

Grande Gazette

The Village Grande at English Mill

Volume 7 - Issue 1

WINTER QUARTER

January/February/March 2016



Happy
New Year
2016

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VILLAGE GRANDE AT ENGLISH MILL

1 Village Grande Road; Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Clubhouse Hours: 5 AM - Midnight

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Updated: 12/13/2015

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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 Grande Gazette Staff or the Board of Trustees

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From the Editor... The Printed Gazette Returns

By Tom Santucci

The *Online Grande Gazette* had good content and provided unlimited pages, but the concern was that the Gazette was not reaching all our residents. Furthermore, we were also concerned that for many it was a single exercise in scrolling text. The common denominator of these concerns is a reduced exposure to the Gazette's content. With a printed Gazette lying on your coffee table, desk, in the bathroom, etc., there is a greater likelihood for it to be looked at more frequently.

Many people volunteer many hours working to compile a meaningful Gazette to keep the Community better informed on governance, events and activities, as well as other enlightening articles written by your neighbors on a broad range of topics from "*Cool Cars*" to healthcare. Without the Gazette reaching every household, is all this work worth the effort?

The Board shared my concern as well as my perception that the majority of VGEM residents preferred a printed Gazette. The Board unanimously approved funds to print 350 copies of a quarterly, forty-page, stapled Gazette. However, the funds budgeted for the Gazette are not sufficient to cover the cost of printing the additional copies needed as VGEM expands from its current 342 to 397 homes.

Printing 400 copies will increase the cost by more than \$250 more per issue. Fortunately, the Gazette has secured \$1,390 from advertising for 2016. Tony Scaricamazza, the Gazette's Associate Editor, developed a 2016 budget that projects the Gazette as being able to cover this additional cost with dollars enough left over to print the Gazette as a booklet which you will find much more appealing than a stapled copy.

As I prepared this issue, I did miss the extra pages of an online Gazette; but I am very pleased to know that every household will receive a printed Gazette to hold in their hands to read. Carol Moderski and her distribution team have graciously agreed to resume delivering the Gazette. Thanks to Carol and the distribution team who are listed in the Gazette Staff Box in the top left column. I appreciate what Carol will be doing and has done for the Gazette. Thank you!

I'd also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Sydney Yacovelli for all she has done for the Gazette as a former Editor and especially for her advice and counsel to me when I became Editor. Besides being a productive staff writer, her candid critiques of the Gazette have been invaluable to me. Sydney will no longer be an Associate Editor but I hope she'll write an occasional article for the Gazette. I miss reading her historical articles on Atlantic County. Thanks Sydney!

Message from the President

Pam LoBue



The fall is always a very busy time for the Board. This fall has not been an exception to that! The most pressing action always centers around the budget. Once again, the Finance Committee has successfully completed this difficult task. Sincere thanks goes out to these dedicated members of this important

committee: Don Cheate, Howard Bernstein, Dan Farbman, Terry Giannetti, Joe Leeds, Art Richman and Tom Santucci. Many hours are spent going over each line item to ensure that our financial obligations will be met. Once again, our monthly fees remain stable while maintaining our current level of services. Your monthly fee drops by one dollar a month to \$210.00.

Another area that has demanded a lot of attention from the Board is the problems with the indoor pool. At this time, we are awaiting two more reports from qualified companies to plan our course of action. For more details on this problem, I recommend that you read the Community Manager's Report. Kate's article is a most informative presentation on this problem. Unfortunately, the indoor pool will remain closed until the problems can be addressed.

Wishing you all a healthy happy new year! May 2016 be a year filled with peace for us all.

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

- Morris Wenick -

119 Snowdrop Road
October 12, 2015
at the age of 100 years

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

- Ethel Rose Bernstein -

378 Sunflower Drive
November 22, 2015

Jim Walsh Appointed Trustee

By Tom Santucci

At the December 7th HOA Board meeting, President Pam LoBue announced that Jim Walsh agreed to accept an appointment as a Trustee on the VGEM Board. Jim will serve the remainder of Sam Salierno's term that expires on June 30, 2016.

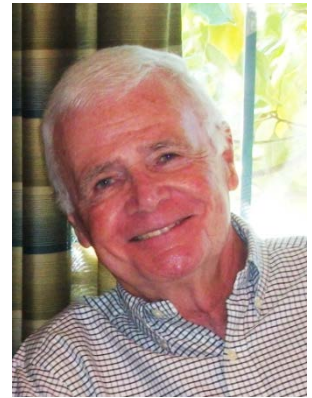
Jim and his wife of 33 years, Barbara, have resided in VGEM for 8 years. At the meeting, Pam reported that Jim is very knowledgeable about the governance of our Community having been a founding member of both the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and the Election Committee.

Jim is a graduate of Saint Joseph's University where he earned a BSBA degree that will serve us all well as he deals with the fiduciary responsibilities of a VGEM Trustee. Coincidentally, Jim was an accomplished basketball player on the Saint Joseph's Hawk team where he played under the late Dr. Jack Ramsey. What a tremendous opportunity to observe and learn leadership under such an internationally renowned and respected basketball legend.

After working as a stock trader and then in corporate finance with both Campbell Soup Co. and RCA, Jim moved to South Jersey more than 40 years ago. For 28 years, Jim served with Atlantic County Government as their human resource director. He has amassed a wealth of knowledge regarding multiple facets of our local and State government. As a Trustee, this knowledge will certainly benefit our Community, as well as being helpful to the VGEM Government Liaison Committee.

Jim retired in 2005 which he has told me was way too early. To keep busy and help the youth of EHT, Jim has been using his leadership skills working the "EHT Kids Klub" after hours program for "latch key kids" in Kindergarten through the third grade. Also after his retirement, Mayor James "Sonny" McCullough appointed Jim to review the EHT 2014 School Budget.

Our Community is very fortunate to have an individual with Jim's integrity, intelligence, leadership and experience with Atlantic County government to step forward to accept an appointment to the VGEM Board of Trustees. I believe I represent the majority of our Community in saying thanks for accepting.



Board Adopts New HOA Meeting Format For 2016

By Tom Santucci



At the December 7th HOA Board Meeting, President Pam LoBue announced a new trial format for HOA meetings in 2016.

According to our governing document, only a single HOA meeting is required. The new format will have two full HOA meetings a year but will open a monthly workshop session to residents so that they may observe the operations and deliberations of the Board. The purpose is for greater transparency so that the Community will gain a better understanding of the VGEM governing process.

The two full HOA meetings will be as follows, and after adjournment, the floor will be open for public comment

- Tuesday, June 14th at 6:30 PM to seat the newly elected Board members
- Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30 PM to read the 2017 VGEM Budget.

The open session Board Workshops will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in The Grande Room. The only setup in the Grande Room will be a table and chairs for the Board to work. Residents who attend will grab their own chair and seat themselves to observe the workshop. During these sessions, attendees will observe the board discussions, votes on unbudgeted financial expenditures, Committee recommendations, etc. If a matter requires an executive session, attendees will be asked to leave the room. Residents attending will be observers only and there will be no public comment permitted except at the March 8 and the September 13 sessions.

The Board felt it important that residents continue to have the opportunity for public comment four times a year as has been the practice. This public comment should be for generic issues and not those specific to individual concerns. The Board will continue to meet with a homeowner to discuss their specific issues on the second Tuesday of each month at 3:30 PM after the workshop is adjourned. All individual homeowner meetings shall continue to be by appointment only. Each session will be allotted 15 minutes. Please contact Kate Walton for an appointment.

The first open Board Workshop session will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 1:30 PM in The Grande Room of the Clubhouse.

Motions from the December 7th HOA Board Meeting.

General Motions Approved - unanimously except as noted to the contrary

- Approved Minutes
- Appointed new Board member Jim Walsh, Treasurer
- Adopted 2016 Operating Budget – Four in favor and one abstention

New Business Motions – All passed unanimously

- MOTION: Board of Trustees to host Volunteer Appreciation luncheon to be funded from HOA funds held at the Ocean City Home Bank Activities account
- MOTION: To conduct annual mulch bed maintenance on abandoned homes at the expense of the HOA
- MOTION: To approve payment of two NJ American water bills representing 109 Violet & 123 Violet pits in the amounts of \$1,302.28 & \$1,166.84
- MOTION: To replace the solar cover on the indoor pool at a cost not to exceed \$500.00
- MOTION: To approve a purchase of \$560.00 for new microphone setup, to be funded from Ocean City Home Bank 50% by HOA and 50% by Men's Club
- MOTION: To hire Deep Steam Carpet Cleaning to clean clubhouse carpets and add stain guard for a cost of \$1,890.00
- MOTION: To approve Outdoor Décor's invoice of \$7,056.01 as an additional contract expense to account for lawn service to new and previously unbilled homes in Phase II
- MOTION: To award a two year contract to Shore Point Landscaping for snow removal services
- MOTION: To award a two year contract to Sparkling Pools for pool management services
- MOTION: To continue contract for waste removal - \$1,632 per year.
- **Board President's Note:** The recycling option, at an additional expense, was tabled for discussion at a future Board meeting. The Board needs to investigate placement of the recycling container.
- MOTION: To adapt a policy regarding catered food events on clubhouse premises. *The text of this adopted policy appears below.*

Vendor Insurance Requirements for Catered Events held at VGEM Clubhouse

Insurance: All vendors performing work at Village Grande at English Mill Homeowners Association must

provide a Form W-9 and Certificate of Insurance as follows:

- \$1,000,000 Commercial General Liability - This minimum can be met in combination with an Umbrella Policy
- \$1,000,000 Auto Liability
- \$500,000 Workers Compensation
- Certificate holder is to be “VILLAGE GRANDE AT ENGLISH MILL HOA INC” with “DiLucia Management Corporation” and “D.R. Horton” listed as additional insured

The certificate can be faxed to the Management office at 609-788-8430, with the original to be mailed to Village Grande at English Mill Homeowners Association at 1 Village Grande Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. Electronic copies may be e-mailed to vgem@dilucia.com.

No work may begin until the Certificate is supplied. No payment for completed work can be made without insurance in effect during the time the work is completed.

A certificate of insurance is not needed when a food service company delivers the food and sets up. If the vendor supplies servers or an outdoor kitchen, then the above insurance limits would be required.

Contract: An executed contract between the vendor and VGEM is required for catered events requiring a deposit

or a guarantee of attendees.

Hold Harmless: A Hold Harmless form must be on file for each attendee (resident and guest).

