

# Grande Gazette

*The Village Grande at English Mill*

Volume 4 • Issue 3

March/April 2013



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**50**  
years



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## Grande Gazette Staff

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*Updated: 02/11/13*

## Grande Gazette Information

### Deadlines:

- **May 2013 Issue - COPY DUE IN BY Friday, April 5, 2013**
- **July 2013 Issue – COPY DUE IN BY Monday, June 10, 2013**
- **September 2013 Issue - COPY DUE IN BY Monday, August 5, 2013**

### Publishing Practices/Policies:

- The *Grande Gazette* may reject any material deemed inappropriate. If disputed, the article will be submitted for review to a panel composed of at least two *Grande Gazette* Staff and a resident Trustee.
- The *Grande Gazette* will edit submissions for clarity and focus, but will make every effort to maintain the writer's concept and meaning.
- The *Grande Gazette* prefers original material written by residents. If parts are abstracted from other sources, references should be included.
- The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Grande Gazette Staff or the Board of Trustees

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**Please send ALL Grande Gazette related materials to this email address**

*Updated: 02/11/2013*

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## From the Editor ...

*By Tom Santucci*

This *Grande Gazette* will go to press with a significant governance issue regarding our Trustees election scheduled on May 14, 2013. The terms of both our Trustees expire and Art Richman will not be seeking re-election. Pam LoBue will seek a third term, and if elected, will assure continuity of leadership.

With the increasing size of our community, the amount of work required from the Trustees has significantly increased. As a result, the Trustees have requested that the Developer (D.R. Horton) increase the number of Community elected Trustees to four. This requires an exception from the POS. In this *Gazette*, there are two articles addressing this request, *News from D.R. Horton* and the *Election*. The matter was settled at a meeting with our Trustees in February 13. Todd Greene announced that D.R. Horton will not make an exception to the POS to increase the number of resident Trustees. It will remain at two until 298 homes are conveyed to the HOA.

With landscaping and irrigation being our major budgetary expense, it is important that we are well informed. After Fred Moderski's informative swales article in the last issue, two related articles appear in this *Gazette*. Carolyn Walmsley's "*Irrigation 101*" is a comprehensive article on VGEM's system. In addition, our Trustees provide us with an update on Egg Harbor Township's action with D.R. Horton regarding the acceptability of the swales for 75 of our homes.

This *Gazette* keeps us informed about our many social events and sporting activities in both words and pictures. These highlights include New Year's Eve, the Super Bowl of Chili, the Winter Breakfast, bowling, Snowbirds and many others.

The *Grande Gazette* continues seeking to showcase the diverse talents of our neighbors. One example is Pat Roche's *Spotlight on Our Neighbors* that identifies three very talented women who are contributing members of our community. As usual, articles by Tony Scaricamazza deal with diverse topics from informative to humorous; plus collaborating with his wife Annette and Don Mastrangelo for a "*Cops & Robbers Quiz*". Doreen DeLucca has written an article that deviates from her usual uplifting, thought provoking topics. In this issue, Doreen continues to be thought provoking but addresses the chilling subject of violence in our country with a uniquely apolitical approach.

The *Gazette* is pleased to welcome a new contributor, Walter Zaulyczny. As a highly experienced, knowledgeable physical therapist, Walt will be a feature writer on the musculoskeletal conditions that have or may affect most of us at sometime in our lives.

Unfortunately, I regret not being able to highlight all the interesting contributors to the *Gazette*. Please read on and discover them for yourselves.



# New Year's Eve Party

## An Evening of Frivolity, Camaraderie and Dancing



The New Year's Eve Party in the Grande Room of the Clubhouse was well attended by eighty- people of which four were non-resident guests. Eighty four had registered. The Grande Room was festively decorated with ten tables adorned by black on white tablecloths highlighted with gold and silver coordinated plates, napkins, bowls of potato chips and pretzels, noise makers and party hats. Each table was adorned with a bouquet of helium balloons. Throughout the evening, over 1,200 pictures of VGEM events and residents flashed on the large screen TV. A long buffet table decorated with balloons and ornaments was filled with a diverse array of food trays including wraps, deli-sandwiches, seafood finger sandwiches, stuffed bread, hoagies, cheeses, vegetables and many other goodies.



*The sign-in team of Joan Hofmann & Rosemary Murtha welcome Barbara Walsh*

For the first hour or so, everyone imbibed and enjoyed the food to soft background music. It all changed when Posse Productions opened the dance floor and party time erupted. As you'll see from the picture on the Gazette cover, the dance floor was packed with smiling, cheerful partiers. This continued throughout the evening. Aggie and Jim have a tremendous talent for getting everyone involved in dancing. Their vast collection of music enables them to play requested tunes that Aggie elicited from each table.

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Around 10:30 PM, desserts were served and enjoyed while the dance floor frivolity continued. Just before midnight, the TV was turned on for everyone packed on the dance floor to watch the ball drop at Times Square. Auld Lang Syne was sung by all with much toasting with bubbly along with hugs and kisses. At the Co-Chairs request, Posse Production's Aggie and Jim continued providing their great selection of dance music. The majority of partiers stayed until "The Last Dance" was played about an hour into 2013.



*Co-Chairs Marlene Santucci and Jeannie Eckard teamed up for their second New Year's Eve Gala*

The party was planned beautifully to the smallest detail by Jeannie Eckard and Marlene Santucci. Many helped the Co-Chairs in setting up and decorating the Ballroom, including Marcy Gelman, Bonnie Carluccio, Rich and Mary Lou Johnson and many others. Despite the late hour, too numerous to mention partygoers stayed to help fully cleanup. Thanks also to Jeannie Eckard, Floyd Milhan and others for the pictures.



*John Murtha had a great time  
- "So what's new!"*

It was a great party to kickoff the Social Committee's activities for 2013 under the Social Committee's leadership of Chicki Sinaglia and Regina Yuppa. Based on this opening event season, VGEM can look ahead to a year of many fun filled social events.





# To a Happy, Healthy 2013





## Finance Report

By Jim Roche

In the last edition of the Gazette I said I would give you a rundown of the budget issues that delayed the approval of our 2013 budget. The concerns of the D.

R. Horton representatives, regarding reserve funding, have still not been resolved. They have asked our new auditor to advise them on the appropriate solution to these issues. As a result, a final answer will probably not be available until after our annual audit is complete. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the audit should be available in early April. The resolution to this problem should not affect our monthly fees. So yes I still owe you an answer. Please stay tuned and check the next Gazette.

## Treasurer's Report

VGEM Committee & Club Accounts  
February 5, 2013



<u>Home Owners Association</u>	<u>Balance</u>
HOA	\$ 10,886.45
Insurance Deductible	1,000.00
Clubhouse Expenses	(577.01)
Waiting for Details	(97.07)
<b>HOA Totals</b>	<b>\$ 11,212.37</b>

<u>Clubs &amp; Committees</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
Special Events	0.00	
Ladies Club	349.05	
Men's Bocce	33.12	
Women's Bocce	(0.98)	
Anglers Club	315.00	
Men's Club	3,068.61	
Quilting Club	317.85	
Photography Club	219.98	
Billiards Club	672.03	
Mah Jongg Club	0.00	
Garden Club	895.04	
Bocce Court Fund	1,734.44	
Travel Club	280.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>\$7,884.14</b>
<b>Cape Account Total</b>		<b>\$19,096.51</b>

Submitted by Don Cheatle, VGEM  
Co-Treasurer for Committees & Clubs

## HOA Board Notes

### THANKS NORM

By Pam LoBue

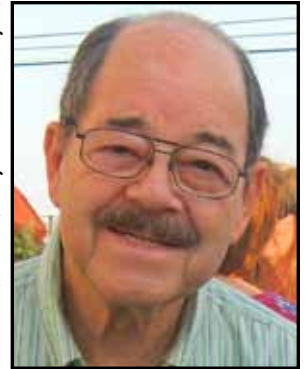
After six years chairing the Architectural Control Committee (ACC), Norm Hirschfield has decided to step down from the Chair effective July 1, 2013.

The ACC is required, under the governing documents of our Homeowners Association (HOA), and is an integral part of protecting our home values. The members and chair of this committee, like all other committees, are volunteers giving countless hours of their free time making sure that all exterior modifications meet with the rules and regulations as set forth in our POS. It is a difficult charge to meet with your friends and neighbors to determine if their requests for modifications meet with the existing rules.

The ACC members act as an arm of the Board and decisions made by them are guided by the rules. They are not personal decisions. As we move forward in our Community, I ask our residents to be mindful of the volunteer status of our committee members and to have patience while waiting for answers to your questions and requests. I have heard residents question why they cannot do as they please on their own property. The answer is you live in a community with an HOA; therefore, you gave up that freedom when you moved here. Loss of that power doesn't spell gloom and doom. You live in a high quality planned adult community.

We have a hard working ACC who maintains the integrity and esthetic value of the community, thus preserving our property values. Norm has played a huge role in the development of the ACC and sincere thanks go out to him. He has made the last four years much easier for me with his sound advice and dedicated service to the Village Grande. Chair people are chosen by the Board for

their ability to lead and counsel the Board. Norm, you have displayed both of these qualities with grace and intelligence and this Board member appreciates all your efforts and looks forward to your continued support and advice.



With thanks and gratitude,  
Pam LoBue

# Sports Club News



## ***Sports Talk***

*Tony Scaricamazza*

The warm weather sports season will soon be upon us. The captains of the various clubs that have been dormant are getting ready to hold meetings, make up rosters and schedules, recruit new members and generally do whatever it takes to make an enjoyable and successful season of outdoor activity for bocce players, golfers, tennis, fishing and those who like to keep in shape by walking. In addition to the usual things they do to run a club, they also take the time to write news about their clubs in the articles you see in the Gazette's "Sports Club News". The community owes them a great debt of gratitude for all their efforts. Pictures of the club captains are shown as the Gazette thought it would be appropriate to put faces to the names of the club captains.

Please note that telephone and email addresses for all the club captains are listed in the directory at the front of the Gazette.

## ***Billiards Club Headed For Exciting Finish***

*Jim Lichtenwalner*

As this Article is being written, 6 weeks of league play remain before the playoffs begin and it's anyone's guess who will reign as the Champion of our 2nd season. Eight of the twelve teams have a legitimate shot at the Championship. Even the bottom four teams are not out of the competition. Each week of this season has seen a few upsets and the teams appear to be evenly matched. Last year's champion team, the Ball Busters, captained by Steve Cappadona got off to a slow start, but they are crawling back in an attempt to gain the top position of the B Division going into the playoffs. The Hustlers, captained by Bill Hofmann are holding them off and still maintain a slim lead. In the A Division, Don Hinspeter's "8 Balls" lead the pack with the Rackateers captained by Jim Cira and Rich Johnson's "Bus Boyz" in close pursuit.

The Championship Game will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 6 PM followed immediately by the Awards Banquet.

Despite the friendly competition, the Billiards Club is committed to focusing on having fun and welcomes players of all levels. The Billiards Club plays in the Billiards Room starting at 6 PM most Wednesdays from

October through March. Feel free to come out and see the fun your neighbors are having. Who knows, maybe you will be interested in joining us next season.



*Billiards Co-Captains*

*Jim Lichtenwalner & Joe Carluccio*

## ***Women's Bocce***

*Paula Girard*

The 2013 season is tentatively set to begin on Tuesday, May 21 and end September 17. Your tri-captains this year are Debbie Smith, Paula Girard, and Betsy Hires.

Everyone interested in returning to play bocce ball, joining for the first time, or being a substitute, please attend our first meeting on Thursday, May 2nd at 6:30 pm in the Clubhouse. The membership fee is \$15.00 this year which covers all expenses including our banquet in September. Please bring cash or a check for that amount to our meeting on May 2.

We're looking forward to a great season of fun, friendship, and camaraderie. Can't wait to see everyone!



