## The Grande Gazette

September 2017



Village Grande at English Mill's Official Social and Operational Resource

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### In this Issue...

Men's & Women's Bocce Golf League News Billiards Club Meet a Neighbor: Sandy Geiger!

The Grande Gazette may reject any material that is deemed inappropriate by the Association.

Submissions may be edited for length or clarity.

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#### Changes

#### By Cynthia Williams, Community Manager

So here it is! It may not be what you're used to, but all of the volunteers and contributors

worked very hard to make this Gazette possible. As we grow and familiarize ourselves with the publishing process we hope to exceed your expectations in publishing a focused, entertaining, and informative community resource.

My last Gazette article was written just about a year ago and so much has happened since then. First, I want to again express my gratitude for welcoming me into my new position with your community. It has been challenging and rewarding.

One of the biggest changes since last year is that construction is complete and the last home should be settled by the time this goes to print. We have a dedicated team of residents and professionals that have been working hard to prepare us for transition. We have done the research and have poured over the documents to make sure that the

official turnover is smooth and comprehensive.

The Board of Directors has gone through some changes as well. In June we welcomed John Gallagher to the Board after long-time Board Member, Pam LoBue, chose not to run again. Pam was a Board Member for 8 years and served this Association with grace and dedication. Now, for this first time, we will have a five person Board consisting of residents as D. R. Horton representative Todd Greene has also resigned.

Finally, the end of construction also means that we have tons of new residents! We estimate that there are now over 630 people living in VGEM! This issue of the Gazette should be a great introduction to the "Grande Lifestyle" and give the new residents a glimpse at all VGEM has to offer. So if you see someone new, say "Hello!" or invite them to a function.

As always, I am here to answer all your questions and guide you through the day to day life of an HOA.

#### President's Message

#### By Jim Lichtenwalner

Our Community is now fully built out and by the time you read this, all 397 homes will have been sold. We also are in the midst of electing our fifth Owner Trustee, giving our HOA full autonomy. Realizing this, I reflect on what we have accomplished over the last year and prepare to enter the new era of a fully built out VGEM.

We have adopted a new approach to how we operate; increasing communication and transparency in an attempt to keep all members of the community in the loop. We increased the use of competitive bidding and adopted a Policy focus for the Trustees, allowing the Manager to focus on the day to day management of the Community. (cont.)



Jim Lichtenwalner, Board President. The Board holds Open Session Meetings on the 2nd Tuesdays of the month.

(cont. ) We have increased our dialogue with D. R. Horton resulting in reimbursement for outdoor pool repairs and Horton near completion of a major reconstruction of our indoor pool. Other major accomplishments include a new state of the art security access system for the clubhouse, purchase of more patio furniture for the pool deck (needed to accommodate our growing community) as well as a robotic pool cleaning machine to keep our pools in pristine condition. We are in the midst of an upgrade of the kitchen and storage facilities in the clubhouse; the Bocce courts have been partially refurbished and we've assembled a team to investigate a long term strategy for the Bocce Courts and surrounding area.

Yes, it was a busy year, but now we need to focus on the year ahead. Transition discussions with D. R. Horton will dominate our time over the next few months, but we can't let that prevent us from moving forward on other fronts as well.

In the next year we intend to document several policies including our contracting process, budgeting process, planning process, security, and use of the Grande Room. We also intend to develop a plan for our long term landscaping needs including a clear definition of responsibilities and to improve communications, including increased owner input in decision making.

None of our past accomplishments or anticipated plans would be possible without the tremendous efforts of our volunteers. Over the last year more than 225 volunteers from our community have contributed in excess of 15,000 hours of effort.

We thank you for your continued enthusiasm and look forward to working with you to make VGEM "just a little nicer place to live".

## Neighborhood Watch By Sam Salierno

As the new Captain of the VGEM Neighborhood Watch and on behalf of the community, I want to



give a huge thanks to the retiring Captain, Don Mastrangelo, for the time and effort he put into creating and maintaining a functional organization. You helped make our community a safer place to live. Our sincere thanks!

Please remember to keep garage doors closed at all times and turn on your security lights at night. Keep car doors locked if they are in your driveway. Don't make your house an easy target for crime. This is a safe community because we are all vigilant.

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 <u>not</u> 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 Sam Salierno at 365-8112 or bcsam16@aol.com

Did you know that many policies and procedures are posted online for your convenience?

Visit dilucia.com and click on "Locations" and select VGEM.

#### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ROSTER

## Report all suspicious activity to The Egg Harbor Township Police Department on the Non-Emergency Dispatch line at 609-927-5200

		Name	Phone	Email
Chairperson		Sam Salierno	365-8112	bcsam16@aol.com
Admin Asst.		Tony Scaricamazza	927-6818	tony5431@comcast.net
		As	ssignments	
Street	House #		_	
Bluebell	All	Sam Salierno	365-8112	bcsam16@aol.com
Daffodil	Even	Barbara Gordon	788-8431	barbarakg3@comcast.net
	Odd	Bob Kennedy	856-261-0331	bobkennedy.ocnj@verizon.net
lvy	Even	Barbara Gordon	788-8431	barbarakg3@comcast.net
	Odd	Bob Kennedy	856-261-0331	bobkennedy.ocnj@verizon.net
Lily	200-215	Judith Rivero	432-3113	judyrivero105@yahoo.com
•	216-230	Rich Johnson	856-296-0944	mlrj@comcast.net
	231-242	Bill Polko	365-2340	wpolko0929@aol.com
	231-242	Dan Montagna	576-5487	montagna377@comcast.net
	243-257	Herb Moskovitz	365-2329	herbmoskovitz@gmail.com
Marigold	1-16	Jim Cira	402-2861	jlc2472@comcast.net
	17-35	Steve Cappadona	653-4215	cappy.1942@verizon.net
Рорру	Odd	Fred Moderski	653-0116	fmoderski@aol.com
	Even	Jim Smith	856-905-6080	smitty548@juno.com
Primrose	2-30	John DaPrato	926-4977	joncondaprato@aol.com
Snowdrop	100-117	The Carluccio's	365-2574	joecar358@hotmail.com
	118-144	Don Mastrangelo	788-4876	anganddonretired@comcast.net
Sunflower	300-318	Ed Zink	927-6387	
	319-328	Don Hinspeter	788-4948	sler121735@gmail.com
	329-347	Bill Hofmann	788-4552	billfish63@comcast.net
	348-360	John DaPrato	926-4977	joncondaprato@aol.com
	361-366	Bill Hofmann	788-4552	billfish63@comcast.net
	367-375	John Murtha	653-1830	johnmurtha10@comcast.net
	376-383	Ed Zink	927-6387	
Tulip	1-16	Al Hearn	653-1488	alandlynne@comcast.net
Violet	Odd	Sam Salierno	365-8112	bcsam16@aol.com
Violet	Even	Jim Danzuso	226-1897	jdanzuso@hotmail.com

#### Just Your Friendly, Neighborhood Lifeguard

#### By Cynthia Williams

It's a hot, humid day at VGEM and you're looking forward to cooling off in the over-sized pool. When you arrive, not only is the pool clean and inviting, but there's a familiar, friendly face to greet you, veteran lifeguard Angel Santana.

