

# Grande Gazette

*The Village Grande at English Mill*

Volume 7 - Issue 4

WINTER QUARTER

October/November/December 2016



SPEED  
LIMIT  
9

**The Grande Life!**



**VILLAGE GRANDE AT ENGLISH MILL**  
 1 Village Grande Road; Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234  
 Clubhouse Hours: 5 AM - Midnight

**Resident Board of Trustees**

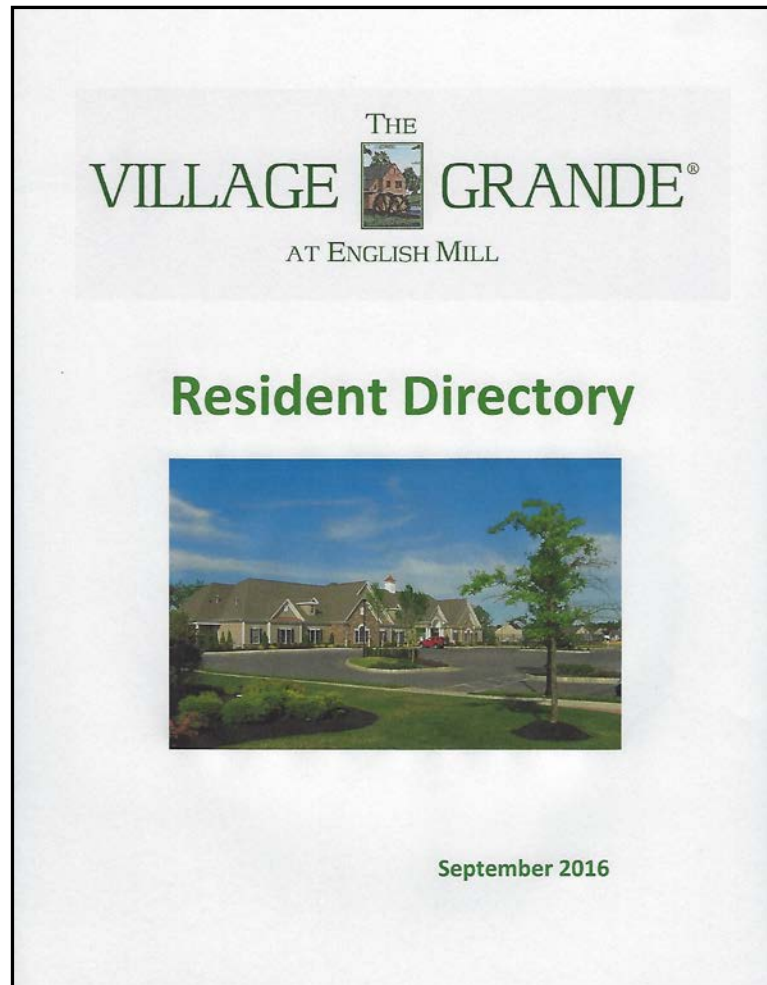
|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Jim Lichtenwalner</b><br/> <b>President</b><br/>         484-225-4756<br/>         lichtenwal@aol.com</p> | <p><b>Betty Alberts</b><br/> <b>Vice President</b><br/>         788-8459<br/>         balberts115@comcast.net</p> | <p><b>Jeannie Eckard</b><br/> <b>Secretary</b><br/>         926-0595<br/>         jeck209@comcast.net</p> | <p><b>Pam LoBue</b><br/> <b>Trustee</b><br/>         653-1025<br/>         Plobue118@comcast.net</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**Community Management**

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

Cynthia Williams  
 Community Manager  
 (609) 788-8405  
 (609) 788-8430 - FAX  
[c.williams@dilucia.com](mailto:c.williams@dilucia.com)

*For Committees and Clubs refer to the printed  
 Resident Directory that will soon be delivered to your home.*





## *Grande Gazette Staff*

**Editor:** Tom Santucci  
**Associate Editor:** Tony Scaricamazza  
**Writers:**  
Jim Berg Mary Moskovitz  
John DaParto Pat Roche  
Jeannie Eckard Annette Scaricamazza  
Terry Giannetti Sydney Yacovelli  
Jim Lichtenwalner Walt Zaulyczny

**Photography:** Jack Williamson, Chief  
Jeannie Eckard, Lou Golin & Mike Segal

**Editing Team:** Brenda Fishman, Marlene Santucci,  
Annette & Tony Scaricamazza, Barbara & Jim Walsh

**Distribution Director:** Carol Moderski

**Distribution Team:** Joan Hofmann Don Mastrangelo,  
Julie McGeehin, Fred Moderski, June Musterel, Tony  
& Annette Scaricamazza, Anita & Ed Wenzke,  
Regina Yuppa, Paulette & Jim Harnett

**General Staff:** Bill Giambatista, Barbara Gordon

*Updated: 09/18/16*

## *Grande Gazette Information Publishing Practices/Policies*

- The *Grande Gazette* may reject any material deemed inappropriate. If disputed, the article will be submitted for review to a panel composed of at least two *Grande Gazette* Staff and the Board Liaison Trustee.
- The *Grande Gazette* will edit submissions for clarity and focus, and will make every effort to maintain the original intent of the writer.
- The *Grande Gazette* prefers original material written by residents. If parts are abstracted from other sources, references should be included.
- The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of *Grande Gazette* Staff or the Board of Trustees

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

*Updated: 01/27/2014*

The **VGEM Grande Gazette Staff** accept advertisements based on information provided by the advertiser. The *Grande Gazette* Staff and VGEM HOA Board do not independently investigate the accuracy of advertisement content nor sanction any advertisement.

## *From the Editor... A Personal Quandary!*

*By Tom Santucci*

In December 2015, the Board unanimously approved \$4,000 in the 2016 Budget to print 350 copies of the Quarterly Gazette. As had been anticipated, the funds were insufficient to cover the cost of printing the four Gazettes as additional copies were needed since there were more than 350 occupied home. For this issue, we printed 370 copies. Fortunately, the financial shortfall was easily covered by part of the \$1,390 that I had secured from advertising for 2016. Obviously more funds will be needed when VGEM maxes out at 397 homes.



When the Board agreed to fund the Gazette, I committed to remain as Editor through 2016. With this issue, I have fulfilled my commitment to the Board, the Community and my advertisers. I am now faced with an extremely difficult personal quandary. Do I want to continue editing the Gazette?

With that as background, now for my personal quandary. I deeply enjoy editing the Gazette but it is a very time consuming process. For me to publish a Gazette, it requires at least 120 hours per issue. This huge time commitment requires me, and Marlene, to adjust our lives around the Gazette deadlines. But the quandary stems from the reality that over the last five years publishing the Gazette has become an integral part of my life.

Facing a difficult decision over what to do, I decided to look back on the terms of the three previous Gazette Editors to determine how my service compared. Mike Segal contracted with Senior Publishing Company (SPC) to create and publish the first *Grande Gazette* in September/October 2008. Regular bi-monthly issues then began in January/February 2009. Mike edited five bi-monthly issues over about a year. Sydney Yacovelli became Editor for less than a year and published five issue. Linda Keane served a year and a half as Editor publishing nine issues. The Gazettes ranged from 16 to 32 pages, averaging about 24 pages per issue.

When I became Editor in 2012, there had been a total of 19 issues published by the three previous Editors who served a total of about two and a half years. In my five years as Editor, there were 28 issues published totaling 1,124 pages for an average of 40 pages per issue. I think it reasonable to say that I have done my share as the

Editor with a duration of service twice as long as the other three combined.

So as I look back on my five years as Editor, I think I served the Community well as a volunteer. In my first Gazette (January/February 2012), my objectives for the Gazette were to report on the HOA governance, events/activities and special talents of our neighbors. I hope that those of you who are regular readers of the Gazette will judge that I accomplished these objectives.

My quandary was slightly influenced by this spring's election that one candidate described to me as contentious and another candidate said it was beginning to resemble *Trump and Hillary*. There were some unpleasant experiences during the election that "many" people are describing as being both divisive and derisive. The Gazette and I were among those who had their integrity challenged.

Unexpectedly, a remarkable coincidence occurred in that Jim Lichtenwalner's *President's Message* for this issue addressed another incident but with similar implication. Jim wrote, "*There have been several instances of 'bad behavior' toward our volunteers that have recently arisen. This has resulted in a reluctance to volunteer again.*" I would be remiss if I did not say that I can relate to what he wrote.

Be that as it may, the major factor in my quandary is that editing the Gazette encompasses so much work that it is more of a job than the fulfilling pleasure that it had been. I, and Marlene too, have had to miss events, cruises, road trips to family and friends, playing pickleball in the mornings both here and in Florida, also preempting beach time in both places plus numerous other incidents. Over the last three years, I have published five Gazettes while in Florida. I must be crazy to be a snowbird renting a condo across the street from the Gulf of Mexico and sitting indoors at the computer for the better part of three week doing the Gazette.

If I were to publish the next Gazette, the bulk of the work is done during the first three weeks of December in the heart of the Holiday Season. It would be nice to have a Holiday Season without the deadline of a Gazette hanging over my head.

I have retired twice in my life and it is now time to retire for a third time from the demanding job of editing the Gazette. I have deep remorse about making this decision as I get great satisfaction and enjoyment from editing the Gazette but it has become a burden that alters my life for at least three to four weeks, four times a year. In publishing the Gazette, I have had 28 deadlines involving over 3,300 hours of work. I have done my share as a volunteer. Despite knowing this, I'll still have a great deal of remorse about retiring as Editor.

Being the Editor is not all work, it provides me with the joy of accomplishment. One of the most pleasant and unexpected outcomes was receiving the "VGEM

Outstanding Volunteer Award" at the HOA meeting on June 1, 2015. Over my professional carrier, I have been fortunate to have received many awards relating to being a physician, medical educator and President of several national medical organization; but this one felt different. I was being recognized and appreciated by my neighbors for my efforts on behalf of our Community. This Award is one of my most cherished honors plus the unique twist on where it was actually presented to me.



*The Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented at the HOA meeting, but the certificate was not printed. Pam presented me the actual award at the Library III after an Anglers Club back bay fishing outing.*

With all the new people moving into this Community and those who have been living here, there must be many talented individuals who can step forward and take on the challenge of being the fifth Editor of the *Grande Gazette*. The newsletter needs a creative individual to infuse new ideas and life into the Gazette. I am anxious to learn who will become the next Editor and looking forward to reading the product of their endeavors.

Someone must step-up to keep the tradition of the *Grande Gazette* alive. It is a worthy effort and needs to survive. If it were not to survive, it would make its previous editors question why they put all their hard work into publishing a Gazette that is not important enough to continue



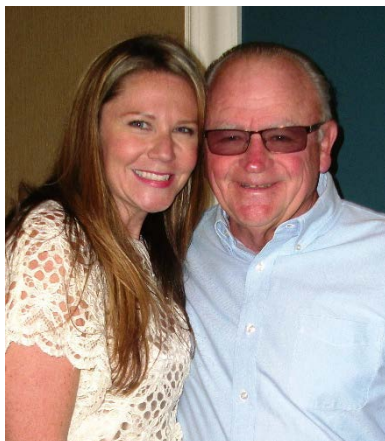


# *Thanks from the Retiring Editor*

Producing the Gazette requires input from a great many people. I was very fortunate and grateful to have had so many of our residents participate with the Staff to produce an outstanding newsletter. The hundreds of articles that appeared in the Gazette over the last five years were contributed by over 70 residents, many of whom have written 20 or more articles. The Board members were outstanding contributors to the Gazette with multiple articles concerning governance matters. Thanks to all the Chairpersons who regularly submitted updates on the functioning of their Committees. Let's also remember all the sports club captains who provided articles on their activities that made up Tony Scaricamazza's feature on *Sports Club News* as well as the non-sports clubs who provided articles on their clubs activities which together accounted for putting the "active" in our adult community. There are just too many names for me to mention each of you individually but please accept my sincere appreciation for all your work to make the Gazette an informative publication,

I would like to acknowledge those individuals, not associated with Committees and Clubs, who wrote the feature articles that added interesting and informative material to enlighten our readers. I'd like to acknowledge the most frequent contributors for this group of talented writers including Jim Berg, John DaPrato, Terry Giannetti, Doreen DeLucca, Jim Lichtenwalner, Mary Moskovitz, Art Richman, Jim Roche and Walt Zaulyczny. Special thanks goes to Sydney Yacovelli for her series of articles that I most enjoyed on the history of Atlantic County with emphasis on the times, places and personalities. I must express my special appreciation to Pat Roche whose *Spotlight on Your Neighbor* appeared in 27 of the 28 issues that I edited.

