

Grande Gazette

The Village Grande at English Mill

Volume 6 • Issue 1

January/February 2015



VILLAGE GRANDE AT ENGLISH MILL

1 Village Grande Road; Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Clubhouse Hours: 5 AM - Midnight

Resident Board of Trustees

Pam LoBue President 653-1025 Plobue118@comcast.net	James Lichtenwalner Vice-President 788-4627 lichtenwal@aol.com	Sam Salierno Secretary 365-8112 bcsam16@aol.com	Jim Roche Treasurer 926-0072 jimroche35@comcast.net
---	---	--	--

Community Management

DiLucia Management Corporation
1000 Bally Bunion Drive
Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215
(609) 804-3300
www.dilucia.com

Kate Walton
Community Manager
(609) 788-8405
(609) 788-8430 -- FAX
vgem@dilucia.com

Committee Chairpersons

Alternative Dispute Resolution	Carolyn O'Callaghan	926-1224	carolOC14@aol.com
Architectural Control	Kathie Perfetti	926-4976	kathiem@mac.com
Clubhouse Maintenance	Tony Sierveld	732-672-4160	tonysierveld@comcast.net
Community Rules	Audrey Kaufman	926-5850	akaufm@aol.com
Election	Jim Walsh	926-0402	murphywalsh216@yahoo.com
	Tom Santucci	926-3691	vgem.gazette@comcast.net
Finance	Don Cheattle	927-8630	doncheattle@comcast.net
Government Liaison	John DaPrato	926-4977	joncondaprato@aol.com
Landscape/Irrigation/Snow Removal	Carolyn Walmsley	653-0631	jcwalmsley@att.net
Neighborhood Watch	Don Mastrangelo	788-4876	anganddonretired@yahoo.com
Newsletter - <i>Grande Gazette</i>	Tom Santucci	926-3691	vgem.gazette@comcast.net
Special Events	TBA		
Social	Chicki Sinagria	927-0427	crs0509@comcast.net
	Regina Yuppa	926-0414	rcy64@comcast.net
Transition	Jerry Bernstein	926-4632	jerry.bernstein@verizon.net
Treasurer Committees/Clubs	Dan Farbman	788-4941	dfarbman@yahoo.com
	Don Cheattle	927-8630	doncheattle@comcast.net

Club Captains

Anglers, Fishing	Bill Hofmann	788-4552	billfish63@comcast.net
Bicycle	Leonard Sands	653-1232	lsands45@aol.com
Billiard Club	Joe Carluccio	365-2574	joecar358@hotmail.net
	Jim Lichtenwalner	788-4627	lichtenwal@aol.com
Bocce Men	By Committee	926-3936	davevanzant@comcast.net
Bocce Women	By Committee	927-4205	randtstevens@gmail
Book Club	Pat Roche	926-0072	jimroche35@comcast.net
	Ann Cheattle	927-8630	acheattle@verizon.net
Canasta	Angela Mastrangelo	788-4876	anganddonretired@yahoo.com
Clubhouse Library	Annette Scaricamazza	927-6818	tony5431@comcast.net
Community Directory	Mary Moskovitz	365-2329	marymoskovitz@gmail.com
Compassionate Neighbors	Mary Moskovitz	365-2329	marymoskovitz@gmail.com
Dine Around	Dan & Sandy Farbman	788-4941	dfarbman@yahoo.com
	Shirley & Howard Bernstein	788-8331	shirlhow2@gmail.com
Garden	Donna Lichtenwalner	788-4627	lichtenwal@aol.com
Golf	Doug Beaupit	788-4062	beauwhim@aol.com
	Jim Marini	926-7742	Jmarini35@comcast.net
Mah Jongg	Ilene Schein	601-0223	wenkeymom@comcast.net
Men's Club	Herb Moskovitz	365-2329	herbmoskovitz@gmail.com
Photography	Jack Williamson	927-4323	jnowmsn@aol.com
Singles	Dolores Magara	365-2878	dmagara@comcast.net
	Dolores DeFelice	788-4712	ddefelice246@comcast.net
Tennis/Pickleball	Bill Giannetti	215-919-1520	tbgiannetti@gmail.com
Walking	Sandy Farbman	788-4941	sfmsw@yahoo.com
Welcome	Brenda Fishman	822-4437	btfishman@g.mail.com
Vacation/Travel Club	David VanZant	926-3936	davevanzant@comcast.net
Veterans	Lou Golin	788-8055	G1451@msn.com

Updated: 10-15-2014

Grande Gazette Staff

Editor: Tom Santucci
Associate Editors: Tony Scaricamazza
Sydney Yacovelli
Writers:
Jim Berg Mary Moskovitz
John DaPrato Pat Roche
Doreen DeLucca Annette Scaricamazza
Terry Giannetti Walt Zaulyczny
Photography: Jack Williamson, Chief
Jeannie Eckard, Lou Golin & Mike Segal
Editing Team: Doreen DeLucca, Brenda Fishman,
Pat & Jim Roche, Marlene Santucci, Annette & Tony
Scaricamazza, Barbara & Jim Walsh
Distribution Director: Carol Moderski
Distribution Team: Joan Hofmann Don
Mastrangelo, Julie McGeehin, Fred Moderski, June
Musterel, Tony & Annette Scaricamazza, Anita &
Ed Wenzke, Regina Yuppa

Updated: 11/29/2014

Grande Gazette Information

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, and will make every effort to maintain the original intent of the writer.
- 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

EMAIL Address: vgem.gazette@comcast.net

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

Updated: 10/25/2014

SENIOR PUBLISHING COMPANY and the *Grande Gazette* accept advertisements based upon information provided by the advertiser. SENIOR PUBLISHING COMPANY and the *Grande Gazette* do not independently investigate the accuracy of advertisement content and do not warrant or represent the accuracy of the content of any advertisement.

From the Editor...

By Tom Santucci

With this issue, I begin my fourth year as the *Grande Gazette's* Editor. Over the three years, I have been very fortunate to have talented, dedicated contributors provide the Gazette with outstanding material to fill 18 issues totaling 728 pages. My sincere appreciation and thanks for all they do to provide this Community with superb information and entertaining articles.

As is one of the Gazette's Missions, this issue contains informative articles on our governance, finance and operations. It includes articles on the December 1, 2014 HOA Board meeting; details on the 2015 Budget by Don Cheatle, Chairperson of the Finance Committee; the "Rules Committee"; Disney's management style; the Landscape Committee and many others worthy of mention if there was more space in this column.

This issue spotlights some of the fun filled activities sponsored by the Social Committee and Vacation Club. Six pages are devoted to coverage of the Social Committee's Pancake Breakfast and Halloween Party. These are just two more of the cadre of stellar events sponsored by the Social Committee.

In 2011, Mickey England and Jim Lichtenwalner came up with the idea of a Travel Club and in April 2012 it sponsored a transatlantic crossing that was a fantastic adventure and I write from personal experience.

The Travel Club evolved into the very active Vacation Club that has sponsored many fun trips including a second transatlantic cruise. The Gazette is highlighting the Vacation Club by articles including a Club Update by David VanZant, a pre-cruise trip to Paris by Sydney Yacovelli and a humorous, superbly written saga about the cruise by Jeannie Eckard. The Gazette hopes these articles will encourage more residents to join in the fun and camaraderie of group travel.

You must read Sydney Yacovelli's article on "Post Nucky Atlantic City" and the decline of the city before casinos. It is apropos as AC is again in decline and searching for ways to reinvent itself. In researching the topic, I stumbled upon an article about Reece Palley, an "Old Dude", who is somewhat of an Atlantic City legend. About 4 decades ago, I met Reece and later had the pleasure of spending several hours talking to him in the Annapolis Harbor onboard his 46' sailboat, *Unlikely*, in which he later circumnavigated the globe. The article on Reece conveys his perspective on Atlantic City's future. I found it so interesting that I have made an exception and am publishing a "copy and paste" article from the web. I am interested in the comments on Reece Palley from the many VGEM residents who are Atlantic City natives and may have known of or about the "*Merchant to the Rich*".

Autumn Pancake Breakfast

By Chicki Sinaglia

We said "Welcome to Fall" with a great Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 18th. One hundred eighteen members of our Community signed up to participate in this event. Golden Corral catered the hot breakfast of pancakes, sausage and bacon along with some delicious fresh fruits provided and prepped by the Social Committee. Due to the number of attendees, the Board Room and Library were set up for our diners. The atmosphere was very congenial and it appeared that everyone enjoyed their food and the company.



Committee members: Joan Viventi, Co-Chair Chicki Sinaglia, Kathleen McGroarty, Co-Chair Regina Yuppa, Marlene Santucci, Bonnie Carluccio & Marcy Gelman



The crowd gathers in the Clubhouse Foyer



Chicki welcomes everyone and explains the serving procedure



The Committee was chaired by Regina Yuppa and Chicki Sinaglia. Committee members were Bonnie Carluccio, Marlene Santucci, Kathleen McGroarty, Joan Viventi, Marcy Gelman and Marsha Goldberg. Herb Moskowitz came through again to assist us with providing his band of men to do the setting up of the rooms for us. Along with Herb were Jim Cira, Jim LoBue, Jack McCree, Walt Lojewski, Joe Carluccio, Bill Giannetti, Sam Salierno, Dennis Goldberg, Doug Beaupit and Ray Viventi. They also broke down the room after the breakfast.



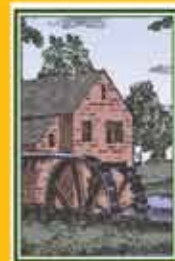
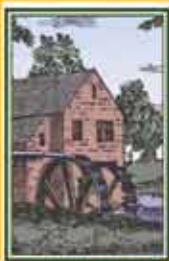
I thank them and all those other guests who pitched in and helped with the clean up. "It takes a Village" to run these events and we appreciate all that our Village residents do to assist us.



Board Room breakfast group



*Thanks to the Social Committee
for another enjoyable event*



*VGEM Logo Wear on sale
by Marguerite Beaupit & Anita Wenzke*

VGEM HOA Board Meeting

December 1, 2014

Reported by Tom Santucci

This article is an overview report of the December 1, 2014 VGEM Board Meeting and, although following the agenda, it is not the minutes. The purpose of the article is to report on the meeting for homeowners who did not attend as well as a reminder to those present. This was the first HOA meeting with the complete Board in attendance: the four resident Trustees and the D.H. Horton Trustee, Todd Greene.

The **President's Report** began with Pam welcoming the new homeowners in attendance. The Board has been especially busy since the last meeting working on the budget and negotiating with contractors. She summarized the accomplishments of the Board since the last meeting and explained the rationale for the decisions made. Pam praised the work of the Community's many volunteers who provided the Board with the information and data needed for the Trustees to make informed decisions. Special thanks went to all those residents who unselfishly volunteer their time for the betterment of the Community.

Specific acknowledgement went to the Finance and the Landscape/Irrigation Committees. The Finance Committee and its new Chairperson Don Cheatle were recognized for their work on the 2015 Budget and their ongoing interviews to identify a firm to perform a Transition and Engineering Evaluation. She recognized the Landscape/Irrigation Committee and its Chairperson Carolyn Walmsley for the thousands of dollars that the Committee saves our Community by their labors in maintaining the property that would otherwise have to be performed by contractors. She closed by expressing the Boards appreciation to all the volunteers and thanks everyone for their cooperation.

Vice President Report: James Lichtenwalner reported on improvements by the ad hoc "Building Storage Committee" in re-organizing the storage space in the Clubhouse. He also thanked the Clubhouse Maintenance Committee for installing two additional cabinets in the preparation room for social events and hanging new photographs and pictures in the Billiards Rooms. Thanks were conveyed to Judy and Jimmy Gay for providing part of the art work.

Of importance to the Community was Jim's announcement that the Community Rules Committee under the direction of Audrey Kaufman will be meeting quarterly and review every rule on a 2-year cycle. Lastly, Jim announced that the Special Events and Social Committees will be sponsoring a Pasta Bowl Party on Super Bowl Sunday that is reported on in this Gazette.

Jim Roche's **Treasurer's Report** started by his saying
6 Grande Gazette • January/February 2015

that there is never a shortage on feed-back to the Board on two topics - new amenities and lower HOA fees. This presents a fiscal dichotomy especially if the amenities require contractors. A simple financial fact of life is that the more done by contractors, the higher our HOA fees. Jim's Treasurer's Report in this Gazette elaborates on his suggestion on ways to reduce expenses to keep our HOA fees lower. Please read it!

