



Quarry Bulletin

November - December, 2023



Happy New Year 2024

2024 State of the Village

~ Contributed by our President, Carlene Craib

It is hard to separate the work that has gone on in the Village from the volunteers who undertake it, so first let me acknowledge everyone who has played a role, from the “unsung heroes” detailed elsewhere in this issue, to the Board and Committee chairs, for most of whom Village business is an everyday task, if not actively working on something, still on their minds. You are greatly appreciated!

Since the bulk of our condo fee goes to property matters, I will start with a recap of the work of the fourteen Property Committee members. These men and one woman meet one to three times a month to manage maintenance accounts and address unit owner requests. The tasks are organized under twelve accounts, each managed by maintenance lead. Their efforts lower our maintenance costs substantially – thank them when you see them around your unit checking irrigation heads, evaluating your shrub health, or examining decks for any structural issues. They addressed 184 maintenance requests from residents in 2023 as well as routine tasks! Other initiatives completed were running our Community Cleanup Day (aka Work/Play Day) supported by thirty-five residents, adding another accessible parking space at the clubhouse, and developing a wooden front porch replacement policy for Board of Trustee approval. A significant amount of their time is spent in surveys. From these comprehensive looks at our infrastructure, the Committee can identify long and short-term maintenance needs. This year they surveyed decks, porches, bulkheads, brick walks, shutters (new), landscape plantings, roads/driveways/catch basins, and fences. The most significant issue this year, and for years to come without doubt, is roofs. The Committee is actively engaged in evaluating them to determine the remaining life of our roofs and in refining our replacement plans. If you would like to join this important effort, please contact Doug Craib or Marsha Wyman and join the Committee.

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Our Social Committee is the toast of the town (village). These eleven women provide us with amazingly creative and fun activities. How many do you think they have sponsored this year? (answer at the end of the article). The response to these social opportunities has surpassed the Committee's expectations and has steadily increased. A new double wall oven was provided for their and renters' use this year. Will they be asking to expand the clubhouse next? If you want to join this hardworking group as they plan another round of fun, contact Debbie Rorke or Stephanie Tocci.

The Architectural Standards Review Committee plays an important part in keeping the Village the showplace it is. Over the past year much of their work has been devoted to developing a new specification that will allow residents to fly American flags on their units. They were helped by three other interested residents who did a thorough research and reconnaissance mission so that any flag displays will be a nice addition, uniform, and fitting into our look. Other ongoing initiatives concerning front porch lattice work and back deck railings will be wrapping up this coming year. There is always something interesting going on in this Committee. Contact Larkin Chenault to join them.

The Finance and Budget Committee has kept the Village finances on an even keel over the year. This Committee's eight members are penny pinchers in the finest sense of the phrase. From conducting an annual audit, to watching the market for the best investment opportunities, each month they thoroughly analyze the statements provided by Evergreen Management and maintain close contact with the finance personnel there. Their budget process is a work of art and results in a carefully prepared document. If money is your interest, join them by contacting Bill Townsend.

The above Committees are those that meet each month and are highly visible, but there are other groups that meet occasionally who provide vital services.

The Water and Sewer Committee keeps daily watch on our facility and its workings. Because the Committee kept meticulous records over the years, we were able to recover a significant amount of money this year in previous overcharges from Tyngsboro Water Department and to save money in pump equipment and chemical purchase. The Committee also navigated complicated issues to contract with a new escrow agent and get our DEP Reserve funds into a higher interest account. The seven Committee members successfully arranged for a new vendor for our water maintenance after Tyngsboro Water Department left that business. This entailed a lot of work and has been very successful. We are fortunate to have a great deal of expertise and commitment on the part of these Committee members. Wouldn't you like to learn more about this VITAL part of our infrastructure and join them? Call Marsha Wyman.

~ continued...

Our Advisory Committee (previously the Legal Committee) was of great help this year as we wrote a new regulation about resident use of Certified Disability Vehicles. They have a wealth of expertise and experience for us to call upon. Contact Charles Feeney, the Board Liaison if you are interested in this Committee.