Our management companies have also been significant contributors to the Gazette. The best was



*Kate Walton was a major contributor to Gazette as a writer, resource and friend.*

DiLucia. The obvious one is our recent past Community Manager, Kate Walton, but Ann Macy and the late Bill Traylor have also provided informative articles. Kate Walton became very much involved as both a talented writer and an exceptional resource person. "From the Community manager" feature and her other articles were very

detailed and informative especially those regarding the malfunction of both our pools. I was excited for her promotion but saddened to lose her input to the Gazette. Kate remains a friend and a very special person.

My thanks to our new Community Manager, Cynthia Williams, for her help on this issue that includes a clever article on her role as Community Manager.

The contributions of writers are acknowledged in their bylines but there is a whole group of people in the background whose contributions may go unnoticed. These people include the proofreading and editing staff that have been so important to having a quality publication. I greatly appreciate all that is done by the Editing Team of Brenda Fishman, Marlene Santucci, Annette and Tony Scaricamazza, and Barbara and Jim Walsh.

What would the Gazette be without the Photography Team directed by Jack Williamson who independently knows what's happening in VGEM and mystically appears to record it in photographs. Jack's Team includes Jeannie Eckard, Lou Golin and Mike Segal. Thanks to you all for without your commitment, the Gazette would have been very bland.

Let's not forget that the Gazette does not magically appear in your mail tube. It is delivered there by Carol Moderski and her Distribution Team consisting of Joan Hofmann, Don Mastrangelo, Julie McGeehin, Fred Moderski, June Musterel, Tony & Annette Scaricamazza, Anita & Ed Wenzke, Regina Yuppa and Paulette & Jim Harnett. Thank you all for delivering the increasing number of Gazettes and for agreeing to deliver the Resident Directory.



*Annette & Tony Scaricamazza were integral to the improvement and quality of the Gazette*

I have saved three of the most important contributors to the Gazette for last. These are special people who without them, I would never have lasted a year as Editor. Tony Scaricamazza is the Gazette's Associate Editor that only partially denotes his important role in publishing the

Gazette. Tony is always available to do whatever has to be done. He has written over 50 articles, alerts and notices for the Gazette. After I format articles and do some cursory proofreading, I send it to my master editor, Tony. With the help of another special person, Annette, the Gazette's quiz master and his wife, they pre-edit almost every article that appears in the Gazette (not this one). In addition he compiles the *Sports Club News* feature as well as doing its basic layout. They also proofread the final draft before it goes to the printer. Tony and Annette are special people and respected friends without whom... I can't imagine.



In addition, she has written several articles for the Gazette including one in this issue. I thank her for all she has done to help make the Gazette a quality publication, as well as, tolerating five years of having to adjust our life together around the demands of editing the Grande Gazette.

In this trite but meaningful closing, "last but not least", thanks to my wife Marlene. Besides tolerating the hours I spend in front of my computer, she readily edits and proofreads as well as critiques all the articles that I write.



Tony, Pat Roche & I were the only attendees at the first (and last) Staff Meeting on November 9, 2011



South Jersey's Oldies Station

**WIBBAGE FM 94.3**

The music you grew up with!

WIBG.com



**Join Jerry & Ric on Our Second Adventure to Riviera Maya - Mexico**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*Our package includes round trip airfare from Philadelphia, round trip transfers, 7 nights hotel at Secrets Capri, all meals and drinks.*

*Prices starting at \$1,599 pp for Deluxe Preferred Tropical View*

*Space is limited, call Marie at Preferred Travel for details at (609) 645-8000*

***Don't Be Left Out in the Cold!!!***



# President's Message

By Jim Lichtenwalner



I don't think anyone would disagree when I say the last few months have been a challenge. The ongoing sagas of the indoor pool and new irrigation systems, a change in the Community Manager and changes in how the HOA operates provided a full plate to deal with. The strains on our lawns (and ourselves) caused by the extreme summer weather added to our already full plate.

D.R. Horton has finally agreed to make repairs to the indoor pool in accordance with our engineer's recommendations. They have also agreed to reimburse us for the repair costs associated with the outdoor pool which were incurred in June 2015. We await a detailed schedule for the work to be performed on the indoor pool. To assure that the work is performed to our satisfaction, we intend to have our own engineer/inspector oversee the work performed.

D.R. Horton has also agreed to repair the irrigation systems on Bluebell and Violet. Orders were placed with their contractor and work should have already started by the time you read this. Satisfactory completion of this work will allow the HOA to take control of these areas which should improve overall satisfaction.

Our new Community Manager, Cynthia Williams, has jumped in with both feet. Cynthia is enthusiastic, willing and able to help us be a 1<sup>st</sup> class community. That being said, we all need to help bring her up to speed.

We have also seen considerable change in how the HOA operates. In an effort to improve communication and increase transparency, we have moved the time of all open HOA meetings to evenings and are making preliminary agendas available to members in advance of the meeting. Input from members regarding the items on the agenda is encouraged at all open meetings. Draft minutes are made available to all members within a few days of the meeting so those not able to attend will be promptly kept informed. We are providing for a member comment period on procedure and rule changes before they are voted on and implemented. We have also modified our Email and telephone blast process to make it more timely for all members and defined the roles of HOA officers. These changes have not come without some growing pains, but I expect the end result will be well worth the effort.

As many of you know, long-time residents Sandy and Dan Farbman have moved out of our Community to live full time in sunny Florida. In addition to many other contributions to our Community, Dan has handled the funds in our activities account since its inception, alone at first and more recently with another Assistant Treasurer. Dan's expertise will be sorely missed, but the Board of Trustees has elected Alex Polazneck to the position of Assistant Treasurer, who along with Assistant Treasurer Jim Danzuso will continue to provide accurate and timely support to the Community's Clubs and Committees.

In an attempt to provide increased communication from members, our Committees were expanded including the creation of three new Committees. We have established a Contracting Committee to review our contracting process and recommend opportunities for improvement. In the meantime, we have increased our use of competitive bidding. Similarly, we have established a Policy Review Committee to review our existing policies and make recommendations for modifications as well as identification of new policies for consideration. A third new committee was established to provide a comprehensive approach to the indoor and outdoor pools and related amenities. This Pool Committee will advise the Board on the operation and maintenance of the pool, pool activities and pool rules.

Finally, and most important, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who provide countless hours of their time for the betterment of our Community. I was disappointed to see how a few of our members treat our volunteers. There have been several instances of "bad behavior" toward our volunteers that have recently arisen. This has resulted in a reluctance to volunteer again. This only hurts our Community. I suggest we personally thank our volunteers for their efforts. Even better, volunteer some of your time to help solve the issue you see; walking a mile in someone else's shoes is always enlightening. Remember, without volunteers the value of our Community suffers and the cost to operate the Community increases.



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



**DILUCIA**  
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

## From the Community Manager

By Cynthia Williams



If there's one absolute about a day in the life of a property manager, it's that there are no absolutes. Every day is different and requires a different professional hat to wear. Over the last few months as I've learned, studied and became more acclimated to your Association, I have had the opportunity to try on some of those hats.

- **Contract Administrator** – I pay your bills, but there's much more to it than that. I ensure the contractor is billing for work according to the contract and meeting milestones and contract terms. The Association's largest service contracts: pool management and landscaping are the focus of the summer months, so I am always in touch with key personnel to make sure things are running smoothly.

- **Building Superintendent** – Things break. It's the way of the world. The more proactive I can be in maintenance items, the less reactive I have to be when something goes wrong. Since my tenure here we've replaced a soap dispenser, gate lock and missing siding plus also repaired a gas leak, a pond aerator, and several electrical issues. I have also scheduled the carpets to be deep cleaned and the billiards tables to be recovered and leveled.

- **Accountant** – One of the more time consuming, but certainly most important functions of my job, is processing your monthly checks, post and pay invoices, follow-up on collections and work with your Treasurers to make sure things are in budget. I reconcile your bank accounts and help with the monthly operations reports that your Board receives.

Throughout the day I can also be an administrator, an arbitrator, a social coordinator, a creative director, a paralegal and occasionally a person confidant. It's the ever-changing details of the job that keep it interesting and keep me on my toes, but my commitment is always to the residents. I continue to look forward to working with your Community and the unique and diverse situations that arise. From emails to phone blasts, broken chairs and gushing sprinklers, my priority will always be to the people and their properties, no matter what hat I'm wearing.

Adults 55+\*\*

# Rediscover

ATLANTIC COUNTY'S PREMIER ADULT LIFESTYLE COMMUNITY!

**D-R-HORTON**  
*America's Builder*

**Now is the perfect time to visit The Village Grande at English Mill in Egg Harbor Township:**

■ NEW HOMES AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY ■ FINAL PHASE NOW SELLING!

Stop by today – and rediscover Atlantic County's most beautiful active-adult community, featuring:

- Great location – minutes from the beach!
- Magnificent private clubhouse
- Health club
- Indoor & outdoor pools
- Arts & crafts center
- Ballroom
- Tennis, bocce and more!

**VILLAGE GRANDE**  
AT ENGLISH MILL

200 Lily Road  
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

**VILLAGE GRANDE**  
AT ENGLISH MILL

200 Lily Road  
Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234

**Priced from the low \$200s\*!**

**drhorton.com/nj • (609) 601-6299**

\*Prices, included features, availability, and delivery dates are subject to change without notice or obligation. Measurements and distances are approximate. Elevations shown may vary. Prices contingent on a contract signed and closed immediately upon completion. Furnishings not included. Terms and conditions subject to credit approval, market conditions, and availability. Photograph of home is representational only. Not all buyers will qualify for specific offers. \*\*Our Village Grande at English Mill community was developed for active adults with at least one resident per dwelling 55 years or older. Additional restrictions may apply. Please see sales representative for details. Equal Opportunity Builder. ©2015 D. R. Horton.





## Finance Committee Report

### 2016 Budget

By Don Cheatle,

Chairperson & HOA Treasurer



The latest financial statement available prior to our publication deadline is as of July 31, 2016. Our revenues are in line with the 2016 Budget. As of July 31<sup>st</sup> we continue to show a surplus. I expect August will reflect a deficit. A major part of our budget revolves around landscaping contracts and irrigation. The irrigation

expenses are heaviest in the dry months of July and August. With the unusually warm August and lack of rain, it is expected we will use all of the annually budgeted water costs of \$80,000. As of July 31<sup>st</sup>, the irrigation water cost was slightly above the budgeted amount but significantly below the total budgeted. However, as in the past, the budget for August includes the majority of our budgeted water costs. This year September will also show substantial water costs given the warm September and lack of rain. This is also affected by the timing of the invoices from the water company that results in some of the water usage costs incurred in August being reported in September. Likewise, our landscaping costs are much higher in the summer months when the work needed to maintain our lawns are incurred.

Although a deficit is anticipated for August because of the landscaping and irrigation costs, these costs will decrease significantly in the fourth quarter of the year as we head into the fall and winter months. When these expenses decline, the revenues earned in the fourth quarter should eliminate the deficit.

I will be scheduling meetings of the Finance Committee shortly to begin the budget process for 2017. DiLucia Management Company prepares a preliminary budget based upon our actual results for 2016. This worksheet provides us with a starting point. We have been in touch with the DiLucia and have been assured they are in the process of preparing the necessary information for our use.



## Transition Complications?

### Let's Stay Focused

### Delay the Competitive Bid on the Management Contract

*Pam LoBue's Opinion*



Our management contract with Dilucia Management Corporation expires on December 31, 2016. If you missed the September HOA meeting, the Board (minus one, namely ME!) voted to put the management contract out for competitive bid. I am very concerned with this action at this critical time in our history.

Dilucia has guided the Board for the last three years preparing for transition. They are the keepers of all our documents and financials that support our settlement arguments. I have worked with three management companies over the last seven years. It has been my experience that each transfer from one company to another has been stressful and chaotic. Chaos is not what we need now. To change management companies, AT THIS TIME, will only complicate this all important process. We cannot afford to have documents lost or misplaced which is what we experienced in the past.

Interviewing management companies is time consuming. It is wiser that this time is better spent on finishing the transition engineering report, seeing to the irrigation and grading issues in phase II, overseeing the indoor pool repairs, and concentrating on all the other problems identified in the engineering report. I am not opposed to competitive bidding when the circumstances within the Community warrant it, but I don't think this is the right time to take this action. I suggest we negotiate with Dilucia for a one year extension to their contract.