Sam Salierno's **Secretary's Report** praised the work and attitudes of the Committees for whom he serves as their Board liaison - Architectural Control Committee (ACC), Government Liaison Committee (GLC), Neighborhood Watch Committee and the Social Committee. He enjoys attending the Social Committee's monthly meetings to observe their efficient operations, congenial demeanor and remarkable productivity. He expressed his appreciation to the ACC for how well they handle their not so pleasant task of sometimes having to deny some of their neighbors requests in order to maintain the integrity and appearance of VGEM. His comment on a current activity of the Neighborhood Watch Committee is described in this issue. Lastly, he commends the GLC for their productive activities in the brief time of their existence.

Committee reports were made. The Finance, Landscape, Social and Clubhouse Rules Committees have reports in this issue of the Gazette. The Cape Account Treasurer's report is in this issue. The ACC will not have a report as it is enjoying a well deserved slow interval. Chairperson Kathie Perfetti wants the Community informed that no requests that may affect the sprinklers will be approved until May when the irrigation system is turned back on.

Old Business: The Board meets for workshops every second and fourth Tuesday of each month to discuss and make decisions on the operations and management of VGEM. Resulting from their many hours of deliberation are **motions passed in these Board workshops** that are presented at the HOA Board meeting to ratify. The following workshop motions were ratified:

- Purchase four no soliciting signs for Phase II
- No Clubs can solicit monetary donations without Board approval
- Permit a 54 ½ year old buyer to become a resident at VGEM
- Amend article 9.01 AA Landscaping of the ACC Rules to read: *Homeowners may replace mulch with stone (commonly called River Rock or Coventry Rock) only if an application is submitted to the ACC and approved. Stones must be 1" to 6" in diameter and contained by a border with a minimum height of six inches (6").*
- Amend article 9.01 K Hanging Articles of the ACC to read: *Holiday Decorations - Holiday decorations may be affixed to windows or the outside of the Home, mailbox, trees and/or shrubbery. Installation and activa-*

tion of holiday decorations may not take place sooner than one (1) month prior to the holiday and **MUST** be removed no later than three (3) weeks following the holiday. Seasonal decorations may be displayed throughout the appropriate season (spring, summer, fall, winter).

- Amend article 9.01 S Garage Doors of the ACC to include options: *Prairie (21) & Cascade (23)*
- Approve Frank Canale as an hourly consultant for his expertise on pool mechanics.

New Business consisted of presenting seven motions for **roll call vote** of the Board.

1. The **2015 Operating Budget** was unanimously approved.
2. A contract to **Water Today** to drill one well was unanimously approved.
3. A contract to **Hyalnd Levin LLP** to represent VGEM HOA in certain legal matters was approved 4 to 1 without discussion. Sam Salierno cast the dissenting vote.
4. A one year contract renewal to **Shore Point Landscaping** for snow removal initiated an open discussion. James Lichtenwalner was opposed stating that this contract should have been open to competitive bidding. Sam Salierno voiced concern that this contract required several drafts by the contractor before being acceptable to the Board. Sam did not question the contractor's ability in snow removal but concerned by the contractor's business acumen. Sam also voted not to approve.

Speaking in favor of the motion, Pam LoBue stated that RFPs were sent out last year and only two contractors responded. Only Shore Point Landscaping would meet VGEM's requirements, especially our 4 inch threshold. The service standard for snow removal is to plow accumulations starting at 2 inches and, depending on the size of the snowfall, not to wait until it has stopped. Another contention by snow removal contractors was to base payments on snow accumulation measured by VGEM. Pam LoBue, Jim Roche and Todd Greene voted to approve the motion and it carried 3 to 2.

5. A contract renewal to **Frank April**, CPA to perform the 2014 Annual Audit passed unanimously.
6. A two year contract renewal with service five days a week to **DiLucia Management Corporation** for HOA management for 2015-2016 initiated an open discussion. Trustee Sam Salierno voiced concern that with better management of "time on task" by the Community Manager, the work could be accomplished in four days and save the Community \$24,240. Jim Lichtenwalner stated emphatically that to operate efficiently, a 5 day a week contract is needed now. The motion carried 4 to 1 with Sam casting the dissenting vote.
7. A motion to award a two year contract to **Sparkling Pool Services Inc.** for pool management services for 2015-2016 was proposed. A discussion ensued on the

rationale for changing contractors. One of the primary reasons was that two of the three companies who responded, praised our pool system as being capable of automatically dispensing chemicals and filling the pool. The third contractor responding to the PDF was our previous pool company who employed a manual procedure without a substantive explanation. Beside this, there have been several problems that include, among others, overfilling the pool that wasted water and diluted the chemicals. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Following adjournment, a Public Comment session addressed several interesting generic issue.

- **Tree Trimming:** Kathy McGeehin, who has a degree in horticulture, recommended that the HOA contract with an arborist to trim trees under its domain. She is concerned that for trees to thrive, trimming should be done by arborists who are knowledgeable about the appropriate time and methods used to trim trees and that these vary according to species. After discussion, the HOA defined that backyard trees are the responsibility of the homeowners, not the HOA. The street trees are the HOA's responsibility and Outdoor Décor has been contracted to trim these trees. Trees in the common areas are also the HOA's responsibility.
- **Pool Rules:** Jim Berg encouraged the Board to have another Town Meeting in order to discuss the pool rules. Audrey Kaufman, Chairperson of the Community Rules, reports that after discussion, the Committee will be making a recommendation to the Board for pool rules that represent a consensus that should be acceptable to the Community.
- **Street lights:** Herb Moskovitz re-stated the concerns of many residents that VGEM is not adequately illuminated at night and that more street lights are needed. The issue is now moot as after an inspection, EHT has determined that our streetlights meet the Township requirements for streetlights at intersections and on curves. EHT will not pay for additional streetlights and the associated electrical costs.
- **House Lights:** A large number of those in attendance voiced a public safety and security concern that all homes turn on their outside lights at night. This is not a new request and one that has been written about in several issue of the Gazette over the last three years. **Please light up the outside of your homes at night!**

We accept no responsibility for any advertisements. If there are any complaints concerning an advertiser, please contact them directly. If you receive no satisfaction, you can contact your Better Business Bureau of the Atlantic County Department of Consumer Affairs.

Halloween Party

By Chicki Sinaglia

The Fifth Annual Halloween Party was held on November 1, 2014 in the Grande Room of the Clubhouse. Needless to say, it was another tremendous success. Most of the 67 attendees were in costume and the fun never stopped the entire evening. The decorations of ghosts, goblins and pumpkin along with the lighting effects conveyed an appropriate Halloween theme. Each table was adorned with pumpkins filled with spray glittered stems along with pretzels, potato chips and, of course, the classic "Halloween Treat" ... assorted candy.



Judges Shirley, Marcie Goldman & Rich Johnson discuss their difficult task of selecting the winners.

Music was provided by Posse Production. As usual, Aggie and Jim had the dance floor filled with the joyful partygoers. Shirley Bernstein, Marcie Goldman and Rich Johnson graciously agreed to judge the costumes. With the *Monster Mash* playing in the background, the many cleverly costumed contestants paraded around the dance floor as the judges had the difficult task of deciding the winner in each of the three categories. After much discussion, the winners were announced and awarded Wawa gift cards.

- Scariest - Shirley Lerner and Don Hinspeter
- Most Original - Terry and Bill Giannetti
- Funniest - Peggy and Floyd Milhan



The Halloween Party Committee

The Halloween Committee was headed by Bonnie Carluccio, Bill Giannetti and Marlene Santucci. Members of the Committee were Dolores Magara, Kathleen McGroarty and Joan Viventi. Thanks to Joe Carluccio and Ray Viventi for helping to set up the Grande Room. As usual, the Social Committee is appreciative to all of you who helped with the clean-up after the party. Thanks to all for staging a great party filled with good food, music, dancing and Halloween fun. A good time was had by all.



Posse Production's Aggie & Jim Henry

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



*The Funniest Winner
Floyd & Peggy Milhan*



Josephine & Joe Carluccio



*The Scariest Winners
Don Hinspeter & Shirley Lerner*



*Kathleen McGroarty
& Chicki Sinaglia*



Will & Annette Black



*The Most Original Winners
Terry & Bill Giannetti*

More Halloween Party pictures on page 26

Finance Committee Report

2015 Budget Approved

By Don Cheattle, Chairperson



This fall your Finance Committee (Joe Leeds, Art Richman, Tom Santucci, Dan Farbman, Terry Gianetti, and Don Cheattle) have been busy assisting the Board with issues of a financial nature confronting them.

Earlier this summer, the Board sent out requests to several engineering firms. They requested proposals to provide guidance for the transition with the developer. The Board requested the Finance Committee to assist them in reviewing the proposals received. The candidates have been narrowed to two firms. By the time this issue of the Gazette is printed, the two firms will be interviewed to determine the firm most suitable to our needs.

Next the Committee, with the assistance of Jim Roche, the Board Liaison to the Finance Committee, began work on the 2015 budget. DiLucia Management Company provided us with a draft budget which they prepared based upon actual experience through September 2014. We then set upon the task of reviewing each line item by comparing what was budgeted in 2014 to the projected actual 2014 expenses. We evaluated any significant variations between the two. Many of the major items are set by contract. Some of the contracts were up for renewal in this year. Others are in force through 2015. We obtained information from the Board on any contracts that were renegotiated. The new contract amounts were incorporated into the budget. We also obtained estimates from D. R. Horton personnel on the number of homes expected to be settled in 2015. An average of 330 homes for 2015 was used to budget for items of income and expense directly associated with the number of homes occupied and serviced.

Carolyn Walmsley presented to the Committee a detailed budget for the 2015 year and the Landscape Committee's reasoning for each item included in the budget. Once again a major portion of their budget is contract driven. The contract in turn is predicated on the number of homes serviced. As in the past, their budget includes Landscaping Maintenance, Landscape Improvements and Irrigation Maintenance. Landscape Maintenance includes mowing and fertilization for the homes, the Clubhouse, the front entrance and all other common areas. Landscape Improvements include items done over and above the basic and are based upon recommendation received from our Landscape contractor. Irrigation Maintenance includes

maintaining the sprinkler system and the wells throughout the community.

The Landscape Maintenance budget is up \$13,000 primarily the result of the additional homes projected to be settled in 2015. The Landscape Improvement budget is up \$24,000 over 2014 and reflects recommendations from the landscape contractor for disease control, invasive weed treatment, and over seeding as required.

Irrigation water is an item dependent upon weather conditions. Although based upon 2014 actual (a relatively wet year) a fifth well will be online providing irrigation to areas previously using city water. The budget reflects a decrease from 2014 budgeted amounts.

Understanding the significant amount of effort expended by the Landscape Committee and their consultations with the landscape contractor on the need of the Community, most of the Landscape Committee's proposals were accepted as submitted or were passed through to the Board on a modified basis.

Snow removal is always an unknown variable as weather conditions are always a wild card. Because of the abnormal winter experienced in 2014, our budget fell short of actual 2014 costs. In spite of this, we included in the budget the same amount as was budgeted for 2014. Although there will be additional homes to service, the snow removal contractor will no longer be applying chemical deicers on private driveways and walks. In 2014 the application of chemical deicers was a major portion of the snow removal costs. For 2015 only Clubhouse sidewalks and parking lots will be treated with deicer.

Although individual line items varied from our 2014 budget, recreation, tax, insurance and administrative expenses are relatively unchanged from the prior year when viewed as a whole. Most of the items are budgeted based upon historical experience. A new contract was entered into for pool operations. Pool operations expense includes the cost of life guards and everyday pool monitoring. Items such as repairs are items that cannot be forecast with certainty but are based upon not only the prior year but upon past years' experiences.

The amount budgeted for management fees are up significantly from 2014. Management fees are assessed based upon the number of homes in the Community. The increase in budgeted homes directly affects the amount to be budgeted for this line item. Also, a change for 2015 was the addition of an extra day the office will be open. Because of the increasing number of homes, the Board determined that having the office open four days a week could not meet the demands of the Community. Therefore, starting in 2015 the office will be staffed five days a week with Thursday a closed door work day. This change plus the increase in the number of homes resulted in the 2015 budget increase.