*Two of Women's Bocce Tri-Captains Debbie Smith & Paula Girard. Betsy Hires not pictured.*



# Sports Club News

## *Golf League Update*

*Doug Beaupit*

Co-Captains Jim Marini and Doug Beaupit would like to invite all residents to participate in the 2013 Village Grande at English Mill (VGEM) Golf League. The league will again be played at Mays Landing Country Club (MLCC) on Tuesdays, from May 7 through October 29. The six tee times are the same as last year, between 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM.

New this year will be a \$20 registration fee to cover a midyear luncheon and awards yet to be determined. Interested residents need to get a membership to MLCC and let Doug Beaupit know by email or phone.

A kickoff meeting for those interested will be held on Tuesday, March 5th at 6:30pm in the Clubhouse.

### **May Landing Country Club Membership:**

**NEW MEMBERS ALERT:** The golf league will play at MLCC in 2013 and 2014. The offer available right now is a two year Monday – Friday membership for \$398. The membership drive will close when they have reached their membership goal. If you plan on playing in the golf league in 2013, you need to get your membership as soon as possible.

**Upcoming Events - 2013 SHOPRITE LPGA CLASSIC, May 27th – JUNE 2nd.** Doug Beaupit will again be the VGEM Hole 12 (Par 4) Captain and try to recruit a team of volunteers to provide coverage for the week. We had 12 volunteers last year and all are returning. We had a lot of fun. For those residents who now may have an interest in volunteering, please contact Doug as soon as possible to find out how you can register.



*Golf Co-Captains Doug Beaupit & Jim Marini*

## *Fishing*

*Bill Hofmann*

Fishing continues all year round, even during the winters we have here in NJ. The nine pound TOG (Blackfish) pictured on the front cover of the Gazette was caught on January 12th in the ocean off Sea Isle City, aboard the “Starfish” party boat. But we all prefer the warmer weather coming soon, and are looking forward to the clubs back-bay fishing trips.

So if you have not participated in the past, think about joining us this spring and summer for some fun and fresh air in the waters that are only a few minutes from here.

Everyone, both members and non-members, are invited to our annual meeting which will be held on Saturday, April 6th at 9am in the Clubhouse. A guest speaker, Captain Fran Verdi, will discuss “Back Bay Flounder Fishing”. Come on out to the meeting and bring your ideas for activities you and other members would be interested in doing this season. Coffee and donuts will be served.



*Bill Hofmann*

## *Men's Bocce*

*Sam Mannino*

Our fifth year of men's bocce will start this spring. A pre-season meeting will be held at the clubhouse on Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00pm. At this meeting we will discuss the start times and dates for the new season as well as the state of the courts. Any other questions will be answered. The Men's Bocce Co-Captains are shown below:



*Sam Mannino*



*Steve Cappadona*



# Sports Club News



## Walking Club

*Sandy Farbman*

The Walking Club will resume in May when Captain Sandy Farbman returns from Florida. An announcement will be forthcoming.

*Sandy Farbman*



*Bowlers Marlene Santucci, Marge Doms, Regina Yuppa and Carol Moderski smile for the camera*

## Tennis Club

*Dan Farbman & Shirley Oliver*

Tennis Club generally resumes playing sometime in April, weather permitting. The Community Manager will announce the opening by email and phone alert. The Tennis Club plays from 9 to 11 AM on Wednesday and Saturday.



*Shirley Oliver*



*Dan Farbman*



*Jim Lichtenwalner & Lefty Fred Moderski*

## Bowling

Mixed bowling takes place every Monday at 10 AM at the King Pin Lanes located on the Black Horse Pike, next to Bob's Garden Center, a short distance north of the Shore Mall. To play, just show up and join your neighbors in friendly games of bowling. For \$8 you get ball, shoes, three games, lunch and a lot of fun.

Despite losing many snowbirds, there are usually about 15 to 20 residents bowling together every Monday. It is a non-team, non-competitive fun morning that is enjoyed by bowlers of all skill levels



## TAI CHI

**Give it a try!!!**



**Free Informal Sessions**

**Every Wednesday**

**11 to 11:45 AM**

**Grande Room**

**Clubhouse**

**TAI CHI has been shown to lessen body pain and reduce stress in both men & women!**

**With questions, call Marsha @ 788-4254  
or Art @ 788-4638**

# ***Resident Trustees Speak out***

## **EHT Investigates**

### **VGEM Swales**

*By Tom Santucci*

On Tuesday afternoon February 5, I again availed myself access to our Resident Trustees at their monthly "Forum for VEGM Residents". The last four issues of the *Grande Gazette* have contained feature articles from our Resident Trustees speaking out on many issues of relevance to the governance and operation of our community. My visit with them was to determine if there are other issues about which they would like to inform the community.

In the last issue of the *Gazette*, Theresa Manuele's "From the Community Manager" article informed the Community that Egg Harbor Township has become involved with the swales problem in VGEM by assigning their engineers, Mott and Associates, to investigate. EHT's involvement resulted from the 75 "green sheet" complaints submitted to the Landscape/Irrigation Committee regarding homeowners concerns with their swales.

In December, the EHT engineers met with representatives from D.R. Horton, members of the Landscape/Irrigation Committee and Resident Trustee, Pam LoBue. Prior to the meeting, Mott and Associates engineers, Bob Watson and Chris Mellow, walked three sites arbitrarily picked from the 75 homes that had submitted "green sheets". At the meeting, the engineers told the D.R. Horton representatives that the work on the swales of the three sites inspected was unacceptable and would have to be redone. As a result of their findings on these three properties, the EHT engineers will walk the other 72 sites with D.R. Horton representatives to determine if they have similar problems.

The planned walk-through was delayed due to permafrost and has been postponed until after the spring thaw. At that time, the Resident Trustees anticipate that the inspection with EHT engineers and D.R. Horton representatives will proceed.

The action being taken by EHT results from VGEM having ample documentation of the problem. This is the reason why the Landscape/Irrigation Committee asks that we document all of our problems by submitting a "green sheet". For more information regarding swales and their function, see Fred Moderski's article in the January/February 2013 *Grande Gazette*; as well as, Carolyn Walmsley's article in this issue entitled "Irrigation 101". The Landscape/Irrigation Committee is to be commended for both maintaining the community lawns and informing its residents.

# ***Neighborhood Watch***

*By Don Mastrangelo*

Just a reminder that the Neighborhood Watch is an organization designed to contribute to the continued safety and security which we all enjoy in this beautiful community. The block captains are your neighbors who have agreed to give a little of their time to you.



You can help them by advising your captain when you will be away. Depending on the duration, you can either ask a friendly neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers or, for extended periods, you may wish to stop these deliveries altogether. In any event don't forget to tell your block captain when you return so he will know the house is properly occupied.

It has come to my attention that an all-terrain vehicle has been using the retention pond in the Enclave section. If you see an incident of this nature, call the police department and notify your block captain.

A list of all the block captains with their house and email address can be picked up at the Clubhouse. An abbreviated version is presented below.

### **Neighborhood Watch Roster**

<b><u>Street</u></b>	<b><u>House#</u></b>	<b><u>Watch Person</u></b>	<b><u>Phone</u></b>
Lily	200-215	Rich Eckard	926-0595
	216-230	Joe Stroup	365-2741
	321-242	Tom Girard	653-1404
	243-257	Herb Moskovitz	365-2329
Marigold	1-16	Jim Cira	402-2861
	17-35	Steve Cappadona	653-4215
Poppy	1-41	Fred Moderski	653-0116
Primose	2-15	Ron Saathoff	927-7675
	16-30	Ken Szyarto	788-4341
Snowdrop	100-117	Joe Carluccio	365-2574
	118-144	Jim LoBue	653-1025
Sunflower	300-318	Tim Cavacini	927-6628
	319-328	John DaPrato	926-4977
	329-347	Dennis Goldberg	926-0627
	348-360	John DaPrato	926-4977
	361-366	Bill Hofmann	788-4552
	367-375	John Murtha	653-1830
	376-383	Ed Zink	927-6387
Tulip	1-16	Frank Williams	653-8902
Bluebell	ALL	Sam Salierno	365-8112
Violet	ALL	Sam Salierno	365-8112

**Chairperson:** Don Mastrangelo 788-4876  
**Admin Asst:** Tony Scaricamazza 927-6818



## News from D.R. Horton

By Tom Santucci

Since becoming Editor, I have been communicating with D.R Horton executives and Sales Associates seeking news for the *Grande Gazette*. Todd Greene is the Division Counsel for D.R. Horton, Inc. – New Jersey and, for about four months, has been responsible for VGEM. Todd was unable to get anything together in the available time for publication in the last newsletter. He offered his apologies and said that D.R. Horton would contribute an article in the next issue.

For this issue, I initially contacted Todd and Mitch Newman on January 24. In that communication I had several suggestions and questions for D.R. Horton to address that would help to better inform our Community. Since the latter part of the summer, Horton has done much to improve our community in preparation for closing out phase 1 with Egg Harbor Township. Although not an inclusive list, this includes paving our streets, renewing the walking path, replacing street side trees, constructing exercise areas, replacing damaged concrete in sidewalks and aprons, and the pleasant surprise of landscaping the entrance to VGEM.

On February 8, I again contacted Todd Greene and Mitch Newman. Todd replied promptly. It was his understanding that the marketing company was going to submit an article and that he would look into it. As part of my reply to Todd Greene's email, I restated the question that I posed in my first e-mail as to whether D.R. Horton would be increasing the number of resident Trustees for this spring election. According to the POS, I understood that this would require special action because VGEM is not eligible for the two additional Trustees until the conveyance by D.R. Horton of 298 homes or 75% of the total number of proposed homes. Knowing that Todd Greene was scheduled to meet with our two resident Trustees on February 13, I asked if he might discuss this at that meeting. He replied that he would discuss it with Pam and Art. At the meeting, Todd Greene announced that D.R. Horton will not make an exception to the POS to increase the number of resident Trustees.

Philip Hetzler, Sales Associate, reports an increased interest in homes at the Enclave that he attributes to Horton's advertising in publications serving communities flooded or damaged by Superstorm Sandy. Anna Maria Rizzo and he have had several inquiries in response to that advertising.

As of February 11, a total of nine homes in the Enclave have gone to settlement of which seven are occupied at this time. Three additional homes are now under contract. There are 13 QMI (Quick Move-In) houses. To date the conveyance of homes by Horton has reached a total of 283. As per the POS, VGEM HOA is 15 homes shy of the 298 needed for the two additional resident Trustees.

 **Associa**  
MAMCO Property Management



### From the Community Manager

Theresa Manuele

**Clubhouse Keycards:** I still have over 40 clubhouse keycards in the office that were never claimed. If you did not get your keycard card, please call me and arrange to come to the office to pick them up.

**NJ Department of Community Affairs Census:** Over 2 months ago, I sent out a census form but have not received a 100% response. We do need at least 90% for the NJ DCA. If you did not fill one out, please complete the form and return it to my office as soon as possible. If you cannot find it, I can provide you with a new one.

Thanks for your patience while I had the office closed for several days to work on getting all of the paperwork together for the auditor. The annual audit will be completed by March for review by the Board and Finance Committee to analyze our expenses for budgeting.

By the time you receive this *Grande Gazette*, the Grande Room in the Clubhouse will have a new acoustical ceiling. I am sure it will be "grande"!

I wish you all a Happy Easter!

*Call Now For  
Spring Cleanups  
and Flower Planting*

*"WE KICK THE COMPETITIONS GRASS"*



**MCGOWAN  
LANDSCAPING**

**926-6898**

ads-044b

# IRRIGATION 101

By Carolyn Walmsley, Chairperson  
Landscape/Irrigation Committee

At first glance, VGEM's landscape irrigation system may appear uncomplicated. Sprinkler heads are attached to pipes, connected to a water source, controlled by a clock, to irrigate at specified times. If it were only that simple! Committee members hope looking at the mechanics of our system will help our neighbors understand the complexities of how it works and the challenges we encounter.