The Transition Committee Confidentiality Essential For Negotiations At Transition

By Tom Santucci

The Committee remains in a holding pattern awaiting the engineering report from The Falcon Group. With this information, The Committee will be able to further investigate as to whether D.R. Horton has complied with the specifications to which they are committed by blueprints, plans and the POS.

The Committee will keep the Board informed of their findings on a regular basis. The deficiencies identified to the Board and the VGEM attorney must be kept confidential as this information will be crucial to VGEM’s strategy for the transition negotiations.

As a result of the need for confidentiality, the Board will not be able to provide detailed information to the *Grande Gazette* and residents. The Board’s strategy must be kept confidential if we are to recover the maximum at transition from the developer for their deficiencies in complying with their published plans for VGEM.

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Finance Committee Report

2016 Budget

By Don Cheatle, Chairperson



The Finance Committee (Joe Leeds, Art Richman, Tom Santucci, Dan Farbman, Terry Giannetti, and Don Cheatle) began work on the 2016 budget in the latter part of September. The Finance Committee sent their proposed budget to the Board on November 21st with total budgeted expenses of \$953,559 and an equal amount of revenue to cover those expenses. This was a \$88,000 increase over 2015

but reflects the additional costs associated with the anticipated additional homes for 2016 and anticipated costs expected to arise as various mechanical components of our infrastructure age.

Upon their review the Board requested we make two changes to the proposed budget by adding an additional \$5,500 in costs. The Board decided to budget \$4,000 to cover a portion of the cost to produce printed copies of the Gazette. Advertising revenue will cover the cost above the \$4,000 included in the budget. The Board also added an additional \$1,500 for maintenance of the pond and aerators. The pond aerators are the “fountains” you see in the ponds at the entrance to Village Grande. The aerators are necessary to keep the water in the ponds from becoming stagnant.

In the end a budget is a forecast of expenses expected for the year to come. Some of the expenses are of a fixed nature and as the community grows the cost per home for these expenses decreases. However, most of the expenses are variable in nature and bear a direct relationship to the number of homes and residents served by the Association. As the community grows so do these variable expenses.

Many of the expenses are covered by contracts. Other expenses are not and the expenses are incurred as needs arise during the year. In either case estimates must be made and included in a budget.

The contracts do provide a guide. The larger contracts for landscaping, snow removal, clubhouse cleaning, pool operations and management fees account for 66% of the budgeted expenses. Most of these items except for the pool and clubhouse cleaning are based upon the number of homes that will be serviced. Based upon discussions with Horton representatives, the Finance Committee estimated costs in 2016 based upon an average of 360 homes in 2016. The average of homes is based upon the

number of homes expected to be occupied by the end of 2015 and additional homes settling at various dates throughout 2016.

Beyond the major contracts, there are other contracts of a less material nature that are also included in the budget.

Expenses not covered by contract can be significant. For instance, we included in this budget \$80,000 for water for irrigation. This is a higher amount than budgeted in past years. It is expected as more homes are settled Horton will turn over responsibility for the irrigation systems to the Association and therefore the costs will rise.

Clubhouse utilities and expenses are primarily estimated based upon prior actual experience.

Cost for equipment and common areas repairs are examples of items that must be budgeted based upon historical costs and perceived problems in various areas. The indoor pool is an example where we kept the 2016 budget the same amount as we budgeted in 2015.

The “Replacement Reserve” represents amounts required to be set aside for future replacement of major common area items. This cost was estimated by Engineering Consultants and represents their estimate of the life of various parts of the common areas and the costs to replace them. The recommended amount to be set aside annually based upon this study is \$55,000.

The deferred maintenance reserve represents amounts set aside for expenses that will be incurred but not necessarily every year. For example, one of the items considered when the reserve was first established was to cover the cost of repainting the interior of the clubhouse. It is an expense that will be incurred eventually but not on an annual basis. During 2015, the cost to repair the outdoor pool was in excess of \$60,000. The funds held in the deferred reserve account were utilized to pay for this major repair. The budget was increased to replenish this reserve to cover future costs of this nature.

Revenues to cover all these costs come primarily from the monthly association dues. There are small amounts from other sources such as initiation fees paid by the new home owners at settlement and miscellaneous fees assessed to some of the home owners. But the primary source is the monthly dues.

The budget anticipates the amount of revenues collected equal to the budgeted expenses. The monthly association dues are calculated to breakeven with the budgeted expenses. If some of the expenses budgeted are not realized revenues may exceed the expenses and a surplus of available funds is recognized. The surplus, if any, is then used to offset expenses in the following year. The budget reflects use of \$50,000 in 2016.



Based upon this collaboration, the VGEM 2016 Budget was approved by the Board at the HOA meeting on December 7, 2016. The monthly fee for 2016 decreased by \$1 to \$210. The decrease is in keeping with the Board's policy of setting the fee based upon the final budgeted costs to operate the HOA.

Editor's Note: Due to space restrictions, the 2016 Budget does not appear in the Gazette. Copies are available in the Clubhouse.

Club Treasurer's Report



VGEM Clubs & Committees Accounts
As of December 4, 2015

<u>Home Owners Association</u>	<u>Balance</u>
HOA	\$ 17,607.84
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	\$ 2,821.00
Women's Club	349.05
Men's Bocce	309.30
Women's Bocce	168.00
Anglers Club	120.31
Men's Club	405.70
Quilting Club	2.10
Photography Club	297.98
Billiards Club	546.89
Mah Jongg Club	0.00
Garden Club	298.24
Bocce Court Fund	0.00
Golf Club	287.84

Club Totals \$ 8,606.41

Ocean City Home Bank

Account Total \$27,226.14

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

The Rules Committee

By Lynnda Golin and Bill Giannetti
Co-Chairpersons



As reported in the last Gazette, the VGEM Rules Committee formed three subcommittees 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.

The three subcommittees gathered information on each of their respective topics and submitted it to the entire Rules Committee for discussion and deliberation. After reaching a consensus, the Rules Committee prepared proposals on each subject and forwarded them to the Board for their review beginning in January and new rules adopted.

When the rules changes are adopted, the Rules Committee anticipates preparing an updated version of "The VGEM Rules and Regulations" for distribution to each home. The last version published and distributed was revised in March, 2013.

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 and Bill Giannetti as listed on page 2.



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From The Community Manager **Update on the Indoor Pool**

By Kate Walton



I would like to provide an update on the situation concerning the temporary closing of the indoor pool here at the clubhouse. As you may be aware, we have been experiencing ongoing problems since before the indoor pool facility even opened. In its first year, 2009, various issues caused the pool to open late. There is an underground leak in the spa that was repaired in 2011 by D.R. Horton's subcontractor, Main Line Pools. The spa continues to leak

despite three additional pool management companies' unsuccessful attempts at locating the leak.

The pump room associated with the indoor pool equipment is not ventilated which has likely caused control panels, wires, breaker boxes, and most seriously the gas supply line to experience premature corrosion. There were termite tunnels found in 2014. There have been ongoing issues with maintaining both the temperature of the water and of the room.

This brings me to our current situation at hand, and the reason that your indoor pool is closed. The facility's air temperature (heat and air conditioning) and relative humidity levels are controlled by a dehumidification unit located in the pump room. Between D.R. Horton and the HOA, there has been a service contract in place for routine maintenance since it was installed. However, despite having contractors that also manage aquatic centers much larger than ours, this large and expensive piece of equipment has an extensive history of failure and repairs. The five year warranty expired in 2014. The unit failed again in early October of this year. Our service contractor recommended replacing the controller for the unit, which was just replaced a year prior for approximately \$2,500.00. It was at that point that the board and I called on the expertise of our pool consultant, Frank Canale, before expending any additional funds. Frank suggested the names of companies who specialize in not just indoor pool facilities but are considered to be indoor pool dehumidification unit specialists.

H&H Contractors was on site on 10/28/15 & 10/29/15 to assess our dehumidifier problems, and has since given us a proposal of approximately \$60,000.00 to replace the

unit. It is their opinion that there is over \$15,000.00 worth of repairs to make just to get the unit running, plus it is very likely that there are more issues not able to be identified until the initial repairs are made. They also suggested having someone take a close look at the exhaust fan in the indoor pool area to ensure that it is properly installed and that it is the correct size to properly exhaust the room. More on this later.

After informing D.R. Horton of the most recent issue, they arranged for Building Systems & Services, Inc., to do a site inspection on 11/16/15. Betty Alberts, Bill Hofmann, and I accompanied sales engineer Sam Coniglio and service manager Jeffrey Hayes on their inspection. Since we were not sure what exactly they planned on putting in writing, we took the liberty of putting together a report from their visit. They shared the same opinion as H&H Contractors that the dehumidifier was in too poor of shape to consider repairing it. This dehumidifier failed far short of the expected 10-15 year useful life. The pump room needs to be properly ventilated to prevent further corrosion damage to panel boxes, equipment, etc. According to the plans/blueprints, three ceiling return air vents were to have been installed at construction to be part of the circulating duct system in order to properly ventilate the pool room. Only one was installed. And again, the HOA needs to check the exhaust fan to ensure the pool chemicals in the air are properly exhausted. Building Systems & Services, Inc. sent us an estimate to rectify the problem of approximately \$60,000.00.



Marlee Contractors performed a site visit on 11/19/15. They also viewed the dehumidifier as being in too poor of a condition to repair with any success. It is their opinion that a possible reason for breakdown is that the dehumidifier is capable of not only air control (heat, cool, and humidity control) but also heating the pool water, but since we have separate heaters for the pool and spa water, this function is being bypassed. Therefore, they want to quote us on a unit that strictly maintains the condition of the air (heating, cooling, and humidity control). Together

with Bill Hofmann, they also checked the exhaust fan mentioned by the other contractors. It was determined that the exhaust fan was never even wired. Therefore, that fan has never functioned in that room.

At the advice of the HOA's attorney, we then requested the involvement of the HOA's transition engineering firm, The Falcon Group. Jim Trynosky performed a site visit on 11/19/15. The firm is still in the process of preparing a formal report, but has informed us verbally that an overview of the D.R. Horton-provided blueprint plans of the indoor pool facility preliminarily show multiple code violations. Adding to that, the facility construction does not appear to match up to the blueprint, and contains various other code violations.

Lastly, the spa has continued to slowly leak throughout this process. Leak detection has been placed on hold but will most likely be turned over to The Falcon Group's experts.

