



Quarry Bulletin

March – May, 2020



The Quarry-tine of 2020

Making History...

Life has been different for the past three months, not only for the Village at Stone Ridge, but throughout the world. Parts of our country have simply shut down! Businesses not deemed *essential*, such as commercial, industrial, retail and restaurants all closed, so people would not spread the Coronavirus Disease known as COVID-19. Public buildings, schools, and libraries all locked their doors. Generally speaking, and particularly among the retired here in our village, residents were advised to stay indoors as this virus especially targets folks in our age brackets. All social events, group meetings, exercise classes, and town events were cancelled. Those who had pre-existing health issues scrambled to find folks or services such as InstaCart and Prime to do food shopping for us. Some families haven't seen each other for months because no one knows who might be an asymptomatic carrier of the disease and spread it simply by talking in close proximity to each other. When we do see others, it is at a "safe" distance of at least 6 feet. Face masks became prized items when Governor Baker required them in public and to enter essential services such as grocery stores. Even doctor's offices cancelled appointments and used teleconferencing for check ins. Surgery that was not considered an emergency was delayed. Being told not to go out after years of going to work, raising families and managing sometimes daunting responsibilities, there was a considerable adjustment for this high energy group of over 55ers. One of the hardest decisions to make was to cancel a paid, planned vacation, or figure out when and how to come home if you were already away.

Now, after weeks of cleaning neglected nooks and crannies, we are all looking forward to brighter days ahead. Spring is here, the warmer weather and beautiful landscapes have returned to VSR and folks can be seen outdoors walking and chatting, at a safe distance, of course. Westford Board of Health has reported 140 cases and currently 5 active cases in town as of June 10th.

Our clubhouse remains closed except for picking up mail but we have developed some new skills. We are much better at estimating distance, we carry masks and hand sanitizer in our pocket just in case, and we have enhanced technology skills. In fact, technology has saved the day for families and friends at a distance. Previous non-users have learned how to use Hoopla for library books, plus Facetime, Zoom and GotoMeeting to meet with others. We have become accustomed to going to exercise classes, book discussion group, knitting and places of worship on our computers. So, along with the usual news items, this edition of the Quarry Bulletin is dedicated to the resilience of our neighbors and how we are getting through the quarantine during the spring of 2020. A copy of this bulletin will be submitted to the Westford historical collection at the JV Fletcher Library. *Sandy Kelly, Editor*

Around the Village

When asked what they really miss here, it is our social activities and the inability to gather and interact with our friends and neighbors. The Social Committee calendar was totally revised deleting a special Sunday concert with an award-winning harpist, Work-Play-Day and Buzz McArdle's annual Kentucky Derby party, a Cinco de Mayo, Taco Tuesday dinner, Skip Gile's first entertainment night of the year with John Davidson, our annual Memorial Day Commemoration and Cookout, the Men's annual Steak n Ale Night, alongside Ladies Night at Bamboo! The upcoming Flag Day with a Happy Hour and entertainment by the Upbeats is cancelled as is the 4th of July Ice Cream Social. The calendar for fall will be reconsidered as new state guidelines are issued.

Locally, Voting will be different...

For the first time ever, annual Town Meeting has been moved until June 20th and will be held outdoors at 9 AM on the Westford Academy athletic field. Chairs will be appropriately spaced with hopes the weather will accommodate at least the minimum quorum of the 315 attendees to approve the new fiscal FY'21 budget. There are still bills to pay and other prioritized town needs. Town elections will be held on June 30. All registered voters can [apply](#) for an early voter ballot which can be returned by mail, or a locked dropbox behind Town Hall, no later than 8PM on the 30th.

Property Update

~ by Doug Craib

On April 7 a group of socially distancing homeowners spent a couple of hours picking up trash along VSR's roadways. Over the winter, about six bags of trash accumulated. Most of it along Tyngsboro Road. Along with the empty water bottles and chip bags, one full can of coke, a pair of sneakers, and a head of cabbage were bagged. Thanks to those who participated!