New Jersey American Water supplies water from its main to our community irrigation system at 26 different places we call "pits". Each pit has a meter, timer box, backflow preventer, rainfall sensor, and necessary electrical connections. Pits are not connected to each other; we run each individually from its timer box.



As far as we know, no engineering schematic of our irrigation system and its layout exists. While no two pits are alike, each is divided into zones. A zone can be one home, one and

a half homes, or two homes. Our smallest pit has seven homes and seven zones, our largest 23 homes and 22 zones. The number of sprinkler heads in a zone determines that zone's configuration. While often similar, the number of sprinkler heads varies from home-to-home. Within each pit, we turn zones on for a specific period of time that we select, one after the other. The sequence within a pit – what zone is first, second, and so on – is dictated by when a residence was added to our system. That is why our irrigation can appear random. It is not.

How many sprinkler heads are on a property? Somewhere between twelve and twenty-three; there is no standard number. They range in size from one and a half gallons per minute (gpm) in most swales to six gpm on large corner properties. Each zone has multiple gpm head sizes. A zone runs for a specified time regardless of the size of the heads. That is why we cannot lower the amount of time we water swales. It would impact how much water we put on the rest of the zone you are in – your front and backyard. In fact, within reason, we generally water to the neediest, driest part of your lawn.

We begin irrigating at 1 AM. Our largest pit, with 22 zones, will run until 1 PM the next afternoon if we water each zone for 30 minutes. We sometimes debate the time of day we irrigate. If we irrigate when the sun is up on a warm day, we lose water to evaporation. If we irrigate at night, we may risk encouraging fungus in the grass. Unfortunately, we cannot irrigate everyone at the most beneficial time. We rely on our HOA landscaping

contractor's expertise to guide us.

Our HOA's contractor – working with your committee members – also determines how much water we apply and how often. For example, at certain times of the year and after coordinating with our contractor, your committee members might set timer boxes to run our pits three days a week for 30 minutes each day. If we get significant rainfall, the rain sensors on each pit should "tell" the pit not to run as scheduled, until the sensor dries out and stops signaling. In some cases, we contact the contractor about heavy rain at VGEM, and he will tell us to turn off all our pits for X number of days, which committee members then do. This brings up a problem we sometimes have when it rains. One inch of rain will produce three inches of water from roof run-off directly into our swales. This is why our swales seem overly wet after a heavy rainfall. They are. Directing swale downspouts, where possible, to front and backyards can help keep some of this additional water out of your swales.

As you read this, we will be moving into the 2013 irrigation season. Early spring is a busy time, when we turn on our system, check it, and repair or replace damaged or broken parts. After that initial flurry of activity, what can every resident do to help us manage this community resource?

- Remember our HOA owns the landscape irrigation system that is under your lawn. That is why we require our landscape contractor's review of any changes an owner wants to make to the owner's property that could negatively impact efficient operation of our system.
- If you notice a broken sprinkler head or an accumulation of standing water in an unusual area, which could mean our system is leaking, complete a "green form" so committee members can fix the problem or send it to someone who will.
- If you see running water that could be a sign of a major leak in our system, call the office, or contact a committee member if the office is closed. The first thing we will do is try to stop the leak, because wasting water costs all of us money.
- Don't fiddle with sprinkler heads that serve your property. Leave it to us. If a sprinkler is watering your siding, fill out a "green form." Do the same if part of your lawn is not being watered. We will adjust the guilty heads when we can. Please keep in mind neither our HOA nor the contractor designed the irrigation system we have. We inherited it from our developer.
- Don't put a 4x4-foot plant three feet in front of a sprinkler head and expect our system to water your lawn properly. Your plant that blocks the head may be happy living in a swamp, but the lawn beyond it might



not get enough water to survive. If grass dies in such a situation, it is not our problem.

Keep an eye out for suspicious activity. Three backflow preventers have been stolen. These items are expensive and the committee is concerned that more may be stolen. We need the community's help in preventing future theft. Any people milling around the equipment at our irrigation pits, other than Outdoor Decor's employees and your landscape committee members, are suspect. You can help by learning how to use our Neighborhood Watch.

Your committee members hope everyone has a happy and productive 2013 growing season. We look forward to helping you whenever we can.

## ***Thieves Pick Our Pockets*** **Three Backflow Preventers Stolen**

*By Tom Santucci*

Our community has been robbed. Thieves have stolen three backflow preventers which are integral to the operation of our irrigation system. For your information, backflow prevention devices are safety equipment designed especially for sprinkler systems. These devices, more commonly known as vacuum breakers, prevent water from entering the irrigation system and then flowing back into the main line. EHT and most cities require the use of a backflow device, as water that comes into contact with an irrigation system is considered to be contaminated in most areas. VGEM's back flow preventers are made out of brass and are attached to the water system by two PVC pipes as shown in the picture.



*Backflow preventer*

In order to steal the backflow preventer, thieves simply have to hacksaw through the two PVC pipes and walk away with the device attached to small pieces of piping. If thieves simply sold it as scrap metal, it would yield about \$50 - \$75. The concern is that they are being stolen and fenced to landscaping companies for use in other locations. Another and more disturbing possibility is that they are being stolen by landscapers who are familiar with property. According to Jim LoBue, VGEM has contracted with three different landscaping companies plus the numerous private landscapers serving our residents. This means that the employees of all these companies may know the locations of our backflow preventers and may be responsible for their theft. As shown in the picture below, one of the stolen backflow preventers was hidden from

view behind the wall at the entrance of our community. This suggests prior knowledge of the location of the backflow preventers.

According to Bill Hofmann, there are 25 backflow preventers located in VGEM including those at the Enclave. With this number of backflow preventers, these are easy target for thieves since, under the cover of darkness; they can be dismantled in a matter of minutes and stolen.

Backflow preventers cost \$500 to \$700. This does not include the cost of installation and rewiring the zones that is estimated at about the same cost. Although covered by insurance, there is still a \$1000 deductible. The Landscape/Irrigation Committee and Trustees ask that we keep an eye out for suspicious activity. They need the community's help in preventing future theft. Any people milling around the equipment at our irrigation pits, other than Outdoor Decor employees and your landscape committee members, are suspect. If you observe such activity, follow Neighborhood Watch recommended procedure and do not approach the suspects. Immediately call the police, and if possible, record the license plate and make/model of the car or truck.



*Sawed PVC pipe and missing backflow preventer behind the VGEM entrance wall*

The Landscape/Irrigation Committee are considering other options in protecting against further theft of our backflow preventers. Several members of the community have volunteered to remove the back flow preventers each winter to prevent them from being stolen. A course of action is under discussion and will be forthcoming.

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# Super Bowl of Chili

## "A Super Hit"

By Jim Lichtenwalner

Your FUNd-Raising and Social Committees sponsored the Super Bowl of Chili on Feb. 3, 2013 and it was a big hit with your neighbors who attended. Eighty Four residents signed up to attend the Chili Cook-off/Super Bowl Party and except for a handful confined by illness, all had a "Super" time.



Sixteen of your friends and neighbors competed for the title "Best Chili in the House" and I can attest they all deserved the title. I'm sure Pepto-Bismol was the drink of choice later that night. These neighbors shared their recipes, pantry stock and time to provide us with a tasty and fun evening. Competitors included:

- Marguerite Beaupit -----Crock Pot Chili
- Jeannie Eckard-----Grande Passion Chili
- John Girard-----Chili Azteca
- Dottie Hanlon-----My Favorite Chili
- Jeanette Kardon-----Simply Chili
- Floyd Milhan-----Flaming Anal Chili
- Peggy Milhan--Chicken Chili & White Beans
- Don Hinspeter-----Red Star Chili
- Mary Moskovitz-----5 Star Chili
- Rosemarie Murtha-----Super Sunday Chili
- Pat Roche-----White Bean Chicken Chili
- Tom Santucci-----CJ's Basic Beef Chili
- Ginny Sayegh-----Raven Good Chili
- Anita Sierveld-----Goldilocks Chili
- Terry Stevens-----Ha Cha Cha Chili
- Dave Van Zant-----Ski Slope Chili



The Tasters all got to vote for their favorites, and in a close race, the winner of "Best Chili in the House"

was Mary Moskovitz for her "5 Star Chili". Mary won a certificate proclaiming her creation as "Best Chili in the House", a Gift Certificate to Famous Dave's Restaurant and bragging rights until next year's competition.



*Jim Cira gives the chili a "thumbs-up"*

Attendees also had the opportunity to win one of over 15 door prizes. As game time approached we tried a new twist auctioning off the best seats in the house to watch the game. We won't be doing that again!

After we all got our fill of chili along with hot dogs, nachos and plenty of desserts, we settled back to watch one of the most exciting conclusions in Super Bowl history.



*Some members of the Super Bowl of Chili Committee. Marcy Gelman, Regina Yuppa, Marguerite Beaupit, Pat Roche, Kathleen Cira, Bonnie Carluccio, Jim Lichtenwalner, Mary Moskovitz and Diane Gottman*



A special thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who helped to make this event such a success. In addition to the cooks previously identified, volunteers included Frank Abel, Doug Beaupit, Shelley Bernstein, Bonnie Carluccio, Joe Carluccio, Jim Cira, Kathleen Cira, Liz Eberhard, Marci Gelman, Lou Golin, Lynnda Golin, Diane Gottman, Donna Lichtenwalner, Jim Lichtenwalner, Angela Mastrangelo, Don Mastrangelo, Herb Moskovitz, Peggy Piil, Pat Roche, Marlene Santucci, Tom Santucci, Alisa Sayegh, Mike Segal, Beverly Sinou, Elaine Stapler, Joe Stroup, Regina Yuppa. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

As I sit back and reflect on the evening, I realize that we were treated to great food and a great game, but the best part of the evening was the mingling among all attendees which occurred as we all scrambled to sample all of the Chili dishes available. I met some new neighbors and got to know others a little better. Based on the feedback I have received, many attendees shared my opinion. Opportunities like this are really the advantage we get for living at VGEM and foster a strong community spirit.





*A table of chili full partiers. Joe Stroup, Rosemary Murtha, Andrea Stroup, John Murtha, Don & Angela Mastrangelo, Annette & John Girard*



*FUNd-Raising Committee Chairperson Jim Lichtenwalner presents the "Best Chili in the House" plaque to the winner Mary Moskovitz.*



*What goes better with chili than a beer?  
Glenn Coach and Rich Johnson*



## *Super Bowl of Chili Winner*



### *Mary Moskovitz's "5 STAR CHILI"*

**Make 8 – 10 Servings**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 pound bacon, diced into 1-inch pieces
- 2 pounds pork sausage – 1# hot and 1# sweet
- 3 pounds ground beef
- 1 green bell pepper, coarsely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 cans (28 ounces) chili beans
- 2 cans (15 ounces) crushed tomatoes
- 3 pounds onion, finely chopped
- 1 can (28 ounces) tomato sauce
- 1 can Rotel Original Tomatoes with Chilies
- 1 Tablespoon black pepper
- 3 Tablespoons red chili powder
- 1 cup ketchup
- 4 dashes hot sauce
- 3 Tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup sugar

#### **Directions:**

In a large frying pan, cook bacon until crispy; drain and add to a large pot. Remove sausage from casing, then brown in the frying pan, drain, and add to pot with bacon.

Brown the ground beef, drain and add to the pot with the other meats. Add all the remaining ingredients to the pot and for best results simmer for 5 to 6 hours.

Serve with Regular Uncle Ben's Converted Rice (not Instant) cooked in Chicken Broth

## **KEY LIME PIE TARTS**

**A Super Bowl of Chili Favorite**

*Also submitted by Mary Moskovitz*



#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 Pack Keebler Graham Cracker Mini Pie Crusts – comes 6 to a pack
- 14 ounce can of Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 3 X-Large Egg Yolks (whites are not used)
- 1/2 cup Nellie & Joe's Famous Key West Lime Juice

#### **Directions:**

Blend Sweetened Condensed Milk, egg yolks and lime juice until smooth. Pour filling into mini pie crusts. Bake @ 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before refrigerating. Just before serving, garnish with whipped cream and lime slices

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# *Election of HOA Resident Trustees*

## Timeline for the Election Process

*By Tom Santucci*

### **BACKGROUND:**

In compliance with the Public Offering Statement (POS), VGEM is permitted to select two of five positions on the VGEM HOA Board as resident Trustees who serve two-year terms. The terms of the current Trustees end June 30. This election will be held to fill these two positions with terms beginning July 1.