Ultimately, the function of the Finance Committee is to estimate the costs to operate the homeowners' association and then estimate the revenues needed to meet those costs. We then pass our recommendations on to the Board and go over each line item with them. The Board can then either accept our recommendations, or they can make changes to them based upon a broader knowledge of facts and circumstances affecting the Community and the HOA.

Based upon this collaboration, the budget was approved at the HOA meeting on December 1, 2015. The monthly fee for 2015 decreased slightly to \$211. The decrease is in keeping with the Board's policy of setting the fee based upon the final budgeted costs to operate the HOA.

Editor's Note: *Due to space restrictions, the 2015 Budget does not appear in the Gazette. Copies of the 2015 VGEM Budget are available in the Clubhouse.*



Rules Committee Update

*By Audrey Kaufman,
Chairperson*

Please note that our Committee name has changed from the Clubhouse Rules Committee to the Community

Rules Committee or simply referred to as "The Rules Committee". We have new responsibilities that aren't simply related to the Clubhouse and now include:

- Parking
- Titles and Transfers
- Trash Removal
- Animal Control

We are, also, working on indoor pool and outdoor pool rules, defibrillator training, a uniform hold harmless form and renting out the Clubhouse to residents for private parties. There has been a great deal of progress on all of these issues and we shall present our recommendations to the Board in February.

**Please Patronize Our Advertisers
&
Acknowledge their Ad in the
*Grande Gazette***

President's Message *By Pam LoBue*



The holidays, with all the rushing, sentimentality, and joy, are now behind us. The work load of the Board has finally settled down -- the budget is set and all the contracts are signed. Many of our friends and neighbors have joined the other snowbirds in the sunny southern areas of the country. That leaves the rest of us to suffer through the LONG COLD WINTER!! Don't be sad, don't be blue, we have just the right place for you -- The Clubhouse! Let the cold winter rage outside; go up to a place where your heart can be warmed by conversation and friendship. Visit the Clubhouse. You can enjoy cards, mahjong, billiards, arts and crafts, knitting, and quilting, sewing, puzzles, games, swimming, line dancing, tai chi, yoga, book club and relaxing with a good book in the library. If all else fails, make yourself cozy in the sitting room, turn on the fireplace, and just LISTEN. Soak in all the lovely sounds of people enjoying themselves. Try to visit the sitting room on a Thursday afternoon to enjoy the hoops and hollers of the men playing cards in the card room. If that doesn't bring a smile to your face, nothing will! Sooo, don't sit all alone at home when you can engage in some fun activity. Wait until you see how quickly The Long Cold Winter will be behind us, and we'll be welcoming home our snowbirds once again. Wishing you all a healthy Happy New Year filled with laughter and love. Pam



Elizabeth T. Colaneri, Esquire

Wills, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney
Home appointments available

505 W. Hamilton Ave., Suite 101
Linwood, NJ 08221
Phone (609) 653-6000
Cell (609) 576-4298

Ad 4039

Treasurer's Report Call for Volunteers

By Jim Roche



There's no doubt that volunteers are the life blood of this Community. We have frequently talked about how much work both the Landscape Committee members and the Clubhouse maintenance guys do for us. These folks not only

help but also save the HOA significant amounts of money. For example, most of the irrigation head adjustments and routine maintenance work around the Clubhouse don't cost us anything. That means your monthly fees are lower because a neighbor volunteered to give of their time and expertise.

Another topic we talk about all the time is the cost of living in VGEM. I have been involved with working on our annual budget since 2008 when the homeowners first had a role in determining our monthly fees. I can assure you that every year the Board and the Finance Committee have worked hard to ensure that we provided all promised

amenities at the lowest reasonable cost. This year is no different.

To get back to the life blood stuff, we need a transfusion. We need more of our residents to step up and help make this Community a great place to live. You will notice that this year's budget does not cover putting deicer on the resident's walkways and driveways. We are asking all of you to accept the responsibility of deicing your own property and saving the HOA substantial dollars. We have also received some complaints about weeds growing in the mulch beds around the tennis courts and the walking path exercise stations. We could contract that out, but for the cost of a couple of bottles of Roundup, we could get the job done for about \$25 if a volunteer or three spend twenty minutes or so spraying the crab grass a few times a year.

Another problem the Board is addressing concerns the developer planted trees both along our streets and in our back yards. Many of these trees have been growing very well over the last few years and now present a problem with branches hanging over both the sidewalks and the streets. They need to be trimmed. The street trees should be trimmed from the ground up to seven feet to insure adequate clearance for pedestrians and vehicles. The back yard trees should provide six feet of clearance to allow room for lawnmowers to negotiate our yards. I think it would be reasonable to expect us to trim our own trees. It would also be ideal to have a cadre of volunteers to help those members of our Community who for whatever reason are unable to trim. After much discussion, the board decided to fund trimming the street trees this year. The back yard trees are the homeowner's responsibility. If they are not trimmed, our landscaper will not mow around the trees that are a hazard to his workers. If you can't trim the trees, please call Katie. Hopefully we will have a few volunteers who will help.

Still another minor problem area is the mulch around the street trees. The HOA has installed new mulch every year and right now; if anything, we have too much mulch in the beds. This year we decided just to rake the beds. This is another task that potentially could be left to the homeowners but the board decided to fund raking this year.



You are all encouraged to trim and rake your street trees. Yes, the Board will cover it this year but if you do your own it may save us some of our budgeted funds, and in future years, these activities may be your responsibility. The more each of us does for this Community, the lower our monthly fees will be.

In short we all want lower monthly fees. I am asking you to help us achieve that goal. Keep in mind, if you volunteer, the dollar you save may be your own.

Custom Pull Out Shelves & Refacing

IMPROVE YOUR EXISTING CABINETS

Family Owned & Operated



Ask Us About Our
Community Specials!

Free In-Home Consultations

484-841-6204

www.CPOSrefacing.com

NJ HIC # 13VH06727600



It's Not Just About a Mouse?

By Jim Lichtenwalner



I recently returned from a trip to Walt Disney World and on the flight home began to think about Walt Disney's philosophy and approach to creating and growing the "Disney Empire". Over 20 years ago, my employer embarked on a change in management philosophy, adopting much of the Disney philosophy. We sent a team of people to train at the Disney Institute who then returned to train middle and upper management on the Disney approach.

It suddenly occurred to me that this might be the basis for a good article to share with all of you. Who knows, maybe this article will help a few of us in the way we manage our personal lives as well as how we manage our community.

The foundation of The Disney management approach is based on several underlying principles. I will cover a few of them in this article.

The first is **"Provide a promise, not a product"**. At first this sounds a lot like a DC politician's rhetoric; but what it really means is that we should focus on a vision of where we want to be. This will keep us moving forward continually improving upon that vision rather



than focusing on today's day to day activities which will result in "more of the same".

Second, **"Always exceed customer's expectations"**. A customer assumes he will get what he expects. Exceeding that expectation will create a long term positive impact on how that customer perceives you. This is what creates brand loyalty or allegiance to you. Once you gain that foothold, the customer starts to assume you can do no wrong.

Next, **"Stay true to your mission and values"**. Sometimes there is pressure to detour from your mission and values and join the "Cause of the Month". If you are considering a change, it should be viewed first as a potential change in your mission/values. If a pending action is not aligned with your mission or values, tread lightly. An obvious example in our community is the dichotomy of holding down monthly assessments and maintaining the value of the community. Our mission is to preserve, maintain and enhance the value of VGEM and cost cutting that degrades the value of the community should be avoided.

"Lead by example and delegate". We cannot expect others to do something that we would not do ourselves. We need to show others that we are fully committed and others will follow. Of course, we may need to ask for their participation. Also, we need to delegate in order to achieve the highest level of performance. Many years ago, I received some wise advice from my VP. He said make sure you give others enough to do and stay out of their way so they, in fact, take on the responsibility and realize the satisfaction of the results. Getting too involved with the details of activities you delegate results in reduced productivity, less satisfaction and in the end poor performance.

Finally, **"Give Details Top Billing"**. Success lies in the details. Although we must focus on the big picture, we cannot lose sight of the details. Usually when we run into an unsatisfactory situation, we can find that more planning could have avoided the unsavory situation. A good example in our community deals with contracting. We need to pay special attention to the details of a contract before we buy in or else we will have to live with what we agreed to.

In closing, I remind you of one of my favorite Walt Disney quotes: "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." I challenge all of you to follow these principles.

A Heartfelt Thank you *From Kathleen Cira*

Sometimes in your life you find you reflect on the silliest of things. I think it's true that I have worked hard all my life. I would also like to think that in my career I wanted to achieve two things, respect and fulfillment. I have had a long run at a job that has been very rewarding to me. Saying goodbye to my job at this time in my life was somewhat liberating. Saying goodbye to my patients and friends was indeed more difficult.

James and I feel so blessed to be part of such a great community. To be part of a huge family that is a mixed melting pot of its own...friends of different nationalities and customs...people who like you even though you are different.

I left a professional life that has engulfed me for 35 years. But, somehow knowing you all were here made walking-out that door on November 3rd, a lot easier.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you all for a wonderful act of friendship and for the luncheon that was simply amazing. I will never forget that day for as long as I live!

I NEVER AGAIN WANT TO SIGN:
"Respectfully submitted," only "your Friend,"

Kathleen Cira

The Latest News From The Garden Club

By Sydney Yacovelli

On October 21 members of the Garden Club took a Fall bus trip to The New York Botanical Gardens and Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery.

The scenic Gardens were opened on a 250 acre site in 1891 and are today on the list of National Historic Landmarks. The iconic ornate glass buildings and lush grounds today support over one million living plants. The members of the Garden Club were able to enjoy an informative tram ride tour of the grounds which were all dressed in autumn splendor.



A tour of Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery was next on the agenda. This is one of the largest Victorian cemeteries in America. Built in 1838, Green-Wood Cemetery is located on the highest point in Brooklyn with wide views of the surrounding area. The landmark Bellevue brownstone front gate was designed in Gothic Revival style by Richard Upjohn.



Front gate of Green-Wood Cemetery



Kathleen McGroarty, Janyce Leeds, Joanne Zink and Pat Roche enjoy the decorated gardens.

December Garden Club Events:

- **Winter Wonderland** - A very special event for members was held on December 11 in the Clubhouse
- **Winterthur and Longwood Gardens** on December 15 with over 30 members making the trip. Both events will be reported in the next Gazette.



The Costumes of Downton Abbey are on exhibit at Winterthur

The Garden Club is growing, but new members are always welcome. For information or to join call Donna Lichtenwalner at 484-225-0990.

Call Now For
Spring Cleanups
and Flower Planting



**MCGOWAN
LANDSCAPING**

926-6898

ads-9/14b

Spotlight On Your Neighbors

By Pat Roche

Since construction has begun in Phase II of VGEM, I have met so many wonderful new neighbors that I felt we needed a column just for them! I then remembered an incident that happened when I had the occasion to meet three new residents even before they officially were members of our Community.

About five years ago, Village Grande was buzzing with the news that the section on the other side of High School Drive would not be built as originally planned. Seems our builder had single homes in mind for all ages and incomes. This would have altered our fees, etc. That summer when I had my usual influx of guests, one of the mothers-in-law expressed an interest in a visit to the model homes. When we arrived at the Brookhaven, where the sales office was located, three visitors were there ahead of us. They asked some pertinent questions and then showed us the location of their prospective homes. I thought that if they were picking lots perhaps the building would progress as originally planned. Now, four years later, the Spotlight column will shine on Violet Drive and the three ladies I met those years ago, plus two others that came along with them.

We might say Betty Alberts blew into Village Grande on the tail of Hurricane Sandy! She was the first of the trio to move here, followed by Kathy Sorrell and Sue Paulu in 2013. Another friend, Betty Ciron, moved to Violet and then the Gentiles, Pat and Phil, moved across the street to the first house built on Ivy!



*Pat Gentile, Betty Ciron, Phil Gentile,
Kathy Sorrell & Sue Paulu*

These ladies met almost thirty years ago at the Four Seasons Bowling Alley in Union, NJ. You might remember that Frankie Valle and the Four Seasons of Jersey Boys made this area famous! This group of friends brings a wealth of experience to our Community. We have a municipal government worker, a travel division auditor, an ATT programmer, a medical technology whiz, and a realtor. In fact, Phil Gentile sold Kathy and Sue their home in Union, NJ way back in 1993.