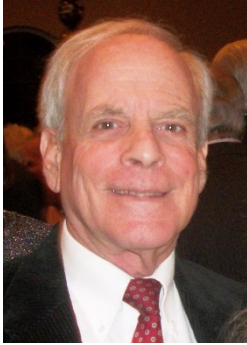
When the settlement with D. R. Horton is complete, probably in the spring of 2017, the management contract can be put out for bid. This is a time for the Board to stay focused and prepare strategies to ensure a fair and equitable settlement agreement with Horton. Let's be strong and keep our eyes on the goal!

*Editor's Note: For informative articles on VGEM's past experience with changing management companies, See the January/February 2014 Grande Gazette:*

- *Why Change Management Companies?* – Art Richman on page 10
- *Selecting a Management Company – “Not An Easy Process”* – Tom Santucci on page 11 & 12

# Government Liaison Committee

By John DaPrato, Chairperson



The Government Liaison Committee (GLC) met in July and welcomed two new members, Chicki Sinagria and John Gallagher. They have joined an outstanding team of Ron Capasso, Herb Moskovitz, Warren Weiner and our Board Representative, Betty Alberts. We look forward to another successful year of providing our residents with programs and events to inform and provide all of our Community with services to enhance our lives here at the Village Grande.

- On August 11<sup>th</sup> we hosted Assemblyman Chris Brown at our Clubhouse for his Mobile Office visit. Little Mill was invited to attend. Assemblyman Brown and his assistant, Mr. Tom Suthard, met with residents on a one-on-one and as a group. We had approximately 30 people attending and they were all extremely pleased with the program. Assemblyman Brown, as usual, was congenial and businesslike. He covered a multitude of subjects and answered each individual's questions. He gave us a detailed picture of the upcoming election and the importance of the vote on North Jersey Casinos. The GLC has planned another program to address the subject of the economic impact on the entire seven-county South Jersey region if casino gambling is approved for North Jersey.
- This leads to the next program. With Warren Weiner's help, the GLC will host Mr. Steven P. Perskie on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> in the Grande Room of the Clubhouse. Mr. Perskie will discuss the economic impact of the controversial Casino referendum on the November 8<sup>th</sup> ballot. Fliers, e-mails and phone blasts will be sent to residents as a reminder of this program. Mr. Perskie authored the Casino Control Act that brought casino gaming to Atlantic City and as Chairman of the Casino Control Commission led a comprehensive restructuring and refocus of the Commission and its agenda. A Margate resident and retired New Jersey Superior Court Judge, Perskie has been an outspoken critic of expanding casino gaming beyond Atlantic City. He sees no significant economic



Assemblyman Chris Brown is welcomed to VGEM by Chicki Sinagria & GLC Chair John DaPrato

gain for New Jersey by expanding casino gaming beyond Atlantic City's monopoly and believes the presence of North Jersey casinos will, as a matter of political necessity, force New York City officials to counter by legalizing casinos in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

- On Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 10 AM, the Egg Harbor Township's Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Department, under the direction of Captain Dennis Hoffman, will once again replace batteries in our personal Smoke and CO detectors. There is a change in what the volunteers will be able to do this year. They will no longer be able to assist in the replacement of alarms that have reached their expiration date. This year only batteries will be replaced. If any of your smoke detector units have expired, please make alternate arrangement for their replacements. Reminder notices will go out through the e-mail and phone blasts. Sign-up sheets will be made available in the Clubhouse on the front counter. Additionally, on the day of the Battery Replacement, our fire hydrants will be tested to insure that they are properly pressurized and functional.
  - We have been made aware of problems with students parking in our neighborhood and using our side yards as an access to High School Drive. Because our roads in Phase I are public, we cannot restrict the parking. It is inappropriate for these students to trespass on someone's property. For this reason and others that involve the High School, Herb Moskovitz will represent homeowners to problem solve issues with the High School as needed. If you have any issue with the High School, please e-mail me at [joncondaprato@aol.com](mailto:joncondaprato@aol.com) and the GLC will make every effort to resolve the issue with the school administration. We will also forward any issue to our Community Manager and the Board.
  - Ron Capasso has offered to pursue and research government documents, statutes, regulations and rules that may affect our community. He has identified an act with the State Legislature that deals with the responsibilities of a developer such as D.R. Horton in building communities like ours. This act deals primarily with the construction of homes and infrastructure. Ron has provided copies of this act to the Community Manager, the Board, the Transition Committee, the Landscape Committee and the GLC.
- Finally, I would like to say thank you to all of the members of the Government Liaison Committee and the Board Representative for their hard work.



# ACC Update

By Jim Berg



The ACC recently had some changes in its membership. We want to thank outgoing members Dan Montagna and David Van Zant for their years of work on the Committee which required attending meetings to review applications, field trips to homes, homework to review the rules and regulations, and a good sense of humor. We also want to welcome new members Robert Beyer, Abe

Greenbaum, Bob Kennedy, David Musser and Sam Salierno. They are joining returning Committee members, Jim Berg, Judy Grier, Shirley Oliver, Marlene Santucci and Ken Tardiff. The mix of old and new residents is assisted by Betty Aberts, the HOA Board Representative and Cynthia Williams, Community Manager.

The new ACC's first order of business was to find ways to streamline the application process in order to improve our service to the residents of Village Grande. We reviewed the types of applications we were receiving and divided them into two categories. The first category of applications were those that require Committee review and perhaps a site visit, such as landscape modifications and hardscaping. The second category of applications were those that were so routine that they were almost always automatically approved, such as patio awnings, storm doors, garage door windows, etc. We then modified our procedures so that this category of applications that are in compliance with the Rules and Regulations can now be approved by the Community Manager without waiting for a full Committee meeting. However, these applications will still be subject to post site visits by an ACC member. Of course, residents have to be reasonable, no circus style canopies are allowed and neither is a 100% glass garage door! Everyone should take the time to read the new edition of the Community Rules and Regulations for more details. If you do not already have a copy, it is available in the Clubhouse.

Applications for landscaping work or patio expansions still require a full Committee review of an application including a to-scale drawing, which is an accurate sketch of the project with dimensions, and a site plan. These are required so that the ACC can determine if the project impacts the Community or irrigation system. As the weather turns cooler, the ACC will soon stop accepting applications for these kinds of projects because they require the irrigation system to be on so we can see where

the heads are and be accurate if anything needs to be moved.

The ACC is charged with the responsibility of working to keep our Community comfortable, safe and esthetically inviting. One of the things that many homeowners do toward this goal is to install night lights or motion detector lights at their front doors to give visitors a safer path to enter. These lights also serve the purpose of discouraging unwanted trespassers. Many homeowners also install small floodlights in their mulch beds. Please note that floodlights of any type require an application and cannot be a nuisance to your neighbors. A recent evening tour of the Community found a few locations where someone's lights could be having a negative effect on their neighbors. Please take an opportunity in the next couple of weeks to go outside and check your lights from the street angle to insure that they are not having any impact on your neighbor. If you determine that they may be impacting your neighbor, you may then want to switch the bulbs from bright white to yellow, reduce the wattage or change them to low intensity LED bulbs.

Thank you all for your cooperation and support, together we can keep VGEM looking great!





**MONTE ROSE**  
BROKER SALES AGENT

ABR CRS GRI SFR  
DIRECT 609-457-7673

OFFICE 609-872-6589  
EMAIL MONTEROSE1@COMCAST.NET  
WWW.MONTEROSE.REALTOR

630 NEW ROAD  
NORTHFIELD, NJ 08225

**16 YEAR SENIOR  
FULL TIME REAL  
ESTATE AGENT**



NJ MLS AWARD  
WINNER SINCE 2000

VILLAGE GRANDE RESIDENT  
I LIVE HERE, I SELL HERE

**OVER 55 SENIOR SPECIALIST**  
**COMPLIMENTARY MARKET ANALYSIS  
AT YOUR CONVENIENCE**

**CALL MONTE ROSE  
609-457- ROSE (7673)**

# Transition Committee

## An Update on the Transition Process

By Art Richman, Co-Chair



In August 2006, the first house was settled at VGEM. I am sure D. R. Horton planned to have completed this project by December 2010. Currently, about 375 homes have been sold, and I am reasonably certain they will be finished selling the remaining 22 homes by September 2017.

Transition occurs when D. R. Horton transfers the last Board position to the HOA. This will mean that all five Trustees will be VGEM residents. This could happen before the last house is sold.

One component of the process is verification of the construction of the amenities and the property. This is where the engineering report comes into play. The Board hired Falcon Engineering to produce the report. The engineers looked at the Clubhouse and its' components and the grounds, roads and common areas. In June, the Transition Committee reviewed a draft copy of the report and returned it to the Board with several pages of comments. As of the writing of this update, we are still waiting for the other VGEM Committees to submit their comments before the package goes back to The Falcon Engineering Group. Once they have made any necessary changes and produced the final report, we will review it again.

Another function of the Committee is to gather invoices for items the HOA paid that we feel D. R. Horton should have paid. Earlier this year, an initial selection of invoices was performed. In August, the Committee met again. We found additional invoices for the Clubhouse, pools, audits and grounds. The next step is to make a list of what was paid, to who, when and why. This will provide additional negotiating materials to the Board.

To be effective, the Transition Team will include a lawyer, engineer, accountant and a strong Board willing to fight for what they believe is right. D. R. Horton is in business to make money, not friends. They will go into the negotiation saying they do not owe anything. My four years of being on the Board showed me you have to fight for what is right.



I am sure the rumor mill will exaggerate the amount Horton owes us to be in the millions of dollars. The truth is that at this time no one knows the exact amount. Also, it will depend on the negotiation to really determine what, if anything, Horton will pay. The main thing is to have accurate facts.

I hope this gives you a better idea of the work the 15 members of the Transition Committee have performed thus far.



## A Message from Our Landscaper

By John Schenck



This is the first opportunity we have had to put something in your newsletter. I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers of the Landscape Committee. These people put a lot of time into this Community and at times in less than ideal conditions.

Also, I would like to thank all of the residents who come up and give us a lot of positive feedback and offer a drink and/or use of their hose to wash our hands before lunch.

We put many hours into your Community. No less than 10,000 man hours are spent on your property each season for the maintenance of your lawns with cutting, fertilizing, mulching and applications. In addition to that, we spend no less than 2,000 hours on the irrigation.

Every year since we started with your property, I have had winter meetings with your Landscape Committee and Board Liaison to discuss how to improve soil quality and plans for future improvements to help increase the overall quality of the Community.

We, as a group, always have the best interest at heart for the Village Grande at English Mill community. Many of you show your appreciation for what we do and I, as well as all of the employees at *Outdoor Décor Landscaping*, really do appreciate it. Thank you.



## Landscape Committee Update

By Kathy McGeehin, Committee Reporter



As usual this summer has presented many challenges to your Landscape Committee and contractor, Outdoor Décor. As a result of drought, by mid-August the lack of irrigation coverage on some of our established lawns was apparent. Some of the irrigation heads are blocked from being fully effective by newly planted and/or

mature trees and shrubs or construction of walls and patios. In this instance, moving the heads is not the responsibility of the HOA, rather that of the homeowner. Please fill out a green form and ask for an inspection and remediation by Outdoor Décor as our irrigation system belongs to the HOA and they are contracted to maintain our system. In other cases, irrigation heads may not have been placed where needed when the system was initially installed. This situation cannot be remedied as adding more heads will reduce the amount of water system pressure. We are working with D.R. Horton to resolve irrigation issues in Phase II.

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

Our new lawns in Phase II faced a daunting combination of lack of irrigation, insects, fungus, weeds, and other problems too numerous to recount. These newly sodded lawns are entirely Kentucky Blue Grass and difficult to maintain in our climate. The lack of topsoil is a major issue as well. In the fall our landscape contractor will begin to correct the existing damage to lawns by over seeding using the same methods they used successfully for our Community for the past several years. The lawns in Phase I are now a mix of grasses as the result of fall over seeding operations by our contractor over a span of three years. We ask for your patience and understanding as this is a process that takes time, usually several seasons.

Our final two cuttings include bagging clippings, leaves and pine needles and will be taking place in November. It is the sole responsibility of each homeowner to clean up leaves and care for plants in all planting beds. Of course leaves will continue to fall throughout the winter. Some of our Community trees, such as oak, do not shed the majority their leaves until spring. Please do not call the Community Manager or Landscape Committee about leaves on your lawn or patio. Also, do not call our Committee or the office about routine lawn care or irrigation problems. **Complete a green form** available in the Clubhouse and your concern will be addressed. It often takes time to resolve an issue. Our landscaper is not contracted to be at our property daily so please be patient. He is contracted for commercial lawn service, not custom residential service.