With the increasing size of our community, the amount of work required from a Trustee has exponentially increased. As a result the current Trustees have requested that the Developer (D.R. Horton) increase the number of Community elected Trustees to four. The Developer would

retain the fifth seat on the board and have full veto power. Such a request requires amending the POS since the residents are not eligible for four seats on the board until the conveyance by the Developer of 298 homes or 75% of the total number of proposed homes. On February 13, D.R. Horton announced it will not make an exception to the number of resident Trustees as designated in the POS.

Based on the POS, membership in good standing and ownership of a home shall be a qualification for nomination, appointment, election or service as a Trustee and for continued service on the board, excluding a Trustee representing the Developer. Co-owners holding membership in good standing may designate any one of them, but only one of them, to be eligible for nomination, appointment or election as a Trustee; however, in case of a disagreement, the express consent of a majority of such Co-Owners shall be required for any one of them to be eligible.

Given these circumstances, the upcoming election will be to fill the two vacancies resulting from the completion of the two-year terms of the existing Trustees term this spring. An Election Committee has been appointed by the Trustees consisting of Co-Chairpersons Lynnda Golin and Jim Walsh. Tom Santucci will serve on the committee with the appointment of additional members pending.

### **TIMELINE for the ELECTION PROCESS:**

- **April 1, 2013 - Call for Candidates:** A "Call for Candidates" letter will be mailed to each homeowner on this date. Those interested in running for the board should complete the attached "Intent to Run" form and

return it with a biographical profile that includes their qualifications for the position; as well as, the reason for their seeking election. This material should be returned to the Community Manager's Office no later than 5 PM on Monday, April 22.

- **April 15, 2013 by 5 PM** – All materials from prospective candidate must be turned in to the Community Manager. Following review by the Election Committee, Theresa Manuele will then mail to each home the candidate profiles, along with Proxies and additional information regarding date, time and details of the "Meet the Candidates Night" and the election.
- **May 1, 2013 - Meet the Candidates Night:** As stated above, the specifics of this evening will be included in the mailing from the Community Manager.
- **May 14, 2013 - Election**
- **May 20, 2013 – VGEM HOA Board Meeting – Announcement of Election Result**
- **July 1, 2013 - Elected Trustees Term Begins**

Only homeowners in good standing, current in their Association fees, or persons appointed by written proxy are eligible to vote for candidates. **ONLY ONE (1) VOTE FOR EACH HOME IS PERMITTED.** Further specifics and rules regarding the election will be included in the mailings to each home.



The Election Committee urges you to consider running for the Board of Trustees and/or become involved in a committee. Please contribute to VGEM to help make it a better community.



### *Farewell from the Milones... in Joe's Words*

They say change is good. We have an opportunity to move closer to our family... so we are off. It was a pleasure to have met so many wonderful people. Being on the Board was a major highlight, the enthusiasm and working together was great, it seems everyone had the same interest in making the Village Grande the friendliest warmest and welcoming community. We are moving to Shamong N.J. where the heck is Shamong is what we get?? It's between Hammonton and Medford area. As the late Bob Hope would say "Thanks for the memories"

**Mercedes & Joe Milone**

# TAX ASSESSMENT 2013

By Art Richman



In February 2013 you should have received a green card with your new tax assessment. The amount represents what the township says you probably would receive if you sold your house. This number will be multiplied by the tax rate to give you the amount you will pay in taxes. In January, the tax assessors said the rate would be 2.80 per \$100 of assessed value. For a property assessed at \$230,000, the taxes would be \$6,440 per year. But wait, they are not done! This does not include the tax for Atlantic County, Egg Harbor Township nor school board needs. If they stay within the 2% cap, the new tax amount would be \$6,568.80.

I do not know if we will have a community strategy to fight the new assessments. It depends on how satisfied people are with the new assessments they received in February.

If you wish to challenge the new assessment, you have until May 1, 2013 to take the forms you obtain from the Township building or the Mays Landing county building to the County Real Estate Board in Mays Landing along with a check for \$25.00.

The information you need can be found at the tax assessor's office on Bargaintown Road. They have books that will tell you the sales for the township, including VGEM and VGLM from October 2, 2011 to October 1, 2012.

You can also find the information online at [www.atlanticcountyclerk.org](http://www.atlanticcountyclerk.org). Check the link for **public records online**, then **access public records online**, then **public search**, then **accept**, and then **login**.

- You will click the link town/lot/block
- For the information, you will enter **egg harbor twp//3312** under the **town/lot/block**
- The block numbers for VGEM are 3312 to 3318 and 3322 to 3326.
- The block numbers for VGLM are 5401, 5417, 5420 to 5425 and 5437.
- The date range you will use is from **10/02/2011**, to **10/01/2012**.
- You will see sales that fell within that range for that block.

Just a word of information, we have talked to two independent lawyers. Both advised us that the tax assessor does NOT have to use the information of VGLM when looking at our properties. I intend to use that information because those homes are closer in age to my home than the newer VGEM homes and because the Little Mill

assessments are \$15,000 to \$20,000 less for their land. I would like to hear the explanation on the land value.

It is up to you to save what you can.

Remember when it comes to voting for the School Board in November, 66% per your tax bill goes to the schools so \$4,400 of the \$6,570 goes to the school district. You need to understand what each candidate's position is on the school budget.

## FUNd-Raising Committee Planning Several New Events

By Jim Lichtenwalner

The VGEMFUNd-Raising Committee has several projects it is planning for the remainder of 2013. We will be working with the Social Committee to bring you a Kentucky Derby Party on Saturday May 4, 2013. Also on May 18, we hope to hold a VGEM Community Yard Sale in the Clubhouse parking lot.



Plans are in the works for Family Day on July 20, 2013 where you can invite your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews to visit VGEM. They will be treated to a wide array of food, games and entertainment.

Don't forget to come out and be part of the fun at "The Bocce Grille" on the pool deck every Wednesday from Memorial Day until Labor Day. Enjoy good food and camaraderie!

This brings us to Fall 2013 and "Fun Night 3" with the date to be determined. In addition to these special events, don't forget about a wide selection of logo items including clothing, beach towels, totes, golf towels, pet attire and many other items.

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**- Judy Durso -**

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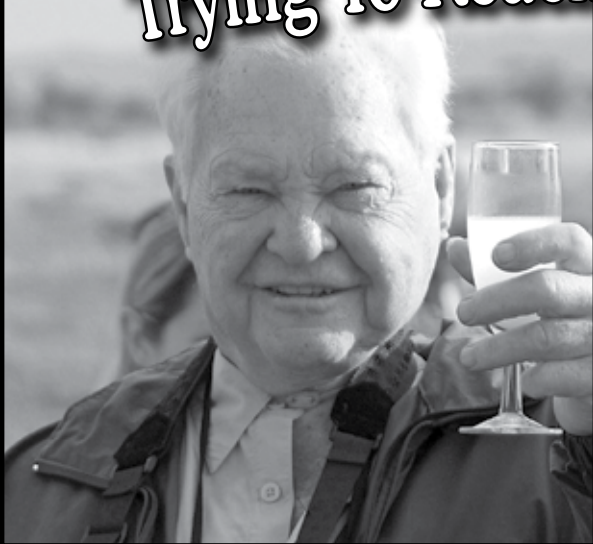
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## Tips for Early Spring Gardening

By Annette DiPietrae Giraud



### February:

- Pinch back and/or prune leggy house plants to encourage bushier growth.
- Order summer and fall blooming bulbs from reputable catalogs.
- Tidy up your garden tools/space. Get your tools sharpened and oiled for Spring use.

### March:

- Have a soil test done at Rutgers Cooperative Extension office, Mays Landing.
- Examine trees for winter injury, prune dead and weakened wood.
- Start your spring garden clean up. Gently remove protective mulch from perennial beds.
- Start weeding now.

### April:

- Use slow release fertilizer on woody plants, shrubs and ornamental grasses when new growth begins to appear and/or soil temperatures reach 40 degrees.
- Average frost free date is April 15. Plant cool season plants only.
- Watch for ticks on warm days.
- Deadhead spring blooming bulbs, but do not cut off foliage until it has yellowed and withered.
- Watch for returning hummingbirds in late April. Have your feeders clean and ready. Plant hummingbird friendly native plants.

### Garden Club Calendar of Events:

March 5 – Philadelphia Flower Show via Bob's Garden Center (open to community)

March 14 – Gardening 101 Presentation (open to community)

April 11 – Visit Native Plant Nursery (members only)

### Cold Hardy Plants welcome in spring:

As we approach March, April and May, there are many cold, hardy plants you may want to consider for that early flush of color in your garden. Cold hardy plants prefer sun or partial sun and some will even peek through a crust of snow in late winter since they can withstand freezing temperatures (Pansies, Snowdrop, Primrose and Hellebore are worth the effort). That sight alone will sound the alarm that spring is right around the corner. Also on the list of cold, hardy plants are Violets, Snapdragons, Nemesis, Diascia, Petunias, and Camelias. It's hard for me to select



## SOCIAL CLUB

By Chicki Sinagria with Regina Yuppa

On February 9th the Social Club held its Winter Breakfast. The breakfasts are well received since it is just a time to meet up with friends and casually relax while catching up and discussing topics of interest. There is no formality to this, just breakfast with friends. The usual fare consisting of bagels, muffins, coffee, tea, etc. were served. The room was decorated in blue and white with a touch of handmade "Snowflakes" to denote the season.



*Jim Berg fixes a bagel while his wife  
Arlene talks with Mary Moskovitz*

The committee was chaired by two new members of our committee, Joan Viventi and Anita Sierveld. They did an excellent job in their first time of venturing into this new field. Assisting them were committee members Bonnie Carluccio, Marcie Gelman, Regina Yuppa and Chicki Sinagria.

If you were not able to attend this breakfast, we will be holding another in a few months. You should try it...we think you will like it!

a favorite, but *Nemesia* never disappoints although it is an annual in our Zone 7a.



*Nemesia in full bloom in early May*

*Nemesia* resembles a small Snapdragon with fragrant blooms that come in a wide range of color. Its mature size is 2 feet tall and 1 foot wide. I planted last spring in full sun in soil that is kept evenly moist, and they bloomed from early May through the end of November. There are many *Nemesia* hybrids; some of which are more heat tolerant. Colors range from yellow, orange, brown, pink, red and lavender blue. *Nemesia* is a solid, small border plant and also looks great in a container.

## ***An Unsightly Mess*** **Secure Your Trash**

How would you like to step out your front door and be greeted by a pile of trash, bottles, cans, newspapers, and all sorts of other debris?



On the night before a recent trash and recycle collection day, that is precisely what happened to one of your neighbors as shown by this picture. This was not an isolated incident. A tour through the community found more of the same.

Granted it was the result of an exceptionally strong windy weather system, but much of it could have been avoided if the recycles were delayed for the next collection, trash more securely bundled or placed out in the morning.

In any event, newspapers should be bundled and tied to prevent littering your neighbor's property as well as

your own. Also remember to securely bag your trash and to keep the lid closed on the receptacles.

Coincidentally, one of our residents was out picking up trash strewn across his lawn when a car stopped. The driver asked if he was on the "Trash Pick-up Committee" and would he go over to pick up trash at his/her home. Just a reminder that each homeowner is his/her own "Trash Pick-up Committee"!