Although they sometimes travel together, each has their own interests and hobbies. Betty A. lives in a beautifully decorated home with a precious cat, Smidgen. Smidgen was raised with dogs and has been known to actually growl rather than purr! Betty is a member of the Government Liaison Committee here at English Mill, a member of the Travel Club and also is a Travel Consultant for neighboring Little Mill. Look for her on the court when the Bocce season rolls around again. Betty C. shares her home with her nieces and two dogs and can boast of forty-four years working in the travel field. Kathy and Sue share their home with Gus and Jessie, two frisky felines. Their names are even mentioned on the answering machine, valued kitties to be sure! Line dancing, pickle ball and billiards are their shared activities. Pat and Phil can often be seen walking the neighborhood. Pat also loves water aerobics and Tai Chi. Some of these friends frequent the local area shows. Recently they enjoyed traveling to Congress Hall in Cape May and the Pitman Theater. I have seen them at the Shore Diner for the Ladies Breakfasts and on a few casino trips. Thanks, ladies and Phil for bringing your shared talents to our Community!

My next column will welcome many more residents, who may be newcomers but have already contributed so much to our GRANDE style of life.

The Singles Club

By Dolores Magara

The Singles Club had a luncheon for the Holidays at the Atlantic Cape Community College's "Careme's Restaurant". The delicious food was prepared and served by the students of the Culinary Arts Department. A nice time was had by all.



The Singles Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at restaurants in the area. All single people are welcome to come for conversation and meeting VGEM neighbors. Please contact me with any questions at (609) 365-2878 or by email at dmagara@comcast.net.

RESIDENTS DIRECTORY

Updated by Mary Moskovitz

A new RESIDENTS DIRECTORY 2015 will go to press in January. The Gazette will continue to publish updates in each issue.



NEW RESIDENTS

- **Demaria, Nick & Kathy**
 135 Bluebell Drive
 609-314-1677 — Nick Cell
 609-314-1679 — Kathy Cell
 demaria21@comcast.net — Nick e-mail
 kdemaria6@yahoo.com — Kathy e-mail
- **Durkan, Thomas & Joyce**
 116 Violet Drive
 788-0724
 thomasdurkan@comcast.net
 joyce89@comcast.net
- **Evans, Gary & Joyce**
 128 Blueberry Road
 788-0481
 610-533-4409 — Gary Cell
 610-799-2335 — Joyce Cell
 gjevans42@gmail.com
- **Hanson, Gary & Kathleen**
 11 Marigold Circle
 609-846-3425 — Gary Cell
 609-846-3426 — Kathleen Cell
 gkhanson@gmail.com
- **Marinari, John & Arlene**
 30 Primrose Circle
 609-233-1136 — John Cell
 484-904-7749 — Arlene Cell
 dorodom23@gmail.com
 armar2347@yahoo.com



RESIDENTS UPDATES

- **Darcy, Marjorie — Corrected e-mail**
 marjoriedarcy@comcast.net
- **Gentile, Joe**
 373 Sunflower Drive
 856-832-5036 — Cell #
- **Werleman, Kim**
 genkim28@comcast.net

Property Tax Appeal Instructions

From Art Richman

In February 2015, you should receive a green card with your new tax assessment that represents what the EHT says you probably would receive if you sold your house. Since D. R. Horton had significantly reduced their new home prices in October 2014, I suggest waiting until 2016 before appealing your taxes.

If you wish to challenge the new assessment, you will have until April 1, 2015 to submit a "Petition of Appeal" to the Atlantic County Board of Taxation. Here are the steps for appealing your taxes:

- Obtain the four page "Petition of Appeal" form from either the Township office on Bargaintown Road, the Atlantic County Board of Taxation in the Mays Landing Court House or online at www.aclink.org/Taxation/pdf/Forma-1.pdf.
 - Fill out the form :
 - Top Portion: Fill out with your personal information from the Green Card.
 - Section 1. Fill out this section after you have filled out Section II. The Current Assessment is from the Green Card. The Requested Assessment is calculated from the listed sales in Section II.
 - Section II Comparable Sales: Use the spreadsheet showing the comparative data for sales in the past year for VGEM and VGLM that is available at the Clubhouse. Select 3 to 5 comparable sales, excluding ESTATE Sales, for your model as follow:
 - Allestead chose either Allestead or Brookhaven
 - Brookhaven chose Brookhaven or 1FL Coventry
 - 1FL Coventry chose 1FL Coventry, Brookhaven or Deerfield
 - 2FL Coventry chose 2FL Coventry, Deerfield or Eden
 - Deerfield chose Deerfield, 1FL or 2 FL Coventry or Eden
 - Eden chose Eden, Deerfield, 2FL Coventry or Falston
 - Falston chose Falston, 2FL Coventry or Eden
- Write the requested information on the lines in Section II and calculate the average to place in the Requested Assessment in Section I.
- Sign and date the bottom

All forms must be received by April 1st to where designated at the bottom of each form. A check for \$25, payable to the Atlantic County Board of Taxation, goes with Form 1 to their Mays Landing address. Forms 2 and 3 go to the Township building on Bargaintown Road.

2014 Landscape Committee Report

By Carolyn Walmsley

The Committee believes VGEM had a very successful summer in 2014 when it comes to community landscaping and irrigation. Our contractor completed the season with our irrigation system blow-out and final bagged mowing in late November.



Our four irrigation wells produced around 40 percent of the water we used for irrigation, saving our community a nice sum of money. We dug a fifth well in late November on Marigold.

It will be operational for our next landscaping season. We hope our five wells will supply half of our water needs next summer. Our long term residents will remember several

years ago our water bills totaled over \$100,000. The wells help our Community keep our water costs down.

We processed 144 green forms in 2014. The largest number of complaints dealt with sprinkler head issues.

Fortunately, Committee members were able to fix most of them at no cost to the Community. We send all problems we cannot solve to our landscaper.

We continued our annual fight against lawn diseases and chinch bugs. Our landscaper does not use a preventative for lawn diseases as this is expensive and must be re-applied frequently. Instead, he opts for a curative application that is applied and repeated if necessary. He uses a similar approach with insect control. Insecticides are used only when insects are harming our lawns.

Since irrigation equipment theft is an ongoing problem, we devised a couple of ways to protect and secure our backflow preventers. We placed uni-struts, which are devices bolted to the preventers and anchored into the ground, on our most theft-vulnerable preventers.

The others have motion detector alarms that are activated when the preventer is jostled. Please call the police if you hear one of the alarms go off. Hopefully, these measures will prevent any equipment thefts over the winter.

We look forward to working with you in 2015 to make VGEM a beautiful community.

Kathy Enright Tyler Sells The Village Grande!!!

When you are ready to buy or sell, I'm ready to get the job done. I work here and I live here. No one knows your home and the association better than a resident Realtor. I'm on site and on the job 7 days a week for you. My experience ensures that all the details are taken care of for both buyers and sellers.

Just curious about the value of your home? Even if you are not ready to sell, call me anytime for a free Comparative Market Analysis. I will send you an initial report and frequent updates if you wish. This is a great way to keep in touch with market values and trends in real estate!



Alliance
214 New Road
Linwood, NJ 08221
(609)927-0020

Kathy Enright Tyler

mobile: (609) 335-4393

email: KathyTylerSells609@yahoo.com

Century 21 Quality Service Pinnacle Award

Alliance Ruby Masters Top Producer

N.J. Board of Realtors Circle of Excellence Award

N.J. Monthly Magazine 5 Star Realtor Award



MLLS®



Each office is Independently Owned and Operated

ads-802c

Sports Talk

Tony Scaricamazza

Except for the indoor play of billiards and bowling, the sports scene is in dormancy. The past year showed a lot of interest in outdoor activity for those who like to fish, golf, play bocce, tennis or pickleball. For those of you who are new to the community, joining one or more clubs is a great, fun way to meet and make a lot of new friends. The next issue of the Gazette will provide information on club meeting dates taking place in the spring.

Billiards Club



New Season of 8-Ball Underway

Jim Lichtenwalner and Joe Carluccio

The Billiards Club 8 Ball League started action on November 12 and by the looks of the first few matches, we can look forward to a competitive but a fun filled season. The league will end with the Championship game and Awards Dinner on April 1, 2015.

For those of you who frequent the Billiards Room, you probably noticed that we recently purchased new heavy duty table covers, bridges and other supplies. These purchases were all funded by the Billiards Club. Also, the Men's Club funded the installation of ceiling fans which are a welcome addition to the room.

The league is focused on fun and men and women of all abilities are welcomed. Membership is open to all residents of VGEM. The only requirement is a desire to come out and have some fun!

If you are interested in joining the Billiards Club, please contact Jim Lichtenwalner or Joe Carluccio as listed on page 2.



Men's Bocce

David VanZant

The courts are beginning to freeze and the equipment is put away for the winter, however our bocce season here at Village Grande finished on a high note with the ladies and men champions playing a match to a one –one tie.

I believe that our season was a success with 56 men participating and we (the bocce committee) look forward to an even better season next year.

All members of the committee have agreed to stay on for next year, our first meeting has been scheduled and we will be looking at several suggestions that arose throughout

18 *Grande Gazette* • January/February 2015

the year to improve our league, to better define rules and regulations and to review our playing times and season schedule. We will also be looking at any improvements that we can afford to make in the condition of the courts with drainage being the main focus.

Our thanks go out to everyone who participated in making this another great season of bocce.



Tennis & Pickleball

Bill Giannetti



Here we are in the cold winter months and the warm days of summer on the courts seem like a distant memory. Unfortunately, for our tennis players, the indoor option for play is buying court time at Greate Bay Racquet Club or a similar facility. Our pickleball group has been playing indoors in Ocean City on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. We meet at the Club House parking lot at 9 AM. If you are interested, meet us there. We recently added Tuesday morning in Upper Twp. Call me for details.

We are encouraged by the response from EHT Recreation Dept to our request for pickleball in the community. They are supplying outdoor courts at Delilah Oak Park and, more importantly, are planning to have pickleball available indoors at the Community Center sometime after the first of the year. Hopefully, more information will be available by the next issue. If something develops before then, we'll send an Email/ phone notice. Stay warm! Spring is coming!

Bowling



Mixed bowling takes place every Monday at 10 AM at 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 a ball, shoes, three games, lunch and a lot of fun.



Fishing Club

Bill Hofmann

The fishing club has had another successful season and members are all looking forward to the 2015 season. We will be having a full membership meeting in April at a date and time to be announced in the next Gazette. At this meeting, plans will be discussed and the dates/ times of fishing trips will be announced. You will also be able to sign up for the trips before any general announcement is made.

Sports Club News



Golf Club

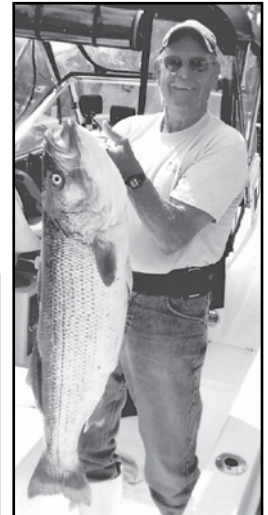
Doug Beaupit & Jim Marini

The New Year is here! Many of you will be well rested from the winter blues and ready to get into the swing for 2015. We will again play at Mays Landing Country Club on Tuesday mornings. Put Tuesdays on your calendar from May through October. I am encouraged that most of the 2014 players will again play in the golf league in 2015. I also encourage everyone who is thinking about it or needs a little push to call me (Doug Beaupit 609-788-4062) and we will go over how much fun it can be to play in the golf league.

2015 Calendar of Events

- **March** – Golf League kickoff/ registration in the clubhouse. Meeting is open to all league players and those interested in playing.
- **May 5** – October 6 – Golf league plays each week on Tuesdays. Shotgun start at 8AM
- **May 26-31** – LPGA Golf Tournament at Seaview Country Club - Golf league solicits VGEM residents to act as volunteers.
- **May** – The golf league will organize a committee to plan the VGEM Golf Scramble. This is the tournament that was skipped in 2014. It will be open to all VGEM residents and their guests.
- **September** – VGEM Scramble and luncheon
- **September/October** – Golf League Tournament to determine a 2015 champion.
- **October 6** – Golf League luncheon
- **December** – Mays Landing Country Club Holiday Party

Waiting for Spring!