### Snow Removal

Even during a heat wave we are planning for snow! Our snow removal contract stipulates removal of 4 inches and above of accumulation on hard surfaces (driveways) at our homes for the 2016-2017 winter season. For the protection of your planting beds and landscape walls, please purchase and install three foot tall reflective stakes from any of our local hardware stores. Use them to mark corners of beds and landscape walls so they are not damaged by snow plows. These stakes are guide markers for the snow



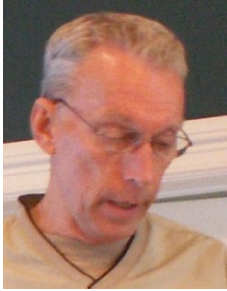
removal operation which is often done at night under less than ideal conditions. Turn on your outside lights as well because it can be difficult to differentiate lawn areas from walkways and driveways when all are covered by snow. It takes many hours to remove snow from the Clubhouse and almost 400 homes. Please be patient as snow removal will not begin until the snow stops falling. If you have needs for more immediate removal service, please feel free to hire your own snow removal contractor.

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

# SWALES

By Fred Moderski

Landscape/Irrigation Committee



What exactly is a drainage swale? It is a v-shaped, sloped depression in the soil located on the sides of our homes. It is designed to use gravity to drain away irrigation water and rain runoff. This water is directed to the street and then into one of the seven basins located around our community. These basins hold all of

the runoff produced in Village Grande and allow it to slowly soak into the ground and recharge the water table. This water will eventually be pumped up by our wells and reused by our irrigation system. The swales also slow down the runoff between our homes and give some time for water absorption into the swale areas. This reduces the rate and volume of storm water runoff on our properties.

Most of the swales in Village Grande are well-built for the purposes for which they were designed. Besides rainfall and irrigation water, they receive all of the water from most of our roofs. This means the swales get three times more water runoff than the amount of rain that falls. One inch of rain will put three inches of rain and roof runoff into our swales. Yes, they are wet almost all of the time. Is it any wonder?



As long as the grass in the swale is not rotting due to too much water, there is no wetness issue. Swale problems that were not there to begin with are usually the result of people walking in the bottom of the swale. Footprints become depressions that trap too much water because the slope toward the street has been altered. Swales with grading issues remain a problem in some places, but most of us have seen big improvements in our swales.

*Editor's Note: Updated reprint from the Grande Gazette January/February 2013.*



## Club Treasurer's Report

VGEM Clubs & Committees Accounts

As of June 9, 2016

| <u>Home Owners Association</u> | <u>Balance</u>      |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| HOA                            | \$ 15,045.65        |
| Insurance Deductible Acct.     | 1,000.00            |
| Clubhouse Expenses             | (221.80)            |
| <b>HOA Totals</b>              | <b>\$ 15,823.85</b> |

| <u>Clubs &amp; Committees</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Special Activities            | \$ 0.00        |
| Women's Club                  | 349.05         |
| Men's Bocce                   | 1,709.30       |
| Women's Bocce                 | 180.00         |
| Anglers Club                  | 89.31          |
| Men's Club                    | 2,443.51       |
| Quilting Club                 | 2.10           |
| Photography Club              | 297.98         |
| Billiards Club                | 198.94         |
| Mah Jongg Club                | 0.00           |
| Garden Club                   | 1,772.81       |
| Bocce Court Fund              | 0.00           |
| Golf Club                     | 707.84         |

**Club Totals \$ 7,750.84**

### Ocean City Home Bank

**Account Total \$23,574.69**

Submitted by Jim Danzuso, Assistant Treasurer  
Assistant Treasurer for Committees & Clubs



## Special Events Committee Update

By Pat Roche, Co-Chairperson

The Special Events Committee had its first meeting of the season on Wednesday, September 7. Because of the Bocce finals, we broke up into two sessions discussing the Poolside Grille and the upcoming Holiday Shopping Event.

On behalf of the Special Events Committee, I would like to extend the Community's thanks to Dennis and Marsha Goldberg for another successful Poolside Grille season. They are to be commended for their weekly dedication and pleasant demeanor which made us all feel a part off the endeavor. We had many volunteers, too numerous to mention, who were the backbone of the Grille! Hopefully, all will return in some capacity next season.

Our next meeting will be at 4:30 PM on Wednesday, October 19 to discuss Fun Night, Poolside Grille and various other functions the Committee might be interested in hosting. Please consider working with the Poolside Grille next season.



## Trust Our Landscaping Team They Know What They're Doing!

By Marlene Santucci



Many of you may have read the article in The Press of Atlantic City entitled "Summer 2016 a bad time for keeping lawns green" written by South Jersey's favorite weatherman, Dan Skeldon, and one of the first presenters at the VGEM's "fyi" Club. For those of you who have not, I will summarize it for you as it completely mirrors what our VGEM landscaper, Outdoor Décor, and our Landscape Committee have been telling us all summer.

Nick Grasso of *Grasso Landscaping*, Northfield, stated that many local landscapers agree that this has been the most challenging summer for keeping lawns green in the last 25 years. The excessive rains in May diluted the crab grass preventer and the constant intense heat that followed during the summer months prevented landscapers from safely treating the crabgrass and fungus. To quote Grasso, "It's been the *perfect storm* of weather ingredients this spring and summer".

The National Weather Service reported 6.68 inches of rain at the AC Airport in May, twice as much as normal and the fourth wettest May on record. May was then followed by June, July and August which were the warmest three month stretch since 1874 when records were first kept. Allen Carter from *Tuckahoe Turf Farms* stated that fungus has been thriving this summer due to the unusually persistent and high humidity levels.

There is, however, light at the end of the tunnel for our lawns. Grasso stated "there's usually less humidity in the fall, and we hope for warm days, cooler nights and a little rain on occasion". Carter stated that *The Tuckahoe Turf Farms* do all their seeding in the fall which they say is perfect for growing grass. "By seeding in the fall, new grass has much more time to become established before any prolonged heat, unlike grass planted in the spring" Carter said.

We all would like our grass green and luscious during the summer; however Mother Nature has to cooperate. Our Landscaper, and landscapers in general, can only do so much to combat these extreme conditions. Grasso goes on to say that customers whose lawns have been affected "appreciate being given the knowledge to understand why". We hope that is true of our Community residents.

Reference: THE PRESS OF ATLANTIC CITY  
Thursday, September 1, 2016 – Page A5

**OUTDOOR DÉCOR**  
LANDSCAPING

**856-435-2425**

We offer discounted pricing for all Village Grande at English Mill homeowners on hardscaping installation.  
Please call for your written proposal

**Pavers/Walks & Patios   Retaining Walls**  
**1 Year Warranty On All Paver Work**  
[www.outdoordecorlandscaping.com](http://www.outdoordecorlandscaping.com)





***Neighborhood Watch***  
*Don Mastrangelo*

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

Mail and newspapers should be collected, as leaving them accumulate indicates that no one is home.

**50 GET \$50.00 50**  
**Gift Card or On-Board Credit**  
 when booking your vacation  
 with AirShip Travel

**Specializing in Cruise & Disney**

**AirShip Travel**  
 Anthony  
 (856) 461-4002  
 AnthonyAirship@comcast.net  
 facebook.com/AnthonyAirshipTravel

Depending on the length of time you will be away, you can choose to stop deliveries or have a friendly neighbor collect them for you.

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

The Neighborhood Watch is always in need of Block Captains to supplement our current group. Volunteering to be a Block Captain only requires a minimal amount of time and is not confrontational. The duties include reporting suspicious activities that you see or which have been reported to you and generally advising neighbors of what they can do to secure their properties. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Don Mastrangelo at [anganddonretired@yahoo.com](mailto:anganddonretired@yahoo.com) or 788-4876.

***Block Captains***

**Chairperson: Don Mastrangelo 788-4876**  
**Administrative Asst. Tony Scaricamazza 927-6818**

| Street    | House#  | Block Captain          | Phone        |
|-----------|---------|------------------------|--------------|
| Bluebell  | All     | Sam Salierno           | 365-8112     |
| Daffodil  | Even    | Barbara Gordon         | 788-8431     |
|           | Odd     | Bob Kennedy            | 856-261-0331 |
| Ivy       | Even    | Barbara Gordon         | 788-8431     |
|           | Odd     | Bob Kennedy            | 856-261-0331 |
| Lily      | 200-215 | Judith Rivero          | 432-3113     |
|           | 216-230 | Rich Johnson           | 856-296-0944 |
|           | 231-242 | Bill Polko             | 365-2340     |
|           | 231-242 | Dan Montagna           | 576-5487     |
|           | 243-257 | Herb Moskowitz         | 365-2329     |
| Marigold  | 1-16    | Jim Cira               | 402-2861     |
|           | 17-35   | Steve Cappadona        | 653-4215     |
| Poppy     | 1-41    | Fred Moderski          | 653-0116     |
| Primrose  | 2-30    | John DaPrato           | 926-4977     |
| Snowdrop  | 100-117 | Joe & Bonnie Carluccio | 365-2574     |
|           | 118-144 | Don Mastrangelo        | 788-4876     |
| 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 Hern                | 653-1488     |
| Violet    | Odd     | Sam Salierno           | 365-8112     |



# The Happy Hour Club

**VGEM's Newest Club**  
Co-Chairs Lynnda & Lou Golin



We are pleased to announce that our previous casual Friday night Happy Hour events have become an official VGEM Board of Trustees sanctioned club.

The Happy Hour Club is open to all members of the Community. The Friday night Happy Hour season will run from October through May and there will be annual dues of \$5.00, payable by check, per person. The dues will cover the cost of paper goods, name tags, ice and any other items that may be requested by members. Dues will be collected at the event by either the Club Co-Captains or the Happy Hour Evening Host(s) at the October 21<sup>st</sup> Happy Hour or at the time of your first attendance. All monies collected will be handed in to the Community Manager to be deposited in an account earmarked "Happy Hour Club". There is no need to sign up ahead of time and you can join the club at any time during the season. All attendees must have a signed Hold Harmless form on file.

The Club will be asking for volunteers to take turns hosting the monthly events. Hosts will be responsible for soliciting the help of attendees in setting up and taking down the tables, setting out and putting away the paper products, obtaining and setting out the ice, and collecting dues from first time attendees in the Club Co-Captains absence.

The theme of the Happy Hour gatherings will remain the same, BYOB and an appetizer or dessert to share. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet new neighbors, get together with old friends and just have fun. Contact Lynnda or Lou Golin with any questions: 609-6788-8055.

*Please come join us!*



## Friday Happy Hour Schedule

- October 21, 2016
- November 18, 2016
- January 27, 2017
- February 24, 2017
- March 24, 2017
- April 28, 2017
- May 26, 2017

# Dine Around Club

Shirley & Howard Bernstein



Since our last Gazette, Dine Around Chefs have been doing great things! Our French menu included everything from Beef Burgundy to Frog's Legs and desserts from Chocolate Mousse to Crepes all accompanied by appropriate wines. Truly a very successful month.



Next we went to an easy evening of crockpot cooking. It is amazing what delicious dinners can be made in a slow cooker. Chicken with artichokes and sausage with tomatoes and onions are two examples. Even dessert can be made in a crockpot. Try chocolate fudge cake with peppermint served warm with vanilla ice cream! Everyone enjoyed this easy cook night.

Our 2016 Dine Around year is coming to a close. To celebrate, we are giving the great chefs a night off. Our October event will be held in a local restaurant with cocktails and dinner.

The 2017 season will start in January. Anyone interested in dining with new and old friends can join us for the new season. Just e-mail us at shirlhow2@gmail.com or call Shirley at (609) 788-8331. We will be happy to give you any and all information about our Club.



## BRICKSCAPES

609-661-9026

- ◆ Mulching
- ◆ Flower Planting
- ◆ Paver and Landscape Wall Installation
- ◆ Landscape Design and Installation
- ◆ Specialized Flowerbed Irrigation Systems

Fully Licensed and Insured

# “fyi”

## Speaker Smorgasbord

By Jim Lichtenwalner and Doug Beaupit

Recent “fyi” Club meetings featured a wide array of topics. In June, the EHT Historical Society took us on a trip down memory lane as they provided a slide show showing glimpses of EHT from years ago and compared them with the same view today. More than once I heard comments from attendees saying “I went to that school!” or “I went to that park”. Even I have to admit remembering some of the sights that are now gone forever.

July took on a more ambitious topic. Ellie Weiss gave us some motivation to get organized when she presented helpful hints on decluttering. We all walked away with lots of ideas... now if I only had the ambition and energy! The August presentation featured a panel discussion on solar energy and the feedback has been very positive.

Our September 20 meeting featured Vince Jones of Atlantic County Emergency Management who presented “Emergency Management – Storm Preparedness“. The November 15 meeting will feature Volunteer Opportunities at Shore Medical Center.