The Insurance Committee successfully negotiated our insurance contracts and has been working closely with our insurers and residents concerning some extensive claims that occurred over the year. If you are interested in insurance issues, they would be glad to welcome you. Contact Bill Townsend.

The Clubhouse Committee is another group that rarely meets as a whole Committee, but each person plays an important role in keeping the clubhouse the spectacular asset it is. They are involved in overseeing maintenance outside and in, arranging for upkeep of the exercise equipment, organizing the popular fitness classes, monitoring our rentals which are increasing (a great opportunity for another volunteer to help Judy Culver with inspections), keeping the library books in order and arranging appealing displays of books, lighting the façade for Christmas, keeping us supplied with keycards, and of course raising and lowering the flag! If you would like to help with any of these initiatives contact Peter Wyman.

Finally, the Outreach Committee is one that perhaps touches every resident personally during the year. If you checked out the website or the Directory, got a welcome visit from Debbie Rorke, had something notarized by Peter Abate, signed up for an event on the bulletin board, cast a ballot, got a card with well wishes, borrowed some crutches, or read a *Quarry Bulletin*, you benefitted from the efforts of the members of the Outreach Committee. Speaking of the *Quarry Bulletin*, despite many pleas over the past year, no one has stepped up to relieve Sandy Kelly of the job. She has done it for many, many years and is now ready to let someone else have the pleasure of assembling articles and photos, editing, and publishing this wonderful resource. Although I know that we all will miss it, she will begin publishing quarterly for the next year, and then we will reevaluate. You could be its champion! Call Sandy Kelly (who says she will help ease a new editor in) if you are interested.

There are other non-Committee related but active groups in the Village as well. Skip and Pauline Giles put on two fantastic shows, the Environmental Resource Group brought us three very interesting presentations, and poker, book club, and knitting kept us socializing, reading, and creating.

I hope that this recap of what we have been up to in our spare time has inspired you to jump in and join us. I look forward to new volunteers and to seeing you at a Social Committee event soon. (Answer: 17 give or take a Happy Hour or two last year!)

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Comment from Carlene about her year-end “roundup... ‘Lest the title lead you to think I am having delusions of grandeur, this article was Sandy’s idea, not mine! She asked me to think back over the past year and highlight some of our accomplishments, and look ahead to projects for 2024. (*Sandy’s Reply...and she did a great job.*)



Giving “Thanks” to our helpers...

Each of the following have been submitted with appreciation from folks who live here!

*Larry Lief for scheduling our annual mosquito spraying every year.

*Capt Bob Eddy for organizing the Dryer-Cleaning Project which was so appreciated. It took a lot of worry from those of us who had their Dryer Vents cleaned out this fall.

*Larry Anzivino supervised the replacement of the garage lighting shade rings that were all rusted high up on the garage. This made a big difference in the front of my garage.

*Luisa Sandholm for the flowers in front of the clubhouse. She has kept up the Clubhouse flower pots throughout the year, often at her own expense. She is a master gardener, and we are fortunate that she shares her talents with us.

*Paul Currier and Dianne Marston for their regular contributions to our Quarry Bulletin.

* All the Board members - past and present - a tough and time-consuming job and they have done such an amazing job for all of us since the Board was formed.

* The holiday decorators - volunteers who brighten our lives during the holiday season and make the Village sparkle.

* Skip and Pauline Giles who have for so many years, and continue to, keep us entertained in a grand manner at a minimum cost - you are the best!

* Buzz and Nancy McArdle who over the years since they have been here planned and carried through several successful events and also helped us grace the Village with much needed benches throughout.

* Social Committee who over the years have planned so many incredible events for the Villagers to enjoy - and they continue to under Stephanie and Debbie’s leadership to do it in a special way. So many residents have been involved over the years.

*The active Property Committee over the years with all its volunteers have saved the Village so much money with jobs they performed willingly. They continue to do whatever they can and some have been on the Committee for several years.

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*The Finance Committee with its several longstanding members including its former leader who recently moved (Ron Caterino) has kept the Village more than solvent with its large Reserve Fund and inventive methods of adding money to the coffers - or saving money.