At this time, I am awaiting the estimate from Marlee Contractors as well as Falcon Group report. Once I have all the data collected, I will bring everything to the Board. Together with the HOA's attorney, a plan of action will be created and followed.

Who is Sy Syms?

What can we learn from him?

By Jim Lichtenwalner

Does the name Sy Syms sound familiar to you? If not, I am sure you will remember his most famous quote: "An educated consumer is our best customer."



Syms started a men's clothing store in 1959 in New York City's financial district and made a comfortable living. In 1974 Syms aired his first TV commercial on local NYC television where he delivered his famous quote. Sales soared and by 1983 his small clothing store had grown to 11 locations and ownership went

public, making Syms a wealthy man by any standard.

Well, this article is not about Syms' success story but about his quote and how it applies to us here at VGEM. We now have over 600 residents in our Community; some of us have been here for more than 9 years and yet very few of us are really aware of how our Community is run or the details of how HOA communities, in general, are structured. I would suggest that we would be well served to adopt a motto of "An educated homeowner is our most valuable asset."

The primary purpose (and probably the sole purpose) of an HOA is to protect, maintain and enhance the value

of the community. If we all understand how HOA communities are run, we will be better able to support the community and in turn enhance the value. The Community Associations Institute (CAI) provides a valuable resource in helping homeowners better understand the workings of their HOA community. CAI provides valuable training tools which can help you better understand HOA living. I have written several articles related to this in the Gazette on many important HOA topics. Over the last 18 months, I have also presented several one hour CAI seminars in the Clubhouse on HOA pertinent topics for our residents. Topics of these seminars have included: Fiduciary Responsibility of the Board and Volunteers, HOA Budgeting; Reducing Tree Damage and Liability from Storms, Pet Policies for HOA's, Exterior Maintenance, and The Role of the Board vs. the Role of the Manager. CAI also provides a robust list of books and articles on almost any HOA related topics. Their conferences and other meetings are a valuable way to hear from HOA experts and meet businesses who provide services to HOA communities.

VGEM would be a better place if we all make a New Year's Resolution to attend a seminar or read a book to become more aware of living in an HOA. Afterwards, I suggest that you become a more active participant in your community to learn more. After all, "An educated homeowner is our most valuable asset".

The Men's Club

"The 2015 Holiday Gift Drive"

Exceeds Its \$5,000 Goal

By Herb Moskowitz



The Men's Club would like to thank everyone who donated to the Holiday Gift Giving Drive this year. Our goal for 2015 was \$5,000.00 and our Community came through with donations amounting to \$5,270. The Men's Club has been collecting donations for the Holiday Gift Giving Drive since 2009 with a grand total of \$25,026. One hundred dollar gift cards will be purchased and given to the needy students of the Egg Harbor Township High School.

It has been my honor to lead this Gift Giving Drive since its inception seven years ago. Every year our Community continues to amaze me with their generosity and support.

Thank You 

Architectural Control Committee Summary of the Results on the 2015 Applications Reviewed

By Jim Berg

Every now and then, when playing golf, or bowling, or at a Community party at the Clubhouse, someone asks me about the ACC and complains that they reject everything. I decided to do a little research into our files to find out exactly what our track record was and here is the result for 2015.

I want to first remind everyone that the committee is required by the State of NJ and our own Rules and Regulations. In addition, the members are all volunteers and our only goals are to see that all the homes in Village Grand at English Mills maintain their value and together present a welcoming environment.

The following summarizes the work in 2015. The ACC received and approved 100 applications:

- Exterior lights 8
- Solar Panels 8
- Garage Door Glass Panels 7
- Satellite Dishes 6
- Storm Doors 21
- Patio Awnings 9
- Sunroom 1
- Handrails 2
- Landscaping 25
- Shutters 3
- Back Door Modifications 3
- Generators 3
- Miscellaneous 4

There were only two rejections and one of them was approved by the HOA Board upon appeal. So why do some homeowners think the ACC rejects everything. The answer is that the ACC does indeed frequently return applications to homeowners but only to request more information and/or better drawings. These "rejections" are almost always approved when resubmitted. Homeowners can save themselves time and energy by including accurate plans, color pictures, contractor's designs, etc. depending on the particular type of project the first time. They can also help themselves by reading the instructions on the various forms. It is also worthwhile to know that the Committee only meets once a month during the fall and winter, so if you drop off your application the day after we meet, it will be several weeks until we see your paperwork.

Editor's Note: Chairperson Jim Berg wrote and proposed "A Note from the ACC" be given to all new residents by Kate Walton at their orientation meeting to clarify the ACC role in maintaining VGEM. It was unanimously approved by the Committee.

A Note from the ACC

Welcome to Our Community!

Many of our homeowners like to improve and individualize their homes with such things as storm doors, garage door windows, outdoor lights and enlarged flower beds. The Homeowners Association Board of Trustees and the Architectural Control Committee (A.C.C.) encourage and support these kinds of modifications. However, please be advised that the Community has adopted rules and regulations governing the type and sizes of such changes. A general rule of thumb is that prior written approval is needed for most any exterior change. Please check with the office for the proper forms and procedures to avoid misunderstanding, extra work, and even fines.

Please contact the management office or an A.C.C. member with any questions.

Sincerely,

The Architectural Control Committee

The ACC thanks for your understanding. Jim Berg
Chairperson and Committee Members: Doug Groff, Judy Grier, Dan Montagna, Shirley Oliver, Marlene Santucci, Ken Tardiff, Dave VanZant.



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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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

A Message for the Snowbirds

By Don Mastrangelo



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

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

Don't forget to let your Block Captain know when you return.

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-		
		Rich Johnson	0944		
		Bill Polko	365-2340		
Marigold	231-242	Herb Moskovitz	365-2329		
		1-16	Jim Cira	402-2861	
			Steve		
		17-35	Cappadona	653-4215	
Poppy	1-41	Fred Moderski	653-0116		
Primrose	2-30	John DaPrato	926-4977		
Snowdrop	100-117	Joe & Bonnie	365-2574		
		Carluccio			
		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		

Neighborhood Watch Alert

All residents are alerted that unlocked vehicles were recently entered by intruders who stole garage door openers and personal items. The Neighborhood Watch Committee strongly recommends that your vehicles be locked at all times, day and night.

Landscape Committee Report

By Ray Viventi



At the November 10th meeting, the Landscape Committee reported on their activities and irrigation costs for the last summer. The Committee processed 202 "green forms" The most common complaints were sprinkler head

issues (67), followed by dead/brown grass (39), lawn disease/fungus/weeds (16), lawns ripped up by lawnmowers (14) and ruts in lawn (8).

Irrigation: Water cost to NJ American Water totaled \$66,857.45 for 8,823,000 gallons which includes a bill received for Pit 2 (15 Poppy) in the amount of \$6,766.84 for 2014 and 2015. The VGEM wells provided 4,671,261 gallons for a savings of \$30,000 to the Community. The cost of regular pit irrigation electric was \$3,556.89. Well electric totaled \$2,584.16.

Well Update: The Department of Environmental Protection issued an identification number for Well #5.

Phase II: The landscape committee will most likely be taking over the irrigation timer boxes on the "odd numbered" side of Bluebell Drive next spring. The final decision is pending.



Welcome Desk

A Popular Gathering Spot

By Jim Lichtenwalner

The Welcome Desk has been in operation for 6 months and has met its original expectations of helping residents perform routine tasks, find answers to questions and provide information for various Community activities. This provided some relief to the

Community Manager and offered another benefit that was unanticipated. The Welcome Desk has become a gathering spot for neighbors to share information about what is going on in the Community. Routinely, residents stop by the desk to converse with the volunteer on duty and it is not unusual to have several others join into the conversation. What a great way to improve communication within the Community and foster a strong community spirit.

The desk is currently staffed weekdays by more than 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.

“Welcome to HOA Living” Offered to New Residents

By Jim Lichtenwalner

In August 2014, we initiated a program to provide new VGEM residents an orientation to living in an HOA community. Many of us have not previously lived in an

HOA community and may be overwhelmed by the concept when we first arrive at VGEM. This 60 minute program helps new residents better understand what they have gotten themselves into. To date, more than 90 members of our Community have attended, and the general feedback is very positive.

Our next presentation will be on Monday February 22, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the Clubhouse. Although the orientation is geared to newer members of the community, even “long-timers” will find it interesting; it’s also a great way to meet our new neighbors. If you are interested in attending, just let Kate know so that we know how many people to expect.

Clubhouse Library

**There is only limited shelving space
in the Clubhouse Library.**

**Please contribute only newer,
hard covered books.**

**No oversized books or paperbacks
will be accepted**



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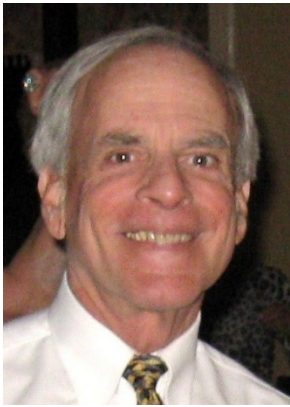
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Government Liaison Committee **A Very Productive 2015**

By John DaPrato



Your GLC had a very busy 2015. As Chairperson, I wish to thank my Committee members, Warren Weiner, Herb Moskowitz and Ron Capasso for their dedication and hard work. I would also like to thank our Board Liaison, Betty Alberts who put in just as much time and energy for the CLC as each of the Committee members. Without these hardworking

people, the programs that we were able to put together for the residents of this Community would never have been brought to fruition. I am extremely honored and fortunate to have such committed people on the GLC.

Starting back in mid-July, the GLC began organizing the two Candidate's Nights. It was a first for this Committee so we walked before we could run. We met every week from mid-July through mid-October. Each of the Committee members, together with the Board Liaison, worked tirelessly. They put in many more hours than just those at the meetings. The meetings ran as long as three hours or more as we proceeded to put the programs together. Gradually we were able to secure the candidates for Assembly, Egg Harbor Township Committee and Egg Harbor Township School Board. Getting all of these people on board for the forum was hard enough, but getting them together on their respective nights was an absolute chore. With persistence from the Committee and a bit of political arm twisting from Warren Weaver, we were able to secure a date and time for both Candidate's Nights. A special thanks to Kate for changing her calendar for the use of the great room numerous times. Thank goodness for large erasers.