“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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Grande Room at the Clubhouse. We are open to all topics of interest to our residents; and welcome your suggestions. Come on out, join your neighbors and find out “What is going on around us”.



## Welcome Club

### “On the Lookout for New Residents”

By Kathleen Cira and Jim Lichtenwalner

The Welcome Club’s biggest challenge is to identify new residents as soon as they move into the neighborhood. It sometimes takes 6-8 weeks after settlement for the paperwork to reach the Clubhouse office, so it would be a big help if when you know a new neighbor moves in you let the Community Manager, Cynthia Williams, know. You can give her a call at 609-788-8405 or email her at [c.williams@dilucia.com](mailto:c.williams@dilucia.com).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Over the last several months we have greeted over 20 new residents and welcomed them to the Community. This hopefully initiates an interest in becoming active in some of the many opportunities available here at VGEM.

The Welcome Desk continues to be available to address resident questions every weekday.

On August 23, we held a “Welcome to HOA Living” discussion inviting all new residents to attend. This presentation allows new residents to meet each other and learn about what it is like to live in an HOA community. Over the last two and one half years over 120 residents have attended.

If you are interested in helping to welcome our newest residents to VGEM, contact Kathleen Cira at 609-788-8858 or Jim Lichtenwalner at [lichtenwal@aol.com](mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com) or at 484-225-4756.

## MEDICARE

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

Call our Linwood office to learn about  
your MEDICARE options.

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

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



**Hafetz**  
and Associates

609 New Road, Linwood NJ 08221



# Poolside Grille

## VGEM Says Thank You to Marsha & Dennis Goldberg

By Tom Santucci

VGEM says thank-you to Marsha and Dennis Goldberg for assuming the huge responsibility of managing the Poolside Grille for a second season. From May 27th though September 8th, the Goldbergs have worked tirelessly to maintain the VGEM tradition of "No Cook Wednesdays".



*Marsha & Dennis Goldberg beside the grill as they have done on Wednesdays for over three months during the last two this summer.*

The idea of a weekly BBQ was the brainchild of Mickey England and Jim Lichtenwalner, Co-Chairs of the FUNd-Raising Committee, in the summer of 2012. They named it the "Bocce Grill" which endured until it was renamed The Poolside Grille in 2015 as part of the Special Events Committee. Through the hard work of the Goldbergs, Wednesday evenings in the summer continue to be special.



*Pat Roche and Howard Bernstein take orders*

Let's all join together and say thanks to Marsha and Dennis Goldberg along with all of the other volunteers and bid farewell to another grand season. We very much appreciate all the work that went into the last two seasons that Marsha and Dennis managed the Poolside Grille! You have earned a well-deserved retirement from Wednesday evening grilling. Thanks again!

## Thank you!

I have no feelings or words known to express my appreciation to the many of my neighbors and friends during these past weeks. Your prayers and feelings have been encouraging to my recovery.

I am doing well, getting stronger as well as improving in reading and writing daily. I am also looking forward to being more active as the future passes.



Again, my thanks and best wishes –

*David VanZant and Ruth too*

## Smoke Alarm Battery Change Program



**October 22, 2016**

**Beginning at 10 AM, the EHT's Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Department will again be changing batteries in your smoke alarms.**

**Sign up is required and residents must supply the 9-volt batteries.**

**A \$15 donation is recommended**

**Sign Up Sheet on the Clubhouse Concierge Counter**

**Arranged by the Government Liaison Committee**

# *Social Cohesiveness in Adult Communities* **How is VGEM doing?**

*By Terry Giannetti*



I usually cover topics related to individual physical and emotional health. This article departs from that focus by examining the determinants of a healthy community and is probably more of an editorial than a basic health article. Most information available looks at healthy communities in terms of disease, health, wellness and financial stability. As VGEM

continues to grow, welcoming new neighbors and valuing existing ones, the focus of this article from this point forward will be on the development of cohesive groups and neighborhoods.

According to a study on social cohesion of community-dwelling older adults published by the National Institute of Medicine (NIH), the neighborhood social environment is an important aspect of people's well-being and is an important factor in the feeling of support and connectedness. The study concluded that the strengthening of relationships among neighbors and creation of a sense of belonging is necessary to improve well-being, especially among older adults over time. As we age, we look to areas other than jobs, health and social status to gain a sense of well-being. Because of this, support and affection gained within the community become more significant factors to personal satisfaction.

So, how do community members promote this needed and desired social cohesion? Research on group dynamics strongly indicates that the first step is to establish norms which are standards and attitudes by which the organization operates.



Within any established group, it is helpful to periodically look at the norms objectively to determine if they remain appropriate. If the norms are routinely broken, it might be necessary to formalize them or adjust them to be more appropriate to the needs of community. If leadership of a community deviates from the norm, research indicates that a rationale for that deviation should be shared with the entire community.

Group development includes three stages. The first stage is *inclusion* where people want to interact with others, feel comfortable in group settings, feel they belong

in the group setting and want to be seen as having a particular identity.

The second stage is *control needs* and involves "power". People tend to want some degree of influence and authority. To this end, behaviors can range from wanting their perspective heard, to a desire to control others. Other people may have a desire to give up control, freeing themselves of the burden of responsibility.

The third stage of group development relates to *affection needs*. It is one in which the climate is peaceful and tasks are cooperatively achieved. Additionally, there is evidence of emotional ties between people and the community being at its highest phase of productivity.

Group theory tells us that conflict is inevitable and we need people with control needs to drive processes forward and argue their perspectives. BUT...too many people with high control needs can derail everything. It is critical to have leadership that knows when and how to back off of control needs. It is also important to understand that every new member of a group goes through each of these stages, and that might make it difficult to move the overall group past the first stage of inclusion to reach the desired third stage.

With recognition of the factors that support and promote a healthy and high functioning community, VGEM can become a community in which we all enjoy a peaceful climate and a productive atmosphere. In the spirit of reaching this desired state, I am posing some questions and suggestions that are presently being discussed in our Community.

- Community leadership should publically identify the rationale for deviating from the norm of having all Trustees hold an officer position. This year a long standing and respected Board member was not voted to hold any officer position and a non-board member was given that responsibility. Without judgment of the individuals, it would be helpful to understand the reasons and criteria for this decision deviating from the norm.
- To help all residents gain a sense of inclusion, please hold public discussions of the expectations of all Committee members. An orientation at the first meeting of the new Committee year would help clarify the roles and responsibilities of each Committee member.
- Realistic expectation for Committee expansion should be considered and discussed with the existing members to preserve Committee norms.
- Consider making it a norm that Committee membership is based on a genuine desire to represent the best interests of the entire Community, rather than the personal agenda of the individual member.
- If a Committee member is removed from a Committee, a letter outlining the legitimate reason(s) for removal



should be issued, followed by an appeal process that involves the entire Board.

- When the Board created three new Committees and appointed the members and Chairpersons, why was this done without soliciting the entire Community for residents who might be interested in serving on one of these committees? This constitutes a deviation from the norm for the selection of committee members.
- Please consider public disclosure of the process for selecting Committee leaders and involve the entire Board in the chairperson selection process. Should it not be a norm that an experienced committee member serves as a chairperson?
- Community leadership should publicly explain the reason for not reappointing a Board representative to a Committee whose chairperson and members unanimously endorsed and recommended that the Trustee be reappointment as their Board Representative.
- To prevent such misunderstandings, the Board should consider public discussion on the process of assigning Board Representatives to committees. What is the basis and criteria for these decisions and who is involved in the decision making process?
- Consider a public discussion to develop healthy norms for community engagement with our committed committee volunteers. We are fortunate to have

dedicated and hardworking individuals serving the Community, and as a cohesive Community, we should decide on a fair and respectful process to make requests and voice concerns.

*Reference:* Cramm, JM, Nieboer, AP: *Social cohesion and belonging predict the well-being of community-dwelling older people.* BioMed Central Geriat. 2015;15:30. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4369354/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4369354/)



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

- **Robert Johns** -

332 Sunflower Drive  
May 5, 2016

- **Rose Eisenstein** -

29 Marigold Circle  
July 4, 2016



# Call Now For Fall Planting and Cleanups

"WE KICK THE COMPETITIONS GRASS"

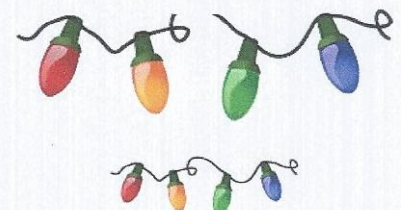
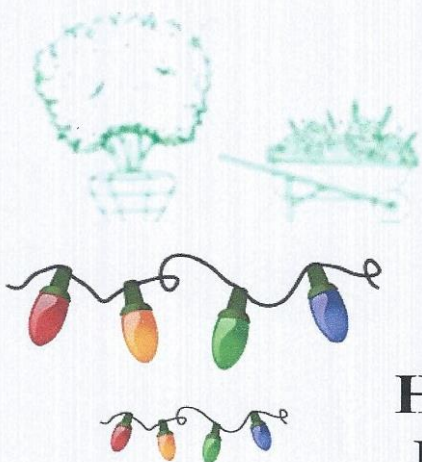
MCGOWAN  
LANDSCAPING

926-6878

10% OFF  
HOLIDAY LIGHT  
INSTALLATION

NEW CUSTOMERS ONLY

MUST PRESENT A COPY OF THIS AD AT TIME OF ESTIMATES



## WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS October/November/December 2016

### MONDAY

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 – Ends 10/11  
 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

9:30 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday  
 5:30 PM Billiards – “8-Ball” – Starting Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 6:30 PM Intermediate Line Dancing  
 7 PM Bridge Club



### THURSDAY

10 AM Water Aerobics - PND  
 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

10 AM Walk Away the Pounds  
 11:15 AM Yoga

### SATURDAY

### SUNDAY

Noon Mahjong – Card Room 1



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

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

*Flyers are Available at the Clubhouse*

**Cynthia Williams**  
 VGEM Community Manager  
 Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
 9 AM – 5 PM

No Office Hours on Thursday  
 609-788-8405

[c.williams@dilucia.com](mailto:c.williams@dilucia.com)

### 2016 HOA Board Meeting Schedule

**October 11**  
**November 1**  
**December 13**

*All Meetings are on Tuesday at 6:30 PM*  
**Grande Room**

### Meet with the Board

“Meetings with Homeowners”  
 on the fourth Tuesday  
 of the month at 3:30 PM.

All meetings shall be by appointment only.  
 Each session will be allotted 15 minutes.

**October 25**   **November 22**  
**No Session on December 27**

Please contact Cynthia for an appointment.

### Women’s Breakfast

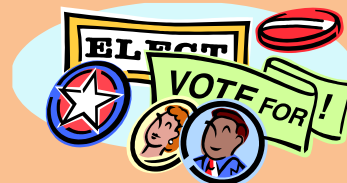
Shore Diner at 9:30 AM

**October 31**   **November 28**  
 No Breakfasts in December

### Men’s Club Breakfast

Golden Corral at 9 AM

**October 28**  
 No Breakfasts in November & December



*Vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>*  
**Presidential Election**



**MONTHLY EVENTS**  
**October 2016**

Saturday, October 1: 9:30 AM - 11 AM

**Fall Breakfast**  
**Hot Breakfast Food**



Grande Room

Sponsored by the Social Committee

Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 PM

**Open HOA Board Meeting**

Grande Room



Tuesday, October 18 at 6:30 PM

**Government Liaison Committee**

*Presents*

**"The Impact of the  
Casino Referendum"**

**Judge Steven A. Perskie**

Grande Room



Tuesday, October 25 at 6:30 PM

**Veterans Club Meeting**

Grande Room



Saturday, October 29 at 7 PM

**Halloween Party**

**Join Us in Costume or Not!**

**Snacks & Desserts**

**BYOB & Dancing**

**Music by Posse Productions**

**Cost TBA - Reserve Early**

Grande Room

Sponsored by the Social Committee



**November 2016**

Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30 PM

**HOA Board Meeting**

Grande Room

Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 PM

**"fyi" Club**

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**At Shore Memorial Hospital**

Grande Room

Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25:

**Manager's Office Closed**

**Happy  
Thanksgiving**



Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 PM

**HOA Town Meeting**

**Budget & Financial Performance**

**Jim Lichtenwalner, Board President**

**Don Cheattle, VGEM Treasurer**

Grande Room

**December 2016**

Tuesday, December 6 at 3:30 PM

**HOA Advisory Committee**

Grande Room



Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 PM

**HOA Board Meeting**

Grande Room

Tuesday, December 20 at 6:30 PM

**"fyi" Club**

**Real Estate Update**

Grande Room



Saturday, December 31 at 8 PM

**New Year's Eve Party**

**In the planning stage!**

**BYO & Dancing**

**Music by Posse Productions**

Grande Room

Sponsored by the Social Committee



# Book Bunch Club Calendar - 2016



This season we have not only read some interesting books but also had some fun events outside the Clubhouse. We meet the third Monday of the month at 4 PM in the Clubhouse. New members are always welcome to join us.