* Bob and Pat Granfield who keep the Village Directory up to date in a timely manner online. And to those before them, who kept up-to-date records and published a Directory every 2 years. It is such a helpful aid to have at one's fingertips.

* Shirley Chambers who sadly is no longer with us who started the Quarry Bulletin along with Nany Diaz (also no longer with us) I believe. It is always something to look forward to on a bi-monthly basis which hopefully will continue.

* Our Helping Hands & Caring Committees who have reached out and helped so many people in the Village over the years by finding them rides to appointments or necessary errands, with visits, calls and cards - an amazing volunteer service.

* Sandy Kelly for all the extra things you continue to do to keep us informed and all you have done in the past - from Welcome Wagon to 2 term Board member to Editor of the Quarry Bulletin. You keep us on top of whatever we need to know, and it is much appreciated.

Property upkeep...

Going, going...

***G
O
N
E
!!***



Good Bye old tree

Out with the Old & In with the New...



And even Santa himself stopped by our Village!



Did you know???

The Town of Westford has recently signed a contract with Bootstrap Compost for home pickup of food waste. Bootstrap provides a covered 5 gallon bucket with liner, and replaces it with a clean, empty one every week or bi-monthly, depending on which plan you sign up for.

The waste goes to an industrial compost facility and ends up as garden-ready compost. Charges are currently discounted. For all the details, check out their website: bootstrapcompost.com

Dining Out

~submitted by Paul Currier



Dining Out at Rosco's Diner

Jayne & I have been going to Rosco's Diner for many years. We have always been delighted with our meal. Most of our visits have been for breakfast. It's a family affair at Rosco's with his daughters serving tables and dad, the owner, doing the cooking.

Rosco's is in Chelmsford center across from Fish Bones. We like to arrive early between 7:30 – 7:45 am. The restaurant is very busy between 8:00 – 9:00. It's not a big place. About eight booths line one wall and a few small tables for two, in the middle of the restaurant. It also has a counter that seats around ten.

The menu is extensive. There are breakfast, lunch and dinner meals to choose. Jayne's favorite breakfast is "Captain Crunch" French toast. She describes it as a stack of French toast, each dipped in egg and rolled in a sweet, crunchy cereal and cooked to perfection. It comes with a stack of three French toasts. However, Jayne can't eat a stack of three. She does a very good job of eating two. She's given me a very small bite and it is two thumbs up. Jayne's also had the Belgium waffles and pancakes. Each meal delicious.

I do not have a favorite dish. I like everything on the menu; Omelets, breakfast specials, breakfast combos, and eggs benedict. I do enjoy Greek food. Rosco does an awesome job with preparing and cooking anything that's Greek. I've had the Greek Omelet, Greek Sausage Benedict, and the Greek special combo.

The portions are generous. Bacon & eggs for example always has come with extra bacon, 4 or 5 slices. Home fries, or beans and toast is served with each meal. You can also get fresh fruit cup as a substitute if you wish.

For lunch, they serve burgers, hot and cold sandwiches, wraps & clubs, soups, chowders, and salads. Dinner options include Greek cuisine... Greek Baked Lamb, Mousaka, Pastitsio and Spinach Pie. Steaks, Liver & Onion, Meatloaf & Chicken Finger dinner are also on the menu. Seafood dishes include, Fish & Chips, Baked Haddock & Scrod.

Rosco's Diner is located at 11 Central Square
Chelmsford, MA

Rosco's is open Sunday-Friday – 6:00am - 2:00pm
Saturday 6:00am – 4:00pm
Breakfast is served all day.
Tel # 978-954-4774





