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Mutual 24

The View

from Vantage Point East

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March/April 2021



The number of deaths in the US from Covid-19 is too great to fully comprehend. Last November, artist Suzanne Firstenberg placed individual flags for each death in the field by RFK stadium to mark what was then about half of the loss to date. Her visual statement is a powerful reminder of the scale of this tragedy.

President's Message

During the past year there has been a lot of controversy over a proposed new Administration Building. Some of you are new residents in Leisure World and some of you have been on the periphery of what has been going on. My intent is to provide you some background and where we are now.

In 2017–18 after three years of planning, Leisure World presented a site development plan to the Montgomery County Planning Board, which controls and governs construction in the county. During the previous three years, a comprehensive review was made on the lack of working space needs for staff in the current Administration Building, bringing the existing administration building up to safety standards/codes, expanding the size of the building, and as an alternative, building a new, modern facility at a different location. The choice was to construct a new Administration Building and demolish the current, 50-year-old one.

The comprehensive site development plan for the new Administration Building included for Clubhouse I upgrades recommended by the residents. The site of the existing Administration Building would be converted into close-in handicapped parking for Clubhouse I, which was also desired by our residents.

In 2019–20, after approval by the Montgomery County Planning Board, the Leisure World Board contracted for detail engineering specifications and solicited bids for construction. This past fall a construction company was picked for the work package and the necessary permits were applied for. When a vote was called to award the contract, it failed by one vote. Funding the project was not an issue as the community was reserving funds for it and the residents had already paid for it through a resale fee when they purchased their units. Board members who voted against implementing the plan wanted to revisit refurbishing the existing Administration Building or building a new one at the current location.

The Leisure World Board is currently looking at funding a company to again evaluate whether the existing Administration Building can be brought up to current safety standards/codes, and whether management staff can be

January Board Actions

The VPE Board agreed to:

- the Shapiro & Duncan's Standard Maintenance PLUS contract to service the common area units over a three-year period at a cost of \$6,696.00 annually PLUS \$2,500.00 for repairs, payable: \$2,299.00 per quarter. Funds to come from Replacement Reserves.
- the LWMC Invoice in the amount of \$2,210.32 for replacement of an exhaust fan. Funds to come from Replacement Reserves.
- the Dynalectric proposal in the amount of \$4,420.00 to remove and install four new Siemens bucket switch mounting plates that would require a power shutdown for approximately 4-8 hours. Funds to come from Electrical Maintenance.
- the Shapiro & Duncan's HWH Maintenance addendum to the Preventive Maintenance Agreement in the amount \$1,236.00 per year to add the two Lochinvar boilers. Funds to come from Hot Water Heater Account.
- appointment of Kathi Carlson to the Communications Committee.

–Ann Ferren, Secretary

Please let the **VPE Sunshine Committee** know of any ill, bereaved or new residents who should be acknowledged. Call Marilyn Jordan (301) 598-0174 or Barbara Halperin (240) 242-3451.

accommodated at the current building location in lieu of building a new modern building.

With the delay of the overall project relative to the Administration Building, the LW Board is also looking at just awarding a contract for the Clubhouse I upgrades, which would consist of addition of a Terrace Room vestibule with an exterior canopy, addition of a circular driveway in front of the Terrace Room with handicapped parking, rebuilding of the loading dock area, and expansion of the Maryland Room to accommodate more residents.

More information on the Leisure World Board actions regarding the Administration Building and Clubhouse I efforts will appear in the Leisure World News.

–Henry Jordan

February Board Actions

The VPE Board agreed to:

- approve the proposal from Engineering and Technical Consultants, Inc. for design and bidding services for the façade rehabilitation project at a cost not to exceed \$9,500. Funds to come from the Replacement Reserves.
- approve the proposal from Schindler Elevator Corporation to replace three governors, encoders and safety switch at a cost not to exceed \$21,000. Funds to come from the Replacement Reserves.
- request payment in the amount of \$5,000 from unit 1005 for the insurance claim for water damage originating in the unit. The Property Manager is authorized to make payment to LWMC when the invoice for the insurance deductible is received.
- approve the following new rule for distribution to unit owners for a 15-day review:

13.12 Residents with electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles are permitted to charge their vehicles on a 120v outlet in the garage if they own an indoor parking space, pay for the electricity, can access an outlet, and agree to the policies and standards outlined in an agreement available from the Association Office.

