

Grande Gazette

The Village Grande at English Mill

Volume 7 - Issue 3

SUMMER QUARTER

July/August/September 2016

THE
VILLAGE  GRANDE®
AT ENGLISH MILL

Board of Trustees 2016-2017



Jeannie Eckard – Jim Lichtenwalner
Pam LoBue - Betty Alberts

VILLAGE GRANDE AT ENGLISH MILL

1 Village Grande Road; Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

Clubhouse Hours: 5 AM - Midnight

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www.dilucia.com

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Community Manager
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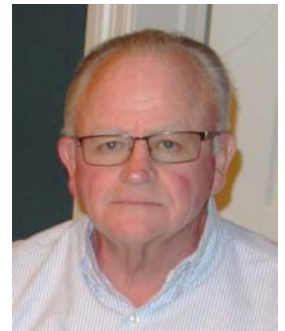
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From the Editor...

Time Moves On!

By Tom Santucci

We have all survived a rather unusual election which one candidate described to me as contentious and another candidate said it was beginning to resemble *Trump and Hillary*. Regardless of the demeanor of the election, the Community has elected two new Trustees, Jeannie Eckard and Jim Lichtenwalner, who are strongly committed to continuing to make VGEM a grand place in which to reside.



The Community appreciates the service that Jim Roche has provided to VGEM since Pat and he became its first residents. Thanks also go out to Jim Walsh, who admirably stepped forward nearly a year ago to fill a vacated Trustee position.

Others of us have experienced some unpleasant experiences during an election that “many” people are describing as being both divisive and derisive. The Gazette and I were among those who had their integrity challenged. As a matter of fact, the Gazette has never been censored by the VGEM Board. Nor have I ever rejected publishing any article, although this may happen in the future if needed. On this page of every issue appears the Gazette’s “*Publishing Practices/Policies*” whose opening sentence reads, “The *Grande Gazette* may reject any material deemed inappropriate.”

This is not an infringement of anyone’s First Amendment’s freedom of the press and free speech. The Gazette Editor and Staff, as well as all VGEM Committees, serve at the pleasure of the HOA Board. As Editor, it is my responsibility to determine whether material is appropriate to be published. Should an article be rejected, due process is always available to the contributor on appeal.

One Trustee Elect reported being told that the HOA Board must approve every Gazette before it’s published. This is untrue and has never happened in the 27 issues that I have edited. The other Trustee Elect fully agreed that all VGEM Committees, including the Gazette, need a Board Liaison; an opinion with which I fully concur. Enough of this, the Gazette and I shall survive and time moves on!

On a more pleasant although bittersweet note, the Gazette shall deeply miss Kate Walton and thank her for all she has done for the Gazette and me personally. The Gazette Staff and I wish Kate well in her new venture. She is a very special person!

July/August/September 2016 ~ Grande Gazette 3

VGEM HOA BOARD

June 14, 2016 Meeting

By Cynthia Williams & Tom Santucci

The semi-annual HOA Board Meeting on June 16 was called to order by President Pam LoBue. This article is an unofficial overview of the meeting and is not the Minutes. With the change in the 2016 HOA meeting schedule, the Gazette established a new feature in the form of a new section to report on all MOTIONS acted upon by the Board in their monthly open meetings. It has appeared in the last two issues and follows this overview.



*The presiding Board at the June 14, 2016 meeting.
Jim Walsh, Betty Alberts, Jim Roche and Pam LoBue*

Manager's Report: Our new Community Manager, Cynthia Williams, was introduced. She has been with DiLucia Management for seven years and has been in the industry since 2001. For more detailed information on Cynthia's background, read Norma Meyers article on page 7.

Kate thanked the homeowners for the many well wishes she has received since announcing her promotion and subsequent exit as Community Manager. She reported that no resales have occurred since the last open meeting. The HOA bank account balances as of June 14 are:

- Operating Account – Univest Bank – \$190,397.49
- Capital Reserves – Merrill Lynch – \$437,405.22
- Other Reserves (working capital and maintenance) – Merrill Lynch – \$247,317.57

Committee Reappointments: Applications to apply (or re-up) for committee membership and leadership are due June 15th. If a resident hasn't yet signed up for a committee, they were advised to please fill out a form promptly.

Developer's Report: In the absence of the D.R. Horton Board representative, Todd Greene, Kate reported that there were four new home sales since the last open meeting. The total number of homes sold and settled is 352 with 38 homes remaining to be sold before transition.

Election Results: Bob Kennedy and Kathy Sorrell were appointed Election Judges for the 2016 Board of Trustees Elections by the Election Committee. The

Election Committee and Election Judges reported to the Board that Jeannie Eckard and Jim Lichtenwalner were elected Trustees to serve a two year term from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.



*Newly elected Trustees Jeannie Eckard
and Jim Lichtenwalner*

Pam thanked Jim Roche and Jim Walsh for serving on the Board of Trustees and welcomed Jeannie and Jim to the Board.

For all the MOTIONS acted upon by the Board since the last Gazette, read the following article.

Board MOTIONS Acted Upon April through June, 2016

April 12, 2016 Meeting:

- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to purchase 13 round tables for the Great Room from Sam's Club for \$100 per table plus tax to replace the old wood tables, to be funded from the Social Committee's portion of the Activities Account.
Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained
Resolved: Motion carried
- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to purchase an aluminum Lateral Pull Down bar for the universal gym for \$99 plus tax
Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained
Resolved: Motion carried
- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to hire Courts for Sports for monthly maintenance of the Bocce Courts in June, July, and August for a total cost of \$725
Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained
Resolved: Motion carried
- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to adopt new pool rules as amended during discussion, to be distributed via email blast and hard copies to be distributed at the June 14, 2016 Open Meeting
Discussion: Pertinent changes include the removal of certain children's swim days following Memorial

Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day; the Indoor Pool remaining open 12 months a year; one guest per household at the Indoor Pool; Residents bringing guests should provide their own chairs when needed; no one is permitted to remove cushion from pool chairs to be used elsewhere on the pool deck.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed – Motion carried

- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to adopt the following policy: *Any suggestion to add or donate items to, or delete from, the Clubhouse must be put into a formal written proposal for the board's review. Please present a well thought-out plan that includes, but is not limited to: identifying the need for the item, the proposed location of the item, the purchase price, storage if seasonal item, the responsible party for installation and maintenance, the cost of maintenance, and all other pertinent facts.*

Discussion: Kate suggested making a form to have available at the clubhouse listing requirements per this motion.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed – Motion carried

June 14, 2016 Meeting:

- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to exercise the third year contract extension option with Outdoor Décor for landscaping and irrigation maintenance.

Discussion: The Board approved this option in December of 2015 in exchange for a \$5,000 rebate on a necessary fungicide treatment. The extension has no increase to the contract price.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Resolved: Motion carried

- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to approve the installation of a horseshoe pit not to exceed the cost of \$800; \$120 of which will be funded by the Garden Club and \$680 funded by the Travel Club from funds held at OC Home Bank.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed - Motion carried

- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to adopt the revised Architectural Control Committee Guidelines and Community Rules (available for distribution on June 17, 2017 at the Manager's office).

Discussion: The Committees were praised for their dedication and hard work.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Resolved: Motion carried

- **MOTION** from Jim Roche to hire Nickolaus Construction to resurface the tennis/pickleball courts at a cost of \$11,200 per the specs on their proposal, to be funded by the Reserve Replacement Account.

Discussion: The engineer reported that the courts showed normal wear and tear. As this amenity is very popular the Board wants to keep it in good condition and prevent any injuries.

Vote: 4 in favor, 0 opposed - Motion carried

President's Message

A Letter to Kate Walton

From Pam LoBue



Dear Katie,

The President of the Board relies on a good working relationship with the Community Manager. I am no exception to that rule. I was so fortunate to have such a positive relationship with you. You have been “my gal Friday”. No question or dilemma was too hard for you to tackle. Your kind and cheery attitude eased so many resident's concerns, and made Board membership so much easier. Your job included answering questions, dealing with vendors and professionals, attending Board meetings, taking minutes, making agendas, dealing with committees and clubs, making announcements, paying bills, handling resident's accounts, overseeing the cleaning and maintenance of the clubhouse and common grounds, and keeping important records documenting community actions and history. Although I'm sure that I have forgotten to mention many more responsibilities of the Manager, it's fair to say that managing a community like ours is a HUGE undertaking... and you did it well!

I will miss you Katie as will this Community. Please know that you take with you our very best wishes for a future filled with success. We wish you, your husband, and daughter the very best of luck in your new adventure in Pennsylvania. Your promotion to the Finance Department at DiLucia's headquarters is well deserved and will enable you to use your accounting degree. May your new life in Pennsylvania be filled with happiness, good health, laughter and love. You will be missed, but never forgotten.

Fondly,
Pam



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

By Kate Walton



The Indoor Pool remains closed since October 29th, 2015. I would like to provide a summary of what has transpired since my last article appeared in the Winter Quarter issue of the *Grande Gazette*.

The HOA's attorney, David Dahan, spoke with one of the principal engineers of The Falcon Group, David Chesky. In their lengthy conversation, Mr. Dahan let David Chesky know that the Board has received many complaints about the length of the time of Falcon's due diligence process and that the HOA is not pleased thus far. Mr. Chesky understood, but reiterated that the report could not be drafted until all inspections were completed. Certain weather-dependent inspections such as the landscaping resulted in prolonging the process.

The Falcon Group has since sent the Board the proposal they were waiting for to prepare bid specifications to bring the entire indoor pool area (mechanical, structural, spa leak repair, etc.) back to working order. The Board met with Falcon to negotiate a better price. Falcon revised their quote but not nearly by the amount the Board expected considering the amount of work already performed by Falcon and the fact that they are getting so much work from the HOA. The Board is currently negotiating a better price and a more comprehensive scope of work. This should be ironed out

and Request for Proposals (RFP/bids) will be sent out very shortly.

The Falcon Group has also sent their first draft of the Transition Engineering Report and an updated Capital Reserve Report for review by management, Board members, and pertinent committees such as the Transition Committee and Clubhouse Maintenance Committee. At press time, I am still receiving feedback from these members on items we'd like to see added or emphasized. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time to deciphering this 100+ page report.

Mr. Dahan has put 6 parties on notice that are known to us as having something to do with the design, sales, construction, or installation of the HVAC system and the indoor pool area itself. Here is an update since March:

- Main Line Pools – Since receiving their initial response denying any and all responsibility, they have now turned the matter over to their insurance carrier.
- Feinburg & Associates – They have turned the matter over to their insurance carrier.
- Integrated Aquatics Engineering – They have turned the matter over to their insurance carrier.
- DR Horton – Todd Greene has complied with Mr. Dahan's request to provide him with the original construction contract between Main Line Pools and D.R. Horton. After the Association provides estimates to fix the indoor pool, it is D.R. Horton's plan to send a letter to Main Line Commercial Pools, Feinberg & Associates and any other subcontractor who may be responsible, demanding that they fix the problems identified. Another demand is that defend, indemnify and hold D.R. Horton harmless based on form language included in all of D.R. Horton's contracts with its subcontractors. Finally, I received an email from Todd Greene in the beginning of June asking for his contractors to view the natatorium and of course immediately responded YES! It's been about a week at press time and I haven't seen or heard anything. I hope that this could be a small sign that they could potentially be willing to cooperate.
- John E. Schade Consulting Engineers – Mr. Dahan received a letter from their attorneys denying any and all responsibility. Dahan responded requesting their contract with D.R. Horton and other pertinent information.
- Building Systems & Services – They are not listed on Falcon's report but they identified themselves as the party responsible for consulting and selling the HVAC system to Main Line for this job. They performed a site visit in November and provided a bid to replace the HVAC system, but have not yet responded to Mr. Dahan's letter.

Thank you all for your patience as the Board seeks to have the natatorium brought back to life!



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Kate's Farewell to VGEM

Dear VGEM Residents,



Since announcing my exit as your Community Manager I have been brought to near-tears (sometimes more than “near”) by so many of you, wishing me well and letting me know I will be missed. I’d like to let you know that you have all made a deep impact on me. I have learned a great deal from my interactions with you, even some of the

negative ones. ☺ I have met some of the nicest people that I have ever met here at VGEM.