## ***Dumping Landscaping Debris*** ***on Walking Path*** **Board Issues Warning**



At the February 4 Forum for VGEM residents with Trustees, Jack Williamson presented an e-mail that he had sent to the preceding Community Manager on May 5, 2012. He inquired as to why no action had taken place regarding the dumping of yard trash by private landscape contractors onto the walking paths. This e-mail had not been forwarded to the Board. With spring upon us, it was timely that the Board finally learned of this problem and thanked Jack for following up on his complaint that should have been forwarded to them over nine months earlier.

The Board has taken the following action. Homeowners will be responsible for the removal of any gardening debris that is dumped on VGEM walking pass by their personal landscapers. It is recommended that they inform their landscapers that yard debris be removed from the community and not dumped on the walking paths. In the words of Jack Williamson's e-mail, "Residents should be notified that the personal landscapers they hire should be made to dispose of any yard trash they remove in a normal landfill and not dump it in or around the village." The Board hereby advises homeowners that they will be responsible for the removal of such yard debris and subject to fines.

## VILLAGE GRANDE AT ENGLISH MILL

1 Village Grande Road; Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

### Board of Trustees

Pam LoBue (609) 653-1025 <a href="mailto:PLobue118@comcast.net">PLobue118@comcast.net</a>	Art Richman (609) 788-4638 <a href="mailto:amr1776@comcast.net">amr1776@comcast.net</a>
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### Community Management

MAMCO Property Management 14000 Horizon Way – Suite 200 Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 888-884-8490 <a href="http://www.mamcomgmt.com">www.mamcomgmt.com</a>	Theresa Manuele Community Manager 609-788-8405 609-788-8430 -- FAX <a href="mailto:tmanuele@mamcomgmt.com">tmanuele@mamcomgmt.com</a>
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Singles	Dolores Magara	365-2878	dmagara@comcast.net
"	Dolores DeFelice	788-4712	ddefelice246@comcast.net
Tennis	Shirley Oliver	927-5434	jollybrit609@yahoo.com
"	Dan Farbman	788-4941	dfarbman@yahoo.com
Walking	Sandy Farbman	788-4941	sfmsw@yahoo.com
Women's Club	Janet Mannino	788-4199	jann807@aol.com
Vacation Club	Doug Beaupit	788-4062	beauwhim@aol.com
Veterans	Lou Golin	788-8055	G1451@msn.com

Updated: 02/13/2013



**WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS**  
**JANUARY & FEBRUARY**

**MONDAY**

10 AM-Noon Drawing Group – Craft Room  
 10 AM Mixed Bowling at King Pins  
 Noon Canasta Club – Card Room 1  
 12 PM Canasta B – alternate wks – Rm 2  
 7 PM Book Bunch – 3/4 & 4/1



**TUESDAY**

10 AM Water Aerobics – End Apr 15  
 10 AM Beginners Line Dancing – Starts Mar 19 for 6 weekly sessions - \$30 pp – Ends Apr 23  
 Noon Mahjong VI – Card Room 1  
 1 PM Mahjong II – Card Room 2  
 7 PM Mahjong IV – Card Room 1 & 2

**WEDNESDAY**

11 AM Tai Chi – Grande Room  
 1 PM Mahjong III – Card Room 2  
 1 PM Mixed Bridge - Card Room 1  
 6 PM Billiards Club end Apr 3  
 10 AM or Grande Sew & Sews – times alternate  
 6:30 PM weekly - Crafts Room  
 6:30 PM Line Dancing – Starts Mar 20 for 6 weekly sessions - \$30 pp – End Apr 24

**THURSDAY**

10 AM Water Aerobics - Ends Apr 18  
 12:30 PM Men's Poker  
 1 PM Mahjong – Room 1  
 7 PM Mahjong V – Card Room 1 & 2

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**

**SUNDAY**

Noon LoBue Mahjong I – Card Rm. 1

*ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*  
*Contact Community Manager for details*

**MONTHLY CALENDARS**  
**AVAILABLE at the CLUBHOUSE**

**INDOOR POOL HOURS**

**MONDAY through FRIDAY:**  
**8:30 AM to 11:30 AM**  
**4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

**SATURDAY and SUNDAY:**  
**1:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

**Forum for VGEM Residents**  
 with  
**Resident HOA Board Trustees**

Pam LoBue & Art Richman  
**Tuesday, March 5 & April 2**  
**1:30 to 3:30 PM Clubhouse Board Room**

**Theresa Manuele VGEM Community Manager**  
**Office Hours: 9 AM – 5 PM**  
**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday**  
 No Office Hours on Thursday  
**609-788-8405**

**REGULAR and SPECIAL**  
**MONTHLY EVENTS**

**MARCH 2013**

**Monday, March 4 at 7 PM**

**The Book Bunch**  
 Crafts Room

**Tuesday, March 5:**

**1:30 – 3:30 PM: Forum for VGEM Residents with Trustees**  
 Clubhouse Board Room  
**6:30 PM: Golf Club Kick-off Meeting**  
 Grande Room

**Wednesday, March 13 at 4 PM**

**Social Committee Meeting**  
 Crafts Room

**Thursday, March 21 at 11 AM**

**Garden Club – Members Only**  
**“Gardening 101”**  
 Grande Room



**Thursday, March 21 at 7 PM**

**Vacation Club**  
**Collette Tours**  
**“Classic Christmas Market”**  
 Grande Room

**Friday, March 22: 6:00 to 8:00 PM**

**Happy Friday Together**  
 Grande Room in Clubhouse



**Wednesday, March 27 at 6 PM**

**Billiards Semi-Finals**  
 Billiard Room



**Thursday, March 28 at 9 AM**

**Men's Club Breakfast**  
 Town & Country Cafe

## APRIL 2013

Monday, April 1 at 7 PM

**The Book Bunch**  
Crafts Room

Tuesday, April 2: 1:30 – 3:30 PM

**Forum for VGEM Residents with Trustees**  
Clubhouse Board Room

Wednesday, April 3 at 6 PM

**Billiard Championship  
& Awards Banquet**  
Billiard & Grande Room



Saturday, April 6 at 9 AM:

**Anglers Club Meeting**  
Guest Speaker: Captain Fran Verdi  
“Back Bay Flounder Fishing”  
Grande Room

Wednesday, April 10

**4 PM: Social Committee Meeting**  
Crafts Room  
**7 PM: Men Bocce Planning Meeting**  
Grande Room

Thursday, April 11 at 11 AM

**Garden Club – Members Only**  
“Visit to Native NJ Nursery”  
Grande Room

Thursday, April 25 at 9 AM

**Men’s Club Breakfast**  
Town & Country Cafe

Friday, April 26: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

**Happy Friday Together**  
Grande Room in Clubhouse



**ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**  
*Contact Community Manager for details*

**Events Announced by Phone Alerts,  
Email & Flyer delivery in the tubes**

*Flyers Available at the Clubhouse*



### COMING ATTRACTION

Saturday, May 4, 2013

**Kentucky Derby Party**  
Sponsored by the FUNd-Raising & Social Committee

Saturday, May 18, 2013 – *In the planning stage!*

**VGEM Community Yard Sale**  
Sponsored by the FUNd-Raising Community  
Clubhouse Parking Lot

### 2013 HOA Board Meeting Schedule

May 20 – *Board Election results*

August 26

November 10 – *2014 Budget Review*

*All Meetings are on Monday evening  
at 6:30 PM in the Clubhouse*

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Atlantic City Electric Co. 609-833-7476  
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EHT Municipal Court 609-926-4195  
EHT Parks & Recreation 609-272-8120  
EHT Clerk 609-926-4085  
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Residential Warranty Co 717-561-4480

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### *VGEM Hospitality Club*

*By Brenda Fishman*

Our members have been busy trying to welcome all of the new residents to our community. So far, we have been officially informed of 9 new addresses that are valid and ready for a visit. Unfortunately, we have had difficulty finding many of our new neighbors at home, or in some cases, even having moved in - well after their settlement dates.

So we keep trying until we meet with success. Please help by letting us know if you are aware of any new residents who have not yet been visited. We will gladly follow up quickly. The club consists of Shirley Blankenship, Brenda Fishman, Audrey Kaufman, and Ilene Schein.

Feel free to contact any of us if you have questions, suggestions or concerns.

### *Walking Your Dog!*

*Please pick up after  
your dog - for the sake  
of our Community’s health,  
environment and  
appearance.*



*Be considerate of your neighbors!*

## ***Your Charity Dollars*** **Where Are Your Donation \$\$\$ Going?**

*By Tony Scaricamazza*

Information for this article was gathered from [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) site. This site was linked from the New Jersey State Department of Consumer Affairs which provides a wealth of information intended to protect the consumer.



We all have received requests for contributions, such as unsolicited return address labels and greeting cards in the mail, with a letter requesting a contribution. You are not obliged to do anything as you did not request the labels or cards. However, because of the organization's name and/or after reading the accompanying letter, you might want to contribute but are uncertain how much of the contribution goes to their programs and how much to the fundraisers. You can check many of these charities by going to various web sites such as [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) and [www.njconsumeraffairs.gov](http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov).

Many charities use for-profit fundraising professionals or telemarketers to raise money for them even though, for some charities little of what is contributed by you actually gets to the intended charity. Then why would a charity contract with a telemarketer? Simply because anything they get is better than nothing...it is found money. Also the charity now has an expanding donor list.

If you are not sure how much of your donation is for fund raising and how much is for the actual program needs, check with a site like Charity Navigator. To give you an idea, here are some charities with their fundraising costs and actual program cost. Hold onto your hats! Look at some of these examples gathered by Charity Navigator from IRS Tax Forms filed for tax year 2010 and/or financial statements. All figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

- Disabled Police Officers Counseling Center: Money spent on their Programs \$40,000 - Money spent on Fundraising costs \$848,000 or 95 cents of each dollar went to the fundraisers.
- Firefighters Charitable Foundation: Programs \$482,000 - Fundraising costs \$5,326,000.
- Wishing Well Foundation: Programs \$105,000 - Fundraising \$1,017,000.
- National Vietnam Veterans Foundation: Program \$456,000 - Fundraising \$4,123,000.

These charities are not living up to their missions. Each spends about 90% of its budget paying for-profit fundraising professionals to solicit your hard-earned money. As a result, very little of the charity's spending is

directed towards its programs and services.

There are many charities that have reasonable fundraising costs, so your dollar contributed goes towards its intended purpose, such as:

- Navy Seal Foundation: Programs \$1,595,000 - Fundraising \$41,000.
- Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund: Programs \$12,046,000 - Fundraising \$201,000.
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund: Programs \$4,900,000 - Fundraising \$1,600,000.
- American Red Cross: Programs \$3,157,482,000 - Fundraising \$ 127,019,000
- The Imus Ranch: Programs \$2,025,000 - Fundraising \$21,000.
- Doctors Without Borders, USA: Programs \$264,470,000 - Fundraising \$19,760,000.
- Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust: Programs \$3,768,000 - Fundraising \$215,000.

The best advice is simple common sense. If there is a charity to which you wish to donate, then send your money directly to them. If you are not sure of the charity check it out; and when a solicitation is made by phone, just hang up.

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## EGGS, EGGS, EGGS

*OK, you will have fun coloring eggs with your grandchildren for Easter. When it is over, what do you do with all those cooked eggs? Here are a few tasty ideas to make those eggs disappear fast.*

### Scotch Eggs

1 lb. fresh sausage  
 ½ tsp. cayenne pepper  
 6 hard cooked eggs, shelled  
 1 fresh egg, beat with 1 Tbs. water  
 1 C. bread crumbs  
 ½ C. flour  
 Vegetable oil for deep frying

Mix cayenne and sausage, divide into 6 portions. On a sheet of wax paper pat out each portion to a thin round. Place one cooked egg in the center of each round. With wet hands wrap the meat around the egg until it is covered. Dredge each roll in flour, then dip in egg wash and then roll in bread crumbs.

Put about 3 inches of oil in a fry pan, heat to 350 degrees. Carefully drop the rolls into the hot oil and deep fry till crisp, about 6 to 8 minutes. Serve as a breakfast or brunch dish.