Angel is a South Jersey native and graduated from Cedar Creek High School in 2014. He has worked with Sparkling Pool Services for six seasons and his experience shows in his conscientious and



personable demeanor. Angel has always been athletic, playing Lacrosse in college and competing on his high school swim team.

When asked why he decided to be a lifeguard, he revealed that his father was also a lifeguard when he was younger! Not only can Angel juggle the many duties of guarding a community pool, but he can actually juggle!

We have been very lucky to have Angel with us for the last two seasons, and although he still hasn't chosen a career path, we certainly hope he chooses to continue to guard and we see him again next year! Thanks for a great season, Angel!



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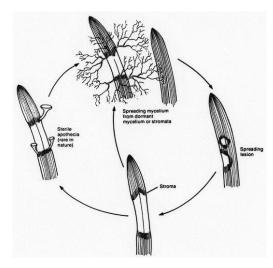
1-800-788-3029 holyredeemer.com/homecare



#### **Turf Conditions**

#### By John Schenck, Outdoor Décor

2017 was a challenging year when it came to lawn maintenance. There were a number of diseases in the lawns over the course of the season. Some of the diseases in the lawns over the past couple of years have been red thread, dollar spots, and leaf spot, and I think we've seen them all pop up in the last few weeks. The disease starts with spores that are already in the ground. The grass is affected by the disease when certain conditions exist, such as nighttime temperatures at 73 degrees, or moisture on the blade of the grass for 8 plus hours.



Dollar spot fungus causes brown, splotchy circles in the lawn

Also, stressed lawns are more susceptible to disease. Dry, hot periods stress lawns, making it easier for the disease to out compete the grass. If left untreated, the lawns sustain damage and you see turf loss.

The amount of nitrogen also has an effect on lawn disease. When the right conditions persist, the disease will spread rapidly through the lawns. The application of fungicide is used to control turf diseases.



Kyllinga is a challenging weed to control

We are still dealing with a relatively new weed in this area called kyllinga. There are no DEP approved preemergents for this weed, so we have no choice but to treat it after it pops up. According to a study done by Rutgers University, even approved chemicals are only 80% effective so the results of the application will vary. Current regulations also prohibit blanket-applications, so we are forced to alternate and spot-treat the lawns which adds another challenge. Treated kyllinga will turn a reddish-brown as it dies off, so you can tell the application is working.

I also made a number of changes to the mowing ill need some fine turning but I have the crew working in

operations at VGEM. It is a work in progress and will need some fine turning, but I have the crew working in smaller sections. Going forward, we will work on cutting, trimming, edging and blowing smaller sections at a time so any area is completed in a shorter amount of time. I also know that mowing on weekends is an inconvenience when it occurs, so the Board and I are working on moving the mowing days.

I thank you for allowing us to continue to serve the community and improve the turf conditions. I hope you all have a great rest of the summer and a great fall. The staff and myself here at Outdoor Décor Landscaping wish you all the best.

Below are just some of the goals that the Board of Trustees has set for 2017-2018.

The Trustees work to prioritize the needs of the community and formalize the processes and policies that help the Association operate. In many cases, the goals are accomplished with the help of our dedicated committees. So here's a glimpse at some of the things that we are working on...

- Successfully complete transition discussions with D. R. Horton
- Implement a Contracting Policy
- Improve storage in the Clubhouse
- Reopen the Indoor Pool
- Complete the election of the fifth resident Trustee
- Fully define responsibilities for all landscaping tasks
- Prepare documents to competitively bid the landscape contract
- Award contract for Snow Removal based on competitive bidding
- Award contract for Pool Management based on competitive bidding
- Develop guidelines on the use of The Grande Room
- Develop a long term strategy for the use of the common area west of the outdoor pool
- Hold a Town Hall Meeting to discuss Landscaping
- Hold a Town Hall Meeting to present Financial Status
- Approve procedure on when to lower flag to half mast
- Approve procedure to manage keys/locks
- Formalize process to identify and approve appropriations for discretionary spending
- Develop procedure to manage consumable supplies for clubhouse

Attending the monthly Board Meetings is the best way to stay up-to-date with current topics and projects, but if you can't make the meetings, the minutes are distributed shortly thereafter.

#### fyi, Have you heard?

By Jim Lichtenwalner

what is going on all around us. Each month attendees get to hear about a variety of interesting topics. Recent topics included an informative presentation on the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's, the Atlantic County Historical Society's Veterans' History Project and one of the best received presentations in the last three years by Dr. Mark Newkirk DVM who enlightened us on pet nutrition and care.

Fall 2017 will continue with great topics including a presentation by the FAA on their mission and dealing with Drones and a presentation on the Pirates of New Jersey. Future topics include Scams on the Senior Community and a presentation by Eagle Greenery, a program at EHT High school training students in floral arranging and business skills. It is a great place to shop for your floral needs.

Come out and join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month to learn about what is going on around us. Each meeting includes light refreshments to encourage fellowship at the conclusion of the presentation. We are always looking for new ideas for presentations. If you have a topic you would like to hear about or if you have a topic that you can share with us we would love to hear from you; just contact Jim Lichtenwalner at <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756. Remember, events like <a href="mailto:lichtenwal@aol.com">lichtenwal@aol.com</a> or at (484) 225 4756.

is a club that provides speakers on wide array of topics of interest to VGEM residents. We are open to all topics of interest to our residents; and welcome your suggestions.

A full listing of Clubs and
Committees is posted on the
Bulletin Board in the
Clubhouse and in the
Resident Directory.

**VGEM Bike Club** 



It's Official! The HOA Board has allowed a bunch of us to reestablish the VGEM Bike Club. Several of your neighbors have already gotten together bicycle rides around neighborhood. Wednesday mornings have become a regular date but we are open to any ideas. We have ridden on both the streets and on the Bike Path. We are riders not racers, so the pace has been moderate. The trips have been between 12 -15 miles so far and there is always room for anyone who wants to zoom forward or go an extra 10 miles.

