

Online Quarterly

Grande Gazette

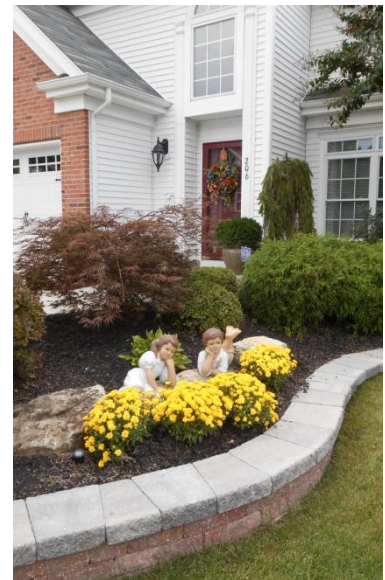
The Village Grande at English Mill

Volume 6 - Issue 6

October/November/December 2015



Vote on November 3rd!



VILLAGE GRANDE AT ENGLISH MILL

1 Village Grande Road; Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Clubhouse Hours: 5 AM - Midnight

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- 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.

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From the Editor...

By Tom Santucci

VGEM has been a very busy place since the last issue. The HOA Board meeting on September 8th was full of very significant material. President Pam LoBue was deeply concerned by several false rumors and mean spirited innuendos circulating around the Community. Pam took the time to discuss these concerns in detail and the Gazette reported on them in kind. This is the lengthiest article ever published in the Gazette.

The Government Liaison Committee wants us to be well informed about the candidates in the November 3rd local election. On September 15th, State Assembly and EHT Committee candidates visited our Clubhouse to a SRO audience of over 200 people with full press coverage. Introducing us to the candidate was the obvious purpose but the GLC had a much greater dual mission. The first was for the candidates to appreciate that we have the potential to be a meaningful political force. The second was for the two "Villages" to realize that we have the potential political clout to influence the outcome of local elections. The articles on the first Candidates Night are informative reading for all the Villages' residents. The take home message to me is for this political clout to be actualized requires that we ALL VOTE! The SRO crowd will mean little to the candidates if we have a poor turnout at the polls. You can be sure that their political strategists will be watching with interest as to whether we really want to be counted by how many of us vote!

There is an interest among residents to resume a printed Gazette. I presented an estimate on how a 40- to 50-page Gazette could be funded by a \$1 per month increase in each home's HOA fee. A show of hands at the Board meeting revealed that this was favored by a substantial majority. Last week, the Board directed the Election Committee to prepare a referendum vote to determine whether or not the homeowners will support a \$1 per month increase in their HOA fees to fund a printed Gazette.

This Gazette contains interesting and/or informative articles relating to sports, safety, helpful hints, your neighbors interests and activities such as classic cars, a birdhouse builder, bocce, pickleball and more. "*It Takes a Village*", written by a former resident, is a heartfelt and enlightening article that is well worth reading.

I close with a most important request, please get your annual flu vaccine. You don't want to become a statistic from a preventable disease that is most deadly in an aging population. Be wise and immunize!... it is a bit trite sounding but not a trite topic! A flu vaccine clinic will be held in the Clubhouse on October 6 between noon and 2 PM.

VGEM HOA Board Meeting

June 1, 2015

By Tom Santucci

This article is an overview report of the September 8, 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.

Manager's Report: Due to the resignation of a Trustee, the Board has reorganized by electing the following officers:

- President: Pam LoBue
- Vice-President: Jim Roche
- Secretary: Betty Alberts
- Treasurer: TBA

Kate Walton then reported on the bank account balances as of September 8, 2015.

- Operating Account - Univest Bank - \$157,812.99
- Capital Reserves - Merrill Lynch - \$363,128.16
- Other Reserves for working capital and maintenance - Merrill Lynch - \$225,821.47
- Reserve CDs - California First Bank - \$40,000

The remainder of Kate's report appears in her "From the Community Manager" article on page 13 of this Gazette. Please take the time to read her informative article.

D.R. Horton Report: As of September 8, 2015, Todd Greene reported 334 homes have been sold and 18 homes are under contract. Assuming that all contracts go to settlement, there are 45 homes to sell before the VGEM project of 397 homes is completed. Currently, D.R. Horton is selling approximately three homes per month. Todd Greene estimates that it will probably be another year before the project is completed.

President's Report: Pam LoBue stated that the Board has regrettably accepted the resignation of Sam

Salierno. His letter indicated personal reasons for his resignation. He further asked that the Board respect his privacy and this will be done. Pam personally and publically thanked Sam for his service to our Community. She said that Sam was an excellent Board member who worked very hard for this community especially this summer doing the pool problem and as her parliamentarian. Pam said that she will miss him and appreciates all that he has done.

The VGEM documents call for the Board to appoint a replacement for the remainder of Sam's term that expires on June 30, 2016. The Board encourages interested homeowners to submit a letter of interest to the Community Manager by September 30, 2015. The Board will vote to determine who will be appointed to fill the remainder of the term.

Pam stated there were some difficult things to discuss. Recently, there have been some very nasty rumors and innuendos recently circulating around the Community.

One of these is that the Board does not allocate funds properly. This is absolutely untrue. In order for the HOA to function or do business in a timely manner, the Board takes roll call votes at their Workshop meetings. The results are permanently records. Then at the quarterly meetings, the Board publically votes again so that you can hear how each trustee voted. To say that the Board is not handling the Community money appropriately is at the very least insulting. In her six years on the Board, the Trustees have never been accused of any improprieties.

If there were any further questions, Pam requested Bill Traylor, CFO of DiLucia Management, be in attendance to answer them. None were asked.

VGEM is governed by specific HOA law. It is different from municipal and civil law. It is specific to HOAs. The VGEM HOA operates under those laws. The Board is advised by our attorney who is an expert in HOA law, our accountant/auditor and our management company. This is how VGEM's Board has functioned since day one when the first resident Trustees were elected to the HOA Board. Given the structure of HOA governance, Pam thinks how ridiculous it is for a rumor, such as the Board does not allocate funds properly, can be spread around the Community.

Another rumor is that the Board refused to put the snow removal contract out for bid. This is not true. In June, the Board met and decided not to put the snow removal contract out for bid and renew Shore Point. What happened is that some time later, she was approached by several members of the Landscape Committee who asked if a "Request For Proposal" (RFP) for snow removal could be sent out to a contractor they knew. Pam took this back to the Board and this RFP was approved. This is a matter of record. Later, Kate was



approached by a third contractor and the Board approved a RFP for snow removal.

On August 23, the Board met with Shore Point to negotiate and requested that they submit a proposal for both a one and two year contract. Rumor has it that a contract was signed with Shore Point on August 23rd. This is untrue. To date, the Board has not received an RFP from any of the three contractors; so how could one possibly be appointed?

During these discussion, Pam repeated several times that it is not fun to be the victim of untrue, hurtful, demoralizing and just downright nasty rumors and innuendos. She asked that individuals who have an interest in serving on the Board should not be deterred by this. Rumors that circulate about put an air of suspicion on the Board and are unfair and unjust. She does not want anyone who is even considering coming on to this Board to think that the rest of the Board members are going to sit there and let you take that abuse. We are all for one here and we're all for you.

At the last HOA Quarterly Board meeting, there was a parliamentary mistake for which Pam takes full blame. With time passing during new business, Pam took it on herself to move the meeting along and made a resolution and, then when there was no action in a reasonable length of time, she moved that it be accepted. This is in non-compliance with Robert's Rules of Order. Sam pointed this out at the next Board Workshop. Pam learned that this mistake upset some residents. She acknowledges her mistake, has learned from it and assured us that it will not happen again.

There is also a hullabaloo about legal fees. On each annual budget, there is a line item for legal expenses. For 2015, legal expenses were budgeted at \$3,000. This Board is elected to enforce the documents that you bought your home under. Pam said that it does not matter whether she agrees with the rules or not, she has an ethical responsibility to represent the homeowners and enforce the document. We have spent over \$13,000 defending the documents on the flag pole issue. This is at a cost of over \$40 per household on this single issue. The flag pole request was voted on four times and turned down each time. The Board was not going to change the rule. It was turned down twice by the Architectural Control Committee. It went to the VGEM Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in mediation and turned down. It went back to the ADR in arbitration and again turned down. Full due process was given that resident.

With the confirmation that the pool damages resulted from its improper installation during its initial construction, the Board is planning to take legal action against D.R. Horton and Mainline Pools requiring an attorney. The HOA also had to defend ourselves against BMI licensing company to be able to play music in the Clubhouse for which legal representation was needed.

When homeowners do not pay their fees, legal representation is required to put these residents into collection. To date, VGEM has incurred about \$20,000 in legal fees this year.

Presently, there are four homes in foreclosure. One of these homes has never paid a nickel and that home was built and closed in 2006 so you can imagine the thousands of dollars that home owes the HOA. The other homes went into foreclosure later but still owe thousands of dollars. A few years ago, the Board decided that every other year it would pay the landscaper \$250 per home to clean up their mulch beds. The HOA must also pay to maintain their lawns and for snow removal as an aesthetic responsibility. This money spent will never be recovered.

The HOA must be prudent with spending \$250 to clean-up the mulch beds and decided that every other year would be sufficient. Well, 20 Poppy Road is one of the homes that has never been occupied. Despite having been cleaned up last year, its mulch bed looked terrible this year and caused neighbors to complain. As Board Liaison to the Landscaping Committee, Pam brought up this problem to the Committee. After explaining the reason why the Board decided on paying \$250 to clean the foundation gardens every other year, five members of the Landscaping Committee stepped forward and volunteered to clean up the mulch beds at both 20 Poppy Road and 304 Sunflower Road. Pam praised these five people for taking their own time and energy because they care about the appearance of our Community. Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, Bill Hofmann, Kathy Sorrell and Joan Viventi cleaned those two yards. Later in the meeting, the Board formally recognized their contribution to the Community by reading a letter of commendation and presented it to Ray Viventi, Landscape Committee Chairperson. The letter expressed the Board's sincere gratitude towards these individuals. It stated that their "efforts have saved the Community from expensing the irrecoverable funds to hire a landscaper to maintain these properties". Pam called this the epitome of caring about your community.

A home on Marigold Circle is going to short sale and the bank finally cleaned up the property. A home on Sunflower Road was cleaned by the landscaper since it wasn't cleaned last year and was due this year.

Pam reported on another uncomfortable situation that occurred by the pool. Cushions are being removed from the white PVC chairs and put on the chaise lounges. When the cushion is removed from the white chair, it becomes unusable without damaging the chair. Three chairs became unusable because the platform ripped. Jim LoBue identified the ripped platform and with Ruth VanZant, they hand sewed the ripped chair platforms. They saw a problem and simply fixed it... another example of volunteerism at its finest.

Before Labor Day, email and telephone messages were done to request cooperation on not removing chair cushions to chaise lounges. Unfortunately, the individual who moved the cushion to the chaise lounge ignored the announcement and was abusive to the lifeguard and many residents who asked her to put the cushion back on the chair so that it could be used for seating by others. The offending individual refused their request in a manner that was unacceptable behavior. Since the announcement was ignored, the owner of that home will be receiving a formal complaint from the HOA telling them if this type of unacceptable behavior continues, for each incident, there will be a \$50 fine

Pam also stated that the lifeguard is responsible for enforcing the pool rules. Unfortunately, some residents become abusive when the lifeguards do their job of maintaining the pool rules. The lifeguard has the right to eject person(s) from the pool area. If an individual refuses to leave the pool, the lifeguard is instructed to call the EHT Police to remove the offending individual. Such offenses are subject to fines being imposed by the HOA.

Pam continued her theme of recognizing civic minded people. The Garden Club graciously offered to decorate the front entrance for the fall season. They are doing this on their own time and with Club money. They are also undertaking a beautification of the Poppy Road entrance. The Club has given a great deal of time in planning this project under the direction of the Club Captain Donna Lichtenwalner. On behalf of the Community, Pam thanked the Garden Club for their ongoing efforts to improve the aesthetics of our Community.



Pool Repairs: The total cost for the outdoor pool repairs was \$59,000 including tax. The Board has the authority to determine which lines from our budget are going to be used to pay this expense. The Board is looking at two particular lines of money.

One would be the *Replacement Reserve Account* where there is a line for the pool decking. The Board is considering applying \$10,000 from that account toward the total pool repairs. The other account is *Deferred Maintenance* from which the remainder may be taken.

The final decision on which lines to use will not be made until December when we are ready to send our paperwork in for the audit. We are going to look at all the lines because we may have other lines like water, etc. to determine if we have money left over to apply to the pool repairs. Pam assured the homeowners that there are

funds available to pay for the pool repairs and there will be no assessment.

Vice President's Report: **Jim Roche** stated that there was little to be added to Pam's comprehensive report. He would have more to say with the Rules Committee Report.

Secretary's Report: **Betty Alberts** said that the situation at the pool has been well covered. It is not going to be tolerated and is unacceptable behavior. The Board has taken the appropriate action and, hopefully, the person or persons will cease and desist.

New Business - Motions for roll call vote of the Board by Kate Walton.

- **MOTION: To amend the Trash section of the Community Rules.** Passed 4 - 0. The approved Trash Section motion appears in its entirety in the HOA Supplement on page 10 of this Gazette.
- **MOTION: To adopt a Voicemail and Email Announcement Policy.** Passed 4 - 0. The approved Voice and Email Announcement Policy appears in its entirety in the Supplement on page 11 of this Gazette.
- **MOTION: To approve the 2015-2016 Committee Chairpersons.** Passed 4 - 0. The Chairperson list appears on page 2 of this Gazette and the complete membership of each committee is on page 12.
- **MOTION: To approve settlement agreement between The Village Grande at English Mill vs. Wentworth Property Management Corporation n/k/a First Service Residential New Jersey for a total sum of \$6,500 to be paid by Wentworth.** Passed 4 - 0.

EXPLANATION from Pam LoBue: VGEM's first management company wrote all the checks for the Community as D.R. Horton controlled three of the five Board seats. In 2010, the Board decided to replace Wentworth. On the audit, then Board members, Art Richman and Pam LoBue, learned that Wentworth had written a \$4,000 check to pay for the Community Manager's vacation and would not refund the money. The VGEM HOA initiated a law suit against Wentworth. It was difficult to find an attorney without a conflict of interest with Wentworth. Pam and Art found a lawyer who accepted the case on a \$1,200 retainer.

With the case on the docket for mid-May 2015, the Board received a call from the attorney on May 7th that he had just been appointed to the Gloucester County Supreme Court and could no longer handle the case. He would not return the retainer saying that it covered the cost for the hours that he had worked on the case.

Our attorney, David Dahan of Hyland Levin LLP in Marlton, NJ, could not take the case if it went to trial due to a conflict with Wentworth. However, he

offered to negotiate a settlement with Wentworth. After refusing several offers from Wentworth, the Board agreed to a settlement of \$6,500. This essential was a break even settlement that covered our legal expenses and recovered the disputed \$4,000 vacation pay.

- **MOTION: To deny residency of a 48 year old potential buyer.** Passes 3 - 0 with Todd abstaining.

EXPLANATION by Pam: VGEM frequently gets request from real estate agents to sell homes to individuals who are under 55 years of age. Exceptions have been made on some cases; e.g., a person turning 55 within 5 months of the purchase, the owner over 55 years old dies and his spouse is under 55. By law, up to 20% of an over 55 community can be residents under 55 years of age. In this case, the potential buyer was only 48 years old and the Board felt this was pushing it too far.

As the D.R. Norton representative to the Board, Todd abstained because he has a different view of the statute. He explained that he usually votes with the majority but in this case choose to abstain knowing the vote would be carried by the resident Trustees.

- **MOTION: To approve the charter for Government Liaison Committee:** Passed 3 - 0 with Jim Roche abstaining. A homeowner, Audrey Kaufman, questioned Jim Roche as to why he abstained. Jim replied that he abstained because he objects to the language requiring members behave in a specified way. He believes such language is insulting to responsible individuals. Further, such defining of individual behavior should not be included in the text of any committee charter. The full text of the GLC appears on page 11 of this Gazette.
- **MOTION: To hire Outdoor Décor to weed 125 Snowdrop, a property in foreclosure.** Passed 4 - 0
- **MOTION: To approve proposal for \$2,300 to hire Sparkling Pools to continue leak detection in Indoor Spa.** Passed 4 - 0
- **MOTION: To approve the Garden Club's proposal for them to provide materials and labor to decorate and maintain the front entrance as it pertains to Fall Decorations.** Passed 4 - 0.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance Committee** - Don Cheatle presented the Finance Committee report on VGEM revenue to expense, surplus, zero balance, legal expenses, bad debts service, etc. We are currently running very close to the budget when compared with previous years. Within a month, DiLucia Management will submit a proposed budget for 2016 to the Finance Committee who will begin meeting to finalize the 2016 Budget for presentation to the Board. For the

details of Don Cheatle's report, see the Finance Committee Report on page 16 of this Gazette.

- **Government Liaison Committee (GLC)** - John



John DaPrato

DaPrato announced their sponsored upcoming events. The first is a Candidates Night on September 15th at 6:30 PM that will be for VGEM residents to question the four Assembly Candidates and the four candidates for the EHT Committee. Besides VGEM homeowners, the GLC has

extended an invitation to VGLM to attend. A full house will demonstrate that the "Village Grandes" are a political force to be reckoned with in local elections.

On October 15 at 6:30 PM, the GLC is sponsoring a Candidates Night for those seeking office in the EHT School Board Election. Future announcements will be forthcoming as the event approaches. The GLC wants a full house at the meeting and encourages all to attend.

