooked and donated by volunteers. Each person brought either a bag of groceries or a \$10 donation for the food pantry.



*Buzz and Nancy McArdle*



*Jack Gilmartin sliced up 80 pounds of ham while Buzz, Paul Currier and Jack Bilodeau supervised.*

The meal was sumptuous and plentiful and included spiral cut hams, Jack Bilodeaus's famous beans, corn bread from Judy Gilmartin, and a wonderful cold slaw prepared by Paul Currier. The hams were prepared by Kathy Abate, Nancy McArdle, Judy Gilmartin and Jayne Currier accompanied by a special raisin sauce prepared by Buzz McArdle. Get Buzz's special recipe on our website: <https://www.villageatstoneridge.com/recipes>

In total over \$800 dollars was raised for the food pantry as well as three carloads of groceries.



Ken Hyle, Westford Food Pantry's President, was overwhelmed with the contribution by our community, and was very gracious in his remarks, thanking everyone, "In a town as affluent as Westford, it is hard to believe that the pantry assists 350 families in the town with food and staples. Much of the food and cash went to supplying Thanksgiving dinners for the needy. Thank you all so much"

As always set up and cleanup crews were ready and many pitched including Pat Granfield, Deb Rorke, Stephanie Tocci, Jack Gilmartin, Peter Abate, Ken Hyle, Ed Kern and Buzz McArdle.



*President Ken Hyle and Co-Chair Nancy McArdle count up the 50/50 raffle.*



*Delicious food was in abundance.*



**VSR  
GIVING \* GENEROUS \* GRATEFUL**

*Las Vegas singer Jimmy Mazz brought down the house,  
and in some cases got the house up!*



*Skip was in his element  
introducing Jimmy Mazz*



*Who is he? Tom Jones, Frank  
Sinatra, Rod Stewart,  
Dean Martin???*



*Elvis has entered the building!*



*Who sang it best?  
out the **video** on the  
VSR website at  
<https://tinyurl.com/ybfw8wgf>*



*The VSR Groupies  
Louise Provan, Stephanie Tocci,  
Sandy Kelly, Ruth Ann Dillon, Deb  
Rorke & Barb West.*

## **Progressive Dinner 2018**

*~ contributed by Gail Sergenian*

This village does know how to have fun! Our Progressive Dinners are a way to eat delicious food while mixing with different groups of VSR neighbors. This year we had 34 participants who went to one of two houses for champagne and cocktails, moved on to one of 4 houses for bœuf bourguignon and sides, then met with everyone at the clubhouse for dessert and coffee. Everyone who participated contributed something to the evening. Thank you to the individual hosts and all the cooks who made for a delightful evening for us all from start to finish.

The recipes are on the VSR website (thanks again to Peg Martin), but many chefs added their own twists. A good time was had by all.



## *Village Milestones ~*

*Congratulations to Roger and Irene Boucher who recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. You are an inspiration to many.*



*Happy Birthday Joan Roy ~ 90 years and going strong.*



*Thanks to the gracious hospitality of knitting group coordinator Harriet Shanzer, we had a lovely celebration in Joan's honor.*

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## **Holiday Help from Heloise**

*~contributed by Louise Theofilos*

Weekend's company coming and special breakfast recipe from my treasure box-

### **Eggs with Hash Brown Potatoes:**

Prepare eggs as liked. Serve with Hash Browns.

Boil 5 med potatoes cooked and peeled, 4 T. each oil & butter, 1 small onion diced, 1 clove garlic minced. Dice potatoes and cut in 1" pieces. Heat oil & butter in skillet over low heat, Add onions and cook 2 min., stirring. Add garlic stirring 1 min., Add potatoes and cook until crisp and brown. Now, all are preparing for The Theatre in Boston- all dressed for this special occasion. The Lady of the house has a problem! Her hands have this smell from all the onions and garlic from the breakfast preparation. That's no problem! She remembered what Heloise said. Just rub your hands up and down the metal kitchen faucet and "voila", the smell is gone and off to the Theatre they go for a lovely evening.



