

*Online Quarterly*

# Grande Gazette

*The Village Grande at English Mill*

Volume 6 - Issue 5

July/August/September 2015

THE  
VILLAGE  GRANDE®  
AT ENGLISH MILL

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## VILLAGE GRANDE AT ENGLISH MILL

1 Village Grande Road; Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

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Special Events	TBD		
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Updated: 07/08/2015

# New Updated Material

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**General Staff:** Bill Giambatista, Carol & Fred  
Moderski

*Updated July 6, 2015*

## *Grande Gazette* **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 the Board Liaison 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 the Grande Gazette Staff or the VGEM Board of Directors.

**EMAIL Address: [vgem.gazette@comcast.net](mailto:vgem.gazette@comcast.net)**  
**Please send ALL Grande Gazette related materials to this email address**

*Updated: 07/01/2015*

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## *From the Editor...* **“The Quarterly Online Gazette”** *By Tom Santucci*

Thanks to Carol Moderski and her stellar distribution team for having delivered the last bi-monthly, paper issue of the *Grande Gazette* published by Senior Publishing Co. (SPC). I would be remiss if I did not again commend SPC for the excellent job they did in publishing the Gazette. Circumstances change and the Gazette is now online. Yes, I too will miss sitting in an easy chair, drinking a cup of coffee and holding a paper copy to read. Personally, I'll just print myself a copy.

To make the Gazette available to our neighbors without computer access, we shall print several CLUBHOUSE COPIES to be kept in the Library for reading in the Clubhouse or poolside. After reading, please return the copies to the Clubhouse Library for others to enjoy. On a trial basis, printed copies will be available for \$5. For details, see the form on page 21.

This is the largest Gazette ever published with 66 pages as there is no page restriction. If a lot is happening at VGEM, as has been the case in the last two months, the Gazette will have the space to report it. In addition, we now have the flexibility to hold publication for a few days in order to report on breaking news. For this issue, it was the first meeting of the newly elected Board held on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This Gazette announces newly elected Officers, Committees for 2015-2016 and up-to-date information on the pool repairs starting page 60. This is another of the advantages in an online publication.

The Gazette has expanded coverage of the many activities in our Community including the Kentucky Derby Party, Cinco de Mayo, Memorial Day Ceremony, Sports Club News, the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Fishing Club Trip, the Savannah & Charleston Trip, the *Poolside Grille* plus many other features you have come to expect to be in the Gazette. By not having a mid-June deadline for copy to SPC, the Gazette is able to provide information on recently finalized, upcoming events such as the *Fourth Annual VGEM Golf Outing* on October 9<sup>th</sup>. This promotes the event earlier and may enhance participation.

I do not anticipate each Gazette being this large. With less happening, the Gazette will be sized accordingly. The goal is to release the Gazette on the first of each quarter but this may vary as circumstances warrant.

Hopefully, there will be something for everyone in this issue and you will find it both enjoyable and informative. Please give us your feedback so we know how we are doing. If you like an article, tell the author as your feedback is appreciated ... both positive comments and constructive criticism.

# Rules on Rules

By Jim Roche, Trustee



As you all know living in a community such as ours requires that we follow a number of rules. Where do they come from, who makes them and most important, how do we change them? There is no easy answer to any of those questions.

When we moved in, those of us who purchased directly from DR Horton received a rather thick book we erroneously call the POS. Those who purchased from another seller should have also received most of the pages from that book. It is basically divided into three sections, the Public Offering Statement (POS), the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions and, as part of the Declaration, the By-Laws. The POS is not a factor in this discussion. It has no legal bearing on anyone other than the original purchaser and is simply DR Horton's legal statement of what they intend to do. The Community Rules are found in the Declaration, the By-Laws and in the Rules and Regulations adopted and published by the Board of Trustees. Collectively these "rule books" are called the Governing Documents or, as per DiLucia, the Recorded Documents.

The rules in the Declaration are the most difficult to change or modify. Amendments require the approval of 67% of all the owners. Some changes also require the approval of 51% of the mortgage holders. To totally terminate the Declaration would require 67% of the mortgage holders. Certain amendments would also require the approval of Egg Harbor Township. Needless to say, changes to the Declaration are almost impossible to accomplish.


The By-Laws contain most of the basic rules that concern our Community. Such things as membership,

voting, the Board of Trustees, fiscal management, committees and enforcement are covered. The rules and procedures in the By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of 51% of a quorum of all eligible voters. For example if we have 320 homeowners, a quorum would be 161 voters. If 161 homeowners vote, 81 affirmative votes would carry the motion. In contrast, it would take 215 positive votes to change the Declaration.

Finally we have the Rules and Regulations adopted and published by the Board. Most of these have in fact been originated and recommended by your friends and neighbors who serve on various committees. The Architectural Control Committee (among other things) is tasked with "providing for architectural consistency" and "avoiding activities deleterious to property values of the community." The Rules Committee recommends basic procedures for the operation of our HOA including Clubhouse and swimming pool rules. The Finance Committee recommends rules regarding financial management. Other committees may from time to time recommend rules appropriate to their specific areas of responsibility. These committees after due consideration make their recommendations to the Board who decides whether to implement the specific rules or to send them back to the committee for additional consideration. The Board does give a significant amount of weight to committee recommendations. After all, these folks are volunteers who have given much time and energy to improve our life style through their committee work. The Board occasionally rejects a recommendation but only if there are significant reasons. We always try to do what's best for the Community and what the Community really wants. These rules can be changed simply through a vote by the Board. An example of the Board trying to match our rules and procedures with the desires of the community is our recent snow removal referendum. After listening to various ideas presented by residents, we decided to go directly to you and ask, "OK, what do you want?"

The referendum results were 217 voted with 62% voting for 4 inches in the driveways before we begin to clear snow. Based on this result, the Board will not change the rule. If there appears to be any significant disagreement with any of our current Board approved rules, we are always ready to consider a rule change. For example we just changed a rule regarding when trash and recycling containers can be placed at the curb. Our previous rule stated we could not place these containers out until 6 PM the day before pickup. Since many of our residents wanted to establish an earlier time, we considered all aspects and amended the rules to allow us to put these receptacles at the curb as early as 3 PM the day before being collected.

The bottom line is that your Board is trying to be responsive to the wishes of our Community while maintaining the standards that you deserve and demand.



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# *It's "Recorded Documents", Not the POS!*

*From Bill Traylor, Chief Financial Officer*



*Editors Note: In the May/June 2015 Grande Gazette, I made an error in editing Kate Walton's "From the Community Manager". It was promptly identified by Bill Traylor who sent me the following email and the "The Hierarchy of Authority for HOAs". I am grateful to Bill for correcting my error and providing the informative document explaining that "It's 'Recorded Documents', not the POS!" I want to share this information so that we all understand that the Recorded Documents, and not the POS, is the basis for VGEM governance.*

**Email to VGEM.Gazette.com - May 5, 2015**

**Tom:**

We have enclosed the information on the Hierarchy of Authority for HOAs, annotated for VGEM. Please note that a POS does not exist as an authority for the VGEM HOA. The POS is a requirement for a sale between the Original Buyers and the Builder/Developer. Once the Agreement of Sale is finalized, it has no authority. The POS informs that potential Buyer that they are buying a property with Deed Restrictions and the property will be subject to the Recorded Documents. We have met with the Board and conveyed this information to them. The Board knows not to refer to the POS, nor to address any question when someone quotes the "POS". Appropriate questions must refer to the recorded documents. While no one has taken the time to compare the two word for word, there is no reason to do that, since the POS is between the Seller (Horton) and an original Buyer. Also keep in mind that NO second, third or future buyer receives a POS to review. The Seller must disclose, and the Buyer should review, the Recorded Documents.

While we understand the Gazette is an independent publication by and for the residents, editing of DiLucia Management articles need to be reviewed by our staff. Katie's submitted article for the most recent Gazette made NO mention of the POS since we are following the established procedures of the HOA. However, her by-line includes reference to the POS in error.

William J. Traylor

The PUBLIC OFFERING STATEMENT (POS) is a disclosure required to be provided to any prospective buyer of certain restricted use properties. Its proper submission

and approval by the State allows the Seller (Builder/Developer) to engage with a Buyer for completing a sale of an individual home and/or lot.

At the settlement of that sale transaction, the Buyer's Deed will include a restriction on the property indicating it is subject to the RECORDED MASTER DEED. Although the POS may include the recorded documents word for word, the POS has no legal standing. It has no authority over the recorded documents and is never a reference for the Homeowners Association.

Subsequent resales of properties by homeowners do not require a "POS" since it does not fall under the requirements. Either the Seller or the Seller's Broker is required to disclose the property is in a restricted community and the Deed will contain reference to the recorded documents listed below.

## **THE HIERARCHY OF AUTHORITY FOR ASSOCIATION LAWS**

1. Statutory and common law foundation (Federal, State, and Local)
  2. Declaration
  3. Articles of Incorporation
  4. Bylaws
  5. Rules
  6. Procedural resolutions and guidelines
  7. Other resolutions of the board of directors
  8. Contractual obligations imposed by the board of directors
  9. Actions and decisions by officers and employees
- #2, 3, and 4 are recorded in Atlantic County: Book 12355, CFN#2006057025, and Pages 1-155. PDF copy is at [www.dilucia.com/VGEM](http://www.dilucia.com/VGEM), Recorded Documents button.

**Amendments to #2** require 90 day written notice to all members in good standing (written by or reviewed by an attorney) and approval at an open meeting of 67%. However, prior to transition, the Builder/Developer may veto any amendment under certain articles that would affect the Builder/developer's rights. There are Articles within the Declaration that cannot be changed.

**Amendments to #4** (or re-written By-Laws) require the exact Amendment (written by or reviewed by an attorney) be delivered to all members in good standing and approval by 51% at an open meeting called for that purpose (proxies are acceptable). Again, certain Articles cannot be changed and in addition, the Builder/Developer has the right to veto any change that would affect their rights.

The duly elected Board has the authority to establish, change, define, and execute #5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. However, changes affecting the Association Members must be made by a Board Motion at an Open meeting of the Members.

# *The Grande Gazette Goes to an Online Quarterly Publication*

## *The Reason for the Change*

*By Tom Santucci, Editor*

Last summer, I met with the Board feeling burnt-out and considered making the January/February 2015 Gazette my last issue as Editor. The Board gave the Gazette Staff and me a huge vote of confidence. They suggested that the Gazette change to a quarterly publication as had their HOA Board meetings. I decided to give it another year as a bi-monthly publication.

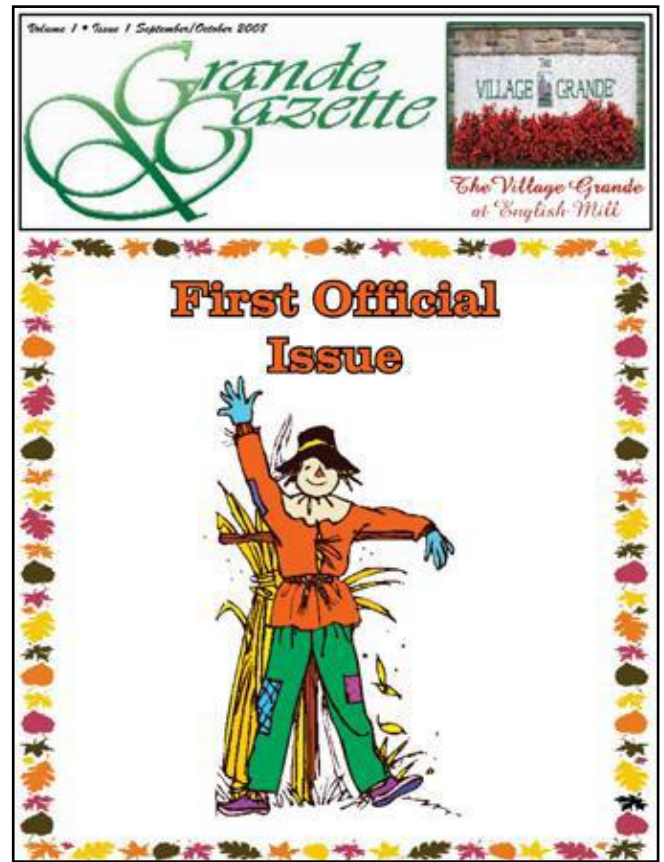
I soon realized that a bi-monthly Gazette was placing a burdensome demand on the regular contributors to write six articles a year. It became apparent that this was too much to ask and I began to doubt that the Gazette could maintain its quality as a bi-monthly newsletter. With this concern of staff burnout and my own, especially after assembling two Gazettes in Florida, something had to give. I then fully appreciated the wisdom in the Board’s recommendation and scheduled a meeting with them on May 26 to propose changing to a quarterly Gazette.

In the interim, I was called by Senior Publishing Co. (SPC) and told that the advertising revenue of \$600 for the May/June issue was insufficient to cover the \$2,000 publishing cost. I was told to cut the Gazette from 40-pages to 16-pages, which to my thinking, would damage the quality by severely reducing its content. VGEM’s contract with Senior Publishing Co. stated that *“The approximate number of pages in each issue will be determined by the ratio of 50% advertising and 50% editorial material”*. Table 1 summarizes the advertising averages of the 21-issues starting in January 2012 through May/June 2015. With the cost of publishing the 40-page Gazette at \$2,000, this data substantiates that SPC made a prudent financial decision in reducing the Gazette to 16-pages. I greatly appreciate the SPC owner, Bill Krim, for permitting the Gazette to be the size it was for so long while hoping that our advertising revenue would increase. When I inquired about whether the Gazette could be published quarterly, I was informed that SPC does not publish quarterly newsletters.

**Table 1. Overview Grande Gazette Advertising (Averages per Issue)**

Average Pages	Average Ad Pages	Average Revenue	% Advertising pages
40	6.5	\$977	16%

With our SPC contract expiring on July 31, 2015, the Board had to make a decision. There were three options:



*The first Grande Gazette cover published September/October 2008 by Editor Mike Segal*

Option 1: To terminate publishing the Gazette was rejected as the newsletter serves as an important vehicle for conveying information to the Community.

Option 2: To sign a 3-year contract with Senior Publishing to continue a bi-monthly 16-page Gazette with eight pages of color that would primarily be composed of “hard news” on matters of governance and those Committees directly involved; such as the ACC, Finance, Landscape, Rules, etc. There would be little to no space available to report on the “soft news” such as social events, club activities, travel outings, etc. In addition, a new editor would be needed starting with the January/February 2016 issue as my commitment to assemble the bi-monthly Gazette was only through 2015.

Option 3: A quarterly online Gazette. I presented my perspective on the change to a paperless newsletter as is being done by an increasing number of active adult HOA communities.

**Benefits of a quarterly online newsletter:**

- No limit on the number of pages
- All pages may be in color
- Four issues per year scheduled to coincide with the quarterly HOA Board meetings and published within 30 days of their occurrence.
- Quarterly issues will place less demand on the Gazette’s staff, our limited number of contributors and the Editor.

- Enhance reporting on events by having more space available.
- Reduces amount of time and work in assembling a Gazette.
- Reduce DEADLINES to four per year with some measure of flexibility.
- The potential to produce online Gazette supplements to inform the Community on an important issue. An example could have been the snow removal referendum. A supplement would have conveyed detailed information on cost and provided residents a forum to express their opinions.
- Distribution done electronically as attachment to emails and on [dilucia.com/vgem](http://dilucia.com/vgem).

**Problems related to an online newsletter:**

- People like to read a paper copy - SOLUTION: Print your own copy. Most printers are capable of printing on both sides of a single page.
- Not every VGEM resident has a computer -POSSIBLE SOLUTION is to offer to print copies for residents without computers at a fee to cover the expense. Preliminary cost estimate by Kate Walton was about \$0.12/page or \$5 for a 40-page Gazette. The cost could be fixed at \$5/issue and advertising revenue could defray the ad-

ditional cost for a Gazette of more than 40 pages.

**Potential for Advertising Revenue:**

- Generate revenue to cover the expense of producing the Gazette and maintain a reasonable fee to print copies for residents without computers
- Offer our regular advertisers a place to continue having visibility in VGEM; i.e., Kathy Tyler -Century 21, McGowan Landscaping, D.R. Horton, Losco/Monte Rose, Brickscapes, Outdoor Decor, Hollywood Nails, etc.
- Offer the opportunity for more businesses to advertise in the Gazette by more reasonable pricing of ads. I periodically receive calls/emails seeking information about advertising in the Gazette.
- VGEM HOA is a not for profit organization. According to Bill Traylor, DiLucia CFO, income from advertising may be used to offset expenses. Profit is taxable if it exceeds \$35,000 per year. Simply stated, it can be done.
- A few ads in an online Gazette will give the newsletter a more professional appearance.

**Develop the unutilized DiLucia provided VGEM website for the Gazette:**

- Great place to archive all the previous Gazettes that are in a PDF format as a community resource.
- Scan and convert all earlier published Gazettes to a PDF documents so the Community will have electronic access to every Grande Gazette ever published.
- May encourage others to begin to utilize the website for videos, pictures, etc

**Board's Decision:** The HOA Trustees unanimously endorsed the third option and beginning this month, the first quarterly Gazette for July/August/September will be available online.

**Result:** Our contract with SPC was not renewed and we parted on good terms. Bill Krim assured me that SPC will welcome the Gazette back if VGEM chooses to resume a paper newsletter

As a show of our appreciation to SPC, this Gazette was published so that SPC would not have to refund any collected advertising revenue for an issue that they had anticipated publishing under our contract that expires on July 31.

When you finish reading this paper issue, go online to read the Gazette's first quarterly issue which contains more comprehensive coverage of the events and activities in our Community. On a trial basis for those of you without online access, a limited number of printed copies will be available for \$5 each. To reserve a copy, complete the form on page 21 and deposit it in Community Manager's mailbox. All requests must be received by noon on Monday, July 13.