The Candidate's Nights could not have been a success without the help of many of our residents. We recruited from the ranks of the FYI and Photography Clubs, our spouses, individuals who took photographs, provided audio and visual assistance, the Staff of the Gazette, all of the folks that helped to set up and break down the room, and of course, the Board. Without these generous folks who stepped up, we could not have had these two successful programs. To all of you, I would like to say, thank you so very much for your help and time. If I have missed anyone, I am truly sorry.

The first Candidate's Night was on September 15th. We had the four candidates running for Assembly and the four candidates running for EHT Committee. We had a head count of 223 residents and visitors who came out to hear what the candidates had to say. What an outstanding showing for our Community. The GLC was so proud to see so many residents show what a political force we are as a group. As a result, the night was very heated at times due to the exchanges between the Assembly candidates. They were there in front of a large constituency of our peers. What a sight. We received a lot of terrific print in The Press of Atlantic City as well as the Current of Egg Harbor Township. We can all be proud for coming out and exercising our freedom to assemble and to stand up and have our voice heard.

The second candidate's night was on October 15th and focused on the six candidates running for the EHT School Board. There were 126 in attendance. This number may not appear to be significant on its own but to put it into perspective, most School Board meetings typically draw approximately 10 residents from the entire township. I believe that we had an outstanding showing. Here again, our political clout as a group shone brightly this night.

The GLC was asked to try to ascertain the number of people who voted at our designated polling facility to try to determine how many of our residents actually voted, to determine the extent of our impact on who won their respective office. We were unable to get this information but an article in The Press of Atlantic City following the election stated that for an off year, Atlantic City and Egg Harbor Township recorded higher than expected voters turn out. We would like to think that our Community was part of that uptick of voters who wanted to make their voices heard and votes count. The GLC made an offer to take anyone who needed a ride to the polls on voting day. We did not have any takers but I would like to thank Warren Weiner, Herb Moskowitz and Jim Lichtenwalner for standing by if needed.

On October 26th we had the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Department come in and provide us a program on "Home Fire Safety". We had 35 residents show up for this very informative and important program. They instructed us on items that we should be aware of in and around our home. The Fire Company also came out on Saturday, November 14th for the "Battery Replacement Program". We had a total of 40 residents sign up for this vital task. Batteries were replaced in the Smoke/CO and Smoke detectors. Many detectors were found to be outdated and the firemen were able to return on the same day and install many new detectors. Those of us living in Phase 1 should check our smoke and CO detectors for expired dates. Those units with expired dates should be

replaced. Because Phase2 homes are newer, their smoke and CO detectors may still be in compliance by date.

In the coming year, the GLC will pursue several items, two of which were started this year. One would be the cost of paying back the construction overruns at the high school and possibly joining forces with other school districts in this county. Out of 23 school districts in Atlantic County, 18 districts are dealing with this tax burden. We will also seek to gather information on other issues such as the managing of HOA'S in the state. We will try to ascertain information on proposed legislation dealing with issues associated with HOA's.

As a final word, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to all participants in this exciting initiative. My thanks to GLC Team and everyone involved.

The 2015 Election Campaign

By Warren Weiner

Starbucks coffee beans cost \$13 a pound, a rib-eye steak \$17 a pound, so what does it cost to "buy" a 150-pound voter in Atlantic County? If you're a Super PAC (Political Action Committee) paying \$1.5-million to elect a 2nd District General Assembly candidate, \$82 a vote. At least that's what General Majority PAC spent this past fall in our legislative district as part of a record \$10.7-million expenditure statewide by outside special interests.



General Majority and the other super PACs accounted for 35 percent of all New Jersey campaign spending--the highest share of independent spending in the state since the U.S. Supreme Court opened the door to unrestricted special interest

campaign expenditures in 2010.

For its \$1.5-million in Atlantic County advertising, General Majority only helped to elect one of the two candidates it supported. Recently released official general election results show Democrat Vincent Mazzeo was re-elected with 18,279 votes, or \$82 a vote, but finished second behind incumbent Republican Chris Brown by 680 votes. The Democrats' other candidate, Colin Bell, finished third, 1,526 votes behind Brown, despite the Super PACs intrusion into the local campaign.

In our 19th precinct, Brown and his running mate, Will Pauls, defeated both of their Democrat challengers. Brown out-pollled all candidates with 238 votes. Pauls received 211 votes to finish second in our neighborhood, despite a last minute no-show at our VGEM Candidates Night forum. Incumbent Mazzeo, the eventual legislative winner, finished third in our precinct with 180 votes--only four votes higher than fourth-place finisher Bell. The vote totals don't include mail-in ballots, since they aren't broken down by precinct.

In one of the dirtiest campaigns in recent memory, the super- PACs TV ads and direct mail appear to have had little impact--except to turn off voters and pollute the campaign process.



A Super PAC
The Koch Brothers

In the non-political EHT School Board balloting, incumbent Lisa Dagit won our district but her re-election bid failed to carry the entire township by 399 votes. In our 19th precinct, Dagit polled 167 polling machine votes, finishing a distant third behind Pete Castellano's 206 votes and Amber Umphlett's 201 tallies. The vote totals don't include mail-in ballots, since they aren't broken down by precinct.

Final official totals for the *entire* township, including mail-in ballots, show incumbent Castellano led all others with 3,665 votes. Newcomer Umphlett received 3,036 votes to finish second. Incumbent John (Jack) Haines returned to his seat with 2,791 votes. Dagit came up short with 2,392 votes township-wide.

All six School Board candidates, competing for the three seats on the board, appeared at our Candidates Night forum on Oct. 15.



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Presented by the VGEM HOA Board

On the sunny afternoon of October 23rd at 1 PM, the HOA Board held a luncheon to honor all VGEM's dedicated and hard-working Committee members. Kate Walton delivered specially printed invitations to 117 Committee volunteers. Ninety-three attended a luncheon catered by Fitzpatrick's Deli in Somers Point. The meal featured a collection of their delicious cold cuts plus hot entrees of sausage and peppers, lasagna, eggplant Marsala. It was topped off by one of Kate's favorite desserts – blueberry cobbler.

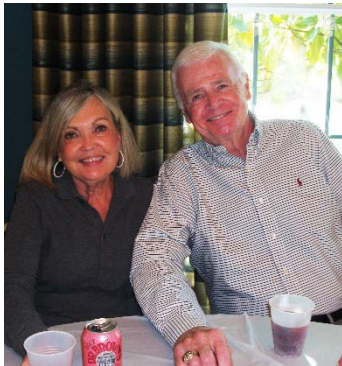
On behalf of the Board, Pam LoBue spoke to the gathering to recognize and honor the many volunteers. Pam said, "You are the heartbeat of this Community. You make sure that our rules are fair,



Pam spoke on behalf of the Board

our laws are green and the snow plowed, our disputes are settled fairly, important news is reported in the Gazette, exterior modifications are appropriate, our neighborhoods are watched over, social and special events are planned that enhance our Community, our elections are effective, our finances are in order, government rules are reported to us, transition matters are documented and repairs at our Clubhouse are efficiently taken care of.

The words 'THANK YOU' just don't seem to be enough, but please accept them with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. We enjoyed a delicious meal together and acknowledge all the things that you all do to make VGEM a wonderful place to live!"



Newly appointed Trustee Jim Walsh with Barbara



Trustee Jim Roche with Pat



Trustee Betty Alberts with Sue Paulu & Kathy Sorrell



Social Committee Co-Chairs Chicki Sinaglia & Regina Yuppa



*Don & Angela Mastrangelo
Annette & Tony Scaricamazza*



*Rich & Mary Lou Johnson, Gini & Bill Giambatista,
Dan & Sandy Farbman, Marguerite & Doug Beauptit*



*Carol & Fred Moderski
VGEM's Outstanding Volunteers 2013*



The Energizer Volunteer – Jeannie Eckard

TIMOTHY MCGOWAN, B.S.B.M

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“fyi”

By Jim Lichtenwalner and Doug Beaupit

The “fyi” Club continues to attract large crowds from our Community to hear “What is going on around us”.

Our October meeting featured Amanda Reese from Hafetz and Associates who along with representatives of Horizon Blue Cross and Hafetz Associates, enlightened the crowd of 50 people with helpful tips on what to consider when purchasing Medicare Supplemental Insurance. The audience was most appreciative, especially considering that the open enrollment period had just begun.

On November 17, Officer Paul Weldon of the EHT Police Department reminded us of what we can do to reduce our chances of becoming a crime victim, especially over the upcoming Holiday Season. Twenty eight people attended this enlightening presentation. A informative question and answer session followed the presentation which delved into a much broader scope. As a result, the EHT Police Department is planning to conduct another “expired prescription drop off” at VGEM in the near future.

Our December meeting featured Jack Martino of Holy Redeemer Hospital discussing how we can all maintain and improve our balance.

Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings to include authors Dan Jones and Dr. Arthur Higbee on March 15, 2016. These men will tell us of their harrowing 19 hour experience after capsizing in their fishing boat 30 miles off the coast of New Jersey which they detailed in their 2013 book, “Promising Forecast: a Miracle Rescue at Sea”. In addition, members of the Atlantic County Library staff, including our own Diane Gottman, will preview the 2016 Summer programs offered by the Library.

On May 17, 2016, we are pleased to feature our own Dan Cianci who will discuss Pain Management. Dan is an expert on this topic and regularly lectures on it to other members of the medical profession.

The June 21, 2016 meeting will feature Lynn Wood of the Greater Egg Harbor Historical Society. She will discuss the history of Egg Harbor Township.

“fyi” is a club that provides speakers on a wide variety 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.

Dine Around Club

By Shirley & Howard Bernstein



Many Thanks and Kudos to Dan and Sandy Farbman for creating and chairing the *Dine Around Club* these past years! We really appreciate the efforts they put forth to make this Club a fun time for all. Enjoy Florida but know that you will be missed.

As we enter the next era for our group, we will be instituting a few new formats. The first of which is establishing an annual dinner in the Grande Room of the Clubhouse. This year's event will celebrate Valentine's Day on Saturday February 13, 2016 at 6:30 PM. The dinner will feature a variety of interesting dishes, great appetizers and wonderful desserts all created by our terrific chefs!



Anyone interested in learning more or joining our group please call Shirley @ (609)788-8331 or E-mail shirlhow2@gmail.com



The Singles Club Holiday Party

By Dolores Magara



The Singles Club celebrated the Holidays at the Clubhouse on December 3rd with a social that was attended by 29 members. We exchanged presents, had a variety of food from all the guests, played a game and had fun doing what we do best – *socializing!*



The club is open for any single person of VGEM. We generally meet at various restaurants in the area on the first Thursday of the month. A calendar will be on the Clubhouse Bulletin Board with upcoming events.



