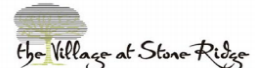




Quarry Bulletin

January - February, 2023



Happy New Year from the Board of Trustees 2-23

It's a New Year and a New Normal

Folks are now returning to events at the clubhouse. One of our new opportunities to meet has been monthly Village Meetings coordinated by the Trustees so residents can ask questions, talk about issues that concern them, and to make new suggestions. These have been well attended and we are looking into using a hybrid model with Zoom so that folks who can't get to the clubhouse can listen in and even participate. We thank Tom Barry and Skip Giles who are investigating additional microphones and ways to make the meetings easier to hear from home.

In addition to new events and information, many have especially noticed our new bobcat family who have adventured in to make VSR their home.

Meet our Bobcat Family...



Village Updates...

A result of our village meetings is that the Trustees have adopted and approved new rules, so their monthly meetings are more participatory.

As usual there will be time for unit owner input. The set time is a maximum of thirty minutes which will be equally divided by the number of attendees who wish to speak. Board members or committee members may answer any questions or provide information that is known at that time. Otherwise, the board will ask the president to add it to a future agenda for follow up.

After each report is presented by the committee liaison, we will allow an opportunity to ask specific questions for clarification. The board member may defer to a Committee Chair or member if the answer is not known. Many of our attendees have been actively involved in committee work for several years and bring a good deal of institutional knowledge which might be helpful. Any questions that cannot be answered in a timely fashion will be recorded in the minutes. There will not be an extended discussion at that time.

All residents are invited to attend monthly Trustee meetings. It is a good way to hear about what is going on in the community, meet neighbors if you are new to the village, and perhaps find ways that you can get involved. The monthly agenda is sent out in an email the weekend before and posted in the clubhouse. We will continue to try to use a hybrid format for those who need to Zoom in.

This year we have added new members to the Property Committee and introduced the Property Team Helper program. You may have expertise in a particular area that you would like to join. We are also planning a Village Workday on Saturday May 6th with May 7th as the rain date. Villagers will walk the property, pick up trash, possibly do small repairs and clean up the clubhouse. Check-in will be at the clubhouse where coffee and donuts will be available.

We continue to try to improve our email communications, so information does not go into your spam or trash email. A new email address has been created, vsrsecretary@villageatstoneridge.com. A MailChimp account has also been established and we will be testing it out in the next few weeks. If you learn that you did not receive an email, please contact Sandy at this new address. Thank you.

The following article was submitted by Doug Craib from an old Quarry Bulletin when Shirley Chambers was the editor. It is a great source of information about our quarry for newcomers and longtime residents as well. Shirley volunteered in the village until she passed at age 86. She was a whirlwind planning chili cookoffs, inviting guests, organizing village meetings and even line dancing at the clubhouse. She was smart, funny, outspoken, and simply a wonderful person. Enjoy.

VILLAGE MEETING ON GRANITE QUARRYING IN OUR TOWN

Shirley Chambers, Moderator – Al Garside, Speaker

On October 2, forty-four residents and a guest gathered for a Village meeting on quarrying in Westford. Shirley Chambers opened the meeting explaining that she had been researching this topic for two years, but had been unable to find out the owner and thus the name of our VSR quarry. She invited Al Garside to come speak to our group hoping he could provide some answers. He was superintendent of a granite quarry in Milford, NH for 30 years and currently runs a monument business in Westford. This was (by his request) a Q and A format. Initially he reminisced about some of the quarrymen with whom he had worked – Dogface and Bubba for example. There were many questions from the audience. These Q and A's are taken from Carlene Craib's minutes of this program, with some additions and modifications.

Q – *What is the explanation for the many small quarry holes we've found here on our property?*

A – Between here and Milford, NH there were 125 small quarries. These small holes are called "motions," and they were places where two or three men would work, mostly cutting paving blocks after the first World War. These quarries supplied all the stone for the WPA. The blocks were loaded at the quarries and taken to train depots for transport. Train tracks are still visible near St. Catherine's Church.