*January/February 2012 Cover  
The first issue with Tom Santucci as Editor*

# Windows Damage Law Suit Alert to VGEM Homeowners

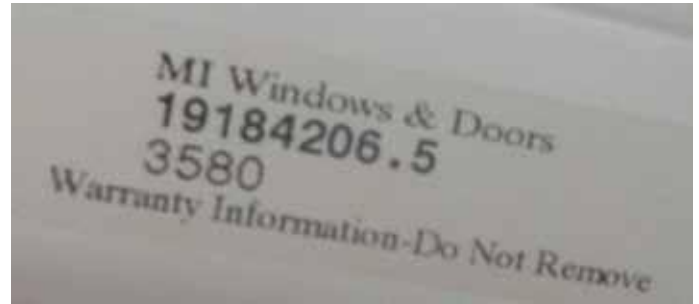
By Warren Weiner



There has been a settlement of a Class Action Suit against the supplier of VGEM windows that offers compensation to residents who file claims for water leakage, staining and insulation loss. VGEM homeowners who previously received replacement windows from the manufacturer's warranty automatically received a

Claim Form, but others with the same problem are unaware that they may receive up to \$2,500 in compensation plus repairs.

The problem is a loss of gas between the double-pane window sandwich. Without gas, windows lose insulation against cold in the winter and heat in the summer. The gas also reduces outside noise. The defect becomes evident with water leakage, visually apparent sediment, crud or mold build-up between panes and/or water staining, discoloration or fogging of the finish surface that cannot be removed by window cleaners or power washing.



The single-hung, double-hung and stationary windows were manufactured by MI Windows and Doors, Inc., 650 W. Market St., Gratz, PA 17030 and purchased from distributor, ProBuild, 21 Broad St., Phillipsburg, NJ 08865. These windows are warranted by the manufacturer only, not D.R. Horton.

MI Windows in VGEM already carry a 20-year warranty to original homeowners and may be replaced by the manufacturer without charge. If the home is sold to a second owner in the first 5 years after construction, the warranty extends for another 5 years. Homeowners, however, must pay \$25 per window shipping charge, plus hire a contractor to remove defective windows and install new windows. Homeowners also must pay to dispose defective windows.



Without this Class Action settlement, homeowners were not compensated for hiring a contractor nor for water damage, including swelling, warping and softness adjacent to the window frame. What should effected homeowners do:

1. Check the *Home Works* 3-ring binder Horton supplied original buyers to confirm your windows were made by MI Windows and other brands listed at [www.MIWD-TapeGlazedWindowsSettlement.com](http://www.MIWD-TapeGlazedWindowsSettlement.com)
2. Second homeowners should check the product identification label located inside the window frame and compare it to the picture above and/or on the web page listed below.
3. Obtain the Claim Form that's available online from [www.miwdtapeglazedwindowsettlement.com/](http://www.miwdtapeglazedwindowsettlement.com/) or call 1-888-668-8198.

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Date	Filing Deadlines
October 25, 2015	Homeowners Class C Claim
December 28, 2015	Homeowner Class A & B Claim



# VGEM HOA Board Meeting

## June 1, 2015

By Tom Santucci

This article is an overview report of the June 1, 2015 VGEM Board Meeting and 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 who were present. For the most part, it will follow the agenda of the meeting.

Kate Walton gave a financial report with the balances in all of the accounts. Although unable to attend, Todd Greene sent a report. As of May 31, D.R. Horton has closed on 322 homes and 26 homes were under contract. If all close, this will leave only 49 new homes remaining to fully complete the 397 total for VGEM.

**Election Results:** Trustee Sam Salierno reported that 219 cast a ballot of the 317 eligible voters. Sam commended the Community for this outstanding turnout of 69% of eligible voters.

This is even more remarkable since the outcome of the Trustees Election was a foregone conclusion. Pam LoBue was re-elected for her fourth term as a Trustee. The audience applauded Betty Alberts on her election to her first term as a Trustee. Their two year terms begin on July 1, 2015.

The "Snow Removal Referendum" results were to continue snow removal at a depth of 4 inches. Of the 217 ballots tallied, 62% voted for continuing snow removal at 4 inches and 32% for 2 inches. With a nearly 2/3 majority, the Board concludes that this question is resolved.

This was the first VGEM referendum and the Board alerted the Election Committee that it will probably not be the last.

**President's Report: Pam LoBue** conveyed the Board's thanks and the Community's appreciation to Jim Lichtenwalner, not just for his service as a Trustee, but for all his many activities in behalf of the VGEM including but not limited to his involvement in starting the Special Events Committee, the "Poolside Grille" (formerly the Bocce Grill), the Vacation/Travel Club, the Billiards Club, the "fyi" Club and his many other endeavors as an active, contributing member of the Community. Jim's name will be added to the Plaque of former Trustees that hangs in a prominent location in the foyer.

Pam spoke to the important role that **volunteers** play in the operations of VGEM which provides enormous savings to the HOA. The Landscape Committee has saved the Community approximately \$100,000 on the work they have done to maintain our irrigation system. New volunteers are needed to take over the roles of the

longstanding group of volunteers, some of whom have been helping for as long as seven years. These long serving volunteers are getting tired and VGEM volunteerism needs new participants to step forward.

An example of this is the infamous "green forms" that will now be sent to the contractor who will bundle them. Response time may be as long as three weeks and the HOA will be charged for the service. Fortunately for the Community, the Landscape Committee will still save us money by continuing to manage the timers on the irrigation system.

Pam went on to offer examples of how the Maintenance & Social Committee activities afford significant financial savings to us all. Many communities have a part time maintenance person whose salary would be between \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year. The volunteers of the Maintenance Committee do this work at no cost. Without a volunteer Social Committee, The HOA would need to hire a part time social director at about \$30,000 to \$40,000 per year.

Without volunteers, the Board estimates that our HOA fees would be \$30 to \$40 per month higher than they are now. The Board and Finance Committee have arduously labored over the VGEM Budget to keep our monthly HOA fee stable. In order to do this, VGEM needs new volunteers to sign on, relieve and learn from the veterans who have been doing this work for many years. Sam Salierno is an example. He wanted to learn about the irrigation system. Bill Hofmann gave Sam a tutorial and he has learned how to operate the system, using his words, "on the other side".

*Committee Interest Application* forms for June 2015 - June 2016 are available online and on the Clubhouse counter in the foyer. The Board asks that we give thought to volunteering to join a Committee to help improve our Community and to enable our HOA fees to remain stable

Pam asked us to remember that Kate Walton has a full-time job, which requires her complete attention. It would be most helpful if all non-urgent matters were submitted in a written note or by an email. Pam shared that on several occasions residents have used profanity when Kate does not respond to them during her time scheduled for closed-door work. This is highly offensive behavior and reflects poorly on our Community.

The outdoor pool has serious structural problems that Pam outlined in detail. Briefly stated, the pool has a major leak and filtration problems that to date have not been satisfactorily resolved by Sparkling Pool. The Board has had two outside consultants evaluate the problem who have explanations and recommendations that are divergent to those of Sparkling Pool. On legal advice, if not resolved in a reasonable length of time that is documented, the Board may revoke their contract on cause. The course of action will reduce the likelihood of a breach of contract

suit.

The pool has a major problem that may be very costly to fix. Exact cost cannot be determined until the cause is identified. The pool is an amenity that must be repaired and made usable as soon as possible. Pam and the Board are working diligently to have it corrected.

**Vice President's Report** - Jim Lichtenwalner: The report began by addressing the activities of Committees on which he serves as liaison. The Rules Committee has proposed changes in the pool rules that will be presented in a motion. The Special Events Committee is active and is still seeking a Chairperson. The logo wear sales occur at many VGEM functions including this Board meeting. The Committee wants to stage another "Fun Night" that is in the planning stages and scheduled to occur in early September. It would also like to have a second VGEM Yard Sale but this requires finding someone who is interested in heading the event.

A "Welcome Desk" will be starting in the Clubhouse lobby as described on page 13 of this Gazette. Hopefully, it will relieve Kate of lesser tasks and improve communication between residents..

Jim closed by thanking the Community for their support of his endeavors as a Trustee; as well as his other activities for VGEM. He made two observations. First that VGEM is still in its infancy and trying to determine its development. The second is his strong belief that our residents care a great deal about their Community. He anticipates being productive in the Community's drive to get where it wants to be.

Upon concluding his remarks, he received enthusiastic applause in appreciation for his many contributions to VGEM.

**Secretary's Report** - Sam Salierno began by thanking Bill Hofmann for providing him a tutorial on the irrigation system "on the other side" (these were Sam's words). He saluted the Landscape Committee for all they do for VGEM. He also voiced his appreciation for being

recognized for his activities as a Trustee, especially from "the Corner Group" at the pool.

**Treasurer's Report** - Jim Roche reports that the Transition Committee is awaiting the engineering report from Falcon so that they may begin to work toward an effective transition. He praised the Election Committee for flawlessly completing the Trustee election and snow referendum.

He reported that the outdoor pool level drops by 4 to 8 inches each night and that this represents a significant leak that must be identified and repaired. The cost of repair remains an unknown. He hopes that the cost is such that the Board can find sufficient funds to cover the repairs. He assured the attendees that the Board will work diligently to avoid a special assessment and/or an increase in the 2016 HOA fee.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Grande Gazette** - Tom Santucci: The Gazette will not be renewing its contract with Senior Publishing Co. and will become a quarterly online publication. For details, refer to the Editor's article on page 6.
- **Landscape Committee** - Carolyn Walmsley reported that since devising and installing security on the back-flow preventer, no devices have been stolen over the winter. Last winter, four backflow preventers were stolen at the cost over \$6,000.



*Carolyn Walmsley presents the Landscape Committee Report*

The street trees were trimmed by Outdoor Décor and the mulch removed so that the exposed roots would either go underground or die. Either outcome is desirable for the trees. Please do not add any additional mulch. It is also requested that we remove the little leaves that grow off the trunk especially where branches were trimmed.

The wells have pumped 1.5 million gallons of water during May. This saved the HOA about \$10,000 which it would have cost had it been purchased from

NJ American Water. This is the good news. The bad news is that this quantity is about half of the total amount of water used in 2014.

This is the seventh year that the Landscape Committee has been servicing the irrigation system. This is an enormous task requiring hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours. This time commitment can no longer be sustained by current Landscape Committee volunteers. To relieve some of the burden, "green forms" will now be logged in by the Community Manager and faxed to Outdoor Décor to manage. Our landscaper will not be able to resolve these problems as promptly as has the Committee. It may take up to as long as three weeks for your green form problems to be acted upon. Please be patient.

- **Finance Committee** - Don Cheadle gave the Cape Account Club Treasurer's Report that appears on page 14 of this Gazette. He went on to report that through the last monthly statement, the HOA has expended \$23,000 less than had been budgeted, but it is too early to project that this will continue. As shown in past years, the largest expenses occur later in the third quarter as a result of irrigation and landscaping that are the costliest expenses in the budget.

For further information on the budget, please refer to the Finance Committee Report on page 14.

#### **New Business - Motions for roll call vote of the Board**

- A Motion to **amend the Pool Rules** - Passed 4 - 0. See Rule Committee Update on page 20.
- A motion to approve up to \$2,235 for the **purchase of 24 chairs and 2 round tables for the pool deck** from the HOA's Cape Account with a \$400 contribution from the Garden Club. Passed 4 - 0.
- A motion to approve a \$1,500 increase to **Sparkling Pool Management's** contract to keep the Indoor Pool open during the hours that the Outdoor Pool is open for the 2015 summer season. Passed 4 - 0
- A motion to approve up to \$400 to purchase an additional **lifesaving backboard**. Passed 4 - 0
- To approve up to \$1,600 to hire Outdoor Décor to **grade and sod the Sunflower walking path** to relieve drainage problem. Passed 4 - 0
- A motion to approve up to \$960 to hire Courts for Sports to **renovate the bocce courts** to be funded by the balance in the Bocce Golf Tournament Funds in the Cape Account and the HOA's Cape funds will cover the remainder. Passed 4 - 0.
- A motion to purchase a one-year **Music License for Residential Communities** from Broadcast Music, Inc.(BMI) for \$448.38. Passed 4 - 0. NOTE: Jim Lichtenwalner pointed out that BMI handles about 50% of the artists and composers. The American

Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers ASCAP) manages 40% so he anticipates that VGEM will soon be approached by them.

These music licenses must be renewed annually.

- A motion to approve up to \$3,300 for the purchase for a **multi-functional gym system** from Leisure Fitness was passed 4 - 0.
- A motion was approved, 4 - 0, for the *Grande Gazette* to be **published quarterly** and available **online** only. Also that printed copies will made available for purchase for a short period of time. Both passed 4 - 0
- A motion was approved, 4 - 0, to provide up to \$350 for **AED/CPR training** of residents during 2015.



*Leisure Fitness  
Gym System*

#### **Outstanding Volunteer Award:**

President Pam LoBue presented the Outstanding Volunteer Award to Tom Santucci and James Cira. Please refer to Pam's article on the next page for more on the awards..

**Public Comment:** After adjournment, a public comment session was held to question the Board and for comment. The following are highlights.

- Marcie Goldman asked if **music could be piped to the pool deck** at a reasonable volume. Kate Walton said that this would be done after music license from BMI is in effect. She reports that the license will only allow up to 106 people to listen at a time, as it is based on the occupants capacity of the Grand Room.
- Audrey Kaufman asked if D.R. Horton has any responsibility for the outdoor pool problem. Pam's short answer was no, since there is no written documentation for them being at fault. "There is supposition, but no supporting evidence at this time." There is evidence that the developer has fault with the indoor pool that will be addressed at transition.
- Joanne Zink complimented Jim Lichtenwalner for his work on behalf of the Community that was "seconded" by robust applause.
- Sheila Solomon praised Kathy McGeehin and Selma Roseblum for planning the outstanding Garden Club Motor Coach Trip to Historic Savannah, GA and Charming Charleston, SC .(See article and numerous pictures from the trip in the *Quarterly Online Gazette - July/August/September 2015*)

Sheila voiced her strong feelings that we all live in a "Great Community" and that volunteerism plays an important role in VGEM being what it is. She asked everyone to become involved and participate in our Community's great activities.

# Message from the President

By Pam LoBue

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD

By Pam LoBue

The Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to two deserving men in our Community, Tom Santucci and James Cira, at the June 1, 2015 HOA meeting. Both of these men share concern and civic-mindedness and give freely of their time and energy to benefit us all.



Tom Santucci is a long-standing member of the Finance Committee. As such, he brings his intellect and fine judgment in both the budget reviews and the contractor negotiations that take place yearly. As co-chair of the Election Committee, Tom's precise recording of the Committee's minutes sets a template for all future elections. His leadership as Editor of the *Grande Gazette* is exemplary. Other communities have contacted me to praise our publication. Tom's attention to detail is evident in every issue and in all he does.

James Cira is thought of as one of the Founding Fathers of VGEM. He was an honored member of the Finance Committee. He stood up to Wentworth Management and D. R. Horton when the Clubhouse opened and very large increases in our monthly fees were proposed. James was influential in having these fees reduced. As Chair of the Maintenance Committee, James spear-headed many repairs and enhancements. James got involved with volunteering as soon as he moved here. He is known as a kind and compassionate neighbor and friend who is always willing to lend a helping hand.



These two men have given so very much to our Community and it is my pleasure to commend them for all the talents they share with us. On behalf of the VGEM Board and a grateful Community, I congratulate you both and extend sincere thanks.

## Thank You Jim

### Jim Lichtenwalner Completes Term as HOA Trustee

Jim Lichtenwalner was elected to the VGEM Board in July 2013. He has been an active and informed member of the Board these last two years. Before serving on the Board, Jim was a very involved member of our Community. With Mickey England, Jim initiated the formation of the FUNd-Raising Committee, now called the Special





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Events Committee. The pair also initiated the Bocce Grill, now called the *Poolside Grill*, and the Vacation Club that planned VGEM's first major group trip, the 2012 Transatlantic Crossing.

Jim was a valued member of the Finance Committee and currently serves as Co-Chair of the Billiard Club and the "fyi" Club. He also participates in bocce, bowling, golf, and Vacation Clubs.

Jim is a strong proponent of the lifestyle offered in an active adult community and is always willing to give of his time and talents to help provide activities that enhance this lifestyle. Although Jim did not seek re-election to the Board, I am sure his Community involvement will continue.

## ***Kathy Perfetti Steps Down as ACC Chair***

Kathie Perfetti has recently stepped down as Chair of the ACC. This valuable and mandated committee oversees the exterior modifications done to the homes in our Community. Kathie has worked tirelessly to maintain the property values in our Community by enforcing the guidelines set forth in the ACC rules and in our governing documents. The Chair of the ACC is a huge undertaking and many times a thankless job. On behalf of the Board, I thank Kathie for her efforts and time.



## ***Volunteerism At Its Best***

Tom Santucci, James Cira, Jim Lichtenwalner and Kathie Perfetti are four fine examples of volunteering for the betterment of our Community. I hope their example will ignite interest in other Community members to join the ranks of our valued volunteers. On behalf of the VGEM Board and a grateful Community, I sincerely thank these four individuals for their leadership, service and commitment to our Community.



*The Trustees at the June 1st HOA Board Meeting*



## ***VGEM Residents to Staff A "Welcome Desk"***

Over 30 members of our VGEM community have volunteered to staff a Welcome Desk at the Clubhouse. The desk is planned to be open Monday thru Friday from 10 AM to 12 Noon and from 1 PM to 3 PM. The Welcome Desk was created to greet visitors and allow residents to help fellow residents with routine tasks such as providing directions in the Clubhouse, instruct where to drop off and pick up forms; show where to find answers to questions and provide information for various community activities.