Where there is a will, there is a way...



Keeping Strong - Harriet Shanzer, Paula Townsend, Carole Shyavitz and her daughter continue with their morning walks, while distancing.



Morning coffee ladies? Thelma Shoneman and next-door neighbor Wendy Wolfberg do not let a little snow and a pandemic interfere.

In Memory... ~by Frank Bashore

We at the Village at Stone Ridge missed our traditional Memorial Day celebration and cookout this year so as to continue to stay safe while the COVID-19 virus threatens. Some missed the get together with friends and neighbors and the burgers and dogs with all the trimmings. But there is another reason for Memorial Day and that is to remember those brave service members that have given the ultimate sacrifice so we may enjoy the social life we have here. This year we missed the few minutes we reflect on what an awesome gift those men and women gave us defending this great country and this way of life. We missed the few short minutes that reminds us what a courageous thing they did by giving their life for freedom. Please take a few minutes in your busy lives to reflect on that gift and thank those individuals for what they did. We owe them much more than we can ever repay.

During our traditional dedication we would have taken time to remember our departed neighbors that passed during the year. Let us also honor those friends who departed.

George "Artie" Roach
Joe Rauptys
Nick Johnson
Charlotte Demetri
Chris Zahos



Also, former resident ***Richard Diaz*** died this year at the Bedford VA facility.

We will miss them all. ***God bless America.***

Richard and Nani Diaz ~by Sandy Kelly

Neighbors who knew Richard and his wife Nani have sent to me many emails, past Quarry Bulletins, articles, photos and memories of a couple very involved in our community. Richard lived with a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis following exposure to Agent Orange and other toxins in Vietnam. He spent many years researching the occurrence and impact of heavy metal poisoning. In his later years, he wrote and passionately tried to educate and warn others about the accumulation over time of lead, mercury, aluminum, cadmium, arsenic and copper in the body and the connection to chronic illnesses prevalent in our industrial society.

The couple started the *Quarry Bulletin* and though I never met Nani before she passed at age 61, I learned what a wonderful person she was when I took her place as production manager with editor, Shirley Chambers. The respect and admiration they earned still follows them to this day.

Louise Theofilos wrote a lovely article in 2014 telling the story of a Gala apple seed that was planted in their yard with the hope their son would thrive. When the seed started to grow, stones were placed around it "as protection for this fragile life." Sadly, Richard was predeceased by Nani and both their young son and daughter. Richard died April 26th after a battle with the COVID-19 virus. The tree now stands about 12 feet tall and can be seen here in beautiful full bloom thanks to Louise.



Finance Committee, 2020.

~ by Ron Caterino, Finance Committee Chair

In 2004 the Village at Stone Ridge was legally transferred to the Association by the builder and our many committees were formed. When residents were asked if they would join as founding members on the committees, the Finance Committee was then formed with 7 resident volunteers. Today we are fortunate to have 9 members, 5 of which are “original founding members”. This group has truly been the model of consistency, with very little turnover and collectively comprising over **100 years** of Village Finance Committee participation. Obviously, this level of consistency has resulted in more accurate financial results, a benefit to all of us.

Current Members		Committee Years
* Ron Caterino	<i>Finance Committee Chair</i>	16
* Tom Barry	Budget Committee Chair	16
* Eli Demetri	Long Standing Founding Member	16
Peter Abate	Chief Analyst	13
* Ken Hyle	Past Finance Committee Chair	12
David Auld	Water & Sewer/Utilities Controller	11
Doug Craib	Property Controller	10
Tom Sangiolo	Treasurer/Board Liaison	5
* Bill Townsend	Founding Member	3
(* Founding Members)		TOTAL = 102 YEARS

The Finance Committee meets on the third Wednesday of every month for about 2 hours. All of our meetings are open to residents, *though we seldom have any!* Four or five days prior to the meeting we receive detailed financial statements from Evergreen Harvard Group’s Accounting department, and each member reviews these financials individually, listing any questions they may have. At the Finance Committee meeting we review all questions and prepare a detailed list of those questions and/or adjustments that we feel are necessary. We then submit the list to EHG Accounting, whereas they make the appropriate changes and report back to us for the subsequent month’s meeting.