The GLC is planning a Home Fire Safety Program in the Clubhouse by the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) for later in September or October. When the date is confirmed, it will be announced via phone, email and Clubhouse flyer. BVFD will be again offering to replace smoke detector batteries in November with the date TBA.

The Board has received noise complaints regarding the EHT HS Band. GLC members Herb Moskovitz and Don Capasso have met with the EHT School Superintendent, Dr. Scott McCartney, to seek a solution. Dr. McCartney will give this consideration after he meets with the Band Director and the Athletic Director. The GLC asks that residents do not send letters to or try to meet with EHT school officials. Please let the GLC represent the Community regarding this matter.

Herb Moskovitz has three smoke detectors for the hearing impaired available at no cost to residents. Those interested should contact Herb directly.

For more detailed information, see John DaPrato GLC Report on page 16 in this Gazette.

- **Grande Gazette** - Tom Santucci reports that overall the Online Gazette was well received although many miss the printed version. At the Pre- Board meeting of the chairpersons on August 31st, he floated the question about having a printed Gazette and a proposal on how to fund it. After a brief discussion, Jim Berg asked for a show of hands to learn how many Board and chairpersons present would be willing to pay a little more in HOA fees for a printed

Gazette. All but one of the 15 to 18 present raised their hand in favor of a printed Gazette funded by a \$1 per month increase in the HOA fees.

When existing circumstances required that the Gazette be an online publication, many residents still preferred holding a printed copy so a cursory investigation was undertaken on what it would cost to print the Gazette. Staples would print 350 copies of a 40-page Gazette at a cost of \$18.50 per copy. Well that wasn't possible and a Google search found a printing company that would publish 350 copies of a 40-page Gazette for less than \$3.00 per copy. It would not be a booklet version as it had been but simply 20 pages with two staples that would be acceptable. The cost for 350 copies would be \$952 per quarter or a cost of about \$3,800 per year to publish the four Gazettes. Using 325 homes, this would be just less than \$12 per home per year. This would require an increase in the HOA fee for each home of \$1 per month meaning that each quarterly issue would cost \$3.

Santucci asked for a show of hands from those who would be willing to pay an additional \$1 per month in HOA fee to receive a printed Gazette. Several people at the front table differed on how many appeared in favor of the proposal with the range being 60% to as many as 75% would favor a printed the Gazette. This was interpreted as a substantial majority. The Gazette will discuss the possibility of a referendum vote with the Board.

If the Board would contribute \$1,200, the Gazette would be a 50-page issue. At the Chairperson's meeting, the Committee/Clubs Treasurer, Dan Farbman, advised the Board that funds were definitely available in the Cape Account for such a purpose.

The Gazette seeks new people to join the Gazette to write original articles and/or report on various Community events. In addition, the Gazette needs more photographers as Jack Williamson and his staff and need help. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Tom Santucci at the Gazette email address vgem.gazette@comcast.net or by phone at 926-3691.

- **Neighborhood Watch** - Don Mastrangelo was happy to report that we had another safe and uneventful summer. This now marks the second consecutive quarter that this has occurred. Since the Enclave is growing, he has added two more volunteer Block Captains bringing the total in the Enclave to three. At this time, the Neighborhood watch has 21 volunteers but is always looking for more.

Be safe, if you see something say something! An updated copy of Block Captains was available at the

meeting and an abbreviated version appears on page 20 of this Gazette. Other related issues in this Gazette include the Neighborhood Watch Update on page 20 and the Neighborhood Watch's Holiday Advisory on page 21

Don closed his report by encouraging us to keep our homes illuminated at night as light is a strong deterrent to crime.

- **Social Committee** - Chicki Sinagria reported on the Social Committees many recent successful events that includes the Summer Holiday Breakfast, the Summer Party and the Fall Breakfast (all of which are featured in this Gazette). Upcoming events will be a Halloween Party on October 31st and the New Year's Eve Party on December 31st. In addition, the Social Committee is planning an off campus Holiday event with our sister community, VGLM. Information will be forthcoming as the event nears.
- **Clubhouse Maintenance Committee** - Jim Cira reports that Committee members Joe Carluccio, Jim LoBue and Bill Hofmann are regularly working to maintain the Clubhouse. He asked that if you notice anything that needs repair, please report to Kate Walton who will notify the Committee.



Jim Cira

- **Landscape/Irrigation Committee** - Ray Viventi, the new Chairperson, began his report by addressing the burnt out, dead lawns in Phase II. He explained that the developer uses Kentucky Bluegrass to sod the new lawns which looks green but is not appropriate in this climate plus the sod is laid on a very thin layer of topsoil that requires more irrigation. Our lawns need to be a mixture of grasses including varieties such as fescue, rye, etc. It took three years of over seeding for Phase I to replace the Kentucky Bluegrass and to have a healthy green grass mixture that is appropriate to our climate. Ray circulated numerous pictures that document the improvement in Phase I lawns.

The Phase II lawn problem was exponentially worsened by the lawns not being irrigated for up to 20 days as a result of D.R. Horton not paying the water bills. It was the VGEM Landscaping Committee that discovered the irrigation system had been shut down. It had not been noticed by the personnel from D.R. Horton and All-American Landscaping. Todd Greene reports that Horton had made a bulk payment on the water bill and that New Jersey - American Water had not credited the payment to the appropriate accounts.

Even with watering 5 days a week in Phase I, there are many lawns with tanning areas because of lack of rain and the top soil layer being so thin. Ray suggested “praying for rain”!

He reports that as of 9/8, 160 green forms have been acted upon. Those needing the attention are forwarded to Outdoor Décor.

For more details including water usage, read the Landscape/Irrigation Report written by Kathy McGeehin on page 18 of this Gazette.



Ray Viventi

- **ACC** - Jim Berg reports that the window for getting approval for exterior modifications that involve sprinklers is near closing. The reason is that once the irrigation system is turned off, such applications cannot be approved because they require functioning sprinklers for inspection. Applications for non-sprinkler modifications will still be processed; e.g., storm doors, front lights, retractable patio awnings, satellite TV dishes, etc.

It is important to understand that the ACC does not set precedent. Each property is looked at individually due to variances between properties such as lot size, swales, etc. Just because a neighbor’s property was approved for an exterior modification does not mean that yours will be for the same modification. The ACC will try to accommodate applications within the rules.

The ACC acts to serve our Community and is concerned that mulch beds are freshened annually, garage doors kept closed when not in use, etc. For a more detailed ACC report, go to page 22 in this Gazette.

- **Rules Committee** - The new Co-Chairs Lynnda Golin and Bill Giannetti deferred to Board Liaison Jim Roche to present their report. The Committee is going through reorganization that includes appointing three subcommittees, each with a specific assignment - Clubhouse rentals, pool rules and the Hold Harmless Form. The goal is to strive for a consensus of compromise that everyone can live with. For more detail see the Committees Report on page 22 of this Gazette.
- **Special Events Committee** - Co-chairs are Pat Roche and Doug Beaupit. Betty Alberts, the Board Liaison, presented the report. The Poolside Grille has been very successful with people having a great time. Much thanks to Marsha and Dennis Goldberg with all their volunteers who staged this event every

week from May 27 through September 9. This is a time consuming event and the Goldbergs deserve a lot of credit for doing it. The Committee is planning several events in 2016 of which you’ll be informed as they come due.

Committee/Clubs Treasurer’s Report - Dan Farbman informed the group that the Cape Account is being moved to the Ocean City Home Bank on Ocean Heights Road just beyond Primo’s. The reasons for making this change is three fold. First, the Cape Bank on English Creek Road is no longer functioning as a branch bank. The second is that the Ocean City Home Bank is located closer to VGEM and will be more convenient for Kate to make deposits. The third is that OC Home Bank has a better policy on signature authorization that is important with changing Board members and other authorized individuals. For the Club Treasurer’s Report, go to page 32 in this Gazette.

Public Comment: After adjournment, the floor was open to public comments which highlighted below.

- Ilene Schein, 15 Marigold Circle: Courtesy should be extended to residents so that events are not scheduled on religious holidays. The particular reference was the Candidates Night on September 15th at 6:30 PM which was on the last day of Rosh Hashanah and started before the Holiday ended at sundown.
Reply: Warren Weiner, GLC, explained that this was the only date available on the calendars of the eight candidates invited to participate in Candidates Night. Arranging a compatible time for eight campaigning politicians is extremely difficult. September 15th was the only night where they all could attend.
- Warren Weiner, 105 Snowdrop Road - Warren is calling for full house at both Candidates Nights sponsored by the GLC. Although informational, the major purpose is to have the candidates be onsite for them to appreciate that we are a meaningful electorate. To be effective, the room must be filled to capacity for the candidates to fully appreciate that we have real “political clout”. The residents of VGEM and VGLM have enough votes to influence the outcome of most, if not all, local elections. The last Assembly election was won by only about 50 votes. To paraphrase Warren Weiner’s remarks, “If we don’t show up, the candidates will know that we don’t count!” ... and that matters, really matters to them when the votes are counted, and will really matter to us when we seek consideration from the local governmental agencies.
- Chicki Sinagria, 17 Primrose Circle - Does VGEM’s trash contractor recycle? Kate will contact the contractor.

Editor's Note: The trash contract does recycle but VGEM will need to purchase an addition receptacle for recyclable trash. Kate is still awaiting a price quote from the contractor that she will submit to the Board for their consideration.

- Sheila Solomon, 360 Sunflower Drive - Questioned about potential legal issues regarding the pool repairs and the dead lawns resulting from the water bills not being paid by Horton. She specifically asked whether the \$59,000 bill for the pool repairs has been paid. The pool repair bill has been paid but the final decision on which budget lines will be charged is to be determined in December as was explained above.

Jim Roche interpreted the question as who will we sue regarding the pool repairs and the dead grass in the Enclave. Both these matters are issues for transition. This is the time that the HOA will try to recover money spent on things that D.R. Horton did not fulfill its obligation as promised in the specifications. There will be some money recovered. How much will be determined at transition.

- Anita Wenzke, 359 Sunflower Drive - Who is responsible for replacing dead curbside trees? The curbside tree was dead and then replaced last fall by D.R. Horton. The replacement tree is now dead. According to Todd Greene, this will be replaced as it is still covered under the Maintenance part of the Performance Bond as long as it is within two years of being replaced. A "brown form" for dead curbside should be completed and sent to the community manager.
- How are homeowners notified after the ACC processes their application? The homeowner is notified by the Community Manager by letter or email the day after ACC acts on their application. The duration between submitting an application and notification depends on when it is received in relation to when the ACC meets. From May through September, the ACC meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. If an application is received a day or two before the ACC meets, the applicant may be notified on the day following the meeting if an onsite inspection is not required. If an application is received a day after the ACC meets, it will be two weeks before it will be considered. Starting in October, the ACC meets once monthly on the third Wednesday.
- Audrey Kaufman, 33 Marigold Circle - Answers to three questions
 - The mulch beds at 7 Marigold are a short sale and the bank will clean its mulch beds as stated in the meeting.

- The Board will determine who will be appointed to fill the empty Trustee position by a majority vote.
- The pool lifeguard is responsible for enforcing the rules in a courteous manner and should be treated in a similar manner by all residents and their guests.
- Elizabeth Hires, 237 Lily Road - Concerned that the pool lounge chairs are inappropriate for individuals 65 years and older. She suggests that when buying pool chairs, the Board should purchase higher and age appropriate seating.
- Dead Lawns - This topic was introduced and a lively discussion ensued. The following are some of the comments made during the discussion.
 - Much of the discussion was already presented in Ray Vivent's Landscape Committee report including reference to the proper grass mixture for our climate, too thin a layer of topsoil, no irrigation resulting from unpaid water bills, etc.
 - A lengthy discussion ensued with varying and differing opinions on who was responsible for the water being shut off by New Jersey - American Water.
 - Controversy over who is responsible for the dead lawns in the Enclave - probably an issue that will only be resolved at transition.
 - Several residents in the Enclave report that the D.R. Horton Sales people said that there was a one-year warranty on their lawns. Todd Greene said that this is not the case. The lawns are exempt under the warranty. The shrubs and trees in the mulch beds do have a one year warranty.



Supplement to HOA Board Meeting

MOTION: To amend the Trash section of the Community Rules. - The following is the amended version.

Section I. Trash

Residents must place all trash, rubbish, garbage and solid waste in the green 65-gallon or 96-gallon wheeled trash container provided each Homeowner by the Township for weekly *automated* collection. All *other*

trash containers are *prohibited* by the Township because they are incompatible with *automated* collection. Township Ordinance also *prohibits* placement of black, brown, white or clear plastic trash bags at the curb because they are incompatible with *automated* collection.

Recycling is mandatory. Residents are entitled to receive one free recycling bucket per year from the Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA). Additional blue bins may be purchased from ACUA, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township.

Trash containers must be wheeled to the curb or edge of the street with the rear hinge facing the house and lid closed to prevent trash from blowing through the Community. ***DO NOT PLACE THE CONTAINER BEHIND OR NEAR A VEHICLE, MAILBOX OR TREE*** and leave at least 3 feet between the trash container and any other object (recycling bin, fire hydrant, mailbox or light pole).

Trash and recyclable containers are to be placed at the curb NO earlier than 3 p.m. the night before scheduled pickup, and must be removed and stored in the garage as soon as possible after pickup. **STORAGE OF THE TRASH CONTAINER AND RECYCLE BUCKET IS RESTRICTED TO THE GARAGE INTERIOR.**

MOTION: To adopt a Voicemail and Email Announcement Policy - The following is the new policy.

The Community Manager is permitted to announce, remind, or report on any HOA-sponsored event up to three (3) times via the Voicemail and Email Announcement system, not to exceed one (1) per week, for VGEM Board, Committee, and Club requests. These announcements should be restricted to no more than two lines.

The Community Manager is permitted to announce, remind, or report on any other event one (1) time only via the Email Announcement system.

Requestors should provide at least two (2) business days' notice via email to have an Announcement made.

The Community Manager and Board of Trustees reserve the right to edit any announcement for length and content.

VGEM

Government Liaison Committee (GLC) Charter

Mission & Goals Statement

- To advise and counsel the HOA Board of Trustees and membership on topics related to the political

- governing bodies affecting VGEM and its residents. The GLC will work to assure that the interests of VGEM and its residents are fully represented so as to protect and enhance the health, safety, pleasure and welfare of all residents and the HOA.
- In pursuit of its objectives, the GLC may seek the input of the VGEM community through surveys, meetings or any other appropriate means to determine the value, adverse impacts of and fairness of any proposed laws under consideration.

Direction & Structure

- The GLC operates under the direct supervision of the Board of Trustees and serves at its pleasure. The Chairperson is appointed by the Board of Trustees for a term of one (1) year, is preferably a year round resident, and can be re-appointed annually. The Chairperson is responsible to lead the GLC in accomplishing its mission and goals. The Chairperson (or committee person so assigned) will keep minutes of each meeting, retain a copy for committee records and within a reasonable amount of time forward a copy of such minutes to the Board of Trustees.
- The GLC will meet monthly.

Membership

- Membership in the GLC is limited to owners in good standing in the VGEM HOA. Members will be appointed by the Board of Trustees for a term of one (1) year and may be reappointed annually upon application. As committee members leave or resign, they will be replaced as needed.
- Members of the GLC will act with the utmost level of professionalism and treat all members of the VGEM community as well as all government bodies with which it interacts with respect. Members will value the input of all residents.
- Members of the GLC are not intended to be spokespersons of the VGEM HOA and will act in a nonpartisan manner at all times in performing its duties.
- Members will not, under any circumstance, extend to or receive from any public official (regardless of value) any item, object or service.

Records Maintenance: A copy of the Government Liaison Committee Charter and any changes to it shall be kept on file in the Community Manager's Office in perpetuity.

Notes:

1. A year is considered to be from July 1st to June 30th of the following year.
2. The Government Liaison Charter may be changed, revised or amended only by submitting such change in writing to the Chairperson and then approved by the sitting Board of Trustees.