I have dedicated myself to you and I hope that it showed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for welcoming me into your special community and for making me feel much appreciated. I will never forget any of you – and I won’t let you forget me, since I will be attending open board meetings and keeping close tabs on how the developer transition plays out. I will continue to be available to you as a member of DiLucia Management’s corporate team.

To quote one of my daughter’s favorite Disney characters, Winnie the Pooh, “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

Sincerely,

Kate Walton

INTRODUCING YOUR NEW COMMUNITY MANAGER

*By Norma Meyer, Regional Manager
DiLucia Management Corporation*



Cynthia Williams has been named the VGEM Community Manager and will start full time in that position on July 1, 2016. Cynthia is very excited to be working with the homeowners at Village Grande at English Mill and looks

forward to getting to know each of you and your beautiful community.

Cynthia has lived in this area her entire life, mostly in Galloway Township. She attended both Atlantic Cape Community College and Stockton University. She began working for the Borgata in 2001 when it was just an orange field of dirt. She saw the property through two major expansions. Her time at the Borgata gave her experience in accounting, facilities management, project management, purchasing, punch listing and lots of negotiations.

As construction was wrapping up, Cynthia was looking for a career that would help her utilize her project management skills and that was when she started working for DiLucia Management Corporation. She has worked with several different associations, but her longest tenure has been with the Blue Heron Pines Homeowners Association. She enjoys a challenge and always strives to do her best in the most efficient and effective way possible. She believes that communication is key to a successful relationship between a home owners association, the residents and the management team. Cynthia is very encouraged by the spirit of community and dedication that she has seen in recent visits to Village Grande at English Mill.

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Finance Committee Report

2016 Budget Update

By Don Cheatle, Chairperson



It is June 4th and we are five months into our budget year. Because of the due date for submitting articles for this issue of the Gazette was June 6th, the May financials are not yet available. A review of the VGEM financials through April 30th reflects a year to date net surplus of \$95,164. Operating income through April 30th was \$312,783 against expenses for the period of

\$217,122.

A net surplus at this point of the year is expected. The budget anticipated a net surplus of \$86,050 at this time of the year. A significant portion of our budgeted expenses are related to maintenance of the lawns and grounds within the Village while our income is collected monthly through the Association dues assessment. Also included in the year to date income is \$16,667 of the \$50,000 in net surplus earned in prior years and included in this year's budget.

Grounds maintenance includes cost of landscaping, water and irrigation costs and snow removal. Expenses incurred for grounds maintenance year to date totaled \$102,557. Included in this amount is \$74,676 paid to Outdoor Décor for landscape maintenance and improvements. Also included in the year to date grounds maintenance expenses are snow removal costs of \$24,843 and site electric charges of \$2,180.

Clubhouse expenses include pool maintenance and lifeguard coverage totaled \$20,476 through April 30th. Expenses normally incurred at this time of year are under budget, partially the result of the indoor pool closing.

The year to date budget included \$20,100 for the month of April 2016. April 2015 expense included \$19,759 for insurance premiums paid in April 2015. There were no insurance premiums paid as of April 30, 2016.

Professional services expense totaled \$52,667. The professional services are up because of legal fees incurred of \$12,619. The total 2016 budget for legal fees was \$12,200. Also included in professional services are the amounts paid to the Dilucia Management Company in the amount of \$40,049 year to date. The 2016 budget included \$125,280 for these services.

Administrative and other expenses totaled \$6,380 which is under budget by \$1,507.

Also included in the 2016 budget are amounts set aside for the replacement reserve and the deferred maintenance reserve. These amounts were \$55,000 and \$50,000 respectively. Monthly payments to the reserve accounts were made for these budget line items.

Our budget is designed to match revenues received to expenses incurred. As we progress into the summer months and incur expenses for landscaping, water, irrigation and recreation, the excess surplus will decline. Operating results usually reflect net deficits when expenses exceed our revenues during the summer months.

The members of the finance committee are Howard Bernstein, Don Cheatle, Dan Farbman, Terry Giannetti, Joe Leeds, Art Richman and Tom Santucci.

IT IS WITH GREAT SORROW THAT
WE MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR
GOOD FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

- Scott Faraccio -
373 Sunflower Drive
March 2, 2016

- Michael David-Wilson -
321 Sunflower Drive
April 12, 2016

- Robert Jones -
382 Sunflower Drive
May 5, 2016

- Lew Ware -
244 Lily Road
May 8, 2016

Thanks from the Ware Family

Thank you all for the abundance of love & respect you gave to our family as we laid to rest the man we called husband, father, grandfather and friend. Times like this are never easy, but it was so touching to witness the incredible tribute paid to him from the hundreds of friends who patiently waited to pay their respects.

Words don't seem to be enough to express our appreciation & gratefulness for the kindness, love and honor, platters of food, flowers, plants and the visits you each shared with all of us.

*Gayle Ware, Shari (Ware) Samuelsen,
Michael Ware and Kristi Ware*

ACC Update

By Jim Berg, Chairperson



The Architectural Control Committee is in the middle of its busy season for reviewing applications. This is because the VGEM homeowners are in the middle of their busy season for starting new summer projects.

We can all save time and aggravation by following a few simple steps. There are many occasions when an approval is delayed for two weeks or more because of missing information. Here are some suggestions to reduce delays and increase the chances of a quick approval.

Applications for landscaping, hardscaping and patio expansions require a **scale drawing**, which is a sketch of the project with **accurate** dimensions. The accurate sketch is required to enable the ACC to determine if the project meets the requirements outlined in the ACC Rules and Regulations and for Outdoor Decor to assess the possible impact on the irrigation system. This is also true for generator applications. Please keep in mind that the ACC cannot accept applications for these types of projects unless the irrigation system is turned on in order to determine the exact location of all the sprinkler heads on your property. The irrigation system is turned off in the late fall and does not get turned on again until the spring.

Applications for storm doors or shutters will be approved faster if you attach a picture of what you plan. Usually the brochure from the store will suffice. Similarly, applications for a patio awning will be approved faster if a swatch of the material is attached and applications for new garage door windows or outside lights will be approved faster with a picture.

The ACC members know that the application process can be a bother but it exists for the purpose of helping the Community develop in a way that maintains and increases property values while at the same time allowing homeowners to make changes and additions to their own property that reflect their individuality. Actually, HOAs are required by NJ regulations to have an ACC.

We do not want to become the “property police” but the ACC’s second major duty is to assure that the homeowners are maintaining their property in a clean and attractive condition. On a practical basis, this means that homeowners should keep the planting beds on all sides of their homes neat and mulched. We realize that in NJ there

will always be a few weeds but the jungle look is not acceptable. The outside of your house should be power washed if the walls have begun to look a little green from mold/mildew. This can especially be a problem on the shady side of your house.



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

The ACC has recommended to the HOA Board several modifications to the Rules and Regulations that we think will better accommodate the homeowners. Look for them in an upcoming article. In the meantime please do not hesitate to contact the office, myself, or any Committee member with questions.



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By Don Mastrangelo



National Night Out is a community-police awareness event held the first Tuesday of August. The event is meant to increase awareness of police programs in communities such as drug prevention, town watch/ Neighborhood Watch, and other anti-crime efforts. According to the National Crime Prevention Council, "Throughout the country, dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law

enforcement professionals in communities with active Watch programs."

You can help prevent crime in our community by doing a few simple things such as:

1. Use outside lights; this is the single best way to discourage burglars.
2. Always lock your vehicles.
3. Keep your garage doors shut.
4. Use timers to turn indoor lights on and off.

In conclusion, remember that National Night Out falls on Tuesday, August 2nd. To support this event, let us all turn our outside lights on and keep them lighted all night as your effort to deter crime.

Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

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

<u>Street</u>	<u>House#</u>	<u>Block Captain</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bluebell	All	Sam Salierno	365-8112
Daffodil	All	Barbara Gordon	788-8431
Ivy	All	Barbara Gordon	788-8431
Lily	200-215	Dan Montagna	576-5487
	216-230	Rich Johnson	856-296-0944
	231-242	Bill Polko	365-2340
	243-257	Herb Moskovitz	365-2329
Marigold	1-16	Jim Cira	402-2861
	17-35	Steve Cappadona	653-4215
Poppy	1-41	Fred Moderski	788-4876
Primrose	2-30	John DaPrato	926-4977
Snowdrop	100-117	Joe & Bonnie Carluccio	365-2574
	118-144	Don Mastrangelo	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



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Landscape Committee Update

By Kathy McGeehin, Committee Reporter



At our June meeting we welcomed two new volunteers to our Committee, Sue Paulu and John Gallagher. They joined our Landscape Committee of Jim Harnett, Kathy Sorrell, Ken Tardiff, Joan Viventi, Kathy McGeehin, Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato, Fred Moderski, and Ray Viventi, Committee Chairperson.

Pam LoBue continues as VGEM Board liaison. We extend our gratitude and sincere thanks to our “retiring” member, Bill Hofmann, for his many years of service to our Community. So many times he went above and beyond to take care of a lawn issue for our Community. We miss him, his knowledge, insight, and quick response to irrigation problems but know that he will be enjoying more time fishing! Please thank Bill when you see him and keep in mind that we are volunteers, working on the behalf of you, our neighbors, saving you money and providing a valuable service.

It has come to our attention that we have missing equipment! We have rain sensors that are the property of VGEM HOA installed in the gutters of several homes. They properly regulate our irrigation and assist in making

it cost effective. If you have a rain sensor that belongs to our community in your gutter, it is not to be touched, tampered with or removed. Please inform anyone who cleans or works on your gutters.

Our grass types, particularly the Kentucky blue sod in Phase II, but also the perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, and fine fescue that have been introduced to our VGEM lawns, are “cool season” grasses, adapted to our cold freezing winters and hot summers. Fertilization and our irrigation system keep these grass plants green during the heat of summer by artificially supplying nutrients and moisture, preventing temporary browning which is actually dormancy of the plant. Most likely, these brown areas of lawn are dormant grass plants which will return to green in fall. When outdoor temperature declines, the stress on the grass plants diminishes and in most cases they turn green.

Our newly sodded lawns in Phase II are entirely Kentucky Blue Grass and difficult to maintain in our climate. The lack of topsoil is a major issue as well. The lawns in Phase I are now a mix of grasses as the result of fall over seeding operations by our contractor, Outdoor Décor, over 3 years. The difference has been amazing as demonstrated in the before and after pictures appearing below. We ask for your patience and understanding as this is a process that takes time, usually several seasons. If you have recently purchased your home, please put your concerns in writing to D.R. Horton about sod and irrigation issues. We submit the Green Forms to D.R. Horton for the areas that are not yet under our control but we cannot guarantee a response. Speaking with our office



Lawns 209, 211 & 213 Lily - Sep 2012



Same Lawns 209, 211 & 213 Lily - Jun 2014

manager, the Board, and our Committee members, will not generate a response to complaints or issues, the Green Form will. Please complete a Green Form available outside the office in our Community Center. Just supply all information and drop in the white box. Unless this form is submitted there is no record of a problem and no paper trail to be acted upon. When we receive your form we act and respond to you. This takes time so please be patient. Please do not submit more than 1 form per problem as this just adds to our Manager's work load. Our community cannot afford to pay our landscape company to fix minor problems on a daily basis. If you have a geyser call the office, otherwise, no Green Form means there is no problem!

All grass suffers when soil is poor in quality and ours is lacking in organic matter. It also is severely compacted from construction of our homes and lack of proper preparation for sod. The remedy for these conditions takes many years. Aerating, application of nutrients and good mowing practices all help. Grass clippings supply nutrients by composting naturally. Fertilizer provides nitrogen to green and thicken our lawns. Potassium which is also applied improves winter hardiness. Many other nutrients are needed for a healthy lawn as well and maintaining proper PH (a balance of acidity and alkalinity) through soil testing and remediation done by our landscaper insures that they are available to the root systems of our grass.