Sports Club Memories



MEDICARE

**Approaching 65 or older?
Working or Retired...**

Call our Linwood office to learn about your MEDICARE options.

**FREE Consultation - Call Amanda
(609) 872-0001 x127**

- Supplemental Plans
- Prescription (Part D) Plans
- Advantage Plans & More



Hafetz
and Associates

609 New Road, Linwood NJ 08221



VGEM's Super Pasta Bowl Party

By Jim Lichtenwalner

On Sunday, February 1, 2015, VGEM will host the "Pasta Bowl"! What can be better than pasta as an appetizer to the 2015 Super Bowl XLIX?



Your Special Events and Social Committees can't think of a better choice. Come join your neighbors and friends at VGEM's 2015 Pasta Bowl in the Clubhouse. For a \$7

donation, you will receive a bowl and spoon to sample as much Pasta as you like. The pasta will all be prepared by your friends and neighbors here in VGEM. Select from the favorite recipes of your friends and neighbors and eat 'til your heart's content. In addition, meatballs, salad, bread, light dessert and soft drinks will be provided. We will begin serving at 4:30 PM and continue until 6:15 PM, or when all has been eaten.

After you've had your fill of a wide variety of delicious pasta, you can stick around and watch the Super Bowl with the kickoff scheduled for approximately 6:30 PM. Feel free to bring along snacks and beverages of your choice. No Setups provided.

To reserve your place, you will need to respond promptly to avoid being shutout. Be on the lookout for the flyer. Fill in the form and drop it in the VGEM office mailbox along with a \$7 per person donation. Please help us to make this event a success!

BALSLEY LoSco REALTY

"Meet Your Newest Neighbor on Snowdrop Road"
 15 Year Broker Associate
 at Balsley Losco Realty in Northfield
 Complimentary Market Analysis on your home at your convenience.
 Direct 609-457-7673
 E-Mail Monterose1@Comcast.net

Monte Rose

at-4373

ABR CRS GRI SFR
SHORT SALES & FORECLOSURE RESOURCE

Washington's Birthday

Submitted by Tony Scaricamazza

If Washington's Birthday falls on February 22nd, why is it celebrated on February 16th and, furthermore, why do some celebrate it as Presidents Day? This whole holiday thing started in 1796 when people began celebrating Washington's Birthday during his final year as President. The tradition of celebrating

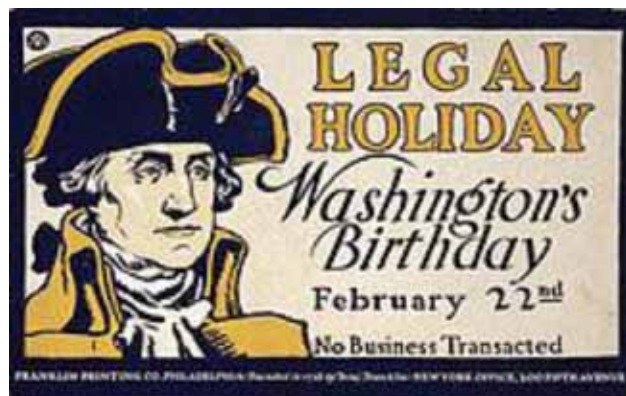


Washington's Birthday continued for the next 90 or so years until Congress made it an official Federal Holiday in 1880. This was the first Federal holiday to honor a person.

Things started to change in 1968 when Congress introduced the Uniform Monday Holiday Bill in an effort to create as many long weekends as possible for U.S. workers. This law altered several holidays to be celebrated on a Monday, including Washington's Birthday, which is celebrated on the third Monday in February. During the debate of the bill, Congress widely discussed the idea to rename the holiday from Washington's Birthday to Presidents' Day in order to also honor Abraham Lincoln's February 12 birthday. Despite this, the name of the holiday was never officially changed.

When the new holiday rules took effect a few years later in 1971, retailers latched onto the Presidents' Day name. Businesses around the country started using that name to promote February sales, starting as early as Lincoln's birthday and again around Washington's Birthday.

This February 16th officially celebrates Washington's Birthday and not Presidents' Day according to the federal government and section 6103(a) of title 5 of the U.S. Code. Source: Wikipedia and various websites





Presidential Quiz

By Annette Scaricamazza



1. First President to live in the White House.

- (A) Washington (B) Adams
- (C) Jefferson (D) Madison

2. Franklin and Theodore Roosevelt were not related.

- (A) True (B) False

3. The tallest President at 6 ft. 3 3/4 inches.

- (A) Lincoln (B) Reagan
- (C) LBJ (D) Jefferson

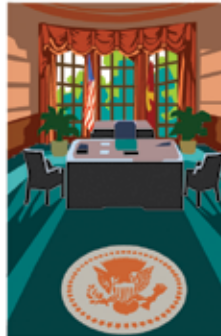
4. How many Presidents served in the military during WWII?

- (A) 3 (B) 6
- (C) 8 (D) 10



5. Woodrow Wilson was President of this university.

- (A) Princeton (B) Harvard
- (C) Yale (D) Dartmouth



6. Eight presidents were born in this state.

- (A) Ohio (B) Virginia
- (C) West Virginia (D) Illinois

7. FDR is on Mount Rushmore.

- (A) True (B) False

8. At age 69, he is the oldest elected President.

- (A) Harding (B) Truman
- (C) Reagan (D) Hoover

9. The first President to fly on Air Force One.

- (A) FDR (B) Truman
- (C) Eisenhower (D) Kennedy

10. Harrison served the shortest term in office.

- (A) 31 days (B) 52 days
- (C) 100 days (D) 864 days

11. Three Presidents were impeached. Were any convicted?

- (A) Yes (B) No

12. This vice-president misspelled potato.

- (A) Agnew (B) Biden
- (C) Gore (D) Quayle



13. Number of times FDR was elected.

- (A) One (B) Two
- (C) Three (D) Four

14. His face is on the \$50 bill.

- (A) Lincoln (B) Jackson
- (C) Grant (D) Polk

15. Minimum age to become President.

- (A) 21 (B) 30
- (C) 35 (D) 40

16. He signed Medicare into law.

- (A) Nixon (B) Ford
- (C) JFK (D) LBJ



17. Has any President served two non-consecutive terms?

- (A) Yes (B) No

18. She was Lincoln's wife.

- (A) Martha (B) Abigail
- (C) Bess (D) Mary

19. He was the youngest elected President.

- (A) Pierce (B) J Q Adams
- (C) JFK (D) Ted Roosevelt

20. Grover Cleveland was the only President born in New Jersey.

- (A) True (B) False

21. Did George Washington serve more than one term?

- (A) Yes (B) No



22. He was President during the first moon landing.

- (A) Kennedy (B) Johnson
- (C) Ford (D) Nixon

23. Was Nixon the only President who resigned?

- (A) Yes (B) No

24. Who was Truman's vice-president from 1945 to 1949.

- (A) Dewey (B) Barkley
- (C) Wallace (D) No one

Answers on page 38

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS JANUARY & FEBRUARY



MONDAY

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 – Jan 19 & Feb 16

TUESDAY

10 AM Fine Arts Club – Drawing Group
10 AM Beginners Line Dancing except 2/17
Noon Mahjong VI – Card Room 1
1 PM Mahjong II – Card Room 2
7 PM Mahjong IV – Card Room 1 & 2

WEDNESDAY

9:30 AM Grande Sew & Sews
10 AM Tai Chi – Grande Room
1 PM Mahjong III – Card Room 2
1 PM Mixed Bridge - Card Room 1
5:30 PM Billiard – “8-Ball League”
6:30 PM Intermediate Line Dancing except 2/18
7 PM Bridge Club

THURSDAY

10 AM Water Aerobics - PND
12:30 PM Men’s Poker
1 PM Mahjong – Room 1
4 PM Social Committee - on 2nd Thursday
7 PM Mahjong V – Card Room 1 & 2

FRIDAY

12:30 PM Canasta

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Noon LoBue Mahjong I – Card Rm. 1

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Contact Community Manager for details

Kate Walton

VGEM Community Manager

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10 AM – 4 PM

1st & 3rd Tuesday 10 AM – 4 PM

2nd & 4th Tuesday 10 AM – 1 PM

Thursday is an office day - No hours

609-788-8405

vgem@dilucia.com

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

*Flyers & Calendars are
Available at the Clubhouse*

2015 HOA Board Meeting Schedule

March 2 September 8

June 1 December 7

*All Meetings are on Monday at 6:30 PM in the
Clubhouse except on Tuesday in September
due to Labor Day*

Meet with the Board

“Meet with the Board” will be on the second
Tuesday of the month starting at 3:30 PM.
All meetings shall be by appointment only.
Each session will be allotted 15 minutes.

January 13

February 10

Please contact Kate for an appointment.

SPECIAL MONTHLY EVENTS JANUARY 2015

Thursday, January 15 at 7 PM

Vacation Club

Grande Room



Saturday, January 24: 9:30 - 11 AM - Cost TBA

Winter Breakfast

Grande Room

Sponsored by the Social Committee



FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday, February 1 at 4:30 PM

Super Pasta Bowl Party

Donation of \$7 pp

Followed by Super Bowl Kickoff at 6:30 PM

Grande Room

Sponsored by the Special Events & Social Committees



Monday, February 23 at 3:30 PM

Committee Chairpersons Pre-Board Meeting

Crafts Room



Happy 2015

INDOOR POOL HOURS

Monday, Thursday and Friday:

8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Tuesday and Wednesday:

8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

3:00 PM to 6 PM

Saturday and Sunday:

1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Treasurer's Report

VGEM Club Accounts
as of December 7, 2013



<u>Home Owners Association</u>	<u>Balance</u>
HOA	\$ 15,830.64
Insurance Deductible Acct.	1,000.00
Clubhouse Expenses	0.00
Waiting for Details	0.00
HOA Totals	\$ 16,830.64

<u>Clubs</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Special Events	\$ 0.00
Women's Club	349.05
Men's Bocce	286.75
Women's Bocce	0.00
Anglers Club	173.31
Men's Club	0.02
Quilting Club	100.75
Photography Club	297.98
Billiards Club	552.11
Mah Jongg Club	0.00
Garden Club	1,055.88
Bocce Court Fund	794.87
Golf Club	40.87

Club Totals \$ 3,651.59

Cape Account Total \$20,482.23

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

Men's Club

Another Successful Holiday Gift Giving Program

By Herb Moskowitz



The Men's Club and the VGEM Community have completed another successful Holiday fund raiser for the Children of The Dr. Joyanne D. Miller Elementary School. The 2014 Holiday Gift Giving raised \$4,516 that exceeded our goal of \$4,500. The

Men's Club purchased forty-five \$100 Target gift cards for the needy Miller School children.

Since being started six years ago, the *Men's Club Holiday Gift Giving Program* has raised a total of \$19,816 to bring Holiday Cheer to needy EHT elementary school children. I personally would like to thank each and every person who has donated to this worthy cause.

I was walking around the Club House the other day and just admiring what the Men's Club has purchased for the community. I have listed below a few items that have been purchased by the Men's Club.

- Freezer in the kitchen
- Two insulated coolers
- Folding Banquet tables



Commercial & Residential Cleaning Service

Say Goodbye to Dirt Forever!!

Honest & Dependable

Call for an Estimate Today



Owner/Operator

Kim Collins

609-412-4283

Egg Harbor Twsp., NJ

Ad 4610

- Wire food service cart
- Keurig Coffee Maker
- Clock in Billiard room
- Clock in Pool area
- Poker Table Top
- Billiard portable rack
- Large Gas Grill
- Arm tables on outside chairs
- Coffee Carafes
- Chaffing Dishes
- US Flag for the outside Flag Pole



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!

Message for the Snowbirds

By Don Mastrangelo

This is the time of the year when many of our residents have or will be escaping the nasty winter weather in favor of a warmer climate. If you have not already done so, you should notify your Block Captain that you will be away for an extended period. This is important since, if the Block Captain is aware of your absence, he can be on the alert for any suspicious activity.

Mail and newspapers should be collected, as leaving them accumulate indicates that no one is home. Depending on the length of time you will be away, you can either choose to stop deliveries or have a friendly neighbor collect them for you.

Don't forget to let your Block Captain know when you return. A list of Block Captains and contact information accompanies this article.