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VGEM Committees
July 2015 through June 2016

Committee	Committee Chairperson(s) & Members	Liaison
ADC	Chair: Carolyn O'Callahan - Brenda Fishman, Lou Golin, Joe Varallo, Jim Walsh	Jim Roche
Architectural Control	Chair: Jim Berg - Doug Groff, Judy Grier, Dan Montagna, Shirley Oliver, Marlene Santucci, David VanZant.	Pam LoBue
Clubhouse Maintenance	Chair: Jim Cira - Bill Giannetti, Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, Abe Greenbaum, Bill Hofmann (HVAC), Joe Leeds (Electrical), Jim LoBue, Tony Morris, Ken Tardif	Pam LoBue
Community Rules	Co-Chairs: Bill Giannetti & Lynnda Golin - Doreen DeLucca, Dennis Goldberg, Marcie Goldman, Dianne Gottman, Judy Grier, Dan Montagna, Tony Morris, Mary Moskovitz, Pat Roche, Theresa Stevens	Jim Roche
Election	Chair: Tom Santucci - Lynnda Golin, Annette Scaricamazza, Jim Walsh	Pam LoBue
Finance	Chair: Don Cheatle - Howard Bernstein, Dan Farbman, Terry Giannetti, Joe Leeds, Art Richman, Tom Santucci	Jim Roche
GLC	Chair: John DaPrato - Ron Capasso, Lou Golin, Herb Moskovitz, Warren Wiener	Betty Alberts
Landscape	Chair: Ray Viventi - Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, Jim Harnett, Bill Hofmann, Kathy McGeehin, Fred Moderski., Kathy Sorrell, Ken Tardif, Joan Viventi	Pam LoBue
Neighborhood Watch	Chair: Don Mastrangelo - Administrator: Tony Scaricamazza - Steve Cappadona, Bonnie Carluccio, Joe Carluccio, Jim Cira, John DaPrato, Alan Hearn, Bill Hofmann, Richard Johnson, Shirley Lerner, Jim LoBue, Fred Moderski, Dan Montagna, John Murtha, Herb Moskovitz, Bill Polka, Ed Zink	Betty Alberts
Newsletter/ Grande Gazette	Editor: Tom Santucci -Associate Editors: 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
Special Events	Co-Chairs: Doug Beaupit, Pat Roche - Marguerite Beaupit, Kathleen Cira, Marsha & Dennis Goldberg, Diane Gottman, Mary Moskovitz, Rosemary Murtha, Anita Wenzke	Betty Alberts
Social	Co-chairs: Chicki Sinagria & Regina Yuppa -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, Barbara Anne Villon, Joan Viventi, Anita Wenzke,	Betty Alberts
Transition	Chair: Jerry Bernstein - Jim Cira, Terry Giannetti, Lou Golin, Jim Harnett, Art Richman, Kathy Sorrell, Sue Paulu, Warren Wiener	Jim Roche

ADC - Alternative Dispute Committee

GLC - Government Liaison Committee

Updated 9/15/2015

Message from the President

By Pam LoBue



As summer quickly comes to a close, the Board's attention turns to the upcoming 2016 Budget. This is a very time consuming and detailed orientated activity. Every line item in the Budget is studied, and, with the advice of the Finance Committee and Management Company, might be amended to suit the needs of the

community. The Budget will be presented at the December 2015 open HOA meeting. Many thanks, in advance, to the members of the Finance Committee for their continued service to our community. As we look back at the summer of 2015, we acknowledge that it was a difficult one. The pool repairs were at the fore front of the Board's attention. The final cost (including tax) was \$59,000!! With the advice of our management company and the Finance Committee, we expect to cover these costs by using our Deferred Maintenance Account, and possibly the Replacement Reserve Account. We have initiated legal action against D.R. Horton and Mainline Pools to recover these costs.

I regret to announce the resignation of our Board member, Sam Salierno. In his resignation letter, Sam cited personal reasons for his resignation. I personally am sorry to see Sam leave the Board. He was an excellent Board member, and always brought a laugh or two to our sometimes somber meetings! Sam will be missed. On behalf of our community and fellow Board members, I wish to sincerely thank Sam for his service to our community.

We have four homes in our community currently in foreclosure. These homes continue to have the lawns cut and snow removed at the HOA's expense. The mulch beds are not maintained, and have become unsightly. The cost to the community is \$250.00 per home to weed the beds. The Board authorizes cleaning of these beds every other year. This money will probably never be recovered as the HOA is only guaranteed six months of back fees to be collected at time of closing. Therefore, the Board tries to be prudent spending community money that will probably never be retrieved. This issue came up at a recent Landscape Committee meeting. Two of these homes were weeded by members of this committee. I want to thank the following Landscape Committee members, Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, Bill Hofmann, Kathy Sorrell, and Joan Viventi, who gave up their time and effort in community mindedness.

The third home was weeded at community expense and the fourth home was weeded by the bank in preparation for a short sale.

Recently, three pool chairs were discovered to be in need of repair. The bottom platforms that support the cushions were ripped. Ruth Van Zant and Jim LoBue hand sewed these ripped platforms.

Once again, a problem was identified and corrected by civic-minded volunteers. Many thanks to the above named residents for their time and efforts on behalf of us all. As I have said in the past, volunteers are the life blood of this community. Those of you, who are not involved in a committee, might want to consider joining one. The Board acknowledges and thanks the many volunteers who contribute to the welfare, well-being, and atmosphere of our wonderful Village Grande!



From the Community Manager

By Kate Walton



Hello VGEM residents!

Thank you all for another fantastic summer! You really showed your patience and understanding as the Board and I battled that major pool leak and corresponding pool shut-down in June. I've heard positive remarks about the Board's decision to keep the indoor pool open this summer.

I'd like to take a moment to sincerely thank Jim Lichtenwalner

and all of the *Welcome Desk* volunteers. You help me in numerous ways and I'm very grateful that it has become such a success. I suppose I would be crazy if I thought that the office traffic and duties would slow down at all – our Community is rapidly growing and just getting busier and busier. Having the *Welcome Desk* gives residents, especially our newer ones, a chance to have much more one-on-one time with a Community representative than I am currently able to give.

I'd also like to thank the wonderful Clubhouse Maintenance volunteers. It is nothing short of ideal to have things fixed around the Clubhouse often before I even know about the problem. (I wish I got that at h, ome! Ha-ha!) Not having to hire a contractor for every little thing saves me time and saves the Community so much money.

The Residents Directory is now going electronic! I will be keeping up with the information and publishing it quarterly to coincide with the *Grande Gazette*. If you are a new homeowner who wants to make sure your information was submitted or if you want to change any information that has been published in the past, please either stop by the office or fill out a copy of the Directory Update form located on the Bulletin Board by the Billiards Room at the Clubhouse. Filling out this form also ensures that you are on the email and voicemail distribution list.

Now for something near and dear to my heart... the VGEM General Complaint Form. If you have a complaint about anything – pool, communications, the cleaning service, etc. - please utilize the Complaint Form. Please try not to bother Board members at home before reaching out to your manager! I am being paid to handle all sorts of complaints! I sometimes hear, “Everyone is complaining about “*something*”, why haven’t you done anything about it?” Well in many of those situations, I haven’t yet heard a thing about it. By submitting a Complaint Form, this situation can be avoided and problems resolved in a timely and efficient manner.

The General Complaint Form is basically a “catch-all” form that is located by the Bulletin Board in the same location as the other forms, including the infamous “green form” for irrigation and landscape problems. If you fill out and sign a General Complaint Form, please deposit it in the white box by my office. Upon receiving the signed form, its receipt will be promptly acknowledged. After consideration by the appropriate Committee and/or the Board, you will get a response from either me or the Board. Following the proper procedures is a tremendous help to me in effectively and efficiently managing your Community.

Welcome Desk – It’s a Hit!

By Jim Lichtenwalner

The Welcome Desk opened on June 29, 2015 and was an immediate hit with residents as well as our Community Manager. The Welcome Desk allows residents to help fellow residents with routine tasks, find answers to questions and provide information for various community activities. This relieves the Community Manager of some of these tasks and also allows our residents to communicate among themselves, helping to foster a strong Community Spirit. Kathleen Cira, one of our volunteers observed, “It’s a really good feeling to meet our neighbors and be able to help them”. Our Community Manager, Kate Walton is pleased with the support provided by our Volunteers saying, “The Welcome Desk has been more helpful than I could have

imagined! By removing the majority of interruptions but not neglecting the homeowners’ concerns, I am able to get more work done over the course of the day. I am so thankful to the Welcome Desk volunteers!”.



Welcome Desk Volunteer, Kathleen Cira, reviews some open issues with our Manager Kate Walton.

The desk is manned weekdays by over 35 members of our VGEM Community. These volunteers have enjoyed meeting and interacting with fellow residents. We are always looking for a few more members willing to volunteer a few hours each month. If you are interested, please contact Jim Lichtenwalner at 484-225-4756 or lichtenwal@aol.com.

“fyi”

By Jim Lichtenwalner and Doug Beaupit

Over 100 members of our Community came out to hear “Everybody’s Favorite Weatherman” Dan Skeldon on June 16, 2015. Dan shared his background as well as his views on forecasting weather in South Jersey. He explained how our geographic location is a large factor in determining our weather and discussed various approaches used to forecast weather including the numerous computer models and radar. All meteorologists start with the same data and how they interpret the data is why forecasts differ. He takes great pride in his accuracy without all the hype, although he is quick to admit he is not always right. I think we all walked away with a better appreciation of the difficulty in forecasting weather.

Our July meeting featured “experts” from Verizon Wireless, who provided *Tips On Using Your Smart*

Phone. Attendees were very pleased that the “experts” took time to answer everybody’s questions

In August, Ronnie Town of Atlantic City Electric enlightened us on what Atlantic City Electric is doing to improve reliability and storm restoration. She also touched on Energy Conservation, protecting the environment, and shopping for electricity as well as updating us on the status of the purchase of Atlantic City Electric by Exelon Corp.

Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings to include:

- October 20: What you need to know before selecting your Medicare and Supplemental Insurance
- November 17: Holiday Safety
- December 15: Maintaining & Improving Your Balance
- January 16, 2016: Diet & Nutrition.

“fyi” is a club that provides speakers on a wide array of topics of interest to VGEM residents. All members of the VGEM Community are invited to attend any or all meetings. Presentations are held on the 3rd 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.

The Transition Committee

By Jerry Bernstein

The Transition Committee has had two meetings during which we reviewed many invoices paid by the HOA. From these, the Committee identified many for possible presentation to D.R. Horton at transition for reimbursement due to failure to meet the specifications and deficiencies in the quality of the developers work.

Falcon Engineering was hired by the Board to inspect VGEM and present an engineering report to prepare for the transition. The Committee is waiting for this engineering report to be completed. This report will provide important information in establishing a strategy for the transition.

The members of the Transition Committee are Jim Cira, Terry Giannetti, Lou Golin, Jim Hartnett, Art Richman, Kathy Sorrell, Sue Paulu and Warren Weiner. The Committee thanks Tony Serveld for his participation before moving from VGEM.

Upon receiving the engineers report from Falcon Engineering, the Committee's activity will significantly increase. The Committee will keep the community informed of its activity by reports at HOA Board meetings and in the Gazette.

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FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

By Don Cheatle, Chairperson



September is here. That means the Finance Committee will be receiving the August financial statements and shortly thereafter a preliminary budget forecast from DiLucia Management Co. The Finance Committee will then begin the process of preparing the 2016 budget for the Board's review.

Although it is October, the August statement from DiLucia was not available in time for the September deadline for submitting articles to the Gazette. As of July, the financial report shows a surplus (receipts exceed expenses) of \$18,750. The 2015 budget planned for a surplus of \$14,000 through the end of July.

When the budget is prepared, the Finance Committee projects the expenses expected to be incurred for the coming year. A significant amount of the expenses are based upon contracts entered into by the Board. Other expenses are variable and estimated based upon history. Once the expenses for the coming year are forecasted, the monthly association dues assessed to each homeowner is calculated to cover the forecasted expenses.

On a monthly basis there will be months when receipts exceed expenses and months when expenses exceed receipts. July and August are months where traditionally expenses will exceed the receipts because of the costs of care for the landscaping. The surplus showing in July will decline over the next four months to arrive at the breakeven point at year end.

A major expense which was not budgeted for was the repair to the pool. The cost of the pool repair will be approximately \$59,000. This cost is not included as a line item in the July financials and did not reduce the surplus mentioned above. Realizing expenses of this nature cannot be fully anticipated, the budgets have included an expense item for deferred maintenance. Annually the budgets have set aside \$25,000 into a reserve account in anticipation of major costs. These costs are considered repairs and do not fall into the category of replacement costs. The repair costs associated with the pool leakage have been charged against the deferred reserve until issues involving

ultimate responsibility for the cost of these repairs can be resolved.

There are items that do affect the monthly numbers that also bear mentioning. These include the following.

The budget includes a provision for uncollectible association dues of \$5,279 at July 31, 2015 and \$9,050 for the year. An actual bad debt provision for these doubtful collections has not been recorded in the financial statements at July 31st. Once the annual audit is completed and the Board has had a chance to determine which accounts are doubtful, a provision will need to be recorded before the end of the year.

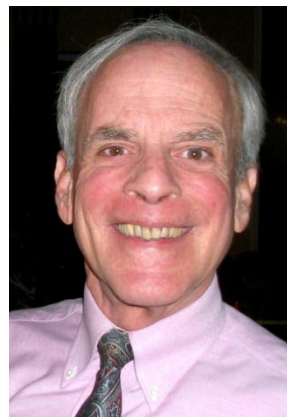
Our year to date legal fees incurred through the end of July total \$8,540. The budget provided for legal expenses of \$3,700 based upon historical results. Our legal expenses are already over budget by \$4,840; further legal expenses incurred during the year will also be unbudgeted expenses.

Actual snow removal costs are under budget by \$10,000 as of July 31st. These budgets were prepared by the Finance Committee anticipating the possibility of snow in December.

Other variances between actual and budget as of July 31st are primarily due to timing differences or have minor variances. Once August reports and future monthly reports are received they too will be reviewed to determine the reasons for any variances between the budgeted amounts and the actual amounts.

VGEM's Government Liaison Committee Report

By John DaPrato, Chairperson



Your Government Liaison Committee (GLC) has been hard at work the past three months preparing two extremely important programs for the residents of the Village Grande at English Mill as well as the residents of Village Grande at Little Mill. The programs that I am talking about are both Candidates Night.

On September 15th, the first Candidates Night was held in the Grande Room and featured the candidates for State Assembly and the candidates for Egg Harbor Township Committee. By the time this article goes to press, the first Candidate's Night will have concluded. We are hoping for an outstanding turnout to emphasize the importance of this election on our taxes as well as the future wellbeing of

our local economy. An overflow of residents at these two events will show our elected officials that our segment of the population here in Atlantic County needs and wants to be heard.

The second Candidate's Night is scheduled for Thursday, October 15th at 6:30 PM in the Grande Room. The second program features the candidates for the Egg Harbor Township School Board. Since the EHT School District budget is responsible for over two-thirds of our real estate taxes, we need to listen closely to the candidates and identify those who will show fiscal restraint and not equate quality education with increased spending. Please plan to attend.

In addition to the Candidates nights, your GLC has been actively pursuing other programs for our residents. We are planning to have the local Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) present a program on "Fire Safety in our Homes" either in late September or some date In October.

The Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Department will again be providing their assistance in the removal and replacement of smoke detector batteries for folks who need this service. This program will be in November. When that date is set, a sign-up sheet will be placed at the front desk of the club house. Please There will also be an e-mail and phone blasts to remind those who may need this service. On the same date as the battery replacement activity, our volunteer fire fighters will also be testing all of the fire hydrants in our community for proper pressure.

In the past few months, your GLC has been responding to requests from our residents for items that they felt needed to be handled. Those requests ranged from a problem with the exit from the Wawa parking lot onto English Creek Avenue to requests for additional speed limit signs along our streets. The GLC received these requests and forwarded them to the Board. The Board sought out the authorities responsible for these areas and received quick responses for us to bring back to the residents making the request.

We are also addressing complaints regarding noise from the high school band. This particular complaint was handled by one of the GLC members who has an extremely good rapport with the school's administration and was able to request that the school look into this problem and give it consideration. This particular request was fully explained at the last HOA meeting. If anyone has an issue that they feel needs to be reviewed, we will attempt to resolve it or pass it on to the appropriate authorities. Please put it in writing and either e-mail it to me, John DaPrato, at joncondaprato@aol.com or deposit it the Community Manager's mail box. If we cannot resolve the problem, the GLC will move it along to our Board.

Lastly, I would like to conclude this article by saying how fortunate I am for having an extremely talented and dedicated group of individuals on the GLC. I am referring to Mr. Warren Weiner, Mr. Herb Moskovitz, Mr. Ron Capasso, and last but not least, Ms. Betty Alberts, our Board Liaison. Without their talent and professionalism, the Candidate's Night programs would never have been a reality.

MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015
TIME: 6:30P.M.
AT VGEM CLUBHOUSE

On November 3rd, we will elect three members to the EHT Board of Education. Your vote is *critical!*

Do you know that the current school district portion of your EHT property tax bill is over 60%. Those who we elect will be expected to make cost effective decisions - particularly when crafting annual school budgets.

Come out to meet all six contenders and learn their positions on:

- The cost of education and property taxes
- Supporting cost containment activities
- The Board's role on instructional matters
- The future direction of the school district
- The controversial reading program

OUR MOST PRECIOUS LIBERTY IS...
THE RIGHT TO VOTE!

Presented by VGEM Government Liaison Committee



EHT High School

Landscape/Irrigation Committee Report

By Kathy McGeehin



July was a time of transition for our Committee. After serving our Community tirelessly as chairperson for almost seven years, Carolyn Walmsley moved to Texas. We miss her leadership, guidance and diligence on our behalf. She and her late husband, John, made a formidable team as they

learned irrigation, saved lawns, submitted volumes of paperwork to the Pine Lands Commission, drilled wells and performed numerous other tasks for us all. Together they made VGEM a better place to live. We thank Carolyn for the thousands of hours generously given to us and wish her good health and happiness in her new home.

We welcomed three new volunteers to our Committee: Jim Harnett, Kathy Sorrell, and Ken Tardif, who joined existing members Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, Bill Hofmann, Kathy McGeehin, Fred Moderski, and Joan and Ray Viventi. Ray graciously volunteered to chair our Committee while Pam LoBue continues as VGEM Board Liaison.

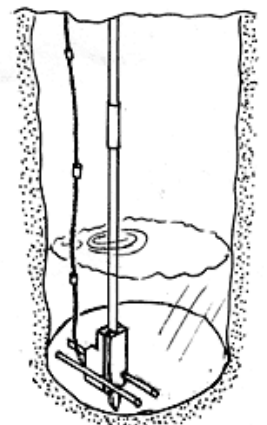
Our Committee and landscape contractor, Outdoor Décor, faced the usual challenges of heat and humidity, as well as an unusually wet spring and early summer followed by the drought of August and early September. Once again this year, we have been presented with many challenges regarding both lawn and irrigation issues. In addition to insect infiltrations and fungal diseases which have been successfully treated this past season, our lawns had two new weeds that threatened the turf. Treatment was difficult as these are highly invasive weeds in a grass form. Over the summer, our contractor applied selective herbicides to combat Dallisgrass and Kyllinga resulting in brown and silvery patches of dead vegetation. These applications were in addition to our regularly scheduled fertilization, weed preventive and herbicide. In our ever changing environment, difficulties always arise in our attempt to keep our lawns green and healthy.