If you're interested in getting our e-mail announcements send Jim Berg a note at Bergnegg@comcast.net

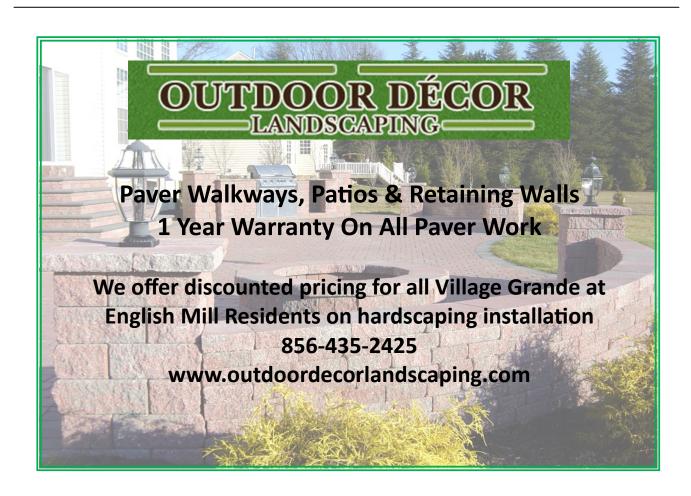
#### Welcome Desk Celebrates 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

#### By Jim Lichtenwalner

June 29, 2017 marked the two-year anniversary of the Welcome Desk and it continues to be a hit among residents. The Welcome Desk allows residents to help fellow residents find answers to their questions about the community, find a form or find out where to go to get an answer, relieving the Community Manager of some of these tasks. More importantly, it has provided a way for our residents to communicate among themselves, helping to make VGEM "just a little nicer place to live". New residents have found it as a great way to get to know other residents and quickly feel like they are part of the community. It is a great way to get to know your neighbors!

The desk is manned weekdays by over 35 members of our VGEM community. These volunteers have enjoyed meeting and interacting with fellow residents.

We are currently looking for a few more members. Please consider volunteering a few hours each month; I guarantee you will find it to be a rewarding experience. If you are interested, please contact Jim Lichtenwalner at 484-225-4756 or lichtenwal@aol.com.



#### Maintenance Committee

#### By Abe Greenbaum



Our Clubhouse "The Grande Club" and common areas are valuable assets to our community. Thus everyone's participation is required in maintaining the quality and appearance from simple litter control to renovations or repairs, small and large.

The Maintenance Committee assists the Homeowners Association in maintaining the physical assets of VGEM. Duties include coordinating with the Community Manager, the HOA Board, and other Committees in their various areas of responsibilities in prioritizing items in need of maintenance or repair.

The Maintenance Committee utilizes its members to complete many repairs and make improvements which result in savings to our community funds. We can all participate here!

If you notice a maintenance issue that needs our attention, please notify our Community Manager Cynthia Williams, a Board Member or any Maintenance Committee Member.

Joe Carluccio

Mickey Cain

John DaPrato

Bill Giannetti

Bill Hoffman

Rich Johnson

Ken Tardiff

Abe Greenbaum, Chair

Men's Club - Holiday Gift Giving Drive



#### By Herb Moskovitz

One of the longest running traditions at Village Grande at English Mill is the Gift Giving Drive run by the Men's Club.

Since 2009, over \$30,000 has been given to needy children in Egg Harbor Township schools. Davenport, The Miller School and the Egg Harbor Township High School have all been recipients of your donations.

Last year, The Men's Club worked with Boscov's Department store. Boscov's generously donated 15% of our total funds so we were able to purchase more gift cards to help more children.

Our goal this year will be to exceed our previous totals and raise \$5,500! It is the generosity of the residents of this community that make this event a success each year! Thank you for your support and keep your eye out for our posters.

Smoke Alarm Battery Change Program



Saturday, October 7th

Residents must provide their own 9-volt Batteries

Sign-up sheets will be placed on the Concierge Desk at the Clubhouse

#### Clubs & Committees

#### **ACC Update**

#### By Doug Groff, Chairman

As you may be aware the Architectural Control Committee is responsible for reviewing requests for modifications to your property such as landscaping and hardscaping projects. Patio extensions and paver installations are a sample of the other work that requires homeowners to submit



applications to the committee for its review and in most cases, approval. These applications (Blue Forms), along with directions for completing the application, are available next to the Manager's Office in the Clubhouse.

One of the reasons most of us moved to Village Grande at English Mill is the fact that each property is meticulously maintained. A well maintained property not only adds to the beauty of the overall community, but lends itself well when the time comes to sell your home. Keeping our community consistently well maintained is the major responsibility of the ACC.

Members of the community have volunteered or have been selected to serve on the committee for a period of two years. Our busiest time for reviewing applications is between March and September each year, mainly addressing landscaping requests. We encourage all homeowners, whether seasoned veterans or new residents, to take a few moments to read the rules and regulations that govern the work of the ACC. Approving (or in some cases denying) applications is based on these rules and regulations which were established to preserve the character of Village Grande at English Mill as a high quality, planned adult community. From time to time the ACC will find the need to develop new rules or regulations or make modifications to current rules. Any proposed changes to the rules or regulations are then sent to the Homeowners Association Trustees for review and must receive their stamp of approval before any change goes into effect.

I would like to end this article by taking time to thank Jim Berg who served on the ACC for 4 years and was the chair of the committee for the past 2 years. While chair of the ACC he diplomatically kept members focused on the tasks at hand as well as using his leadership skills in helping to address needed changes or modifications to the official Rules and Regulations that guide the work of the ACC. He is to be highly commended for his service and foresight during the past 4 years. He definitely set high standards for accomplishing the goals of the Architectural Control Committee.

#### Clubs & Committees

#### **Government Liaison Committee**

By John DaPrato



Your GLC has been extremely busy during the past several months. Following are a few of the more important items that we are working on.

We are happy to announce that we have scheduled **October 11, 2017** to host the two Senatorial candidates and four Assembly candidates running for State Office to come to English Mill and address our residents.

This year we plan to ask the residents for questions that we will ask the candidates and we will be reaching out to everyone by e-mail to accomplish this objective. All

questions to be asked will come directly from you! Posters will appear in the Clubhouse in the near future providing the date and time of this program.