Garden Club Event

Visit to Willow Creek Winery and Farm

By Donna Lichtenwalner

On a spectacular fall day the Grande Garden Club visited the Willow Creek Winery and Farm in Cape May. Our group had a great introduction into growing a variety of grapes. Our guide took us into the vineyard and imparted a wealth of knowledge on our South Jersey region for wine production. She compared the Cape May weather and soil to the Bordeaux Region of France.

Inside we enjoyed a delicious wine paired lunch with our guide explaining exactly the proper way to taste wine. The salad and tapas and variety of wines were quite delectable. The winery is open daily year round for tastings and lunch or dinner. They have a great tapas menu with imported cheeses, sangrias, etc. The great room has cathedral wooden ceilings made by the Amish with crystal chandeliers made in Cairo. A beautiful stone fireplace and lovely bar area complete the inside.



Outside is a large fire pit, another bar area, gorgeous flowers and terrace to relax on with wine and tapas on a lovely day. There are always varied events

happening at the winery. I will be going back to enjoy the ambience of Willow Creek. Always check before you visit them because they have some large events including weddings that could change their normal schedule.



Joanne Zink is working with Bob's Garden Center for our January meeting. We will be making Fairy Gardens. Date to be announced. She is also arranging with them a date later in spring to make indoor herb gardens. Any questions about Grande Garden Club contact Donna Lichtenwalner 484-225-0990.

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS
January/February/March 2016

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 – 1/18, 2/15, 3/21



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 through March 23
 6:30 PM Intermediate Line Dancing
 7 PM Bridge Club

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

Noon Canasta

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Noon Mahjong – Card Room 1

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Contact Community Manager for details

Kate Walton
 VGEM Community Manager
 Office Hours:
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10 AM – 4 PM
 1st & 3rd Tuesday 10 AM – 4 PM
 2nd & 4th Tuesday 10 AM – 1 PM
 No Office Hours on Thursday
 609-788-8405
vgem@dilucia.com

**Events Announced by Phone Alerts,
 Email & Flyer delivery in the tubes**
Flyers are Available at the Clubhouse

Special Town Meeting
March 2016
 Grande Room
 Date & Time TBD

The Transition Process

Presentation by David R. Dahan, Esq.
VGEM HOA Attorney

***Followed by an Open
 Question & Answer Session***

2016 HOA Board Meeting Schedule

- **June 14 – Newly Elected Trustees**
- **December 13 - 2017 Budget**

All Meetings are on Tuesday at 6:30 PM

**Open HOA Workshop Sessions
 are shown on the
 Monthly Events Calendar Below**

Meet with the Board
 “Meetings with Homeowners”
 on the second Tuesday
 of the month at 3:30 PM.
 All meetings shall be by appointment only.
 Each session will be allotted 15 minutes.
January 12 February 9 March 8
 Please contact Kate for an appointment.

MONTHLY EVENTS

JANUARY 2016

Tuesday, January 12 at 1:30 PM
 Open HOA Board Workshop
 Observe without Public Comment
 Grande Room

Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 PM

"fysi" Club

"Estate Planning"
Grande Room

Friday, January 22: 5:30 – 8 PM

The VGEM Happy Hour

Grande Room
Organized by Lynnda & Lou Golin



Saturday, January 23 – Tentative

Winter Breakfast

Grande Room
Sponsored by the Social Committee



Monday, January 25 at 9:30 AM

Women's Breakfast
Shore Dinner

Friday, January 29 at 9 AM

Men's Club Breakfast
Golden Corral

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday, February 7 at 4 PM

**Super Salad
Bowl Party**

Donation of \$7 pp
Followed by Super Bowl
Kickoff at 6:30 PM
Grande Room

Sponsored by the Special Events Committee



Tuesday, February 9 at 1:30 PM

Open HOA Board Workshop
Observe without Public Comment
Grande Room

Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 PM

"fysi" Club

"Health & Nutrition"
Grande Room



Thursday, February 18 at 7 PM

"fysi" Core Planning Meeting

Board Room

Monday, February 22 at 6:30 PM

New Owner Orientation
Welcome to HOA Living

Jim Lichtenwalner
Grande Room

Friday, February 26: 5:30 – 8 PM

The VGEM Happy Hour

Grande Room
Organized by Lynnda & Lou Golin

Friday, February 26 at 9 AM

Men's Club Breakfast
Golden Corral



Good fortune

Saturday, February 27 - Tentative
**Winter Doldrums &
Chinese Auction Party**

Grande Room
Sponsored by the Social Committee

Monday, February 29 at 9:30 AM

Women's Breakfast
Shore Dinner

MARCH 2016



Tuesday, March 8 at 1:30 PM

Open HOA Board Workshop
Observe with Public Comment
following Adjournment
Grande Room

Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 PM

"fysi" Club

"Miracle Rescue – A True Story"
Grande Room

Saturday, March 19: TBA

St Patrick's Day Party
Food, Music, Dancing & Fun
Details to follow!



Friday, March 25: 5:30 – 8 PM

The VGEM Happy Hour

Grande Room
Organized by Lynnda & Lou Golin

Friday, March 25 at 9 AM

Men's Club Breakfast
Golden Corral

Monday, March 28 at 9:30 AM

Women's Breakfast
Shore Dinner

Trash Pick-up Rules

Summary of the Township and Atlantic County rules governing trash pick-up

Prepared by Tony Scaricamazza



Trash Receptacles: These are provided by, and are the property of, Egg Harbor Township (EHT). These must remain with the residence to which it was delivered. If you need a trash receptacle, call EHT. Normal trash pick-up day for our

community is every Thursday.

Place receptacle curbside the evening before pick-up and do not place behind or near vehicles, mailboxes or other objects such as recycle containers. The lid opening must be facing the street. Only regular household trash placed in the container will be collected; any loose or bagged trash lying next to the container will not be collected. Leaves and grass are collected as close to the regular trash day as possible by a separate truck. Use brown biodegradable bags not plastic bags.

Recycling: This is mandatory. Recyclable materials are single stream, meaning all paper, bottles, and cans are placed in the recycle container provided by Atlantic County Utilities Authority (ACUA). Corrugated cardboard (wavy material between two cardboard sheets) must be flattened, stacked in bundles & tied with twine. Collection dates are every other Thursday. If you have any questions or need a recycling bucket, contact ACUA.

Bulk Trash/Waste: (Not to be confused with Bulky Trash/Waste) This Includes wood, lumber and brush. Bulk items must be at the curb by 6:00 AM. on Monday of the third week of the month. For specific disposal instructions on these items, call EHT or visit the EHT web site. Demolition and construction materials will not be picked up.



The VGEM Happy Hour

By Lynnda & Lou Golin



As you enter the VGEM Clubhouse on the fourth Friday of the month from January to June, you will hear the sounds of voices and laughter coming from the Grande Room. This is the Monthly VGEM

Happy Hour to which all residents are welcomed and encouraged to attend. It is a great time to get together with friends, meet new neighbors and perhaps make new friends.

Our popular Happy Hour is from 5:30 PM to 8 PM. The only charge is to bring a snack or dessert to share among the group. You'll need to bring your own beverages, containers and set-ups.



The first VGEM Monthly VGEM Happy Hour will be on Friday, January 22, 2016. We are hoping for a good turnout. Subsequent Happy Hours during the first quarter are on February 26th and March 25th.

We have run the Happy Hours for the last few years but could always use some help. If you are interested in helping, please call us at 788-8055. We hope to see you there.

BOOK BUNCH Schedule



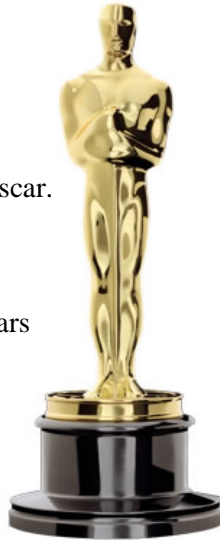
- January 18 “Go Set A Watchman” by Harper Lee – Peg Smith
- February 15 “Big Little Lies” by Liane Moriarty – Linda Salierno
- March 21 “Where’d You Go, Bernadette” by Maria Semple – Pat Roche

All Meetings are the 3rd Monday of the month at 7 PM

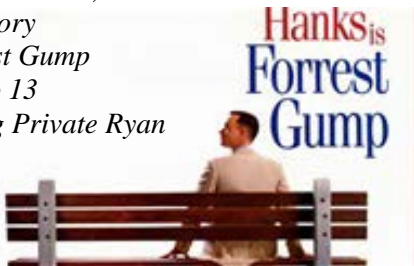
And the Oscar Goes to...

By Annette Scaricamazza

- Who was the youngest person to win a competitive Oscar?
(A) Linda Blair (B) Shirley Temple
(C) Tatum O'Neill (D) Natalie Wood
- At 82, he was the oldest actor to win an Oscar.
(A) George Burns (B) C. Plummer
(C) John Wayne (D) Henry Fonda
- Katherine Hepburn has won the most Oscars for best actress. How many?
(A) two (B) three
(C) four (D) five
- What does the Oscar statuette weigh?
(A) ten ounces (B) 15 ounces,
(C) 1½ pounds (D) 6¾ pounds
- What movie won the best picture in the first Academy Awards in 1929?
(A) *Broadway Melody* (B) *Wings*



- What movie earned Tom Hanks his third straight Oscar nomination, in 1996?
(A) *Toy Story*
(B) *Forrest Gump*
(C) *Apollo 13*
(D) *Saving Private Ryan*



- Which of these films won an Oscar for best picture?
(A) *Braveheart* (B) *American Sniper*
(C) *Unbroken* (D) *Raging Bull*
- Who of the following did not host the Oscars?
(A) Johnny Carson (B) Whoopi Goldberg
(C) Hugh Jackman (D) Joan Rivers
- Although nominated many times, there was only one winner from this group.
(A) Woody Allen (B) Richard Burton
(C) Peter O'Toole (D) Leonardo DiCaprio



- Who is the only person to win an Oscar and a Nobel Prize?
(A) Jean-Paul Satre (B) John Steinbeck,
(C) George Bernard Shaw (D) Harold Pinter