The Welcome Desk should be able to relieve the Community Manager of some of these tasks and also allow our residents to communicate among themselves which should help to foster a strong Community Spirit. We plan to roll out the Welcome Desk by July 1, 2015.

If you are willing to volunteer a few hours each month to this worthwhile cause, please contact Jim Lichtenwalner at 484-225-4756 or [lichtenwal@aol.com](mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com).

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# FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Don Cheatle,  
Chairperson, Finance Committee



We are already five months into the 2015 budget year! The figures through May 31st are not yet available as of the printing of the Gazette. Through April 30th, our accrued revenues exceed our expenses by \$72,000. When looking back at past years, this is a normal occurrence. Had it not been for the unusually high snow removal expenses in the winter of 2014, our actual 2014 revenues would have exceeded our 2014 expenses through April 2014. The 2014 excess is approximately the same amount as 2015 revenues exceeded expenses for this year. Our revenues (primarily your regular HOA fees) are collected monthly. This means that through March and April our dues usually are in excess of the expenses. However, this changes beginning in June when expenses typically begin to exceed receipts, and the surplus built up over the winter months begins to shrink.

Excluding snow removal, almost half of our budget is concentrated in landscaping, irrigation and pool related expenses. These expenses are concentrated in the months beginning in May and extend through September. This is especially true for the water and electric bills incurred for irrigating the lawns. The landscape contract expenses actually begin in April with spring cleanup. Through April, our actual expenses related to the landscape services are very close to budget. At the HOA Board meeting on June 1st, Carolyn Walmsley reported it was necessary to run the sprinkler system more often than usual this early in the year due to a dry May. She stated the usage in May resembled our July usage which is traditionally the highest water use month of the year. The water bills for May will appear in our June financials and will impact our budget at that time.

On a brighter note, snow removal for the 2015 winter was \$10,000 under budget as compared to \$15,000 over budget in 2014. We have budgeted for possible snow removal this December. Barring a snowy December, we should end the year under budget for snow removal.

We are awaiting the report from the auditor to hear if there are any recommended adjustments to the 2014 financial reports. Part of the 2015 budget is predicated on the use of any surplus from the prior year. For this reason adjustments by the auditor to 2014 results could affect the 2015 budget.

The true impact of our budget versus actual expenses usually cannot be determined until October when the expenses incurred during the summer have been recognized and a true picture of where we stand can be estimated. The Finance Committee will continue to monitor the monthly financials prepared by DiLucia Management Co. and question variances if they occur.

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IT IS WITH GREAT SORROW THAT  
WE MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR  
GOOD FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR

- Anthony Ponzio -  
121 Snowdrop Road  
May 10, 2015

IT IS WITH GREAT SORROW THAT  
WE MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR  
GOOD FRIEND AND FORMER NEIGHBOR

- Marie Meloni -  
Formerly of 121 Snowdrop Road  
May 12, 2015

# Landscape Committee Report

By Carolyn Walmsley, Chairperson

Winter hung on for an awfully long time this year, so we began our landscaping season a bit late. Thankfully, our grass made it through a very long and very cold winter in decent shape. Irrigation was up and running in the first week in May and our normal lawn applications in March and May were done in a timely manner. With our landscaper's new mower blocker plates, we see much less grass clippings in our gardens.

Our street trees look good after we pruned them. Please remove any new growth that is sprouting around the cut areas and along some of the tree trunks. By continuing to remove this new growth, we will not have to prune the trees for several more years, thereby saving us thousands of dollars. Do not replace any mulch around the street trees near your home. We are trying to force tree roots back into the ground. Mulching allows them to lay under the mulch, but on top of the soil. We will mulch street trees next year.

Our five wells are working nicely and we thought you would like to know some things about their upkeep. Committee members monitor each well and record data required by the state on a monthly basis. Well meters are read on the last day of each month, regardless of what day of the week that falls on. We added a second meter reading in the middle of May because drought-like conditions developed rapidly. Should this weather pattern continue throughout the summer, a third meter reading will be necessary, since we are restricted by the state on how much water we are allowed to draw from the aquifer. Each well has a log book that is maintained in our manager's office. Monthly well information must be available to the DEP and the Pinelands Commission any time they wish to review it. Each January, yearly well usage data must be submitted online to the Department Environmental Protection. The cost to monitor our wells and maintain state required data would run around \$1,500 each year if we had to hire someone to do it.



The Landscape Committee is pleased to report that since devising and installing the backflow preventer security system last fall, none have been stolen over this winter. A backflow preventer with the Committee devised and installed security device is pictured here. Last winter, without the security device, four backflow preventers

were stolen at the cost to replace and install of over \$6,000.

For the last six years, Committee members (mostly Bill Hofmann) have handled green form irrigation issues. Starting this year we are turning all "green forms" over to our landscaper. That means any fix, other than water emergencies where we need to turn off the system because of a leak, will be done by Outdoor Decor. It could take up to several weeks before



minor irrigation problems are fixed. Please do not submit more than one green form for any irrigation problem. The forms are dated, logged in and faxed to Outdoor Decor. Filing a second form is not going to get repairs done any sooner, it just adds to our manager's workload. For those of you living here less than six years, this is the process we had in place before the Committee decided we could contribute to fixing irrigation problems. We hope you understand that our Community cannot afford to pay any landscape company to come out and fix minor problems on a daily basis. We will all have to learn to be patient.

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# ACC Community Meeting

## Updating Policy and Practices

Reported by Tom Santucci

On May 14th, the Architectural Control Committee held a community meeting in the Clubhouse that was attended by about 20 residents. The ACC Chairperson, Kathie Perfetti, introduced the Committee members in attendance: Jim Berg, Annette Black and Shirley Oliver. Trustees Pam LoBue and Sam Salierno were in attendance. Following the introduction, Kathie distributed two ACC handouts that appear below.

### ***Things people should know about the ACC!***

- 1. The Committee is VOLUNTARY. No one is paid ANYTHING. People serve on the Committee because they want to see that the community develops in a manner that will maintain and increase property values.*
- 2. The Committee is required by NJ Law and its guidelines are fully explained in the Recorded Documents that EVERY home purchaser received. If anyone did not read the Recorded Documents, that is not the responsibility of the ACC.*
- 3. If the ACC seems to be more demanding than in previous years, it is. This is because of several reasons. First, there was a change of staff in the office and records are not as complete as they should be. There was also change among the Committee membership. The ACC today is trying to be more complete and accurate with the applications and Committee minutes. Secondly, there have been several occasions where the work done did not match the application that has caused problems with such things as water runoff and mowing. Thirdly, inaccurate drawings on applications have caused misunderstandings and arguments between the homeowners, the landscapers, and the mowing company. Fourth, there are cases where homeowners simply had work done without any consideration for their neighbors. Fifth, some of the work done in the past encroached on the space needed for mowers, and finally homeowners claiming that they received "verbal approval" for projects but there is no record of that decision being made by the ACC. Lastly, claims of verbal approval are not sufficient; anyone claiming to have verbal approval has to get the person who gave them that verbal approval to put it in writing.*
- 4. Past ACC approvals do not automatically set precedents. Just because your neighbor had something approved does not guarantee others the right to automatically do the same. Sometimes decisions in*

*a small emerging community are not appropriate when there are 300 or more homes. The ACC is not recommending any removals of approved homeowner improvements if an application is on file, but the Committee is not approving applications without a thorough review*

- 5. ACC approval for landscaping is often a two step process. The Committee gives a PRELIMINARY approval subject to a site visit by Outdoor Decor, LLC to determine if sprinkler system changes are needed. After the site visit, the landscaper reports the findings to the ACC who either approves or rejects the request.*

### **ACC Approval Procedures**

**Published June 4, 2014**

*Occasionally homeowners complain about excessive time between the time they submit an application or some outdoor landscaping project and the time they get final approval and can start the project. In addition there is also misunderstanding about the approval steps. The following are suggestions to speed up the application process and reduce the chances for anyone's casual comments being mistaken for an official approval.*

*The first steps are for a homeowner to pick up an application at the Community Center and sending it along with an accurate sketch with proper dimensions to the office. The application should be logged in by the office and kept until the next scheduled ACC meeting for review. If the community manager sees some obvious gaps in the application she should notify the home owner by phone and email.*

*The second step is a decision at the ACC meeting if the application is disapproved or subject for further review by the landscaper. If disapproved the homeowner should be notified within 3 days of the meeting by e-mail and the reasons why. If the application appears complete and appropriate and accompanied by a \$50 check, it is now subject for field trips. There are usually within 10 days of the ACC meetings.*

*If the landscaper decides the irrigation lines are not involved, he should notify the office in writing. The landscaper should not tell the homeowner that the project is approved only that a change in the underground lines is not required and that he will notify the ACC Committee. When a copy of his report is in the office, there is no need to wait for another regular scheduled ACC meeting, any two committee members can stop by the office and give FINAL approval.*

*If the landscaper decides that the irrigation lines must be moved, he can give an estimate to the homeowner and notify the office that the project is on hold until the work is done. When the work is done, the landscaper should then notify the office in writing and again any two members of the committee can stop by the office and give final approval.*



As above there is a need to wait for a regular meeting and the landscaper should not make any commitments..

**ACC Site Visits:**

The ACC will be doing site visits regarding each homeowner's responsibility to keep the property in a clean, attractive and serviceable appearance. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Landscaping/Gardening: overgrowth of weeds in mulch beds, too many ornaments in mulch bed, artificial flowers present, and weeds in driveway, walkways and sidewalks.
- Exterior Home Maintenance: damaged siding needing replacement, siding needs power washing, outdoor furniture improperly stored, and mailboxes needing repair or replacement.
- Unauthorized Exterior Modification: Landscape bed changes, satellite dish, light fixture, storm door, solar panels, and generator.
- Other Violations: Holiday decorations up too long, refuse or rubbish piles on property, real estate sign on property, commercial vehicle parked on property and trash/recycling cans not properly stored.

**Public Comment:**

The ACC Committee then fielded questions from the attendees that are summarized below:

- Swales create special circumstances on some outside modifications as they may affect sprinklers, mowing and drainage.
- All applications whose outside modifications may affect sprinkler heads and irrigation lines MUST be scrutinized by both the HOA landscaper and the ACC.
- Applications for generators and solar panels require EHT approval if acceptable to the ACC.
- Now that the bonds for Phase 1 have been released by EHT to D.R. Horton, changes may be made with the three backyard trees. After a discussion between ACC members and the two Trustees in attendance, it was decided that any changes on the three trees (replacing, removing, etc.) requires an application be submitted to the ACC.
- Flood lights placed under trees or shrubs require an application be submitted to the ACC.
- Solar landscape lighting is not regulated by the ACC.

**In closing, the ACC advises that when in doubt about whether an application should be submitted for an exterior modification, ask the Community Manager.**

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# New Updated Material

## WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

July through September 2015

### MONDAY

9 AM Pickleball  
10 AM Mixed Bowling at King Pins  
Noon Canasta Club – Card Room 1  
12 PM Canasta B – alternate wks – Rm 2  
5 PM Women's Bocce - Championship on 8/31  
7 PM Book Bunch – Resumes on 9/28

### TUESDAY

8 AM Golf at the MLCC  
9 AM Pickleball  
Fine Arts Club – Drawing Group  
10 AM Beginners Line Dancing  
Noon Mahjong VI – Card Room 1  
1 PM Mahjong II – Card Room 2  
7 PM Mahjong IV – Card Room 1 & 2



### WEDNESDAY

9 AM Tennis  
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  
4 PM Men's Bocce - Championship on 9/16  
6:30 PM Intermediate Line Dancing - Off 7/22 &  
7 PM Bridge Club dance resumes 9/16

### THURSDAY

9 AM Pickleball  
10 AM Water Aerobics - PND  
12:30 PM Men's Poker  
1 PM Mahjong – Room 1  
4 PM Social Committee - on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
7 PM Mahjong V – Card Room 1 & 2

### FRIDAY

9 AM Pickleball  
Noon Canasta  
3:30 PM Happy Friday at the Pool - *BYO*



### SATURDAY

9 AM Tennis

### SUNDAY

9 AM Pickleball  
Noon LoBue Mahjong I – Card Rm. 1

## 2015 HOA Board Meeting Schedule

Tuesday - September 8  
Monday - December 7

*All Meetings are at 6:30 PM*

## 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.

**July 14 August 11 September 8**

Please contact Kate for an appointment.

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

## SPECIAL MONTHLY EVENTS

### July 2015

Saturday, July 4: 9:30 - 11 AM

### Summer Holiday Breakfast

Grande Room

Sponsored by the Social Committee

Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 PM

### “fyi” Club

Tips on Using Your Smart Phone

Grande Room

Friday, July 31 at 9 AM -

### Men's Club Breakfast

James J. “Sonny” McCullough, Mayor of EHT

Golden Corral

### August 2015

Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 PM

### “fyi” Club

What's Going On With Your Electric Bill?

Grande Room

Saturday, August 22- TBA

### The Summer Party

Grande Room

Sponsored by the Social Committee

Friday, August 28 at 9 AM

### Men's Club Breakfast

Golden Corral



## Kate Walton

VGEM Community Manager

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10 AM – 4 PM

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 10 AM – 4 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10 AM – 1 PM

No Office Hours on Thursday

609-788-8405

[vgem@dilucia.com](mailto:vgem@dilucia.com)

# New Updated Material

**Monday, August 31 at 3:30 PM**  
**Committee Chairperson's & Board Meeting**  
 Crafts Room

**Monday, August 31 at 5 PM**  
**Women's Bocce Championship**

## September 2015

**Tuesday, September 9 at 6:30 PM**  
**HOA Board Meeting**  
 Grande Room

**Saturday, September 12: TBA**  
**Fun Night**  
 Sponsored by the Special Events Committee

**Wednesday, September 9: 5 PM to 7 PM**

## *Poolside Grille*

**Grand Finale**  
 Poolside

**Tuesday, September 24 at 6:30 PM**  
**"fyi" Club**  
**How to Maintain and Improve Balance**  
 Grande Room

**Wednesday, September 16: 5:30 PM**  
**Mens's Bocce Championship & Banquet**

**Friday, September 25 at 9 AM**  
**Men's Club Breakfast**  
 Golden Corral

**Saturday, September 26: 9:30 - 11 AM**  
**Fall Breakfast**  
**Details & Cost TBA**  
 Catered by Golden Corral  
 Grande Room  
 Sponsored by the Social Committee



## Coming Attractions in October



**Friday, October 9**  
**VGEM Golf Outing**  
 More Information Forthcoming  
 Sponsored by the Golf Club

**Saturday, October 31**  
**Halloween Party**  
 More Information Forthcoming  
 Sponsored by the Social Committee



## *Poolside Grille*

Poolside - Weather Permitting

**Every Wednesday**

**through September 9**

**5:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Children Welcome**

## Club Treasurer's Report

VGEM Club Accounts  
 as of June 9, 2015

<u>Home Owners Association</u>	<u>Balance</u>
HOA	\$ 18,328.24
Insurance Deductible Acct.	1,000.00
Clubhouse Expenses	0.00
<u>Waiting for Details</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>HOA Totals</b>	<b>\$ 19,328.24</b>

<u>Clubs</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Special Activities	\$ 1,675.27
Women's Club	349.05
Men's Bocce	367.32
Women's Bocce	27.00
Anglers Club	175.31
Men's Club	457.04
Quilting Club	100.75
Photography Club	297.98
Billiards Club	646.89
Mah Jongg Club	0.00
Garden Club	1,788.87
Bocce Court Fund	0.00
Golf Club	27.49
<b>Club Totals</b>	<b>\$ 5,912.97</b>

**Cape Account Total \$25,241.21**

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

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

**Flyers are Available at the Clubhouse**

## ***Pool Rules***

### ***New Pool Rules Amended By The Board - June 1, 2015***

At the June 1st HOA Board meeting, the following new pool rules were unanimously adopted by the Board. Articles 1 through 3 and Article 6 in Section 2 of the Clubhouse Rules entitled "General Swimming Regulations" were deleted in their entirety and replaced with the following:

1. All residents must accompany and remain with their guests at the pools. Residents and guests **MUST** sign in immediately when entering the pool area. NOTE: Indoor pool facilities including the Hot Tub are restricted to **RESIDENTS** and a maximum of one guest, 19 years or older, per resident in attendance at the indoor pool.
2. All residents, and their accompanied guests, must have a current pool pass on their person at all times when inside the fence of the outdoor pool or in the indoor pool room. The passes must be visible. Residents are responsible for the actions of their guest(s).
3. All Village Grande at English Mill homeowners and tenants are issued two (2) Resident pool passes per household. If more than two (2) residents are in a household, additional resident pool passes will be issued with proof of permanent residency. Up to four (4) guest passes (per household) can be purchased at a cost of \$5.00 each. Please keep Resident and Guest passes as they **DO NOT EXPIRE**. There will be a replacement fee if they are lost. Additional one (1) day passes, up to four (4) guests at outdoor pool and 1 guest per resident at indoor pool, will be available at a cost of \$2.00 per person, and only good for the day of purchase.
- 6a. The **OUTDOOR POOL** opens on the Saturday preceding Memorial Day, and will close approximately September 15th, (weather permitting.) Daily hours are: 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM, except on Wednesday, the hours are: 11:00 AM. to 8:00 PM.