According to EHT Code, Chapter 97, Article IX, Pet Waste, Pet owners who fail to "immediately and properly dispose of their pet's solid waste" are subject to a \$300 fine.

Article VI states that all dogs upon public streets and places are to be "securely confined and controlled by an adequate leash not more than 6 feet long."



Article VI states that "No person owning...an animal shall permit it to do any injury or to do any damage to any lawn, shrubbery, flowers, grounds or property."

Keep your pets from depositing their excrement, both urine & feces, on your neighbors lawn.

**Be considerate of your neighbors!
Keep our lawns clean & green!**

Block Captain

Street	House#	Block Captain	Phone
Bluebell, Violet & Ivy		Sam Salierno	365-8112
Lily	200-215	Robert Kardon	856-952-1819
	216-230	Joe Stroup	365-2741
	231-242	Bill Polko	365-2340
	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
Primrose	2-30	John DaPrato	926-4977
Snowdrop	100-117	Joe Carluccio	365-2574
	118-144	Jim LoBue	653-1025
Sunflower	300-318	Tim Cavacini	927-6628
	319-328	Don Hinspeter	788-4948
	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
Chairperson		D. Mastrangelo	788-4876
Admin Asst		T. Scaricamazza	927-6818



QUAIL HILL PAINTING

- INTERIOR PAINTING
- EXTERIOR PAINTING
- DRYWALL & PLASTER REPAIR
- HANDYMAN SERVICES

SAME DAY FREE ESTIMATES
(609) 652-5032

N.J. Lic #13VH01586800
Serving the Atlantic County Area
for over 28 years
QuailHillPainting.net

Snow Shoveling **A Real Risk for Heart Attack**

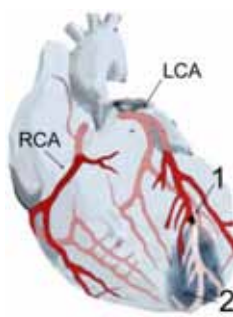
By Tom Santucci

For many of us, shoveling snow simply goes along with winter living. But, according to the American Heart Association (AHA), the risk of suffering a heart attack during snow shoveling may increase for some, especially those in poor physical condition or those with existing heart disease or a personal history of stroke. "Don't let your work ethic endanger your heart," says Dr. David O'Halloran, a cardiologist at the CardioVascular Institute at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical-Center.



According to the "Heart & Vascular Team" at the Cleveland Clinic, each year shoveling snow sends more than 11,000 people to the hospital. While most have orthopedic injuries, 7 percent have cardiac problems and many of these are heart attacks. "Shoveling snow is hard work," says Cleveland Clinic cardiovascular surgeon A. Marc Gillinov, MD, co-author of the hit book *Heart 411*. "People who have coronary artery disease should not perform strenuous shoveling of snow. It can trigger a heart attack." Each shovel load of snow can average 16 pounds. Now, think about how many shovels full of snow it takes to clear a driveway or sidewalk.

The combination of colder temperatures and physical activity increases the workload on the heart. The cold temperatures also increase the risk for heart attack because the arteries constrict and this increases blood pressure. People outdoors in cold weather should avoid sudden exertion, like lifting a heavy shovel full of snow. Even walking through heavy, wet snow or snow drifts can strain a person's heart. Shoveling snow can inherently increase your risk of heart attacks and cardiac arrest by a number of possible factors:



- Previously unrecognized cardiovascular disease
- A sedentary lifestyle
- Stress placed on the cardiovascular system by strenuous upper body exercise
- Cold weather, which can cause the body to work harder to maintain a healthy temperature

People with risk factors for heart disease are more likely to have heart attacks while shoveling snow. These risk factors are not uncommon in residents of an over 55 community especially since older age is itself one of the uncontrollable risk factors. Others include male sex,

family history of heart disease and post-menopausal women. Controllable risk factors include:

- Smoking
- High blood pressure
- High blood cholesterol
- Diabetes mellitus
- Obesity (more than 20% over ideal weight)
- Physical inactivity

Many think heart attack symptoms are a sharp pain, but Dr. Gillinov advises that pressure in the chest is actually the most common symptom people have when experiencing a heart attack. Most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help. Other symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach; shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort; breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

The message from Dr. O'Halloran is, "Snow shoveling is for the fit. If you are not in great shape, or if you have heart disease, find someone else to do it for you. If that's not possible, please - take it easy." If you experience any signs of heart attack, seek medical help immediately. Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, have it checked out. Fast action can save lives - maybe your own. Don't wait to call 911.

Is your electric bill too high?
Save with Solar!

Free installation, maintenance & repair.
Save every month on electricity.

Solar Power Systems



Solar leases offered in partnership with
NJR Clean Energy Ventures



Call 609-645-0066
www.acosenergy.com

More Halloween Party Pictures





More Costumes for next Halloween!

Happy Birthday!

January 2015

Lucille Manri	1/1	Richard Sheehan	1/15
Tong Huang	1/1	Sharon Perna	1/16
Robert Johnson	1/2	Janine Riggins	1/19
Peggy Milhan	1/4	Peggy DiMatteo	1/22
Tony Sierveld	1/6	Debbie Smith	1/22
Evelyn Ziarkowki	1/7	Josephine Barca	1/23
Rose Eisenstein	1/8	Eleanor Bolton	1/23
Jim Marini	1/8	Dennis Goldberg	1/23
Veronica Montagno	1/8	Bob Fauci	1/24
Myo Kim	1/9	Liz Eberhard	1/26
Bill Oberman	1/9	Renae Weaknect	1/27
Frank Williams	1/9	Joshi Usha	1/28
Elaine Bujko	1/10	Ron Boyle	1/28
Paul Eienstein	1/10	Elizabeth Mink	1/30
Angelo Reyes	1/10	David Van Zant	1/30
Ken Tardif	1/10	Alice Richardson	1/31
Cathy Dunzuso	1/13	Bobbi Sheehan	1/31
Mary Frederick	1/13	Bonnie Carluccio	1/31

February 2015

Weimin Peng	2/2	Ken Rappoport	2/14
Elizabeth Hires	2/2	Bill Furman	2/15
Fred Campo	2/3	Elizabeth Mingen	2/15
Katie Chudnoff	2/4	Norm Hirschfeld	2/17
Dorothea Hanlon	2/4	Eileen Mayer	2/17
Jerry Bernstein	2/7	Dan Montagna	2/17
Joe Gentile	2/7	Burton Louis	2/18
Will Black	2/7	Susan Levy	2/20
Carol Horter	2/7	Ron Moyer	2/20
Peter Tiano	2/7	Lew Ware	2/21
Jim Walsh	2/8	William Bindas	2/22
Sue Wilds	2/9	Susan Leichner	2/23
Carol Hirschfeld	2/10	Arlene Berg	2/24
Marlene Polazneck	2/10	Ken Chotiner	2/24
Carmel Anastasio	2/12	Michael Burg	2/28
David Mink	2/12	Jim Lichtenwalner	2/28
Myrna Costagliaola	2/14		



Happy Anniversary!

January 2015

Norman & Denise Meyers	1/11
Katie & Saul Chudnoff	1/19
Bruce & Renae Weaknect	1/20
Terry & Bill Giannetti	1/21
Mike & Nancy DiFilippo	1/23
Joan & Ray Viventi	1/31

February 2015

Bill & Sue Wilds	2/4
Honey & Frank Luisi	2/8
Eileen & Bill Hughes	2/10
Joyce & Ken Conley	2/15
Elizabeth & David Mink	2/22



Nucky is Gone, Now What?

Closing down

By Sydney Yacovelli

After Nucky Johnson went to jail in 1941, the state began to try shutting down the vice industry in Atlantic County. Atlantic City began its slow slide to the level of a “has been” vacation resort. Property values slowly went down, businesses closed, unemployment was high and people with means began to move out of the area, leaving behind a broken city. Not unlike Atlantic City now, 73 years later, as we all witness the one by one closing of Atlantic City’s largest employers (the casinos).



Things changed, but for a short time the war effort helped keep the city afloat. During WWII, the Department of Defense opened basic training centers in the city to train thousands of Army Air Corps troops. The influx of troops became a much needed boom to the local economy. The DOD leased 47 hotels and a number of apartment buildings to house trainees. Convention Hall was turned into a headquarters and renamed the Army Air Corps Technical Training Center. While many troops partied on their free time, there was no gambling. When training began to fall off, the hotels were turned into hospitals and recovery centers for returning wounded soldiers. The Chalfonte-Haddon Hall, which later became Resorts, spread over five ocean front hotels and was, renamed Thomas England General Hospital, under the command of Col. Sidney L. Chapell M.C. At that time England General was the largest hospital in the world. Between 1941 and 1946 Atlantic City housed over 300,000 soldiers. In appreciation the troops gave the boardwalk the nickname “Camp Boardwalk”.



In 1992, a reunion for these soldiers was held and commemorated with two plaques marking the 50th anniversary of “Camp Boardwalk”. One is in front of Convention

Hall, now called Boardwalk Hall, and the other plaque marks the location of Thomas England General Hospital, in front of Resorts Casino. Johnson’s removal created a power vacuum. The man that would fill Nucky’s shoes would be Frank “Hap” Farley.



For a time, Mayor Thomas D. Taggart Jr. and Hap Farley jockeyed for the power position. In the end, the young attorney and local born Farley won out as the new power broker. He was a doer and joiner with a special trait that served him well over his life... he was very good at developing and maintaining friendships that often lasted a lifetime. “When you need a favor, you go to Hap Farley”. Those that became key players in the Republican Party machine were old friends of Hap. They lined up behind him as he moved up from local lawyer to Assemblyman to State Senator.

Equally important as all those friendships were his work habits. In 34 years in the legislation, Farley missed only a total of three sessions; each time when he was ill and hospitalized. Farley’s influence was more from the state level and more political than the graft-style control of Nucky Johnson.

In 1943, heading toward the end of the war, Farley’s career received a big boost. At that time, a 70 year old Walter Edge, of Atlantic City, was elected Governor. As a political boss of this Governor’s home town, Farley’s stock went up dramatically. In Edge’s first year in office, Farley was chosen Majority Leader and the following year he became Senate President. He was now the undisputed leader of the party and the most feared powerbroker in New Jersey.

Hap’s time in Trenton was not without scrutiny. His role as attorney for the Atlantic City Race Track was investigated, as were the finances of county government organizations. But he managed to come away unscathed.

Old habits and life styles die hard. After 1941, vice in Atlantic City went underground, but did not go away. One could still make a bet on a horse with the right barber. And for a time the Atlantic City Horse Track replaced the night club casinos as a legal form of gambling. While less brazen than in Nucky’s time, the rackets still flourished under Hap.

In 1951, Senator Estes Kefauver and his war on organized crime put Atlantic City high on his target list. At Senate Committee hearings, testimony stripped bare Farley’s and Atlantic City’s organization and connection to the racketeers. For the first time since he became “boss,” Frank Farley had a fight on his hands. For support, Hap

- Continued on page 30

– “Nucky is Gone” (Continued from page 29)

brought Nucky out of retirement to help quell the revolt and bring out the vote. The political ward system constructed by Nucky 30 years before still worked. The ward system had been woven into the fabric of the community.

The day-to-day leader onsite in Atlantic City was Jimmy Boyd, while Hap continued to enjoy the role as a legislator manipulating the State Senate. He didn't immerse himself in local politics as Nucky Johnson had.

Atlantic City's residents didn't seem to care that their government was dishonest. What seemed to matter most was that their politicians responded to their individual selfish needs.

From PHILEBRITY.COM

PHILLY ARTS, GOSSIP, MEDIA, NIGHTLIFE & POLITICS

This entry was posted on Wednesday, July 30th, 2014 at 3:36 pm.

Amazing Old Dude And Your New Personal Hero Reese Palley Has Some Really Good Advice For Atlantic City



It has occurred to us, over these last years that the Old People we are getting now are not nearly as good as the Old People

we used to have. Think of it: Who has proved — and of course we are totally generalizing here — more spineless, more lost in their own garbled rhetoric and sad in their sweatpants as the Baby Boomers? Though they showed great promise in the beginning, that promise fizzled out quickly and today, for every Baby Boomer who's a decent human being, there's at least a half-dozen others buying gold off of Fox News infomercials and acting like Mexicans are the Ebola virus.