All lawns are susceptible to diseases. There is no effective prevention as there are hundreds of turf diseases that can be bacterial or fungal in nature, and respond to the current weather conditions. There are management techniques, such as frequent, costly, chemical fungicide applications but no 'cures'. The damage is rarely so bad as to justify the expense. Often the financial cost of control applications is greater than the costs of reseeding the affected area at the appropriate time. Just as insect pests and weeds develop resistance to chemicals used to kill them, infectious fungi are equally capable of developing resistance to fungicides. Chemical treatment of turf disease is further complicated by the effects of humidity, rain, and temperatures that all impact the attempt at management.

Fortunately, we are able to control our indoor environment, our homes. Since control of the great, complex and ever-changing outdoor environment is not conceivable, perhaps we can begin to understand that the application of more chemicals is not the best tactic. We would be wise to consider the implication to ourselves and to our environment of the overuse of chemicals and the excessive use of water to have a greener lawn.

We have been made aware of problems and issues with the retention basins in Phase II. These basins are the responsibility of D.R. Horton and corrective action will

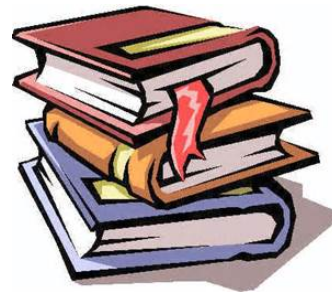
be taken by them.

Please remember NOT TO MULCH our curb trees. The mulch application was done by Outdoor Décor this past spring. Too much mulch damages our trees. If you have trees planted less than 1 year ago that are dead please notify D.R. Horton in writing. Please use a Brown Form, also available outside the office in our Community Center as well. Just complete and drop in the white box.

Thank you for your help and patience in keeping our VGEM neighborhood green!

Library Notes

By Annette Scaricamazza



Since 2009, the Clubhouse Library shelves have been changed from being merely decorative to a functional library and an added amenity to our Community. However, a frequent and continuing problem has been the donations of very old books in poor condition, oversized books, textbooks, old magazines, hobby books and collections of books by the same author. This has been a problem for the library volunteers who then must dispose of or, when possible, donate books for which we have no space. For your information, the Atlantic County Utility Authority has set guidelines for the disposal of unwanted hardcover books. For hardcover books, you must remove the cover. The hardcover goes in the trash. The pages may go in recycling.

There are 11 shelves for fiction and three shelves for non-fiction. Each shelf can hold about 25 books, so a donation of many books by the same writer cannot be put out due to lack of space. There is no storage room for books to be held for later display. Books are frequently rotated out of the library to make room for new donations and to keep the library current and interesting. Drop off your donations of newer books to the Clubhouse coat room, but, at any one time, please limit the number of books to less than four written by the same author.

Magazines donated may be kept by the borrower and not be returned. There is no time limit on books borrowed, just that they be returned. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

Election Committee Update

Jeannie Eckard and

Jim Lichtenwalner Elected Trustees

By Tom Santucci, Chairperson

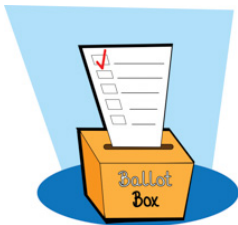
On June 14, 2016, Jeannie Eckard and Jim Lichtenwalner were elected Trustees to the VGEM HOA Board. Their two year terms are from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018. The Election Committee offers their congratulation to the new Trustees and their thanks to outgoing Trustee Jim Roche for his two years of dedicated service to VGEM.

The Committee also offers themselves congratulations for surviving this rather contentious election. All is well that ends well and this Election is no exception. The “many” who were reported to have concerns that votes might be lost and had “mistrust” about the election process proved to have worried needlessly. This was accomplished by a great deal of attention to detail by the Election Committee as was demonstrated in two global emails to the Community.

The latter Election Committee report on the meeting regarding the drop box incidents gathered together the Election Committee (Lynnda Golin, Annette Scaricamazza, Tom Santucci), the three Trustee Candidates (Jeannie Eckard, Jim Lichtenwalner, Jim Roche), the two Election Judges (Bob Kennedy, Kathy Sorrell) and the Board (Pam LoBue, Betty Alberts, Jim Walsh). The outcome was a unanimous opinion that the election was not compromised and should proceed as planned. The three Trustee candidates declared their confidence in the election by signing the Election Committee Report that was circulated to the Community by a global email.

On Tuesday, June 14 at 4 PM, the Election Committee and the two appointed Election Judges met in the Board Room to tally the votes. The DiLucia Team of Anne Macy, Norma Meyer, Cynthia Williams and Kate Walton were a great help in validating the ballots, opening the envelopes and overseeing the tallying process. Of the 332 homes eligible to vote, 254 or 76.5% cast ballots. The Committee extends thanks to Bob Kennedy and Kathy Sorrell for their participation as Election Judges. Last and far from least, our sincere appreciation to Kate who has been an invaluable resource to the Committee.

The Election Committee will be meeting to review and discuss this year’s election process. We anticipate that this debriefing will lead to several recommendations to the Board on further improving an already efficient and effective process.



Rules Committee

By Lynnda Golin and Bill Giannetti

Co-Chairpersons



With the opening of the outdoor pool and input from the Rules Committee, the Board issued a four-page VGEM Pool Rules document. This was an interim measure as the Rules Committee had not completed a full review of all the VGEM Community Rules. This task has since been accomplished and was submitted for the Board’s review which should be completed by the end of June.

Upon completion, a new comprehensive booklet will be prepared and distributed to each VGEM household. The last version was published and distributed in March 2013. The Committee anticipates the booklet will be distributed this summer and provide residents with a better understanding of the Community Rules.

The Clubhouse Rental and a comprehensive Hold Harmless Agreement are still under discussion. The Committee anticipate that a decision will soon be reached by the Board.

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.

Transition Committee Update

By Jerry Bernstein, Chairperson

Here's an update. A "draft" report was issued by VGEM’s engineering firm, *The Falcon Group*. In it many findings were listed. Most of the inefficiencies were, of course, blamed on our builder. There will be another report forthcoming, although I'm not sure when. Phase II is continuing, and, upon completion, will have to be addressed by Falcon. The draft report does not consider the best way to "fix" the problems, and I believe we have to/should give Horton a chance to do so.

Special Events Committee

The Special Events Committee held a successful Community Yard Sale on May 21 and 22. Wednesday, June 1 was the Opening of the Poolside Grille. The Project Leaders have each written an article on their respective "Special Event".

Community Yard Sale

Project Director Barbara Groff



The Special Events Committee held its second Community Yard Sale on May 21 and 22. This year more than 60 families participated in the sale. This was the first time the yard sale was held in individual driveways rather than the Clubhouse Parking lot. Based on resident surveys, everyone sold lots of goods and favored using their own driveways. The bad weather did not deter the people from coming.



Aggie Henry's organized store front

I would like to thank all of the Committee members who worked hard to plan all the details. Thanks to Anita Wenzke, Anita Weiss, Julie McGeehin, Kathleen Cira, Doug Beaupit and Diane Gottman for handing out the flyers. Additionally, a big thank you goes out to Marlene and Alex Polazneck for putting up many signs outside of the Community while Diane Gottman, Marsha Goldberg, Doug Beaupit, Jerry and Eileen Sackin, and Bob Kennedy were passing out the Yard Sale signs to the participating homeowners.

Selma Rosenblum and Pat Roche deserve a very special thanks for sitting out on the corner to hail down customers on Sunday, the rain date that was forecasted to be the better of the two days. As so often occurs with forecasting weather, Sunday was rainier than Saturday!!

Despite the fickle weather, the Community Yard Sale seems to have been an overall success. The Special Events Committee will be looking for any feedback to see how we can improve it and when we should hold it again.

Poolside Grille

*Project Directors
Marsha & Dennis Goldberg*



We hope everyone had a good winter and are as excited as we are to get this year's **Poolside Grille** back up and running. Once again we want to thank all the volunteers for their time and effort that made the grill the success it was in 2015. Thanks would be incomplete without a shout out to all VGEM residents that came out on "No Cook Wednesdays" to support those efforts.

For all our new friends & neighbors, please come out and join the fun & excitement. Mix & mingle poolside & enjoy our BBQ every Wednesday Evening from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Remember kids are always welcome at the VGEM **Poolside Grille**. Just bring your appetite.

Menu



Dietz & Watson All Beef Hot Dog	\$1.75
1/3 lb. Sirloin Burger	\$3.00
1/3 lb. Sirloin Cheeseburger	\$3.50
Our Famous Grilled Chicken Sandwich	\$3.00
Grilled Chicken Sandwich with Cheese	\$3.50
Homemade Baked Beans	\$0.50
Soft Drinks & Bottled Water	\$1.00
Snacks	\$0.75
Frozen Candy Bar	\$1.00
Ice Cream	\$1.50

Meal Deal

Sandwich, Chips & Drink

Sirloin Burger Meal	\$4.50
Sirloin Cheeseburger Meal	\$5.00
Grill Chicken Meal	\$4.50
Grilled Chicken & Cheese Meal	\$5.00
All Beef Hot Dog Meal	\$3.25



Look for Our Specials Every Week



“fyi”

Home Grown is the Best!

By Jim Lichtenwalner and Doug Beaupit

The **“fyi”** Club meetings in April and May featured our own residents and proved that “Home Grown is the Best”! April’s meeting featured Diane Gottman who along with her assistant Mike Stirm gave an overview of the Atlantic County Library Summer Programs to 49 of our residents. They also showed us how to navigate their website. The high point of the evening was when Diane introduced us to George, the Mays Landing Branch “Ghost in Residence”. The tales she recanted made me glad I use the EHT branch.

Dan Cianci was the featured speaker at our May 17 meeting. Dan is an expert on Pain Management and regularly speaks to members of the medical profession. Dan explained how to better understand and deal with pain to over 60 of our residents who were eager to hear what he had to offer. This was a topic of tremendous interest to our Community.

On June 21, Lynn Wood of the Great Egg Harbour Township Historical Society (GEHTS) provided us with an interesting perspective on the history of Egg Harbor Township that celebrated its 300th Birthday in 2010. Lynn encouraged everyone to visit the GEHTS Museum at 6647 West Jersey Avenue.



EHT celebrated a 300th Birthday in 2010!

Future meetings of the **“fyi”** Club include July 19 when Ellie Weiss speaks on “Hints and Methods to Declutter Your World” and August 16 when representatives of ACOS Energy and Trinity Solar will offer a panel discussion on Solar Power.

“fyi” is a club that provides speakers on a wide array of topics of interest to VGEM residents. All members of the VGEM community are invited to attend any or all meetings. Presentations are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Grande Room at the Clubhouse. We are open to all topics of interest to our residents and welcome your suggestions. Come on out, join your neighbors and find out “What is going on around us”.



2016 CAI Conference & Expo

By Jim Lichtenwalner

Earlier this spring, Donna and I had the opportunity to attend the 2016 Community Associations Institute (CAI) Conference and Expo, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The Conference was attended by over 500 HOA homeowners, property managers and firms that provide services to HOA communities.

The main purpose of the Conference is to educate Homeowners and Property Managers on the best practices and trends regarding HOA living. The agenda included five sessions covering how to avoiding bankruptcy's pitfalls, controlling losses and managing insurance claims, best practices in maintaining HOA computers, dealing with drones in your community and dealing with hoarders. We attended several of the sessions and found them entertaining and full of valuable information for anyone interested in HOA living.

We also had the opportunity to meet many suppliers, contractors and professional services providers who deal with HOA communities while visiting the Exhibit Hall, filled with over 145 booths manned by providers of every type of material or service that an HOA could ever need. The booths included legal, landscaping, snow and ice removal, pool management services, financial services, accounting, property management, engineering, maintenance and other firms that serve the Pennsylvania and South Jersey market. This was a great network opportunity not only with the service providers but with owners from other communities as well. This is a great way to learn from their experiences rather than trial and error. The conference facilitated the networking by providing 2 “Expert Chat Rooms”; these chat rooms were Q & A sessions for owners and managers to ask their pressing questions of experts focusing on HOA law, insurance and financial reserves.