October 17: "Me Before You" by JoJo Moyes. – Barbara Gordon

November 21: "Miller's Valley" by Anna Quindlen. – Debbie McGrath

December 19\*: "The Christmas Cookie Club" by Ann Perlman.

\*The December 19<sup>th</sup> gathering will be in the Clubhouse Library from 2:00-4:00 PM. Following the book review, there will be "A Holiday Cookie Exchange" with a short discussion of recipes and Holiday tasting.

**The VGEM Men's Club  
presents**

## **The 2016 Holiday Gift Giving Drive**

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

**2016 Goal: \$6,000**

**This 8th Annual Holiday  
Gift Giving Drive  
will accept contributions from  
November 1<sup>st</sup> until December 12<sup>th</sup>**

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

## **Men's Club**

# **2016 Holiday Gift Giving Drive**

*By Herb Moskowitz*



The Men's Club of VGEM has selected the Egg Harbor Township High School for our 2016 Holiday Gift Giving Drive. For those of you who are new residents to our Community, the Men's Club initiated this program in 2009 with the goal of helping needy children in our Township. Since 2009,

our Community has supported the Davenport School, the Miller School and the High School raising over \$25,000. At the end of each year's Holiday Gift Giving Drive, \$100 Gift Cards are purchased from Target (the only major store who does not sell tobacco products) that are given to the selected school, to be distributed to the most needed families.

This 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Giving Drive will start on Tuesday November 1st and end on Monday, December 12, 2016. Please deliver your checks made payable to VGEM Men's Club to Herb Moskowitz, 245 Lily Road, or place your check in the white box outside the Manager's Office in the Club House.

Our goal for 2016 is \$6,000. The Men's Club and the VGEM Community takes great pride and pleasure that in the 7<sup>th</sup> previous Holiday Giving Drives, we have always exceeded our goal for this worthy cause.

We are hopeful that residents of VGEM Community, will again come together and support this wonderful cause. Without your help, this cannot be accomplished.





# Every Vote Counts!

## A Presidential Election Year Quiz

By Annette Scaricamazza

- The eligible voter turnout in the 2012 Presidential election.  
(A) 37% (B) 46%  
(C) 57.5% (D) 73%
- He served both terms as Reagan's vice-president.  
(A) Quayle (B) Bush  
(C) Ford (D) Gore
- Fifty three of the current 435 members of Congress come from this state.  
(A) Florida (B) Texas  
(C) New York (D) California
- The annual salary of the President in 2016.  
(A) \$200,000 (B) \$400,000  
(C) \$550,000 (D) \$750,000



- Kennedy beat Nixon by less than 113,000 popular votes.  
(A) True (B) False



- At 135 words, his was the shortest Inaugural Address.  
(A) FDR (B) Clinton  
(C) Truman (D) Washington
- Geraldine Ferraro ran as vice-president with this presidential candidate.  
(A) Dukakis (B) McGovern  
(C) McCain (D) Mondale
- This state's hanging chad held up the outcome of the 2000 Presidential election.  
(A) Florida (B) Alabama  
(C) Georgia (D) Ohio
- The longest serving Senator with over 51 uninterrupted years.  
(A) T. Kennedy (B) S. Thurmond  
(C) D. Inouye (D) R. Byrd



- Of the 538 electoral votes, how many are needed to win the Presidential election.  
(A) 250 (B) 262 (C) 270 (D) 273



- Residents of Washington, DC cannot vote in the Presidential election.  
(A) True (B) False
- This NBA Hall of Famer was a U.S. Senator from New Jersey.  
(A) J. Kemp (B) J. Bunning  
(C) B. Bradley (D) G. Tunney
- Eight Presidents were born in this state.  
(A) Ohio (B) New York  
(C) Massachusetts (D) Virginia
- Second in line to succeed the President.  
(A) Vice-President (B) Attorney General  
(C) Senate President (D) House Speaker
- Only the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court can give the oath of office to the President.  
(A) True (B) False
- In 1800, he was the first President to occupy the White House.  
(A) Adams (B) Madison  
(C) Jefferson (D) Washington
- Nixon's Presidential Library is located here.  
(A) Whittier (B) Simi Valley  
(C) Irvine (D) Yorba Linda



- First time women could vote.  
(A) 1904 (B) 1912  
(C) 1920 (D) 1924
- Al Gore won the popular vote in 2000.  
(A) True (B) False
- Which party has won the most Presidential Elections?  
(A) Democratic (B) Federalist  
(C) Whig (D) Republican

Quiz Answers on page 27

## *Helpful Hints*

### 16 Homemade Carpet Stain Removers

Submitted by Mary Moskovitz

1. **Beer:** Pour beer right on top of coffee or tea stains. Rub lightly - Repeat if necessary.
2. **Ammonia:** Lift stains from carpeting & upholstery by sponging with solution of 1 cup clear ammonia and 64 ounces of warm water.
3. **Vinegar:** Rub **light carpet stains** with 2 Tablespoons salt in 1/2 cup white vinegar. For darker stains add 2 Tablespoons borax to the above mixture. For tough, ground in dirt & other stains, make a paste of 1 Tablespoon white vinegar with 1 Tablespoon cornstarch & rub into stain with a dry cloth & let set for 2 days then vacuum.
4. **Shaving Cream:** Blot juice stains, grease & oil stains with shaving cream, wipe clean with damp sponge.



5. **Cornstarch:** Mix milk with cornstarch to make a paste & apply on dry carpet for 4 hours, brush off & vacuum. Sprinkle cornstarch on grease & oil stains, let sit several hours & vacuum up.
6. **Salt:** Pour some white wine on red wine while still wet & clean spot with a sponge & cold water and then sprinkle the area with salt & wait 10 minutes & then vacuum. For greasy food stains on carpet, mix 1 part salt to 4 parts rubbing alcohol, rub hard on the stain & rub in direction of the rug's nap. Ketchup spill on your carpet? Act fast because once this one dries, it will be nearly impossible to get out. Sprinkle salt over the spill, let sit for a few minutes, and vacuum. Sponge up any residue and continue salting and vacuuming until the stain is completely gone.
7. **Borax:** Thoroughly dampen the stained area, then rub in some Borax. Let the area dry, then vacuum or blot it with a solution of equal parts vinegar and soapy water and let dry. Repeat if necessary.
8. **WD-40:** Spray the stain with WD-40, wait a minute or two, and then use your regular carpet cleaner or gently cleanse with a sponge and warm, soapy water. Continue until the stain is completely gone.
9. **Hydrogen Peroxide:** Can't tell what that stain is? Still want to remove it? Mix a teaspoon of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide with a little cream of tartar or a dab of non-gel toothpaste. Rub the paste on the stain with a soft cloth. Rinse.
10. **Baking Soda:** Wipe up vomit or urine stains then pour baking soda over the area & pat with a paper towel. Let dry before vacuuming.
11. **Meat Tenderizer:** Cover blood stains with equal parts cold water & meat tenderizer. Let sit for 30 minutes & sponge off with cold water.
12. **Club Soda:** use on pet urine, coffee or tea. Immediately blot up, soak with club soda & blot again and scrub with diluted carpet shampoo.
13. **Baby Wipes:** Good to blot up spills from carpet, clothing & upholstered furniture.
14. **Ice Cubes:** Chewing gum somehow end up stuck to the fibers of your carpet? Freeze the gum first with ice cubes in a plastic bag, then scrape with a butter knife and blot with trichloroethylene, a dry-cleaning fluid.
15. **Dry-Cleaning Fluid:** Dry-cleaning fluid is excellent at removing grease, lipstick, butter, and mysterious oily fingerprints. Blot up excess oil with a paper towel, and then work the fluid into the stain, moving from the edges to the center.
16. **Paint Remover:** For spilled nail polish, paint, or leaked ink, dab gently with paint remover. If that fails, try dabbing with dry-cleaning fluid.

**References on the Web:** [www.rd.com/home/cleaning-organizing/homemade-carpet-stain-removers/](http://www.rd.com/home/cleaning-organizing/homemade-carpet-stain-removers/)



*Complete Professional Nail Care*  
*Air Brush, Hand Designs & Waxing*

**Walk-in Welcome**

(609) 484-9695, 484-9585

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

318 Tilton Road  
Northfield, NJ 08225

**Special Offer**  
**for Residents of**  
**Village Grande at English Mill**

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





## No More RoBo Calls

From Art Richman

Do you hate getting calls from a computer or from someone trying to sell something? I did. Now I do not get them anymore!!!

There is a web site titled [www.nomorobo.com](http://www.nomorobo.com) that will give you some peace again. It is a free service for land lines, and there is a \$4.95 charge per month for cell phone. Since I do not have a problem with the cell phone, I did not subscribe for this service. So far on my landline, only 2 calls have gotten through out of about 70. Here is what you should do.

1. Go to the web site [www.nomorobo.com](http://www.nomorobo.com) and look at the 1 minute video.
2. Click on get started. There are about 7 easy steps you will follow to get setup.
3. First step is to check if your carrier is supported. Comcast and Verizon are two of the 17 that are supported.
4. The type you will select is Landline/VOIP for free landline. You will also enter your email address because they will be sending you emails at various steps. You will get an email with a link to have you give them more information including your phone number.

After several other steps, you will eventually enter the phone number, they provide, in your information that your carrier has about you. The call will be forwarded to this number so they can decide if this is a good call you are getting or a computer call.

Once your number is set up properly, they will do a test call to confirm everything is working. After that point, the RoBo calls will still give you one ring and then will go to never-never land. I no longer get calls at 9 PM. I am also finding there are less RoBo calls since I set this up.

If you are not satisfied, you can stop the service via the online screen. Remember, if you follow each step properly, your life will improve!

### Answers to Every Vote Counts!

Quiz on page 25

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

## Men's Club

By Herb Moskowitz

Earlier this year the Men's Club of VGEM asked its member what to do with the excess money in their account. It was recommended that the Men's Club donate \$150 to the Social Committee to purchase necessary items to make their jobs easier. As always, the Social Committee was very appreciative of the generosity of the Men's Club.

The Men's Club sponsored an outing to the Phillies vs the Pittsburg Pirates on Monday September 12<sup>th</sup> that included transportation to and from Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia. The seats were located in Section 135 on the third base line. The Phillies beat the Pirates, 6 - 3. A wonderful night was had by all.

Fifty residents of VGEM attended a Driver Safety Course sponsored by AARP. The cost was \$15 per person for AARP members and \$20 for non-members. The benefits for taking this course was a 5% reduction in your auto insurance for the next three years. And more important, a great refresher course on driver skills. AARP will offer this course every three years to residents of VGEM.

The Men's Club Breakfasts are scheduled for the last Friday of the month throughout the year with the exception of November and December. The Men's Club welcomes and encourages all male residents to come out and join us for breakfast and friendship. What a great way to meet all your neighbors, both old and new!!!



# DRIVER SAFETY

AARP Real Possibilities

## October 19, 2016 9 AM – 2 PM

This driver safety course is sponsored by AARP and will reduce your car insurance rates by at least 5%.

Cost: \$15 for AARP Members  
\$20 for Non-AARP Members

Checks should be made payable to AARP and must be submitted in advance.

Bring your AARP Membership card

**Sign-up Sheet in the Clubhouse**

## Sports Talk

Tony Scaricamazza



By the time you read this, summer will be officially over and most of the organized league schedules will be over for the year while indoor sporting activities will be in play such as billiards and bowling. There will also be beautiful fall days ahead to get

together with your neighbors for informal, impromptu play of bocce, golf, pickleball, tennis, etc.

Whatever the choices, more and more are enjoying all that this Community offers. None of this is possible without the efforts of the many club captains who volunteer their time to provide you with these activities and the means to meet and socialize with your neighbors. So, a big thanks to all the Sports Club Captains for the 2016 Season: Bill Hofmann, Joe Carluccio, Jim Lichtenwalner, Dave Van Zant, Jim Cira, Dan Montagna, Don Mastrangelo, Mike Segal, Terry Stevens, Peggy Milhan, Jane Narke, Nancy Werden, Connie DaPrato, Doug Beauptit, and Bill Giannetti. *Contact information for all Clubs appears in the new VGEM Resident Directory.*



## Fall Magic

### Turns 9-Ball into 8-Ball

Jim Lichtenwalner

As the leaves begin to turn, the Billiards Room also sees a metamorphosis. Gone is 9-Ball and suddenly the game of 8-Ball dominates the environment. The 9-Ball season is just coming to an end and several teams are still in contention to be at the top of the pack.