As a result of drought, by early September, the lack of irrigation coverage on some of our established lawns was apparent. Some of the irrigation heads are now blocked from being fully effective by mature trees and shrubs. In this instance, moving the heads is not the responsibility of the HOA. In other cases, irrigation

heads may not have been placed where needed when the system was initially installed. This situation cannot be remedied as adding more heads will reduce the amount of water system pressure. Our grass types, particularly the Kentucky Blue, but also the perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, and fine fescue that have been introduced to our VGEM lawns, are “cool season” grasses, adapted to our cold freezing winters and hot summers. Fertilization and our irrigation system keep these grass plants green during the heat of summer by artificially supplying nutrients and moisture, preventing temporary browning which is actually dormancy of the plant. Most likely, these brown areas of lawn are dormant grass plants which will return to green in fall. Now that outdoor temperature is declining, so too is the stress on the grass plants diminishing.

Our new lawns in Phase II faced a daunting combination of extreme lack of irrigation, insects, fungus, weeds, and other problems too numerous to recount. Please note that the irrigation system in Phase II was entirely under the control of our developer until just recently. Most of that irrigation system is still under their control. Please put your concerns in writing to D.R. Horton about sod and irrigation issues in Phase II. These newly sodded lawns are entirely Kentucky Blue Grass and difficult to maintain in our climate. The lack of topsoil is a major issue as well. In the fall our landscape contractor will begin to correct the existing damage to lawns that have been identified as needing remediation according to green forms we have received. The lawns in Phase I are now a mix of grasses as the result of Fall over seeding operations by our contractor over the last three years. We ask for your patience and understanding as this is a process that takes time, usually several seasons.

As of August 17, we used approximated 4,500,000 gallons of water purchased from NJ American Water at a cost to us of \$35,000. Our five wells pumped an additional 3,630,000 gallons for a savings to our community of about \$25,000. As of mid-September, water usage for the irrigation system will continue to be high due to the continuing drought. Also, some irrigation pits in Phase II have recently come under our control and that water usage will now be paid by our HOA.



Most of our backflow preventers in our irrigation system have been secured by an anti-theft structure developed and installed by a couple of our Committee volunteers. This makes it less likely that we will

experience damage to our system and thefts of this expensive component as we have in the past.

Please note that according to our contract with Outdoor Décor, our lawns are cut weekly 26 times from sometime in April to sometime in October. Thus, we always plan to skip some weeks of mowing. This is determined by weather. Our final two cuttings include bagging clippings, leaves and pine needles and will be taking place in November. It is the sole responsibility of each homeowner to clean up leaves and care for plants in all planting beds. Of course leaves will continue to fall throughout the winter. Some of our community trees, such as oak, do not shed the majority of their leaves until spring. Please do not call the Community Manager or Committee about leaves on your lawn or patio. Also, do not call our Committee or the office about routine lawn care or irrigation problems. Complete a green form at the office and your concern will be addressed. It often takes time to resolve an issue. Our landscaper is not contracted to be at our property daily so please be patient. He is contracted for commercial lawn service, not custom residential service.

Even during a heat wave, we are planning for snow! We are expecting three bids on the snow removal contract for four inches and above of accumulation on hard surfaces (driveways) at our homes for the 2015-

2016 winter season. For the protection of your planting beds and landscape walls, please purchase and install three foot tall reflective stakes from any of our local hardware stores. Use them to mark corners of beds and landscape walls so they are not damaged by snow plows. These stakes are guide markers for the snow removal operation which is often done at night under less than ideal conditions. Turn on your outside lights as well because it can be difficult to differentiate lawn areas from walkways and driveways when all are covered by snow. It takes many hours to remove snow from 340 homes. Please be patient as snow removal will not begin until the snow stops falling. If you have needs for more immediate removal service, please feel free to hire your own snow removal contractor.

Remember that our Committee is comprised solely of volunteers, your neighbors who are giving their time and talent for the benefit of our VGEM community while saving us all significant amounts of money in additional HOA fees. If you experience a true emergency situation, a call to our Community Manager is warranted during business hours. Please don't call us unless you have a geyser in your yard! Thank you all for your cooperation and patience as we strive to make our community a beautiful place to live.



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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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By Don Mastrangelo



The Village Grande at English Mill has a Neighborhood Watch Committee. It is composed of your neighbors who look out for your safety and ensure that our Community is free of criminal activity.

The Neighborhood Watch is always in need of Block Captains to supplement our current group. Volunteering to be a Block Captain only requires a minimal amount of time and is not confrontational. The duties include reporting suspicious activities that you see, those which have been reported to you and advising neighbors of what they can do to secure their properties when they will be away for an extended period of time. If you have not as yet volunteered to serve the Community, this is the perfect place to start. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Don Mastrangelo.

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

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

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

Block Captains

Street	House#	Block Captain	Phone
Bluebell	All	Sam Salierno	365-8112
Daffodil	All	Leo Fishburn	365-8765
Ivy	All	Jim Danzuso	226-1897
Lily	200-215	Dan Montagna	576-5487 856-296-0944
	216-230	Rich Johnson	0944
	231-242	Bill Polko	365-2340
	243-257	Herb Moskovitz	365-2329
Marigold	1-16	Jim Cira	402-2861
	17-35	Steve Cappadona	653-4215
Poppy	1-41	Fred Moderski	653-0116
Primrose	2-30	John DaPrato	926-4977
Snowdrop	100-117	Joe & Bonnie Carluccio	365-2574
	118-144	Jim Lobue	653-1025
Sunflower	300-318	Ed Zink	927-6387
	319-328	Don Hinspeter	788-4948
	329-347	Bill Hofmann	788-4552
	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	653-1488
Violet	Odd	Sam Salierno	365-8112
Violet	Even	Jim Danzuso	226-1897

Chairperson: Don Mastrangelo 788-4876
Administrator: Tony Scaricamazza 927-6818





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Tis The Season



For Holiday Scams

From the Neighborhood Watch

"Tis the season of good cheer." It is also the season for scammers to work their many tricks on unsuspecting shoppers. *Money Magazine* reported on the many scams seen during the holiday season. These are some of them.

Gift card scam. Emails, text messages or social media posts from well known stores such as Kohl's and Macys announce that just for taking a brief survey or signing up for a credit card, they will give you a gift card of \$25.00. The message and link look like the real things but beware a scammer is at work trying to get your personal information.

Package delivery scam. A seemingly legitimate email is received from a delivery company prompting you to open an attachment to receive pick-up instructions. Open the attachment and you will be subjecting your computer or smart phone to viruses.

Identity theft at the Mall. Be aware of your surroundings. There are people out there ready to steal your identity. While you walk the mall, get a bite to eat or check out in crowded lines someone may be looking for your pin number, take your wallet/handbag or steal your packages.

E-cards. In a sign of the times, that seemingly innocuous electronic thank-you note or holiday greeting could be spyware or viruses that automatically download when opened or when they direct you to download to see the card.

Best-deal-ever scams. Who doesn't shop for discounts during the holidays, when cash is disappearing at an alarming rate? But don't get conned by online-shopping swindles that purport to offer bargain-basement prices that are, well, too good to be true and that's because they are lies.

The Better Business Bureau hears from hundreds of holiday shoppers that they found a great "deal" online that really wasn't because they got nothing in return. That scam gets rampant when hot toys or gadgets are sold out or quantities are limited. Also beware too of hard-to-find toys and gadgets for sale at higher prices on online auction sites. You may not see anything from those sellers either.

Social media mayhem. These still qualify as new, but with the proliferation of smart phones, tablets and social media accounts, they're gaining popularity. McAfee sees them as good places to catch you off guard because we're all friends, as the company said in its list of online scams this year.

The criminals use social media sites just as they would emails with offers of raffles, fan page deals and discounts that really are bait to infect your systems or lure more personal information out of you. Remember too that these so-called concessions can come from real friends whose accounts were hacked. Always look closely at the URLs before clicking on them, or better yet, go directly to the retailer or manufacturer's site yourself.

Malicious mobile applications. When you consider that consumers have already downloaded more than 25 billion apps on Android phones alone, it's no wonder that fraudsters consider that fertile ground, and add to this the boatload of shopping and discount apps popping up for the holidays.

Bogus charitable pleas. We tend to be bigger givers to those in need during the holidays and scammers do their best to get on those lists too. Beware of emails, phone calls and text messages, even from those you may know. Resist

demands for on-the-spot donations; research every charity before giving to ensure their legitimacy. When making a contribution always ask for a receipt and never make cash contributions.

Identity theft at the mall. The stores were crowded, the lines were long, you had lots of packages, and somehow you lost sight of your wallet or credit cards. You're an easy target for pickpockets and garden-variety thieves looking for a way to grab your access to money and everything else of value you're carrying. Keep close tabs on your cards and wallets, pay attention to who's around you, and cover the keypad with your hand when punching in PINs at the cashier or an ATM.



Rules Committee

By Lynnda Golin, Co-Chairperson



The newly appointed VGEM Rules and Regulation Committee held its first re-organization meeting on August 19, 2015. The new Co-Chairpersons are Bill Giannetti and Lynnda Golin. The Committee is composed of twelve volunteer members of the VGEM Community who are listed on page 12 of this

Gazette. The Committee's Board Liaison is Jim Roche who will assist the Committee with information and guidance as needed.



Rules Committee members Dianne Gottman, Mary Moskovitz, Terry Stevens, Dan Montagna & Pat Roche

Three subcommittees were formed to work on the following subjects:

- Clubhouse Rental - Develop and propose a policy for renting the Grande Room to residents for parties where non-residents attend.
- Pool Rules - Review and recommend changes or modification of pool rules to strive for a consensus of compromise that everyone can live with.
- Hold Harmless Agreements - Investigate the feasibility of a single Hold Harmless Agreement to cover all VGEM activities.

When the subcommittees have gathered and reviewed their information, their recommendations will be brought to the entire Committee for discussion and vote. The

Committee's recommendations will then be sent to the Board for further final review. The Board must approve all rule changes and new rules.

As other issues are identified, this procedure will be followed with rule changes as appropriate. Residents with issues and concerns regarding a rule(s) are encouraged to submit them to the Committee in writing to the Community Manager or by email to Lynnda Golin or Bill Giannetti as listed on page 2. These issues or concerns will be reviewed and discussed according to the procedure previously described.



Co-Chair Bill Giannetti with Tony Morris

ACC Update

By Jim Berg, Chairperson



I want to start my year as the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) Chairman by acknowledging and thanking the members of the past ACC who have decided to leave the Committee after many years of hard work to focus on other VGEM activities. They are the long serving Chairman Kathy Perfetti and members Barbara Walsh and Annette Black.

Joining the ACC this year are Doug Groff, James Harnett, Ken Tardif, Marlene Santucci, and Dave Van Zant. These new volunteers plus the veterans Judy Grier, Shirley Oliver, Dan Montagna, HOA Board Liaison Pam LoBue and myself as Chairman, will give the Committee the manpower and depth of experience necessary to respond to the many homeowner requests in a timely fashion.

Sometimes the homeowners feel the application process is onerous and unnecessary so it is important to remember that the ACC is required by NJ State Law. It exists for the purpose of helping the community develop in a way that maintains and increases property values while at the same time allowing homeowners to make changes and additions to their own property that reflect their individuality. In addition, to overseeing the application process, the ACC is also tasked to periodically make tours of the community to see if the

homeowners are maintaining their property in a clean and attractive condition.

The list of things we come across range from ones that can be corrected very easily to those that may take a little more planning and effort. For example, our governing documents state that garage doors should be kept closed when a vehicle or person is not entering or leaving. We know that people often work in their garages or on their flower beds so the doors are naturally open for awhile but sometimes doors are left open for hours on end when no one is around. This is unsightly, so please remember to close your garage doors when not in use. Another easy fix is taking down holiday decorations in a timely manner. Many homes get decorated for special holidays or even for the seasons and this is perfectly acceptable but our rules and regulations state that decorations must be removed no later than three weeks after the holiday.

Some problems take more planning to correct. One problem is the mold growing on the outside walls of homes, especially the homes that have been up for several years and/or are in shady areas. This is very unsightly and homeowners must periodically power wash their outside walls. A second problem is that some homeowners do not maintain their flower beds. Now the ACC members know that no one walks around with a trowel in their pocket and a few small weeds are natural



Mold on house exterior on left and after power washing on the right

in any home located in the NJ Pine Barrens, but sometimes the weeds overwhelm the beds and this must be addressed for the sake of the community.

Finally, homeowners that are planning on adding a storm door can make the approval process easier and faster if they include a picture of the proposed door with the application. This can save phone calls and site visits from the Committee to ensure the door is either white or a color that match the shutters.

The Committee is active 12 months of the year, so do not hesitate to send in your various applications. However, the Committee does not review landscaping applications during the winter months while the sprinkler systems are turned off.

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New Jersey State Assembly and EHT Committee Candidates Night

By Tom Santucci

On September 15, 2015, the Government Liaison Committee (GLC) sponsored a Candidates Night for those running for the State Assembly and EHT Committee. After a year of planning and preparation, the GLC event was a first class operation. GLC members were assisted by the FYI Club on the evening with each identified by name tags as were the candidates. The Grande Room was perfectly setup for a political debate with candidates seated at a dais in front and identified by professionally prepared name plates. Every detail was addressed including microphone, water, pen and pad, water bottles and even to names on each candidate's chairs. The moderators table was set up to the left of the dais for direct questioning of the candidates. On the each audience chair was a printed 4 x 6 card with pen to submit questions to the moderators table.

By the starting time at 6:30 PM, there was a standing room only audience that spilled over to fill the hallway leading to the Grande Room. The Press of Atlantic City estimated that more than 200 people attended. Press coverage including photographers was quite visible to all. The four candidates for State Assembly and the four candidates for the EHT Committee were invited to attend. The GLC sent out two confirmation notices to which the eight candidates responded in the affirmative. Seven of the eight were present. Will Pauls, one of the



*Lynnda Golin with Democratic
EHT Committee Candidates
Tamika Gilbert-Floyd and
Margaretta Day Allen*



Democratic candidates for State Assembly, declined to appear on the last day due to an unexplained conflict.

John DaPrato opened the the forum greeting in attendance and thanking the seven candidates present for participating. John also advised those who might not be registered to vote that "Voter Registration Forms" were available in the foyer. He then introduced the moderator, Warren Weiner.

Moderator Warren Weiner began by stating that on Election Day, you shall have the opportunity to fill Atlantic County's two seats in the 80-seat General Assembly and vote for two of the following four Candidates for General Assembly:

- The Democrats:
 - Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo, first-term Assemblyman and former Northfield Mayor
 - Freeholder Colin Bell, first-term Atlantic County Freeholder and municipal prosecutor
- The Republicans:
 - Assemblyman Chris Brown, two-term Assemblyman and EHT Planning Board Solicitor
 - Freeholder Will Pauls, first-term Atlantic County Freeholder and President, South Jersey Building Trades Council for 10 years who was unable to attend the Candidates Night.

Also on Election Day, you'll have the opportunity to fill two seats on the 5-member Egg Harbor Township Committee by voting for two of following four Candidates for Township Committee:

- The Republicans:
 - Mayor James J. "Sonny" McCullough, Township Committee member for 30 years and Mayor for 28 years
 - Committeeman Frank Finnerty, Township Committee member for seven years and former Atlantic County Freeholder for six years
- The Democrats:
 - Margaretta Day Allen, former paraprofessional in special education for 30 years
 - Tamika Gilbert-Floyd, school principal in Winslow Township and former vice principal in EHT.

In both the Assembly and the EHT Committee elections, each candidate is voted on individually. In other words, running mates are not elected as a pair; each candidate must be elected separately. Warren



*Mayor James "Sonny"
McCullough & Democratic
Assemblyman Vince Mazzeo*

elaborated, to the standing-room only crowd of predominately senior citizens, that the margins of victory in the last election were as small as 50 votes. With over a thousand votes between them, this demonstrates the political impact that the residents of the Villages Grande at English Mill and Little Mill could affect the outcome of an election.



Democratic Assembly Candidate Colin Bell

The moderator informed the candidates that the program would be recorded for the VGEM *Grande Gazette*. The format for the evening was determined by the GLC who also created a series of questions for the candidates. All questions from the floor on the 4 x 6 question cards were submitted to the moderator desk where Ron Capasso assisted Warren Weiner in organizing them. In addition to this, Ron Capasso monitored the candidates' time allotment for answers. As pre-determined by the GLC, the moderator would ask all the questions. The order for presentations was determined by a coin toss. Warren said, "The Republicans won and the Democrats would receive" resulting in the Democrats receiving all presentations and questions first. The candidate asked a question had one minute to answer. The candidate's running mate would have 30 seconds to comment. The opposing party candidates had 30 seconds for rebuttal.

The opening statements by each Assembly candidate presented their background and qualifications. A variety of the common challenges facing Atlantic County were mentioned including high taxes, unemployment, home foreclosures, support of retirees, casinos in North Jersey, small businesses, the PILOT plan and others.