- Which two actors each won Oscars for portraying the same fictional character?
(A) Warren Beatty and Jack Nicholson
(B) Marlon Brando and Robert De Niro
(C) Al Pacino and Robert Duval
- The only person to win an Oscar, Emmy and Tony in the same year.
(A) Jason Robards (B) Paul Newman
(C) Alan Alda (D) Bob Fosse
- Receiving a special Oscar, which movie starring Al Jolson is generally considered to be the first talking picture?
(A) *The Singing Fool* (B) *The Jazz Singer*
- The sound track of this Oscar nominated Walt Disney animated feature includes seven Elvis Presley songs.
(A) *Treasure Planet* (B) *Lilo & Stitch*
(C) *The Jungle Book* (D) *Hercules*
- The only Shakespearian actor to win an Oscar.
(A) Lawrence Olivier (B) John Gielgud
(C) Alec Guinness (D) Richard Burton

- Did Frank Sinatra ever win an Oscar?
(A) Yes (B) No



- The 1960 winner, *The Apartment*, won best picture. Where was the apartment located?
(A) Los Angeles (B) New York
(C) London (D) Paris
- The 2014 Oscar winner for her role in *Just Alice*.
(A) Angelina Jolie (B) Madonna
(C) Jennifer Aniston (D) Julianne Moore
- He played Lt. Dunbar and directed *Dances with Wolves*.
(A) Clint Eastwood (B) Tom Hanks
(C) Michael Douglas (D) Kevin Costner
- The Oscar Ceremony is always held in Los Angeles. (A) True (B) False



Sports Talk

Tony Scaricamazza

Another year has come and gone! As we get older, it seems the years have a tendency to fly by faster and faster. The year 2015 came and went in a flash. None of us know what the year 2016 holds for us. So, make a New Year's resolution to do those things you have been putting off. Getting involved in some form of sporting activity is something that can easily be done and is enjoyable. There are many sport clubs to join: bocce, fishing, billiards, golfing, tennis, and pickleball as well as bowling. So make a resolution to join one or more clubs and your year will be filled with new friends and fun activities.

The phone numbers and email addresses for all the Club Captains are listed on page 2 of this issue.



Anglers Club

Bill Hofmann



Floyd Milhan, Jim Berg, Marcie Goldman, Ron Sinagria & Jim Harnett stand behind the Angler's Club Captain Bill Hofmann

Our last fishing trip of the season was on November 5th for deep sea fishing. We all enjoyed fishing for Sea Bass aboard the Starfish party boat. Many Sea Bass were caught (too many to count). We also had 40 to 50 keepers to take home and enjoy for dinner. Also caught were sharks, an 11 pound Blue Fish and an out of season flounder that must have weighed 8 pounds. Jim Berg was reeling up a small flounder that was attacked by either a large Bluefish or a shark. See the picture of what is left of the flounder.



We had calm seas and were treated on the way back to a colorful rainbow and a setting sun.

Billiards Club



It's Anybody's Guess – Who will be the 2015/2016 Billiards Champions?

Jim Lichtenwalner & Joe Carluccio

The 5th season of the 8-Ball league got off to an enthusiastic start on Nov 4; all 54 competitors were anxious to get the season underway and didn't waste any time before making the Billiards Room "the place to be" on Wednesday nights. After 4 weeks of play, we find a very competitive field among the 16 teams competing with The Brew Crew captained by Joe Carluccio holding onto the lead with 8 other teams nipping at their heels. In fact all 16 teams are still in the hunt for the 5th League Championship which will be determined in the Championship game on March 23, 2016. The league plays on Wednesday evenings until the Championship Match and Awards Banquet on March 23, 2016.



Jim Conway eyes up a testy shot as (l to r) Jerry Montagnano, Larry Levy, Joan Viventi, John Gallagher and Bud McHale enjoy the comradery and competition

If you would like to meet a close knit group of your neighbors who are having fun, come on out on

Sports Club News

Wednesday nights. You can cheer on your favorite team or join the league. We are always looking for new members. You don't have to be an expert, just someone who wants to have some fun. The league is open to men and women. Our purpose is to have fun and enjoy socializing with our neighbors. If you would like more information, please contact Jim Lichtenwalner or Joe Carluccio.



The Court Club Pickleball & Tennis *Bill Giannetti*



The fall weather was so mild we continued playing tennis and pickleball outdoors well into November. But, all good things come to an end and we finally said goodbye to tennis and moved pickleball indoors.

We are playing at the EHT Community Center four days a week, but we only have one court there so scheduling has been difficult. We met with the Parks and Recreation Committee to request use of the gym for more courts, but so far they are not cooperating. We will continue to pursue this endeavor at a higher level.

This fall and winter Terry and I are playing tennis indoors on Saturday mornings to keep our game up. We intend to invite some of our players to join us for doubles from time to time to keep in touch and get a good work out.

By the time this is published we will be well into our winter season. Our snow bird friends will be basking in sunshine somewhere warm and we will be huddling by the fire waiting for spring so we can emerge and play outdoors again.



Women's Bocce *Terry Stevens*

Our 2016 bocce season is just a few months away. Our first meeting will be Monday April 11, 2016 at 6:30 PM in the Clubhouse. Any previous members interested as well as new players and substitutes are encouraged to attend. A membership fee of \$18 covers all expenses and a luncheon.

The 2016 season will be played on Monday evenings. Our season will start in May and end the last week of August. Tuesday evenings will be make-up games due to inclement weather and/or holiday.

We play for fun and friendship. Please join us this year! Pictured below are the commissioners Peggy Milhan, Jane Narke, Nancy Werden, Connie DaPrato and Terry Stevens.



The Golf League *Doug Beaupit*



The VGEM golf league completed a successful 2015 season at the end of October. We played for 21 weeks and had many good memories. Below are a few of the statistics and highlights of the past year.

- The most improved players were Ed Zink and Alex Polazneck. They improved their handicaps by 2 strokes.
- Alex Polazneck won the golf league tournament defeating Ed Zink.
- The players in 2015 that shot their best round in league play were:
 - Andy Atkinson - 85
 - Doug Beaupit - 74
 - Jim Berg - 93
 - Joe Carluccio - 87
- 12 Players volunteered as Marshals at the ShopRite LPGA tournament at Seaview Country Club
- A successful VGEM Scramble was organized and run by the golf league
- The Mays Landing Country Club Holiday Party was attended by many of the players and their spouses.
- Most players renewed their MLCC golf membership looking forward to 2016 league play.

The Golf League tentative calendar for 2016:

- Play Starts on May 3 & ends on October 11
- LPGA Registration - February
- LPGA Volunteering - June 1-5
- Golf League Double Elimination Tournament - September
- VGEM Scramble - September
- BBQ - October 11

Men's Bocce League

David VanZant



We, your bocce committee, hope that everyone enjoyed the 2015 bocce season as much as they, a season that saw great competition, comradery and good fun for all.

The "Blue B's" led by Don Mastrangelo proved to be too much for the rest of the league and won the championship 2 games to none over the "Badda Bings" captained by Steve Cappadona – our banquet followed and a good time was had by all.



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

As a high-light to cap off the season, a large crowd watched as our "Village Vamps" (the lady's champions) captained by Barbara Ann "BA" Villon played an exhibition game against the "Blue B's", losing two games to none in this very closely contested match.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated in the 2015 season, more than 100 of your neighbors took part and we look to an even larger number in the coming year as our community continues to grow.

On October 23rd the bocce committee met to discuss our successes and failures and to try to determine how we can make our 2016 season an even greater success. Following are some of the highlights of that meeting along with some dates that you may want to put on your calendar for follow-up;

- Dues will remain the same, \$20.00 to include the banquet for you and your guest.
- We will once again try to operate with six man teams, adding two teams if necessary.
- Recruiting and sign-up will begin in early April, to be completed by April 22nd.
- League play will begin on May 4th and finish with the championship and banquet on September 14th.

Our focus over the winter will be to develop a plan to improve the quality of the courts and reduce the amount of maintenance required to keep them in playable condition. Recommendations and budget requirements will be submitted to our governing committee early in the new year.

For those who have never played bocce – fear not – no athletic ability or special skill is required, and everyone is welcome. The rules are simple and a clinic will be scheduled prior to the start of the season.

Make Bocce and dinner at the pool-side grill your Wednesday evening activity for next summer.

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Bowling

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



IRS Urges Public to Stay Alert for Scam Phone Calls

By Tony Scariccamazza



The Internal Revenue Service issued an IRS Special Edition Tax Tip 2015-18 on October 21, 2015 which has been reproduced below. As we approach the filing season for Federal Income Tax returns, this is a “must read”!

The IRS continues to warn consumers to guard against scam phone calls from thieves intent on stealing their money or their identity. Criminals frequently pose as the IRS to trick victims out of their money or personal information. Here are several tips to help you avoid being a victim of these scams:

- **Scammers make unsolicited calls.** Thieves call taxpayers claiming to be IRS officials. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They may also leave “urgent” callback requests through phone “robo-calls,” or via phishing email.
- **Callers try to scare their victims.** Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victim if they don’t get the money.
- **Scams use caller ID spoofing.** Scammers often alter caller ID to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victim’s name, address and other personal information to make the call sound official.
- **Cons try new tricks all the time.** Some schemes provide an actual IRS address where they tell the victim to mail a receipt for the payment they make. Others use emails that contain a fake IRS document with a phone number or an email address for a reply. These scams often use official IRS letterhead in emails or regular mail that they send to their victims. They try these ploys to make the ruse look official.
- **Scams cost victims over \$23 million.** The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, or TIGTA, has received reports of about 736,000 scam

contacts since October 2013. Nearly 4,550 victims have collectively paid over \$23 million as a result of the scam.

The IRS will not:

- Call you to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail.
- Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe.
- Require that you pay your taxes a certain way. For instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.

If you don’t owe taxes, or have no reason to think that you do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their “IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting” web page. You can also call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the “FTC Complaint Assistant” on FTC.gov. Please add “IRS Telephone Scam” in the notes.

If you know you owe or think you may owe tax, call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you.

Phone scams first tried to sting older people, new immigrants to the U.S. and those who speak English as a second language. Now the crooks try to swindle just about anyone. And they’ve ripped-off people in every state in the nation.