Q – *How many quarries were there in Westford?*

A – Johnny Vieira owned the quarry here in your Village. he died in 1956 at age 68. After that Frank Prescott bought the quarry. Al was not able to speak to him because of ill health. There were many others in Westford, 10-15 square miles of rock that many people began to quarry. Some of them were Fletcher's, Guilmette's, Merrill's, and Verna Morris's. Only two are still active.

Q – *What was the purpose of the big cables that we see sticking out of the ground here in our Village?*

A – They held the derrick used to take granite out of the quarry.

Q – *Was there medical care on-site for quarry workers injured while working?*

A – Fletcher Granite had an RN on duty all the time. Most of the injuries were back injuries or fingers.

Q – *Where did the workers live?*

A – Workers lived at the Cobblestone Inn (the building on Rt 40 with the cobblestone porch) and other boarding houses, many along Rt 40.

Q – *What was the function of the two stone buildings on our property?*

A – One was a blacksmith shop and the other the compressor house. The compressor house pumped water

out of the quarry to cool bits and keep the dust down. Blacksmith Estates off Rt 40 was built on land that was the blacksmith's at Fletcher's.

Q – *What year did the operation begin at our quarry?*

A – In the early 1950's it was still working, but it began long before that.

Q – *Did they work all winter?*

A – In really cold weather they would have stand-by, meaning they waited four hours and got paid for two. If the weather warmed up they went to work; if it did not they went home.

Q – *Did the pumps run all the time?*

A – Yes, they had to keep it pumped out, and then they would circulate the water back with an abrasive.

Q – *Would they work the quarry all the way down to the bottom?*

A – Yes, you have to keep water pumped out and keep quarrying down. The granite quality improves the deeper you go.

Q – *What were the hours for workers?*

A – As superintendent, Al said he worked all hours of the day and night. Sometimes people came back at night to get pieces of granite illegally.

Q – *How old did you have to be to begin working in quarries?*

A – You had to be 17 and you had to know someone to get into the quarry work.

Q – *How much did you earn?*

A – All the granite would come out and be taken over to the rail yard, and each person had his own berth and put his production onto the trains. Typical production was 300 4x4 blocks a day for \$ 0.80 an hour.

Al Garside left us with a very thought-provoking statement: "Some of Westford's granite is now being sent to China to be polished."



PHOTO: SHIRLEY CHAMBERS

Clubhouse Rentals

VSR is now accepting Clubhouse rentals again. The facility is available to all residents for social events and personal rentals. The resident sponsoring an event must be present at all times. Events which include outside guests are considered a rental and require a waiver of liability along with the \$125. usage fee and a \$200 security deposit. Reservations for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving may only be made 6 months in advance per the VSR Rules. Any commercial use of the clubhouse such as “for profit” gatherings, sales presentations or political events are not permitted. The fee for rental is waived for a funeral reception of a resident or close relatives such as a mother, father or child.

Social events are open first to those living in the Village. All Rules and Regulations, along with the application is available on the villageatstoneridge.com website. Please read the requirements before submitting your application to Donna Bettez at Evergreen Management. She will advise you as to whether the date is available. The complete process can take up to two weeks. Once your date is confirmed you should mail your application and fees to Donna. The security deposit will be returned to you after it has been confirmed that everything was left in its original condition.

We have been fortunate to have Judy Culver who does a walk through with renters the day before their event. The day after she will follow up to confirm that the rules were followed, the rooms have been cleaned and all trash is removed. We can even refer you to our cleaners if you need them. This helps to keep our clubhouse for all to enjoy for many years to come.



*Social Committee events are always fun for all.
Check the calendar, save the date and enjoy,
especially the great food!*



*These beautiful flower arrangements were
donated by Thelma Shoneman to be
raffled at the recent Taco Tuesday event.
Sign up for her floral arrangement class
on April 4th.*

Did you know....

~from our new Environmental Information Group

Much is happening in our town of Westford to reduce our carbon footprint. On Wednesday March 29th, at the Clubhouse from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, Westford's sustainable coordinator, Susan Thomas, will bring you up to date and answer your questions.

Who is Susan Thomas?

~from WestfordCat

The Town of Westford welcomes its newest employee, Sue Thomas, serving as the town's new sustainability coordinator. She has previously served on Westford's Recycling Commission and currently serves on Westford's Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee. Her position is split between Westford and Carlisle under an Efficiency and Regionalization grant, with the two towns receiving a \$94,902 award to fund the role for one year.