The Battery Replacement program will take place again this year. The volunteer firemen from the Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Department have graciously accepted our invitation again to come out on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> to replace the batteries of the smoke detectors for folks who are unable to perform this task.

Fresh 9 volt batteries should be supplied by the home owners. The Firemen will only replace batteries and are not permitted to replace entire smoke detector units. Soon, a sign-up sheet will be made available at the Clubhouse for those residents who are interested in this very worthwhile program. Our firefighters are all volunteers; they willingly give up their own time to help us. In this regard, we ask all who will participate, to give a generous donation for their time and service. These donations go back into the costs of maintaining their equipment, vehicles and fire house.

We have also been working towards some solution to the traffic and littering problems in the vicinity of Dahlia Road and Lily Road. As most of you may know, we have had problems with vehicular traffic failing to stop at the stop sign. The Township Police Department has been very cooperative and has issued several tickets because of the failure to come to a complete stop.

Litter is being thrown along Dahlia Road, Lily Road and Village Grande Road. We have met with the management of Wawa once already and plan to meet with them again. Wawa has done an outstanding job of policing the litter along Dahlia Road and has been a good neighbor to our community.

Thank you for your continued support!

#### **Election Committee Report**

#### By Tom Santucci and Dennis Musser, Co-Chairs

The Third Transition Election is well underway with the candidate(s) declared and Meet the Candidates Night completed. Voting is now underway. As I write this, I do not know if there will be more than two candidates, which would mean a two ballot election as required by the *By-Laws, Article III. Section 3.05*. Regardless, this article is being written to explain the unique aspects of a transition election and to encourage all to vote.



On July 31, 2017, the D. R. Horton/Developer Trustee on the HOA Board, Todd Greene, officially resigned. This necessitated a Third Transition Election for a fifth resident Trustee and officially give full control to the VGEM HOA Board, as all five Trustees will be VGEM homeowners. On August 7, 2017, each home received the Call for Candidates Letter seeking homeowners to become candidates for the one open position as a Trustee for the VGEM HOA Board. According to the By-Laws, this last position is for Trustee "E" whose term must end with Trustees "C" and "D" on June 30, 2018.

Transition Elections differ from Annual Trustees Elections occurring each spring in that it requires a special transition meeting to vote rather than a "Ballot by Mail" election. By an email on August 11, as required by the VGEM By-Laws Article IV, Section 4.03 – Transition Elections, President Jim Lichtenwalner and the Board announced the "special meeting will be held in the Grande Room of the VGEM Clubhouse on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 starting at 6:00 PM".

As explained above, the term of office for Trustee "E" will be from this special election meeting through June 30, 2018.



The other major difference in a transition election is the method of voting. Voting is to be done in person at this special meeting called by the HOA President. According to the *By-Laws, Article III. Section 3.09*, a "Ballot by Mail" election is not permitted. This creates a significant problem of attracting enough homeowners to the meeting to constitute a quorum.

Voting only at a meeting presents a concern that attendance would not meet the 25% of homeowners (99 homeowners, not attendees) to constitute the quorum requirement for a valid election. Although a "Ballot by Mail" is not allowed in a Transition Election, the By-Laws do permit an alternate means of voting that will allow homeowners to cast a ballot without attending the meeting.

In *Article III. Section 3.10*, the By-Laws state that in all elections, homeowners may cast proxy ballots. The vote by proxy is more convenient than having to attend a meeting and should increase the number of homeowners who vote so that number of ballots received will constitute a quorum. (cont.)

(cont.) To accomplish this, President Lichtenwalner has designated the Community Manager, Cynthia Williams, to cast the proxy votes. Any ballot received by Cynthia in the green envelope signed by a homeowner will constitute a proxy. As per Section 3.10 of the By-Laws, all proxy ballots must be received 24 hours before the election meeting and therefore must be submitted by Monday, September 11, 2017 at 5 PM. At the special election meeting on September 12, Cynthia will cast all the proxy ballots received from the homeowners. Detailed instructions on the election process will be in the third mailing that includes the ballot and the return envelope. If this election has more than two candidates and requires two ballots be cast, this will be explained in the mailings.

The Election Committee strongly encourages all eligible homeowners to vote either in person at the meeting or by proxy. If there is any possibility that you will be unable to attend the meeting, please cast your vote by proxy.

To vote by proxy, simply mark your ballot, sign and seal the envelope and return it to the address on the envelope. To vote in person at the meeting, mark your ballot, sign and seal the envelope then attend the meeting and deposit your vote into the ballot box. In voting either in person or by proxy vote, the homeowner MUST SIGN the envelope in order for the vote to be valid and tallied.

Whether there is one, two, or more than two candidates, please vote in the election(s) as we must receive at least a quorum of votes in order for the election to be valid. We want this third and last transition election to only have to be done once so please vote. We don't want to have to do it over.



#### By Pat Roche

The Special Events Committee is alive and well!

Over the course of this year, we held two successful events. The Super Pasta Bowl Party was a lot of fun and had a great turnout. There was so much good food to enjoy and the big game certainly was a shocker! In May, our Committee, under the Chairpersonship of Kathleen Cira, hosted the ever popular "Fun Night"! It was a night of games and laughter by all!

Our most recent focus was the Poolside Grille, ably run by Geri Devlin and Bob Kennedy. All the volunteers have worked tirelessly and I can't thank them enough!

As you can see, we of the Special Events Committee are busy sponsoring FUN events. Stay tuned for new information!

### Are you receiving News Blasts from Cynthia?

Make sure you are updated with the latest news and happenings!

Email Cynthia at c.williams@dilucia.com and ask to get on the list for News Blasts!

#### Let's Roll it Old School!

#### By Betsy Gallagher



Our 2017 Bocce Season got off to a slow start with three weeks in a row of rained out games. Due to the popularity of the

sport at VGEM, the Bocce Committee (Mary Moskovitz, Shirley Walters, Betsy Gallagher and Michelle Santoro) had some difficult decisions regarding the number of teams and number of members per team. We anticipate further growth which could make several changes necessary for next year, including team sizes and scheduling. Kudos to the entire Bocce Committee for all the work involved in putting the season together.

I also want to mention that we are enjoying the beautifully reconditioned courts and truly appreciate all the modifications made by the Maintenance Committee.

This year our Team Captains had to take on additional duties and have done a terrific job. I'd like to mention them by name: Yolande Osowski for "Still Hot Stuff", Joyce Conley for "Grande Gals", Nancy Werden for "Golden Girls", Arlene Berg for "Pacesetters", Marge Doms for "Vamps", Paulette Harnett for "Rockettes", Joan Viventi for "Grande Dames" and yours truly for "Grande Ladies". Everyone is looking forward to our Bocce Banquet which is scheduled for September 9th at Ballamor Golf Club.