## BOOK CLUB NEWS

by Dianne Marston

VSR Book Club meets in the library every 6 weeks to discuss a book which had been selected by the group. (Please see the flyer on the mailroom bulletin board.) There are regularly about 20 people there for the discussion. Everyone is welcome to attend ... there is no membership! We gather in the Clubhouse to enjoy refreshments and socializing at 1:00 p.m. and then begin our discussion at 1:30 in the library. Sometimes almost everyone loves the book. At other times folks may share reasons why they found the book to be uninteresting or difficult to get through. Whatever their opinion, their thoughts are welcome. All agree that our discussions are very interesting and meaningful.



Our next meeting will be held on January 3 at which time we will discuss *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

**“Beautifully written and incredibly funny, *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* is about the importance of friendship and human connection. I fell in love with Eleanor, an eccentric and regimented loner whose life beautifully unfolds after a chance encounter with a stranger; I think you will fall in love, too!” —Reese Witherspoon**

**“A charmer. . . satisfyingly quirky.”—Janet Maslin, *The New York Times***

**“This wacky, charming novel. . . draws you in with humor, then turns out to contain both a suspenseful subplot and a sweet romance. . . Hilarious and moving.” —*People***

On February 14 the book for discussion is *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt.

***“Fish in a Tree* is a tremendous, sensitive account of a middle school girl's struggle with dyslexia and her inspirational progress in learning to read once she's paired with the right teacher. It's a powerful testament to the many ways in which different people learn and absorb information that upends traditional notions of how we define intelligence, what it means to be truly gifted, and what a difference an attuned, sensitive teacher can make in a child's life.**



**This book manages to take an issue that's hard to make compelling and gives it suspense and authenticity through powerful characters who really stick with you and make you feel for them. Ally's a tough, headstrong girl and a gifted artist who hasn't been told enough that her skills matter. But she thinks outside the box, cares about her family and peers, and has a unique way of thinking about the world, which she often sees in pictures. This captivating portrait, as well as her shame and discomfort at pushing past all the negative voices, both real and imagined, make you cheer her every step of the way as she progresses toward embracing her differences and committing to reading."**

*[from Common Sense Media]*





## GROOVY MOVIES

by Gail Sergenian

If you like British thrillers, this one's for you. It was one of the most-viewed miniseries on TV across the pond (Its finale had higher ratings than any British broadcast short of the World Cup). *BODYGUARD* is now streaming on Netflix. It stars David Madden (*GAME OF THRONES*) as David Budd, an Afghanistan vet now police officer, whose bravery and quick thinking result in a promotion. He becomes the police protection officer for Julia Montague (Keeley Hawes: *THE DURRELLS IN CORFU*), who serves as England's equivalent of the U.S. Secretary of State. You'll recognize many other mainstays of British TV throughout the series.

Budd's life is complicated by his PTSD and faltering marriage, Montague's by her political ambition, which has earned her many enemies, from the Prime Minister down. Although their perspectives on a slew of issues are in direct opposition and despite obvious improprieties they become intimately involved.

The action starts with a breath-taking opening sequence. Budd is on a train with his two young children when a suicide bomber is discovered. His careful negotiation saves the day. But that is only the beginning. The show is like a complicated puzzle, full of surprises. Who are the heroes? The villains? You won't be sure until the final scene of the last episode. It is well-acted and fast moving, with constant twists and nail-biting tension.

This is a very bingeable series. I couldn't wait to get back to the next installment until I had watched the last. I predict a second season and recommend it highly. It's quite a ride.

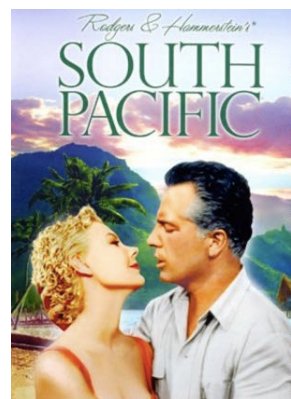


## VSR CLUBHOUSE MOVIE NIGHT

A group of movie lovers gathered at the clubhouse in October to relish the classic musical *SINGIN IN THE RAIN*. It is hard to believe the film is 66 years old. It is still a joy.

We began the evening with some trivia. Most interesting to me were the physical difficulties endured by the stars: bleeding feet (Debbie Reynolds), dancing soaking wet with a bad cold (Gene Kelly), and a hospital stay (Donald O'Connor). It was a grueling experience and none of them ever worked together again. Despite that, they managed to exude exuberance, fun, wit and optimism. We all left with smiles on our faces.