### Shrimp Stuffed Eggs

6 whole cooked shrimp, peeled & deveined  
 1/3 C. cooked shrimp, coarsely chopped  
 6 hard cooked eggs, shelled  
 2 Tbs. mayonnaise  
 2 Tbs. sour cream  
 2 t. Dijon mustard  
 1 tsp. lemon juice  
 ¼ tsp. dry dill  
 Salt & pepper to taste

Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yoke and place in a bowl, mash. Add the chopped shrimp, mayo, sour cream, mustard, dill, salt & pepper.

Mix well. Fill egg whites. Cut whole shrimp lengthwise and top each filled egg with shrimp half.

This makes a great side dish or a topping for a green salad.

### Putting On The Ritz Egg Salad

*From Sydney Yacovelli*

*This is the recipe used in the VGEM Garden Club Tea sandwiches*

6 hard cooked eggs, shelled  
 1 Tbs. Hellman's mayonnaise  
 1 Tbs. sour cream (not low fat)  
 ½ rib celery, finely chopped  
 1 Tbs. fresh chives, chopped  
 Soft butter

In a bowl, mash the cooked eggs with a fork. Add all other ingredients (not butter) and mix. To build the sandwiches: take 2 slices of bread and put a thin spread of butter on both slices. Add the egg mixture. Put the slices together and then cut off the crusts. Cut sandwich in half. This is a dryer salad so that it does not fall out of the sandwich.

### Russian Eggs

6 cooked eggs, shelled  
 1 tsp. horseradish  
 ¼ C. mayonnaise  
 ¼ C. sour cream  
 Salt & pepper  
 2¼ inch thick slices of good quality bologna  
 1 gherkin pickle, chopped  
 1 oz. caviar, optional  
 Rye bread  
 Bibb lettuce leaves

Julienne the bologna then place in a bowl and add horseradish, mayo, pickle & sour cream, mix well. Refrigerate for about 1 hour. To serve; cut eggs lengthwise, place on lettuce and top with meat mixture, top with a dollop of caviar. Serve with crusty rye bread.

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# Plantar Fasciitis

## Common Cause of Foot Pain

By Walter Zaulyczny



*Hello everyone. Allow me to introduce myself to the VGEM community. My name is Walter Zaulyczny and I live at 382 Sunflower Drive with Judy Grier, my wife. My intention is to provide the VGEM Gazette and community with medical information on various conditions that affect all of us at one time or another in our lives. I am a physical therapist with over 33 years of experience treating different orthopedic and sports related injuries from post surgery to simple sprains and strains. Currently I am employed by Fox Rehabilitation treating patients at both their Ocean City and Cape May Outpatient Clinics. The topic I chose for this issue of the VGEM Gazette is Plantar Fasciitis. What a better place to start than with the feet, because when our feet hit the ground, everything on up changes.*

First of all, let me define plantar fasciitis. The plantar fascia is a flat, broad ligament on the bottom of your foot that attaches to the heel bone at one end and the toes at the other end and helps to form the arch in your foot. Plantar fasciitis is the most common cause of heel and mid foot pain and affects over 2 million people in the United States. When you strain your plantar fascia, it becomes weak, swollen, and irritated (inflamed). Sufferers experience intense, stabbing pain in the heel or mid foot. In the chronic stage, people can develop heel spurs. So what causes this condition to occur in the first place?

By repeatedly straining the plantar fascia, tiny tears occur in the ligament leading to pain and swelling. The presentation and severity of this condition correlates highly with obesity, weight gain, sedentary lifestyles, poor footwear, people with high arches or flat feet, tight Achilles tendon or calf muscles, or people that walk, stand, or run on hard surfaces. People that are on hard surfaces for extended periods of time would be nurses, runners, soldiers, police, etc. Most people affected are middle aged or older, although, the condition does also affect younger people, mostly athletes. The pain can occur in one or both feet.



The most common symptom of plantar fasciitis is pain

in the heel or mid foot with weight bearing, especially upon first getting out of bed in the morning or after prolonged sitting. The pain usually will ease after taking a few steps or as the day progresses. At night, while sleeping, the inflamed tissue contracts (tightens) and the process repeats itself the next day.

If you develop foot pain you should see your doctor, orthopedist, or podiatrist for an evaluation that may include x-rays. There are various treatments to help resolve the pain. They include taping of the foot to support the arch, steroid injection, using a night splint, and/or referral to a physical therapist. A physical therapist will use heat, soft tissue massage, ultrasound treatments, stretching exercises and cold therapy to try and improve the condition. Your doctor may prescribe heel cups, soft inserts, or custom made orthotics to help further support your feet. During treatment, consider decreasing your weight bearing activities on hard surfaces, using ice on your heel, getting better and correct footwear, doing stretching exercises, and taking over the counter anti-inflammatory.

I hope that the above information sheds some light on this common foot problem, and should you develop this condition, that you will have the knowledge to know how to resolve it. I look forward to writing future articles that may be of benefit to our community. If anyone has a topic of interest that they would like to read about, please e-mail me at [wazpt@aol.com](mailto:wazpt@aol.com). Thank you.



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## HELPFUL HINTS FOR THINGS HOUSED IN THE GARAGE

*Submitted by Mary Moskovitz*

### Automobiles

Wash your car regularly... Avoid abrasive substances or brushes... Warm water helps dissolve hard deposits... Never wash your car in direct sunlight or when the car is hot to the touch... Start by cleaning the wheels, using a specially formulated spray detergent, to a DRY surface and dry with a clean, soft cloth... Next, do the tires using a solution of dishwashing liquid and warm water... Apply with a wet rag and rinse off... Wash the body of the car using a special detergent made for cars to avoid damaging the finish... Never use the same cloths that you used to do the wheels and tires... Wipe chrome trim with a soft cloth dipped in a mixture of warm water and dishwashing liquid and a few drops of ammonia... Dry and polish with another new soft, dry cloth... Clean rusted chrome with steel wool... For windows, use a mixture of half water, half hydrogen peroxide... Before you wax your car, make sure it needs it – if beads of rainwater on your car’s finish are the size of a quarter or smaller, you don’t need to wax it....



### Special Cleaning Situations:

- **Bird Droppings:** Remove promptly – they contain acid that can destroy the finish. Pour Seltzer Water on the affected area, allow to bubble up, then wipe clean...
- **Bugs, Tree Sap, Tar:** Remove by applying a Pre-Wash Spray, Car Detergent, or Pine Oil...Apply them full strength to a dry soft towel, then to the car...
- **Rust Spots:** Treat spots with a rust inhibitor and primer, then touch up with the correct color auto paint...

### Bicycles

Remove debris from the spokes and other components... Hose down the bike while upright... Spray gently the crank bearing and wheel hubs... Sponge off dirt and grease with warm water and mild detergent, using a plastic scourer, if necessary on the wheel rims... Clean the components that tend to get greasy with a mild degreaser... Use steel wool or chrome polish to remove any rust from chrome parts... Rinse the bike off and then turn it upside down to wash the underside of the frame... Turn the bike upright and towel dry... Lubricate the



derailleurs and any suspension components according to the manufacturer’s instructions... Wipe down the seat with a damp cloth...use saddle soap on a leather seat as needed... Between cleanings, wipe down the bike with a dry, clean cloth after each ride, and lubricate moving parts every few weeks or after riding on a wet surface...



## Plans Under Way For 2013 Grande Garden Club Tea Party

*From Sydney Yacovelli*

Once a year the Grande Garden Club holds a tea party. The 65 members of the Club started to plan the 4th annual fund raiser back in the fall. The tea party is open to our entire community. Funds raised by this event help support the club’s educational activities as well as enhancing our community common areas. This year the membership selected the theme of “A Grande Wedding Tea”.

As in the last three years, members of the club volunteered to be table hostesses and to work on committees to prepare refreshments and decorations for the grand event. Working in the volunteer groups is as much fun for members as the tea itself.

This year the event will expand to 13 tables so we can accommodate 104 guests. Tickets will be \$18 and go on sale May 15.

Every year the planning committee works hard to raise the bar in making the event better and better and this year will be no exception. The wedding will be a grand afternoon with great refreshments and added entertainment to delight our guests. There will be prizes awarded for best hat and for a surprise contest. So hold the date of June 20th open and come join us for tea!





## Things That Bother Me!

### “Elderly”

By Tony Scaricamazza



When the media is reporting an incident involving older persons they will, without exception, always identify them as an “elderly” couple or an “elderly” man or “elderly” woman. Something like: “Early this morning an elderly couple were rescued from their burning home.”

The media never reports someone who is young as “young” or someone who is middle aged as “middle aged”. You never hear: “Early this morning a young couple (or middle-aged couple) were rescued from their burning home.”

Why this fascination with the word elderly? It seems to me that the powers that be in the media, consider that to be elderly is some sort of affliction worthy of special mention.

Personally, I think once we reach a certain age we should be treated with the respect that elderly people should be accorded. Oops...did I just say the word elderly?



## More Things That Bother Me!

### “Stay tuned for ... !”

By Tony Scaricamazza

Let’s talk about the weather reports on those too long hourly local news programs. If there is a hint of rain or snow or even a gust of wind, we will be urged to stay tuned for their weather report. Of course, the first report is of the current temperature in various towns, the wind direction and fronts that may be moving in your direction. You are treated to the latest version of “Doppler” and urged to stay tuned for a more complete report “in just a few minutes”.

Well, after 20 minutes and numerous breaks for commercials, the weatherperson is now back and giving you more about those nasty low fronts headed in our direction. How will it affect our weather? Still no answer, stay tuned for just a few more minutes.

After many minutes, the weatherperson gives you the 3 day forecast including the effect of those nasty low fronts. If you want the 5 day forecast stay tuned. Just before the news hour ends, you are treated to the 5 day forecast and now told that a 7 day forecast, together with the flow of the jet stream will be provided in the 6 o’clock news coming up, you guessed it, “in just a few minutes”.

You know what, next time, go to your local weather channel and all the info you need will be provided in, really, just a few minutes.

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# WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

By Doreen DeLucca

I walk into the room where the television happens to be showing an infomercial of dogs and cats that have been abused. Although they have been rescued, they are shown to be emaciated and scarred, both emotionally and physically. I immediately get sick to my stomach and turn the channel. This is much too heartbreaking to watch. The news comes on and it shows a photo of a child abuser, flashing onto a scene where the abuse occurred. Again, flip the channel as it is much, much too sad to witness. Then, the unthinkable happens. On this channel, I see children running from their school – their safe place – their home away from home, because there is someone inside who is shooting at them. Parents are running toward the school praying that they will see their child's face once again.



How can we live in a world where these horrific tragedies are happening? After all, human beings commit these horrible acts. We are human beings. We cannot even fathom the thought of ever doing something so unimaginable. When did the bizarre become commonplace? When did we become so desensitized that only truly horrific acts affect us?

Next morning, get up, make coffee, read the paper and come across a story about two shootings in Atlantic City. This doesn't even faze me. I don't read it, it doesn't interest me. It is just one more article about the same thing I read about yesterday. Again, I am human so why doesn't this shake me to my core? Has it become so commonplace that it is just words in a newspaper? It certainly isn't because I don't care about my fellow human beings. It isn't that I don't think killing someone is really terrible. What I do think is, there is nothing I can do about it. This is not going to change. Tomorrow's paper will have different names and ages, but the result will be the same... the devaluation of human life. We have become desensitized because of TV drama shows, where we watch autopsies, shootings, violence and death. It should sicken us. It used to. It doesn't anymore. Children are playing violent video games. Parents are afraid to say no or cave in to what other kids are playing. Parents claim that if they don't buy it, the kids will just play it over at a friend's house. Parents don't censor, not because they are not good parents but because they feel powerless to change what our society has now deemed as "the norm".