It wasn't supposed to be like this. In another golden age of the American mind — one sadly now lost forever — the more chronologically advanced among us were supposed to take the long view and offer sage advice, not panic and whine. Old People, you will forgive the term, were supposed to be more like Reese Palley. Go ahead,

click on the link, ReesePalley.com, we'll wait, and you'll fall in love.

Palley, who currently has a Philadelphia mailing address but who is most likely chilling hard in Key West as we speak, was educated at The New School for Social Research and The London School of Economics in the years after WWII. If you know your literature, this was as amazing a climate for American arts and letters as we have ever had. For the next 30 years, he opened his widely influential *Objet d'Art* Galleries in Atlantic City, Soho, Paris, San Francisco and Palm Beach. After he did that, he circumnavigated the globe aboard his 46' sailing vessel, called *Unlikely*. Along the way, he's penned six books, been published widely elsewhere, and has generally ruled at life. He is a living Wes Anderson movie with much bigger balls.

And today, at 93, Palley is back in the news, telling the currently ailing Atlantic City their business much better than they seem to know it themselves — a task at which he has excelled since the 1970s. Back then, when AC first began to make moves towards legalizing gambling, his *Objet d'Art* Gallery there was going strong. And he saw gambling in AC for exactly what it was even then: “The mistake the politicians made, he said, was that they saw casino gambling as social experiment, a means of lifting the city's residents out of poverty. Instead, he said, they should have moved the residents out of the city and turned the whole town into a tourist destination.”

People treated him like he was crazy. Crazy like a fox! Now, as AC tries to turn the tides of a failing gambling industry and re-invent itself, even as the city itself is lowered to junk bond status, Palley offers the best advice we've heard thus far: For Atlantic City to have a future, it will have to embrace the past it so callously tore down in the '70s. And it's here that we suggest you take a fresh look at Louis Malle's classic film of the tear-down era, *Atlantic City*, which featured another of great Old Guys, **Burt Lancaster**. The film basically predicts a running line of ever-increasing desperation, unrelenting in this Babylon by the sea that does not know what to with itself!

But we digress. What does Palley recommend for the dying-not-doing AC?

“The stupidity is mind-boggling [...] There's no chance of building additional tourist attractions in a dying city that's whistling past the graveyard. They used up all their God-given chances. [...] If you want to rebuild the city, bring back the 1920s. Legalize marijuana and prostitution.”

In other words, be who, in your heart of hearts, you really are, Atlantic City. It's worked for Reese Palley, so why shouldn't it work for you?

[Photo and learn more on ReesePalley.com]

Vacation Club Update

By David VanZant



David & Ruth VanZant
enjoying the cruise.

Wow! Not much time to prepare for our November meeting. We returned home from our 14-day "Spanish Serenade Cruise". Crossing of the Atlantic Ocean with 26 of our friends and neighbors on the beautiful Celebrity Equinox was awesome. Please read about this trip in the following articles by Sydney Yacovelli

and Jeannie Eckard and you'll understand how much fun it is to travel in a group.

We had a great turnout at the meeting thanks to the efforts of Betty Alberts, our newest Club member, in getting the word out. Approximately 60 people turned out, to hear a brief summary of our recent trip, a review of information from the surveys that some of you filled out as we seek to plan future trips and a very informative presentation by Celebrity Cruises reviewing up-coming opportunities for cruises to Bermuda and to New England/Canada. Both cruises sail from and return to Port Liberty in Bayonne, NJ, which eliminates flying and parking expenses. There were many new faces including folks from "Little Mill", "Fairways" and "Tavistock" – it was so good to see you all and I look forward to meeting and traveling with you in the future.

- In the spring, the Celebrity Summit has several 8 day sail dates for Bermuda in May and June. A June 7th –14th trip was the focus of the presentation with prices starting at \$1,102.35 pp – group space is available. Ruth and I are looking seriously at the May 17th sailing.
- In the fall, the same Celebrity Summit will be plying the waters of New England and the St. Lawrence Seaway with 14 day cruises with an over-night at Quebec City. An October 4 –18, 2014 trip was targeted, prices began at \$1,844 pp – space is limited for this popular trip and is going fast.

Marie at "Preferred Travel" (609-645-8000) will be able to answer any of your travel questions and to book you on any of the above trips.

Betty spoke briefly about possibilities of Collette land tours in the American West and along the West Coast – again we need your input to move forward. I reminded those in attendance that trips do not have to start with the Club – if you are going on a trip and would like to travel

with friends and neighbors, tell us your plan and we will advertise it to the Community.

Our next general meeting will be on January 15, 2015 with a presentation by "Collette - guided by Travel". I hope to see everyone there.

Canada & New England Cruise



For Advertising Contact:

Senior Publishing Company
1520 Washington Avenue,
Neptune, N.J. 07753
888-637-3200

Preferred Travel Presents



Grandeur of the Seas

10 Night Eastern Caribbean
Out of Baltimore

February 3, 2015

Ports of Call: Baltimore, Labadee, San Juan, St. Thomas, St. Maarten, and back to Baltimore

Inside Cabin \$1033.00 PP

Outside Cabin \$1434.00 PP

Includes round trip motor coach to Baltimore

Call Marie at Preferred Travel
609-645-8000

ads-177h

Six Residents Take Pre-cruise Trip to Paris

"They don't write songs about Paris in October"

By Sydney Yacovelli



Six members of the Vacation Club started their trip early by leaving from Philadelphia International Airport on October 20th to fly into Paris for a five day visit. Ruth & David Van Zant, Marguerite & Doug Beaupit, Sydney Yacovelli and Mickey England packed up and headed for a busy and much too short tour of the "city of lights" before joining the rest of the VGEM travel group in Barcelona. Other than the fact that the sun was not seen for the entire stay because of overcast skies, every day was magical in this beautiful city.

For our home base, we selected a small boutique hotel in the Latin Quarter on the left bank that was a short walk from the River Seine. The view from the hotel was like something out of a movie scene with sidewalk cafes, chic shops lining the streets and busy locals going about their daily routine. It didn't take long to identify Café Paul's, located right across the street, as our café of choice for breakfast each morning. Café Paul's had a mouth watering array of pastries and breads to please every appetite.

The first photo stops and tours were Notre Dame Cathedral and Sainte-Chapelle church that was only a short walk from the hotel. Every street of the city has something fascinating to see, experience or taste and every effort was made to do it all.

Paris was a delight but the highlight of the trip came after a full day of touring. It ended with dinner on the Eiffel Tower, an evening romantic boat ride down the Seine and topped off with a glitzy show at the Moulin Rouge. The boat trip was a great way to see the city at night and the show was really good and lots of fun. We spent our entire last day visiting the lavish Palace of Versailles.



Dining on the Eiffel Tower

After five full days our visit came to an end, but there was still the very comfortable experience of travelling on the "bullet train" for a 6 hour ride to Barcelona at the unbelievable speed of 180 miles an hour. The train ride was like no other and a most pleasant trip to beautiful sunny Barcelona to meet up with the rest of the group.



The Bullet Train in France

On the first night in Barcelona a small group of us; the Van Zants, Lynnda & Lou Golin, Sydney Yacovelli & Mickey England took in some local culture. After doing some people watching while drinking a glass of wonderful Sangria at a café on La Rambla, we enjoyed a musical evening of flamenco dancing.



The best was yet to come when the entire group boarded the Celebrity Equinox cruise ship for the rest of our "5 star vacation".



Spanish Serenade Cruise

VGEM Vacation Club's Second Transatlantic Cruise

By Jeannie Eckard

The best word to describe our trip is WOW!!! It was an adventurous and entertaining trip that provided us with many wonderful and forever memories.

Following our all night flight across the Atlantic, we arrived in beautiful Barcelona in early morning with great anticipation to view this fascinating and historic city. Most of the group went directly from the airport and boarded a tour bus which gave us the opportunity to relax and enjoy seeing and learning about Barcelona. Martha Raul, our tour director was like a human encyclopedia and captivated us with her never-ending knowledge of the city and its romantic and mesmerizing history. Of interest is that Barcelona is the number one cruise port in Europe.



We were in awe of the large monument of Christopher Columbus pointing east to the sea. Inside the monument is a tower with an elevator which took our group to an observation deck at the base of Christopher Columbus's feet. The view of the city below, along with our company in the tower, was spectacular! Our group was entertained by two young lovers with raging hormones that were totally oblivious to our presence as we were quite conscious of theirs. Barcelona is truly a romantic city.

Our visit to Park Güell with its breathtaking architecture created by Antoni Gaudí was like an artist's Disneyworld. Gaudí resolved the dialog between architecture and nature. His mastery of the most diverse structures and materials allowed him to invent a unique world that is at the same time full of symbolic references. Park Güell was a photographer's delight and eye candy to all who had the opportunity to view Gaudí's work.

At the conclusion of our four hour tour, we, along with our many pieces of luggage, were taken to our hotel rooms in Barcelona. After our long flight and travels, my friend Judy Money Penny and I took our showers and washed our hair. We plugged in our hair dryer and blew out all the lights on the fourth floor of the hotel. Our room was in total darkness. We ran out into the generator lit hallway



*Marlene Polazneck & Jeannie Eckard
pose in the Park Güell*

and summoned the maintenance man who was confused trying to determine what had caused the power failure. He spoke only Spanish and had not a clue as to what we were saying. The poor man just nodded his head and smiled as we tried to explain about the adapter and hairdryer. He left, the lights went back on and all seemed well.



The Gang at Park Güell

Vacation Club

Determined to fix our hair and look lovely, we used another adapter and again blew out all the lights which brought the repairman back to our room. By this time, a few of the hotel guests were clustering in the hallway. After turning the electricity back on for the second time, the maintenance man tried plugging the appliance into the adapter causing the dryer to make a very loud noise and a bright flash of light which shocked the poor man's hand. The electricity went out again. What a trooper that man was, poor bugger was still smiling and nodding his head as he left to turn the current back on for the third time in the hallway circuit breaker. He was okay after the color returned to his face.

In conclusion, our hair appliances were not compatible with the electric current in Spain and our adapters were useless. Alas, we had no way of looking lovely for the next three days in Barcelona.

After two more days of touring Barcelona which included the exquisite two hundred year old unfinished Basilica de la Sagrada Família, a visit to their fascinating wax museum, street mimes, a two hour ferry ride, relaxing with goblets of sangria at La Rambla, strolls through the market place and dickering with street vendors, we set sail on our beautiful and elegant cruise ship, the Celebrity Equinox.



*Basilica de la
Sagrada Família*

Upon boarding the ship, we were greeted with a glass of champagne and a warm welcome from the crew. After several glasses of champagne, our mood was saturated with excitement as we anticipated the good times that lay ahead in the next fifteen days.

Following the mandatory safety drill, we unpacked and toured the ship. Some of us celebrated our pending cruise at the martini bar where they made the best raspberry chocolate martinis. Our day ended with an outstanding dinner and a fun time dancing.

On our first shore excursion, some of us selected to go to beautiful Palma de Mallorca, the capital and largest of the Balearic Islands in eastern Spain. Palma de Mallorca has a large population of Germans and obtains a lot of their power from their many windmills. Included in the tour were the beautiful Caves of Drach discovered in the 17th century and once believed to be the home of an infamous dragon for which children's books are now written. In Spain, they call their dragon "Drach", while in America; we call our dragon "Puff".



The Can-Can in Spain? BA Villion, Loretta Duffy, Marie Marini, Marge Doms, Marcy Gelman, Regina Yuppa, Judy Money Penny & Jeannie Eckard



On first boarding Equinox, Judy Money Penny, Regina Yuppa. Marcy Gelman & Jeannie Eckard

On October 29th, our next excursion was to the beautiful city of Valencia which is both a cultural and financial center. Valencia, Spain's third largest city, is known for its art, orange groves, sparkling beaches, architecture and cuisine. Because of the constant threat of pirates and smugglers, the city was built far from the coast. Our trip included a breathtaking subterranean river boat ride through "bat cave", "dog kennel" and Diana's lake which was a once in a lifetime event. At times, the ceilings of the cave were so low we had to literally lie down in the boat to avoid being decapitated.

The following day in Malaga included a journey to Picasso's birthplace, and Puerto Banns, part of Costa del Sol. We took a walking tour of the area that was captured

Vacation Club

by the Moors in 1485. In the jet set port of Puerto Banns, we browsed in the fine boutiques shops and cares. During our sightseeing trip, our group encountered many street venders. Marge Darns did a professional job haggling with the peddler for a lovely handbag. We were quite impressed with Marge's bartering skills.