#### The Court Club

#### By Bill Giannetti

TENNIS- We have been having a decent outdoor tennis season. Once May passed we were able to play on a regular basis (Wednesdays and Saturdays). Some players have had medical issues and some players came north late, so the turnout had been "thin", but we have a few new players joining us now, so we pretty regularly have both courts in use.

PICKLEBALL- This game is going strong. We play four days a week and generally have 20-25 players attending. The new surface and new wind screens have made playing a joy. My Tuesday clinic is still bringing some new residents in to try the game. Every time I meet someone new at a function, I ask them to come and join us.

I am told that the courts at Delilah Oaks are constantly filled with players waiting, so the Township may have to consider adding more courts to accommodate the local players.

HORSESHOES- This game is getting off to a slow start, but we have a handful of really good players who show up regularly every Tuesday at 6 PM and some very good competition occurs. Many people expressed interest in this game and we invite them to come and join the fun.



#### Any Time is Tee Time, By Doug Beaupit



Dennis Ryszinski poses with his Hole-in-One

The VGEM 2017 Golf League Season at Mays Landing Country Club (MLCC) began on April 18th. The Golf League welcomed the following new members for 2017: Ed Nelson, Glen Pierson, Dave Comber, Ted Radomile, and John Rosenberger. We now have 26 players in the golf league. Remember new players can start at any time!

Accomplishments so far this year: Dennis Ryzinski, Hole-in-One; Dennis Goldberg, Personal Best 82; and Doug Beaupit, Personal Best 73.

Eight VGEM residents have entered the 2017 MLCC Senior Championship. Last year's tournament winner was John DeLucca. Let's hope a VGEM resident takes the trophy again!

The Golf League hosts the VGEM scramble at MLCC again this year on September 8th. It is open to all residents and guests.

Details on the winners will be in the next edition of the Gazette as will the winners of the Match Play Tournament that took place in August.

Stayed tuned for details on the Awards Banquet and Barbeque coming up on October 3rd!

#### **LPGA Volunteers**

The Shop Rite LPGA was back in town this summer and 11 residents volunteered to work the tournament.

Volunteers enjoyed a kickoff dinner at the Carriage House in Galloway and then were able to view the action live at the tournament on June 2nd through 4th. Resident Abe Greenbaum was a big winner at the dinner! He won the Pro-Am Package which included the opportunity to play with the Pros and attend a special banquet at Borgata.



Joe Carlucio, Abe Greenbaum, Dennis Ryzinski, Jim Berg, Doug Beaupit, Jim Lichtenwalner, and John DeLucca.

Shoprite has renewed their contract with the LPGA

for the next six years, so the LPGA will again be looking for VGEM volunteers next February.

Men's Bocce League

By Jim Cira



Gus Lewis, Abe Greenbaum, Fred Moderski and Joe Carluccio

The Men's Bocce League has been a tradition since the spring of 2008. Each year, as new residents arrived to our development, the league has expanded. We now have fourteen (14) teams consisting of six (6) players for a total of eighty-four (84) active members. The Men's Bocce League is guided by a committee of five: Jim Cira, Jim Danzuso, Dom Mastrangelo, Dan Montagna and Mike Segal. Each team has a captain and the Rules of Play are followed through this structure.

The fourteen teams play each Wednesday beginning at 3:30 pm. We have two courts professionally maintained by an outside contractor and groomed before the start of

play by the players themselves. This is one of the most utilized activities of the community.

Come out and meet your neighbors, enjoy the pool and, remember, Wednesday is "No Cook" Wednesday since we have the Poolside Grill.

The regular season ends August 23<sup>rd</sup> and play-offs are the week of August 31<sup>st</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>.



Left: B A Villon, Lena Goldberg, Steph Cavacini and Michele Gebhart play a game of Canasta.

Right: One of the most used rooms in our Clubhouse, the Billiard Room. Pictured Bill Pochettino concentrates on his shot in a game against Ken Tardiff.



The Grande Gazette - September 2017

VGEM Fishing Club - Good Things Come to Those That Bait

#### By Bill Hofmann

Thirty six residents of Village Grande joined the Fishing Club on the Hi-Roller pontoon boat out of Atlantic City on June 7th. The weather was not ideal with some cool temperatures and breezy conditions, but on the bright side there was no rain or bugs, and all on board had a fun morning.

Denise Conway was the winner of the biggest fish award and Jim Lichtenwalner, along with Bill Wilds, also had fish for dinner.

Lunch at the Emerald Green golf club ended the day with many asking "When's the next trip?"





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Fish (fiSH) noun - an animal that grows the fastest between the time it's caught and the time the fisherman describes it to his friends.

Left: Jim Lichtenwalner, Denise Conway and Bill Wilds all caught "keepers" with Denise bagging the biggest fluke of the day!

Top Photo: Peter Tallman shows off a sand shark

Above: The Hi-Roller's Mate, John, poses with Denise and Jim Conway.

#### THE SOCIAL LIFE



Above - Joan Viventi, Chicki Sinagria and Kathy Sorrell greet guests as they arrive. The 4th of July breakfast is just one of many events held by the Social Committee.

Below - It wouldn't be possible without the dedication of the Social Committee! Pictured are Kathy McGroarty, Bonnie Carluccio, Regina Yuppa, Sue Paulu, Kathy Sorrell and Joan Viventi.

Right - The Grande was decorated with stars and colorful tablecloths.



4<sup>th</sup> of July Breakfast By Chicki Sinagria

Over 100 of our residents gathered together to start the celebration of the founding of our nation at a breakfast held in our ballroom. Most of the attendees wore the traditional colors of the day: red, white and blue.

They sat down to a breakfast of bagels, various kinds of danish and muffins, fresh fruit, orange juice, coffee and tea, along with the necessary condiments. The room was gaily decorated in the appropriate 4<sup>th</sup> of July theme.



The committee was chaired by Kathy Sorrell and Sue Paulu. Their committee members were Regina Yuppa, Joan Viventi, Kathleen McGroarty, Bonnie Carluccio and Marcie Gelman.

Of course we could not pull these events off without the help of the kind gentlemen who set up and tables and chairs for us. This event's volunteers were Bill Giannetti, Rich Johnson, Randy Krehel, Joe Carluccio, Dennis Goldberg, Jim Smith and Tom Santucci.