Do you, like I, feel powerless to come up with any solution to this problem? It is such a diversified problem

that I can't even take a stand for the changes in law that have yet to be proposed. It just makes me sad, helpless and hopeless. I sympathize with all those charged with making changes that will impact our country to make laws that will keep us safer. No child should ever have to enter his safe haven in fear. I pray that with each new day, we wake up and vow to do something good; make decisions because they are the right thing to do and thank God for each and every one of our blessings in a world that can sometimes seem very dark.

*Editor's Note:*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People.™

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Violence is a serious public health problem in the United States. From infants to the elderly, it affects people in all stages of life. In 2009, almost 16,800 people were victims of homicide and nearly 37,000 took their own life.

The number of violent deaths tells only part of the story. Many more survive violence and are left with permanent physical and emotional scars. Violence also erodes communities by reducing productivity, decreasing property values, and disrupting social services.

The CDC is committed to stopping violence before it begins.

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/>

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# Cops & Robbers

By Annette Scaricamazza  
with Don Mastrangelo &  
Tony Scaricamazza



- Who directed *Goodfellas*?  
(A) Oliver Stone (B) Martin Scorsese  
(C) James Cameron (D) Steven Spielberg
- Marlon Brando refused an Oscar for which movie?  
(A) Young Lions (B) Guys & Dolls  
(C) The Godfather (D) On the Waterfront
- What singer turned down the role of Johnny Fontaine in *The Godfather*?  
(A) Al Martino (B) Frank Sinatra  
(C) Dean Martin (D) Vic Damone
- Who played Eliot Ness, the federal agent who went after Al Capone, in the movie *The Untouchables*?  
(A) Sean Connery (B) Tommy Lee Jones  
(C) James Bond (D) Kevin Costner
- How many actors in the *Goodfellas* movie also appeared in the HBO series of the *Sopranos*?  
(A) 1-5 (B) 6-10 (C) 11-15 (D) 20-30
- What TV detective was known to say “who loves you baby”?  
(A) Barney Miller (B) Joe Friday  
(C) Kojak (D) McCloud
- Name the bar/strip club in the *Sopranos*.  
(A) Delilah (B) Risque  
(C) Crazy Horse (D) Bada Bing
- What fruit appeared 26 times as a symbol of pending violence or death in all 3 Godfather movies?  
(A) Apple (B) Orange (C) Grapes (D) Peaches
- What movie is this line from: “I’m Funny how? I mean funny... like I’m a clown?”  
(A) White Heat (B) Little Caesar  
(C) Goodfellas (D) Scarface
- What was detective *Columbo*’s trademark?  
(A) hat (B) pipe (c) cigar (D) raincoat
- When asked “why do you rob banks”, this criminal replied “because that’s where the money is”.  
(A) Cole Younger (B) Willie Sutton  
(C) Butch Cassidy (D) Billy the Kid
- Nucky Thompson in *Boardwalk Empire* resided at which Atlantic City hotel?  
(A) Ritz Carlton (B) Traymore  
(C) Claridge (D) Plaza



- Arnold Rothstein was involved in fixing what sports event?  
(A) Super Bowl (B) Boxing  
(C) World Series (D) Hockey Playoffs
- On the Waterfront* was filmed in which city?  
(A) Hoboken (B) Camden  
(C) Newark (D) New York
- Name the character played by John Travolta in *Pulp Fiction*.  
(A) Mickey Cohen (B) Vincent Vega  
(C) Henry Hill (D) Ted Brasco
- Who lived at 221B Baker Street?  
(A) Henry Hill (B) Sherlock Holmes  
(C) Al Capone (D) Paulie Walnuts
- What was the name of the detective in the *Fugitive* TV series?  
(A) Mickey Spillane (B) Mike Hammer  
(C) Philip Gerard (D) Jim Rockford
- In what movie does a character say “leave the gun, take the cannoli”?  
(A) White Heat (B) The Godfather  
(C) Scarface (D) The Bakery
- Who plays Nucky Thompson in the TV show *Boardwalk Empire*?  
(A) Steve Reeves (B) Steve Buscemi  
(C) Steve Cappadona (D) Steve Allen
- Where did the last scene of the *Sopranos* take place?  
(A) Diner (B) Airport  
(C) Parking Lot (D) Hobby Shop
- What VGEM resident appeared in *Oceans Eleven* filmed in Atlantic City?  
(A) John Murtha (B) Ed Zink  
(C) Bill Hofmann (D) Joe Stroup
- What were the first names of the lead characters in the TV series *Hart To Hart*?  
(A) Jonathan and Jennifer (B) Robert & Rose  
(C) Tom & Terry (D) Peter & Pam
- Barnaby Jones chased criminals in which big city?  
(A) Chicago (B) Los Angeles  
(C) New York (D) Miami
- Who played Jessica Fletcher in the TV series *Murder She Wrote*?  
(A) Angie Dickenson (B) Lauren Bacall  
(C) Angela Lansbury (D) Farrah Fawcett



Answers on page 34



## SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR NEIGHBORS

By Pat Roche



At long last I have broken away from the aura of the clubhouse and ventured out into the Village Grande community. My first stop was the

lovely Snowdrop home of **Yolande Osowski**. Yolande was born in Derby Line, part of the thriving metropolis of Derby, on the Canadian border. The area was extremely rural and she describes her childhood as a Little House on the Prairie experience.

Yolande was the youngest of eight siblings. During the depression all the Fortin children were required to help with the chores on their parents' dairy farm. One chore was



*Yolande's Farm*

cleaning or "mucking out" the barn. I can just imagine my grandchildren saying "ugh, gross me out, Grandma" but Memere (Yolande) insists her Grands love playing in the hay and (you guessed it) the manure! She mentions walking six miles to and from school in Quebec Province and learning English for the first time when she went to High School on the Vermont side of the border. They waited



*Yolande & Friends*

a long time for indoor plumbing and the family purchased their first car in 1944. Yolande entered a different phase of her life when she was accepted in a college work study program at Notre Dame College (now St. John's University) on Staten Island, New York. After Graduation, Yolande went to work at Sloan-Kettering in the city and boarded with a

friend back on Staten Island. I cannot imagine the culture shock of living and working in New York after, and I quote, "coming from the 'boonies'!" Yolande and Walter were married in 1958 and eventually settled in Demarest, New Jersey where they raised their four children and lived for over forty years. When they chose Village Grande for their retirement home they had two major reasons. One was the proximity to their daughter, Jackie and her family (two of her seven grandchildren) and the other, Atlantic City!! Losing Walter after fifty-two years of marriage left her with a huge void in her life, but, their choice to relocate here gives her the opportunities to pursue her church

activities, the Book Bunch, billiards, a little gambling, and never forget a mean game of Ping Pong!

As the "Spotlight" moves down Snowdrop I arrive at the home of Don and **Angela Mastrangelo**. Angela and Don will be married forty-seven years in July. They have two grandchildren and two children, a daughter and a son. They originally found out about our community from their son, Jeff, who most of us have met. He is the Food and Beverage Manager at the Ballamor Country Club, and you know how we all love to go there! Here at Village Grande we can usually find Angela organizing a canasta game, playing Mah Jong and most importantly displaying her artistic talents working with the Garden Club. "Ang" began her career in flower arranging when her children were in school and she accepted a part time job at the D and D Warehouse in Freehold, NJ. After working with silk and dried flowers for two years, she was able to branch out on her own. As her expertise became known, she worked with both natural and silk flowers for weddings and garden parties. All this experience enables her to work so successfully with the Grande Garden Club. She has been head decorator for our tea parties, not only coming up with ideas, but also sewing materials for many displays.



*Angela proudly displays her summer wreath creation.*

In her early career she worked in banking, and now she is the Treasurer of the Grande Garden Club. So again, her previous experience lends itself to present volunteerism! We are so fortunate to have such an able and talented volunteer, but most importantly, she is willing to lend her talents to the beautification of our community. As her son Jeff would say, "Book your next event at the Ballamor". We really should support Jeff to thank him for bringing his parents to Village Grande!

When I was interviewing Angela for this column, she mentioned a water color class that she had just started. I had also heard about this class from Lena Goldberg. So, I decided to investigate and perhaps write about this new

resident. **Bernice Rappoport** and her husband Ken live on Marigold Circle. The Rappoports were childhood sweethearts who met on a blind date in Atlantic City. They also moved to Village Grande because of old memories of AC and the fact that one of their three children lives in Northfield. They are the proud grandparents of five with two girls living close by. One grand is a dancer and the other sings with a choral group that entertains in nursing homes! Did they inherit their artistic talent from their Grandmother? Bernice becomes animated when talking about her paintings. She started painting at age 12 and often chooses subjects that have a personal connection. Her paintings feature the play of light on landscapes, figures and still life. Bernice studied at the Art Students League in New York. She has been selected into juried shows throughout New Jersey, elected to full membership in the prestigious Garden State Watercolor Society and currently is program director for the Suburban Artist Guild in East Brunswick. There is a quote at the end of her biography which sums up Bernice's thoughts, "I enjoy painting and hope to bring some of that joy to the viewer's life." If her new students, Angela and Lena, are an example, her enthusiasm has certainly been contagious. Think about joining Bernice in her Monday morning class. Her announcement is displayed in the Gazette with an example of her oil painting entitled "*Ginger*". Please join her as she offers another "perk" of living in Village Grande.

I feel we are so fortunate to be a part of this Grande community. As you can see our neighbors have so much talent and many tales to tell! Stay tuned!

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No sessions on holidays



"Ginger" – an oil painting by Bernice Rappoport

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## Men's Club

By Herb Moskowitz



The Men's Club of VGEM had their first breakfast meeting of the year on Thursday January 29th at the Town & Country Restaurant. The speaker for this event was Donald Stauffer, Fire Inspector/Investigator for the Egg Harbor Township Fire Department. Don spoke about fire safety in our community. He cited simple things we can do to stay safe such as changing batteries in the smoke alarms. He also said that each home should have at least one fire extinguisher. Note: Fire extinguishers can be purchased at Lowes or Home Depot.

The Men's Club will be scheduling a training session for the AED unit (Defibrillator) located in the Club House near the indoor pool and the gym in early spring. The first training classes we had over sixty people attend. I have spoken with Carol Sutton, a resident of our Community, about conducting this training and she has agreed. This training will be limited to eighteen (18) residents. More information to follow.

Once again The Men's Club has purchased tickets for a Philadelphia Phillies Baseball game. The game this year will be Monday, September 16 at 7:05 PM vs. the Florida Marlins. The bus will leave the Clubhouse at approximately 5:00 PM and return immediately after the game. Tickets will be available for purchase mid to late May. This event is open to everyone in the community. The price per ticket is **\$57.00** per person, including transportation. The seats this year will be in Section 235, Rows 4 through 9, along the third base line. Make your reservations early. More information to follow.

If any men in the VGEM Community are not receiving information about the Men's Club and our many activities, please contact Herb Moskowitz, and have your name and email address added to the list.