- 6b. The **INDOOR POOL** will be open 12 months each year. During the time period when the outdoor pool is open (Saturday preceding Memorial Day until September 15), the indoor pool and hot tub will be open whenever a lifeguard is on duty at the clubhouse. Hours between September 15 and the Saturday preceding Memorial Day will be as posted

### ***Summary VGEM Pool Rules 2015***

- Only VGEM residents and adult guests (19 years and older) are permitted to use the indoor pool. No children are permitted in the indoor pool and spa. A resident must accompany each guest. .
- Children, ages 3-12 years old, are permitted to use the outdoor pool from 11 AM to 3 PM daily, except on Wednesdays when children are allowed in the pool all day as long as a lifeguard is present.
- On all Fridays after 3 PM, only residents and guests over the age of 21 are permitted in the pool or on the pool deck area.
- The lifeguard has the authority to tell children when to exit the pool and make sure all pool rules are followed.
- Children, ages 3-12 years, are allowed in pool throughout the entire day on the Sunday of Memorial Day, the Sunday of the Fourth of July weekend and on Sunday and Monday of Labor Day as long as the lifeguard is present.

***Please abide by the pool rules and respect the lifeguard's authority to enforce these rules.***

#### **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

**Pool tentatively closes on Sunday,  
September 13, 2015**

#### **OUTDOOR POOL HOURS**

**WEDNESDAY: 11 AM to 8 PM**  
**ALL OTHER DAYS: 11 AM to 7 PM**

#### ***Children's Hours:***

***WEDNESDAY All Day***  
***ALL OTHER DAYS 11 AM - 3 PM***  
***ALL DAY on May 24, July 5,  
September 6 & Labor Day***

\*

***ALL FRIDAYS after 3 PM - Only adults over 21***

# Reserve a Printed Copy of the Quarterly Online Gazette

A Trial Service for Residents without Online Access

**Cost \$5 per copy - Limited to one per household**

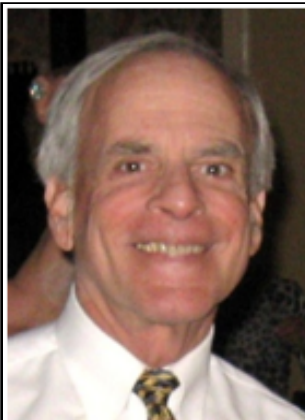
**Checks made out to VGEM - No cash accepted**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete this form to reserve a copy of the Online Gazette**

**Insert form in envelope labeled "Gazette Copy" with CHECK. Deposit in Community Manager's Mail Box by Monday, July 13 at Noon. You'll be contacted when your copy is available for pick-up at the Welcome Desk.**



## *GLC Update*

*By John DaPrato,  
Chairperson*

The **Government Liaison Committee (GLC)** is pleased to report that the **Battery Replacement Program** for our residents who needed assistance in replacing the batteries in their smoke detectors went exceptionally

well. On May 16, the Egg Harbor Township Fire Department graciously installed batteries as requested by 24 VGEM residents. The EHT will again offer this service in November. For those who request this service, we suggest that a donation be made to the Fire Department since the majority of their operating budget comes from contributions that are tax deductible.

On May 23rd our Fire Department walked through our community along with the New Jersey Fire Service to inspect our forested common areas in search of any conditions that could be problematic for fire. We were pleased to find out that we have very few problems; however some attention is needed for dead growth and trash that blows into the common areas. This program will continue to make sure that our forested areas remain a low fire risk.

In September, the GLC and the EHT Fire Department are planning an informational program in the Clubhouse on "Fire Safety in Our Homes". This program will consist of recognizing potential fire hazards in and around our homes and how to abate those hazards. We hope to get as many people as possible to attend this very important program. The date and time will be announced in the near future.

This fall the GLC is planning two Candidate's Nights. One will be for the General Assembly candidates and the other for the candidates in the local government election. The dates will be determined by the responses to our invitations that will be going out to the perspective candidates.

The Committee is also keeping in touch with the local and county governments on issues that may impact our community. If any issues or concerns arise, we will seek that information and pass it on to the board for any action that may be necessary.

## MEDICARE

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

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## *Conference*

*By Jim Lichtenwalner*

Donna and I recently had the opportunity to attend the 2015 CAI Conference and Expo, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The conference started out on a sad note. It was held at a former train station the day after the catastrophic Amtrak rail accident in Philadelphia. In addition, the theme for this year's conference was ironically "On the Right Track".

Despite the morbid start, the day was filled with Educational Sessions, Networking opportunities and an Exhibit Hall with over 140 booths staffed by providers of every type of material or service that an HOA could ever need.

We had the opportunity to attend three Educational Sessions which were entertaining and, more important, highly informative for anyone interested in HOA living.

The first session was led by Doug Greene, a nationally recognized authority on HOA Reserves and dealt with how to understand our Replacement Reserve and tools available to analyze a community's Reserve Study. The Replacement Reserve is an account which we must fund to finance replacement of major components of our community (e.g. the Clubhouse roof). The ultimate decision of how to fund the Reserve is up to the Board of Trustees, but they need to listen to the advice provided by their Reserve Specialist and their Property Manager (professionals who deal with Reserve issues every day). The Trustees need to educate themselves on all aspects of the Reserve and alternatives that they should consider when making Reserve decisions. There is more flexibility in how we manage Reserves than most Trustees realize.

The next session was led by Julie Adamen. Julie owns her own Consulting business and is a recognized expert on managing HOAs. She has 30 years experience in managing communities as an on-site manager, regional vice president, and vice president and executive director of one of the largest property management firms in the U.S. Her high energy presentation dealt with some of the issues that arise in HOA communities and how to deal with them. The issues covered included how to get the trustees to listen to the members of the community, dealing with "problem owners" and "problem trustees", documenting and cleaning up your policies and procedures, avoiding micromanagement of your property manager and consistent enforcement of the governing documents. One of the most important topics covered dealt with avoiding one track thinking, which is especially evident in communities with leadership that is serving for a long time. If you ever have the opportunity to hear Julie speak, I encourage you to take advantage –she is most entertaining and informative.

The final session we attended was presented by Jonathan Katz, Esq. (an attorney with Hill Wallack, LLP). This presentation dealt with Ethics and Confidentiality, specifically for HOA's in New Jersey. He described what HOA leaders including trustees, committee members, etc. need to do in certain situations. Key points covered included fiduciary responsibility, agency, potential and actual conflicts of interest, open meetings vs. executive sessions, maintaining confidentiality, gifts, threats and harassment, conflicts and consistent enforcement. I have a PowerPoint presentation from this session that I would be glad to share if there is enough interest.

We also had the opportunity to meet many suppliers, contractors and professional services providers who deal with HOA communities.

I would recommend anyone interested in your community consider attending next year's conference. See me for more information.



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# New Updated Material begins and continues through page 64

## Residents Directory Update

From Mary Moskovitz

Please keep your information up-to-date by filling out the Residents Directory form that is available under the Clubhouse Bulletin Board or at the Welcome Desk in the Clubhouse Foyer..



Without following this policy, there is the concern of invading residents' privacy if they are included on the list and do not want to be in the Residents Directory or simply does not want their home and/or cell phone numbers and email addresses included.



### NEW

### RESIDENTS

- **Durand, Florence**  
309 Sunflower Drive
- **Rambo, Rob & Josephine**  
123 Violet Drive  
609-350-9517 — Rob Cell #  
609-517-3289 — Josephine Cell #  
robrambo60@comcast.net  
josephine.rambo@comcast.net
- **Henry, Meredith & Holly**  
**222 Lily Road**  
609-927-4207 — Home #  
609-335-0189 — Mer's Cell #  
609-703-6733 — Holly Cell #  
mwhsr3672@outlook.com — Mer's e-mail  
hollyuhenry@aol.com — Holly's e-mail

### UPDATE & CORRECTIONS

- **Hodson, Mildred - MOVED**  
142 Snowdrop Road
- **Musarra-Hertzoff, Kathleen - MOVED**  
201 Lily Road - Moved from 216 Lily  
New Address: 201 Lily
- **Campo, Fred - Deceased**  
315 Sunflower Drive
- **Hanlon, John - Deceased**  
14 Tulip Road
- **Morelli, John - Deceased**  
335 Sunflower Drive
- **Ponzio, Arthur - Deceased**  
121 Snowdrop Road
- **Stapler, Elaine - Deceased**  
106 Snowdrop Road

<i>Neighbor Watch Block Captain</i>			
Street	House#	Block Captain	Phone
Bluebell, Violet & Ivy		Sam Salierno	365-8112
Lily	200-215	Dan Montagna	576-5487
	216-230	Rich Johnson	856-296-0944
	231-242	Bill Polko	365-2340
	243-257	Herb Moskovitz	365-2329
Marigold	1-16	Jim Cira	402-2861
		Steve	653-4215
	17-35	Cappadona	
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	Al Hearn	927-6387
Chairperson		D. Mastrangelo	788-4876
Admin. Assistant		T. Scaricamazza	927-6818

## Gazette Policy on Residents Directory Updates

*Editor's Note:* Only residents who have turned in a Resident Directory Form and registered with the HOA are official members of the Community who may then be included in the Gazette's Residents Directory Update.

IT IS WITH GREAT SORROW THAT WE MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR GOOD FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR

**- John Hanlon -**  
14 Tulip Road  
June 22, 2015

## Sports Talk

Tony Scaricamazza



The summer clubs are now in progress. The fishing club has had two planned outings and many of our residents joined the fun on the charter boats out of Margate and Somers Point. The golfers are now in full swing hoping to par that next hole and they have also assisted as volunteers at the LPGA tournament at Seville. The men and women bocce leagues are well into their competitive and fulfilled seasons. Tennis and pickleball are favorites of many residents. It is never too late to join one or more of these clubs and enjoy the healthy fun of an outdoor activity. Contact information for all clubs can be found on page 2 of this Gazette.

## Billiards Club

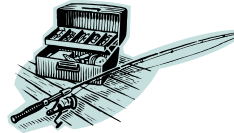
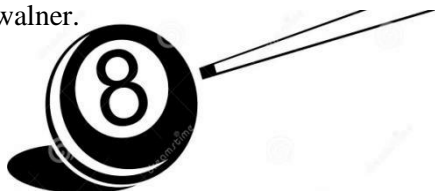
Jim Lichtenwalner and Joe Carluccio



This time of the year, the word pool conjures up cool breezes on a warm day as we lounge around the pool deck and occasionally take a dip to cool off but 26 of our friends and neighbors are fine tuning their other pool activity in a different fashion in a summer 9-Ball League.



The fun-league of 12 teams started on June 8th and will continue on Monday evenings into early Fall. The 8-Ball League will be starting up in late Fall for its 5th season. We invite everyone to come out and try it – You'll like it. All men and women from VGEM are encouraged to come out and play – you'll have a good time and get to meet some of your neighbors. All ability levels are welcomed. If you are interested in joining the Billiards Club contact Joe Carluccio or Jim Lichtenwalner.



## Fishing Club

Bill Hofmann



The Fishing Club has had two outings. The first was aboard the *Teal* out of Margate which is reported on page 27 of this Gazette. The second was on July 1<sup>st</sup> out of Somers Point and occurred too late to be included in this issue.

As a reminder, you can get your 2015 NJ fishing registration card at [www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov](http://www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov) This card is not required if fishing on a party boat, but is required if fishing on your own in tidal waters off the beach, on a pier or on a private boat. Contact me if you have any questions.



## Men's Bocce

David VanZant

Well, the new season is under way with the renewal of old rivalries and the addition of new faces – a hearty welcome to all of our new players. It is our hope that you will enjoy your time spent playing and that you will build new relationships with your neighbors. These relationships and your participation serve to strengthen our Community, making it a better place to live.



Men's Bocce Club Leadership Committee  
Tony Scaricamazza, Jim Cira, David VanZant, Mike Segal, Don Mastrangelo and Dan Montagna

As I write this article in mid-June, the weather has cooperated nicely with warm clear evenings. We have the first four weeks of competition in the books. Badda Bing (Team #2) captained by Steve Cappadonna leads Division #1 with the Rollers (Team #4) captained by Jim Cira close behind. The rest of the division is only a point or two behind. In Division #2, Blue B's (Team #5) captained by Don Mastrangelo has a comfortable lead



over last year's champions the Brass B's (Team #10) lead by Floyd Milhan; but there is plenty of time for things to change.

We started the season with 60 players, 6 per team, but have already lost some players to health or other reasons. There are several open spots available. If you are interested in playing, there, please contact me David VanZant, other committee members or team captains. Another option is to simply show up at the Bocce Courts on Wednesday evening at 4:30 PM and we will find a spot for you.

The teams and rosters are listed below. The even numbered teams are in Division #1 and odd numbered teams in Division #2.

## *Men's Bocce League Teams*

<b>Team 1 - Brass B's</b> - Floyd Milhan (C), Fred Moderski, Gus Lewis, Rich Johnson, Ralph Carbone
<b>Team 2 - Badda Bings</b> - Steve Cappadona (C), Jim Lichtenwalner, Don Hinspeter, Al Mancini, Tony Morris, Walt Lojewski
<b>Team 3 - Players</b> - Dan Farbman (C), Tony Scaricamazza, Alex Polazneck, Ray Viventi, Bill Giambatista, Chas Steiner
<b>Team 4 - Rollers</b> - Jim Cira (C), Dan Montagna, Steve Wiener, Dennis Goldberg, Norm Hirschfeld, Sam Salierno
<b>Team 5 - Blue B's</b> - Don Mastrangelo (C), Al Hearn, Bill Hoffman, John Murtha, Ed Zink, Lou Esposito
<b>Team 6 - Poppy Road Gang</b> - John DeLucca (C), Don Cheatle, Ed Wenzke, Bern Roswell, Leo Fishburn, Jim Smith
<b>Team 7 - Bocce Bandits</b> - Mike Segal (C), Joe Carluccio, Doug Beaupit, John Prochaczek, Ron Hires, Randy Krehel
<b>Team 8 - Chewbocce's</b> - Herb Moskovitz (C), Larry Huges, Jack McCrae, Gary Evens, David VanZant
<b>Team 9 - Spoilers</b> - Bill Giannetti (C), Jim Harnett, Ken Tardif, Jerry Montago, Jim Danzuso
<b>Team 10 - Misfits</b> - Jim Berg (C), John DePrato, Frank A Larry Levy, Bob Kardon, Lou Golin



## *Golf Club & League*

*Doug Beaupit and Jim Marini*

The Golf League got off to a good start on May 5<sup>th</sup>. All the players are getting their game fine tuned for the Club Championship to be held over four weeks in August. The winner will again be determined by match play. Welcome Len Menaker as a new member to the golf league.

I, Doug Beaupit, as hole captain want to thank all of you who participated as a VGEM LPGA volunteer. I was assured that everyone had a fun time. Seaview Country Club and ShopRite will again be hosting the tournament next year. For anyone living in VGEM, who would like to come out and have some fun marshaling, please put the dates June 1<sup>st</sup> - June 5<sup>th</sup> on your 2016 calendar.



*LPGA Volunteers*  
*Dan Farbman, Joe Carluccio, John DeLucca, Doug Beaupit, Dan Montagna, Bill & Terry Giannetti*  
*Not pictured: David VanZant, Jim Lichtenwalner, Ed Zink and Jim Berg*

VGEM Golf Outing: We have finalized a date for the golf scramble. It is Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at Mays Landing Country Club. As plans proceed we will keep you up to date. Remember, the scramble is open to all VGEM residents, their relatives and friends. Start thinking about who you would like to invite to make up your foursome. For more on the VGEM Golf Outing, go to page 30.



## *The Court Club*

### *Tennis & Pickleball*

*Bill Giannetti*

The outdoor season has finally begun here at VGEM for both Tennis and Pickleball and we are enjoying playing here on our own courts. We have a few new players for each sport who have come to the clinics and we are looking forward to them joining us on our regular play dates.



Tony and Anne Morris had visitors from Scotland and their female guest, Erica, who played tennis years ago, expressed interest in joining us to play. Soon she was out hitting tennis balls with Tony and then she tried pickleball which she picked up quickly and played with

us several times during her visit. She said they have an indoor Badminton Court in her town. Since a pickleball court is the same size, I gave her 2 paddles and 2 balls and urged her to promote the sport at home. Tony and Anne were returning to Scotland with her so I'm sure Tony will help her get started.

Shirley Oliver has come back to playing tennis after a year off for a hip replacement. She's playing as well as ever and enjoying it so we expect her to continue to play. Dan Farbman and Lynne Atkinson are back from Florida and we are looking forward to a full season with the courts filled with our regulars and new players.

Over the winter, when we played pickleball in Ocean City, we met several people from other 55+ communities in our area. During the outdoor season, we are looking forward to playing with them at their courts and have them visit us here for some friendly games.



At the present time our courts are used every morning for either sport. Players are encouraged to use the courts for additional play or practice on any afternoon or evening.

On a sad note, I want to acknowledge the passing of a good friend, George Diener, who lived in EHT. George played both sports with us on many occasions. He was a good player and a wonderful person who was liked by all who had the good fortune to know him and play with him. He was my partner when we won the gold medals at last year's NJ Senior Games. I will miss him very much both as a player and a dear friend. Rest in peace, George.



Mixed bowling takes place every Monday at 10:00 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.

## Women's Bocce

The 2015 Women's bocce season is in full swing. Games are played on Monday evenings. The season ends on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Tuesday evenings will be make-up games due to inclement weather and/or a holiday.

We play for fun and friendship. Please join us this year! Pictured below are the commissioners.



*Jane Narke, Terry Stevens, Nancy Werden, Connie DaPrato and Peggy Milhan (seated)*

## National Grandparents Day September 13, 2015



# VGEM Goes Fishing

*Chilly but Fun...  
Spring Fishing Club Trip  
By Bill Hofmann*

Our first spring fishing trip on June 3<sup>rd</sup> was a challenge due to the cool temps and brisk winds. A hardy crew of 42 of your Village Grande neighbors showed up in long pants and sweatshirts instead of shorts and tee shirts. TEAL, the 65 foot charter boat, was looking good with a fresh coat of paint and other recent improvements.