Also, at the FC meeting, most members have been assigned responsibility for reporting on specific areas of the financials (i.e. Previous months changes, Reserve and Contingency balances, budget to actual performance, Insurance schedules, Cash position, Accounts Receivables, Income Tax Issues, Reserve Requirements, etc.). We find that this spreads the workload amongst all the members, lessening the burden on all members.

Since 2004 the Finance Committee has developed its own Operating and Water & Sewer Budget, **a function normally conducted by an Association’s Management company.** We developed a system, 16 years ago, requiring input from all department heads and their liaisons

-continued

which is subsequently reviewed and voted upon by the entire committee and submitted to the Board of Trustees for their approval. This Budgeting process is refined each year and certainly has become a mainstay of the Committee's charter.

Initially we felt that by preparing our own budget and doing monthly performance due diligence would give us a far greater understanding of where the residents money was being spent and would have a more positive impact on both our annual Management and our Audit fees, which indeed it has.

As Finance Committee chair, I would like to think that our group's consistency is due in great part to my excellent management skills, **but I would be lying!** It's hard to believe that a bunch of pseudo-bean counters could enjoy what we do, but we all do get a great deal of personal gratification on achieving positive results and resident feedback. We have a very talented group of residents, some with financial backgrounds and others without, but all who are willing to contribute their time and their skills to make the Village at Stone Ridge a better place to live. **Many thanks** to all the Finance Committee members for their many years of support and dedication.

And speaking of **Thank You**



Great Job Westford Girl Scout troop 69104 who built the new Food Pantry Collection Box for us!

The girls had planned to deliver our box right before the shut down. They had already delivered one to MarketBasket, the MillWorks and the Roudenbush Community Center. On a recent morning, one troop member Christine Guay, and her parents dropped off the box. Past Food Pantry President Ken Hyle and myself welcomed them at the front door and *thank you* to Ken who got it into the mailroom.

Learning new tricks?

Thanks to Harriet Shanzer for continuing to host our weekly Monday knitting group on Zoom. Don't let Wendy's tropical background fool you! She was right at home on Rockwell. On the other hand, Mary Ellen Tisdale on her iPad, Ruth Ann Dillon and Barbara Leary had been joining in from Florida and sometimes June Halio was at the Cape! We're staying close even when we are far apart.



Keeping Busy!

Some neighbors have still been working, others may be on call or working electronically from home. Several of us have been making literally hundreds of masks for friends, relatives and those in need. When the requirement was announced across the country to wear masks to protect yourself and others who might be susceptible, no one knew where to find them. Medical grade masks were in short supply and there really was not anyplace to buy one, even online. That has improved over the past few weeks but store employees, shoppers, daycare workers for children of essential workers and family members of doctors and nurses needed masks quickly. VSR crafters crowd sourced supplies such as elastic which was in short supply and pulled out their sewing machines and sergers.



Ellen LaPierre shared her stitchery with family and friends.

Others used the time to work on culinary endeavors in spite of the difficulty to shop for supplies. Neighborhood bakers quickly discovered that toilet paper was not the only product selling out on store shelves! Bread flour was in high demand and nowhere to be found. Word spread quickly among the Village bakers, on Zoom of course, and pretty soon Barb West was baking sumptuous hamburger rolls that made others *ooh* and *aah*. Some have commented that they too aspired to cook more since restaurants were closed and take out was still questionable. Getting the ingredients all lined up was as far as they sometimes got before moving on and being distracted to do something else. Being quarantined during retirement can be a big adjustment!

Staying Fit

It has never been unusual here to see Villagers out walking around VSR. For many during these times the highlight of the day now is walking to the Clubhouse to pick up mail. Only one at a time can enter and again six feet is required before the next person can go in. But, we carry our sanitizing wipes, as asked, to wipe the door handle on the way out, and if really lucky will have a chance to meet someone coming or going for a little chat. When asked what residents missed most during the pandemic the top response was “interactivity” along with “giving and getting hugs”, especially from grandchildren.