- introduce a new Policy Resolution No. 7: Use of Electricity to Charge Electric/Hybrid Vehicles and notify unit owners of intent to approve with the final hearing to be held at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

–Ann Ferren, Secretary



Cheryl Fleming



–Photo by Al Tanenholtz

Property Manager's Corner

Continuing to Stay Safe: As we continue to navigate through this pandemic, please remember:

- Although many have received vaccines, we all must continue to practice safe behaviors on behalf of others. Residents should continue to wear a mask in all common areas of the building, including when going to the refuse room or to pick up the mail.
- Remind visitors and contractors to have a mask on while they enter the building, even if they too have been vaccinated.
- If you encounter someone in the elevator, ask if you can join them before entering. Be respectful of those who wish to ride alone.
- Continue practicing social distance indoors, and outdoors.

Proposed New Rule: Everyone received notice regarding a new rule that the Board will consider at its March meeting. This rule will allow residents to charge an electric vehicle in their garage space using our 120v outlet. If you would like a copy of the Policy Resolution that will outline procedures to use and how to reimburse the Association for electric use, please contact the Office. If you have questions or comments, you may email them to cjuarez@lwmc.com.

Online Meetings: We continue to hold Board and Committee meetings online, notices with the zoom meeting ID and password are posted on the bulletin boards. If you would like to attend and wish to have a direct link, please email cjuarez@lwmc.com.

–Cris Juarez

Covenants Committee Update

The Covenants Committee has responsibility for the overall soundness and well-being of our condominium by ensuring that all repairs and activities are consistent with the Bylaws and VPE Rules and Regulations. The committee also recommends new rules that promote the general welfare and safety of our community. With an eye toward the future, we have recently developed guidelines and rules for charging electric and hybrid electric vehicles. The Board has approved sending the new rule to all unit owners for comment before final approval. In addition, we are overseeing the updating of the many documents that govern the operation of VPE to ensure that they are an accurate reflection of current needs.

–Ann Ferren

Hurrah to the VPE Activities Committee They Lift Our Spirits In This Difficult Period They Love Us

Valentine's Day



Pictured from left: Lyn Tanenholtz, Cheryl Fleming, Eunice Kahn and Flo Golomb take a break from decorating VPE Lobby with valentines.



VPE and Mamma Lucia's Delivering the goods!



—Photos by Al Tanenholtz



Nadine Smith regularly decorates her door with holiday displays. Note Valentine goody bag on doorknob.



—Photos by Al Tanenholtz

The VPE Activities Committee surprised us again with decorations and goodies to celebrate Valentine's Day. Four delicious Lindor chocolate truffles were tied with a red ribbon and attached to each resident's door handle. Flyers wishing everyone a Happy Valentine's Day were displayed on the tables opposite the elevators. Thanks to the VPE Activities Committee for giving us love for the holiday.

—Barbara Eisen

Thank You, Activities Committee

I would like to thank the Activities Committee for all the things they have done for the residents during this pandemic. They have been both thoughtful and kind. They came up with unique ways to involve us and bring joy into an otherwise humdrum existence. The gifts hanging on our doors let us know we were not forgotten even if we never ventured out. I am looking forward to the time when we can gather again in person and also meet the many new residents who have arrived during this stressful time.

I am sure many residents join me in appreciating the work the Activities Committee has done and I know will continue to do.