The early spring weather has been less than ideal for the beginning of flounder season, but the rain held off and we all made the best of it with a lot of laughs and a good time for all. There were even some fish caught. Dave VanZant somehow managed to pull up the pool winning 23" flounder that was the only "keeper" of the day.



*The mate holds up David VanZant's pool winning flounder*

There were some smaller flounder "throw-backs" also caught, 6 to 26 depending on whom you talked to, along with sand sharks and skates.



*Friends of the Stroups*



*Ed Wenzke*



*Don Mastrangelo and Club Captain Bill Hofmann, along with Jim LoBue and Tony Scaricamazza staged another great fishing trip*



*Bundled-up from the chilly winds. Myra & Wayne Reese on the left and Joe & Bonnie Carluccio on the right*

Thanks to Don Mastrangelo, Tony Scaricamazza, Joe Stroup and Jim Lobue for all their help. It was another fun VGEM Fishing Club event.



# Fishing is fun but chilly!



*After battling to catch the “really big fish”, an exhausted Jim Berg nods off!*



*Rich Johnson, former VGEMer Glenn Coach & Don Hinspeter are enjoying the morning.*



*Lou Esposito & Carol Leafy with Ruth & Dave VanZant*



*Don Sinagria and John Galloway*



*Ed Zink & John Murtha*

Lunch was at the Library III Steakhouse on the McCullough’s Emerald Golf Links on Ocean Heights Road. Good food and drink mixed with a generous amount of comradery capped off our day.

By the time you read this, we’ll be back from our July 1<sup>st</sup> fishing trip on the pontoon boat, *DUKE OF FLUKE*, out of Somers Point. We hope we had warmer weather and caught flounders to feed the Fishing Club.

Please enjoy the picture collage of your warmly clad neighbors on the June 2015 VGEM Fishing Club Trip.



*Al Hearn, Jeannie Eckard & John DaPrato*

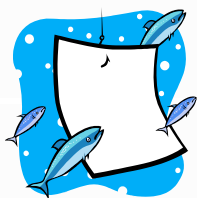
# And more comradery at the Library III!



*Bill Hofmann presents Jim LoBue with the mini-gold sinker for the smallest fish caught as Rich Johnson looks on*



*A smiling Dave VanZant wears the Gold Sinker Award for the largest fish caught sits with Bill Hofmann*



*A bit chilly on the deck, Andrea Stroup warms up!*



# Fourth Annual VGEM Golf Outing

**Mays Landing Country Club**

**Friday, October 9, 2015**

## Four Player Scramble



**\$60 per golfer includes**

- **18 Holes of Golf**
- **Registration Package**
- **Riding Cart**
- **Various Prizes**
- **Barbecue Lunch at the MLCC**

**Open to all VGEM residents, family and friends**

**More details are presented below.**



### ***Golf Club Resumes VGEM Golf Outing***

*By Doug Beaupit*

After a one year hiatus, the Golf Club picks up the VGEM Golf Outing started in 2012 and successfully coordinated for three years by Peter Tiano. The date and time for the VGEM Golf Outing is now a reality. It will be a four golfer scramble format.

The VGEM Golf League is hosting this year's event and has negotiated a fee of \$60 per golfer. The price includes 18 holes of golf, a registration package, riding cart, various prizes and a barbecue lunch at Mays Landing Country Club. Prizes will be awarded for the *Closest to the PIN*, *Longest Drive*; and *First Place Winning Foursome*. More details will be forthcoming.

It is now time for all full time and part time women and men golfers to step forward and form your foursome. Don't worry as smaller groups may be combined to make a foursome. Residents are encouraged to invite their golf friends and relatives to come out and enjoy a fun day. No

problem in bringing a ringer. We will not try to handicap the pairings. There may even be a prize for the highest scramble score. With our many new residents, we are hoping for a great turnout. For planning purposes, if you are interested in playing, mark your calendar and let one of the Golf League members know by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will also be looking for volunteers to register golfers, create the registration package, staff a closest to the pin hole, possibly ride a cart with snacks or soft drinks etc. If interested, please contact Dennis Goldberg (609-926-0627).

When you register, either individually or for your group, you will need to make out a check (\$60 x No. of players in your group) payable to VGEM with a note on the memo line: "for Golf Scramble". Along with the check, you will need to provide a list of the players in your group. ***The deadline for registering is September 15<sup>th</sup>.***

Mail or deliver the checks and list of players to Mike Segal, 14 Primrose Circle, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234.

For further information or are interested in playing and do not know a golf league member, you may call Mike Segal at 609.788.4402 or Doug Beaupit at 609.788.4062. Plan to come out for a fun day of golf!



# The Wild West Quiz



By Annette Scaricamazza

- Hopalong Cassidy's horse.  
(A) Trigger (B) Scout  
(C) Topper (D) Champion



- This city was the setting for *Gunsmoke*.  
(A) Waco (B) Carson City  
(C) Dodge (D) Reno

- Ben Cartwright's oldest son.  
(A) Adam (B) Hoss  
(C) Joe (D) Hop Sing



- In *Bonanza*, Where was the Ponderosa located.  
(A) Idaho (B) Texas  
(C) Nevada (D) Arizona

- Billy The Kid was a fictional character.  
(A) True (B) False

- In *Dances With Wolves*, Lt. Dunbar lived with this Indian tribe.  
(A) Cree#12 Tru## (B) Navajo  
(C) Sioux (D) Cheyenne

- He played Marshall Will Kane in *High Noon*.  
(A) John Wayne (B) Gary Cooper  
(C) Clint Eastwood (D) Steve McQueen



- This was on Palladin's calling card.  
(A) Smoking Gun (B) Horse  
(C) Black Hat (D) Chess Knight

- He was not killed at the Alamo.  
(A) General Custer (B) Davey Crockett  
(C) Daniel Boone (D) Sam Houston

- The secret identity of Don Diego de la Vega.  
(A) Cisco Kid (B) Zorro  
(C) Pecos Bill (D) Pancho Villa



- Who said, "Are you crazy, the fall will probably kill you".  
(A) Butch Cassidy  
(B) Sundance Kid



- The four Maverick brothers were Brett, Bart, Beau and Brent.  
(A) True (B) False



- To signify law and order, the Lone Ranger always left this behind.

- Silver coin
- Silver badge
- Silver stirrup
- Silver bullet

- The only Oscar John Wayne won was for this movie.

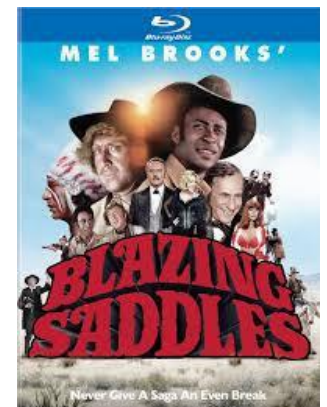
- Stage Coach* (B) *The Alamo*  
(C) *True Grit* (D) *Rio Bravo*

- What was the last name of Chester in *Gunsmoke*.

- Goode (B) Bodie  
(C) Colt (D) Jones

- He played Sheriff Bart in *Blazing Saddles*.

- Gene Wilder  
(B) Mel Brooks  
(C) Harvey Korman  
(D) Cleavon Little



- Eli Wallach played this character in *The Magnificent Seven*.

- Vin (B) Calvera  
(C) Lee (D) Britt

- Lee Marvin's character in *Cat Ballou*.

- Kid Shelleen (B) Sunrise  
(C) Jed (D) Clay Boone

- The 1876 Battle of Little Bighorn was General Custard's last stand.

- True (B) False

- Of the 87 Oscars won for best movie, how many were Westerns.

- None (B) Three  
(C) Fifteen (D) Twenty

Answers on page 56



***Vacation Club***  
**June 2015**  
*By David VanZant*

As I mentioned in the last Gazette article, our Club has taken a break from its normal schedule of bi-monthly presentations made by various travel companies in the hopes of generating an interest in group travel. We are analyzing what we have learned over the last four years and using it to bring interesting and enjoyable group travel to the Village Grande and her sister communities.

- We know that the “shot-gun” approach that we have been using, to develop community travel, has failed to create much interest.
- We know that practically everyone in our and our sister communities travel to some extent, beyond winters in Florida.
- We know that we have organized and promoted two very successful “big” trips that those who participated in seemed to enjoy.



- We know that our neighbors have traveled together on several trips sponsored by the Garden Club, both flight and bus.
- We know that some of our neighbors travel in small groups throughout the year.

- We think that there are advantages to traveling with friends, both old and new

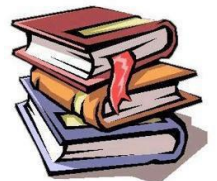


What we do with this information remains to be seen, but we are committed to bring people together, through group travel, to build stronger relationships and stronger communities. Look for the answers and opportunities in future articles in your Gazette.

***Clubhouse Library***  
*By Annette Scaricamazza*

*You cannot open a book without learning something.*

*Confucius*



To inform our new neighbors and as a reminder to all VGEM residents, the clubhouse library is available for all residents to use and hopefully enjoy. All nonfiction books are filed by author and one bookcase is reserved for nonfiction.

There is no limit on books to take out nor is there a time limit for their return. All we ask are they be returned for others to enjoy. All returns and donations should be placed in the box in the coat room for filing. We are always in need of newer books to refresh and update our collection. Any newer book you can donate will be appreciated. Please do not donate your entire collection; a few books that you feel others will enjoy is always welcome. Magazines are in the basket and do not need to be returned except for the Clubhouse copies of the *Quarterly Online Grande Gazette*. Lack of space does not permit us to have oversized or pocket books.



# "fyi" Update

By Jim Lichtenwalner

As I write this article, we have completed the 1<sup>st</sup> three meetings of "fyi". Co-Captain Doug Beaupit and I are pleased to report that these meetings have exceeded our expectations. Our April meeting focused on "Financial Tips for Seniors" and was attended by 56 members of the VGEM community. Four representatives covered some basic points of what we should all consider to financially survive our future and make life easier on our spouses and children.



The first "fyi" presentation in April on "Financial Tips for Seniors" was well attended.

The May meeting featured Dan Henighan of the NJ Casino Control Commission who shared the history of gaming in Atlantic City as well as his insights on what is really going on in AC. The audience of 37 of our friends and neighbors was full of questions. The lively discussion probably raised more questions than were answered, but it got all of us thinking.

On June 16th, we were pleased to have everybody in South Jersey's favorite weatherman, Dan Skeldon, speak to a packed Grande Room. Dan gave a lively highly informative presentation on "Weather at the Jersey Shore and Hurricane Preparedness." His presentation was well received by all who attended.



Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings:

- July 21 - Tips on Using your Smart Phone
- August 18 - What's Going on With Your Electric Bill
- September 24 - How to Maintain and Improve Balance



Janice & Steve Wiener, Evelyn Ziarkowski and Sandy Farbman chat with Dan Skeldon

"fyi" is a club that provides speakers on wide array of topics of interest to VGEM residents. These presentations should prove to be informative, thought provoking and entertaining. All members of the VGEM community are invited to attend any or all meetings. There are no dues and your only obligation is to sit back and enjoy the presentation. Presentations will normally be 60 minutes and scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Grande Room at the Clubhouse.

We are open to all topics of interest to our residents; and welcome your suggestions. Come on out, join your neighbors and enjoy the discussions.



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## Garden Club Events

### *Luncheon at Careme's*

By Sydney Yacovelli

On May 13 the VGEM Garden Club gathered for a grant luncheon at The Academy of Culinary Arts of Atlantic Cape Community College. A group of 57 club members enjoyed a unique dining experience at *Careme's Restaurant* on the college campus located off the Black Horse Pike. Before the meal the group toured the greenhouse and cooking classes while in session. They also had time to visit the bakery and retail store called *Strudels* where fresh made baked goods and pastries can be purchased. The restaurant is manned by students that have not only prepared the elegant food served, but also serve and manage the operation.



*Chefs at work!*

The restaurant was named in honor of the 19<sup>th</sup> century "celebrity chef" named Marie-Antoine Careme. He was famous in culinary history and known as "The Chef to Kings and The King of Chefs".

The restaurant's name is fitting inspiration to young aspiring chefs of today. The goal of these students is to make all their guests

feel special while they work to improve their own skills.

This lovely event was arranged and hosted by Lynnda Golin. It was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.



*Garden Club members observing*



*The ladies gathering for lunch*



## Garden Club Events

### Garden Club Visits Helen Biggs' Greenhouse

By Sydney Yacovelli



On April 30 about 24 Garden Club members visited Helen Biggs' Greenhouse on Malaga Road. Ms. Biggs is a Master Gardener with years of knowledge and gardening tips she was happy to share with her attentive audience. The ladies also made a tour of the greenhouse and then were treated to snacks with wine and cheese. Helen also showed her culinary decorative skills with a lovely vegetable tray.



Everyone had a delightful afternoon and the Club showed their application by giving Ms. Biggs a gift card for Joe Canals.



*Club members touring the greenhouse*



*The group takes time to exchange garden stories*

*Garden Club Events*

*A Garden Club Group Visits  
The Ocean City Flower Show*



*Marsha Kaneff, Donna Lichtenwalner, Jeannie Eckard,  
Bernice Rappoport, Linda Salierno and Lena Goldberg*



*Cathy Danzuso, Joy Evans, Eleanor Bolton, Linda Oberman,  
Aggie Henry, Marjorie Darcy and Paulette Harnett*

# Historic Savannah & Charming Charleston Trip

April 12 - 18, 2015

Sponsored by the  
Garden Club

By Jeannie Eckard



Our group left the Village Grande at 6:30 AM on Sunday, April 12, 2015. I do believe that I heard a rooster crowing as our bus pulled out of the

parking lot! It was a pleasant and comfortable bus ride with a wonderful group of neighbors and friends. Several stops were made along the route allowing us to

step out of the bus, stretch our legs and grab something to eat. We passed through Washington, DC which provided us the opportunity to witness the beautiful cherry blossoms that were in full bloom along the tidal basin of the Potomac River. Dinner that evening was uneventful at Cracker Barrel Restaurant.



Ken and Bernice Rappoport enjoy the bus ride

On day two after having a deluxe continental breakfast at our hotel in Smithfield, North Carolina, we arrived in the lovely old city of Savannah. A city filled with dignified grace and quite impressive with its beautiful and stately old homes along with the moss covered oak trees. There is an old legend that is whispered by the southern folks about the lacy Spanish



moss that garlands the great oaks. Legend tells us that a lovely princess and her love, upon their wedding day, were struck down by a savage foe amidst a bitter fray. United in death, they were buried beneath an oak's strong friendly arms, protected from their foe. As was the custom, they cut the brides long hair with love and hung its shining blackness on the spreading oak above her grave. Untouched and undisturbed, it hung there for all the world to see. With the passing years, the locks turned gray and spread from tree to tree. So goes the legend of the Spanish moss.

An interesting fact is that the Spanish moss is actually related to the pineapple plant and flourishes very well in the south but is not very useful for anything but its beauty. Henry Ford used the moss to stuff the seats of his Model T Fords. After many complaints of insect infestation, he soon learned that the moss was full of many arthropods and he had to recall and change the seats in all of his Model T's. I do wonder if this was Ford's very first recall?

Savannah was founded in 1733 and is Georgia's oldest city. This historic city has atmosphere and charm fostered by residents who have cherished and preserved its past. Their love of history is embodied in the beautiful restored homes, churches and public buildings that grace the city's unique tree filled twenty two squares.

We visited River Street with its cobblestone streets lined with lovely shops, pubs, restaurants and monuments situated along the Savannah Harbor. One statue in particular was a girl waving as she looks out to sea. Her name was



River Street in Savannah, GA





Florence Martus (1869-1943) and for forty four years she stood at the harbor and waved to each of the incoming and out-going ships. Throughout the years, folk lore has created many stories, but no one really knows why she stood waving by the harbor for so long. Some have said that she was waiting for the return of her lost love.

While we were on River Street, we met up with Annette Girard a former VGEM resident who had joined some of us for a very short visit. (Shown on page 40) I was hoping that we could have spent more time with her. It was certainly great to see her again.

That evening, a few of us took a walk through the streets and squares of beautiful Savannah where we found ourselves at Chippewa square. The square was named in honor of the American victory in the Battle of Chippewa during the War of 1812. Chippewa Square is where Forrest Gump's bench was placed during the filming of the popular movie. Donna Lichtenwalner, Joanne Zink, Kathleen McGroarty and I took photos while sitting on a bench which was in the same location as the one that Tom Hanks sat on with his box of chocolates while waiting for a bus. Yes it's true, "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you are going to get".



*Sitting on Forrest Gump's Bench in Chippewa Square  
Jeannie, Kathleen Joanne & Donna*

We also discovered the location of Savannah's Monterey Square, which is widely considered Savannah's most picturesque square. The stately Mercer House which was the setting for John Berendt's book entitled *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* is located on this square. Another interesting fact is that Johnny Mercer, who died in the mid 70's and wrote many of the great songs that we still enjoy today, never lived in that home. His great grandfather did. Our

delightful walk through this lovely historic city was most interesting and enchanting.

After spending another night in Savannah and having a wonderful breakfast we set out for a 90 minute tour in an Old Town Trolley through the historic district of the city. We again spent the afternoon on River Street



*Old Towne Trolley*

where we celebrated Lynnda Golin's birthday. After dinner, our Lynnda had the pleasure of posing with a picture of Paula Deen!