I would recommend anyone interested in our community consider attending next year’s conference. Contact me for more information.

Sports Talk

Tony Scaricamazza



Sports clubs are reporting heavier than usual participation and is attributable in large part to the continued efforts of the club captains to make all feel welcome whether a novice or an expert. Without volunteers for sporting, social events, committees and various clubs, VGEM would be just another development. So, if you want

VGEM to be a *special community* to live in, consider volunteering and contribute to the spirit of the community.

Contact information for all sports clubs can be found on page two of this Gazette.



Billiards Club Crowns 8-Ball Champions

Jim Lichtenwalner and Joe Carluccio

After two competitive games, the *Ball Busters* repeated as VGEM's 8-Ball Champions. The Championship team includes **Howard Bernstein, Herb Moskowitz and Ernie Scarlata**. They defeated the *Chalking Dead* whose members include Doug Beupit, Mark Eisenstein, Jim Lichtenwalner and Ed Wenzke. Congrats to the repeat Champions.



The Champion "Ball Busters"

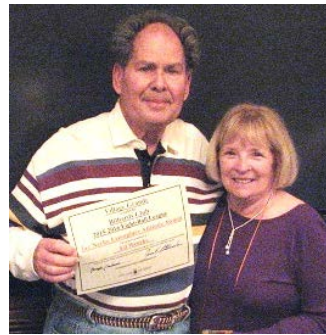
Herb Moskowitz, Howard Bernstein, Ernie Scarlata

The Championship Match was followed by the Awards Dinner, attended by 82 members and guests. This marked the end of the 5th season of the Billiards Club which continues to grow, helping to raise the quality of life at VGEM.

Other awards presented at the dinner included Most Improved Player (Tie) - Bill and Gini Giambatista; Most Consistent Player - Tom Darcy; All Stars - Bonnie Carluccio, Jerry Montagno, Tony Morris and Ernie Scarlata.



League All-Stars: Tony Morris, Jerry Montagno, Bonnie Carluccio and Ernie Scarlata

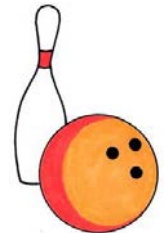


This year's recipient of the Jay Narke Exemplary Attitude Award was Ed Wenzke. The Award was presented by Jay's wife, Jane Narke.

Nine Ball League action is now underway with 16 teams competing every Monday night through the summer and into early Fall.

The 8-Ball League will be starting up in late fall for its 6th season. We invite everyone to come out and try it – You'll like it! All men and women from VGEM are encouraged to come out and play – you'll have a good time and get to meet some of your neighbors. All ability levels are welcomed. If you are interested in joining us, please contact either Jim Lichtenwalner or Joe Carluccio.

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.

Sports Club News

Women's Bocce League

Terry Stevens



The women's bocce league is off to a fantastic start. Sixty-four of our friends and neighbors are competing for the coveted title and the illustrious plaque that will be displayed in the clubhouse. It is great to see new friendships forming and the camaraderie among some of the old timers.

If you have never thought of playing in the past please consider signing up next year. This league is not about talent or ability, but about learning a new game and spending time with new and old friends.



Ro Gawronski, Gini Giambatista, BA Villon, Connie DaPrato, Anita Wenzke & Shirley Walters getting to play.

Men's Bocce

By Committee



As you know by now, one of our Commissioners, David VanZant, was recently hospitalized. All of us wish him a speedy recovery, rapid improvement and better health. David, get better quick...we miss you.

The men's bocce league has expanded from 52 to 74 players, an increase of 40%; this is attributable to the popularity of the sport and the efforts of the Bocce Committee.

When combined with the 64 women that play, the bocce courts are the most active and enjoyed sports facility at VGEM.

The league welcomes two new teams. Team 11 is the *Shamrocks* and the captain is Fred Norman; Team #12 is the *Deboccery* and is captained by John Gallagher.



The Golf League

Doug Beaupit



The VGEM 2016 golf league season at Mays Landing Country Club (MLCC) began on May 3. Remember new players can start at any time.

The golf league welcomes the following new members: Bill Jansen, Bob Neuner, Joe Gentile, and Mike Sheehan. We now have 22 players in the golf league. We will miss Andy Atkinson in 2016 who had to bow out due to serious health problems. We look forward to having him back in 2017.

The LPGA volunteers this year totaled 13. Volunteers enjoyed the kickoff dinner at the Carriage House and the tournament on June 1-5. Most volunteers said they would be back for the tournament in 2017. Shoprite has renewed their contract with the LPGA for the next 2 years. I will again be looking for volunteers next February. It would be nice to be able to recruit 20 volunteers.



LPGA Volunteers. Standing" Doug Beaupit, Don Hinspeter, Dan Farbman, Jim Jansen, John DeLucca, Shirley Lerner, Bob Neuner, Bern Roswell, Jim Lichtenwalner. Knelling: Joe Carluccio. Not pictured: Jim Berg

Remember to mark your calendar for Friday, September 9 for the VGEM Scramble. It is open to all VGEM residents and guests. More details will follow.

The remaining Golf League Calendar for 2016:

- Golf League Double Elimination Tournament - August
- VGEM Scramble – Friday, September 9
- Golf league Awards Banquet - October 11
- Golf League Play ends on October 11

Sports Club News



The Court Club Bill Giannetti



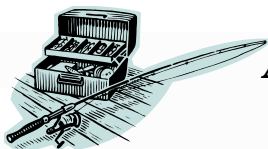
After all the rain in May, we are finally into our outdoor season for both tennis and pickleball. We have some new players for each sport which is adding to the use of the courts and for more games to be played. All our snowbirds have returned and the activity level is high.

We have received approval from our Board to purchase wind screens and to have the courts patched and resurfaced. The surface has been showing signs of wear over the last few years and when The Falcon Engineering Group did their survey, they recommended that patching and resurfacing be done. We are looking forward to having this accomplished this summer, which will provide us with a first class playing area for our residents and hopefully attract potential buyers to our community.

I'm sure all our players and future players will join me in thanking our Board for providing us with excellent facilities so we can safely and energetically pursue our love of these games.

Update: Horseshoe Pits are coming to VGEM! The Board has approved the installation of two horseshoe pits to the left of the Bocce Courts. This approval was made largely because of the generosity of the Garden Club and the Vacation Club who are jointly donating funds for this project. Construction will begin soon, after the area is reviewed by the landscaper.

On behalf of the Community, I wish to thank our Board and the above clubs for their commitment to add activities for the pleasure and enjoyment of our residents.



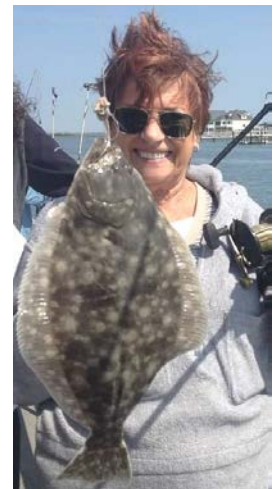
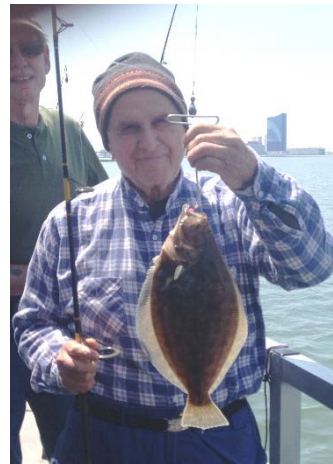
Angler's Club Bill Hofmann

We kicked off the fishing season this year on the HI-ROLLER pontoon boat sailing from Gardner's Basin in Atlantic City on May 25th. We had thirty two of your friends and neighbors aboard and enjoyed a beautiful sunny day on the back bay of Absecon Inlet.

The fishing this spring has been late getting started because of the cool weather and low water temperatures. Flounder catches have been down and we did not know what to expect. So under the circumstances, we were pleased to find our share of fish including three keepers up to 20 inches and 23 undersized fish returned to be caught another day.

We followed the trip up with lunch at the Gilchrist

Restaurant on the pier. Our second pontoon trip on June 29th will be too late to post the results in this addition of the Gazette. Pictured are some of the happy fishermen from the May 25th trip.



The Singles Club

By Dolores Magara



The Singles Club enjoying an evening of dining

During the winter and spring months, the Singles Club have had a great deal of fun and camaraderie that included a pizza party with games, visited Ram's Head, Windjammer, Olive Garden, and Tuckahoe Inn restaurants. The 2016-2017 calendar has not been prepared as yet, but we hope to add a few different places to visit. The calendar will appear in the next Gazette. We invite any VGEM singles to join our group for our meetings on the first Thursday of each month.



Men's Club

By Herb Moskowitz

The speaker at the Men's Club Breakfast in May was David J. Lazzaro from Saddle Brook, New Jersey. Dave was originally scheduled to speak in February to the Men's Club but was snowed out. Dave spoke to the Men's group about achieving your retirement goals through appropriate investments and insurance planning programs.

He emphasized that there are risks involved with investing, including possible loss of principal. Investments will fluctuate and may be worth more or less than when originally purchased. David described the features that define a respectable financial advisor. He emphasized that your financial advisor should review your plan annually, confirm that your investment plan remains consistent with your long-term goals and needs, as well fine tune your investment plan by adding appropriate asset classes or strategies, as needed, to help meet your financial goals.

David J. Lazzaro, works out of DJL WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC. For more information go to his website, djlwealthmanagement.com.

The VGEM is sponsoring "A Trip to a Phillies Game" on September 12, 2016. All residents are invited to attend. The cost is \$64 per person and includes a ticket to a Phillies vs. Pirates game and bus transportation from the

Clubhouse. Tickets are limited so sign up early by contacting Herb Moskowitz at 365-2329.

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



Dine Around Club

By Shirley & Howard Bernstein

The Dine Around Club members are busy setting up their menus for the June- July session. The theme for the summer is French Cuisine. With our superior cooks, delicious food will be shared and appropriate wines will be served.

Since our last session, we have added four new couples to our membership list. We are now at twenty-five couples and counting. Won't YOU JOIN US! We are always looking for new members to expand our circle. Singles are welcome. Bring a friend and join us.

For more information call Shirley or Howard at (609) 788-8331 or e-mail us at shirlhow2@gmail.com

Club Treasurer's Report

VGEM Clubs & Committees Accounts
As of June 9, 2016

<u>Home Owners Association</u>	<u>Balance</u>
HOA	\$ 14,685.13
Insurance Deductible Acct.	1,000.00
Clubhouse Expenses	0.00
<u>Waiting for Details</u>	<u>(15.00)</u>
HOA Totals	\$ 15,670.13

<u>Clubs & Committees</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Special Activities	\$ 0.00
Women's Club	349.05
Men's Bocce	1,329.30
Women's Bocce	1,214.00
Anglers Club	189.31
Men's Club	397.70
Quilting Club	2.10
Photography Club	297.98
Billiards Club	198.94
Mah Jongg Club	0.00
Garden Club	2,323.24
Bocce Court Fund	0.00
<u>Golf Club</u>	<u>287.84</u>

Club Totals \$ **6,589.46**

Ocean City Home Bank

Account Total \$22,259.59

Submitted by Don Cheate, Co-Treasurer
Co-Treasurer for Committees & Clubs

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

July/August/September 2016

MONDAY

9 AM Pickleball
10 AM Mixed Bowling at King Pins
10 AM Walk Away the Pounds
Noon Canasta Club – Card Room 1
12 PM Canasta B – alternate wks. – Rm 2
4 PM Book Bunch – Resumes 9/19
5 PM Women's Bocce – Ends 9/29
5:30 PM 9-Ball Billiards



TUESDAY

8 AM Golf at the MLCC
9 AM Pickleball
10 AM Fine Arts Club – Drawing Group
10 AM Beginners Line Dancing
Noon Mahjong VI – Card Room 1
12:15 PM Walk Away the Pounds
1 PM Mahjong II – Card Room 2
7 PM Mahjong IV – Card Room 1 & 2

WEDNESDAY

9 AM Tennis
9:30 AM Grande Sew & Sews – Crafts Room
10 AM Walk Away the Pounds
11 AM Tai Chi – Grande Room
12:30 PM Poker - Card Room 1
1 PM Mahjong III – Card Room 2
2 PM Sudoku – Crafts Room
4 PM Social Committee - on 2nd Thursday
4 PM Men's Bocce – Finals 9/14
5 PM **Poolside Grille** – Ends 9/7
6:30 PM Intermediate Line Dancing
7 PM Bridge Club



THURSDAY

9 AM Pickleball
10 AM Water Aerobics
11 AM Walk Away the Pounds
12:30 PM Men's Poker
1 PM Mahjong – Card Room 1
7 PM Mahjong V – Card Room 1 & 2



FRIDAY

9 AM Pickleball
10 AM Walk Away the Pounds
11:15 AM Yoga

SATURDAY

9 AM Tennis

SUNDAY

9 AM Pickleball
12 PM Mahjongg – Card Room
Noon Mahjong – Card Room 1

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Contact Community Manager for details

20 Grande Gazette ~ July/August/September 2016

Cynthia Williams

VGEM Community Manager

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

11 AM – 5 PM

No Office Hours on Thursday

609-788-8405

c.williams@dilucia.com

2016 HOA Board Meeting Schedule

December 13 - 2017 Budget

All Meetings are on Tuesday at 6:30 PM

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

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.

