

VGEM



NEWS

1 Village Grande Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

BOARD'S CORNER

Did you know the snowstorm of January 6, 2025, was unofficially nicknamed "Winter Storm Blair" by The Weather Channel? The storm brought blizzard conditions to many states, but thankfully we measured right at four inches. (According to our Snow Captains) Our contractor, Shore Point Landscaping started working on Monday afternoon and finished just a little after 11:00pm Monday evening. On February 2nd in Cobbler's Knob, PA, Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter. Let's hope he was wrong. However, as winter ends, we look forward to emergence of spring, with warmer weather and the start of our outdoor activities, tennis, pickleball, bocce, the opening of the outdoor pool, and of course, the Wednesday night grill.

Spring also brings with it renewed activity from our dedicated ACC members who will be walking the community to ensure that our properties sparkle and outshine other communities. As many of you know, our landscape contractor unexpectedly closed shop as of December 2024, which left us without a contractor for 2025. The Trustees have been diligently searching for a replacement, and by the time this newsletter reaches you, they will have filled that void. We all know how costs have increased over the past several years. Our community faces those same financial cost burdens, just on a larger scale. The Board has several major projects underway to hold our monthly maintenance fee-increases to a minimum. One cost-saving project this spring will bring two new irrigation wells online to make us less dependent on expensive city water. The Board hopes to replace all city irrigation water with well-water in the next term. The Board also recognized that our By-Laws are outdated to the tune of 22+ years, and they need to be following New Jersey state directives. This means taking a hard look at increasing our initiation and capital investments fees. More to follow on this subject. Please make every effort to attend our Open Session meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President, Robert Kennedy
Vice President, Art Farnum
Secretary, Jo-Anne Goldberg
Treasurer, Eileen Mayer
Trustee, Abe Greenbaum

OPEN SESSION MEETINGS are held on the **THIRD** Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM.

March 18th
April 15th
May 20th
June 17th

Homeowners are encouraged to attend meetings to learn about VGEM priorities and goals.

WELCOME

Welcome to the following new residents of Village Grande at English Mill

Matthew A. Zarozny
248 Lily Road

If you are a new neighbor, please stop by the Clubhouse and complete an HOA census form with Tara so we may have permission to formally welcome you to VGEM. Also pickup your access card to the clubhouse and your pool passes and guest passes.



Club News

Ladies Bible Fellowship

Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays at 1:00pm. Topics that will be covered this semester include: The Lord's Prayer, The Beatitudes, and The Old Testament Book of Jonah. All are welcome for a time of learning, growing and fellowship.

Any questions, contact Kathy DeMaria at: 609-314-1679 or kdjemaria84@gmail.com

Nu-ish Jewish Group

Hope everyone is having a safe and healthy winter! We meet once a month at the Clubhouse. We are always looking for new people to join our group. This past year we had an amazing group of speakers attend our meetings. We also had an excellent outing to the Stockton Holocaust Resource Center. We had a very successful Seder at the Shore diner, and hopefully, we can do that again this year. We gladly welcome our non-Jewish residents to join us. Our next meeting will be a pizza party to welcome spring, and it will be at 5:00pm on Thursday March 20th.

Any questions, please feel free to call me at 609-501-3065. Thank you, Alex Drobny

Dine around Club

Dine Around is a Club that meets four times a year to share a themed dinner. Our current theme is a cocktail party, at the Clubhouse. Normally there is a host house where everyone brings food matching the theme. We switch it around each session and meet new and old members and dine together.

Please contact Jim and Arlene Berg at 609-365-8150 for more information.

Bowling Group

When it is cold outside on Monday, join us at the King Pin Bowling Alley on Route 40 (Black Horse Pike). We have a special deal for VGEM seniors. We have fun bowling and eating lunch for the price of \$10. YOU CANNOT FIND A BETTER DEAL. We have all skill levels from first beginners to advanced beginners. It is casual, and fun. Just show up before 11:00am.

For any questions, contact Arlene or Jim Berg 609-365-8150 or bergnegg@comcast.net

Billiards Club

The VGEM Billiards Club will be kicking off our 2025 9-ball season in May. This is a fun league where "Anything can happen in 9-ball". All residents are welcome to join the league. Teams of two play on either Monday or Thursday evening. The sign-up sheet is on the clipboard in the billiards room. Sign up with a partner, or put your name on the list, and the Billiard Committee will pair you up with another player. As always, the billiard room is a fun place to hang out and catch a pick-up game, practice and develop your skills. If you are a "Newbie" or haven't played for a long time, there are always folks around to help or coach you.

VGEM Golf League

We continue to play throughout the winter, and we are hoping for some nice weather ever so often. There is plenty of room for additional golfers. Anyone interested in joining us at the Green Tree Golf Course on Tuesday or Friday mornings, please contact Jack Schoch at docschoch@aol.com or 215-514-6551. Our 2025 league competition will start in May with warm-up rounds in March and April. We will be having a kickoff meeting in March. Keep an eye out for notices from the office.



Social Committee

Save the 2025 Dates

Mar. 15 th	St. Pat's Dinner/ Dance Party
April 5 th	Spring Luncheon/ Auction
May 3 rd	Kentucky Derby
June 20 th	Ice Cream Social

Save the Date

Bingo is coming soon...