Savannah is known as the most haunted city in the United States. Later on that evening, a few of us decided to check out that fact and go on a ghost bus tour and visit the city's haunted houses where we watched for "orbs" in the dark dank basements. Orbs,

as we were informed, are spirits that are known to dwell in certain places and can be seen in the photos taken in pitch dark rooms. As the lights were shut off, I took several photographs but not one "orb" was spotted in the picture. I am delighted to report that we did not see or bring any of the so called orbs home with us although I have not checked out this information

with Kathleen McGeehin, Diane



*Jeannie Eckard with Johnny Mercer for lunch and shopping. That evening, we had a delightful buffet dinner at Paula Deen's Lady and her Sons Restaurant*



*Oops, that's not Lynnda!*



*Front: Marcey Gelman, Regina Yuppa & Carol Moderski. Top: Jeannie Eckard & Lois Hern*

Gottman, Beverly Sinou, Lois Hearn, Marcy Gelman or Regina Yuppa!! In conclusion, if ever you see white spots in your photographs, those are just not any old spots – they are those annoying ghostly orbs from Savannah, Georgia!



On Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, we said a reluctant goodbye to Savannah and arrived in Charleston, South Carolina at 1:45 PM. Upon our arrival, we were dropped off at the Market Place for lunch and some shopping before having an overview tour of Charleston's historic district. It is hard to believe that this beautiful and quaint old city was once in ruin after the Civil War.

After checking into our hotel rooms, we enjoyed dinner at Charleston Crab House ending another fun filled and interesting day. The next morning we went to Middleton Place, one of the grandest gardens and plantations of its day that has welcomed and enchanted visitors from all over the world since 1741.



*Donna Lichtenwalner, Ann & Don Cheatle, Kathy McGroaty, Joanne Zink and Suzanne Ritter*

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century a direct descendant of Henry Middleton, J.J. Pringle Smith, inherited Middleton Place with his bride and spent many years restoring and enhancing the gardens. Before that time Middleton Place had been neglected following the Civil War and the great earthquake of 1886.

Acres of rolling terraces, ornamental ponds, garden rooms and stable yards were laid out with precision. Middleton Place has survived wars, earthquakes, hurricanes and financial crises over the last 270 years. When Sherman's troops came through Charleston



*A group at the Middleton Plantation*

burning everything in their path, Middleton Plantation was spared because of the quick wits of a residing physician who hung a quarantine sign on the door declaring that the residents within had yellow fever resulting in Sherman withdrawing his troops, hence saving Middleton from becoming lost to an inferno. The tour of the gorgeous gardens, mansion, museum and farm was wonderful. One could almost hear the voice of Scarlett calling for Rhett at her beloved Tara.

Our next stop was to the Magnolia Plantations for a tour of the estate and a tram tour of the gardens. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, stately Magnolia Plantation has been the ancestral home of the Drayton family since 1676. Today, the plantation is home to the eleventh generation of Draytons. Over seventy acres of gardens grace the estate, making Magnolia the oldest major public garden in America and also the oldest plantation on the Ashley River.



*And now at the Magnolia Plantation*

Sadly, the weather did not cooperate as it was a bit chilly with rain. Most of the magnolias had not opened because of the late spring and chilly temperatures but we enjoyed ourselves just as well. We were happy to be in



*Kathy McGeehin & Beverly Sinou pose with a new wooden acquaintance*

the tram as we watched the live alligators in the wild along the banks of the river.

That night we enjoyed a delightful dinner cruise with entertainment and a view of Fort Sumter from the ship. A group of us entertained ourselves above deck as we emulated Kate from Titanic. Kathy McGeehin won hands down for the best dramatic performance of Kate. We all had lots of laughs on our last night in Charleston.

The next morning we packed up and headed for an overnight stay at the Wyndham in beautiful Glen Allen, Virginia where our Regina entertained herself with a dolphin and Terry Giannetti gave us a private tour through an azalea garden.



*Regina and dolphin. Wasn't Leonardo more entertaining on the Transatlantic cruise?*



*Meanwhile Terry Giannetti conducts a two-dimensional tour of the azalea garden*

The next morning we headed for our last stop in Oxon Hill, Maryland for three hours of shopping and lunch. We arrived back at the Village Grande safe and sound filled with wonderful memories of an enchanting and interesting trip.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Selma Rosenblum and Kathy McGeehin for their excellent job of making this trip so enjoyable and such a big a success. Great job ladies!!



*The trip planners par excellence Selma Rosenblum & Kathy McGeehin*



*Former VGEM Garden Club leader and resident, Annette DiPietrae Girard, visits her former Club members in Savannah. Joanne & Jeannie on her right and Donna on her left.*





*The group at the Wyndham Hotel in Glen Ellen, VA*



*Bill & Terry Giannetti, Regina Yuppa & Jeannie*



*On the plantation Joyce Johnson, Diane Gottman, Shirley Oliver, Irene Schaeffer, Lynnda Golin, Selma's friend Gloria Schriver and Selma Rosenblum*



*Joanne Zink, Susan Ritter, Kathleen McGroarty & Donna Lichtenwalner*



*Irene Schaeffer & Diane Gottman are enjoying the bus ride*

# Poolside Grille

## What's on Deck?

### The pool deck that is!

By Jim Lichtenwalner

The exciting new *Poolside Grille* had its “Grande” Opening on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 with over 80 members of the VGEM family attending. After four fantastic years, the Bocce Grille has transformed into the *Poolside Grille*. Dennis and Marsha Goldman are hosting the Wednesday night cookout and along with dozens of other volunteers. The *Poolside Grille* promises to keep the best features from the past and add some new exciting twists. Come join your friends & neighbors at one of the most popular events at VGEM – “No Cook Wednesday”. Let our volunteers serve you as you mix and mingle on the Pool Deck.



*Men of the Grill! Jim Cira, Mike Segal and “Host” Dennis Godberg as Jim LoBue overses the operation.*



*Staffing the cashier's table are Janice Wiener, Pam LoBue and Marcie Goldman*

With the pool repairs completed, the *Poolside Grille* will be open every Wednesday through Sept. 9, 2015 from 5 PM to 7 PM, weather permitting. The standard menu includes hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chicken, snacks, ice cream and assorted drinks. In addition Special features will be rolled out each week. The first week featured an Italian theme with meatball subs smothered in marinara and mozzarella. Week 2 headed west and featured BBQ style chicken and chuck wagon beans, along with Sauerkraut for those German Cowboys.



## Enjoying the Poolside Grille



*Rosemary & John Murtha with Annette & Will Black*



*Irene Schaffer, Selma Rosenblum and Mike Segal*

# Poolside Grille



## Poolside Grille Menu

Dietz & Watson All Beef Hot Dogs -----	\$1.50
1/3 LB Premium Hamburger -----	\$2.50
With Cheese -----	\$3.00
Grilled BBQ Chicken Sandwich -----	\$3.00
With Cheese -----	\$3.50
Soft Drinks/Bottled Water -----	\$1.00
Snacks -----	\$0.75
Frozen Candy Bar -----	\$1.00
Ice Cream -----	\$1.50

### Meal Deals

Hot Dog, Snack & Beverage -----	\$3.00
Hamburger, Snack & Beverage -----	\$4.00
With Cheese -----	\$4.50
BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Snack & Beverage---	\$4.50
With Cheese -----	\$5.00

Keep your eyes open & check your Email for weekly details. It is always fun featuring tasty and reasonably priced food with your neighbors.



# Men's Club

By Herb Moskowitz



On Friday, June 26th, The VGEM Men's Club had their monthly meeting at the Golden Coral on our new day, Friday. **All future meetings will now be held the LAST FRIDAY of each month at 9:00AM in the Golden Coral restaurant in Harbor Square, formerly the Shore Mall.**

The EHT Police Department spoke to the group on "The Police and Policing of Our Township". It was a very informative presentation by Chief of Police Raymond Davis, Captain Steinman and Lieutenant Marc Romantino.

Our guest speaker for Friday, July 31st, will be James J. "Sonny" McCullough, Mayor of EHT. The Mayor will discuss matters regarding EHT and answer our questions.

The Men's Club welcomes and encourages all male residents to come out and join us for breakfast and friendship. It is a great way to meet all your neighbors, both old and new! For information and any questions you may have, call Herb Moskowitz, 365-2329.

# The Singles Club

By Dolores Magara, Club Captain

The Singles Club met for brunch at the Smithville Inn in April with 17 attending. It was a delightful luncheon with many shopping at Smithville afterwards. This year we have been to The Rams Head Inn during Restaurant Week, Careme's at ACCC, and other local restaurants. The Club will begin a new calendar in September.



Joan Serembus & Joyce Murphy




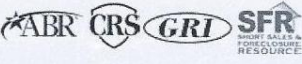
Ceila Silva, Kathleen McGroarty, Diane Gottman, Evelyn Ziarkowski & Irene Schaeffer



Audrey Kafman, Marcy Gelman, Regina Yuppa & Shiela Solomon



Kathleen McGroarty, Beverly Sinou & Evelyn Ziarkowski


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# KENTUCKY DERBY Party

By Jeannie Eckard

And they're off.... Another successful Kentucky Derby Party hosted by Aggie Henry and me, Jeannie Eckard, along with other Social Committee members Barbara Anne Villon, Bonnie Carluccio, Marcy Gelman and Regina Yuppa. A special thank you to the many others who pitched in to help make this year's party a success.

The occasion was a covered dish affair with a fantastic array of delicious foods brought in by our own VGEM's great cooks. Great fun was had by the contestants in a racing game in which Aggie oversaw that were almost as exciting as the Kentucky Derby race!

My thanks to all of the lovely ladies who took the time to adorn themselves in their finest hats for this special Kentucky Derby Tradition. It was a tough selection but the audience selected Ginny Sayegh for first, Alisa Sayegh for second and Sue Wildes for the third place winner. Congratulations ladies, you looked gorgeous!



VGEM's big winners were Aggie Henry, Richard Johnson and Marlene Santucci. Congratulations!

A special thank you goes out to all of you who took the time to stay a little longer after the party to help with the clean up.

Hope to see everyone back for the 142<sup>nd</sup> "Run for the Roses"!



The Winners. Ginny Sayegh, Alisa Sayegh and Sue Wildes



American Pharaoh was the winning horse with Firing Line and Dartmund coming in second and third.



CHURCHILL DOWNS



*Is Aggie collecting "Green Forms" for the Landscaping Committee?*



*John, isn't bourbon for the Kentucky Derby?*

# *Tense moments watching the Derby!*



## *The VGEM Derby*



*The contestants, Michae David-Wilson, BA Villion, Joy Evans, Bonnie Carluccio & John Murtha, line-up for instructions from Racemaster Aggie Henry*



*The racers are off and running...*



*... the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat...*

# *It's Always "Sonny" in EHT*

## **Corrections from Bill McCullough**

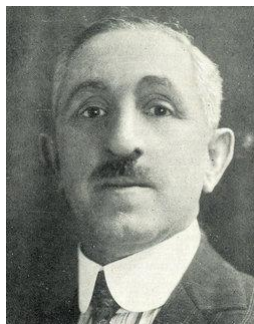
*By Tom Santucci*

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Marlene and I went to the "Grand Opening" of the *Flat Stone Tavern & Grill* (formerly the Berkshire Grill). The restaurant has been fully refurbished and is really a great looking place with a lovely ambiance. It was a gala affair complete with bagpipe band and attended by many local celebrities. Among them was the EHT Mayor Sonny McCullough whom I had the opportunity to meet. In the course of our conversation he asked where I lived. I mentioned that our VGEM newsletter had an article about him and his family.



*Mayor McCullough*

The Mayor Anthony Ruffu married his brother-in-law's (Antonio Siracusa) sister Maria Siracusa. Antonio was married to Lucy Ruffu the Mayor's sister. When Mayor Ruffu was killed in the accident he was with three other family members: his sister Lillian Ruffu Wiley, her husband John and his sister-in-law Margaret Pepper Siracusa.



*Mayor Ruffu*

William Ruffu, the car dealer, was the Mayor's son. Actually Bill McCullough's grandmother, Marie Ruffu McFarland, William's sister, owned Ruffu Sales and sold it to her brother who renamed it Ruffu Ford. The McCulloughs are also related to the Previtis who owned restaurants and food /meat markets.

As per Bill McCullough's request, I am sending a copy of this Gazette.

# *What's in a Name?*

*By Sydney Yacovelli*

Have you ever wondered how things and places get there name? I have. An example is Birdseye frozen vegetables. Well, there really was a Mr. Birdseye, Clarence Frank Birdseye, born 1886. He is known to be the founder of the modern frozen food industry.

If you look at the history of almost anything, you find a real person at the beginning of it all. That's exactly what I found when I became curious about the founding of our neighboring city of Longport, where as a young adult I spent most of my summers. Well, lo and behold, in 1857 an Arkansas native named James Long purchased what was then known as Lot 32 for \$2,000.

James Long never visited his land or developed it in the 25 years that he owned Lot 32. But it was a good investment as it did appreciate in value and size over



time. The Lot 32 increased by almost a mile due to accumulated sand moved from Atlantic City's beach by the ocean. In 1882, Long sold Lot 32 to a friend from Philadelphia, a lawyer, developer and builder, named

M. Simpson McCullough for \$150,000. McCullough honored his friend by naming the narrow strip of beach front property referred to as Lot 32 "Longport".

However, what comes in, also goes away. In 1900 and in 1916 two big storms hit the Atlantic coast barrier islands and managed to move permanently about 250 acres of



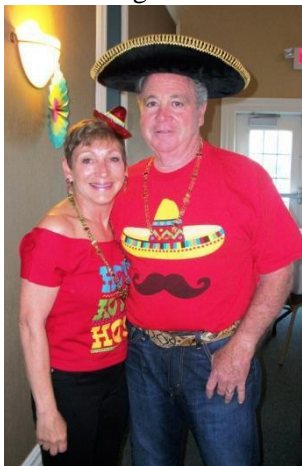
Longport across the Great Egg Harbor Inlet to enlarge Ocean City. You may have noticed that Longport starts with 11 Avenue instead of First Avenue. Those missing ten blocks helped to created the land on which is built what is now known as "Ocean City Gardens". Shortly after the storms McCullough began to sell off the remaining land in fear that Mother Nature would also take the remaining part of his investment.





*By Chick Sinagria*

We celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a festive party held, of course, on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Since it was our first time trying this celebration, we let our caterer, *Golden Corral*, guide us with the menu. They made some special items for us and the selection was very well received. The Committee decorated the room in very bright colors and hand made the paper flowers used as centerpieces. Ninety some people signed up to attend and appeared to have had a great time.



*DJs Aggie & Jim Henry*

Aggie Henry, while being the disc jockey along with her husband Jim, taught her beginner and intermediate line dance class students a special dance which was performed to a song appropriately named “*Cinco de Mayo*”. Approximately 20 dancers participated to the delight of their audience. Many of the attendees wore Mexican garb, including sombreros and mustaches, or dressed in really bright colors as in keeping with the theme.



*Event Co-chairs Bonnie Carluccio & Regina Yuppa with seated Chicki Sinagria who Co-Chairs the Social Committee with Regina*

of Jeannie Eckard, Kathleen McGroarty, Bill Giannetti, Joan Viventi and Chicki Sinagria. The room was set up by Bill Giannetti, Rich Johnson, Ray Viventi and Joe Carluccio. As always, much thanks goes out to all who helped with the cleanup and breaking down of the room.



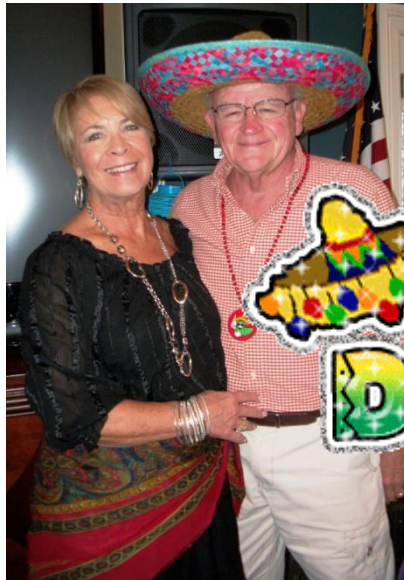
*The “Conco de Mayo” Dance*

Special thanks to the Co-chairs of the event, Regina Yuppa and Bonnie Carluccio. Their committee consisted





*Sombreros Rule! Kathleen & Jim Cira on left and Marlene & Tom Santucci*



**HAPPY  
CINCO  
DE MAYO**



*Thanks to Jeannie Eckard and Lou Golin for these pictures and many others!*

*And a couple of mustaches too! Marcy Gelman & Lou Golin... Although Marcy may not be pleased with this picture.*



*A much better picture of Marcy with Irene Schaeffer*



*Joan Hofmann, Mel Goldberg and Joan's husband Bill*

**CINCO DE MAYO**



*Plenty of delicious Mexican food catered by Golden Coral!*



*Floyd Milhan with "Pony Corona" & Peggy*



*Larry & Sue Levy*



*"Chica bonita"  
Selma Rosenblum*



*Linda & Bill Oberman,  
Marjorie Darcy and  
Rosemarie Sheehan*



*Jaon Viventi & Jeannie Eckard*



© Can Stock Photo - csp24054406



*Men & Lena Goldberg*

# Somers Point Beach Concert Series

## 23 RD ANNUAL SOMERS POINT BEACH CONCERT SERIES - SUMMER 2015

Concerts are held at The William Morrow Beach / Municipal Beach Park, Located Between Higbee And New Jersey Aves On Bay Ave in Somers Point. Free shows Fridays Start At 7PM, From The Second Friday In June Until The First Friday in September. Hosted By: The Somers Point Recreation Department.