The battery of questions prepared by the GLC was well thought out, extremely relevant to this specific election and precise in their scope. Moderator Weiner established the relevancy to each question by a preamble that was aimed to inform both the audience and the candidates on precisely why the



Republican Assemblymen Chris Brown with his law school roommate's mother, Marlene Santucci

particular question was being asked. Despite this, candidates did find wiggle room and avoided answering the question. On several occasions after a candidate finished his remarks Warren would redirect and allow them an extra 30 seconds to answer the question that he had asked.



EHT Committeeman Frank Finnerty with Jim Walsh

THE CURRENT and The Press of Atlantic City both covered this with articles and pictures on their first and third pages respectively. Both articles comment on the quality of the questions. The Press of Atlantic City on September 17th in the first paragraph of its article read, "Assembly candidates in the 2nd Legislative District answered tough questions and took verbal shots at each other in a freewheeling forum." On the same day, *THE CURRENT* commented on the "complex questions asked by the moderator, Warren Weiner, a member of the community's government liaison committee". Comments like these demonstrate the quality of this VGEM political forum and imply the potential political impact that we, especially in consort with VGLM, could affect on local elections. Warren Weiner's demeanor as moderator was impressive and simply reflects his vast experience and expertise in the government, politics and public relations arena. The impact of the Candidates Night is the result of a year of hard work by the GLC team of John DaPrato, Ron Capasso, Lou Golin, Herb Moskovitz and Warren Weiner - moderator par excellence!

You have probably read the articles in the local press, now for an up close look into the substance of Candidates Night by the GLC, read Warren Weiner's article on page 26 of this Gazette. I am certain that you will all find its content most informative and enlightening.

John DaPrato, the GLC Chairperson, wants to express his gratitude to the many residents who worked so hard to help make the first Candidates night such a resounding success. During the planning, John reached out to Jim Lichtenwalner to enlist the help of the FYI Club who has experience in staging events. The FYI Club eagerly offered



John DaPrato listens intently to the candidates

to help. John wants to thank and publicly acknowledge the FYI Club members and other residents who so graciously gave of their time to help. They are Jim & Donna Lichtenwalner, Marguerite & Doug Beaupt, Bill & Terry Giannetti, Ruth & David VanZant, Ethel Weiner, Jane Capasso and his wife, Connie.

He also wanted to thank the Gazette for covering the event with special appreciation to Jeannie Eckard and Mike Segal for handling the photography. A special thanks goes out to all of the people who pitched in at the end of the program to put away the chairs and tables. John and all of the members of the GLC along with their Board Liaison, Betty Alberts, want to thank all of the volunteers and residents who supported VGEM by attending this politically important event. The GLC sends out its overwhelming appreciation to all of you who attended.

I'd like to close this article with Warren Weiner's remarks in the Public Comments after the September 8th HOA Board meeting.

Warren is calling for a full house at both Candidates Nights sponsored by the GLC. Although informational, the major purpose is to have the candidates be onsite for them to appreciate that we are a meaningful electorate. To be effective, the room must be filled to capacity for the candidates to fully appreciate that we have real "political clout". The residents of VGEM and VGLM have enough votes to influence the outcome of most, if not all, local elections. The last Assembly election was won by only about 50 votes. To paraphrase Warren Weiner's remarks, "If we don't show up, the candidates will know that we don't count!" ... and that matters, really matters to them when the votes are counted, and will really matter to us when we seek consideration from the local governmental agencies.

Now let me close this article by further paraphrasing Warren's closing comment. "We did show up and the candidates now know we really count!" For this new gained "political clout" to be maintained and expanded, we all must show a standing-room only presence at the Candidates Night for the School Board on Thursday, October 15th at 6:30 PM in the Clubhouse. Don't let the turnout at this Candidates Night be a "one night stand"! Let's make great turnouts at political events become a habit and vote on November 3rd!



Candidates Night The Moderator's Perspective

*By Warren Weiner
Government Liaison Committee*

Like nature, political power abhors a vacuum. Either you seize it or the political parties take it away from you. On *Candidates Night*, the SRO turnout created the perception of political power and the news coverage underscored our ability to access the media.



*Ron Capasso & Warren Weiner preside
at the moderator's table*

Thank you to everyone who came, stood and stayed for 1½ hours. It was an overwhelming demonstration of what we can accomplish as a group, and created political capital that we can withdraw in the future to advocate or oppose changes in zoning, affordable housing, traffic patterns and property taxes in EHT and Atlantic County.

At least 60 percent of the 5-member Township Committee witnessed the outpouring first hand. Two incumbent Committee members were on the dais, and a third Committeeman even helped bring in chairs from the pool deck. Pulling chairs from the storage room, board room, craft room, library and pool deck couldn't keep pace with the tsunami of VGEM and VGLM residents. Even 200 seats couldn't contain the crowd. So people stood in the hallway, sat on window sills or leaned against doorframes.



Hats off (in alpha order) to the stalwarts who set up the extra chairs: Doug Beaupit, Bonnie Carluccio, Connie and John DaPrato, Herb Moskovitz, Dave VanZant, and Ethel Weiner. And afterwards to the unnamed selfless souls who stacked ballroom chairs and returned all the others to their assigned places in a flash. Nobody asked them; they just swung into action.

The GLC is a small committee of only four members—Ron Capasso, John DaPrato, Herb Moskovitz and me—plus a Trustee liaison, Betty Alberts, who functioned as a virtual fifth member. They all parked their ego at the door and pitched in to complete a 53-item logistics list. For them, no effort was too small nor too big.

Faced with a suddenly closed Clubhouse until an hour before the forum, John DaPrato, the Government Liaison Committee Chair, made a great executive decision. He immediately jumped into action the night *before* the forum and enlisted Jim Lichtenwalner's help in setting up ballroom chairs, candidates and moderator tables and audio system. Had we waited until the Clubhouse re-opened at 5 PM, we never could have handled the fantastic flow of residents.

Comment:

Challenging Churchill, *Candidates Night* "wasn't the end, but the end of the beginning". Our State government appears to exhibit a consistent pattern of ignoring its own laws. For example, EHT School District has paid a State imposed penalty of \$2.2 million that continues to grow at the rate of \$543,000 a year. The penalty represents a portion of principal and interest on a State bond issue. But according to the Education Law Center, the State is prohibited from passing the principal and interest onto the local school district.

For use of EHT's rights of way, public utilities pay taxes totaling \$14 million a year. State government collects the taxes, and, according to State law, is supposed to send the Township the entire \$14 million. But the Township only receives \$6 million, and State government uses the remaining \$8 million to help balance the State budget. Yet State law says the funds are "wholly *unavailable*" for State purposes. And we pay \$8 million more in property taxes to make up for the State's sticky fingers.

In a democracy, laws must be obeyed. There are financial penalties, fines and even imprisonment for violating the law. Imagine what would happen if you paid only *half* of your State income tax, or our children paid only *half* of the New Jersey Estate and Inheritance Taxes? Orange would be the new black, and Ruth VanZant would be overwhelmed baking apple cakes with files in them.

In the months ahead, the GLC will chip away at the State government's failure to obey its own laws. We plan to work on creating a bi-partisan coalition of State

legislators to override the Governor's line-item veto of the measure that had exempted EHT School District from paying this year's \$543,000 penalty. That's a tall order. We need 53 votes in the Assembly and 27 votes in the Senate to override. But with 484 school districts suffering similar penalties, we may be able to motivate enough legislators to support the override because their constituents are also impacted.

We also intend to push for returning to EHT the \$8 million State government skimmed off the utilities receipts tax. It'll take organizing a coalition of all municipalities and exerting concerted public pressure. If that fails, the Township may go into court, or we may have to convince a good government organization or a pro bono law firm to launch a class action suit.

The Back Channel.

We had to pull two candidates kicking and screaming to participate in our forum. Some candidates don't like to appear face-to-face with their opponents. If audience members were permitted to stand up and ask questions or make statements, we would never have gotten all 8 candidates to agree to appear.

I sent emails to all the people with whom we dine, travel, exercise, serve on committees, and play pickleball. I had no idea there were so many personal friends in VGEM. Members of the GLC made similar efforts to rally the crowd. Selma Rosenblum and Jeannie Eckard rallied entire blocks. Together we reached two-thirds of VGEM homeowners.

My wife, Ethel, who complained I spent 24/7 on the computer, made an impromptu appeal to the Garden Club. First time in 58 years of marriage she ever made a public address.

The punch list of logistics was so long, I didn't get to contact the news media until September 10th. Thankfully, *The Press of Atlantic City* sent two reporters and a photographer and *The Current* sent their star reporter.

The little 3x5 cards that popped up in front of the moderator controlled the speaker sequence and identified who had 60-seconds, and who had a 30-second add-on. Since which political party would go first wasn't known until the coin flip, the moderator prepared two sets of sequence cards (a blue set for Democrats and a red set for Republicans).

The GLC made some tough calls. The Committee decided to keep Freeholder Will Pauls seat vacant, and awarded Assemblyman Chris Brown the 60-second response that would have gone to Pauls. While it gave Brown more time, it was the only way to permit a Republican response to every Assembly question.

The SRO crowd forced Laura Stetser to write her story for *The Current* standing up. She scooped *The Press* by posting it on line 1 hour and 20 minutes after the program ended.

EHT School Board Candidates

November 3, 2015 Election

By Art Richman



This November 3rd, six candidates are running for three seats on the EHT School Board. This might not seem important since there are three positions open every year. It is important because only 1 of the 9 people on the Board ever challenges the budget for the EHT School District. Previously there were two, but the teachers saw to it that Thor Hinley lost last year by encouraging people to vote for other candidates.

The EHT Department of Education budget constitutes 2/3 of our city taxes. Do you care where 65% of your tax money goes and how it is spent? It is time for the *GRAY PANTHERS OF EHT TO ROAR*. Make your vote count. These are my thoughts on who I will vote for and why.



Lisa Dagit, incumbent, is the only member to question expenses and vote against an automatic 2% increase in the budget. She disagreed that all positions are secure. She is at great risk without our vote.

Amber Umphlet. She is a parent who comes to all the meetings and questions what she hears. She is trying to get more value for the money spent.

You can also vote for a third candidate. At this time, I will only vote for the two candidates, Lisa Dagit and Amber Umphlet whom I discussed above.

I absolutely will not vote for the two incumbents – Peter Castellano and John “Jack” Haines. They each agreed with School Board President Galvin that no jobs should be eliminated although over the last two years there are nearly 500 fewer students. My interpretation of their position is that they are more interested in protecting jobs than in reducing taxes. With nearly 500 fewer students, shouldn't this result in a reduction in

staff and a decrease in the school budget that would result in lower taxes?

Does the School Board appreciate that higher taxes are frequently a factor in home foreclosures? Atlantic County leads the nation in the number of home foreclosures per capita. Not once did the Board say they wanted to reduce their budget to lower taxes and do the right thing for the Community. For some reason, they are not interested in the reducing the school budget to lower taxes and do not care about the people who pay the bills. Do they have friends or relatives working in the school district?

My biggest disappointment with this Community is its apathy. People complain about taxes but when it comes time to do something about it, they stay home. VGEM has nearly 600 votes that would make a difference. If you have friends at Little Mill, perhaps you can convince the 500 people there to vote for the two women, Lisa Dagit and Amber Umphlet. Yes, that is the easy way to remember who to vote for; it is the two women candidates.

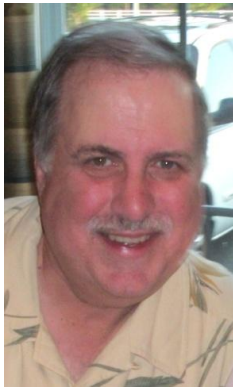
We need everyone to attend the *Meet The School Board Candidates Night* on October 15th at 6:30 PM. With a packed Grande Room, the candidates for the EHT School Board will realize that our numbers have the political clout to influence the outcome of the election. Perhaps at that meeting we may discover one of the new candidates will also be conscious of the effect of the school budget has on our property tax. As of now, I am only voting for two. Yes, it is valid to vote for less than the maximum. It is called a "bullet ballot". Pick the handful of candidates you really like and vote for them --and only them. It is a way to help them without also helping their opponents in a crowded field where there are multiple seats to fill.

Please attend the *The School Board Candidates Night* on October 15th and remember to vote on November 3rd!!!



HOA Recipe for Success

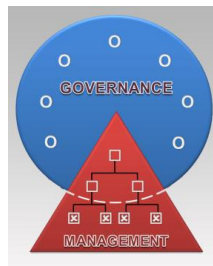
By Jim Lichtenwalner



My Italian family was well known for their recipe for their pasta sauce (gravy to some of you), that took generations to perfect. I'm sure all of you have a similar cherished recipe. It takes just the right proportions of tomatoes, garlic, oregano, basil, and Italian peppers (along with an assortment of "secret" ingredients) to achieve the perfect sauce.

Similarly, communities like VGEM strive for the "the perfect recipe" for a community. The ingredients need to be blended in specific proportions to achieve the desired result. The primary ingredients are the five dimensions of our community, namely Governance, Operations, Financial Management, Activities and Communications. Only if these five dimensions are applied in the proper proportions can we achieve a community that we will all be proud to call our own. Too much or too little of any of these ingredients can result in a disastrous outcome.

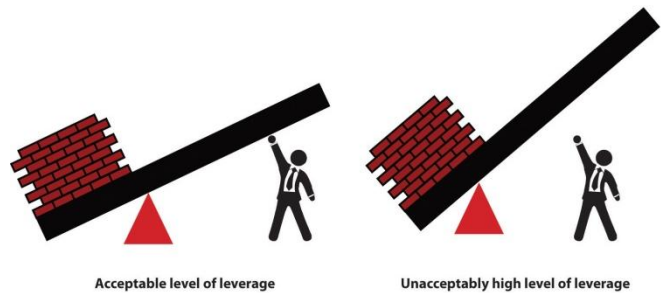
Governance is the development and administration of policies, rules and procedures to assure that we are all working together without adversely affecting each other. Too little governance can lead to anarchy, chaos and dissatisfaction among our members. Too much governance can lead to members becoming frustrated at their lack of independence and a feel of a "police state" where members are afraid to do anything, in fear that big brother will wield its force upon them.



Operations deals with performing those tasks necessary to provide a community in line with our policies and members expectations. Pool maintenance, landscaping, snow removal and security are a few of the components of this "ingredient".

Again, too much or too little can spoil the recipe. Imagine if we only mowed lawns once per month, or if we had armed guards stopping every car at our entrances questioning why you are entering the community.

Financial Management deals with assuring that we have the right amount of funds available to provide



the right amount of services and materials. It also deals with making sure that we spend the funds wisely. Imagine the crisis we would be in if, instead of a mandatory monthly assessment, we placed a donation box in the clubhouse lobby and hoped for the best. Similarly we would be heading toward disaster, if we blindly purchased materials or services without knowing the alternatives available including quality, price and other factors. On the other hand, adopting a "just in case" mentality would result in overfunding and lead to an unfair burden to the community members.

Activities are the lifeblood of an active adult community and we need to assure that we support a robust and diverse menu of activities. Too little of this "ingredient" will result in lowering community involvement and ultimately community spirit. Too many activities can result in activities that are not fully supported and ultimate failure.

Last (but maybe most important) is Communication. We seem to never have enough communication (like garlic in most Italian recipes according to my mother). Communication is the ingredient that allows for the other ingredients to meld together and take on a new enhanced flavor of community spirit. Communication, by its very nature, involves a sender and a receiver. Most of us think we are pretty good at telling people what we think (senders), but we can all use some help in improving our receiving (listening) skills. Communication cuts across all of the previously mentioned ingredients. Clearly documented policies and procedures along with accessibility to these documents, clearly written contracts, comprehensive but concise financial reports informing members of how their money is being spent and how well are we doing against the budget, and listening to the communities suggestions for activities, along with publicizing activities are critical elements to achieving quality communication.



It may take a few years to work out our recipe for success, but I am confident that sometime in the future we will perfect our recipe which will be cherished by future generations of our VGEM family.

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS
October/November/December 2015

MONDAY

10 AM Mixed Bowling at King Pins
 Noon Canasta Club – Card Room 1
 12 PM Canasta B – alternate wks – Rm 2
 7 PM Book Bunch – 10/19, 11/16, 12/14

TUESDAY

10 AM 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

9:30 AM Grande Sew & Sews
 10 AM Tai Chi – Grande Room
 12:30 PM Poker - Card Room 1
 1 PM Mahjong III – Card Room 2
 1 PM Mixed Bridge - Card Room 1
 4 PM Social Committee - on 2nd Thursday
 5:30 PM Billiards - Starting 9/28
 6:30 PM Intermediate Line Dancing
 7 PM Bridge Club

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

Noon Canasta
 3:30 PM Happy Friday at the Pool
BYO - TBA

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Noon LoBue Mahjong I – Card Rm. 1



2015 HOA Board Meeting Schedule

Monday - December 7
2016 Budget Meeting

All Meetings are at 6:30 PM

Meet with the Board

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

October 13 November 10

Please contact Kate for an appointment.