QUIZ ANSWERS From page 23

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

Fourth Annual VGEM Golf Scramble

A Fun Day For All - Planning Started for 2016



By Doug Beaupit

October 9th turned out to be a sunny, 70° degree day. At 8AM, thirty-two (32) golfers started by registering in the Mays Landing Coutry Club (MLCC) dining room with volunteers Shirley & Howard Bernstein, and Marsha Goldberg. They handed out a bag of goodies (snacks and golf balls) and a door prize ticket. Herb Moskowitz took his newspaper and headed to the 12th hole to wait for the golfers so he could measure the distance for the closest to the pin contest.

Winners on the course:



Greeting the golfers were volunteers Marsha Goldberg, Shirley & Howard Bernstein, Herb Moskowitz

- The Longest Drive – Chris Graff in Bern Roswell’s group
- The Straightest Drive – Albert Anzardo in Bern Roswell’s group
- The Closest to the Pin – Steve Wiener in the Don Cheatle group. Steve won by 1 inch. Herb Moskowitz was there to make the correct measurement.

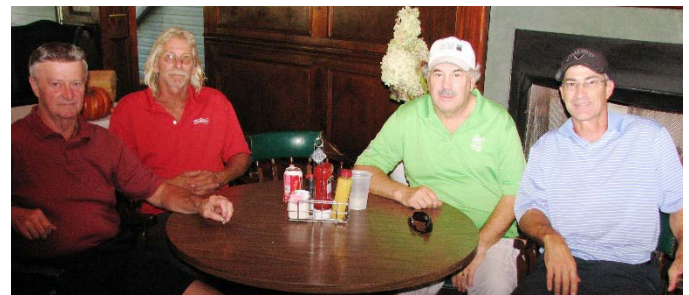


Steve Wiener celebrates “Closest to the Pin” with his foursome of Don Cheatle on his right and on his left Dan Farbman and Rich Warren .

After 4 hours of scramble play, everyone headed to the MLCC clubhouse for the barbecue and the prize ceremony.

Prizes for Scramble Groups and Door Prizes

- The lowest score went to the Joe Carluccio group (brother & 2 guests). They had an eight under par and won a free round of golf and cart for 4 players.



The Winning Foursome.

Frank Rzonca, Rich Purzner, Joe and Vic Carluccio

- The second place group winner was the Doug Beaupit group with a score of seven under par. There was a tie with the Roswell Group and the winner was determined after 5 holes of tie breakers. Second prize was a \$20 gift card from Wawa for each player.
- The last place group winner had a score of plus one. The Dennis Goldberg group won a gift card from Wawa for \$10 for each player.
- The prize for “Longest Drive” and “Closest to the Pin” was a lamp made by Mike Segal. Thanks Mike. The prize for “Closest to Middle of the Fairway” was a bottle of wine.
- There were several door prizes of gift cards, insulated bags and a bottle of wine.

Mike Segal had his two sons and grandson driving the green on number 1 and number 13 holes. He also won a door prize of a bottle of wine for his dad. What a great day for the Segal family!

The day ended about 3 PM after a successful and fun day with everyone looking forward to next year.

Halloween at the Grand Hotel in Cape May

By Jeannie Eckard

If you are looking for a fun time next October, I would like to suggest that you join us at the Grand Hotel in Cape May for a fun filled night. Although it was called Halloween at the Grand Hotel, no one wore a costume, which is always an option.

On Thursday, October 29, several of us from VGLM, VGEM and our friends from the Fairways car-pooled to Cape May for a night of dancing, great food and lots of laughs.



Included in the price of the excursion was a delicious dinner and breakfast buffet at the hotel's Hemingway's Restaurant. The dinner menu consisted of a fantastic array of seafood along with roast beef, ham, vegetables, soups, fresh salad and other entrees too numerous to mention, as well as, dessert.

After our dinner buffet, the DJ with his great selection of music kept us dancing for three hours which was enough time to work off all of those calories from our feast. Prior to retiring to our rooms, many of us met at the hotel bar for a nightcap and lots of laughs before turning in for the night.



The next morning we were treated to a breakfast buffet with a delightful assortment of just about everything that one could possibly think of to eat for their morning meal.

When deciding what to do next October, you have two choices: First choice is to come to this lovely hotel where the food is fantastic, the wine overflows, the music and dancing are great and the people are a lot of fun to be with or you can choose to stay home and feast on a hamburger while sitting in front of a boring T.V. in anticipation of your morning feast of oatmeal!

My suggestion is that you "COME TO THE CABARET". .. And don't forget its oceanfront too! See you next year at the Grand Hotel in Cape May.





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Halloween Party

By Chicki Sinaglia
Co-Chair, Social Committee

Ghosts, goblins, witches... we had them all at our Sixth Annual Halloween Party on spooky Halloween night. Our ballroom was aglow in orange and black and, while costumes were not compulsory, the number of costumed guests this year was the most we have ever had.

With *The Monster Mash* as background music, the many costumed guests paraded before the judges. While it was difficult to choose only three winners from so many choices, our judges, Linda Oberman, Rich Johnson and Joan Hofmann had to make the hard choices. The winners were:

- Most Original Costume- Peggy and Floyd Milhan as “Disco Sneeze and Boogie Babe”
- Funniest Costume – Terry and Bill Giannetti as “Two Boobs in a Bra”
- Scariest Costume - Kathy Sorrell as “Dracula”.

The music was provided by Aggie and Jim Henry. Casual dinner options were from Sugar Hill. Our committee was headed by Bonnie Carluccio and Sheila Solomon. Committee members were Sue Paulu, Kathy Sorrell, Regina Yuppa, Dolores Magara, Kathleen McGroarty, Pat Gentile, Ginny Holt, Chicki Sinaglia and Marlene Santucci. Special thanks to Tom Santucci who answered our call for help by running over with his bin full of extension cords, hooked up our lighted displays and helped us with many of the decorations. We also thank and appreciate

Bill Giannetti and Joe Carluccio for setting up the tables and chairs for the event.

As always, thanks to all who assisted with the cleanup. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as the committee enjoyed in planning this party.



Scariest - Dracula



Most Original - Disco Sneeze & Boogie Babe



Funniest Costume
“Two Boobs in a Bra”





HAPPY HALLOWEEN



The Rainbow Tea Party

By Jeannie Eckard

On Tuesday, November 10, 2015, the Garden Club held its Sixth Tea Party. Much excitement filled the air as eighty nine beautifully attired ladies walked from the professionally adorned foyer through the doors of the



great room to their exquisitely decorated tables set by our eleven creative hostesses. A lot of time and talent was portrayed amongst our hostesses. I would like to acknowledge and thank Barbara Anne Villon, Angela Mastrangelo, Selma Rosenblum, Sharon Perna, Pat Roche, Linda Oberman, Marjorie Darcy, Kathy Sorrell, Barbara Roswell, Linda

Salierno, Terry Stevens and Diane Gottman for their beautiful tables.

handsome and distinguished gentlemen servers did a splendid job pouring tea. Richard Johnson was quite professional in his serving of an array of delicious sandwiches to our tables. Thanks to those considerate and obliging male volunteers, we felt like queens for the day. A special mention goes out to Cedric Raine for stepping in at the last minute to help to serve tea.



The Gentleman Servers. Tom Darcy, Rich Johnson, Jin Cira, Cedric Raine, Don Mastrangelo & Larry Levy



Beside chairing the Rainbow Tea, Jeannie Eckard was the "Hostess of Table 1" with the dessert table in the background.

The decorating committee was outstanding with their creativity and selection of decorations. Thank you to Julie McGeehin, Irene Schaeffer, Ethel Weiner, Kathleen Cira and Rosemarie Sheehan for a job well done and very much appreciated.

Mouthwatering raisin and cranberry scones from Shop Rite were the first course which was served with tea from beautiful tea pots provided by the hostesses. Our six



Our sandwich makers outdid themselves with their variety of chosen selections. Many thanks to Eleanor Bolton, Joy Evans, Sue Wilds, Gini Giambatista, Julie McGeehin, Marie Marini, Lena Goldberg and Lynnda Golin for all of their hard work in making the sandwiches.

After a few cups of tea served by our gentlemen servers along with our consumption of delectable sandwiches, we enjoyed a wonderful assortment of seven different desserts which were not only delightful to look at but just as delightful to taste.



The Tea Party was as perfect as the weather outside. We could not have ordered a more beautiful day to have

a perfect tea. A thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who helped to make this day a success, for without them it would never have happened.



Jeannie welcomes everyone to the Rainbow Tea.

At the onset of the tea as I stood in front of the room to welcome everyone, I was pleasantly taken back by the large number of gorgeous, impressively decorated hats along with everyone's lovely outfits. Thank you so very much for completing the beauty of the tea with your splendid finery; you looked beautiful. Thank you also for allowing me to reach my goal by creating an emulation of a real English High Tea. Everyone outdid themselves by taking the time and effort to make this tea very special to all who had the pleasure of attending. Thanks for making happy memories.



Special Town Meeting “The Transition Process”

By Tom Santucci

It is not a secret that the residents are very concerned by the mounting expenses that have and will be incurred in repairing our pools. In June, it was the outdoor pool that cost about \$60,000 to repair problems resulting from apparent construction defects and improper installation. These were described in the first Online Quarterly Gazette on page 60. Fortunately, the Board had prepared for an unexpected financial emergency by having set aside sufficient funds in the deferred maintenance and other related accounts to cover that cost without an assessment.

Now with impending cost to repair problems with the indoor pool that also appear due to construction defects and improper installation, many residents are questioning why the Board has not instituted litigation against D.R. Horton and their subcontractors. This was verbalized by several residents during the public comment session following the December 7th HOA meeting.

Why hasn't the Board sued D.R. Horton? The answer to this question is two-fold. First, they are in the process of obtaining more information and data from several

experts as is explained in Kate Walton's article on page 9 of this Gazette. These reports should be completed by March. The second reason is that construction defects and improper installation are most prudently and efficiently resolved at transition in a shorter timeframe and with less legal expenses than prolonged litigation.

The Board has addressed this on numerous occasions but a few residents continue to question whether the Board is making a well informed decision to seek financial retribution through transition rather than litigation. Some others want the Board to seek a second legal opinion.

At their workshop on December 15th, the Board had a scheduled session with VGEM legal counsel, David R. Dahan, to discuss the strategy for transition. They took this opportunity to discuss the concerns of some residents who question the wisdom of waiting for transition rather than having not already instituted construction litigation.

The Board is calling a special town meeting in March to explain the transition process. Mr. Dahan will make a presentation on the transition process. March was chosen so that the various reports will have been completed before the town meeting. Date and time of the meeting are being arranged.