Looking ahead, the Billiards Club is about to embark on its 6<sup>th</sup> Season of 8-Ball and you can join the fun. Members of the Billiards Club are anxious to start league play on November 2 and we are always looking for new members. Teams will compete each week into early spring. You don't have to be an expert, just someone who wants to have some fun. The league is open to both men and women. Even if you never played pool before, you are welcome and guaranteed to have fun. I suggest you speak to your friends and neighbors who participated last year. I'm sure they will be

happy to tell you how much they enjoyed the camaraderie every Wednesday evening.

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

## Women's Bocce

Terry Stevens



Another great season of women's bocce has ended. It has been full of fun and friendship. We had 8 teams with a full roster of 64 players. Next year, if the number of players continues to multiply, we will need to look at starting earlier, perhaps at 4:30 PM, or extending play to 2 nights to accommodate everyone.

The team captains did a fantastic job and I would like to mention them by name: Betsy Gallagher for the *Grande Ladies*, Yolanda Osowski for *Still Hot Stuff*; Joyce Conly for *Grande Girls*, Nancy Werden for *Golden Girls*, Betty Alberts for *Pacesetters*, Barbara Ann Villon for *Vamps*, Paulette Harnett for the *Rockettes* and Joan Viventi for the *Grande Dames*.

The bocce committee arranged a fantastic banquet at Ballamor Golf Club on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The championship team, *the Golden Girls*, led by Nancy Werden, were awarded their plaque and the 7 runner up teams enjoyed the ambience and for some members a little of the fine spirits. The new women's bocce committee consists of Betsy Gallagher, Mary Moskovitz, Shirley Walters and Michelle Santoro. Please look for next year's sign up date in a future edition of the Grande Gazette.



*The Champion Golden Girls; Nancy Werden, Chicki Sinaglia, Peggy Milhan, Jane Narke, Doreen DeLucca & Connie DaPrato. Standing rear: Barbara McGee. Not Pictured: Mary Moskovitz*



## The Court Club

### Tennis, Pickleball & Horseshoes

Bill Giannetti

The summer has flown by, but there was plenty of action on the courts.



**TENNIS:** We played every Wednesday and Saturday in hot, humid sunny weather. Some of our players had injuries, some had trouble handling the heat, but each week the rest of us gathered and played. The courts look great after resurfacing. Because this was done in mid-July, we postponed hanging the wind screens until spring.

We know there are more people in our Community who are interested in playing so we are inviting them to come and join us now that the cooler days are here. There is still a tennis clinic every Tuesday from 9 to 10 AM.

**PICKLEBALL:** After resurfacing, we now have 4 courts for play and on most days all courts are being used. More residents have started to play so there is plenty of action and competition. On Labor Day, we had 29 players show up! The pickleball clinic will continue each Tuesday from 10 to 11 AM for those who would like to try this wonderful game.



Some of the over 29 pickleball players on Labor day

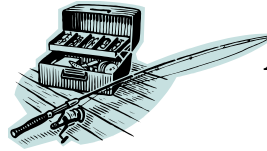
I spoke to the director at the EHT Community Center and he is revising the schedule listed in the Current to provide us with more playing time in the morning. As soon as I receive his revision, I will pass it on.



**HORSESHOES:** Two new courts were installed next to the Bocce courts in July with a lot of help and grunt work from some of your neighbors. Jim Henry was able to provide some construction equipment which eliminated a lot of digging so all we

needed to do was just finish off the pits. Thank you Jim and all my loyal helpers!

No regular schedule has been established as yet, but I have been encouraging people to join us on Thursdays at 6 PM to try their skill at this game.



## Anglers Club

Bill Hofmann

The spring and summer season of 2016 started off cool and wet and then turned to record breaking hot and humid. Evidently the fish are smarter than us and must have left our waters to move to more comfortable locations.



The Anglers fishing club took two pontoon trips this season and even though most of the fish were on vacation we did manage to catch enough to keep things interesting. These trips have evolved over the last eight years and are well attended by anyone looking for a fun morning on the beautiful back bays of the Jersey shore. We look forward to an offshore trip in October,

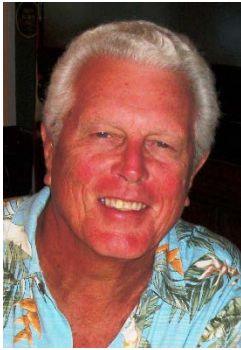
November or whenever the fish return from wherever they are. Look for an update on the time and date, and sign up for this eight hour fishing trip targeting Sea Bass and Tog. Thanks to Don Mastrangelo, Tony Scaricamazza, Jim LoBue, Joe and Bonnie Carluccio and Dennis Goldberg for their help in coordinating these events.



## 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 \$9 you get a ball, shoes, three games, lunch and a lot of fun. For \$6 you get all the above but can skip the lunch.

## Golf League Doug Beaupit



It has been a busy summer for the golf league. We have three events to report on: Golf League Match Play Tournament, Mays Landing Country Club (MLCC) Senior Club Championship, and the VGEM Golf Scramble.

### Golf League Match Play Tournament:

The month of August is devoted to coming up with a golf league champion and runner-up. The match play tournament consisted of 16 players who qualified. This year we had a double elimination tournament to keep the interest high. Ron Hires was the winner of the "Winning Bracket" and Joe Milone was the winner of the "Losers Bracket". Ron became champion by being up two holes with one to go. Congratulations to all for a great tournament. Both players will be added to the Golf League Plaque.



Runner-up Joe Milone  
with Champion  
Ron Hires on the right

### Mays Landing Country Club Senior Club Championship:

Each year MLCC comes up with club champions for different player categories. VGEM participates in the Men's Senior Club Championship Division. Eight of the golf league players entered the match play tournament. The finalists for the championship were both from VGEM, Bob Neuner and John DeLuca. Congrats go to the winner John DeLuca who won a close match in extra holes. The winning trophy and prize is awarded at the MLCC December Holiday Party.



MLCC Senior's Champion  
John DeLuca

**VGEM Scramble** on September 9<sup>th</sup>: This year we had 35 participants; 17 players were from the VGEM Golf League and there were 18 guests. We had 5 volunteers who registered the players and worked the course. Registration began at 7:30 AM by Marsha Goldberg, Howard and Shirley Bernstein and on the course at the par 3 was Tony Morris and Larry Levy. The long hot day was followed by a BBQ and the awarding of several prizes.



Prizes were awarded as follows:

- **Low Net Foursome:** Skip Castaldi, Joe Seaman, Gary Hanson & Gerry Arleth as pictured above
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Low Net Foursome:** Bob Nolan, Joe Gentile, Russ Miller & Larry Long pictured below



- **Highest Net Foursome:** Dennis Goldberg, Jim Cira, Don Cheatle, Steve Wiener
- **Closest to the Pin:** Ron Cefalone
- **Longest Drive:** Tom O'Reilly
- **Straightest Drive:** Bob Neuner



Special thanks to Mike Segal, with his foursome for being the Gazette's photographer for the Scramble



# Sports Club News



## Men's Bocce Tony Scaricamazza

The regular season ended on August 31 with the following standings.

### Division #1

| Team            | Captain         | Points |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 4-Rollers       | Jim Cira        | 37.5   |
| 2-Badda Bings   | Steve Cappadona | 35.5   |
| 12-Deboccery    | John Gallagher  | 18     |
| 6-Poppy Rd Gang | John DeLuca     | 17.5   |
| 8-Chewbocces    | Herb Moskovitz  | 13     |
| 10-Misfits      | Jim Berg        | 11     |

### Division #2

| Team            | Captain         | Points |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1-Brass B's     | Floyd Milhan    | 39     |
| 5-Blue B's      | Don Mastrangelo | 37     |
| 7-Bocce Bandits | Mike Segal      | 24.5   |
| 3-Players       | Dan Farbman     | 20.5   |
| 9-Spoilers      | Bill Giannetti  | 18.5   |
| 11-Shamrocks    | Fred Norman     | 15     |

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, a week after the end of the season, the first three teams in each Division played each other in the semi-finals to determine the Divisions' champion.

The games started at 4:30 PM under a bright sun and ended at 7:50 PM with only a crescent moon to light the courts. Chicki Sinagria provided a flashlight that was used to locate the pallino for the players.

In Division #1, the *Bada Bings* beat the *Deboccery* by scores of 10-6, 0-10, 10-0 advancing to the Division Final where they beat the *Rollers* 10-7, 8-10 and 10-6. In Division #2, the *Bocce Bandits* beat the *Blue B's* 9-10, 10-7 and 10-5 but lost to the *Brass B's* by scores of 3-10, 10-2 and 10-4.

The Division champs played each other for the League Championship on September 14<sup>th</sup> with the Division #2 *Brass B's* beating the Division #1 *Badda Bings* in a three

game set: 10-3, 1-10, 10-4. Congratulations to the 2016 Men's Bocce League Champions, the *Brass B's* who are pictured below. Seated: Tom Darcy, Captain Floyd Milhan and Ralph Carbone. Standing: Fred Moderski & Rich Johnson. Not pictured: Gus Lewis.



*The Champion "Brass B's"*

Also, congratulations for a great season to the *Badda Bings*: Captain Steve Cappadonna, Jim Lichtenwalner, Don Hinspeter, Al Mancini, Tony Morris and Ron Sinagria.

An excellent banquet followed which was put together by Don Mastrangelo ably assisted by Mike Segal and Dan Montagna and many others. Also thanks to all those who set the tables, put out and served the food, provided the desserts as well as those who helped with the cleaning. All these volunteers made for a great evening. Finally, hats off to the five Commissioners - Jim Cira, Don Mastrangelo, Dan Montagna, Mike Segal and Dave Van Zant for their well-run season.



*As usual, the Championship Game draws a large crowd.*



# Spotlight On Your Neighbors

## Sue Wilds

By Pat Roche



Recently, I had the pleasure of reading “*The Language of Flowers*”. Belonging to the Garden Club, witnessing the eclectic array of flora décor used at the tea parties and the recent Flower Show as well as visiting the Philadelphia shows have given me a new insight in the part flowers play in our lives. Case in point is this issue’s subject for

my Spotlight on Your Neighbor column, Sue Wilds. Sue and her husband Bill, originally from Pennsylvania, have lived on Snowdrop Road for about two and a half years. They are well known for parenting two of the most beautiful standard poodles I have ever seen!

Sue has been interested in flowers from her high school days when she was hired to help out in a local florist. This small job was to become the seed of their lifetime business! She met Bill in a floral shop as he was an FTD representative and later they met again when she was designing for the State Floral Convention. Realizing they were both “workaholics,” they combined their knowledge to start a business and a family too! Again, seeds were planted, this time by their love of poodles. Their daughter was highly allergic to pet dander and the poodle was the perfect dog for that type allergy. “Penny” lived for 16 years and many dogs



followed. An interesting aside, at this time they were living across the street from our own Bill Giannetti. It is a small world! As their family flourished, so did their business. From a small refrigerator truck, they were able to expand to a large



Sue & Bill Wilds

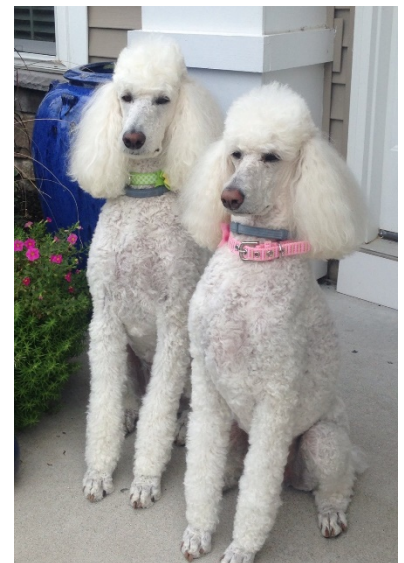


Decorating the Ford’s White House with Bill on the ladder and Sue unraveling the garland

warehouse, 17 trucks and 30 employees delivering flowers to three states!

One of their most demanding and challenging assignments was to be participants in decorating the White House for Christmas during the Ford administration. Sue tells of going to a flower room where they all participated in making garlands from scratch with greenery from Oregon. After the Holidays, Betty Ford invited them all for a celebratory luncheon, what a wonderful memory to have!