SPECIAL MONTHLY EVENTS

October 2015

Tuesday, October 6: Noon - 2 PM
Flu Vaccine Clinic
 Clubhouse



Friday, October 9 at 8 AM
Fourth Annual VGEM Golf Outing
 "Four Player Scramble"
 Mays Landing Country Club

Thursday, October 15 at 6:30 PM
School Board Candidates Night
 Moderator: Ron Gapasso
 Grande Room

Tuesday, October 20 at 3 PM
CAI Webinar
 "Exterior Maintenance: Assessing, Planning
 and Liability from Storms"

Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 PM
"fyi" Club
 "What you need to know before selecting your
 Medicare and Supplemental Insurance."
 Grande Room

Monday, October 26 at 9:30 AM
Women's Breakfast
 Shore Dinner

Friday, October 30 at 9 AM
Men's Club Breakfast
 Golden Corral

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Contact Community Manager for details

Kate Walton

VGEM Community Manager
Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10 AM – 4 PM

1st & 3rd Tuesday 10 AM – 4 PM

2nd & 4th Tuesday 10 AM – 1 PM

No Office Hours on Thursday

609-788-8405

vgem@dilucia.com



Saturday, October 31 at 7 PM
Halloween Party
 Join Us in Costume or Not!
 Sugar Hill Subs & Deli
 Desserts, Munchies, Candy & Soft Drinks
 BYOB & Dancing
 Music by Posse Productions
\$10 pp - Reserve Early
 Grande Room
 Sponsored by the Social Committee



Thursday, December 31 at 8 PM
New Year's Eve Party
 Hors d'oeuvres, Array of Party Sandwiches
 & Wraps, Mini-Desserts and Soft Drinks
 BYO & Dancing – Cost TBD
 Music by Posse Productions
 Grande Room
 Sponsored by the Social Committee



November 2015

Thursday, November 5 at 3 PM
CAI Webinar
 "Roles and Responsibility of Community Living"
 Grande Room

Tuesday, November 10 at 2 PM
The Rainbow Tea Party
 Sponsored by the Garden Club

Tuesday, November 17 at 6:30 PM
"fyi" Club
"Holiday Safety"
 Grande Room

Monday, November 30 at 9:30 AM
Women's Breakfast
 Shore Dinner

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

December 2015

Monday December 7 at 6:30 PM
HOA Board Meeting
 Grande Room

Tuesday, December 15 at 6:30 PM
"fyi" Club
Maintaining and Improving Your Balance
 Grande Room

Monday December 28 at 9:30 AM
Fall Breakfast
 Shore Dinner



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

The VGEM Men's Club
presents

The 2015 Holiday
Gift Giving Drive

Please give to help needy EHT
elementary school children enjoy a
Happier Holiday Season

2015 Goal: \$5,000

This 7th Annual Holiday
Gift Giving Drive
will accept contributions from
November 2 through December 14

Please make checks payable to the
"VGEM Men's Club" and mail or deliver
to Herb Moskovitz at 245 Lily Road

Men's Club

By Herb Moskowitz



The Men's Club of VGEM is in the process of selecting another school for our 2015 HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING DRIVE. For those of you who are new residents to our community, the Men's Club initiated this program in 2009 with the goal of helping needy children in our township. Since 2009, our Community has supported the Davenport and Miller Schools raising a total of \$19,816. At the end of each year's Holiday Gift Giving Drive, \$100 Gift Cards are purchased from Target (the only major store who does not sell tobacco products), and given to the selected school, to be distribute to the most needy families.

Because of the new quarterly format of The Gazette, this will be the only time we have to include this information to the community. Also, a new school has not been selected at the time of this publication. When the new school has been chosen, an e-mail will be sent to all residents, as well as posted on the Bulletin Board in the Clubhouse.

The Holiday Giving Drive will start on Monday, November 2nd and end on Monday, December 14, 2015. All contributions are welcomed and appreciated. Please deliver your checks made payable to VGEM Men's Club to Herb Moskowitz, 245 Lily Road, or place your check in the white box outside the Manager's Office in the Clubhouse.

Our goal for 2014 was \$4,500. Our goal this year is \$5,000. The Men's Club takes great pride and pleasure that we have never missed our goals. We are hopeful that the residents of the VGEM community, will again come together and support this wonderful cause. **WITHOUT YOUR HELP, THIS CANNOT BE ACCOMPLISHED!!!**

**Please Patronize Our Advertisers
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Club Treasurer's Report



**VGEM Clubs &
Committees Accounts
as of September 10, 2015**

<u>Home Owners Association</u>	<u>Balance</u>
HOA	\$ 18,592.34
Insurance Deductible Acct.	1,000.00
Clubhouse Expenses	0.00
Waiting for Details	0.00
HOA Totals	\$ 19,592.34

<u>Clubs & Committees</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Special Activities	\$ 696.00
Women's Club	349.05
Men's Bocce	1,207.32
Women's Bocce	250.00
Anglers Club	225.34
Men's Club	697.04
Quilting Club	100.75
Photography Club	297.98
Billiards Club	656.89
Mah Jongg Club	0.00
Garden Club	2,707.97
Bocce Court Fund	0.00
Golf Club	447.49
Club Totals	\$ 7,635.80

Cape Account Total \$27,226.14

We are in the process of moving the Committee and Club Accounts from the Cape Bank to the Ocean City Home Bank. The closest Cape Bank branch has become a bank office and no longer functions as a branch, making it less convenient for doing the necessary banking that is required of our account. The Ocean City Home Bank has a branch right near Village Grande and is more flexible in their procedures for changing signature authority whenever there is a change to the Board of Directors.

**Submitted by Dan Farbman, VGEM
Co-Treasurer for Committees & Clubs**



Helpful Hints

From Mary Moskowitz



- To save cheese — put a teaspoon of sugar into the bottom of a Ziploc bag. Leave cheese in the original wrapper and make sure you close the bag tightly, squeezing out all the air. Cheese will keep up to 10 weeks without any evidence of mold

• How to clean your blender— after using the blender, fill it about half full with water and add 1 teaspoon of baking soda and a drop of dishwashing liquid. Run it for a couple of seconds letting the mixture swirl around your blender, cleaning it effortlessly. The natural abrasiveness of the baking soda really cleans the blades.

- Mineral Oil Uses:
 - Removing water stains, spots & rings from wood — apply some mineral oil to a soft cloth and gently rub over the spots.
 - How to clean a stainless steel sink— after cleaning with an all purpose cleaner, put mineral oil on a paper towel and wipe the sink thoroughly down with it, making sure to rub it in good and not leave any excess oil behind.
 - Furniture Polish is good for all furniture. Mineral oil is used for removing stains, spots and rings from wood.
- Freezing Bacon “Accordion-Style” - To freeze bacon, accordion-fold a large piece of foil, lay strips of bacon between the folds, then wrap in freezer wrap or a re-sealable freezer bag. This way, you won’t have to thaw out a whole package if you need just a slice or two.
- Easy Peel Hard-Boiled Eggs - Shaking the egg in a glass/cup of about half-an-inch of water will remove the shell and leave the egg entirely unscathed.
- Install a tension rod in a closet, pantry, etc. to hang all your spray bottles.
- Re-use a wet-wipe container to store plastic bags.
- Bread tags make the perfect cord labels.
- Put this item in your beach bag. ...Baby powder gets sands off your skin.
- Overhaul your linen closet, store bed linen sets inside one of their own pillowcases and there will be no more hunting through piles for a match.
- Pump up the volume by placing your iPhone or iPad in a bowl. The concave shape amplifies the music

BOOK BUNCH Schedule 2015



- 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 3rd Monday of the month at 7 PM



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Special Offer
for Residents of
Village Grande at English Mill

With this Ad, new customers will receive a 20% discount and existing customers a 10% discount

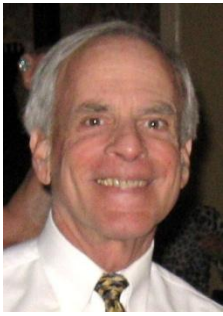
And the WINNER is...

By Annette Scaricamazza

- The Oscar for last year's best film.
(A) Selma (B) Whiplash
(C) Birdman (D) American Sniper
- In 1939, *Over the Rainbow* won an Oscar for best song.
(A). True (B) False
- The most Emmys won for a comedy series.
(A) Cheers (B) Seinfeld
(C) Frazier (D) All in the Family
- NBA player who has won the most championships.
(A) Bill Russell (B) Michael Jordan
(C) Alan Iverson (D) Magic Johnson
- The very first record to win a Grammy in 1959.
(A) Hound Dog (B) Splish Splash
(C) Misty (D) Volare
- In 1975, who won the Thriller in Manila?
(A) Muhammad Ali (B) Joe Frazier
- Woody Allen won 4 Oscars for this movie.
(A) Selig (B) Sleeper
(C) Manhattan (D) Radio Days
- The longest running Tony award winning show on Broadway.
(A) Cats (B) Camelot
(C) Hair (D) Phantom of the Opera
- He hosted the Oscars 18 times.
(A) Bob Hope (B) Billy Crystal
(C) Dean Martin (D) Johnny Carson
- She has won Wimbledon 9 times.
(A) Steffi Graf (B) Martina Navratilova
(C) Billy Jean King (D) Serena Williams
- The only person to win an Oscar, Emmy and Tony in the same year.
(A) Liza Minelli (B) Julie Andrews
(C) Bob Fosse (D) Rex Harrison
- Elvis Presley was in the first induction to Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
(A) True (B) False
- Most Grammys won by a group.
(A) U2 (B) Stones
(C) Beatles (D) Eagles
- Most wins at 27 for baseball World Series.
(A) Cardinals (B) Dodgers
(C) Giants (D) Yankees
- Nominated 7 times, the most for a single artist Grammy record of the year.
(A) Elton John (B) Sinatra
(C) Billy Joel (D) Pavarotti
- He won four Oscars, the most for any Director.
(A) Scorsese (B) Spielberg
(C) Hitchcock (D) Ford
- This team has won the most NCAA Men's Basketball Championships.
(A) Kentucky (B) UCLA
(C) North Carolina (D) Duke
- The most Emmys were won by this drama series.
(A) Sopranos (B) Law & Order
(C) Gunsmoke (D) Hill Street Blues
- Oscar is named after...
(A) No one (B) Oscar Wilde
(C) Oscar Madison (D) Oscar Hammerstein
- Who won last year's Super Bowl?
(A) Seahawks (B) Packers
(C) Ravens (D) Patriots



Answers on
page 39



Walking Safely Through Our Community

By John DaPrato

With our community moving ever so closer to transitioning our streets from the responsibility of our developer, D. R. Horton to Egg Harbor Township, we must be prepared to see a slight uptick of traffic from other than our residents. With that said, we must be aware of the dangers of walking the and also bicycling on our quiet but public streets and neighborhood.

I will address walking but it will also hold true for bicycling. We must be ever so diligent about our surroundings.

Egg Harbor Township required D. R. Horton to install sidewalks on both sides of all of our streets. This was not a requirement in this township years ago and many developments do not have any sidewalks. This one requirement is truly a very good idea because we can walk on the sidewalks through the entire community. We also have ramps at every intersection allowing folks to step down gradually without stepping off the curb. Walking on the sidewalk is by far the safest way to walk our community.



If one wishes to walk in the street then several safety suggestions could help to make the walk safer.

- Warm or cold weather shirts or jackets should be made with a brightly colored material of a fluorescent variety. This will increase your visibility to traffic utilizing our streets. An alternative to brightly colored outer wear could be a fluorescent colored safety vest. **Visibility is of the upmost importance.**
- Walk as close as possible to the curb.
- If walking with someone else, it is much safer to walk single file. Walking two abreast puts the person closer to traffic in danger of stepping out into traffic.
- If there is a parked car along the curb, walk up onto the sidewalk rather than walking further into the street. Bicycling in this case would be the exception.
- While walking, if you wish to stop to talk to your neighbor, please step up onto the sidewalk rather than standing in the street.

- If walking at night, brightly colored outer wear is a necessity and a flash light would also be a good idea to carry along to make yourself visible.

Walking is a great form of exercise so let us do it AS SAFELY AS POSSIBLE.

Editor's Note: A VGEM Announcement from Kate Walton on September 23, 2015 included a safety message to residents who walk the community. She advised residents, "Please exercise caution if you decide to walk in the street and not on the sidewalk. We recently had a close call on one of the blind curves."

This triggered John DaPrato to send me an email based on Kate's message that our residents may need a refresher on safety. John is concerned that if nothing changes with walkers as well as the dog walkers, the worst will eventually happen.

As a result, the *Grande Gazette* reprinted this article published in the January/February 2014 issue as a refresher on walking safety. His article is relevant as our roads at both entrances are experiencing more traffic. This especially a problem on Lily Road between Dahlia Road from the Wawa to our entrance that has become a popular shortcut to avoid the corners at Mill and Ocean Heights Roads and the turn onto English Creek Road.

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Sports Talk

Tony Scaricamazza



The summer season has come and gone and with it the many activities offered here at VGEM. In this issue you will find season ending articles by the warm weather clubs: Men's Bocce, Women's Bocce, Golf, and Fishing. All these active clubs, as well as Billiards, Bowling, Pickleball and

Tennis were very successful in due to the interest of the many residents who enjoy sporting activities and just having a good time.

Whatever your choices, more and more of us are enjoying all that the community offers. All of this is not possible without the efforts of the many club captains who volunteer their time to provide you with these fun activities and the means to meet and socialize with your neighbors. So, a big thanks to all the sports club captains for a successful 2015 season.



The BG's, Bill Giannetti & Bill Giambastista, touch paddles with Joan Viventi and Kathy Sorrell as is the traditional display of sportsmanship after each game.

so I continued them through August and will probably keep doing them until we stop outdoor play.



The Court Club Tennis & Pickleball Bill Giannetti



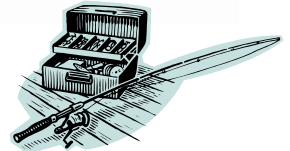
Bill displays his Medals on his "Pickle On" rack

It's hard to believe another season has flown by. It was an excellent summer for outdoor play and all our players enjoyed the sunny days on the courts with some playing both tennis and pickleball. We will continue to play outside thru October, as usual, and then tennis stops and pickleball moves indoors to the EHT Community Center.

We were happy to have three new permanent pickleball courts dedicated at Delilah Oaks Park. This will allow other EHT residents to learn and enjoy the game any day of the week. Some of our players have gone there and they are drawing decent crowds.

The clinics went very well this year. Although I originally scheduled them for May only, new people kept expressing interest in both sports

Fishing Club Bill Hofmann



As observed from the accompanying pictures and with good weather and cooperation from the fish, the July 1st fishing trip on the Duke of Fluke was a fun morning on the back bay.

It has been seven years since Walt Lojewski and I agreed to form a Fishing Club at VGEM. At the meeting to form clubs, we were all new residents and did not know each other. In the beginning, we had a difficult time getting people to sign up for our back bay pontoon trips. Walt and I would deliver flyers door to door and drop others off at Village Grande Little Mill.



Marcie Goldman caught a keeper!

Since those early days, the Fishing Club, with the help of Don Mastrangelo, Jim LoBue, Tony Scaricamazza and the recently moved Joe Stroup, has grown and can fill up the 30 passenger pontoon boats just by putting out an email.

We have done

other things such as Bubba Mac Blues Cruise and evening trips out of Margate and Gardner's Basin



After fishing, it was lunch at the Library III

in Atlantic City. Sometimes the fish do not cooperate, but these outings have turned into a social event for anyone who likes to be out on the water with their neighbors just to relax and have fun. So for all the new residents of Village Grande keep us in mind when you are making your summer plans.

Women's Bocce

Nancy Werden

Another successful "Bocce" season has just concluded. It was a great year with eight teams participating. Everyone had a really fun summer. Aside from the occasional rain out and excessive heat warnings, we were able to wrap up the season on time.



Marge Doms prepares to roll

This year's champions were the "Village Vamps", led by their captain, Barbara Ann Villon. The team of Ilene Schein, Marge Doms, Lynne Hearn, Roe Gawronski and Shirley Bernstein turned in a stellar performance by winning the Championship for the second consecutive year.

The banquet this year was held at the Ballamor Country Club in Egg Harbor Township on Saturday, September 12th. During the

banquet, the Award Plaque was presented to this year's winners, the *Village Vamps*, and will be displayed in the Billiard's room. Certificates of Appreciation were given

to the captains of all the teams for their hard work and effort during this past season.



For the 2015 Champion "Village Vamps", Captain BA Villon holds the Award Plaque with teammates Roe Gawronski, Shirley Bernstein, Ilene Schein, Lynne Hearn & Marge Doms

I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my committee: Terry Stevens, Jane Narke, Peggy Milhan, and Connie DaPrato for their hard work and dedication in providing support whenever needed.

We are already discussing next year's bocce season and hope to see all of our participants back again. Have a great holiday season and see you all in the spring.



Men's Bocce

David VanZant

As Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over till it's over". Well now it's over, another season of friendly competition, as they say, is in the books.

Division #1's season ended with the "Rollers", captained by Jim Cira, in first place, followed by the "Badda Bings", led by Steve Cappadona and the "Poppy Road Gang", led by John DeLuca, in third place.

Over in Division #2, the "Blue B's" captained by Don Mastrangelo wrapped-up first place followed by the "Bocce Bandits", led by Mike Segal and the "Brass B's", led by Floyd Milhan, taking third place.

In the Division #1 play-offs, the "Badda Bings" beat the "Poppy Road Gang" by two games to none, then went on to beat the "Rollers" two games to none. Meanwhile in Division #2 the "Brass B's" up-set the "Bocce Bandits" two games to none, but were then beaten two games to none by the "Blue B's".

These games set the stage for the season final which was held on September 16th. And so with clear blue skies and temperatures in the high 70's, a large appreciative crowd watched as the "Blue B's" took it to the "Badda Bings" winning two games straight to become the Village Grande men's Bocce Champions for 2015. Thanks to Dan Farbman for his efforts as our independent referee/scorer for this match.

We then adjourned to the Clubhouse for our Banquet where we shared good food and friendship, all-in-all a

very pleasant evening. A very special thanks to the ladies for their incomparable assistance in preparing the room, serving the food and bringing their special touch to the evening – to all of those who made the delicious variety of desserts – to Mike Segal for emceeing the event and to everyone who helped in some way to make this night a success.