In addition to walking or going on a hike, some have taken to riding their bike around the village, a real accomplishment with our hills. The regular exercise classes held every week, morning yoga, chair yoga and fusion still take place and are well attended. Since the Clubhouse is closed we meet on...yup, Zoom! Our instructor Cheryl has done a nice job leading us online from her own home, even making up a class one time when her internet service was down. Though we miss personal interaction it is comforting just grabbing your device and seeing others. It makes exercising convenient and keeps us in a routine.



Little things mean a lot!

Socializing... Peg Martin and her group of Slingshot riders joined the growing trend to have parades through the town. The Night Light Parade started right here at VSR and brought folks outside to their driveways on a beautiful Friday night. With folding chairs and a beverage of choice things almost felt normal again. If you missed the parade take a look online here: <https://youtu.be/p4KDLdD2UWk>.



Paul and Jayne Currier along with their son Christian wait for the Slingshot riders.

Honoring our neighbors...



Joe Norton & family



Judy Premru & passersby



Spying on visitors ...



invited



or not!!!

“And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music.” Frederick Nietzsche

The Beauty of Stone Ridge...

On a recent evening our amazing resident photographer [Larry Leif](http://fotofellow.net) (fotofellow.net) took pictures of Luise Sandholms's garden. You have probably driven by her previous home on Depot Road, the English cottage set back from the street on the right as you approach the center of town. Before moving to VSR, her home was frequently a popular stop on the Westford Garden Club Tour each year. With trustee permissions and requirements, she has recreated a wonderland garden behind her home at 19 Sandstone. You will frequently see her out weeding and nurturing and she would welcome you to take a look. It is a peaceful and beautiful hidden gem.



In spite of having to stay within our confines and quarantine conscientiously during the 2020 pandemic, we can all agree that we are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful and comforting environment. The grounds are well kept through joint efforts of our residents, volunteers and the landscape company. The mulch has been spread, the lawns are being cut, trees that have been cut down are being replaced. The battle of the bunnies continues between those of us planting flowers in our gardens and the rabbits who snack on them. The bobcats slink through, and no one has encountered a bear lately. The sun rises each morning though the weather can be unpredictable. We are more aware of the bright stars and huge moons on a clear spring night and we can seek solace knowing that we are all in this together. We are lucky.





BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Dianne Marston



Some of you, especially those who are new to the Village, might be curious about the birth of our Book Club. 15 years ago, in April and May of 2005, two Villagers, Ann Sullivan and Jackie Tucker, originated the idea of having a Book Club meet in the Clubhouse. At their first meeting 9 folks were present, among them Linda Anzivino, who is still very involved with our Book Club today and manages our clubhouse library. The very first book they discussed was The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood. Since then we have met regularly every 4-6 weeks and have discussed **135 books!** If you are interested in a list of these books, please contact Linda or me.

We wish to acknowledge and remember several prominent members who have now passed away: Ann Sullivan, Friederike Heiter, Reeno Agha, and Mort Silverman. Each of them contributed significantly to our Book Club discussions. At this time there are about 20 members who attend regularly. As you know, all are welcome to attend our meetings.

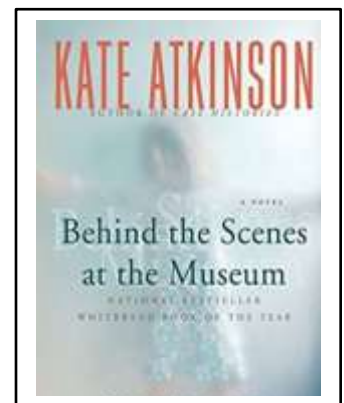
As some of you know our VSR Book Club has held its two most recent meetings via Zoom (thanks to Paula Wood!). Since the Clubhouse is closed due to the Corona Virus, we have successfully carried on with online discussions. Though not ideal, it provides us a way to connect and to express our thoughts and ideas to one another.