## ANSWERS – Cops & Robbers Quiz

On Page 31

- |        |         |         |
|--------|---------|---------|
| 1. (B) | 9. (C)  | 17. (C) |
| 2. (D) | 10. (D) | 18. (B) |
| 3. (D) | 11. (B) | 19. (B) |
| 4. (D) | 12. (A) | 20. (A) |
| 5. (D) | 13. (C) | 21. (D) |
| 6. (C) | 14. (A) | 22. (A) |
| 7. (D) | 15. (B) | 23. (B) |
| 8. (B) | 16. (B) | 24. (C) |



## RESIDENTS DIRECTORY

Copies available @ Clubhouse

By Mary Moskowitz

### Updates to the 4th - 2012 Edition of the Residents Directory

#### NEW RESIDENTS

##### “Welcome to VGEM”

- **Albert & Margaret DiMatteo**  
37 Poppy Road  
Al's Cell #717-435-2423  
Peg's Cell #717-892-8364

#### DIRECTORY CHANGES

- **Ron & Maryann Cefalone**  
Ron's Cell – 609-218-3472  
Maryann's Cell – 609-532-4689  
Home Phone Number – 609-883-9487
- **William & Colleen D'Annunzio**  
Home Phone #609-926-0290  
New E-mail – [wgdannunzio1@verizon.net](mailto:wgdannunzio1@verizon.net)
- **Judy Durso** – Deceased
- **Herb Green**  
New E-mail – [herb780@aol.com](mailto:herb780@aol.com)
- **Marcy Hammerschlag**  
Corrected e-mail – [mahschlag@yahoo.com](mailto:mahschlag@yahoo.com)
- **David & Priscilla Keyes**  
Delete their home phone number
- **Randolph & Colleen Krehel**  
New E-mail – [rjkrehel@hotmail.com](mailto:rjkrehel@hotmail.com)  
Delete [babyblue21342@aol.com](mailto:babyblue21342@aol.com)  
Randolph Cell # 201-370-6948  
Colleen Cell #551-404-5986
- **Joe & Mary McGrail** – 37 Poppy Road  
Delete – Moved out of community
- **Kathleen McGroarty**  
Correct phone # 609-365-8214
- **Jack & Diane Mays** –12 Tulip Road  
609-760-9819 – Jack Cell  
856-305-6457 – Diane Cell  
[jack1137@gmail.com](mailto:jack1137@gmail.com)  
Omitted from 2012 Directory – so sorry
- **Vicki Plotka** – Deceased
- **Ken & Bernice Rappoport**  
Ken's Cell – 732-586-8679  
Bernice's Cell – 732-599-1228  
Bernice's e-mail – [artbyrapp@yahoo.com](mailto:artbyrapp@yahoo.com)
- **Beatrice Snyder** – 334 Sunflower Drive  
Delete – Moved out of the community
- **Joe & Andrea Stroup** – New E-mail  
Joe - [stroupj327@gmail.com](mailto:stroupj327@gmail.com)  
Andrea – [andreastroup611@gmail.com](mailto:andreastroup611@gmail.com)







## Those Were The Days

By Sydney Yacovelli

I was born in Atlantic City, actually, in the Atlantic City hospital in the 1940's. The timing was good because I was lucky enough to have experienced at least the tail end of Atlantic City's heyday. In my youth people still dressed to the nines to take an evening stroll on the boardwalk and window shop the high end stores and fine dining restaurants that lined the boardwalk in front of the luxurious ocean front hotels. When you got tired of walking, you could rent a rolling chair and park it in front of the Convention Hall to enjoy the fashion parade of vacationers as they walked by. The city had a kind of glamorous aura then.

In those days Atlantic City still attracted the biggest names in entertainment to the wonderful Steel Pier's giant ballroom where you could dance to big bands like Tommy Dorsey. Stars appeared at the beautiful hotel show rooms and great supper clubs like Club Harlem on Kentucky Avenue and the 500 Club on Missouri Avenue. Long lines would go around the block to get into the Club Harlem to see iconic performers like Ella Fitzgerald, Dick Gregory or Louis Armstrong backed up by band leader "Crazy" Chris Columbo. Or you would pay a cover charge at the door of the 500 Club to be entertained by the greats like Milton Berle, Jimmy Durante or Martin and Lewis. You might end your night by stopping in at Grace's Little Belmont where Sammy Davis's mother tended bar.

became a lifelong fan.

Sinatra was once asked how he would like to be remembered and he answered, "...as a man who had a wonderful time living life". I'm sure he did, but not without ups and downs in a long career.



Frank Sinatra on stage at the "Five"

After he left Dorsey's big band, Sinatra struggled to get a career going as a single act going. That's when the help and friendship with the owner of the 500 Club, Paul "Skinny" D'Amato started. D'Amato booked the crooner at the "Five" when he couldn't get booked at any other club. This was help that Sinatra never forgot and tried to repay often over the years by appearing at the club, sometimes for free, to give it a boost when times got hard.



In the late 1950's I was in high school and my uncle was entertainment director for the Traymore Hotel and that gave him access to many of the entertainers that came to the city. One summer night in 1959 I had the treat of my teenage life to go to the 500 Club and see Frank Sinatra perform. The room was packed with as many celebrities as paid customers. I don't remember what we ate for dinner that night, but I do remember the charismatic yet shy Sinatra singing to what felt like only me. After that I



Sure club owners like D'Amato had mob connections, but even the Quaker family owners of many of the city's big hotels had friendly working relationships with the mob. It all helped to keep Atlantic City operating smoothly and really more crime free. There was another side of the entertainment community from which the entire island also benefited... their many acts of charity. Most of the club owners and entertainers, while appearing in town, supported many charity events that raised huge

amounts of money for institutions like Children's Seashore House and The Betty Bararach Home in Longport. Before Bacharach Rehabilitation Center was located in Galloway, it was a home for recovering children established in 1924 in Longport. Annual fund raising events for these and other charities brought in every big name star of the day from Marilyn Monroe to Cary Grant to the Rat Pack whose generosity was immense and nearly always confidential.



Another such event was a fall concert held in 1978 at which ALL proceeds went to the Atlantic City Health Care Facility. Atlantic City Hospital was financially strapped at the time, so Bally's President, Bill Weinberger asked his close friend Frank Sinatra to help. Frank waived his customary \$100,000 appearance fee. Sinatra's concert raised \$600,000. In today's money that would be about 3 million dollars. On Easter Sunday 1979, the city closed off 4 blocks of Pacific Avenue for fans and dignitaries to watch the rededication of the 8 story, 170 room south wing as the Frank Sinatra wing of the hospital. Accompanied to the event by his wife Barbara and "Rat Pack" buddy Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra delivered an emotional speech to the hospital crowd, "...if you ever need me all you gotta do is just holler". So the next time you drive down Pacific Avenue look up as you near the hospital and see Ole Blue Eyes looking back at you. **"Those Were The Days!"**

## Vacation Club

By Doug Beaupit



The Vacation Club provides many opportunities for our Community; as well as, friends and family to experience the vacation of their dreams and, at the same time, help VGEM's FUNd-Raising Committee. To

accomplish this VGEM has a preferred travel agency that is interestingly enough named **Preferred Travel**.

Preferred Travel arranged a presentation on January 17, 2013 with Tauck Tours. It was attended by over 30 of your friends and neighbors where they were treated to an enjoyable discussion. Tauck described features of a typical Tauck tour as well as a detailed review of their Canadian Rockies train trip "Riding the Rails". The trip includes a three day adventure in Victoria, a two day train ride through the Rockies as well as visits to Vancouver, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. The two residents who have taken this trip say it is one of their favorites. They said "You must see the Canadian Rockies".



Lake Louise

Preferred Travel also has two upcoming presentations you should plan on attending from Collette Tours and Princess Cruises. They will be featuring one of their tours reserved for VGEM residents.

- Collette Tours – "Classic Christmas Market" on March 21, 2013 at 7 PM
- Princess Cruises – "Canada & New England" on May 16, 2013 at 7 PM

As a reminder for those residents who have not yet received their Preferred Travel Identification Card, it is important that you complete the travel survey sheet that was placed in your tube and mail it to them. You will then receive an ID card that helps both Preferred Travel and the Vacation Club plan future trips. For VGEM to receive reimbursement for your travel from Preferred Travel, all residents should make their trip reservations through the agency and show their ID card identifying them as Village Grande residents.

Grand Circle Cruise Line has reserved six cabins at various price levels (\$2,495 - \$3,195) for VGEM residents on a new European riverboat cruise entitled "Eastern Europe to the Black Sea". The Farbmans have booked this cruise and invite other residents to take this trip along with them. This trip departs on November 1 and returns on November 13. It will tour Budapest, Hungary; Osijek, Croatia; Belgrade, Serbia; Vidian, Bulgaria and Bucharest, Romania. Post trips are available to Transylvania, Romania or Istanbul, Turkey. The Farbmans are taking the Transylvania post-trip extension.

The cabins will be held for VGEM residents until April 1, 2012. Brochures are available at the front desk in the Clubhouse



# VGEM SNOWBIRDS

By Tom Santucci

Shortly after the January/February 2013 Grande Gazette was distributed online, I received an e-mail from Lynne Atkinson complementing the Staff on a "great Gazette". She said that she got to thinking about other VGEM residents who are snowbirds and wondered what they were doing in their "southern communities". Her e-mail included the picture of her appearing on this cover as a volunteer for the Salvation Army. This was quite a contrast to the Salvation Army volunteers that I see in front of ShopRite and Joe Canal's. Well Lynne got me thinking. As we experienced our sixth day of no sun with frigid temperatures in the teens, I decided to inquire about our snowbirds. I received a few responses that have resulted in this collage of pictures. Another result is that Marlene and I are scanning the Internet for a Florida rental for next winter.



*CP and Kathie Perfetti pose before a sunset over the Gulf of Mexico*



*Who is enjoying Disneyland more...? Mickey England, Sydney Yacovelli or their grandson?*



*Sandy and Dan Farbman travel with their Gazette as they enjoy their new Florida community*



*Gwen & Ken Szyarto with the ICW in the background*



*Will & Annette Black poolside in Cape Coral*



*As are Judy & Jimmy Gay*



*It is not the best picture of Andy & Lynne Atkinson but the view of the Atlantic Ocean View is spectacular!!!*



# Happy Birthday!

## March 2013

Tom Santucci	3/1	Donna Corbett	3/15
Michael Goldstein	3/3	Patricia Rigot	3/17
Ed Werleman	3/3	Linda Salierno	3/17
Denise Coach	3/4	Sydney Yacovelli	3/18
Mary Ann Johnson	3/4	Paula Girard	3/20
Kathy Reed	3/5	Colleen Krehel	3/21
Ken Conley	3/6	Adele Prochaczek	3/24
Marsha Goldberg	3/6	Helene Goldman	3/25
Carlo Melini	3/6	Fumi Ditzel	3/26
Steve Fleischman	3/7	Doris Lewis	3/26
Peg McGowan	3/8	Ilene Schein	3/26
Dennis Perna	3/8	Emerson Ford	3/27
Glen Coach	3/9	Joe Stroup	3/27
Josephine Bindas	3/10	Mary VanHorn	
Marion Girard	3/10	(nee Williams)	3/27
Kathy Krattenmaker	3/11	Carlos Urbina	3/28
Barbara Green	3/12	Jeannie Eckard	3/29
Joe Schwartz	3/12	Jack Williamson	3/29
John DeLucca	3/14	Diane Gottman	3/29
Alan Duggan	3/14	Beatrice Snyder	3/30

## April 2013

4/1	Lynnda Golin	4/14
4/2	Mary Baldini	4/16
4/4	Shirley Lerner	4/18
4/4	Jim Roche	4/18
4/3	Victor Traral	4/20
4/4	Jeanette Kardon	4/22
4/6	Tony Durso	4/23
4/6	Lynne Hearn	4/23
4/6	Joseph Varallo	4/23
4/9	Marsha Kaneff	4/24
4/10	Charles Stapler	4/24
4/10	Sam Mannino	4/30
4/12	Carol Moderski	4/30



# Happy Anniversary!

## March 2013

Melvin & Lena Goldberg	3/3
Bill & Josephine Bindas	3/10
Eric & Marie Guetzlaff	3/10
Charles & Elaine Stapler	3/13
Jim & Pam LoBue	3/17
Tom & Marion Girard	3/18
Herb & Bobbi Green	3/21
Lou & Lynnda Golin	3/22
Ken & Bernice Rappoport	3/26

## April 2013

4/1	Bob & Terry Stevens
4/6	Fred & Virginia Campo
4/6	Jim & Patricia Rigot
4/7	Dan & JoAnn Montagna
4/7	Steve & Janice Weiner
4/8	Nick & Cathy Cantatore
4/11	Jack & Diane Mays
4/17	Gerald & Barbara Baressi
4/19	Alan & Lynne Hearn
4/24	Victor & Janet Traral
4/29	John & Doreen DeLucca
4/30	Rich & Peg McGowan



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