July 12 August 9 September 13

Please contact Cynthia for an appointment.

Poolside Grille

Poolside - Weather Permitting

Every Wednesday

5:00 to 7:00 PM

Children Welcome

Final Night - September 9



Women's Breakfast

Shore Diner at 9:30 AM

July 25 August 29 September 26

Men's Club Breakfast

Golden Corral at 9 AM

July 29 August 26 September 30

MONTHLY EVENTS

July 2016

Monday, July 4: 9:30 AM - 11 AM

4th of July Breakfast



Hot Breakfast Food

Grande Room

Sponsored by the Social Committee



Tuesday, July 12 at 1:30 PM

Open HOA Board Workshop

Observe without Public Comment

Grande Room



Wednesday, July 13 – 10 AM to 2 PM

Garden Tour around Village Grande

Rain date July 20

Tuesday, July 19 at 6:30 PM

"fysi" Club

"Hints & Methods to Declutter Your World"

Elle Weis

Grande Room

Friday, July 29: 7 – 9 PM

Ice Cream & Sundaes Social

"Meet Your Neighbor"

Grande Room

Sponsored by the Social Committee



August 2016

Tuesday, August 2 at 6:30 PM

Veterans Club Meeting

Tuesday, August 16 at 1:30 PM

Open HOA Board Workshop

Observe without Public Comment

Grande Room

Tuesday, August 16 at 6:30 PM

"fysi" Club

"Solar Panel Forum"

ACOS Energy & Trinity Solar

Grande Room

Wednesday, August 17 at 11 AM

Billiards Club Meeting

Grande Room



Saturday, August 20 – Details TBA

The Summer Party

Grande Room

A Social Committee Event



Tuesday, August 23 at 6:30 PM

Orientation to HOA Living

Jim Lichtenwalner, Board Trustee

Grande Room

Monday, August 29 at 5 PM

Women's Bocce Championship

September 2016

Wednesday, September 7 at 5 PM

Poolside Grille

Final Night

Friday, September 9

VGEM Golf Outing

Information is Online Gazette

Sponsored by the Golf Club



Tuesday, September 13 at 6:30 PM

Open HOA Board Workshop

with Public Comment

Grande Room

Wednesday, September 14 at 5 PM

Men's Bocce Championship & Banquet

Bocce Courts & Grande Room

Tuesday, September 20 at 6:30 PM

"fysi" Club

Atlantic County Emergency Management

Tentative – Awaiting confirmation

Grande Room

Wednesday, September 21 at 5 PM

The Bocce Battle of the Sexes

The Bocce Courts

Coming Attractions

Saturday, October 1: Tentative - In Planning

Fall Breakfast

Details & Cost TBA

Sponsored by the Social Committee

Saturday, October 29

Halloween Party

More Information Forthcoming

Sponsored by the Social Committee



OUTDOOR POOL HOURS

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

Children's Hours:

WEDNESDAY All Day
ALL OTHER DAYS 11 AM – 3 PM
ALL DAY on 4th of July & Labor Day

*

ALL FRIDAYS after 3 PM - Only adults over 21

*

**Please follow the new Pool Rules –
Updated 4/12/2016**

*

**Pool tentatively closes
on Sunday, September 11, 2015**



Hazardous Waste Disposal



Atlantic County Utilities Authority

ACUA accepts hazardous waste material bi-monthly at the ACUA Haneman Environmental Park, 6700 Delilah Road, Egg Harbor Township. Hazardous waste disposal is from 8 AM to 1 PM on July 9th, September 10th and November 5th.

Bring proof of residency such as a tax bill or drivers license. Also, bring your items in a throwaway or recyclable container (such as a cardboard box). Containers will not be returned. Individual container sizes cannot exceed 5 gallons and there are no exceptions. The maximum quantity of household hazardous waste is 20 gallons in liquid or 200 pounds in dry weight per household per person. NO materials from commercial establishments will be accepted. You will not have to exit your vehicle.

Examples of disposable items: propane cylinders (one pound ONLY), 12-Volt batteries (for cars and boats), all cleaning products (glass cleaner, allpurpose cleaner, bathroom cleaner, etc.), anti-freeze, auto care products, fertilizer, fungicide, pesticides, oil based paint, etc. Items not accepted include asbestos, electronics, ammunition, infectious waste, etc. For a complete list of materials see ACUA web site: <http://www.acua.com>.



THE VGEM MEN'S CLUB IS SPONSORING

A Trip to a Phillies Game Date:

September 12, 2016

Place: Citizens Bank Park

Transportation by Bus

Departing the Clubhouse at 4:45 PM

Cost: \$64 per person includes ticket & bus

**For more information, contact Herb Moskovitz
(609) 365-2329**



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THE
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AT ENGLISH MILL

ORIENTATION TO HOA LIVING

**New members of the VGEM
Community are invited to attend an
informative meeting providing
background on living in a HOA
Community**

**Tuesday, August 23 at 6:30 PM
VGEN Clubhouse – Grande Room**

If you are interested in learning about living in
an HOA Community, RSVP Cynthia at (609)
788-8405 or c.williams@delucia.com by
Monday August, 15, 2016

Light Refreshments will be served

Fifth Annual VGEM Golf Outing



*Mays Landing Country Club
Friday, September 9, 2016*

Four Player Scramble

\$70 per golfer includes

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



Open to all VGEM residents, family and friends
More details are presented below.



Golf League Plans VGEM Golf Outing *By Doug Beaupit*

It is that time of year again. It is time to plan for your 2016 Scramble Foursome. It will be a four golfer scramble format.

The VGEM Golf League is again hosting this year's event and has a fee that is under negotiation of \$70 per golfer and is subject to change, hopefully less. The price includes 18 holes of golf, a registration package, riding cart, various prizes and a barbecue lunch at Mays Landing Country Club. Prizes will be awarded for the *Closest to the PIN*, *Longest Drive*; and *First Place Winning Foursome*. More details will be forthcoming.

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

the pairings. There may even be a prize for the highest scramble score. With our many new residents, we are hoping for a great turnout. For planning purposes, if you are interested in playing, mark your calendar and let one of the Golf League members know by August 1st.

We will also be looking for volunteers to register golfers, create the registration package, staff a closest to the pin hole, staff a closest to the center of the fairways etc. If interested, please contact Doug Beaupit at (609) 788-4062.

When you register, either individually or for your group, you will need to make out a check (\$60 x No. of players in your group) payable to VGEM with a note on the memo line: "for Golf Scramble". Along with the check, you will need to provide a list of the players in your group. ***The deadline for registering is August 31st***

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

For further information or are interested in playing and do not know a golf league member, you may call Mike Segal at either 609.788.4402 / 610-955-6238 or Doug Beaupit at 609.788.4062. Plan to come out for a fun day of golf!

Somers Point Beach Concerts



William Morrow Beach Park
 Located between Higbee and
 New Jersey Avenues
 on Bay Avenue

Free shows Fridays Start at 7 PM
 Special July 4th Concert starts at 6 PM

July 1	RONSTADT GENERATIONS: Living Legacy of Southwestern Americana Music
Monday July 4	MICHAEL "TUNES" ANTUNES AND THE BILLY WALTON BAND: Tribute to "The Cruisers", Southside Johnny & Springsteen
July 8	THE MUSIC THAT MADE TONY MART'S FAMOUS
July 15	JUMPIN' JOHNNY SANSONE'S DEEP MUD REVIEW: Featuring Big Chief Monk Boudreaux, Louisiana Singer/Songwriter
July 22	THE DEVON ALLMAN BAND: Southern Jam Rock, Roots and Blues
July 29	THE JEREMIAH HUNTER BAND: Premiere Party Dance Band
Aug 5	SWAMP BOOGIE PIANO QUEEN MARCIA BALL: New Orleans Rhythm & Blues, Cajun, and Texas Blues.
Aug. 12	GRAMMY AWARD WINNER BUCKWHEAT ZYDECO: The Most Famous Zydeco Artist in the World
Aug. 19	MULTI AWARD WINNER CURTIS SALGADO: Soul, Blues, Funk & R&B
Aug. 26	JIM SUHLER ROCK 'N ROLL BAND
Sept 2	JERSEY SHORE ROCK 'N ROLL REVIVAL STARRING VINI "MAD DOG" LOPEZ with Bob Campanell, Billy Walton & Special Guest "Bubba Mac"
Sept 9	COCO MONTOYA: One of the greatest guitar players in the world!



Billy Walton

Billy Walton is a featured artist at both the Somers Point and EHT Concerts

Billy Walton is also the son-in-law of VGEM's Valerie & Bill Smith
 207 Lily Road

Rhythm in the Park

EHT's Tony Canale Park Amphitheater
 Off Dogwood Avenue
FREE ADMISSION

2016 EHT Concert Series

FRIDAYS ~ 7 PM – 9 PM

*Special Saturday Show on Aug 20

Jul 8	Juicy Hits from 50's to Today
Jul 15	Nostalgix Various harmonies from the 50's to 70's
July 22	The Rubber Souls Beatles tribute band
Jul 29	CCC Jazz & Wind Symphony
Aug 5	The Rhythm Wranglers Five piece band featuring Country Music
Aug 12	Lighthouse 8 Music of the 50's thru the 80's
Aug 19	Tidal Wave Band South Jersey's Favorite Party Band
Aug 20*	Duck and Cover Hits from the 60's and 70's
Aug 26	The Billy Walton Band A mix of rock, blues and soul

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AMERICA
the Beautiful

America the Beautiful

A Quiz by Annette Scaricamazza



1. The year the *Star Spangled Banner* officially became the National Anthem.
 (A) 1776 (B) 1864
 (C) 1917 (D) 1931

2. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights.
 (A) True (B) False

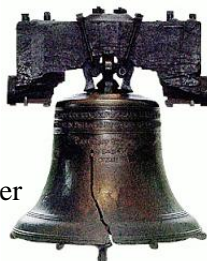
3. The colors red, white and blue are NOT on the flag of this State.
 (A) Texas (B) New Jersey
 (C) Hawaii (D) Arkansas

4. He wrote the Bill of Rights.
 (A) Madison (B) Adams
 (C) Monroe (D) Jefferson



5. The first commemorative fireworks were set off on July 4th, 1776.
 (A) True (B) False

6. Every January, the Liberty Bell is tapped for...
 (A) Washington (B) veterans
 (C) Lincoln (D) M.L. King



7. U.S. Presidents, Governors, and the D.C. Mayor are the only ones permitted to order the flag to half-staff.
 (A) True (B) False

8. The 2nd amendment to the Constitution protects the right to...
 (A) vote (B) free speech
 (C) bear arms (D) trial by jury



9. The population of the United States on July 4th, 1776.
 (A) 100,000 (B) 2.5 million
 (C) 10 million (D) 15 million



10. How many American Flags are on the moon?
 (A) none (B) one
 (C) six (D) ten

11. *America the Beautiful* was originally written as a ...
 (A) song (B) short story
 (C) poem (D) one act play

12. Elizabeth Claypoole (a.k.a. Betsy Ross) signed the Declaration of Independence.
 (A) True (B) False

13. The torch on the statue of liberty represents...
 (A) Freedom (B) Liberty
 (C) Safe Haven (D) Enlightenment

14. America was named after Amerigo...
 (A) Vespucci (B) Vesuvius
 (C) Bonasera (D) Mancini



15. He is on Mt. Rushmore but not on any United States currency.
 (A) Washington (B) Lincoln
 (C) Jefferson (D) T. Roosevelt

16. According to the National Hot Dog Counsel, the number of hot dogs eaten over the July 4th holiday is....
 (A) 1 million (B) 10 million
 (C) 100 million (D) 150 million

17. What year was "under God" added to the Pledge of Allegiance?
 (A) 1777 (B) 1865
 (C) 1918 (D) 1954

18. Who wrote *God Bless America*?
 (A) Stephen Foster (B) George M. Cohan
 (C) Irving Berlin (D) Woody Guthrie

19. How many amendments are there to the Constitution?
 (A) 12 (B) 20
 (C) 23 (D) 27

AMENDMENTS to the Constitution



20. He sang the most popular version of *America the Beautiful*.
 (A) Ray Charles (B) Willie Nelson
 (C) Frank Sinatra (D) Elvis Presley

Answers on page 27

GRANDE SEW & SEWS CLUB

By Judy Tiano

The "Sew & Sews" continue to meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30 AM in the Crafts Room. We are happy to announce we have several new members.