I suggest looking over our lawyer's credentials by going to www.hylandlevin.com/attorneys/david-r-dahan.



ANTHEM OF THE SEAS



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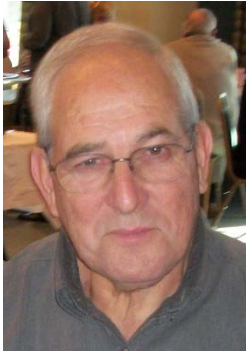
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Going to the Emergency Room? Bring these!

By Jim Berg



In a previous article I stated that “Hospitals and hospital care is so complex and patients are frequently so overwhelmed by the experience that I recommend bringing someone with you to be your advocate and/or interpreter when navigating those white walls.” That statement is even truer for Emergency Room visits

Everyone knows that visitors to the ER should bring their Medicare and other insurance cards to save time and aggravation with the registry staff. However, it is even more important to bring your pertinent medical information so that the clinical staff can make a more complete diagnosis for you and then prescribe the most appropriate treatment.

After stating the reason for your ER visit, you will be asked a number of questions. Some of these questions are: the name of your primary physician, the names of all physicians that you see on a regular basis; such as, urologist, dermatologists, cardiologist, etc., a list all your daily medications and dosages, medications that you take on an interim basis, over-the-counter medications and herbal supplements. You will also be asked: if you have any allergies, if you are being treated for any chronic medical condition and they will want a list of all minor and major surgeries. All this information is important to better assist the attending physician as well and the laboratory and radiology departments.

Do not be startled when you are asked if you have an advance directive. This is standard practice today even if you have come to the ER with a stubbed toe. Bring a copy if you have one. It will save you follow-up questions such as, would like to receive one or do you want a visit from a social service worker? Remember, as I have advised before, do not give away your original!

It is impossible to write up all this information when you are in pain or other distress so write it NOW and make several copies. Carry one in your wallet or purse, in your car and keep one in your medicine cabinet so a first aider can grab it if necessary. Add, to your list of medications, the name and address of your regular pharmacy. In most cases today the ER staff will electronically send any prescriptions directly to your pharmacy.

Finally along with your advocate, bring something to read because you may be there a long time.



Guess what? I did not take my own advice and it caused problems. Recently, I went to my physician’s office for my regularly scheduled semi-annual visit. While there, my EKG indicated some irregularity and I was immediately sent to the hospital Emergency Room. Guess what their first question was? ... “What meds are you on?” I did not have my list and could not tell them. It was very important information because they wanted to give me some blood thinners! After several phone calls and almost an hour, we figured it out. However that could have been a major problem. I now take my own advice and have list of my meds in both of our cars along with a brief summary of my health history! It is like insurance. I hope I never need it but it is there in case I do.

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frightening, sometimes by way of virtual reality programs such as Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR). EMDR is a series of guided eye movements that help a person process traumatic memories. (See Editor's Note below) Medications may include antidepressants, anti-anxiety drugs, and a medication called prazosin (trade names Minipress, Vasoflex, Pressin and Hypovase) to suppress bad dreams. Education about PTSD, talking to a professional and support groups are also all helpful tools to break the cycle of PTSD.

The goals of treatment are to help the PTSD sufferer to regain a sense of control and ability to process the traumatic events without becoming emotionally overwhelmed. Support and understanding by family, friends and community members are critical ingredients to recovery. It is important to recognize this very real and significant syndrome in order to seek or help others find resources to aide in recovery.



Editor's Note from Wikipedia:

Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) is a psychotherapy developed by Francine Shapiro that emphasizes disturbing memories as the cause of psychopathology. It is used to help with the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). According to Shapiro, when a traumatic or distressing experience occurs, it may overwhelm normal coping mechanisms. The memory and associated stimuli are inadequately processed and stored in an isolated memory network.

The goal of EMDR is to reduce the long-lasting effects of distressing memories by developing more adaptive coping mechanisms. The therapy uses an eight-phase approach that includes having the patient recall distressing images while receiving one of several types of bilateral sensory input, such as side to side eye movements. EMDR was originally developed to treat adults with PTSD; however, it is also used to treat other conditions and children.

In 1999, EMDR was a controversial therapy within the psychological community, and in 2000, its efficacy compared to other treatments and underlying mechanism was the subject of debate. However, since 2004, EMDR was recommended as an effective treatment for trauma in the *Practice Guidelines* of the American Psychiatric Association, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) that is a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, and the World Health Organization.



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Two Different Pneumococcal Vaccines Recommended For Adults 65 and Older

Clarifying the Rationale

By Tom Santucci

In 1997, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that all adults 65 years and older receive a single injection of the 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) that is marketed under the trade name of **Pneumovax 23®** by Merck & Co., Inc. This has changed.

On August 13, 2014, the ACIP recommended routine use of the 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) among all adults age 65 years and older. PCV13 is marketed under trade name of **Prenvar 13®** by Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a subsidiary of Pfizer Inc., and should be administered in series with **Pneumovax 23®**. The result is that the CDC now recommends two different pneumococcal vaccines for all adults 65 years and older.

On first blush the terminology may be a bit confusing, and on further analysis, it is confusing. To understand the merit of the recommendation, we need some background information on pneumococcal disease and vaccine.

Pneumococcal vaccine prevents disease caused by the bacteria, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, which is transmitted through respiratory droplets. *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is most commonly referred to as pneumococcus. As its name implies, pneumococcus is a cause of pneumonia that is usually severe. In its most severe infections, it causes invasive disease resulting in the bacteria germs circulating in the blood stream (bacteremia) and infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis). Pneumococcal disease can be deadly, especially for adults 65 years and older. Simply stated, pneumococcal infections are very serious as demonstrated by the following mortality rates for those who become infected:

- Pneumonia kills about 1 out of 20 adults
- Bacteremia kills about 1 out of 5 people
- Meningitis kills about 3 out of 10 people

In 1911, scientists attempted to find an effective vaccine against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. By the 1940's, a reasonably effective pneumococcal vaccine was available, but vaccine became obsolete with the discovery of penicillin that was extremely effective in eradicating pneumococcal infections. Over time this bacterial germ developed resistance to penicillin and many patients were

dying of pneumococcal infections resistant to antibiotic/antimicrobial agents. By the 1960's, the need for an effective pneumococcal vaccine became a high priority and was again sought.

The first pneumococcal vaccine was produced and licensed in November 1977. This vaccine was composed of the 14 serotypes. Of note is that there are more than 90 different pneumococcal strains/serotypes. Although the vaccine contained only 14 serotypes, the good news was that these 14-valent vaccines were effective against about 80 percent of all the pneumococcal cases in the United States. Subsequently, two 23-valent vaccines were produced and licensed in July 1983. In 1997, the ACIP/CDC recommended that all adults 65 years or older receive one of these vaccines, **Pneumovax 23®**.

As of August 13, 2014, the ACIP/CDC is now recommending that seniors should also receive **Prevnar 13®**. Now it gets confusing for those of us who followed the 1997 recommendation and received the vaccine containing 23 pneumococcal serotypes. Why is the CDC now recommending **Prevnar 13®** that only contains 13 pneumococcal serotypes, 11 of which are in **Pneumovax 23®**? If you have already received **Pneumovax 23®** that contains all but two of the serotypes, why do we need **Prevnar 13®**? It's a good question.

The rationale is not simply that the **Prevnar 13®** vaccine offers immunity against two additional strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The two vaccines are different types of vaccines, the **Pneumovax 23®** is a polysaccharide vaccine and the **Prevnar 13®** is a conjugated vaccine. Without going in to immunology, a polysaccharide vaccine is not as effective as a conjugate vaccine. The conjugate vaccine stimulates a much higher antibody response and therefore greater and different protection against pneumococcal disease. **Pneumovax 23®** is very effective in preventing invasive pneumococcal disease such as bacteremia, meningitis and pneumonia with bacteremia. It has not been as effective as **Prevnar 13®** in preventing non-bacteremic pneumonia in adults over age 65. The most common form of pneumococcal pneumonia, the so-called community-acquired pneumonia, is a localized lung infection that is not associated with bacteria also circulating and infecting the blood system. As a result, there was a need for a vaccine to prevent the more common community-acquired pneumonias in the 65 and older population.

A solution was proposed in June 2014 by the results of the Community-Acquired Pneumonia Immunization Trial in Adults (CAPiTA). This was one of the largest prospective vaccine efficacy trials carried out in adults. A total of 84,496 adults 65 years and older were randomized to receive either **Prevnar 13®** or placebo. The results were that **Prevnar 13®** was 45.5% effective in preventing a community-acquired pneumococcal

pneumonia. The result was the ACIP recommending **Prevnar 13®**.

The following is the *National Foundation for Infectious Disease* summary of the CDC recommendation of two pneumococcal vaccines for all adults 65 years or older.

- If unimmunized against pneumococcus, you should first receive a dose of **Prevnar 13®**, followed by a dose of the **Pneumovax 23®**, ideally 6 to 12 months later.
- If you've already received any doses of **Pneumovax 23®**, the dose of **Prevnar 13®** should be given at least 1 year after receipt of the most recent **Pneumovax 23®** dose.
- If you've already received a dose of **Prevnar 13®** at a younger age, another dose of **Prevnar 13®** is not recommended.

These vaccines are safe, but side effects can occur. Most side effects are mild or moderate, such as arm swelling or soreness, and do not affect daily activities. It is important to note the two vaccines should not be administered at the same visit. The **Pneumovax 23®** vaccine should not be given less than 8 weeks after the **Prevnar 13®** dose.

Medicare Part B and most private health insurance now cover the cost of receiving both pneumococcal vaccines. Check with your insurance provider for details on whether there is any cost to you and for a list of in-network vaccine providers

In addition to the new recommendation for pneumococcal vaccination of adults 65 years or older, it is important to remember that pneumococcal vaccines are also recommended for adults 19 years or older with immunocompromising conditions (including HIV, chronic renal failure and nephrotic syndrome), functional or anatomic asplenia, cerebrospinal fluid leaks, cochlear implants, and certain lifestyles.

In summary, **Prevnar 13®** and **Pneumovax 23®** together protect against 25 strains of pneumococcus bacteria. Both vaccines provide protection against meningitis and bacteremia, but **Prevnar 13®** provides better protection against the more common community-acquired pneumococcal pneumonia. The CDC recommends that all adults 65 years and older receive both pneumococcal vaccines.





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