**April 17th at 6:30pm in
the Clubhouse.**

Doors open at 6:00pm

**Join your friends and
neighbors for a night of
fun.**



Committee News

Special Event Committee

The Special Events Committee is hosting a special group on April 27th at 7:00pm "Hot Club of Philadelphia" will be joining us for an evening of music and entertainment. Get ready to sing, dance and have an exciting time. Look for information on tickets coming soon

Election Committee

The 2025 Trustees Election season begins with the announcement of the Call for Candidates by email and phone blast on April 28, 2025, and closes at 1:00pm on May 19, 2025. Residents whose experiences and background could contribute to the success of the Board of Trustees and are strongly encouraged to run. If this applies to you, please consider becoming a candidate or encouraging a qualified neighbor. There will be two vacancies to be filled. This creates a terrific opportunity, for those with ideas of how to strengthen our governing body going forward, to provide direction and guidance. Please give it a thought.

The Meet the Candidates meeting will be held on May 29, 2025, at 6:30pm and heralds the onset of voting. Voting closes on June 17, 2025, at 3:00pm, with the ballots being tallied in the Clubhouse at 5:00pm.

Social Committee

The Social Committee held a soup and sandwich Luncheon in January which was attended by over 80 residents. It was a lively group, and all had a good time. It was nice to get together on a cold, winter afternoon to spend time with friends and neighbors.

We are planning another luncheon April 5th. We also plan to have a Kentucky Derby Party on May 3rd.



Chicki, Bonnie, Joanne, Joan, Regina, Carmen, Kathleen, Julie and Florence

VGEM Safety Committee

The Atlantic County Offices has a "Fix-It Program" available to any senior citizen, age 60 and older whose safety is at risk due to the need for handrails or minor home repairs. Call the office of Aging Services at 1-888-426-9243 for more information.

News of Note....

As a Reminder, Monthly Maintenance Fees are due the 1st of every month. Your payment should be mailed to the following address: Village Grande at English Mill PO Box 60002 Newark, NJ 07101 Please ensure that you include your account number. Please contact the Community Manager with any questions attara.frontera@associamidatlantic.com or at 609-788-8405

SLOW DOWN

please

A friendly reminder, that the posted speed limit in our community is 25mph. There are residents who walk and/or walk their dogs in the street and speeding presents a hazard to them. Please slow down while driving through the VGEM.

BULK TRASH

is collected the week of the 3rd Sunday of the month. Trash can be placed at the curb on the previous Friday.

Neighbors, just a reminder, regular trash receptacles are not to be placed outside for pickup before 3:00pm the day prior to pickup.



Club News *continued*

Pickleball Club

The Pickleball Club will continue to play at 10:00am on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Tennis Club

We anticipate resuming play in Mid-March; the exact date will depend upon the weather. We play on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The early season playing time will be 10:00am until 12:00noon. The later seasonal playing time will be 9:00am until 11:00am. All residents are welcome. There isn't any fee, and you must bring your own racket. We are all average players (3.0 - 3.5) m and there are both men and women playing. Most of the time, the matches are doubles. If you need a refresher after a long absence from play, someone will work with you. If you are uncertain about fitting in, then come and watch. The courts are not reserved in the afternoon, so you can arrange your own match. If you have any questions,

Contact Mike at 609-904-2235

Men's Club

The Men's Club has a great line-up of speakers for our monthly breakfast meetings for 2025. We meet at 9:00am at Fitzpatrick's in Somers Point

March 28th Atlantic City Rescue Mission, Bob Franklin

April 25th: Atlantic County Prosecutor: William E. Reynolds

May TBD

The meetings are a great opportunity to learn about our Southern New Jersey area while enjoying fellowship and good food with your neighbors. We welcome all the men in our community to join us for a tasty breakfast, great fellowship, and an informative presentation

Fishing Club

For years, before Covid, the Fishing Club was active and sponsored fishing trips that were scheduled every summer. Thirty-five to forty residents would get together on a chartered pontoon boat to a four-hour morning on the back bays. If anyone is interested, contact Bill Hofman at 609-678-8999

billfish363@gmail.com.

Book Bunch

The Book Bunch meets monthly in the Clubhouse ballroom at 3:30pm.

The next meeting is March 17th and the book is "The Housemaid" by Frieda McFadden. Our following meeting is on April 21st and the book is "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. On our May 19th meeting, we will discuss "Hello Beautiful" by Ann Napolitano.

We always welcome new members. For questions or information, please call Peaav Smith at 609-204-1445.

ACC

The Architectural Control Committee

Meets every second and fourth Wednesday beginning in March and ending in October. Any landscape or hardscape project must be submitted to the committee for their review and approval.

The goal and mandate of the committee is to help maintain the overall excellent appearance of our homes and community. Should any homeowner wish to initiate a landscaping or hardscape project, they are to pick up a blue application form explaining the scope of the project. These forms can be obtained from the Community Manager. Once the application is complete, it is then submitted to the Community Manager, who in turn will share it with members of the ACC for review. We ask the homeowners to thoroughly review the application before completing it, as it asks for four specific items that must be included in the final application. The first meeting of the ACC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12th. The committee members look forward to working with homeowners who submit applications in a timely fashion, so they can move forward with their respective projects. Thanks, and think Spring!!

April 22nd



Earth Day