Ginny Kier, Eunice Williamson, Judy Tiano, Eileen Sackin, & Mary Benson

A recent project was making baby quilts and pillow cases that were donated to children who were admitted to nurseries and pediatrics at local hospitals. These gifts were theirs to take home.

We welcome anyone who is interested in joining our group.



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Do You Miss Growing Your Own Vegetables?



There is a solution!

VGEM Rules do not permit residents from growing vegetables. Life without your own tomato plants is a hardship for many especially since Reeds Farm closed last year. Well if you miss growing your own vegetables there is a solution, it is the "Community Teaching Gardens" at the EHT Historical Museum on West Jersey Avenue.

At the Community Teaching Gardens, there are 10 full sized plots which are approximately 10' x 20'. In addition there will be one to two smaller raised beds that are wheelchair accessible. The paths between the gardens are accessible by all community garden members.

Garden plot memberships will be available to residents of Egg Harbor Township who are at least 21 years of age. An application will have to be submitted including intent of plot usage, maintenance and distribution of food and flora grown. The number of plots is limited. The Greater Egg Harbor Township Historical Society (GEHTHS) will determine memberships based on need and intent of usage. The \$25 Membership Annual Fee helps cover any overhead costs of the garden and includes a membership to the GEHTHS Museum.

Don't be scared off by the wordy application. Simply growing vegetables to eat is an approved reason for joining the garden. It may be late for this year but think about it for next spring. Additional information is available at www.gehthsmuseum.org/garden.html.



Spotlight On Your Neighbors

The Hero Dog of Poppy Road

By Pat Roche

I have always been a dog lover. In our fifty-eight years of marriage, we have been owned by a Mexican Chihuahua, *Senor Cha-Cha Jim*, a Doxie, my first born son, *Strudel Von Lone Star* (we lived in Texas) and *Teriyaki MacLean*, our Japanese Scottie. Our New Jersey pooch was *Lady Muffin of Twin Hills* followed by our amazing Irish Setters, *Sweet Penelope of St Patrick* and her rather large son, *Mor McGee*, which translates to Big Mac! I would like to mention that we did not name *Sweetie*. She came with the *St. Patrick* but fit so well in our family.

We have always had various cats to add to the equation and have two cuties at present, *Molly Malone* and *Kitty O'Shea*. The cats are fun, but, the canines hold a special place in my heart. This brings me to this Spotlight column about "The Hero Dog of Poppy Road", *Baby Green!*



Baby owns Herb and Bobby Green and with his canine buddies can be seen circling the neighborhood sometimes two or three times a day. Perhaps you have seen this parade made up of *Bey*, *Sparky*, *Oscar*, *Radar*, *Tanker*, *Jake*, *Chloe* and *Macy*. Hope I did not forget any, *Baby* would never forgive me.

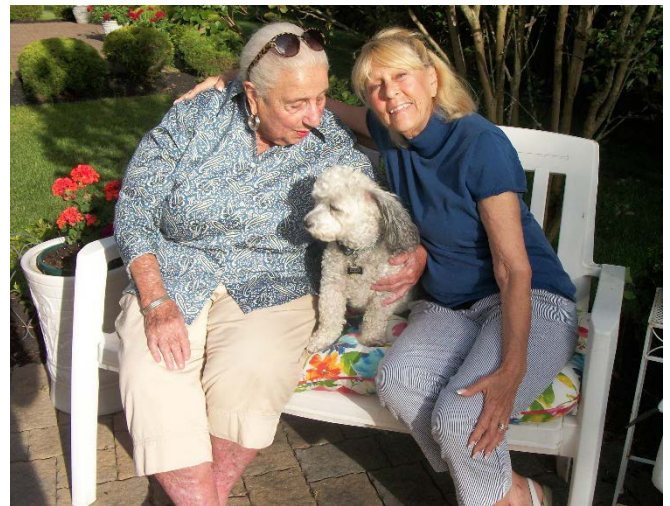
"Green" and Bobbie have had various pets throughout their years together. There was a Maine Coon cat, a dog named *Laddie* and a cat named *Reefer* that the kids brought home from a Rock concert. Very aptly named! They even had two parakeets, *Din Din* and *Friday*, but, when they saw a photo of *Baby* on the internet they were "in love." They tell a story about a trainer that was so mean to their little 7 lb. cutie that Herb paid him \$700.00 to leave and even added \$40.00 for his gas!

On Poppy Road, *Baby* is a welcome guest in many of the homes. When he visits the Marini's, he knows right where the snacks are and Selma's garage and house is his home away from home. This brings me to the hero part of my tale.

We all know that Selma is an avid gardener and her patio is a showplace. A few weeks ago she was taking a well needed time out from her "soil toil" and sat down on

a chair that had been outdoors all winter. Unfortunately, the chair gave way and Selma found herself alone, unable to get up and bleeding in her back yard and naturally without her phone! Enter "Baby, the Hero".

Bobbie was in her bedroom resting as she had just completed a lot of her yard work. Fortunately, she had opened the windows to get some fresh air. Baby heard Selma and knew something was not right! He pestered Bobbie, racing back and forth, and barking until she had to investigate. When she looked outside, there was Selma leaning up against a bag of mulch. After the requisite first aid was administered and the initial shock wore off, they realized that without the persistent barking of the hero dog the outcome could have been very different. Bobbie is also to be commended for paying attention to different doggie signals. Her precious pup just wouldn't let up until someone got to his friend, Selma!!



For some reason, whenever I think of *Baby* the words to the song "Mandy" come to mind. Selma could change the word Mandy to Baby and we could all be singing, "Oh, Baby, you kissed me and stopped me from shaking, and I need you today, oh *Baby* etc., etc. (My sincere apologies to Barry Manilow.)

Baby saved the day. Thank you Herb and Bobbie for sharing your Hero Dog with us all.

Answers to the
AMERICA
the Beautiful
Quiz on page 25

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

Grande Garden Club

EAGLE GREENERY FLOWER ARRANGING CONTEST

EHT High School

By Jeannie Eckard, Co-Captain

On March 21, 2016, the Egg Harbor Township High School held its *Eagle Greenery Flower Arranging Contest*. The event raised money for *The Arc of Atlantic County's* Team Dina Scoppa, an Arc patron who passed away in 2011. The Arc's mission is to improve the lives of people with developmental disabilities in our community. Arc is a private, not-for-profit agency that has been making a positive impact with its program services since 1961.



Garden Club Co-Captains Jeannie Eckard & Donna Lichtenwalner at the Eagle Greenery

The flower arranging contest event was in memory of Dina Scoppa who died of Down syndrome and whose father James Scoppa is head of security at Egg Harbor Township High School. The flower show was a wonderful tribute to his lovely daughter Dina.

All of the beautiful flower arrangements were created by the very talented Eagle Greenery students of Egg Harbor Township High School. The Greenery students learn the basic elements of floral design and effectively use hands-on activities to create beautiful flower arrangements. Tickets for casting your vote for your favorite floral arrangement were sold for 50 cents each. At the end of the day, three tickets were drawn for prizes and I am delighted to report that the three winners were Donna Lichtenwalner, Joanne Zink and Ron and Jane Capasso all of whom took home beautiful flower arrangements.

The Eagle Greenery is open while school is in session. Orders can be placed for fresh flower bouquets and arrangements by just calling the school. They have a beautiful selection for all occasions along with special orders upon request. There is a flower shop in the school if you wish to stop by and purchase an arrangement or bouquet. Please come out next year and support this worthwhile organization along with these talented students.



A few of the beautiful and creative flower arrangements especially the sneakers in the foreground.

The High School's Eagle Greenery Club greatly appreciates contribution for this cause. The VGEM Garden Club donated \$60 to the Eagle Greenery Club that was generously augmented by contributions from VGEM residents in attendance. We hope that others from VGEM will consider contributing to Eagle Greenery Club in their support of *The Arc of Atlantic County*.

More Garden Club Activities

By Donna Lichtenwalner, Co-Captain

The Grande Garden Club is happy to announce to all that the garden bed project at the Poppy Road entrance was completed the end of March. Garden Club members have been busy watering it when needed. A great big "Thank You" to Linda Oberman for all her time contacting the gardener who did the project. Colorful



The Poppy Road Entrance

Grande Garden Club

annual flowers were recently added to the bed and bulbs will be added in fall. The project is complete and adds some beauty to that entrance. Also, low growing, spreading sedums were planted by Garden Club on the bank along Poppy Road. Phil and Liz Eberhard have volunteered to water the sedums for us. Thank you Phil and Liz!

On April 29 about 20 went to Ladew *Topiary Gardens* and *Sherwood Gardens* in Maryland. Henry Ladew 1887-1976, designed and created 22 acres of flower and topiary gardens. He was a self-taught gardener and was one of the first Americans to create garden rooms. The gardens are a nonprofit organization with a mission to maintain and promote the gardens, house and facilities for the benefit of the public and for educational, scientific and cultural pursuits. It was gorgeous with interesting topiaries, colorful flowers and amazing azaleas.



We then went to *Sherwood Gardens* which is located in a neighborhood in a National Register Historic District in Baltimore. It is a 6 acre area in which 8,000 tulip bulbs



are planted each fall. They coordinate them with color with azaleas and other spring bulbs. Each May they dig them up and sell them for 30 cents each to benefit the historic district. We were told it is now the largest tulip display in the United States. The gardens were inspiring and truly lovely. A great day that included a scrumptious lunch and tour of the Manor House at Ladew.

A Master Gardener, Doug Groff who lives on Ivy Road, spoke to our Garden Club in May. He had a very interesting talk on native plants for our area. He told us of the uniqueness of the Pine Barrens. The 60 residents who attended will most likely put to use all the great information Doug shared with us. Thank you, Doug, for sharing your time and knowledge.



A thank you to Ann Cheadle and Angela Mastrangelo for the beautiful wreath they chose for the flagpole area to honor veterans. They took the time to pick out a beautiful, patriotic wreath for Garden Club to provide for the circle at the entrance to the Clubhouse.

Future events: Grande Garden Club *Tour of Our Gardens* on Wednesday July 13.