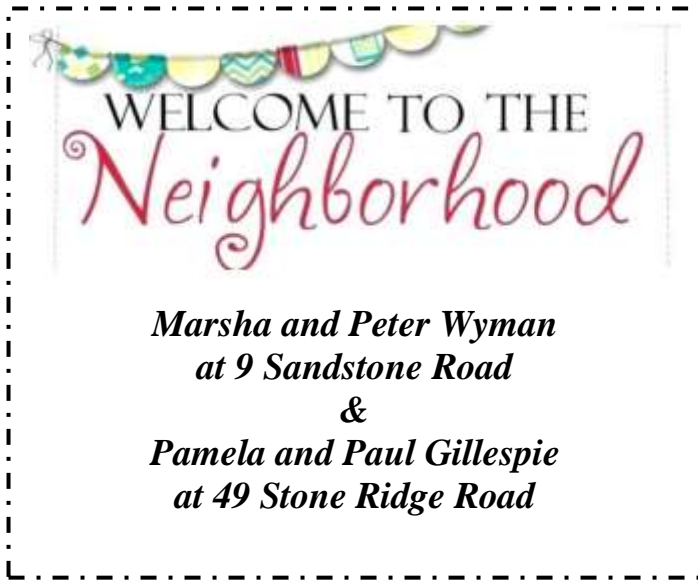


We will meet again on June 25 to discuss Celeste Ng's novel, Little Fires Everywhere. Here is Celeste Ng's own description of the book. "Like many places in our country, Shaker Heights is full of idealistic, altruistic people--of all races--who are good at heart and sincerely want to do the right thing. Yet when personally affected by the issues, even idealists often end up making selfish choices with far-reaching effects. It's human nature, yet I wanted to explore how--and how often--we justify it to ourselves when we cross moral lines. Where do we follow the rules, and where do we justify breaking them? Do our pasts determine what we deserve in the future? And is it ever possible to leave your past behind? These are some of the questions I hope the novel raises."

Our August 6 meeting will focus on Behind the Scenes at the Museum by Kate Atkinson. Ruby Lennox begins narrating her life at the moment of conception, and from there takes us on a whirlwind tour of the twentieth century as seen through the eyes of an English girl determined to learn about her family and its secrets. Kate Atkinson's first novel is "a multigenerational tale of a spectacularly dysfunctional Yorkshire family and one of the funniest works of fiction to come out of Britain in years" (*The New York Times Book Review*).

"Spanning generations and both world wars, this British debut leaves no stone unturned in recounting the humorously turbulent family history of Ruby Lennox. With a natural storyteller's flair, Atkinson tumbles forth an array of anecdotes, revealed secrets, and eccentric snippets of love and death that finally build into the splendid chronicle, ghosts and all, of Ruby's life. With a sly, biting humor and honest warmth, a thoroughly enjoyable first novel." [Kirkus Reviews]





*Watch this space for future events
We will continue to assess the safe use of our
clubhouse and gatherings for future plans.
Check the online calendar for any changes
and times to verify upcoming events:*
<https://www.villageatstoneridge.com/calendar/>

A fireside chat circa 2020...

Notice the fireplace? It is projected from Lorraine and Phil MacPherson's computer screen! The small images include Debbie and Joe Rorke, Stephanie Tocci and Paul Hamel as they all gathered to chat on Zoom! Just another day in the life☺



***We all have our family and we have our friends,
but here in the Village we are "family."***

- Larry Anzivino

QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

Editor: Sandy Kelly
Proofreaders: Louise O'Donnell,
Frank Bashore

Contributors:
Frank Bashore
Ron Caterino
Sandy Kelly
Dianne Marston

Photo Contributions :

David Auld
Doug Craib
Jayne Currier
Sandy Kelly
Ellen LaPierre
Barbara Leary
Larry Lief
Debbie Rorke
Harriet Shanzer
Louise Theofilos
Nancy Till
Stephanie Tocci

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