**June 12 Swift Technique** ~ Funky Philly Jammin' Brass Band with a New Orleans Flair

**June 19** Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine presents the **Dave Fields NY Allstars** with Guest Star **Blues Divas Sari Schorr & Nikki Armstrong**

**June 26** George Porter Jr & the Runnin' Partners ~ World famous Bassist, Founding Member of the Meters & New Orleans Offbeat Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Funky R&B

### SOMER OF LOVE WOODSTOCK WEEKEND

**July 3 The 'Bob Campanell Band** ~ Hippie Songs of the '60's and Classic Rock of the '70's

**SPECIAL SATURDAY 4TH OF JULY FESTIVAL SHOW 6PM START Celebrate Levon & the Hawks at Tony Mart's in '65**

**July 4 The Dan Burke Band** ~Tribute to Bob Dylan & THE BAND plus Americana Music Favorites  
Hawkins Road Tribute to Santana & Crosby, Stills and Nash plus Country Music Favorites

**July 10 The Jeremiah Hunter Band** ~ Party Dance Sounds from Original Members of the Soul Survivors & Fullhouse

**July 17 The Kinsey Report** ~ Staring Donald Kinsey, guitarist & producer with Bob Marley & Peter Tosh Reggae, Caribbean Funk, Chicago R&B

**July 24** Grammy Winning Rock 'n Roll Hall of Famer **Vini " Mad Dog" Lopez & Billy Walton Band**; Springsteen's Original Drummer with our favorite Jersey Shore Rock Guitar Hero; Tribute to Springsteen, Southside Johnny and Jersey Shore Rock 'n Roll!!

**July 31** Five Time Grammy nominated, Multi BMA award winning, Member of Louisiana Music Hall of Fame ~ **Kenny Neal & his Band** ~ World Class Louisiana Music Performer

**August 7** World Renown Roots Rockin' Singer Songwriter ~ **Coco Montoya and his Band** ~ Acclaimed Guitarist who replaced Eric Clapton in John Havel's Blues Breakers

**August 14** International BMA Winning Singer/Songwriter ~ **Jumpin' Johnny Sansone & his Band**; New Orleans Rhythm and Blues, Louisiana Ballads, Cajun Rock 'n Roll

**August 21 Rick Estrlin & the Nightcats** ~ 2013 BMA & Alternate Roots Music Award winning Swing Blues Headliners

**August 28** International BMA Song of the Year and Best Producer Award Winner ~ **Mike Zita & the Wheel** with BMA Winning **Saxophone** Player, **Jimmy Carpenter** ~ Hot Young Emerging Roots Rockers

**Sept 4 The Tony Mart Allstars** " Funkin' with the Beatles" Tribute Show plus **Dr. Bobby Fingers** Sing-a-long Dance Party

**Sept 11 The SOS Band Tribute to " Chicago"** ~ 2 hours of your favorite songs from one of America's most beloved Big Bands

**ALL CONCERTS 7 TO 9:30PM**  
**(EXCEPT SPECIAL Saturday, July 4th Festival @ 6PM)**



**Billy Walton**

**Billy Walton**  
**Son-in-Law of Valerie & Bill Smith**  
**207 Lily Road**

# RHYTHM *in the* PARK

## 2015 | SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

FRIDAYS • 7pm-9pm

- June 26** **MOVE! The Band**  
A hot collection of swing, soul, Motown and contemporary
- July 10** **Juicy**  
Hits from 50's to Today
- July 17** **Alligator Zydeco**  
Happy, High Energy Musical Gumbo
- July 24** **The Rubber Souls**  
Beatles tribute band
- July 31** **CCC Jazz Band and Wind Symphony**
- August 7** **The Rhythm Wranglers**  
Five piece Band featuring New and Classic Country Songs
- August 14** **Tidal Wave Band**  
South Jersey's Favorite Party Band
- August 21** **The Nostalgix**  
Vocal harmonies from the 50's, 60's, and 70's
- August 28** **Billy Walton Band**  
A mix of rock, blues and soul



## ★ UNDER THE STARS MOVIE NIGHTS

**SATURDAYS** - activities begin at 7pm,  
Movies begin at approximately 8pm

- July 11** **Frozen**  
Featuring a special appearance, sing-a-longs, and face painting!
- August 15** **Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**  
Food Truck Night, Come Join us for dinner before the movie!



Egg Harbor Township  
[www.ehtgov.org](http://www.ehtgov.org)

**TONY CANALE PARK AMPHITHEATER**  
off Dogwood Avenue  
**FREE ADMISSION**



Canceled in case of Inclement Weather

Weather info:  
EHT Parks & Rec



or call  
609-926-4000  
press 1, press 2,  
press 1

Alcoholic beverages not permitted

### GOLD SPONSORS



### SILVER SPONSORS

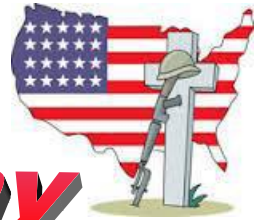


### BRONZE SPONSORS

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- All About Eyes Optometry
- AtlantiCare
- Atlantic County Utilities Authority
- Cape Bank
- Linwood Care Center
- Old Cape Recycling
- Passion Vines
- Pollstina & Associates
- South Jersey Federal Credit Union

# Memorial Day

# Wreath Ceremony



## Annual Ceremony Honors Veterans

By Lou Golin, Captain - VGEM Veterans Club

Memorial Day 2015, *The Village Grand at English Mill Legion of Honor* conducted ceremonies to pay tribute to our comrades who were lost during combat. This is the day that our vets renewed their commitment to never forget their comrades' ultimate sacrifice.



The Ceremony began as the veterans from the Legion of Honor presented arms as the flag was lowered to Half Mast. Board of Trustee members, Jim Roche and Sam Salierno placed a wreath to honor all the fallen veterans. The beautiful wreath was donated by the Garden Club and will remain in place until July 4<sup>th</sup>.



# God BLESS AMERICA



*Veterans awaiting the ceremony. Frank Luisi, Larry Hughes, Jack Williamson and Jim Roche*



*Lou Golin presides as Trustees Jim Roche and Sam Salierno lay wreath at the base of the flagpole*

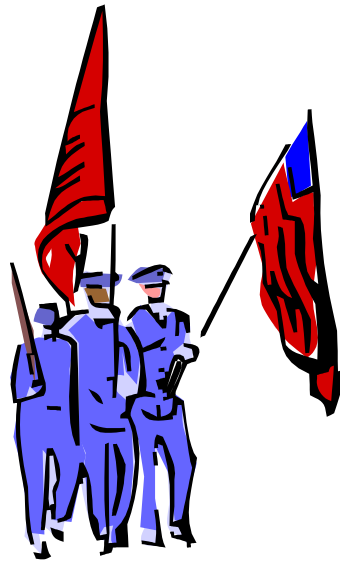
## MEMORIAL DAY 2015

Those present convened into the Clubhouse. Over 75 attendees were on hand for the continuance of the celebration. After The Pledge of Allegiance, a beautiful rendering of our National Anthem was sung by, Morgan Murphy, the talented granddaughter of Audrey Kaufman, a member of our Community



*Morgan Murphy sings the National Anthem*

Honorably discharged veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces were then introduced to the gathering. Those in attendance were invited to share the names of their military colleagues who had paid the Ultimate Sacrifice for their country.



*Audrey Kaufman is beaming with pride*

Refreshments were served, and enjoyed by all. Our thanks to our volunteers for helping our veterans commemorate this very special occasion.





## ***A VETERAN'S LIFE***

*From Art Richman*

How would you like an opportunity to do an audio recording of your life in the military? The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center of the the Library of Congress wants to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The authorizing legislation ([Public Law 106-380](#)), sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton, and Steny Hoyer in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel in the U.S. Senate, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000.

AARP is the founding corporate sponsor of the Veterans History Project. In addition to providing initial major funding for the Project, AARP also spread the

word to its legion of volunteers and almost 37 million members, encouraging them to get involved. Numerous state chapters have also been involved in the Project.

Locally the Veterans History Project to record the military experiences of U.S. Veterans is being recorded at an Egg Harbor Township church. The recording can include:

- Family detail; where and when you were born. Information about parents and siblings.
- Early days of service. Drafted or Enlisted; boot camp; specialized training, etc.
- Service. Where, any action witnessed, friendships, recreation, etc.
- Coming Home
- Life after the service. Reflections on your experience.

How do you arrange for this great opportunity? Call the Atlantic County Historical Society at (609) 927-5217 on Wednesday through Saturday from 10AM to 3:30PM. They will make an appointment for you to sit down with a volunteer who will facilitate the audio recording. Your information must be at least 30 minutes in length and is very easy to do. Once the information has been digitized, you will receive a CD. It will also be available online. Your family, friends and future generations will be able to listen to you tell the story of your military life. You can also search for friends from your unit and listen to their stories.

For detailed information, go online to [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets) where a Veterans History Project brochure is also available to print. If you have any questions, please call me, Art Richman, at (609) 788-4638.



### ***Answers from Quiz on page 23***

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



# Spotlight On An Author

Featuring Carol Fragale Brill

By Pat Roche

Welcome to my Spotlight Column! Instead of a *Village Grande Neighbor*, I would like to introduce you to Carol Fragale Brill. Carol graciously offered to entertain us in April when our “Book Bunch” hosted our very first “Meet the Author” event. Last summer Brenda Fishman told me about two books written by a local author that she thought we might want to read in our Club. She had recently met Carol at a book signing and thought they would be a natural fit for us. The titles were intriguing “*Cape Maybe*” and “*Peace by Piece*.” As we are always thinking of new ideas for the Club, Ann Cheatle and I approached Carol and were delighted when she agreed to meet with us sometime in the spring.



Carol, wearing white, is kneeling among the Book Bunch

Carol’s bio is extensive. She received her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing from Fairleigh Dickenson, was first runner-up in the 2010 Maureen Egan Writers Exchange and is the author of a number of short stories and essays as well as articles on the craft of writing. Her fiction received recognition from *Poets and Writers* and was a reader’s favorite for *The Best of Philadelphia Stories*. Her works have also appeared in *The Press of Atlantic City*, *New York Journal of Books* and other publications.

For her presentation at VGEM, we decided to read “*Peace by Piece*” which is set in a fictional town located in the direction of Margate. We met on April 20<sup>th</sup> in the Clubhouse library and living room. After some lengthy and thought provoking questions, Carol discussed different styles of writing, e.g., how a particular theme might be decided upon and how a character is fleshed out. Most important, of course, was the plot! In “*Peace by Piece*”, we were introduced to love in many different

forms, i.e., friendship, family, unshakeable first love and the tender love between a single woman and a motherless child. All who attended agreed that it was a good read and a stimulating, informative, fun meeting that, hopefully, we can repeat in the future.

I would be remiss if I neglected to mention that when we first met Carol she was just finishing radiation for breast cancer. When she was first diagnosed, she realized that she had a choice, “let the dread disease consume me or one day at a time choose hope.” With the support of family and friends and many prayers, today Carol is back “on the road” visiting book clubs and passing on her very positive attitude to those she meets. We are so glad she chose hope! Carol is available to do book/author talks and signings for community groups, libraries, etc. To schedule a talk, visit or just to chat will Carol, her email is [carolfragalebrill@comcast.net](mailto:carolfragalebrill@comcast.net).

Since we purchased about 15 copies of “*Peace by Piece*” we will be able to circulate the book throughout the community to any interested neighbors. Please contact Ann or me if you would like to borrow a copy.

I cannot resist adding a bit of levity to my columns. This advice is from one of my canine friends, “wag more, bark less”. I love it!!



## BOOK BUNCH Schedule 2015

- September 28 “*The Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter, Book 1, The Tale of Hill Top Farm*” by Susan Wittig Albert - Donna Lichtenwalner
- October 19 “*Marley and Me*” by John Grogan - Catherine Hughes
- November 16 “*The Girl on the Train*” by Paula Hawkins – Ann Cheatle
- December 14 “*The Christmas Cookie Club*” by Ann Perlman - This will be a short book discussion and then a holiday cookie sharing.



All Meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7 PM  
Except in September on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the Month

# Happy Birthday!

*July*

*August*

*September*

Phil Eberhard	7/2	Kathie Perfetti	8/1	Marie Arleth	9/1
Joan Wren	7/2	David Riggins	8/1	Lynne Atkinson	9/1
Marion Riviello	7/3	Jim Fallon	8/2	Brenda Fishman	9/3
Shelly Bernstein	7/6	John DaPrato	8/3	Larry Levy	9/5
Kathleen Cira	7/6	Connie DaPrato	8/4	Diane Lojewski	9/5
Barbara McGee	7/6	Karen Tardif	8/6	Sybil Lazowick	9/5
Donald Fogel	7/7	Mary Laielli	8/7	Julie McGeehin	9/5
Bill Smith	7/7	Patricia DiFiore	8/9	Dot Silipgini	9/5
Stephanie Cavacini	7/9	Ed Zink	8/9	Celeste Cianci	9/6
Carol Leidy	7/10	Leslie Gross	8/11	Olga Rivera	9/6
Marcy Gelman	7/11	Andy McGowan	8/12	Janyce Leeds	9/7
Bill Hughes	7/11	Glenda Werleman	8/12	Ray Viventi	9/7
Jim Gay	7/12	Olga Matus	8/13	Gerry Baressi	9/8
Jim O'Callaghan	7/12	James Coover	8/15	Lynne Varallo	9/8
Diane Segal	7/12	Ralph Carbone	8/15	Al Macini	9/8
Peggy Cappuccio	7/13	Herb Green	8/15	Barbara Green	9/9
Bill Giannetti	7/15	Kathleen Melini	8/18	Linda Oberman	9/9
Mary Moskovitz	7/16	Kathy Sorrell	8/18	Ceil Silva	9/9
Charles Steiner	7/16	John Horter	8/20	Doug Groff	9/10
Gina D'Annunzio	7/17	Barry Kurman	8/22	Judy Grier	9/11
Frank Luisi	7/17	Howard Solomon	8/24	Joan Serembus	9/14
Eunice Williamson	7/18	Jane Williamson	8/25	Albert DiMatteo	9/15
Bob Kardon	7/19	Gayle Ware	8/26	Terry Stevens	9/15
David Keyes	7/19	Alex Polazneck	8/27	Elaine Stapler	9/15
Ed Leichner	7/21	Steve Weiner	8/28	Janet Bauer	9/17
Debra Louis	7/24	Lou Esposito	8/30	Joyce Conley	9/19
Bill Reed	7/24	Meili Peng	8/30	Sandy Kurman	9/19
Sandy Farbman	7/25			Elizabeth Strouse	9/20
John Murtha	7/25			Doug Beaupit	9/21
Alan Oliver	7/25			Catherine Hughes	9/22
Regina Yuppa	7/25			Todd Mitrushi	9/24
Abe Greenbaum	7/27			Irene Schaeffer	9/25
Gary Schumacher	7/27			Peggy Pill	9/25
Angela Mastrangelo	7/29			Lorraine Ciambrone	9/28
Sam Salierno	7/31			Mickey England	9/28
				Gloria Moyer	9/28
				Bruce Weaknect	9/28
				Ron Cefalone	9/29
				Charles Christy	9/29
				Gerald Montagano	9/29
				Dominic Mastrangelo	9/30



Happy Birthday!

# Happy Anniversary!

## July

Jim & Arlene Berg	7/11
Barry & Sandy Kurman	7/15
Jim & Aggie Henry	7/13
Sam & Linda Salierno	7/16
Tim & Stephanie Cavacini	7/22
Dominic & Anglea Mastrangelo	7/23
Doug & Barbara Groff	7/24

## August

Bob & Jeanette Kardon	8/5
CP & Kathie Perfetti	8/9
Ralph & Barbara Carbone	8/9
Donald & Ann Cheatle	8/14
Tom & Marlene Santucci	8/22
Larry & Catherine Hughes	8/26
Howard & Shirley Bernstein	8/30
Dan & Sandy Farbman	8/31
James & Marie Marini	8/31



## September

Jim & Judy Gay	9/2
Peter & Judy Tiano	9/3
Marcia Goldman & Sheila Solomon	9/8
Joe & Bonnie Carluccio	9/8
Ron & Chris Boyle	9/9
Jim & Carolyn O'Callaghan	9/10
Joe & Lynne Smith	9/11
Bill & Linda Oberman	9/12
Bob & Elissa Rifkin	9/13
Bill & Kathy Reed	9/17
Rich & Rosemarie Sheehan	9/18
Randy & Colleen Krehel	9/21
Mike & Diane Segal	9/25
Doug & Marguerite Beaupit	9/26
Bill & Valerie Smith	9/27
Welmin & Meili Peng	9/28
Bruce & Olga Matus	9/30



# *Massive Outdoor Pool Leak Fixed*

## **What Happened? Why?**

*By Tom Santucci and Kate Walton*

At the end of summer 2014, Vassir Pools notified the HOA of a slow leak at the outdoor pool. The site of the leak was not identified and no work was begun. The pool was closed September 14, 2014 and fully winterized by Vassir Pools with no further explanation to the HOA regarding the pool having a slow leak.

The Board was not satisfied with Vassir Pools and issued a "Request for Proposal" to several pool companies including Vassir. Three pool service companies replied and were interviewed to provide pool services including maintenance, repairs and life guards. At each company's interview, they were informed of the leak in the outdoor pool as well as the indoor pool and that these leaks had to be repaired. This did not deter the three pool companies from bidding on the RFP. At the December 1, 2014 HOA Board meeting, a motion was made and unanimously passed to award a one year contract to Sparkling Pool Services, Inc. who began servicing VGEM on January 1, 2015. In addition, the Board unanimously approved hiring Frank Canale as an independent consultant on pool mechanics.

During March, the pool cover was removed. By April, the Board became concerned that Sparkling had not yet taken any action to investigate the pool leak. After numerous emails to Sparkling Pool, they finally responded on April 24, 2015 by sending the Board a proposal for a leakalyzer tested dated April 19, 2015. The proposal was signed the following day and sent to Sparkling approving the leakalyzer test. Then over a month passed before the leakalyzer test was performed on May 22, 2015. The results confirmed a pipe leak but did not locate or quantify the amount of water leaking.