“The hope of both towns is that I will be able to demonstrate in concert with committees in both towns enough value in terms of bringing in resources and spreading information so that our populations can bring down our emissions,” Thomas told WestfordCAT. She continued, “I hope to bring a lot of added value in terms of embedding sustainability criteria in the decisions across the community.”

A primary goal of Thomas is to educate residents on ‘zero waste,’ where residents reduce the amount of recycling and waste they dispose of. Thomas says reducing waste will ultimately save the town money.

“The solid waste issue is that we are paying per ton to dispose of our trash,” she said. “We’re also paying the fee for hauling to pick up that trash. It does cost a good sum of money to do that.” She noted that though residents should continue to recycle, she notes consuming less and composting food waste will help the environment while saving tax dollars. “Recycling is still better than trashing something, but it is not the ultimate end. We want to think about producing less trash, and food waste in particular is a focus because it’s so heavy, its mostly water,” she said. She continued, “most of us have lawns where we can compost, because you are basically paying your tax dollars to haul around water and depriving your soil of the nutrients.”

With the introduction of a new textile and mattress waste ban on Nov. 1, Thomas encourages residents to repurpose and recycle these materials.

MassDEP issued its final **2030 Solid Waste Master Plan**, which established goals for reducing disposal statewide by 30 percent (from 5.7 million tons in 2018 to 4 million tons in 2030) over the next decade. It set a long-term goal of achieving a 90 percent reduction in disposal to 570,000 tons by 2050.



BOOK CLUB NEWS
By Dianne Marston



Our VSR Book Club has continued to meet in the Clubhouse both in person and also on Zoom. If you would like to join us, our refreshments and socializing begin at 1:00, followed by our book discussion in the Library at 1:30. All are welcome!

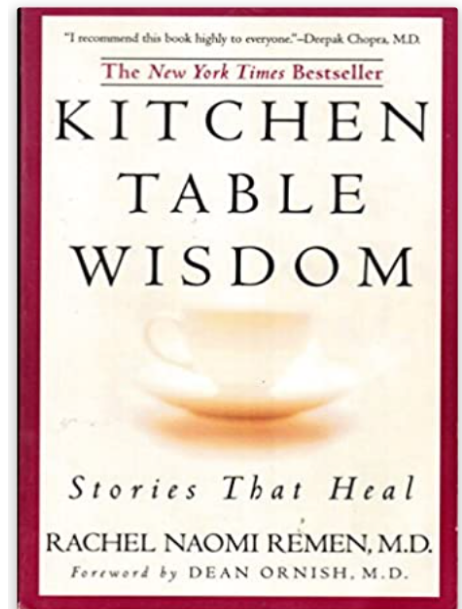
Our next meeting will be on April 13. We will discuss *Kitchen Table Wisdom: Stories That Heal* by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.

Dr. Remen, whose unique perspective on healing comes from her background as a physician, a professor of medicine, a therapist, and a long-term survivor of chronic illness, invites us to listen from the soul. This remarkable collection of true stories draws on the concept of "kitchen table wisdom"-- the human tradition of shared experience that shows us life in all its power and mystery and reminds us that the things we cannot measure may be the things that ultimately sustain and enrich our lives." [from the book cover]

Review:

"Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen is a pioneer in the medicine of the future. With the elegance of simplicity, she shows how

physicians can become healers by no longer remaining mere technicians of the human body, but by becoming alchemists of the soul." --Deepak Chopra, M.D.



"Rachel Naomi Remen is nature's gift to us, a genius of that elusive and crucial capacity, the human heart. She has much to teach us about healing, loving, and living."