Our next planned event is the Summer Party in August, which is always a big hit.

Look for photos in the next issue of the Gazette!

#### THE SOCIAL LIFE

The Poolside Grill was a huge hit this year and many residents came out every Wednesday for some good food and fellowship.



Below: "Customers" wait in line for their food





Left: The Grill Masters - Bob Kennedy and Jerry Sackin

Below: Dan and Celeste Cianci, Nathan Goldinher, Pete Tallman, Carol
Goldinher, Linda Bernstein, and Claudia Sobkiw





Left: Geri Devlin, Bob Kennedy, Betsy Gallagher, Jerry & Eileen Sackin, Patsy Tallman, Diane Gottman and Pat Roche

Above: Ken Tardiff, Bill Pochettino, Tom Direso, Sue Taylor, Joan Comber and Pat Pochettino

#### **Local History Brought to Life**

Thank you, Dr. Jonathan Pitney

By Sue Carey

Certainly you have heard that name before. Ever wonder who he was?

Dr. Jonathan Pitney settled in Absecon in 1820, and he's often referred to as the "Father of Atlantic City." He was a physician, the first postmaster, and the recorder of shipwrecks. He was also a visionary, and recognized the potential of Absecon Island as a prominent summer resort. It would be the perfect escape from the heat of the summer in the city. The only problem was that the only way



to get there was by horse or stagecoach. But the Lenape Indians had been using Absecon Island as respite for many years without either of those luxuries. Pitney set out to find a way to make the island more easily accessible to vacationers from nearby Philadelphia. He and another local, General Enoch Doughty, collaborated with civil engineer, Richard Osborn. Together, they proposed to build a railroad to Absecon Island.

During this time, Atlantic City was also developing into an internationally known seaport, thus creating a demand for both permanent and temporary lodging. Massive hotels as well as boarding homes were constructed in an attempt to meet that demand. Orphan trains began bringing in children to supplement the work force. The city's population was exploding. In 1852, a charter was granted to the Camden and Atlantic Railroad Company to construct a railroad between Camden and Atlantic City. The first train arrived in Atlantic City in the summer of 1854. By the 1870s a second railroad line was constructed to accommodate the massive demands of visitors to the island.

Developers quickly learned, however, that one of the ocean's biggest attractions was also one of the biggest hurdles to summering at the shore. Sand was creating a huge problem. It was everywhere, invading railroad cars, restaurants and hotels. It was being tracked inland by the thousands of tourists who flocked to the beaches all summer long. It also made the trek down to the water difficult for women in delicate shoes and men carrying food and and other paraphernalia. Something had to be done.

So Alexander Boardman, a conductor on the Atlantic City-Camden Railroad, and hotelier Jacob Keim put forward the idea of a boardwalk to the City Council. Literally. They proposed laying down boards on the sand that could easily be walked on, allowing easier passage to the water, and at the same time providing a place for the sand that clung to clothes, skin, and shoes to be shaken off before returning to "the city." So, in 1870, an 8 foot wide foot walk was built from the beach into town. The first boardwalk was so expensive that the town fathers insisted that it be taken up during the winter to prolong its life.

It was a huge success. In 1880 the boardwalk was rebuilt with larger planks because it had just worn out.

(Thank you, Dr. Pitney, cont.)

Splinters and broken boards were everywhere. The repairs lasted until September of 1884, when hurricane damage necessitated more refurbishment, and its wild success merited a little expansion. It was now 20 feet wide and 2 miles long. The 1884 rebuilding was also the first time the boardwalk was built on pilings so the ocean could flow underneath, and this new boardwalk boasted the first of the iconic rolling chairs. The boardwalk was again rebuilt in 1889 and 1944 due to severe hurricane damage, each time becoming wider and longer. By 1944 it was 7 miles long and went from Atlantic City to Longport, only to be destroyed by the Great Atlantic Hurricane that same year.



By the 1890s, the Atlantic City boardwalk was the place to be. Anyone wishing to make a fashion statement knew that. Amusement piers drew crowds, and the Heinz Pier (formerly the Iron Pier, built in 1886) distributed free pickles and held free concerts until it was destroyed in the Great Hurricane of 1944. The Million Dollar Pier (opened 1896) held 2 deep sea net hauls twice a day bringing tons of fish on board and provided a variety of amusements, a dance hall, vaudeville acts and entertainment. Harry Houdini appeared (and disappeared) much to the crowds delight on the Million Dollar Pier. The first Miss America was also crowned here.

The Roaring '20s brought even more significant popularity. The boardwalk played host to big bands, dance marathons, fashion parades and a variety of entertainments. It was the perfect place for thrill seekers and adventurers as illustrated by the many daring stunts performed on the Steele Pier, most notable was the High Diving Horse. Presidents Grant, Roosevelt, and Johnson, entertainers WC Fields, Abbott and Costello and John Phillip Sousa, and even Al Capone were known to visit the area.

During WWII, the Convention Hall was converted to an Army training facility and soldiers were often seen training and conducting practice drills on the boardwalk. This was in direct response to the threat of German submarines lurking just off the coast.

After the war, crowds returned to the shore that their parents and grandparents lovingly remembered as the highlight of their summers, a tradition that continues today.

Dr. Pitney could not have predicted the incredible story that he began.

#### Sources:

Atlantic City, 125 Years of Ocean Madness, Atlantic City Historical Society, Atlantic City Website, <a href="https://example.com">Atlantic City Online.com</a>, <a href="https://example.com">PhillyBurbs.com</a>, The Orphan Trains and Underground Railroad

#### **Meet A Neighbor**

#### Sandy Geiger

#### By Christine Pierson

With laptop in hand and questions prepared, I rang the bell. I was on a mission. This was the house of Sandra Yaffa Geiger, my new neighbor on Ivy Road whom I had met at our final Happy Hour. By evening's end I knew I really liked her. We had left as acquaintances and now my mission was to learn more about her and, hopefully, she would choose to become a friend. The door opened and picture, if you will, what stood before me...a 5 foot sprite in lime shirted workout gear that complimented her short auburn hair, mischievous eyes and welcoming smile. After inviting me in, Sandy gave me the "penny tour" with apologies that all was not as she hoped it soon would be...in the state of flux that we all know so well—some things old, some things new, some decisions not yet made, all wrapped in the regret of some pieces she wished she had brought with heroperable but by no means complete. We sat, I placed my previously prepared questions before me, and

Sandy Geiger greets her interviewer with a smile.