BOOK CLUB NEWS

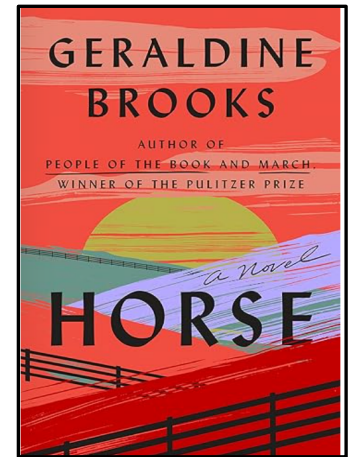
By *Dianne Marston*



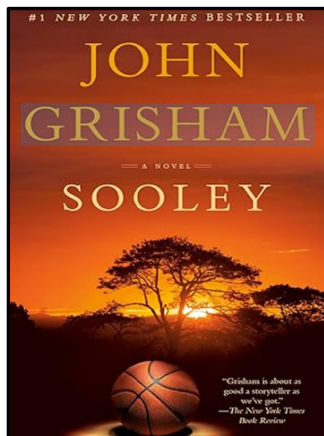
Our VSR Book Club meets in the Clubhouse. If you would like to join us, our refreshments and socializing begin at 1:00, followed by our book discussion in our Library at 1:30.

The January 25 meeting will feature a book by Geraldine Brooks, one of our favorite authors. It is simply titled *Horse*.

“This book covers nearly 170 years of American history, Stretching from antebellum Kentucky to present-day Washington, Thoroughbreds provide the unifying element for this far-reaching narrative, but horses and the complex culture surrounding them are only devices for Brooks to explore her fundamental subject: race and its corrosive influence on our nation’s foundation and cancerous impact on society today.” *Patricia Schultheis*



Inspired by the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred, Lexington, *Horse* is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.” *Book Cover*



On March 7 we will discuss a book by the New York Times bestselling author, John Grisham. “Sooley follows 17 year old Sudanese basketball player, Samuel Sooleymon (Sooley), who has the chance to travel to America for an international tournament and be scouted by college coaches. While he’s a great player in Sudan, he’s not up to par with most of the others at the tournament. He also receives devastating news about his family back in Sudan when he’s in the US. This of course shifts Sooley’s focus from basketball to family — Heeding the advice from his coaches to stay put for now due to the dangers and limited communications in Sudan, Sooley commits to do whatever

it takes to help his family, including playing for and working at North Carolina Central College. *Brandice*

“But how far can Sooley take his team? And will success allow him to save his family? Gripping and moving, Sooley showcases John Grisham’s unparalleled storytelling powers in a whole new light. This is Grisham at the top of his game.” *Goodreads*

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

Remembering Gail Eddy



Gail was an active contributing member of our community for a number of years. She was an early member of the Architectural Standards Committee. Gail also served on the Advisory Committee which was originally the Legal Committee. Additionally, she started the Village Transportation Swap. Gail passed peacefully after several weeks of home hospice care. A Celebration of Life will be scheduled for the near future. Watch for the announcement.

Helping Hands

Our Village Helping Hands list has been updated for 2024. If you need a ride to an appointment, someone to run an errand for you, pick up a prescription or something at the market, maybe provide a meal for you or just to have someone to come for a visit and chat, call our new contact person, Nancy Till. Please contact Nancy on her home phone at 978-496-1338. Leave a message if she is unavailable to answer and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you to the 42 neighbors who have signed up to help! And, as it has been said in the past, (thank you Larry Anzivino),
“We are Framily.”

Who to call for an EMERGENCY...

John Gustin is our Association Manager at Evergreen. For Board of Directors contact/liaison, Budgetary issues, and general property questions or issues contact John at
Email: jgustin@evergreenmgt.com
(603) 782-7695

**Evergreen Management:
800-973-4300 or 603-622-7000**

**If you hear a Grinder Pump Alarm or the Red Light is on this is considered an EMERGENCY.
Call Evergreen.**

QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

**Editor: Sandy Kelly
Proofreader: Nancy Till**

Contributors:

*Carlene Craib
Paul Currier
Sandy Kelly
Dianne Marston*

Many of our residents!

Photo Contributions:

*Tom Barry
Debbie Rorke*

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

*All are invited to mail articles and photos of interest to our neighbors for consideration.
quarrybulletin@gmail.com*



The Quarry Bulletin is looking for a new Editor and contributors. In the past we have had recipes, movie reviews, articles about travel and we welcome all new ideas. Please consider joining our team.