--Daniel Goleman, Ph.D., author of *Emotional Intelligence*

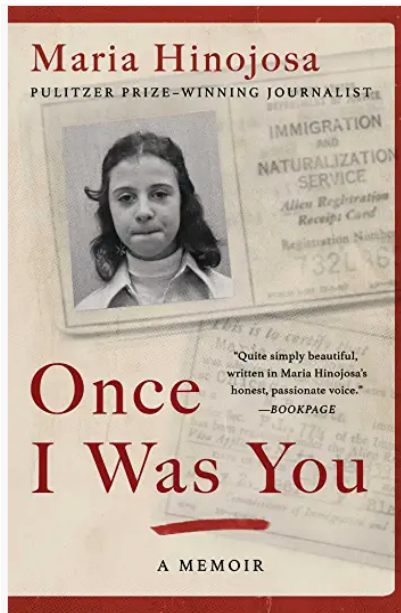
"A book of stunning radiance, authenticity, and power. I laughed and cried my way through it, from beginning to end... Come share in this extraordinary outpouring of human wisdom." --Jon Kabat-Zinn, Ph.D., author of *Wherever You Go, There You Are*

"Read these gorgeous, from-the-soul stories at the risk of burying cynicism, finding hope, learning a good deal more about life and living-- and having a damned good time."

--Norman Lear

About the Author:

Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D. has been counseling those with chronic and terminal illness for more than twenty years. She is cofounder and medical director of the Commonwealth Cancer Help Program in Bolinas, California, and is currently clinical professor of family and community medicine at the University of California at San Francisco School of Medicine.



Our May 25 meeting features the book Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America by Maria Hinojosa.

"The Emmy Award–winning journalist and anchor of NPR's Latino USA tells the story of immigration in America through her family's experiences and decades of reporting.....[Book Page]

"In Once I Was You, Maria shares her intimate experience growing up Mexican American on the South Side of Chicago. She offers a personal and illuminating account of how the rhetoric around immigration has not only long informed American attitudes toward outsiders, but also sanctioned willful negligence and profiteering at

the expense of our country's most vulnerable populations—charging us with the broken system we have today.

An urgent call to fellow Americans to open their eyes to the immigration crisis and understand that it affects us all, this honest and heartrending memoir paints a vivid portrait of how we got here and what it means to be a survivor, a feminist, a citizen, and a journalist who owns her voice while striving for the truth." [Amazon]

As always, all Villagers are welcome to attend!
A special welcome goes out to those who are new to the Village.



Ladies PJs and Movie Night had another good turnout. We had pizza and of course ladies brought their choice of beverage. We appreciate Tom Barry's help setting up the equipment. It was a fun night.



***Our Volunteers Make
a Difference and
help us save \$\$\$\$
You can help too!***

FOR INFORMATION

Contact vrssecretary@gmail.com

Also see upcoming committee meetings below
that you might consider joining.

Upcoming Events ~

*(some of these events require sign-up – watch the
mailroom bulletin board)*

- March 17 St. Pat's Happy Hour
- March 22 Finance Committee
- March 23 Property Committee
- March 25 Karen Carpenter Show
- March 28 Trustee Meeting
- March 29 Environmental Group
- April 4 Floral Workshop
- April 10 Social Committee
- April 13 Book Discussion Group
- April 19 Finance Committee
- April 20 Property Committee
- April 25 Trustee Meeting
- May 6 Village Cleanup Day
- May 29 Memorial Day Cookout

*Events are also listed on our calendar at
villageatstoneridge.com*

Message from the editor...

The ***Quarry Bulletin*** invites any resident to submit an article or suggest a new idea for a column in our bimonthly bulletin. In the past we have had movie reviews, favorite recipes and even restaurant reviews.

As time goes by, I am looking ahead to handing off the set up and production too. This is my second time around as editor I previously worked with Shirley Chambers who always produced a great newsletter. I'd love to work with someone who is tech savvy and willing to learn the formatting process. I'd love to hear from you.

Who should you call in an EMERGENCY

***Evergreen Management at
(800) 973-4300 or (603) 622-7000***

***If a Grinder Pump Alarm goes off or
a Red Light is on, this is considered an
EMERGENCY:***

***Call Evergreen Management at
(800) 973-4300 or (603) 622-7000***

AND

***Marsha Wyman
(978) 857-9200***

Evergreen Management Group

(603) 622-7000

Monday – Thursday 8:30 - 5:00

Friday 9:00 - 3:00

John Gustin - Association Manager

jgustin@evergreenmgt.com

***Donna Bettez - Association
Administrator***

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***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
QuarryBulletin@gmail.com***

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