Sandy is a talker.

quickly realized I did not need them.

Her narrative began with a noteworthy list of academic credentials: graduate of Albert Einstein Medical Center School of Nursing, BA from Jersey City College, Nurse Practitioner qualification from Rutgers and a Master's of Science from East Stroudsburg. After working her first eight years in hospital settings, she accepted a job as school nurse for Mt. Olive Township. She then went on to qualify for supervisor and principal certifications. "I loved the appreciation I received from my patients and later from the students and employees of the school system. I wanted to be the best that I could be and earn the respect that I believe nurses deserve," she said. Today, Sandy considers herself to be retired, but I think not. She remains respectful of numbers (cholesterol, blood pressure, heart rate), willingly gives advice on meds and their dangers, and wounds that need tending don't go unnoticed. In reality, Sandy remains the practicing nurse that she will always be—it's in her DNA.

(Sandy Geiger cont.) Admitting to making split-second decisions, her musings continued on as to how she happened to become the wife of Nick Geiger. She had met him at a club in her home town of Atlantic City. Nick promised to call her in a week. He did. "Want to go out?, he asked. She said "Friday at 8". Two weeks after that first date, Nick showed up with an engagement ring. "Think we can be happy together?" he asked. "Probably," she answered while already planning to change the setting of the ring. She wanted to wait a year; he wanted to marry in four months. Nick got his way. In November of 1961 they were married (the ring in a new setting) and began 48 years of sharing a life together during which time their family expanded to include two sons, Michael and Steven and eventually six grandchildren and, more recently, a great-grandchild.



Sandy as a 2nd Year Nursing Student

Their life together was happy and full with Sandy contributing much time to community service. Her resume includes Trustee of College of

Morris; Trustee Ambassador to NJ Council of County Colleges; and State Chair of NJ for the National Association of Community College Trustees. From 1974-1982 Sandy served as the first woman president of Mt. Olive Township Council as well as chairing various other community Boards. In 2005 she had the distinction of being chosen the Albert Einstein Medical School of Nursing's "Alumna of the Year."

In 2005, however, life dealt the couple a devastating blow when Nick was diagnosed with cancer. For two years, Sandy cared for him. Her husband had become her patient. When the doctors finally pronounced the crushing news of "you have six weeks", Nick and Sandy set about doing all those things that one must do to prepare to live alone, getting all affairs in order so Sandy could manage her life without him. In 2007, Nick finally lost his battle and Sandy became a widow. "I loved him but I also really liked him. It was a terrible loss for me." She added that during those six weeks, Nick made her promise that she would always remember that life is for the living and that she would treasure each day and make the most of her life.

So now Sandy is here among us, having made another of her "split second" decisions to sell her Mt. Olive home and in May of this year bought her Ivy Deerfield. She has already involved herself in many of our activities and gatherings, meeting new people and establishing a life here at English Mill. "I am very grateful and feel blessed that I am still able to participate in all that life here has to offer," she said.

So a comfortable afternoon of laughter, talk and tears ended. Mission accomplished? I don't know yet. Time will tell. I will do my part. But as I looked back at that house and its owner, both in transition, I knew one thing for certain. It is already a home because Sandy Geiger lives there-- trying each day to keep a promise she had made to her husband.

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#### Alternative Healthcare That Works

#### Your Head is More Valuable Than You Think

#### By Len Smith

When I got back from Vietnam, my first job was selling drugs for Pfizer. And from that job, I found my lifelong love—healthcare. And then coming to NJ to be president of the companies that brought out Lactaid and Beano, my interest focused on alternative healthcare, or at least the alternative forms that work.



But there's something that scares me the most—any form of dementia (Alzheimer's is the most common form, but there are over 70 other forms), which killed both my mother and mother-in-law. And while there are many things we can do to reduce our chance of getting dementia, one of the easiest is preventing falls—and by doing this, preventing serious head injuries now known as traumatic brain injuries (TBI's).

It was known for some time that TBI's cause dementia, but that was just based on statistics. In December 2013, a study was published that was done on people admitted to emergency rooms with TBI's. The researchers were able to do MRI's of the patients' brains shortly after arrival in the ER, and then they did MRI's at various intervals after that. What was seen was that beta amyloid, a protein that's a marker for Alzheimer's and shouldn't be in the brain, wasn't there when most patients arrived. But within a few hours beta amyloid was seen in most of the TBI brains, and it increased in the brains in direct proportion to the severity of the TBI.

Which brings me to today's subject—preventing head injuries from falls. Ladies, the number one reason you fall is from standing on a chair reaching high for something. Get a step stool with a handle you can hold onto for reaching. Second, it's faulty shoes—slippery soles and high heels (do you really need high heels?). Guys, thanks to our prostates, almost all of us get up in the night to urinate, and in going from the bed to the john, our number one reason for falling is tripping over something in the dark on the way (before going to bed ALWAYS check the path to the john to make sure it's clear).

And then something that drives me crazy—no bicycle helmets when people are bike riding. Yes, I'm nuts about bike riding, and in my almost 150,000 miles of riding, I've had two accidents and a helmet saved my head in both of them. And yes, the law is you don't have to wear one if you're over 16, but there are a lot of things at our age we should have the common sense to do that 16-year olds don't.

About 4 years ago I was giving a talk for the Alzheimer's Association at a long term care facility (LCTF) in Vineland. In the audience was Steven, who I estimate was in his mid-50's. After the talk, Steven told me his story--he had worked in a glass factory most of his adult life. A few months before I met him, a steel beam

was being lowered in the plant and it swung sideways, hitting Steven in the head.

Shortly after that, he started having cognitive difficulty; developed Alzheimer's; and was placed in the LCTF and will be there for the rest of his life.

I mention the above because I don't believe a beam swinging sideways can hit your head much harder than your head will hit the pavement, parked car, tree, etc., when you fall off a bike. The current standard for bike helmet testing is to replicate our falling off a bike with the force that would be exerted when we fall sideways off a stationary bike. Now add some speed to that if you're riding (most of us don't fall off a stationary bike) and the amount of injury is multiplied even at the slower speeds that most people ride in the neighborhood, OC or any other shore town.

If you're going to wear a helmet, which I hope you will because if you ride long enough you will have an accident, spend a few extra dollars and make sure it has MIPS (Multi-directional Impact Protection System) technology. The older helmets took up the direct impact force of the brain going in one direction, but in accidents of this sort, in virtually all cases, the brain literally twists in the skull, causing significantly more damage to the brain. And MIPS takes up a lot of that rotational force so the brain doesn't have to. (For those wanting more information about this, go to <a href="www.bicycling.com">www.bicycling.com</a> and type in "Senseless" for an EXCELLENT article on helmets, injuries, and MIPS.) (The day after this article came out in June 2013, I went to Beacon to buy one. It took them 3 months to get one in as the rest of the country also wanted one.)