The Champion "Blue B's". John Murtha, Bill Hofmann, Captain Don Mastrangelo, Al Hearn and Ed Zink



The runner-up "Badda Bings". Jim Lichtenwalner, Al Mancini, Captain Steve Cappadona and Tony Morris

I feel that it's been a great season of good fun, fellowship and friendly competition. Our thanks to all who have participated in making this bocce season a success. It is unfortunate that we have lost some players to poor health or relocation, but we finished the season with nearly a full roster on all of the teams. I would like to encourage everyone to consider joining us next year for another great season on the bocce courts. In the spring, there will be fliers announcing the sign up dates. There are some spots open on existing teams and there is room for two additional teams, should the need arise.

Speaking for your bocce committee, we have done

the very best that we could to make this season as enjoyable as possible and we look forward to doing an even better job next year. With your kind acceptance, we have all agreed to continue as your bocce committee

through next season. Have a healthy winter, wherever that may be, and we hope to see each of you on the bocce courts next year.



Billiards



*As the Sun sets on 9 Ball,
a New Season is Dawning for 8 Ball*
Jim Lichtenwalner & Joe Carluccio

The 9-Ball season has just come to an end. Don Hinspeter and Shirley Lerner teamed up to end victorious over the other 9 teams competing over the summer;



9-Ball Champions. Don Hinspeter & Shirley Lerner

the championship was hard fought with 4 of the 10 teams in the running, right until the end.

Looking ahead, the Billiards Club is about to embark on its 5th Season of 8-Ball and you can join the fun. Members of

the Billiards Club are anxious to start league play in late Fall and we are always looking for new members. Teams will compete each Wednesday evening into early spring. You don't have to be an expert, just someone who wants to have some fun. I suggest you speak to your friends and neighbors who participated last year; I'm sure they will be happy to tell you how much they enjoyed the camaraderie every Wednesday evening.

Our purpose is to have fun and enjoy socializing with our neighbors. We hope you plan to participate. There is a Sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board next to the Property Manager's office. If you would like more information, please contact Jim Lichtenwalner or Joe Carluccio.

Golfing
Doug Beaupit



July, August and September were very hot months for our players. We played all Golf League (GL) events at the Mays Landing Country Club (MLCC) except for two weeks where we played at the Greentree Golf Course.

Sports Club News

The highlight of the summer was the GL tournament. All GL players were eligible to play using their handicaps. It took 4 weeks to determine a champion. It was completed on September 2nd after 4 weeks of match play events. Sixteen players started match play in August and the final two players, Ed Zink and Alex Polazneck played for the honors. Alex is the new GL Champion. Ron Hires posted an 85 for the best gross score in the tournament, and Joe Carluccio posted a 65 for the best net score in the tournament. The plaque in the billiards room has been updated. The annual GL barbecue to honor our champ, Alex Polazneck, was held on September 22nd at MLCC. The GL ends at the end of October. The end of the year player highlights will be published in the next gazette.



The VGEM 2015 Golf Club Champion Alex Polazneck and the runner-up Ed Zink.

MLCC was purchased in August. The new owners are going to keep the membership fees the same (\$219) for 2016. More details on the new owners upcoming events are due out in October.

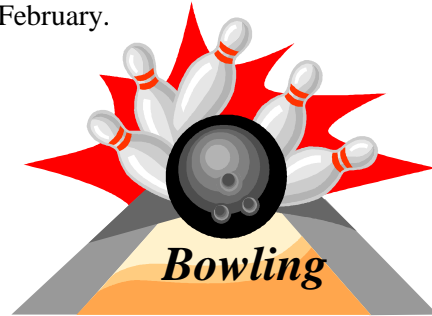
VGEM Scramble

The GL is sponsoring the 4th annual VGEM Golf Scramble on Friday, October 9th. It will be held at Mays Landing Country Club. The write-up and pictures will be published in the next Gazette.

LPGA Volunteers

The 2016 tournament will again be hosted by ShopRite and held at the Seaview Country Club. For anyone living in VGEM who would like to come out and have some fun marshaling, please put the dates June 1st

- June 5th on your 2016 calendar. Registration will be held in February.



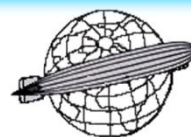
Mixed bowling takes place every Monday at 10 AM at King Pin Lanes located on the Black Horse Pike, next to Bob's Garden Center, a short distance north of the Shore Mall. To play, just show up and join your neighbors in friendly games of bowling. For \$8 you get a ball, shoes, three games, lunch and a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

*Answers to the
WINNER is...
on page 34*

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



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The Bocce Battle of the Sexes

By Tony Scaricamazza



“Village Vamps” Marge Doms, Roe Gawronski, Lynn Hearn, Captain BA Villon and Shirley Bernsten. Not pictured Ilene Shein

“Blue B’s – John Murtha, Al Hearn, Captain Don Mastrangelo and Bill Hofmann. Not pictured Ed Zink

If you were at the bocce courts on September 21, then you witnessed the second time the Men and Women Bocce Championship Teams faced off in the best of three games to determine who had the bragging rights as the best bocce team at VGEM. Was it the men or was it the women?

The competing teams were the Blue B’s captained by Don Mastrangelo and the Village Vamps captained by Barbara Anne “BA” Villon. This was the first time that a wife and husband were on competing teams – Lynn and Al Hearn.

Well before the game time start of 5:00 PM, the crowd starting gathering to get the seats with the best views. The teams assembled, discussed their tactics and prepared to do battle. The referee, Dan Farbman, signaled the start and the game began.



Umpire Dan Farbman signals “Red Rolls!”



Red is definitely closer!



A spirited crowd attentively watches the action when Jim Cira yells out, “Gimme an ‘M!’”

And the Men Prevailed!



Floyd gives a "Thumbs Up"!

*Howard Bernstein, Floyd Milhan & Steve Cappadona.
Standing: Rich Johnson and Dave VanZant*

The first game was won by the Blue B's 10 to 4. The second game went back and forth in a tense battle with



the Blue B's winning 10 to 8 making them the overall VGEM Bocce Champions.

After watching the men and women compete, everyone agreed that they were both winners!

This is the second consecutive year for the "Bocce Battle of the Sexes". Everyone present hopes that this will become the annual grand finale of the VGEM Bocce Season.



Bocce Champions & Winners All!

*Shirley Bernstein, Marge Doms, Roe Gawronski,
BA Villion, Lynn Hearn, Don Mastrangelo, Al Hearn,
John Murtha and Bill Hofmann*





EHT Opens Pickleball Courts **Bill Giannetti... At It Again** *By Tom Santucci*

Egg Harbor Township (EHT) created a new indoor court in the spring inside the Egg Harbor Township Community Center and Bill Giannetti, along with help from his dearly departed friend George Diener, composed the driving force for this happening. At 10 AM on August 20, 2015, EHT celebrated the Grand Opening Ceremony of three dedicated outdoor pickleball courts in the Delilah Oaks Park. And take a guess, Bill Giannetti was the honored guest. Mayor James J. "Sonny" McCullough welcomed a crowd of pickleball enthusiasts that were highly represented by VGEM residents. Mayor "Sonny" turned over the ceremony to the Chairman of the EHT Recreation Commission, Robert Fairfield, who spoke about the project that led to the construction of the three top notch pickleball courts in the Delilah Oaks Park. After his opening remarks, Mr. Fairfield introduced the man whom he described as being responsible for the courts



*Mayor "Sonny" McCullough with Bill Giannetti
at the podium of the Opening Ceremony*

being built, Bill Giannetti. Yes, VGEM's own Billy "Pickles" Giannetti was at it again successfully promoting pickleball to all who will listen.

Bill praised EHT officials for having built the pickleball courts to promote the sport and for such a superb facility for Township residents to play. He spoke about the growing popularity of pickleball in South Jersey and throughout the USA. Although the sport typically attracts senior citizens, it is a sport for all ages. He closed by thanking the EHT Recreation Commission, its Chairman Robert Fairfield, the township Recreation Director Rick Audet and Mayor McCullough for adding pickleball courts to the many other athletic facilities offered by the Township.

Following Bill's presentation, he joined Mayor "Sonny" McCullough center court for a ribbon cutting ceremony. With the red ribbon held across the center court by two campers from the recreation department summer camp, Bill, with a helping hand from the Mayor, cut the ribbon. Following some tutoring from Bill the previous day, Mayor James "Sonny" McCullough hit the ceremonial first serve to Bill to the applause of the several dozens of pickleball enthusiasts in attendance. Coincidentally, the Mayor's first serve was well done and this was another tribute to the teaching skills of Bill Giannetti. Later Bill reports that the Mayor wants to play some pickleball with us on VGEM's courts.



Bill Giannetti is a member of the U.S.A. Pickleball Association (USAPA) and an official USAPA Ambassador. The Ambassadors are volunteers who have pledged to promote the sport of pickleball and the USAPA in the local area they have applied to represent. The main prerequisite is a love of the sport and the desire to share the game with others of all ages. Bill Giannetti certainly embodies all the qualities of a pickleball Ambassador and has definitely fulfilled his pledge

In an article appearing in the August 13, 2015 *CURRENT*, Bill described the early days of pickleball



VGEM was well represented at the ceremony by our many bright yellow clad pickleball player

at VGEM by saying, "I introduced the game here 3 years ago by taping a court in the parking lot and showed about 6 tennis players how to play. We now have 3 courts painted on our tennis courts ... playing 4 mornings a week and typically get 12 to 16 players." From a taped court in a parking lot, you can see how far Bill has brought pickleball in EHT.

In the same *CURRENT*, EHT Recreation Commissioner Mary Ann McComb, a good friend of VGEM pickleball, said, "By adding pickleball courts in EHT it allows us to grow with other local municipalities and gives us a chance to support our

seniors, who will have the opportunity to enjoy the social aspects of the sport and the ability to stay active." She goes on to say, "It is a sport which allows both grandparents and grandchildren to share time in a sport they can play together." This statement touches home as over the last two years, we have had the pleasure to watch and play with and against Bill Giambatista and his grandson Ricky.

Pickleball is a great sport! Thanks to Bill from all of us whom he has introduced and taught to play pickleball. I believe I speak for many others when I say thank you for introducing such a fun recreational activity to how we now live our lives! You gave us all a special life enhancing gift! We are sort of Bill's pickleball children!



Bill with Mary Ann McComb, EHT Rescreation Commissioner, and Mayor "Sonny" McCullough

The Social Committee
Presents



New Year's Eve Party
Thursday, December 31st
8:00 PM into 2016
Grande Room

**Hors d'oeuvres, Array of Party Sandwiches
& Wraps, Mini-Desserts and Soft Drinks**
BYO & Dancing – Cost TBD
Music by Posse Productions

VGEM Travel Club

By David VanZant



Your Travel Club's core committee of Betty Alberts, Doug Beupit and myself met several times over the summer attempting to rationalize the data that we had gathered over the last three years, some of which I shared in my last article.

Our first cruise in 2012 originated with Mickey England and Sydney Yacovelli having signed-up for a second transatlantic cruise and thought "It might be nice to travel with friends and neighbors, and asked who would like to join us"? Jim Lichtenwalner joined Mickey and the FUNd-Raising Committee planned a group trip. Well, sixteen of us did join in for a great time. This was to become the beginning of the Travel Club. If it worked so well once, "why not do it again?"

After several months of presentations, frustration and failed starts, we decided to get the original travelers together for a barbeque at our house and present a "short list" of cruises that might interest this group of proven travelers. The result that was our second successful trans-Atlantic cruise was under way with 32 travelers eventually making a most enjoyable cruise from Barcelona to Fort Lauderdale.

For the first trip we worked directly with Celebrity Cruise Lines, while on the second trip we worked with a travel partner, *Preferred Travel*. Both of these trips were "open-ended" meaning that those traveling would make their own flight arrangements and were free to design their own "pre-" and "post-" trip plans. This provided the travelers with great opportunities for each to explore the areas of interest that they chose.

Following our second trip, we again presented travel opportunities, on a bi-monthly schedule, through various sources. Again with no success and after much discussion, we decided to once again get those folks who have previously traveled with us along with some who have shown past interest in group travel, to gather for a closed session meeting on September 17th. The purpose was to develop a

"short list" of cruise opportunities and present them to the Community.

We had a lot of good conversation and feedback from those attending, on where we should go, how we should



structure our trips, whether or not to use a travel agent, and should we consider shorter bus trips, tours, etc. We had interest in all of the trips presented, but two of them were particularly attractive to our travelers. One is a European cruise from Rome to Venice via Greek Islands and Athens. The second a U. S. cruise out of Chicago on Lake Michigan. Both these cruises are for 2016.



The Travel Club will be meeting shortly to decide how to promote one or both of these trips for the coming year. Ultimately, this may decide how the Travel Club will operate in the future in order to bring you the very best opportunities for group travel with neighbors and friends.

Since this is the last Gazette for this year, look for fliers in your mail tube that will announce our travel plans for the coming year. These will be reported in the first quarterly Gazette in 2016.

It Takes A Village Former Resident's Reflects on Life and VGEM

By Gwen Szyarto, Former VGEM Resident

We choose to build our "forever" house in VGEM in 2007. We loved making this house into our home and we loved the Village people even more than we could imagine.

We often toyed with the idea of moving to Michigan to watch our three grandchildren grow, but we were born and raised NJ and were apprehensive about making that move because of the weather and leaving all that we loved (with the exception of high taxes). The location, the house, the amenities, but especially the residents kept us happily anchored.

Fast forward September 2013: one day you are happily enjoying your afternoon card game at the Clubhouse with the ladies when your husband calls to tell you he's on his way to the ER on doctor's orders. Prognosis was not what anyone wants to hear. Life changed in the matter of six hours.

Ironically, our son is an oncologist in Michigan and he knew what we had to do. We were hoping treatments could be started and we could return to our home, but that was not possible. Reality of the diagnosis kicked-in and our son said we needed to be there...forever.

We tell this story for two reasons: first, people enter your life for a reason. Ken is currently a survivor, after an arduous two years. We have learned to live day-by-day, and enjoy every moment. The residents or more precisely the friends that we have made from VGEM have prayed and always been there in these emotional two years. You entered our lives for a reason.



Lou & Lynnnda Golin hosted a gathering for the former VGEM residents, Gwen & Ken Szyarto.

This was recently evidenced by our spontaneous decision to return to NJ for one week to visit friends in Monmouth, Ocean and Atlantic Counties. Our kudos

goes to Lynnnda & Lou Golin for hosting and organizing a fabulous open house in such a short time. The outpouring of love, kindness, and warmth was overwhelming. The residents who stopped in or stayed also brought delicious foods to share. How can we ever thank the Golins and the Village People that we grew to love?



*Jeannie Eckard, Pat Roche, Ann Forshaw
Gwen Szyarto, & Ilene Schaffer*

We cannot thank you all individually or by name for fear of leaving someone out, but you know who you are that truly made a difference in our lives. It has been said that you can't go home again, but we would return in a heartbeat.

The second reason we tell our story is with hopes that current residents realize how awesome VGEM is as a community. Our adult community in Michigan is quite different! Yes, we have a beautiful lodge with many amenities, but that's about it. Dues have been raised twice since we moved in August 2014. VGEM has a Board that lowers dues. We pay for a full-time social director; VGEM has an amazing group of volunteers that seem to be taken for granted. We pay for full-time clubhouse maintenance; VGEM has a wealth of individuals who donate their services and expertise. Thank your board members, volunteers and workers often.

Oh, one more thing: be kind to others. You never know when your whole life is going to change directions and you will be on the receiving end. Thank you all for your prayers, love and support the past two years, but especially the outpouring on our return visit. We love you and miss you.



Ken, Mel Goldberg & Tom Santucci

Garden Club Events

Bob's Garden Center

By Sydney Yacovelli



Bob's Garden Center hosted the VGEM Garden Club on June 17 for an informative class with pointers on improving your garden. It was a fun session and members left with

helpful magazines about growing flowers. There will be another session at Bob's in January when a class on making a "one pot garden" will be presented.



Garden Club members enjoy a class at Bob's Garden Center

Garden Club Update

By Jeannie Eckard

Our Garden Club held its meeting on September 8, 2015, with over fifty lovely ladies in attendance. Several things were discussed in relation to the plants in our gardens along with up-coming events. It was agreed upon that some of the members of the Garden Club would decorate the front of the Clubhouse for autumn.

Our decorators will once again do an outstanding and festive job as they did last year.

There Garden Club has several activities planned for the fall. They are:

- A trip to Willow Creek Winery and Farm on October 7, 2015 for a presentation on producing wine and, of course, wine tasting.
- Our annual Tea Party which is going to be a Rainbow Tea will be held on Tuesday November 10th. We will be having 88 ladies in beautiful hats sipping tea and eating delicious sandwiches and desserts while sitting at beautifully decorated

tables in the colors of a rainbow. The annual Tea Party is a much anticipated event in our community.

- A bus trip to Brandywine Museum and Longwood Gardens with Friendly Tours on Monday December 14, 2015, is in the planning stages and is always a wonderful trip for the holidays. The decorations are spectacular and more than worthy of the drive.