We are taking a holiday break and will reconvene on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> to enjoy another great musical, *SOUTH PACIFIC*. The Rogers and Hammerstein score is outstanding: "There is Nothing Like a Dame," "Younger than Springtime," "This Nearly Was Mine," "Some Enchanted Evening," "You've Got to Be Carefully Taught" are just a few of the highlights. Please join us at 7 for schmoozing and voting on February's film. Movie to start at 7:30. BYOB and a snack or sweet to share.



## *There's No Place like Home for the Holidays*



*Baby it was cold outside but that didn't stop our villagers from bringing holiday songs and cheers to some of our homebound friends all under the orchestration of Louise Tahmoush, Ruth Ann Dillon and Dianne Marston. Then folks gathered back at the clubhouse for our annual singalong and goodies planned by Clara Currier and her elves.*



*But, when we cannot all fit into the Clubhouse ???  
Skip arranges for us to go to the Parish Center for the Arts.*



*All gussied up for a fun night...Skip, Larry Anzivino, Paul Hamel and Joe Rorke*



*Deb Rorke and Stephanie Tocci in their finery!*



*Skip and Pauline even plan the food, clearly enjoyed by Neil Horowitz*



*Holiday Party ~ December, 2018*



*Greeting the guests...Skip with Larry Weiderholt and Tom Barry*



*Tink Nussbum and Kathy Abate warming up to rock the night away*



*And Rockin' with VSR since 2016!*



*As Annie always says, "I know that it's only Rock 'n Roll but I like it!"*



*Skip belts out a tune  
Ah, let's go to the hop, oh baby  
Let's go to the hop*



*Please check the online Calendar for changes and updates*

**Upcoming Social Committee Events  
at the Clubhouse**

Social Committee Meetings are  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays at 7:00 pm  
Please join us!

Jan 1 11:30 am New Year's Day Brunch  
Jan 3 1:00 pm Book Club: *Eleanor  
Olyphant is Completely Fine*  
Jan 15 7:00 pm Movie Night *South Pacific*  
Feb 14 1:00 pm Book Club: *Fish in a Tree*  
Feb 6 7:00 pm Village Meeting TBA  
Feb 9 TBA Spaghetti Dinner  
Feb 19 7:00 pm Movie Night  
Mar 13 7-9 pm Trivia Night  
Mar 19 7:00 pm Movie Night  
Mar 21 1:00 pm Book Club

**Save these Dates:**

Apr 27 TBA Pancake Breakfast  
May 4 6:30 pm Rod Stewart ~ Skip Giles

**86**



*That's the number of toys **Doug Keele** dropped off  
at the Westford Police Station.  
And, they were impressed by "the quality of the  
toys donated. Thanks Doug and VSR residents.*

**Welcome home Kathy Doherty  
at 7 Stone Ridge Road**



**Home Sweet Home**

**Ongoing clubhouse events**

Monday 1:00 pm: Knitting  
Wednesday 2:00 pm: Bridge  
Friday 6:30 pm: Games & Social

**There is a small fee for some  
fitness classes.**

**For information contact Susan Hill**

Monday 8:30 am: Aerobics & Weights  
Tuesday 8:30 am: 3 mi Walking Tape  
Tuesday 6:15 pm: Fusion  
Wednesday 9:00 am: Yoga  
Thursday 6:00 pm: Aerobics and Weights

**QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF**

**Editor: Sandy Kelly**

**Proofreaders: Louise O'Donnell &  
Gail Sergenian**

**Contributors:**

*Richard Coleman  
Paul Currier  
Buzz McArdle  
Bill Nussbum  
Gail Sergenian  
Louise Theofilos  
Dianne Marston  
Doug Keele*

**Photo & Video Contributions :**

*David Auld  
Tom Barry  
Frank Bashore  
Paul & Jayne Currier  
Fred Lemire  
Larry Lief  
Debbie Rorke  
Stephanie Tocci  
Paula Wood*

*The Quarry Bulletin is a bi-monthly newsletter  
to help keep you informed about events and  
information at The Village at Stone Ridge.*

*Email articles and photos to  
the Quarry Bulletin*

**Volume 16 Issue 6**