The Ocean City Flower Show



Grande Garden Club

GARDEN CLUB'S FIRST FLOWER SHOW

By Jeannie Eckard, Co-Captain

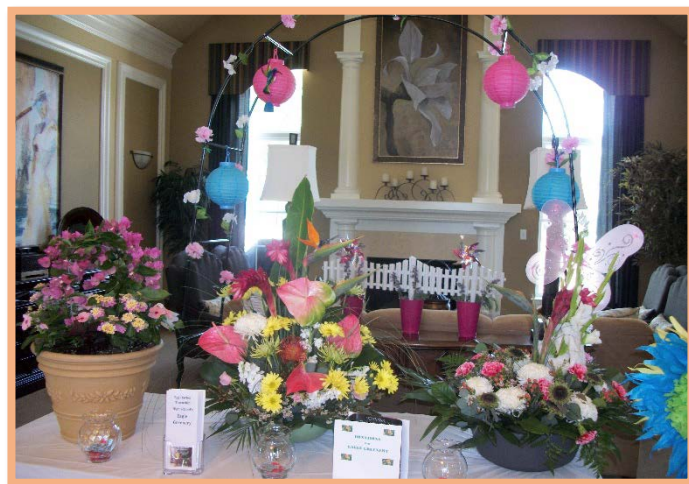
It takes a village of inspired and ambitious people to create the Garden Club's very first Flower Show. On June 9th and 10th, much to the delight of all who attended, the very talented Garden Club ladies presented our little village with their first Flower Show and Chinese Auction.

On June 8th, prior to the show, most of the day was taken up by our many volunteers to decorate and set-up the numerous beautiful exhibits, plants and arrangements. Three gorgeous floral arrangements were made by the students of The Egg Harbor Township High School's Eagle Greenery. Along with giving a generous contribution of \$300, the Garden Club event raised money for The Arc of Atlantic County from the many donations that were dropped into a collection box by the numerous and generous visitors to the show.



The Paper Flower Girls

Ethel and Warren Weiner along with Julie McGeehan worked together in another area of the main entry and decorated with a beautiful archway arbor adorned with appealing decorations. The decorating committee went over and above expectations with their attractive and imaginative embellishments which enhanced the beauty of our show.



The Archway Arbor

Donations of many plants and flowers along with seventeen beautifully decorated tables filled with unique adornments which expressed each exhibitor's own creativity were beautifully displayed. One table consisted of all fairy gardens which was adorable and imaginative to view.



Some of the lovely fairy gardens



Jack Williamson and Eunice, his not pictured bride, beside their beautiful wheel barrel.

A special thank you is for our own Sandy Kurman who, a week prior to the event, taught a class on the design and creation of beautiful



Selma beside her colorfully adorned table

Grande Garden Club



Many EHT students and teachers from the Eagle Greenery visited the Flower Show

There were numerous plants and flowers including the three spectacular Eagle Greenery arrangements donated to the event which were given away at our Chinese Auction with many delighted and lucky winners.

A special thank you to all of the volunteers and participants who, without their help and support, could not have made this first Flower Show possible for our little village. Attendees were all singing praises of VGEM's Garden Club's first Flower Show which was a blooming success (forgive the pun).

The Co-Captains of VGEM Garden Club, Jeannie Eckard and Donna Lichtenwalner, thank everyone who came out and supported our wonderful event.



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Everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day



Saint Patrick's Day Party
 By Chicki Sinaglia
 Co-Chairperson, Social Committee



On Saturday, March 19th, the Social Committee held a party at the Clubhouse to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. It seemed everyone was "Irish" that night since the room was a sea of green. Irish music was intermingled with popular dance tunes causing the dance floor to be filled. We thank Aggie and Jim Henry for their selection of songs. The food was provided by Fitzpatrick's.



Co-Chair Joan Viventi is having a blast but where is her Co-Chair Marcy Gelman?

Joan Viventi and Marcy Gelman headed this committee. Jeannie Eckard, Regina Yuppa, Bill Giannetti, Sheila Soloman and Bonnie Carluccio assisted them. We thank Bill Giambatista, Bill Hofmann, Bernie Bernstein, Randy Krehel, Joe Carluccio, Rich Johnson, John Murtha, Ed Wenske, Jack McCrae, Bob Beyer, Denise Conway, Pat Tallman and John DaPrato for their help in setting up the tables and chairs for this event.

Thanks to all of you for contributing to make this event so successful.



Can they be more green? Anita & Ed Wenzke



Donna & "O'talian" Jim Lichtenwalner



Co-Chair Marcy is in the food line with Regina Yuppa



And VGEM's own Posse Productions – DJ's extraordinaire Aggie & Jim Henry



Erin go Bragh!





Cinco de Mayo



A Social Committee Event

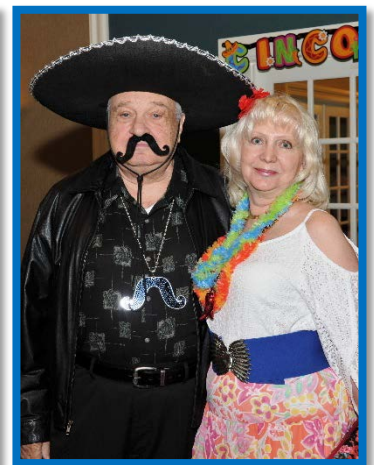
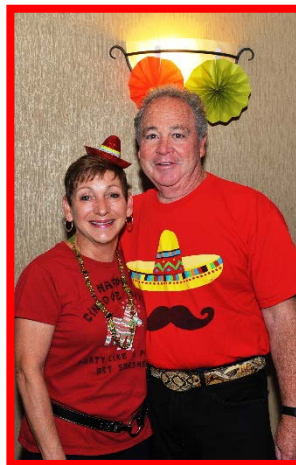
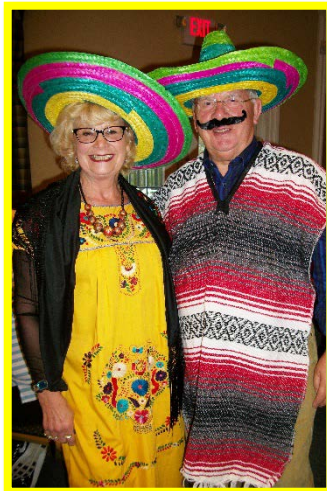


Party Co-Chairs Regina Yuppa & Bonnie Carluccio

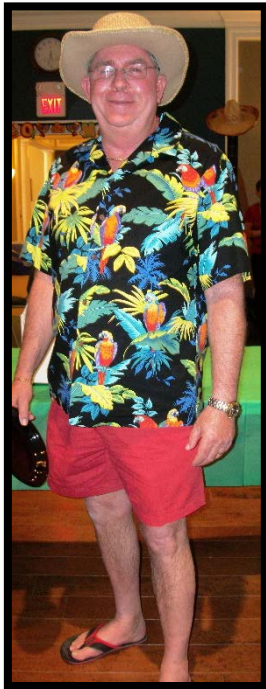
It was *Cinco de Septiembre* outside weather-wise, but it was party time in our Clubhouse as we celebrated *Cinco de Mayo*, co-chaired by Regina Yuppa and Bonnie Carluccio. We had a full capacity of sign-ups, with 105 actually attending! Guests were checked in by our returning snowbird, Marlene Santucci. Everyone was festive in the bright colors of the holiday ~ not to mention

several residents had their own sombreros and maracas. The delicious food was catered and served by the folks from *Golden Corral* and a great job they did!!! After dinner and dessert were finished, we danced to the wonderful music by Posse Productions provided by our own Aggie & Jim Henry. Thank you again Aggie & Jim for always supporting us musically!

I cannot finish without giving kudos to all those who helped with set-up the day before the event – Joe Carluccio, John DaPrato & Rich Johnson. Our decorators and “finishing” crew included Bonnie, Regina. Jeannie Eckard, Marcia Gelman, Pat Gentile, Kathleen McGroarty, Sue Paulu, Marlene Santucci, Chicki Sinaglia and Kathy Sorrell.



As you can see from the collection of photos supplied by our resident photographers, Lou Golin and Jeannie Eckard, the night was enjoyed by all! Thank you Lou and Jeannie.



Happy
Cinco
De Mayo



KENTUCKY DERBY Party

By Chicki Sinaglia

On Saturday, May 7th, the Social Committee hosted a Pot Luck dinner for the Community. Before the actual race, we held some of our own races with our horses on sticks. Attendees could choose their horses and root for them as they scooted across the floor. Their moves were determined by the throw of a die. Following this, it was a lot of fun to watch the Kentucky Derby in the Grande Room of the Clubhouse with everyone cheering for their horse.



We also had a contest for the best decorated hat. The winners were: 1st place – Sue Wilds, 2nd - Alisa Sayegh and 3rd – Marlene Santucci. Those who had the winning tickets for the first three horses in the Derby were: 1st Place (Nyquist) – Bill Hofmann, Aggie Henry, Sheryl Smith and Barbara Ann Villon; 2nd Place (Exaggerator) – Fred Norman, Jim Smith, Bud McHale and Aggie Henry; 3rd Place (Gun Runner) – Debbie McGrath, Pat Roche, John Murtha and Bill Wilds.

Thanks to the chairs of this event, Aggie Henry and Barbara Ann Villon, and their committee – Bonnie Carluccio, Regina Yuppa, Jeannie Eckard and Bill Giannetti. We also thank all those who helped to set up and take down the room. Your help is always greatly appreciated.





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Memorial Day

Wreath Ceremony



Annual Ceremony Honors Veterans
Presided over by Lou Golin, Captain - VGEM Veterans Club

Despite a rainy, damp, chilly Memorial Day 2016, *The Village Grande at English Mill Legion of Honor* conducted their annual ceremonies to pay tribute to their comrades who were lost during combat. This is the day that our vets renew their commitment to never forget their comrades' ultimate sacrifice



Lou Golin, Captain of the VGEM Veterans Club presided over the Ceremony. After a few opening remarks, the Ceremony commenced as the veterans from the *Legion of Honor* presented arms as the flag was lowered to Half Mast. Board of Trustee member, Colonel Jim Roche, USAF, Retired, placed a wreath to honor all the fallen veterans. The beautiful wreath was donated by the Garden Club and will remain in place until July 4th.

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

Approximately 30 honorably discharged veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces were then introduced to the gathering. Those in attendance were invited to share the names of their military colleagues who had paid the Ultimate Sacrifice for their country. The Ceremony closed with Lou Golin's heart felt remarks in tribute to his military comrades.



"Today we pay tribute to those heroes that gave their all while serving their country. What makes this day so special to our veterans?"

"When inducted into the military it is similar to joining a fraternity or a sorority. Strong bonds of friendship are forged out of like experiences, such as pledging and living together. You are part of a larger identity in which you take great pride as you would with an extended family. These friendships are strong and can last a lifetime."

"In the military, as in your college extended family, we depend on each other for a great deal of support. The difference being the life and death nature of that support. In the armed forces we participate in some very dangerous activities. And like playing with fire, sometimes people get burned."

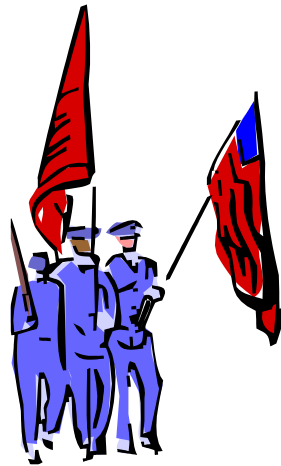
"It is our extended family, or comrades in arms, that we depend on for our very well being. This is what makes veterans so passionate about the wellbeing and remembrance of other veterans."

Refreshments were then served by the spouses of the VGEM veterans. The Veterans Club greatly appreciates the wonderful support from the Community for the Memorial Day Ceremony.





Pat Roche & Gini Giambatista served refreshments



The Ceremonial Wreath



Audrey Kaufman is beaming with pride for her songstress granddaughter, Morgan Murphy

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Here Comes “The Donald”!



Is he an opportunist or a visionary?