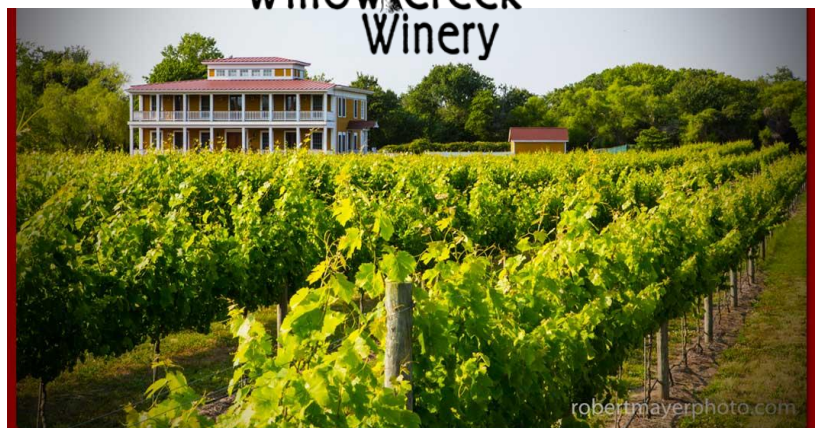


The Longwood Gardens at Christmas

- The Garden Club will also be collecting non-perishable food for the food bank this fall, as we have been doing for many years. Please be generous when donating as there are many people less fortunate than we who are in great need of our donations. There are a great many people in need this year and your generosity will be most appreciated. There will be a box set up in the foyer entrance for collection of your donated food items.

If anyone is interested in joining the Garden Club, the dues are \$5.00 per year. Dues must be in the form of a check written out to VGEM and submitted to Regina Yuppa.

Willow Creek
Winery



Garden Club Events

The Rainbow Tea Party

November 10, 2015

By Jeannie Eckard

As most of us know by now, our former Chair Lady Sidney Yacovelli has retired from overseeing and managing the annual community tea party. I would again like to thank her for her many years of service to our community and for those beautiful and memorable occasions in which Sidney worked so tediously with great perfection to make sure that we had the perfect tea party. I will do my best to fill her shoes.

Everything is coming along smoothly with the pending November 10th tea party. Our theme this year is "The Rainbow". Each table hostess will choose and design her table by using one or all of the colors in the rainbow. The hostesses have been quite busy preparing and planning their center pieces and tables along with the decorating committee who are putting their expert touches in their preparation of decorating ideas for the interior of the clubhouse.

Along with the eleven hostesses, there are twenty wonderful ladies who have graciously volunteered to assist in making this tea party an outstanding event. I really appreciate all of their assistance and I am hoping to make this year's tea party another success as it has been in prior years.

We are still in need of another hostess. If anyone is interested in becoming a hostess, please contact me at 609-926-0595. Being a hostess is a rewarding experience

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Spotlight on Your Neighbors

Steve Cappadona

By Pat Roche



Before I launch into my usual Spotlight column, I would like to “spot” a thoroughly enjoyable novel I have just completed. This book is the perfect selection for both Book Bunch and Garden Club members as well as those who enjoy “all things Irish”.

“*Winter Bloom*” by Tara Heavey is a tale encompassing domestic abuse, infidelity, unwanted pregnancy, forgiveness, homosexuality and survival. Long buried secrets are shared as the characters work to detangle their “thorny” lives as well as the overgrown weeds of a walled garden in the heart of Dublin. Do consider reading this. Here is a quote from “*The Selfish Giant*” by Oscar Wilde from the preface of the novel, “The birds were flying about and twittering with delight.” This is the perfect lead into my “Spotlight” subject, Steve Cappadona, the “*Birdhouse Builder*” of VGEM!



Steve tells a great story about the confusion he creates when asked where he is from. He grew up in a small town in New Jersey called West New York. Most people just hear the New York part and assume he is a New Yorker! Again and again, he must explain that West New York is indeed in New Jersey and, in fact, right across the river from New York.

Steve comes from a family that likes to create with their hands. His mother loved drawing and making things. His brother taught Industrial Arts in their

hometown of West New York and his “kid” sister is presently teaching art in Weehawken, NJ. Growing up, Steve enjoyed working with wood and making models of airplanes, boats, etc. Now to keep busy, he makes bird house creations and an assortment of other things. If something catches his eye, he will turn it into one of his bird houses. We have one that looks like a log cabin but is made from wine corks. Others are more traditional and gaily painted and decorated to attract the birds. Steve enjoys seeing his creations sheltering birds around our Community.



The Wine Cork Birdhouse

In addition to working with his birdhouses, Steve enjoys playing cards at the Clubhouse with the “guys” and of course, Bocce! They have a great time and lots of laughs! He also derives great joy from making things that will bring enjoyment to others and giving them away.

The following is a direct quote from Steve “So, if you would like a birdhouse come see me at 24 Marigold Circle. I am in the garage. Knock on the garage door anytime after 11:00 AM, not Wednesday or Thursday, playing cards!!! Steve”. Thanks so much Steve for giving us another reason to brag a bit about our Grande Lifestyle!





Summer Holiday Breakfast



By Marlene Santucci

The Social Committee held a Summer Holiday Breakfast from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM on the "4th of July" to begin the celebration of Independence Day. The event was well attended by 115 guests who arrived at various times to enjoy coffee, food and chatting with neighbors and friends.



The Summer Holiday Committee.

*Chicki Sinaglia, Marlene Santucci, Regina Yuoppa,
Marsha Goldberg & Marcy Gelman*

The Grande Room was decorated in the spirit of the holiday with red, white and blue flowers and table covers. The breakfast consisted of an array of fresh bagels from *Hot Bagels*, muffins, Danish, strawberries, pineapple, juice and, of course, copious amounts of fresh brewed coffee.



The event was presented by Co-chairs Marsha Goldberg and Marlene Santucci with the assistance of their committee Marcy Gelman, Regina Yuppa, and Chicki Sinaglia. A special thank you goes out to all who graciously helped to decorate, setup and break down tables and chairs, and to the people who stepped in to help with the clean up.





Summer Party 2015

By Chicki Sinaglia
Co-Chair, Social Committee

We held our Annual Summer Party on the best night of the summer. It was not hot, rainy, windy or buggy. Thank God for big favors.

We had a bright, cheery, colorful theme with lots of beach party music which was provided by Aggie and Jim Henry. The pool was surrounded with glowing candles while huge beach balls floated atop the water. People dined and danced both inside and out. The food was delicious. We went for summery soul food and the attendees really dug in. Thanks to T. Wakes catering for preparing such a sumptuous meal.



The sign-in team of Chicki Sinaglia, Sheila Solomon & Kathleen McGroarty

Barbara Ann Villon, Bill Giannetti and Dolores Magara headed this committee consisting of Regina Yuppa, Marsha Goldberg, Marlene Santucci, Kathleen McGroarty and Chicki Sinaglia. Special thanks to our set up team –Rich Johnson, Ed Wenzke, Tony Morris and Bill Giannetti.

A good time was had by all!,



High stepping Social Committee members are all smiles over the success of the biggest party of the year.

BA Villon, Kathleen McGroarty, Ginny Holt, Dolores Magara, Regina Yuppa, Marlene Santucci, Jeannie Eckard & Marcy Gelman



The T. Wakes Serving Team

After a great buffet dinner, the dance floor was cleared for dancing. Music was provided by resident DJs





Get Ready
to PARTY





Summer Fun





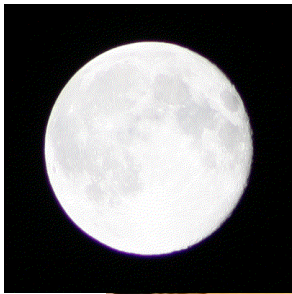
*"I'm forever blowing bubbles!"
Marcy Gelman*



*Posse Production
Thanks to Aggie & Jim Henry for
another great evening of music
& dancing!*



*Thanks to Social Committee Co-Chairs
Chicki Sinagria & Regina for another great
Summer Party! And Jeannie Eckard in the
middle for the great pictures!*



The After Hours Club

While Summer came to an end at VGEM with a big bang, more fun events are being planned to bring the community together and to build friendships.

See you next time!

October/November/December 2015 ~ Grande Gazette 53

The Poolside Grille

VGEM Says Thank You to Marsha & Dennis Goldberg

VGEM says thank-you to Marsha and Dennis Goldberg for offering to take on the huge responsibility for this summer's newly named *The Poolside Grille*. From May 27th through September 8th, the Goldbergs have worked tirelessly to maintain the VGEM tradition of "No Cook Wednesdays".



Marsha & Dennis Goldberg beside the grill as they have done on Wednesday for over three months this summer.

The idea of a weekly BBQ was the brainchild of Mickey England and Jim Lichtenwalner, Co-Chairs of the FUNd-Raising Committee, in the summer of 2012. They named it the "Bocce Grill" which endured until it was renamed *The Poolside Grille* this year. Through the hard work of the Goldbergs, Wednesday evenings in the summer continue to be special.



Pat Roche and Howard Bernstein take orders

Let's all join together and say thanks to Marsha and Dennis Goldberg along with all of the other volunteers and bid farewell to another grand season. We very much appreciate all the work that went into this season. Thanks again for *The Poolside Grille!*



Ray Viventi watches as Dennis Goldberg passes a cheeseburger to Donna Lichtenwalner to serve to a hungry customer.



The Poolside Grille



Thanks from Marsha & Dennis



A one word description of the 2015 Poolside Grille volunteers would be **TEAMWORK**

When Marsha and I agreed to run the old “bocce grill” for this year, we had several questions which gave us reason for concern. First, would the new format be well received by the residents and would we have good turnouts or less participation? Second, would we get the much needed help we would need to properly run the event on a weekly basis? The answer to both those questions was a resounding YES. And now with the season over, we want to thank the entire VGEM Community for their help and support. Whether you cooked, served, collected money, donated one of the many homemade specialties or just supported the grill by your attendance and purchases, **THANK YOU!** We look forward to and hope to see you all back again next year.

"Cool Cars"

Classic Cars at VGEM

By Bill Hofmann

Having cool cars in the 50's was a big part of the lifestyle for many of us that grew up in that time period. The music and the movies were also a part of that generation. In 1959, at 17 years old, I bought a 1951 Ford Victoria for \$250 that needed a lot of work. My father was a mechanic and along with my three brothers we learned how to take our cars apart and put them back together. Joan and I cruised around in that car not realizing that this time period was so special in our life. Things change and we started a family and a business and all of a sudden cool cars were no longer important.

So skip forward 50 years and all of a sudden with the urging of my friend, Tim Cavacini, who owned a beautiful 1951 Ford convertible, I googled "1951 Ford Victoria" and there it was for sale in Las Vegas. Now of course this was not my old car, but a carbon copy none the less. The rest is history and for us the clock has been turned back.



Tim Cavacini with his 1951 Ford convertible

Tim purchased the car in 2012. It is equipped with power steering, dual tail pipes, power top, radial white wall tires and a V-8 engine with automatic transmission. Tim says as a car, "It's a great driver!"



Bill Hofmann with his 1951 Ford Victoria



*Dennis Goldberg with his Silver Grey
1956 Thunderbird Convertible*

Known as the "Baby Bird", Ford created the Thunderbird in 1955 to compete with the Chevrolet Corvette. It was built as a two seat, hardtop and convertible for only 3 years with the 1956 model the only one that incorporated the continental kit for the spare tire.

Marsha and Dennis were invited to a car show by Bill Hofmann and fell in love with the concept of classic car ownership. Shortly afterwards on a beautiful Saturday afternoon drive to New Hope Pa, while waiting for a traffic light to change, Marsha made eye



Jimmy Gay with his 1978 T-top Corvette and loving it.

contact with a woman in a 1956 T-Bird who had stopped at that very same light. It was “love at first sight”. The light barely changed when Marsha looked at Dennis and said, “If we venture into classic cars, it was that car or nothing”. After about 8 months of research, he located their own “Baby Bird”. The excitement and camaraderie they now enjoy with their fellow VGEM classic car enthusiasts was well worth the wait.



Jim Harnett's 1940 Ford Deluxe Coupe Convertible

Jim had always dreamed of owning a 1940 Ford Coupe since seeing one in his neighborhood in Germantown, PA when he was 15 years old. After moving to VGEM in 2013, and now having a two car garage, his dream of owning one became a reality. While retaining its stock appearance, it has been modified with a Mustang II front suspension, a 302 Mustang engine, 9 inch Ford rear, automatic transmission and dual exhaust.



Paulette Harnett's 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme

Paulette enjoys taking her Olds to the many car shows in the area or just out for a moonlight cruise. Her 1970 Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme convertible, lovingly known as *Mischief*, joined the Harnett family in 2013, as a gift from her husband, Jim. The car is all original, with the exception of the paint. It has a Rocket 350 engine with a four barrel carburetor. She is a classic car

lover and particularly fond of red convertibles. They have been going to classic car shows for 25 years and are happy to now attend them with their fellow car enthusiasts in VGEM.



Dan Cianci with his 1966 Ford Mustang 289

Dan's 1966 Mustang is in mostly original condition. It has a 289 V8 engine with the original 4 barrel carburetor.

Original parts include the pony interior, steering wheel, Delco AM radio, factory air conditioner and vinyl top. It is his understanding that very few 1966 Mustangs were made with the vinyl top. He's owned this car for the past 25 years and at purchase was repainted to springtime yellow. Contrary to popular opinion Ford did not make the canary yellow that year. It has been in many shows and continues to bring pleasure to he and his wife,



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The Fall Breakfast

By Chicki Sinaglia

On a beautiful fall morning on Saturday, September 26th, we sat down to a hot breakfast with over 100 of our neighbors. The food was plentiful and everyone appeared to be enjoying the chance to sit down with their neighbors and connect.

This Fall Breakfast was planned by Regina Yuppa and Chicki Sinaglia with assistance by Marcy Gelman, Joan Viventi, Marsha Goldberg, Sue Paulu, Kathy Sorrell, Sheila Solomon, Ginny Holt and Kathleen McGroarty. For this breakfast, Kathleen McGroarty made handwritten name tags for all the attendees. This was in addition to always compiling the list of all attendees and checking everyone in at the door. Many thanks to all of these Social Committee members as well as to Golden Corral who did another good job catering the event.

Also special thanks to Bill Giannetti, Rich Johnson, Jim Marini, Jim Smith and Randy Krehel for setting up our tables and chairs. To all of you who helped with the clean up after the breakfast, again... many, many Thanks.

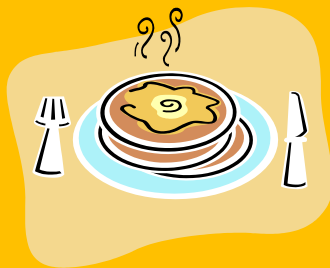


Sheila Solomon greets while Kathleen McGroarty writes out the name tags

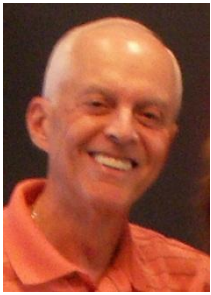


The Breakfast Team. Kathy Sorrell, Kathleen McCroarty, Marcy Gelman, Joan Viventi, Sheila Solomon, Sue Paula, Regina Yuppa & Ginny Holt

The Fall Breakfast



Another Social Committee Success!



Advice for Snowbirds **What to do before** **going south for the** **winter**

From Mike Segal

Prevent water damage and ensure protection: When water freezes in pipes, they burst easily, leaving you with an expensive and time-consuming cleanup.

- Heat the structure at or above 58 degrees.
- If your thermostat is battery operated, replace old batteries with new ones.
- Turn off the water supply to the home and properly drain all systems and appliances of water.
- Turn off the hot water heater.



Minimize chances of theft:

- If you have a home alarm make sure that the alarm company has your cell phone number, email address and the residence phone in which you are staying. Properly display your home alarm company's signage.
- Remove or hide valuables like stereos, televisions, tools and media.
- Forward all mail to your permanent address and pay bills associated with your seasonal home through the winter months.
- Close all blinds or drapes.
- It's, also, a good idea to purchase timers that turns on lamps strategically placed.
- Notify your newspaper carrier that you would like to suspend delivery. A buildup of mail lets thieves know the home is unoccupied, and mail is an excellent source of information that can be used for identity theft.
- Ask a local resident to stop by once in awhile to check for break-ins or other problems.
- Notify your Neighborhood Watch Person of the date of your departure and anticipated return. Also notify them of changes in your itinerary.



Protect home and personal property:

- Store patio furniture in your garage or storage locker
- If you have automatic garage doors, push the lock button on the opener. Also, you can place a lock in the hole in the garage door rails so it cannot possibly open up.

- If you have sliding doors to your patio, place a pipe or wooden dowel in the track so the door cannot slide open.
- Clean your gutters so rain water and melted snow drains far from your foundation. You may want to invest in gutter covers.

Prevent animal infestation: Take any open food in your primary residence and either trash or store it properly so mice cannot find it. Look for small entry ways into the building and barricade them from rodents. Start by covering the chimney tightly so birds and raccoons cannot enter, and block holes in the foundation and around gutters where small animals can enter.



Reprint from Grande Gazette Nov/Dec 2014

MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD **CANDIDATES**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015
TIME: 6:30P.M.

AT VGEM CLUBHOUSE

On November 3rd, we will elect three members to the EHT Board of Education. Your vote is *critical!*

Do you know that the current school district portion of your EHT property tax bill is over 60%. Those who we elect will be expected to make cost effective decisions - particularly when crafting annual school budgets.

Come out to meet all six contenders and learn their positions on:

- **The cost of education and property taxes**
- **Supporting cost containment activities**
- **The Board's role on instructional matters**
- **The future direction of the school district**
- **The controversial reading program**

OUR MOST PRECIOUS LIBERTY IS...
THE RIGHT TO VOTE!

Presented by VGEM Government Liaison Committee



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