—Linda Reba

Spring is Near and so is Golf Season

You may have read my article in the *Leisure World News* that in a community like ours an 18-hole golf course increases residential property value between 20 and 40 percent. Put another way by decreasing an 18 hole golf course to 9 holes decrease the added value also by half. Currently our golf course is one of the few recreational amenities available that has a strong revenue stream. Last year Leisure World golfers played 20,585 rounds of golf and it is estimated that golf revenue could hit \$500,000 in 2021. Now is the time to start thinking about what your golf plans might be in 2021.

As the VPE representative to the Golf and Greens Advisory Committee, I could be of help

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Chat Club Surprise

Saturday, the Morning Chat Club had a very nice surprise.

John Biedenkapp serenaded Janeice Cohen for her just passed birthday. It was so nice to hear this unplanned kindness. You probably know John; he is one of the original owners in this building.

If you see the group in the morning, stop and chat a while. What a nice way to get to know our neighbors.

–Lise McCallum (204)



The Chat Club

–Photo by Len Silver

Save the Date – Wednesday, March 24

...for another “**DINNER DELIVERED**” by the Activities Committee. This time it will be from the Chinese Restaurant Hunan Delight in Olney. A flyer will be put under your door with full details including where to get menu information and an order form that must be returned with your check by March 19.

–Barbara Eisen

Introducing a new column: Meet Your Neighbors

Moving to a new neighborhood can be both exciting and challenging. Doug and I moved to VPE from Denver in October 2019, and it took months before everything was unpacked and set up to our satisfaction. Then, of course, there was time spent discovering where to shop for groceries, which restaurants have the best take-out, looking for brunch places, finding a hair dresser, a barber, a dentist and other medical practitioners, and on and on. This all takes time and patience. The former I have in abundance, but the latter—not so much.

But the thing I’ve enjoyed the most has been meeting my new neighbors because Vantage Point East is now my ‘hood. I made it a practice that when I rode the elevator with someone else to introduce myself with a cheerful, “Hello! I’m Kathi Carlson. My husband, Doug, and I just moved into apartment 920.” And of course, they’d give me their name. It was a short exchange, but gradually I was able to put names with faces so I could wave hellos when I saw them again. I have been saddened to think what moving here during the pandemic has been like for our newest residents. They haven’t been able to meet their VPE neighbors in the usual way: no quarterly birthday parties, no movie nights, no game nights, and not even an elevator introduction—we’ve been socially distancing.

The idea for a Meet Your Neighbor column bubbled up during a recent Communications Committee meeting as a way to address this dilemma. I immediately volunteered because I am passionate about connecting people. I will interview residents on a strictly voluntary basis—no arm twisting!—and will share only information that they are comfortable sharing. The interviews will appear in no particular order, and I hope to write at least two per issue of *The View*.

–Kathi Carlson

Meet new resident Jeannette L. Oliver, Apt. 805

My personal, and admittedly totally unscientific, survey of residents of Leisure World tells me that most move here for one of two reasons: they want to retire near family or they lived in this area most of their adult lives, so when it came time to look for a retirement home, LW made perfect sense. My first interviewee, Jeannette Oliver, falls into the second category.

Jeannette has lived in Maryland her entire life. When it came time to go to college she chose the University of Maryland's School of Music where she obtained her B.A. and then her M.M. in choral conducting. After graduation she found a job right away with the School of Music where she is currently the Business Manager. Jeannette tells me this is her 9-5:00 job.

But, of course, singing and conducting is Jeannette's passion. She sings professionally with Choralis, a symphonic choir based in Northern Virginia and looks forward to the day post-COVID when the group can meet again in-person to perform. She is a cantor at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Muncaster Mill Road, and she is the choir director for another Catholic Church as well. Jeannette also freelances for weddings and funerals.