By Sydney Yacovelli

Reprint from the *Grande Gazette*
January/February 2014

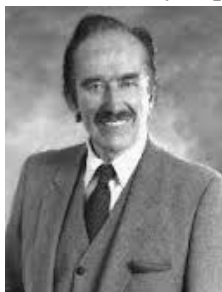
Like Cleopatra floating down the Nile on her grand barge, Donald Trump came to Atlantic City sailing into the Frank Farley Marina on his new toy, the *Trump Princess*. Hundreds of people including politicians, reporters, TV cameras and the paparazzi all huddled in the light rain to see the New York real estate mogul standing on the bridge of the newly renovated \$30 million dollar six deck 282 foot yacht, bought from



Saudi Arabian arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi when he fell on hard times after Iran Contra, make his grand entrance to his second casino. The city viewed Trump’s purchase of The Castle property from the troubled Hilton Corp. who had been denied a gambling license due to alleged mob ties, as another rebirth of the once again struggling city. Trump obtained a \$325 million dollar loan to purchase the already built Atlantic City Hilton in 1984 and opened it in June of 1985 as The Trump Castle (renamed the Trump Marina in 1997). He was now a prince among investors by owning not one, but two casino properties in the city. Trump had now positioned himself as a major player in Atlantic City after being shut out of purchase for years. He had lost out on the early easy money to be made along the Boardwalk, but he jumped into the deep end now with both feet.

How did Donald Trump at the age of 39 get to the top as a developer and owned of major real estate holdings in New York and New Jersey? He was not self made. He stood on the shoulders of his father who was himself the stuff that “genuine legends” are made.

Trump’s father, Fred C., was a son of German immigrants, Frederick and Elizabeth Drumpfs, who unsuccessfully opened hotels and restaurants before



beginning a real estate business in Queens around the turn of the century. Frederick died young leaving 11 year old Fred fatherless. With a name change and a lot of work and struggle, Elizabeth Trump raised her 3 children alone. As the oldest Fred took jobs as a laborer in the building industry to supplement the family income. By the time he was out of high school, Fred was self-employed. His first company was

“Elizabeth Trump and Son”. Still even too young to sign checks himself, his mother had to sign for him. His first project was a single family home in Woodhaven in Queens. From there more homes were built; everything from mansions to blue-collar apartment buildings. By 1938 Fred C. Trump had built thousands of units and was being called “The Henry Ford of the home building industry”. Later, by the time his son Donald was out of prep school and graduated from the Wharton Business School in Philadelphia his father was New York City’s largest landlord and it was all his with no partners. Fred was tall with square shoulders, always well groomed, known to be intensely competitive, savvy, pragmatic and well-connected... maybe, even ruthless. All traits young Donald took note of and made his own. Donald worked with his father when not in school and learned fast the ways of the cut throat real estate business in New York. He became president of his father’s organization in 1974. Fred continued to have a large roll in the operation and in his son’s life until his death in 1999 when he died from Alzheimer’s.

At the time the first door opened for Donald Trump to get into Atlantic City, the city was happy for him to bring some glitzy glamour and more important, increased national visibility to the city. He had been looking for an opportunity to buy into the casino business and finally the opening came in 1980 when again someone’s bad luck became his good fortune.

It had been years since much development took place in Atlantic City and constructions jobs were hard to come by. Robert Maheu, an associate of recluse Howard Hughes, and partner Grady Sanders, Pres. of Network One Inc., had a project on the books to build on the boardwalk lot next door to the Convention Hall. It would be a 1,000 room hotel casino and cost \$100 million to build. The SEC steps in with charges against Maheu and Sanders for making “false and misleading statements” of the companies’ assets when filing for a gambling license and all financing dried up for the pair. Trump sees the opportunity that permits him to get into the game cheap. Trump makes a deal with Holiday Corp. in 1982 to provide the financing and to manage the casino hotel and all Trump had to do was build it and turn over the keys.

In exchange for getting it built on time, “The Donald” would receive one-half of the profits. Trump Plaza was born and Donald owned his first casino on perhaps the best location in Atlantic City.



Lighting strikes for the third time when “The Donald” is able to seize the moment...The Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal was Resorts International owner, Jim Crosby, dream hotel. In order to build it, Cosby raised money by

selling shares of Resorts, which were brought by Trump. Owning stock in Resorts put Trump at the 3 casino state imposed limit of casino ownership. When Cosby died unexpectedly in 1986, Trump convinced his heirs that he could finish building Cosby's dream. This meant that Trump had to either close or sell Resorts. At this point TV personality, Merv Griffin moves in. There was a struggle for control of Resorts between Trump and Griffin, but in the end both got exactly what they each wanted; Merv got Resorts and "The Donald" built the Taj Mahal. But at what cost?

Cosby's dream had become a money pit by the time Trump took over. The promise that The Taj Mahal casino would "be the 8th wonder of the world" was not looking that good. An opening date of spring 1990 was set and Trump went to work to make it come in on time. The grand opening was befitting all the hype when Donald Trump rubbed a over sized magic lantern that stuck-up the marching bands and started shooting laser beams with giant fire-woks.

From down the boardwalk, the building looked like a frosted wedding cake incorporating several styles from the Regency Pavilion at Brighton Beach, England to St. Basil's Church in Moscow and a little Miami Beach added for good measure. Inside was over the top with the addition of more than 400 luxury suites, a 1,500 seat theatre and a dozen restaurants that could serve 13,000 people food at one time. The construction took enough steel to build five Eiffel Towers. In all it sat on 17 acres of land and was decorated with a two year quantity of Carrara marble. The chandeliers alone cost \$15 million. Another \$4 million was spent for uniforms for the 6,500 employees. At the time it was the largest casino in the world. To some it seemed vulgar to others... beautiful.



The construction debt was over \$1 billion. To meet daily operating expenses the casino had to take in \$1 million a day. The success of the Taj required a boatload of cash. There were concerns if Atlantic City could support a massive casino like the Taj. Where would the gamblers needed to spend that kind of money come from? Donald already had a no interest

loan from his father to meet expenses. Then one day Fred C. Trump drove up to the front door of the Taj in a sleek black limo with a very large suitcase that was full of cash. Fred exchanged the cash for \$3.5 million in gambling chips.... never used. But was that enough?

Atlantic City has had its ups and downs and surely has been full of colorful characters. The saga goes on and the struggle to keep the city's head above water never ends.

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*VGEM's Bill Giannetti
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BLOG 

By Eliza Led



Pickleball Ambassador Bill Giannetti along with Mayor McCullough cut the ribbon to officially open the new pickleball courts at Delilah Oaks Pickleball Courts in Egg Harbor Township, NJ.

I had a brief conversation with Bill Giannetti the other day. His story must be like many others who become a USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) Ambassador. He plays tennis. He met a couple of guys, Stan Shumaker and Dave Wheeler, who introduced him to pickleball in Pennsylvania. Stan learned about the game when he visited Arizona about 5 years ago. They all gathered on the tennis court and taught Bill the game. Stan works for the City of Philadelphia so he had great connections to promote pickleball in the community.

Bill lives in a 55+ community and he got pickleball started there. Now there's about 20 folks who turn out every day to play. In the township, they're allowed to play once a week in the community center. There's a meeting soon to see if they can play in the gym, which means they can set up 4 nets for more participation in his clinics. Bill loved learning about the game, so, it seemed only natural that he would become a USAPA Pickleball Ambassador. Bill got a grant from the USAPA for two portable net systems and started introducing the game out in a parking lot. In New Jersey, he first got permission to play in an elementary school once a week. In the summer, Bill and his friends tape pickleball lines on tennis courts and play a couple of times a week.

Bill gives regular clinics throughout the year. With one or two nets, he can include 12 folks in his clinic, but

4 courts would be perfect. He plays in Ocean City, NJ as well. There are about 30 folks who play there regularly 3 times a week. Bill still plays tennis with his wife on Saturdays, but you'll find him playing pickleball Monday thru Friday now. On August 26, 2015, there was a dedication for the opening of new pickleball courts. Egg Harbor Township Parks and Recreation held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the courts located in Delilah Oaks Park. They are open to the community from sunrise to sunset.



*Mayor McCullough serving the first ball —
at Delilah Oaks Pickleball Courts*

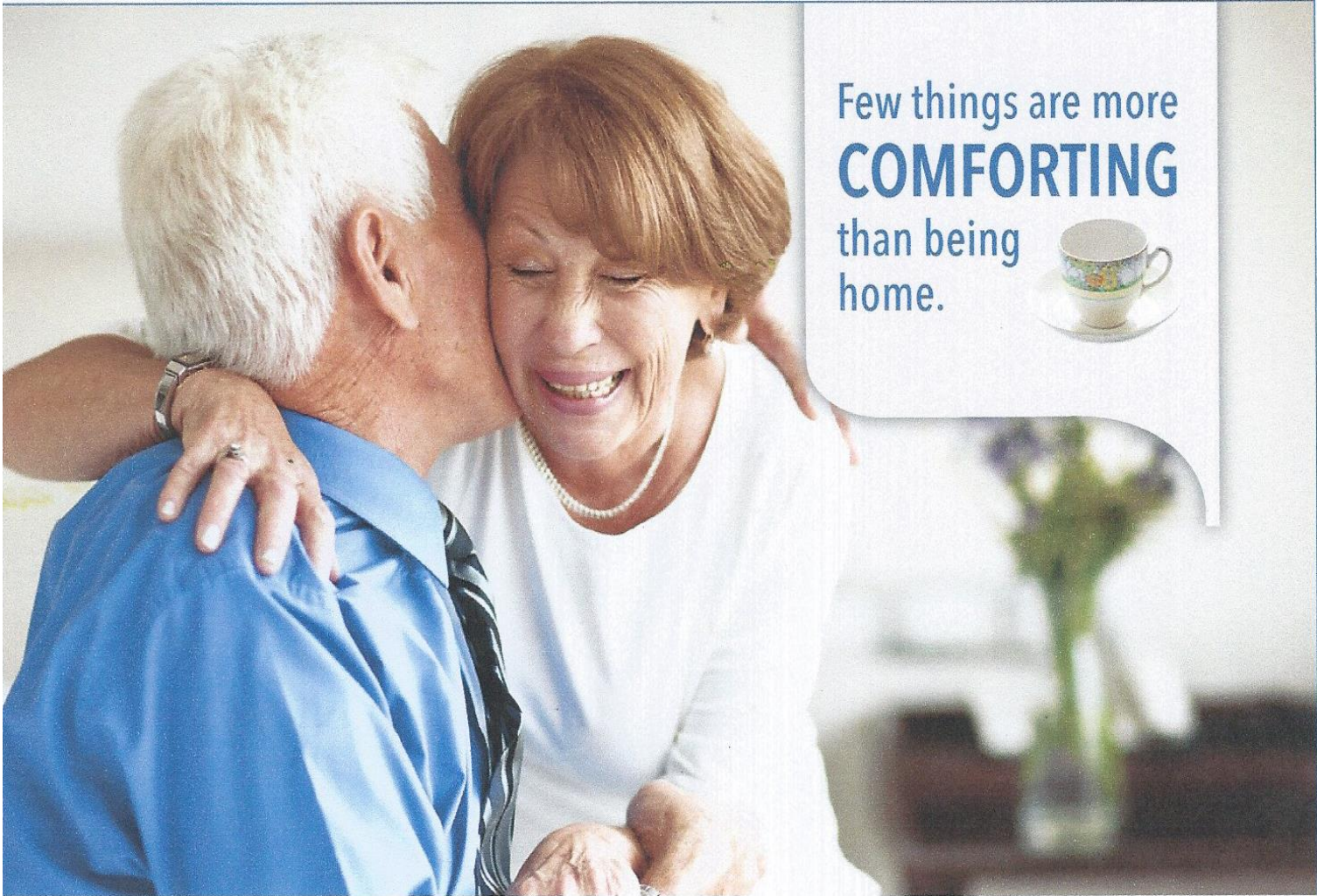
Bill has been invited to give a clinic in Vineland, NJ, and that's how he spreads the good news about pickleball. Bill has also been asked to consider becoming a Regional Ambassador. Since he's well known in the area already, it wouldn't be a stretch.



Bill Giannetti and friends demonstrating pickleball

Bill loves the game: it keeps him busy, it keeps him fit, and he has fun too! Thank you Bill, for your dedication to promoting the game of pickleball in the Atlantic Region.

*Posted in Growing Pickleball, USAPA Ambassadors
appearing in the Pickleball Central Blog
on February 16, 2016.*



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