My plea to each of you as a neighbor is to protect your brain. Alzheimer's and all other dementias at this point in time are irreversible, i.e., once you get it, the only way to get rid of it is to die. So please, do everything you can to prevent falls, whether at home or on a bike, and if you do fall, to prevent a TBI. In this case, 12 ounces of prevention (the weight of a helmet) is worth more than a ton of cures.

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If you sat in on
Bill Giannetti's
Soduku and Puzzles Class,
then this little puzzle should
be a breeze for you!
Bill's classes will resume in
the Fall on Mondays at 2pm.

## Helpful Hints By Mary Moskovitz

#### **Hints for Removing Odors:**

- 5-10 ounces of white vinegar in the rinse cycle of your washer machine will get out stubborn odors like smoke, gasoline and bleach from clothes.
- When frying fish in a pan, add a dollop of peanut butter. It will not affect the taste of the fish, but it will affect the fish odor in your home.

#### Favorite "Hints" from the Past:

- Easy Peel Hard-Boiled Eggs Shaking the egg in a glass/cup of about half-an-inch of water will remove the shell and leave the egg entirely unscathed.
- Use non-stick cooking spray in votive holders to prevent wax from sticking to the sides and bottom.
- Remove pet hair from furniture and carpets with a squeegee.
- To sharpen scissors, simply cut through sandpaper.
- Put a dry towel in with a wet load to reduce drying time — I have been doing this for years.

#### Super Cleaner:

I discovered an AMAZING product that can be used on carpet stains, upholstery, car carpets, grease, blood, red wine, coffee, ink, rust, dirt, cosmetics and old stains. It is non toxic and odor free. It is called FOLEX and I found it at BB&B.

#### <u>Testimonial For FOLEX:</u>

I posted this hint in a previous Hints Column and several Residents told me that this product cleaned spots on their carpets and was unbelievable easy and truly amazing!!!!

#### Save the Date!



September 23rd -

Hot Breakfast at the Clubhouse

October 28th -

Halloween Party





December 31st -New Year's Eve Grande Celebration

Book Bunch Club List

Discussions begin at 4pm on the third Monday of the month in the Grande Room

Sept. 18 - *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson (Sheila Solomon)

Oct. 16 - *Commonwealth* by Anne Patchett (Bobbie Ginsberg)

Nov. 20 - *The Girl Who Came Home* by Hazel Gaynor (Linda Oberman)

Dec. 4 - *The Christmas Cookie Club* by Ann

Pearlman



#### **RECURRING ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
MONDAY	9:00 AM	Women's Breakfast	The Shore Diner (Last Monday of the Month Jan-Oct)
	9:00 AM	Pickleball	Tennis Courts
	10:00 AM	Bowling	King Pin Lanes
	10:00 AM	Walking	Grande Room
	1:00 PM	Canasta	Card Rooms (1st & 3rd Mon of Month)
	4:00 PM	Book Bunch	Grande Room (3rd Mon of Month)
	4:30 PM	Women's Bocce	Bocce Courts (May-Sept)
	5:30 PM	9-Ball	Billiards Room (May-Sept)
TUESDAY	8:00 AM	Golf League	Mays Landing Country Club (Apr-Nov)
	8:50 AM	Walking	Grande Room
	9:00 AM	Pickleball	Tennis Courts
	10:00 AM	Fine Arts Club	Arts & Crafts Room
	10:00 AM	Line Dancing	Grande Room
	1:00 PM	Bible Study Group	Arts & Crafts Room
	2:00 PM	HOA Exec. Meeting	Arts & Crafts Room (4th Tuesday of Month)
	6:00 PM	Horseshoes	Horseshoe Pits (May-Sept)
	6:30 PM	HOA Open Meeting	Grande Room (2nd Tuesday of Month)
	6:30 PM	FYI	Grande Room (3rd Tuesday of Month)
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	Tennis	Tennis Courts
	10:00 AM	Walking	Grande Room
	11:00 AM	Tai Chi	Grande Room
	3:30 PM	Men's Bocce	Bocce Courts (May-Sept)
	4:30 PM	Poolside Grill	Pool Deck (Memorial Day-Labor Day)
	5:30 PM	8-Ball	Billiards Room (Nov-Mar)
	6:30 PM	Line Dancing	Grande Room
THURSDAY	9:00 AM	Pickleball	Tennis Courts
	10:00 AM	Walking	Grande Room
FRIDAY	8:00 AM	Open Golf	Mays Landing Country Club (Apr-Nov)
	9:00 AM	Men's Breakfast	Golden Corral (Last Friday of Month)
	9:00 AM	Pickleball	Tennis Courts
	10:00 AM	Walking	Grande Room
	11:00 AM	Yoga	Grande Room
	12:00 PM	Canasta	Card Rooms
	6:00 PM	Happy Hour	Grande Room (Last Friday of Month Sept-Apr)
SATURDAY	9:00 AM	Tennis	Tennis Courts

#### FROM MY KITCHEN

As the weather gets cooler, we turn to warm, comforting dishes that are hearty and tasty. Here is one of my favorite, easy-to-make, go to recipes. I love this served over fettucine or if you want to stay on the lighter side, with steamed broccoli.

#### Creamy Parmesan and Sundried Tomato Chicken

#### Ingredients:

1 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts

2 cloves of garlic, chopped

1/4 tsp red pepper flakes (or more if you like the heat)

1/2 c. dry, white wine

3/4 c. chicken broth

1/2 c. heavy cream

1/4 c. sundried tomatoes, chopped

1/4 c. parmesan cheese, grated (it's ok to be a little heavy-handed with the cheese!)

Salt and pepper

Fresh basil, thinly sliced.

#### Directions:

- 1. Season chicken with salt and pepper, heat oil in pan and cook chicken through. Set aside.
- 2. Add the garlic and red pepper flake and sauté until fragrant, about one minute.
- 3. Add the wine to deglaze the pan (choose a good wine that you would normally drink, but don't go crazy on the price).
- 4. Add broth, cream, tomatoes and parmesan. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer 3-5 minutes until the sauce thickens a bit.
- 5. Nestle the chicken back into the pan (along with any juices) and garnish with fresh basil.





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