By this time, the leak had increased with the pool level dropping up to 3 to 4 inches every evening and required increasing amounts of water to refill the pool. The full magnitude of this leak was to become apparent on the May 27, 2015 New Jersey American Water Bill for the Clubhouse and pools water use. More on this bill will follow later in the article. .

Concurrent with losing water, the pool was having other problems. On Saturday, May 23 of the Memorial Day Weekend, the pool was scheduled to open but the water has become green and cloudy. With a temporary fix, the water cleared and the pool opened. The explanation was that the leak required additional water that diluted the chemicals needed to keep the water clear.

As a result of the leakalyzer test, Sparkling Pool sent a proposal to the Board on May 25<sup>th</sup> that a pressure test

was needed on the pipe lines to determine the site and degree of the water leak. The Board immediately signed the proposal that was returned to Sparkling Pool the following morning. Sparkling Pool advised the Board that it would take several days to gather the equipment to do the test.

On May 29 and 30, the pool water again became cloudy and green. Trustees Sam Salierno and Pam LoBue were not pleased with the explanation and action taken by Sparkling Pool. Early on Saturday morning, May 30<sup>th</sup>, Frank Canale, VGEM's independent pool consultant, was called by Pam LoBue He arrived within the hour to access the situation. When Frank Canale had questions on the prior management and other aspects of the pool, Pam called John Withers who had been a former Vassir pool operator. He responded promptly to provide Canale with the information he needed and Withers also offered his own opinion. The conclusion was that there was a major problem that needed more action than being provided by Sparkling Pools. The pool was closed that Saturday through June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Since VGEM was under contract to Sparkling Pool, Pam sought immediate legal advice on the poor response time and actions by Sparkling. Our HOA attorney, David Dahan, was called on his personal cell phone by mid-morning that Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. By Saturday evening, David Dahan had considered the situation and reviewed the contract with Sparkling Pool. He advised the Board to give Sparkling Pool 30 days to fix the problem or be at risk for a breach of contract suit.

On May 27, the above mentioned NJ American Water bill was received with astonishing information. Table 1 compares the water bill for the same period of time between 2014 and 2015.

**Table 1. Comparison Water - 2014 and 2015**

Billing Period	Duration (Days)	Total Water Used in gal	Cost (in \$)
4/16-5/14/2014	29 days	36,000	\$327
4/17-5/15/2015	29 days	398,000	\$2,647

The magnitude of the problem became quite apparent by the amount of water required to replace the water lost by the pool leak. For this period of time in 2014, we used 1% of the water used in 2015. Based on the same 29 days, the daily water usage in 2014 was 1,241 gal/day that in 2015 had increased to 13,724 gal/day.

Where did all that water go? How severe was the damage to the pool pipes that could result in the loss of this much water? How severe was the damage of this draining water to the underpinnings of the pool, pool decking and surrounding ground? Were we at risk for a major sinkhole? The problem had to be identified and fixed before we had more serious damage that threatened

our Community. Action was imperative, and as described, the Board responded promptly and decisively.

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, three men from Sparkling Pool dye tested and pressure tested 116 skimmer lines and 4 main drains. This pressure testing was done with sounding equipment that is actually sonar devices. The leaks location was identified and through an available access, Sparkling discovered that the original inflatable plug supplied by D.R. Horton was only 10 inches in diameter and should have had a 12 inch diameter.

At the HOA Board Meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, Pam addressed the severity of the pool problem and that the full magnitude was still under investigation. Her impression was that it would be a major problem and costly to repair. Jim Roche endorsed this opinion by emphasizing that a leak causing the pool level to drop 4 to 8 inches nightly had to be large and require a major fix. The water usage in Table 1 substantiates his statement.

By this time, John Cox, the Vice President of Sparkling Pool, had assumed full responsibility for managing and repairing our pool problem. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, John Cox held a video conference with the HOA Board and Kate Walton to discuss his June 3<sup>rd</sup> proposal and plan of action to fully identify and repair the leak. The Board signed his \$3,789.02 proposal to purchase and install the 12 inch inflatable plug and then perform a variety of procedures to pressurize the entire suction side of the system to enable the use of underground leak detection equipment to locate the position of the pipe leak and repair affected pipe. This would involve excavation and backfill of the disturbed area.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, the pool was closed and Sparkling began construction by breaking into the cement pool decking to gain access to the balance pipe. The pipe was then pressurized and a geyser of water burst from the hole and a broken pipe was revealed. With this discovery, the Board requested an emergency site inspection be performed by Falcon Engineering.



On June 11, Matt Grobert, R.S, Senior Project Manager of Falcon Engineering performed a detailed site inspection to determine the reason for the pipe breaking. He issued his report to the Board on June 12, 2015. Included in his proposal was that more extensive

work was needed to repair the problem.

On June 13, John Cox of Sparkling Pool prepared a proposal to repair the problem at a basic cost of \$32,850 that was presented to the Board on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The Contract also included additional notes and costs that

would be over and above the \$32,850 that were unavailable to determine at the time of the proposal such as additional shoring DGA stone, removal and disposal of any fill, fence removal and re-installation, damage to landscaping due to heavy equipment, piping/tees/bushing, cost for more than three days requiring heavy equipment and uncertainties associated with the scope of excavation and amount of fill required. After thorough review by the Board and with input from Falcon Engineering, it was approved and signed on June 15, 2015.

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, the project began with Snyder Fence removing five lengths of fence to allow the heavy equipment access to the worksite. By this point, we had the attention of top leadership from both Sparkling Pool and Falcon Engineering. John Cox, Vice President of Sparkling Pool, was onsite to supervise the work.

Robert Pisano, P.E., Falcon Engineering Regional Vice President, was also here to perform his own onsite inspection. This was reported to the Board on June 23<sup>rd</sup> as a revision to Falcon's June 12<sup>th</sup> report.



On June 17<sup>th</sup> with John Cox onsite, Ocean Construction, a Sparkling subcontractor, began the excavation process. The following day, three men from Sparkling had done plumbing that was not satisfactory to Falcon Engineering and Sparkling

VP John Cox. On June 19, John Cox and his teamed worked from 8 AM until 6:15 PM and redid the pipe work. Falcon was contacted multiple times and the plan was modified. Parts were ordered to meet the standards imposed by Falcon Engineering.



On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, John Cox and his Sparkling team were onsite. Additional excavating was done by Ocean Construction and additional fill removed. Sparkling completed the pipe repairs on June 24 and Ocean started backfilling. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the backfill and tamping was

completed and concrete was poured to restore the pool decking. On June 26<sup>th</sup>, Snyder re-installed the fence and the project was completed.

All the work by Sparkling Pool and its subcontractor, Ocean Construction, was done under the direction of their Vice President John Cox and fully complied with the quality standards imposed by Falcon Engineering and their Regional VP Robert Pisano. On Saturday, June 26, the pool reopened just 17 days after the heavy construction work had begun.

#### **Cause of Leaking Pipes:**

When the leak was identified, the Board immediately sought a reason for this break by calling in Falcon Engineering for a site visit. Falcon performed an extensive and detailed on site inspection of the leak in the main piping system for the outdoor pool. Falcon issued its report with conclusions to the Board.



In addition, Sparkling Pool Services, Inc. has submitted several reports to the Board regarding the results of their testing and inspection of the entire pool system. In one of these reports, John Cox, their Vice President of Operations, provided his determination for the cause of the break in the pipe.

D.R. Horton contacted Main Line Commercial Pools who had constructed the pool. On June 12, 2015, Michael Grimes of Main Line Commercial Pools along with John Thompson, D.R. Horton site manager, performed a site visit at the request of the VGEM Board of Trustees. Main Line Pools denies any responsibility for the damage to the pipes. D.R Horton claims a similar lack of responsibility for the problem.

The reports of both Falcon Engineering and Sparkling Pool provided indisputable evidence to the contrary. The excerpts from each of their reports conclude that faulty installation of the pool caused the pipes to break.

Falcon Engineering states that, *“Based on our observations, it appears that the upper six inch branch pipe had settled significantly due to improper compaction of the surrounding fill, which if properly compacted would support the pipe and prevent it from settling as it has.”* Their conclusion goes on to describe the dynamics of how the improper compaction caused the pipe to break.

The Sparkling Pool report also concludes the damage was the result of improper installation as well as rebukes the possibility that this damage resulted from improper winterization. The Sparkling report states *“...we determined that this break was not caused by improper winterization or freeze damage. Freeze*

*damage is evidenced by spiral breaks, spider web like breaks, and damage that resembles shattered glass. Furthermore, we have determined that the cause of the pipe failure is downward force on the branch of the gutter line caused by improper compaction of the fill material below the pipe. This improper compaction of the fill material is evidenced in two ways. First, the downward force on the branch of the gutter line caused the pipe to sink, thus causing stress at the spigot side of the bushing. This caused the failure at the top of the bushing. This would only be possible if the gutter line pipe was not supported properly. Secondly, an inspection of the area under the deck shows a gap below the concrete deck. The fill material is no longer supporting the deck. This gap between the top of the fill and the bottom of the pool deck is approximately 1-4” in the surrounding area”.*

Both reports provide photographic documentation of the findings supporting their conclusion that the damage resulted from improper installation during the construction of the pool. These reports will be invaluable to the HOA going into transition and any litigation to determine culpability for the pool damages and the cost of repairs.

#### **Financial Implication to VGEM**

The total cost of the project is \$55,000 and payment is the responsibility of VGEM. Pam is optimistic that the cost of this project will be entirely borne by HOA accounts without the need for a special assessment of the homeowners. This is providing there are no new unexpected financial crises or a December blizzard(s).

The HOA has set aside funds to deal with unexpected financial emergencies such as deferred maintenance, reserve funds and other accounts relating to the repair that may enable the HOA to collate the \$55,000 to pay for the cost of the pool repairs. To decide how best to accomplish this, the Board is seeking counsel on how from the VGEM auditor, the HOA attorney, DiLucia Management Co. and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. After deliberation, the Board will announce its decision on how this will be accomplished.

#### **Status of the Pool**

The pool leak has been repaired in a high quality manner that should prevent such problems from recurring in the future. There are still other problems that need attention such as the backflow/filtering system and the indoor pool leak. At this time, the backflow/filtering system is not thought to be a major problem of anywhere near the magnitude of the pool leak. The leak of the indoor pool will be another major topic at transition.

## Recovering Cost of Pool Leak Repairs

Both the leaks of the indoor and outdoor pool will be major topics on the agenda at transition as well as well as the potential for future litigation. Time will tell!



*The pool is ready for summer!*

## **THANK YOU CAROLYN WALMSLEY**

*By Pam LoBue*

As Carolyn Walmsley prepares to move to Texas to be near her family, I wish to express sincere thankfulness to Carolyn for the outstanding leadership she gave to the Landscape Committee. Carolyn chaired this Committee since its inception and was the moving force behind our landscaping protocols. Carolyn and her late husband, John, spent thousands of hours educating themselves on the landscaping and irrigation needs of this Community.

They spear-headed the investigation into irrigation wells, interviewed well companies and kept impeccable records on water usage. Carolyn worked diligently with her Committee to ensure that our properties were well kept, and she always kept the Board well informed.

The words "Thank you" just don't seem enough, but rest assured that these words are conveyed by a grateful Board and Community. Ray Viventi will step up and lead the Landscape Committee into the future, but Carolyn's influence will go with him. Carolyn, although you will be far away from us, please remember all the friends you will always have at VGEM. We wish you happiness and God's speed in your new home.

## **Board Organizes for 2015-2016 Includes Electing Officers and Appointing Committees**

*By Tom Santucci*

The traditional organizational meeting of a new Board was held on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Betty Alberts attended her first meeting as a Trustee that was also on the first day of her two-year term on the Board. The Board appreciates and salutes her for her willingness to step forward and be elected to serve the Community as a Trustee. We all wish that her term as a Trustee be productive in maintaining and improving the quality of life in VGEM. Good luck!

At the same time, Pam LoBue begins her fourth term as a Trustee and we all anticipate that she will continue her extraordinary and noteworthy service to VGEM. Both Betty and Pam were duly sworn in as Members of the VGEM Board of Trustees serving a two-year term from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

This was followed by the Board having its second election of its officers. The first was July 1, 2014 following the "transition election" that increased the number of resident Trustees from two to four positions on the Board. The fifth Trustee remains a representative of the developer which is ably filled by D.R. Horton's Vice President, Todd Greene. Following nominations that were duly seconded, the Board re-elected Pam to her second term as President. The Board officers for 2015-2016 are:

- President - Pam LoBue
- Vice-President - Jim Roche
- Secretary - Betty Alberts
- Treasurer - Sam Salierno



The Board then proceeded to discussing the matter of re-organization for the upcoming year. Within this discussion, Betty Alberts voiced her concern that the Gazette should remain a printed bimonthly newsletter. Pam and the returning members of the Board explained the reason why the Gazettes had to be changed to a quarterly online publication.

With VGEM having not renewed its contract with Senior Publishing Co. (SPC), the fate of the Residents Directory was in limbo. Last year, then Trustee, Jim Lichtenwalner had voiced his recommendation that the Residents Directory should be an online document that would be readily updateable so that residents would have easy access to a current directory. With the *Grande Gazette* ending their contract with Senior Publishing and moving to an online-only version, the publisher will no longer print our directory. With that being the case, the Board has decided to go with an online version for both the Gazette and the Resident Directory. Therefore, it was no longer necessary for a resident volunteer to be burdened to maintain this information. The Community Manager will be maintaining the database and publishing an electronic version quarterly. As with the

Gazette, residents without online access will be able to purchase a paper copy of the Residents Directory from the Community Manager for \$5.

The Board sent a letter to Mary Moskovitz and thanked her for her years of volunteer service to the Community with regard to the compiling and publishing the Residents Directory. The Board thanks and commends Mary for the enormous number of hours she spent producing five Directories that have been an invaluable tool to so many of our homeowners. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

The Board reviewed the Community Interest Applications submitted by VGEM residents and appointed members on the thirteen VGEM Committees assigned a Board Liaison. It is still a work in progress and the listing below is subject to change.

### ***VGEM Committee Appointments for July 2015 through June 2016***

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Committee Chairperson(s) &amp; Members</b>	<b>Liaison</b>
<b>ADC</b>	<b>Chair: Carolyn O'Callahan</b> - Brenda Fishman, Lou Golin, Joe Varallo, Jim Walsh	Jim Roche
<b>Architectural Control</b>	<b>Chair: TBD</b> - Jim Berg, Doug Groff, Dan Montagna, Marlene Santucci, David VanZant, Judy Grier, Jim Harnett, Shirley Oliver, Ken Tardiff	Sam Salierno
<b>Election</b>	<b>Chair: Tom Santucci</b> - Lynnda Golin, Annette Scaricamazza, Jim Walsh	Pam LoBue
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Chair: Don Cheattle</b> - Howard Bernstein, Dan Farbman, Terry Giannetti, Joe Leeds, Art Richman, Tom Santucci	Sam Salierno
<b>GLC</b>	<b>Chair: John DaPrato</b> - Ron Capasso, Lou Golin, Herb Moskovitz, Warren Wiener	Betty Alberts
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>Chair: Ray Viventi</b> Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, Jim Harnett, Bill Hofmann, Kathy McGeehin, Fred Moderski, Kathleen Sorrell, Ken Tardiff, Joan Viventi	Pam LoBue
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Chair: Jim Cira</b> - Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, Abe Greenbaum, Don Hinspeter, Bill Hofmann (HVAC), Joe Lees (Electrical), Jim LoBue, Tony Morris, Ken Tardiff	Sam Salierno
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	<b>Chair: Don Mastrangelo</b> - Tony Scaricamazza, Bill Hofmann, Bill Polko, Bonnie Carluccio, Ed Zink, Fred Moderski, Herb Moskovitz, Jim Cira, Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, John Murtha, Steve Cappadona, Dan Montagna, Alan Hearn, Richard Johnson, Shirley Lerner	Sam Salierno
<b>Newsletter/ Grande Gazette</b>	<b>Editor: Tom Santucci</b> - Tony Scaricamazza, Sydney Yacovelli, Jeannie Eckard, Brenda Fishman, Bill Giambatista, Carol & Fred Moderski, Mary Moskovitz, Pat Roche, Marlene Santucci, Annette Scaricamazza, Barbara & Jim Walsh	Pam LoBue
<b>Rules</b>	<b>Chair: TBD</b> - Bill Giannetti, Dennis Goldberg, Marcie Goldman, Lynnda Golin, Dianne Gottman, Judy Grier, Dan Montagna, Pat Roche, Theresa Stevens	Jim Roche
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>Chair: TBD</b> - Doug Beaupit, Marguerite Beaupit, Kathleen Cira, Marsha Goldberg, Diane Gottman, Mary Moskovitz, Rosemary Murtha, Pat Roche, Anita Wenzke	Betty Alberts
<b>Social</b>	<b>Co-chairs: Chicki Sinagria &amp; Regina Yuppa</b> - Bonnie Carluccio, Jeannie Eckard, Marcy Gelman, Pat Gentile, Bill Giannetti, Marsha Goldberg, Aggie Henry, Ginny Holt, Dolores Magara, Kathleen McGroarty, Sue Paulu, Marlene Santucci, Sheila Solomon, Kathleen Sorrell, BA Villon, Joan Viventi, Anita Wenzke,	Betty Alberts
<b>Transition</b>	<b>Chair: Jerry Bernstein</b> - Joe Carluccio, Jim Cira, Lou Golin, Jim Harnett, Art Richman, Kathleen Sorrell, Sue Paulu, Warren Wiener	Jim Roche

**ADC - Alternative Dispute Committee**

**GLC - Government Liaison Committee**



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