When Jeannette isn't managing the business office or singing or directing, she enjoys researching her family's history. "I caught the ancestry.com bug a couple of years ago," she told me. She also loves baking cookies. Yes, she is That Person who bakes and gifts cookies from the heart: as thank-you gifts, for Holidays, for birthdays, and just because. Like me she is a lover of HGTV, so we shared favorite shows – hers are Love It or List It, House Hunters and Flip or Flop. She also enjoys the game show The Weakest Link. Her travel has been mostly work-related, but of course COVID has curtailed that for the time being. She says she will most miss a music workshop she has attended annually in the Pacific Northwest. Jeannette also shared that she has been participating in the WW Program (formerly Weight Watchers) and has lost 100 lbs, for which she is rightly proud. She says she's not at her goal weight yet, but she is pretty close. Even though Jeannette is a new resident, she has already jumped in and volunteered to do Zoom training for VPE residents who signed up via the Activities Club flyer.



–Photo by Kathi Carlson

Which brings me back to “why Leisure World?” Jeannette resided in Burtonsville for many years, but when her mother passed away at age 102 and left the house to her and her brother, she had to decide whether to keep it or sell it.

There were so many memories associated with the house, but also so many things that needed doing: repairs that couldn't be put off and renovations that would ideally need to be made. And of course, there was the on-going maintenance associated with a single family home to consider. Decisions needed to be made. She went to a Leisure World orientation to explore options, but then COVID put the brakes on everything. Jeannette referred to this as “the perfect storm,” saying it was both a good and bad thing, but good in the sense that it gave her more time to consider her alternatives. She focused on Leisure World and found an apartment she loved at VPE (unit 805), put the wheels in motion to sell the two homes and moved here at the end of September.

Welcome to VPE, Jeannette Oliver!

–Kathi Carlson

Spring is Near and so is Golf Season

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to those who have never played golf but would like to. For VPE residents who would like to play regularly, we could form a golf team of one or more foursomes that could get a regular tee time to play each week. There is also the possibility of organizing regular group lessons with the Golf Pro Richard Rosenthal.

Email me at jfife213@gmail.com if you are interested in participating, and when I get at least three such emails I will organize a way for all of us to talk about what the possibilities might be.

–Jon Fife

A New Book Club

On February 11, 2021, the VPE Book Discussion Group was reborn. Ann Jelen facilitated the first meeting by Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to determine how the club would operate. There were twelve residents in attendance.

The group will meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. beginning March 16.

Each month a different member will select a book and be responsible for leading the discussion. The group decided that they will read both fiction and non-fiction, trying to maintain a balance between the two genres. Members will be responsible for obtaining their own copies of the chosen book. The first book selected was *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. Meetings will be held via Zoom for now, in the hopes that the group can meet in person as the pandemic eases.

—Sally Dunford

Spotlight on Reading Women of Influence



—Photo by Sally Dunford

Poetry Group



Wild Geese by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert, repent-
ing.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about your despair, yours, and I will tell
you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the
rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue
air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and excit-
ing - -
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

Mary Jane Oliver (September 10, 1935—January 17, 2019) was an American poet who won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Her work is inspired by nature, stemming from her lifelong passion for solitary walks in the wild.

—The Poetry Group

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS

Notices will be posted or members called when committee meetings are held in-person or online.

Stay safe!



Important!

All electronic submissions for *The View* should be sent to:

lenirenesil@comcast.net
and
tom@mcgrathusa.net

Submitting to any other email chances that your article will not be considered for publication.

Building and Grounds

The Building and Grounds Committee held a Zoom meeting on January 20. We discussed the proposal from Dynalectric for replacement of faulty electric switches; passed the proposal and sent it to the Board. We also discussed and passed the proposal from Shapiro & Duncan to maintain our two water heaters and sent it to the Board. We discussed the digital bulletin board and are waiting for more information before making a decision. We are waiting for more info and price before we make a decision on the shared entry driveway sign and lighting. We are waiting for more info before we can decide on waterproofing the lobby-level garage floors.

—Marvin Wolf, Chair

***The View* is bi-monthly for now.**

Residents may notice that this issue of *The View* is for March/April. The next issue will be in May. Calendars may be available for each month if there are meetings and activities to list.

Spring Has Sprung



—Photo by Bob Gallagher

***The View* Crew**

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