Marge and Loretta bartering with a street vender.

During one of our many picture taking events by the sea, we encountered a cute little kitty who was out for his afternoon stroll. Marcy Gelman was unaware that the poor kitty was behind her. When the kitty rubbed against her leg, our startled Marcy went airborne and the cat ran



Marcy's Spanish buddy

for its life. It happened so fast that I did not have time to get my camera ready to capture the moment, but the expression on Marcy's face as she leaped in the air will stay with us forever. The cat was quite annoyed and did not appreciate our mirth.

In the evening, some of our group went to a 70's Night Fever Dance Party. Later we enjoyed a fantastic Beatles celebration with music by four fabulous Beatles impersonators. After our night of fun, Regina and I entertained as go-go girls in the glass elevator while riding up to our rooms. After decades of suppression, our dancing talents emerged. Love those raspberry chocolate martinis!!!



Jeannie's raspberry chocolate martini

Passing through the Strait of Gibraltar was awe-inspiring with our beautiful view of Africa on port side of the ship and Europe

KNEBLE'S

www.kneblesauto.com

AUTO SERVICE CENTER, Inc.

Private Inspection Facility Emission Repair Facility



5473 Somers Point Road • Mays Landing 08330

609-625-3286

10% OFF LABOR

NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER.

MAXIMUM \$50. EXPIRES 1/31/15

ads-4239



NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR AUTOMOTIVE
SERVICE EXCELLENCE



Approved
Auto Repair



33 YEARS IN BUSINESS

WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

Vacation Club

on the starboard. In spite of the time being almost 1 AM, a few of us were there to witness the event. It was an exceptional and a once in a lifetime experience.

On October 31st, the ship threw a Halloween party. As entertainment, some of us enjoyed a Halloween group line dance to Michael Jackson's song "Thriller". Marie Marini's moves were the best of the best. The party was a huge success with many magnificent costumes. Our Barbara Anne Villon was hilarious dressed as a pregnant hippie. Lynnda and Louie Golin had the pleasure of hobnobbing with the gang from Gilligan's Island who were a delight to behold. The ship was rocking as we enjoyed our fun night on the Equinox. This was about the same night that Regina began her late night liaisons with Leonardo.



On November 1st, we docked in Lanzarote, the fourth largest of the Canary Islands that was created through fiery volcanic eruptions about 15 million years ago. Many of us chose to spend our time in Lanzarote's picturesque black sand beach and enjoy a swim in the crystal clear warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Later, we toured, had lunch and shopped in

the many quaint seaside shops, restaurants and boutiques. After our wonderful day in Lanzarote, we enjoyed a delectable dinner and a fantastic musical show onboard Equinox.

We do not really know when Regina's late night liaisons began with Leonardo, but out of kindness, we tolerated them. The goodnight kisses were filled with great passion and enthusiasm, especially after our night visits to the martini bar! We ladies were all so jealous!

With the exception of one night, the ocean was as smooth as glass throughout our days at sea. The weather was gorgeous and tropical. One would think that with all of our days on



Marie & BA enjoy the Canary Islands

the sea, we would have spotted at least one whale, but alas, not one. Each day we would search the waters with our eyes hoping for a least one small glimpse, but nada. On three different occasions, there were three different rainbows on the horizon which were breathtaking to witness from our balcony. Janice and Rich O'Donnell spotted dolphins and a huge log floating by the ship, but no whales. Guess we will have to go to an aquarium or perhaps Wal-Mart to see one!



On November 2nd, we docked in Tenerife, also known as the Island of Eternal Spring because of its superb climate and beautiful flowers. Tenerife is the largest of the Canary Islands. During our time on this splendid and lovely scenic island, we visited the World Heritage Teide National Park along with a vintage winery where we were treated to delicious tapas and wines. Tapas are a sampling of a tasty variety of various Spanish foods. Our consumption during this wine tasting tour made us all a bit sleepy on our return to the ship. I'm afraid that my details of this excursion diminished during that bus ride. That evening after dinner and dancing, Regina ran off to kiss Leonardo. What a day!

Shore excursions were now over and we looked forward to the next seven days at sea. The ocean and weather for the remainder of the cruise was wonderful with the exception of one rainy morning. There were so many activities available to us that we really needed a couple of extra days at sea to do and partake in all of the planned social events. The days were not long enough for our busy agendas

Our remaining days at sea were kept busy with many activities for all to enjoy. There were educational and fitness seminars, choir and dance classes including zumba and tap. On most days there were trivia contests, cards, table tennis, and movies. beer, tequila, margarita, martini and wine tasting, casino action, karaoke singing parties, the gym and spa shopping, wonderful shows and great food, etc... Just resting by the pool with a mermaid was another option if none of the above was of interest to you. Dave VanZant's preference was to swim in the pool with Ruth, his favorite mermaid.



David VanZant with his favorite mermaid Ruth

Vacation Club

A Fun Time on the Celebrity Equinox



Marguerite & Doug Beaupt



Marlene & Alex Polazneck



Lou & Lynnda Golin



Dwight & Nancy Neglia



Arlene & Jim Berg



Mickey England & Sydney Yacovelli



Carol & Rich Lefferson



Marcy Gelman

One evening, I became a contestant on Celebrity's version of "Dancing with the Stars" called "Dancing with the Crew" in the ship's Grand Foyer. My partner's name was Valdo and, with no prior practice, we competed by doing a conglomeration of different dance styles. The judges would call out the dance and the contestants had to perform their best renditions of the cha-cha, mambo, tango, country, Bollywood hindi, rap, jive, jitterbug and a few others. Valdo was a fantastic dancer and I did my best to keep up with him. I guess we did okay because we took first place. My grand prize was a Celebrity tote bag, key tags, playing cards, T-shirt, note pad and pen, a bottle opener, water and few more "very valuable" items. Because of all of our hard work, I suggested exchanging my tote bag and goodies for a free cruise. The judges immediately included free dinner at the buffet every night for the duration of the cruise. They certainly know how to show a woman a good time!

After days of rehearsal, some of us did a flash mob dance presentation on the stage for our final show. To the delight of the audience, a great talent emerged from our own Jim Berg who appeared to bloom under the stage lights with his amazing flash mob performance.



Judy Money Penny, Marie Marini, Carol Lefferson, Barbara Anne Villon, Janice O'Donnell and Regina Yuppa enchanted the audience with their marvelous foot work. Barbara Anne sang like a canary with the choir and one of the group threw a bra to the Tom Jones impersonator.

Vacation Club

The ship held an egg drop contest in which the contestants were to secure three raw eggs and drop them into a target area on the Grand Foyer four floors below without breakage. Judy and I worked hard on our entry. We meticulously inserted our eggs into four rolls of toilet tissue and tied them together with panty hose. For extra security, we wrapped the entire package with a large bath towel. We were so sure that we had created a break proof nest for our three wee eggs. As instructed, I dropped our package down the four floors, hit the target dead center, landing with such a loud thud that the vibration probably started a wave around the ship which must have caused a tsunami somewhere along the shore. Much to our dismay, when Judy tore open the package for the judges, our poor little eggs were pulverized! We didn't win, but what fun we had trying. We compensated for our defeat with a chocolate raspberry martini.

What a wonderful time everyone had as we traveled with twenty six of our friends and neighbors, not just from VGEM, but also the Fairways in Mays Landing. Initially, there were to be twenty eight, but unfortunately one couple of dear friends cancelled for a health problem.

I am also grateful that I had the opportunity to take this wonderful cruise with twenty six of my delightful friends and neighbors. Having and knowing that many people on

the ship increased our chances of encountering a friendly and familiar face as we strolled on deck making it more like a walk through the neighborhood.

It was a sad moment when Regina had to bid goodbye to her love Leonardo, but like our cruise, all good things had to come to an end.



Alas, it's all over. As I sit here tonight freezing from this unexpected cold spell, I already miss those delightfully warm days that I lolled by the pool in the tropical sun while sipping my pina colada. It has been extremely difficult for me to adjust to cleaning up my room and making my own bed along with having to cook, serve and entertain myself every day. Reality is like a cold slap in the face!!!

"Goodnight Leonardo DiCaprio, wherever you are...."

In conclusion, the best description of our trip can be summarized in one little word - WOW!!!



Hollywood Nails
Complete Professional Nail Care
Air Brush, Hand Designs & Waxing
Walk-in Welcome
(609) 484-9695, 484-9585

Open 7 Days A Week
 Mon-Sat: 9:30am - 8pm
 Sunday: 11am - 4pm

318 Tilton Road
 Northfield, NJ 08225

Special Offer
for Residents of
Village Grande at English Mill

With this Ad, new customers will
receive a 20% discount and
existing customers a 10% discount
Must Bring Coupon for Savings

AD 3277



Answers from page 21

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





\$6,000
GUARANTEED MINIMUM
TRADE VALUE!

JUST GET IT HERE, RUNNING OR NOT AND WE WILL PAY YOU A MINIMUM OF \$6,000 TOWARDS ANY PRE-OWNED VEHICLE IN STOCK!

BENNETT  CHEVROLET

ALL NEW VEHICLES ARE SOLD EVERYDAY AT
\$500 BELOW
GM EMPLOYEE PRICING

(EVEN THE 2014'S!) NO HASSLE, NO BACK AND FORTH, JUST AN HONEST UPFRONT PRICE. PLUS YOU KEEP ALL REBATES UP TO \$7,000



JUST IN!
THE ALL-NEW
2014 IMPALA
COME SEE IT TODAY
AT BENNETT
CHEVROLET!

**#1 CHEVY
DEALER**

IN ATLANTIC, CAPE MAY
AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES

**#1 GM
CERTIFIED
DEALER**

IN ALL OF NEW JERSEY
ONLY THE VERY BEST!

**#1 CAR
BUYING
EXPERIENCE**

NEVER PAY RETAIL!
NON-COMMISSIONED SALES STAFF

Please Patronize Our Advertisers
6721 Black Horse Pike
&
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
Acknowledge their Ad in the
Grande Gazette



1-800-NEW-CHEVY

6 3 9 - 2 4 3 8

www.bennettchevrolet.com

THANK YOU FOR BEING AN EDUCATED CONSUMER! NO GAMES HERE. JUST UPFRONT REAL DEALS. PLUS YOU'LL LOVE OUR NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF! THE ONLY VEHICLE EXCLUDED IS THE 2014 CORVETTE. SALES TAX/ MOTOR VEHICLE/ DOC FEES ADDITIONAL.

BRING YOUR FAMILY CLOSE TO HOME!



D.R. Horton has the perfect neighborhoods for your children and grandchildren, offering elegant estate homes loaded with luxury features, in two convenient locations. And best of all – your family will be closer to you!

Invite them to visit one of our fine communities today.

Coventry Estates is an exceptional new community of single-family homes conveniently located in Manchester Township, Ocean County.

- 3 and 4 bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, 2-car garages and full basements
- Easy access to the GS Pkwy, Routes 37, 70 and 9

Single-family homes attractively priced from the mid \$300s*!

COVENTRY ESTATES AT MANCHESTER

Route 37 and Farm Road
Manchester, NJ 08759

(732) 323-0593

The Fields at West Deptford is Gloucester County's most anticipated new community. With our brand-new model open, take a tour of this beautifully appointed, stylishly decorated home.

- 3 and 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths, 2-car garages and full basements
- Easy access to I-295, 55 & NJ Turnpike

Single-family homes attractively priced from the upper \$200s*!

THE FIELDS AT WEST DEPTFORD

1202 Karen Ann Court
(Parkville Station Road & Jessup Road)
West Deptford, NJ 08086

(856) 845-7508

D·R·HORTON
America's Builder

Friends and Family Referral Certificate



**Go to our
sales office
and pick
one up
for your
family!**



drhorton.com/nj

11

#1 FOR 11 YEARS IN A ROW
AMERICA'S #1 HOMEBUILDER
BUILDER MAGAZINE

*Prices, included features, availability, and delivery dates are subject to change without notice or obligation. Elevations shown may vary. Prices contingent on a contract signed and closed immediately upon completion. Terms and conditions subject to credit approval, market conditions, and availability. Not all Buyers will qualify for specific offers. Equal Opportunity builder. © 2014 D.R. Horton.