After 30 years in business they sold to the competition and are enjoying life with their two grandchildren and their Standards, Molly and Rosie. Sue still loves her flowers. In fact, she will help those of us who do not have a green thumb to make some holiday greenery this November. As she would say, “my poodles are my new full time job.” I would add, don’t forget the seeds of friendship at VGEM!



Molly & Rosie





# 4<sup>th</sup> of July Breakfast

By Chicki Sinaglia  
Co-Chairperson, Social Committee



On the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 105 residents sat down to an Independence Day Breakfast. The Grande Room was decorated in red, white and blue, as were many of our attendees. The continental breakfast food was more than ample; no one left hungry. Best of all, everyone mingled and seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Bill Wilds and Tony Morris performed this task. Special thanks to Dennis Goldberg who made the early run to Hot Bagels to pick up the freshest bagels possible and for help in cutting them, etc. Many thanks to all including those who helped break down the room at end of the event.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our catered Fall Breakfast on October 1<sup>st</sup>.



Regina Yuppa and Chicki Sinaglia were the chairpersons for this event. Their committee, Kathleen McGroarty, Bonnie Carluccio, Kathy Sorrell, Sue Paulu, Marsha Goldberg, Pat Gentile, and Marcy Gelman were invaluable in making this get together run so smoothly. A lot of prep work was involved and all rose to the task.



*Breakfast Team. Kathy Sorrell, Bonnie Carluccio, Marcy Gelman, Chicki Sinaglia, Regina Yuppa, Kathleen McGroarty, Pat Gentile & Sue Paulu.  
Not pictured – Marsha Goldberg*

We always appreciate our “muscle men” who come and set up all the tables and chairs for us. John DaPrato, Joe Carluccio, Rich Johnson, Ed Wenzke, Tom Darcy,





# Grande Garden Tour

By Jeannie Eckard, Co-Captain

On Wednesday July 13, 2016, the Garden Club held their walking tour of the beautiful gardens of our lovely village along with some gardens from the Fairways Community. After meeting at the Clubhouse parking lot, a group of residents from VGEM, who were able to tolerate the high temperatures of that day, participated in a walking/driving sightseeing excursion of the various and delightful gardens of our garden tour participants. Most people car pooled from house to house, but there were some who choose to brave the heat and walk.



Many thanks to the residents who took the time and effort to sign up and show the fruits of their labor by displaying their grounds laid out with flowers, trees, greenery and ornamental shrubs. What a treat it was to view all of this beauty right here in our own little community.



The garden tour started at 10 AM and by the time that it was over at 3 PM. we were all tired and thirsty. To our delight, our group was treated to refreshments of cookies and cold drinks by Selma Rosenblum in her lovely and

tastefully decorated back yard. We were, to say the least, most grateful to Selma for this lovely welcome gesture. Thank you again Selma.

Next year we are considering holding the tour on a Saturday which would allow our working residents to participate and appreciate all of the hard work involved keeping our little community's spectacular gardens a joy for all to view. Please make it a point to join us next June.



*Tour Director Jeannie Eckard*



*Relaxing in Selma's Yard*



*Hostess Selma Rosenblum with the Tour Director*



# Meet Your Neighbor Ice Cream Social

By Chicki Sinagria and Regina Yuppa  
Co-Chairs, Social Committee

With so many homes newly occupied in the Phase II of VGEM and the amount of recent resales in the original section, the Social Committee decided to hold an affair where the residents could meet and start new relationships. We planned a “Meet Your Neighbor” FREE Ice Cream Social to accomplish this goal. It was held on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.



It was a wonderful, huge success. The response was overwhelming. We had over 165 people sign up before we realized we had to serve all these people, possibly at the same time, without having long lines and melting ice cream. So, we had to cut off

the sign ups at this number and figure out how to do it. Luckily, with a lot of suggestions and “pre-testing” we managed to come up with a workable solution.

## ICE CREAM Meet & Mingle SOCIAL!



Our main goal was for people to “mingle” so we did not place any tables in the Grande Room other than those that held ice cream and toppings. We arranged chairs around the room in a pattern that encouraged conversation. There was also plenty of room to stand while conversing. We thank Rich Johnson, Joe Carluccio,

Dennis Goldberg, Bill Giannetti and Jim Henry for arranging the chairs and serving tables. We also thank our Board Representative, Jeannie Eckert, for helping us set up. While this event required all Committee members to participate, Regina Yuppa, Sheila Solomon and Chicki Sinagria chaired the event.

We are gratified by the stories of how many new and established neighbors met each other and the number of phone numbers that were exchanged. In addition, seven of VGEM’s “Classic Cars” adorned the Clubhouse parking lot.



*Celeste & Dan Cianci beside their 1966 Ford Mustang with a 289 hp engine with a four barrel carburetor*

While we are so pleased by the turnout, we are disappointed in the number of residents (35) who signed up and then did not attend. While we realize that things come up and plans change, we encourage everyone to inform the Committee when you are unable to attend so that other people who would have wanted to participate could have done so. Also, it would have saved us the added expense for the unneeded purchases.



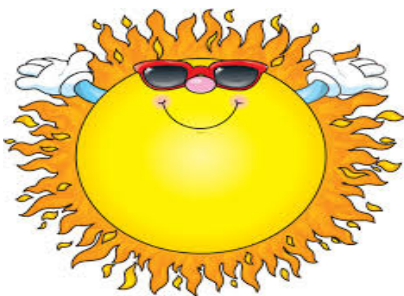
**VGEM Classic Cars**



# Summer Party 2016

## Wow, Did We Have a Party!!!

By Chicki Sinaglia, Co-Chair, Social Committee



On a not as humid nor as hot as we were experiencing summer night in August, we held our "Summer Party". We hosted our largest number of guests yet, both inside and out of the Clubhouse. Arrangements were made to seat all 150 guests in case of rain. Luckily, we did not have to go to that plan.

We had great barbeque themed food catered by T. Wakes Catering along with watermelon, delicious cookies and ice cream for dessert. Music was once again provided by Posse Productions featuring Aggie and Jim Henry. There were two dance contests and an attempt at having Karaoke, but we had no brave takers.

The committee chaired by Bill Giannetti, Barbara Ann Villon and Regina Yuppa, did a fantastic job. Originally the committee consisted of Bonnie Carluccio, Joan Viventi, Marcy Gelman, and Chicki Sinaglia, but Kathleen McGroarty, Sue Paulu, Kathy Sorrell, Sheila Solomon, Aggie Henry and Pat Gentile jumped in to give

us the much needed extra help. It was a full press task. The beautiful seashell themed centerpieces were created by BA Villon.

Many thanks to Lou Golin and Jeanne Eckard for being the photographers for this event, and to Ed Wenzke, Bill Giannetti, Bill Wilds, Randy Krehel, Tom Darcy, John DaPrato and Joe Carluccio for setting up the tables and chairs in all of the rooms we used. It may be repetitious but we are so grateful to all those who help with the break down and clean up after the events.



Co-Chairs Chicki Sinaglia & Regina Yuppa with Kathleen McGroarty.

We hope all who attended had a really great time since your enjoyment was our main goal.



The Social Committee Summer Party Team that staged the largest and one of the best VGEM parties ever!



# SUMMER



*BFF - Former resident Sybil Lazowick & Selma Roseblum*



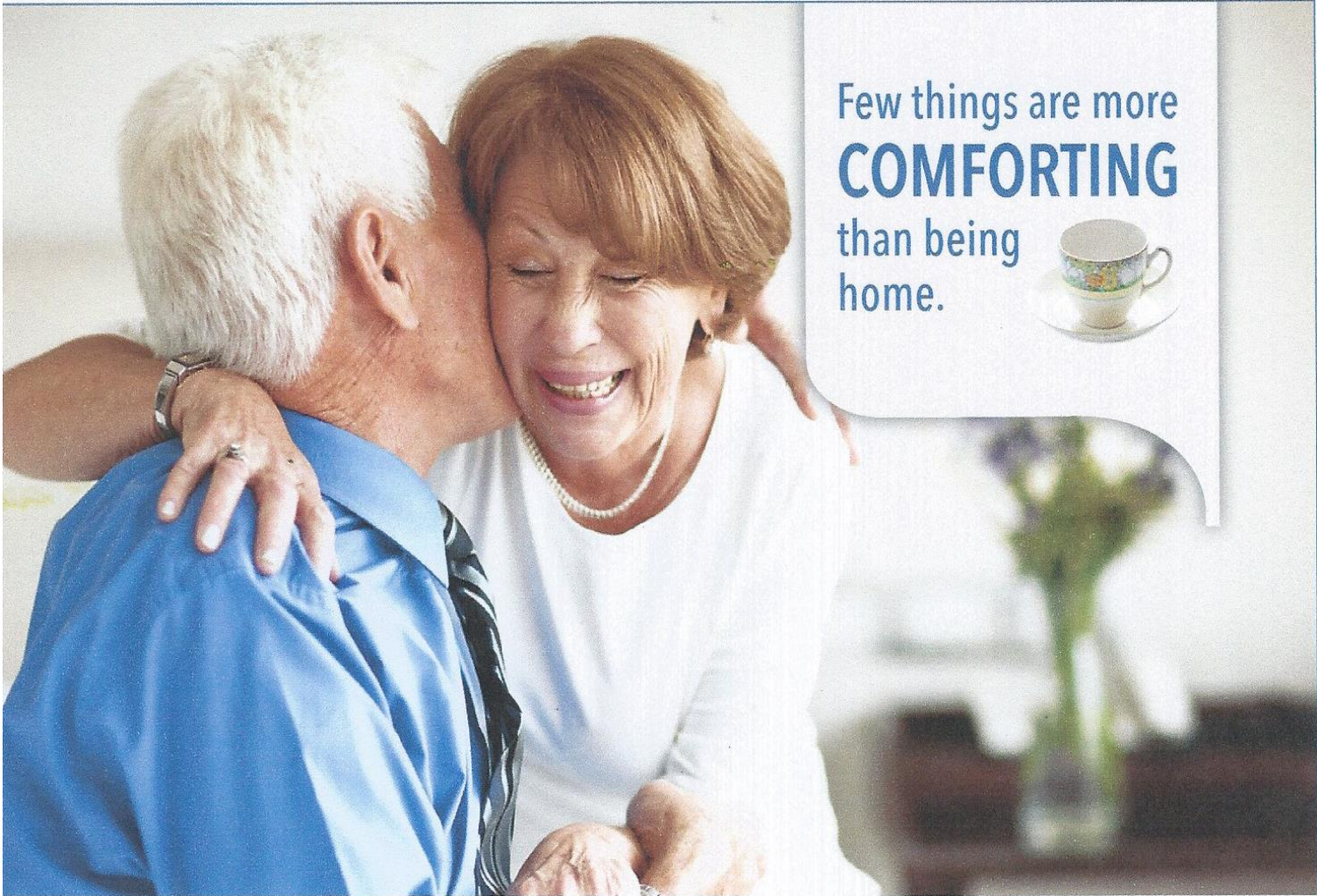




And the next table served is ... - Jim Henry







Few things are more  
**COMFORTING**  
than being  
home.



**YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO FAR FOR THE BEST CARE.**

In fact, you don't have to go anywhere at all. Holy Redeemer HomeCare brings compassionate, professional care to you. Our skilled nurses and therapists carry out your physician's individual plan of treatment—all in the comfort of your home.

---

HomeCare • Hospice | 888-678-8678

---

After all, Life's Calling.



[holyredeemer.com](http://holyredeemer.com)





Don't Miss This...

# Prime Time

to buy a New or Used Vehicle!



## \$500 BELOW GM SUPPLIER EMPLOYEE PRICING

(ALL 2015/2016'S) NO HASSLE, NO BACK AND FORTH, JUST AN HONEST UPFRONT PRICE. PLUS YOU KEEP ALL REBATES UP TO \$7,000

GOING ON NOW  
**HURRY  
TODAY!**

## Non Commissioned Sales Staff.

Our sales team is paid based on Customer Satisfaction, Not Profit.



# \$6,000

## GUARANTEED MINIMUM TRADE VALUE!

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

[www.bennettchevrolet.com](http://www.bennettchevrolet.com)

6721 Black Horse Pike  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234



FIND NEW ROADS™

# 609-641-0444

THANK YOU FOR BEING AN EDUCATED CONSUMER! NO GAMES HERE, JUST UPFRONT REAL DEALS. PLUS YOU'LL LOVE OUR NON-COMMISSIONED STAFF! THE ONLY VEHICLE EXCLUDED IS THE 2015 CORVETTE. INCLUDES ALLY BONUS, MIN \$5000 FINANCED. SALES TAX/ MOTOR VEHICLE/ DOC FEES ADDITIONAL