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November– December 2026
Vol 24 No. 6

The View

from Vantage Point East

To Inform, Engage and Entertain our VPE neighbors

VPE Wishes you Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year!



President's Message

By: Henry Jordan



November is here, and winter is approaching. If you are a snowbird heading south, travel safely we look forward to seeing you in the spring. If you are driving south and leaving a garage space available, please notify the office, as others may be interested in renting it. If your car remains outside for the winter, park on the side of the building near Overlook, not in the snow-dumping area.

Thank you for attending the annual meeting of the VPE Council of Unit Owners. We elected Henry Jordan, Sid Sussan and Calvin Ferrell to our Board. Please extend common courtesy to board members by communicating concerns politely, whether in person or by phone. Two resolutions appeared on the ballot: one to install cameras in the building's common areas and another to allow unit owners attending board meetings to vote on any item. The camera installation resolution was defeated. The resolution allowing unit owners to vote at board meetings was defeated.

All VPE committees had an outstanding year. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who monitored our building and grounds, kept residents informed through the VPE View and website, organized community food, conversation, educational programs, and movies, and volunteered in many other ways to serve VPE.

As a self-governed community, we depend on residents to participate and lead. Please volunteer your time by joining a VPE committee. Active involvement helps sustain our community spirit and activities. By the end of November, please join or renew your membership in a 2027 committee. Sign-up forms are available in the association office.

Replacing our long-serving property manager will be challenging. Her strong leadership, commitment to customer service, and understanding of the condominium as a building, business, and community were invaluable. She communicated and listened effectively, resolved problems and disputes, negotiated skillfully, and built trusted relationships with our Mutual Board and LWMC management and staff. She will be deeply missed. We have been working with Leisure World to fill this position.

Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Henry Jordan

PM's Corner- A Fond Farewell

By: Cris Juarez

As you read this, my time as your Property Manager has come to a close. Looking back on the past nine and a half years, I feel tremendous gratitude for the opportunity to have served Vantage Point East. I truly enjoyed working here, and saying goodbye to this community was bittersweet.

I am proud of what we accomplished together and grateful to the Board members, committee members, and staff whose dedication helps this community thrive. Most of all, I am thankful for you, the residents who are the heart of VPE.

Many of you have touched my life in ways that went well beyond my role as Property Manager. You offered advice, a listening ear, and plenty of laughter. You so willingly shared lessons from your professional lives and wisdom gained from experiences I was navigating myself, like raising teenagers! Your kindness and perspective helped me grow not only professionally, but personally. Those connections, and the everyday conversations that made them possible, are what I will miss the most.

As I begin a new chapter, I leave you with a few last friendly reminders: continue looking out for one another, offer a helping hand when you can, and welcome new neighbors with the same warmth you showed me. A friendly greeting, an invitation to a community event, or a little patience and understanding can make a difference in someone's day.

Keep sharing your ideas, participating in community life, and supporting those who give their time to VPE. Each of you plays a part in making this a wonderful place to call home and in keeping VPE the best building in Leisure World!

Thank you for your trust, your friendship, and the many ways you enriched my life. It was a privilege to serve you, and I will carry fond memories of this community and its people with me.

With warmest wishes, Cris Juarez.

VPE: PARKING LOT ASPHALT REPAIR

By: Bruce Hulman

As many of VPE residents have observed, asphalt surface in the inbound lane in the western part of the VPE parking lot was showing signs of “alligator cracking” attributable to either asphalt wear and/or soil subsidence. The possible reason for the soil subsidence is water under the asphalt moving soil particles away from the impacted area thereby removing support. Hence, the asphalt surface depressions.

The asphalt surface depressions are of concern because walking over an undulating surface could be a cause for a trip and fall event or the low areas will accumulate water and freeze in the winter causing a slip-hazard for pedestrians.

SCOPE OF WORK

VPE retained Chamberlain Contractors (Chamberlain) of Laurel, Maryland to provide the needed construction services to:

1.Install a French drain whose purpose is to allow subsurface water to flow to the nearby storm sewer. The purpose of the French drain is to conduct any accumulated water in the subsurface and drain it to the nearby storm drain and,

2.Place a new asphalt surface over the impacted area thereby eliminating the local asphalt depressions.

WORK

Chamberlain commenced and completed the scope of work described above on September 1, 2026.







Budget & Finance Committee

By: Doug Carlson

The Budget & Finance Committee submitted the Draft 2027 VPE Budget to the Board and the Board approved it for distribution to the unit owners. As of the time of the submission, there were still some numbers unavailable (e.g., finalized Leisure World fees, etc.) which may change the final budget that gets approved. Even with these changes, it is expected that the approved 2027 VPE Budget will reflect a substantial decrease in the assessments for next year.

The Budget & Finance Committee also submitted some ideas to the Board for the disposition of funds that have become available primarily due to updated information from an external consultant that did not recommend the need for a major cleaning of our sanitary lines at this time. The VPE Board will make the final determination on the distribution of these funds.

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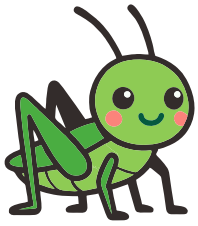
The Board adopted an updated Reserve Study which includes the identification of key VPE building projects and associated general cost estimates. Particularly noteworthy is that the new study employs a method of gradual contribution increases over time. This change should make the impact of the Replacement Reserve contributions more predictable and less volatile in the future unless there are large, unexpected changes or events. The Board plans to have the Reserve Study updated annually to maintain awareness of any significant changes in projects or project costs.

All unit owners are very welcome to attend regularly scheduled Budget & Finance Committee meetings. See the VPE calendar for meeting times. And watch for notices in the building in case the meeting times change.

On the Road with a Grasshopper

By: Larry Kurlandsky

Recently my wife and I drove to Toronto for a family celebration—a rare opportunity to see our Canadian children and grandchildren. But all wonderful events must end. With feelings of both happiness and sadness, as we repacked our car for a multi-day drive home, we noticed a green grasshopper—2.5 inches long (6.35 centimeters, after all we were in Canada)—wandering around the front hood of our car. Curious, I did not flick it off, assuming it would fly/jump off when the car moved; it did not. Down the congested Canadian highways we went, the grasshopper sitting still on the car hood facing forward: our hood ornament, so to speak. At the border, the customs agent did not notice the grasshopper, and I did not declare it. Through rain, curves, elevations, descents, it still remained. At stops, we would always look for it as it would walk around the hood, sometimes onto a rear mirror, or hide in the windshield well. After stopping for the night, it rained, but the next morning, there it was. Alas, after our first stop that day, it was gone. For 250 miles, it had given us a companionship and focus we enjoyed.



What can one say of a grasshopper? In the Bible, it highlights human frailty and insecurity but also living in the present. In other cultures, the grasshopper, especially if green, is seen as a symbolic messenger to take a leap of faith and move forward in one's life without dwelling on the past (grasshoppers can only jump forward). Additionally, they can stay completely still for long periods before making a sudden, presumably intentional move, signaling that you should wait for the right moment and then act decisively trusting your intuition and gut. In many traditions they symbolize good luck, prosperity, health, and wisdom. So, learning about the symbolism of this insect gave me a great deal to ponder. Maybe as the Canadian, Marshall McLuhan, said in 1964, "The medium [i.e. the grasshopper] is the message." We got home safe and exhausted.

And yet my scientific curiosity still wondered—how did this grasshopper maintain its grip on a smooth, metallic surface when buffeted by speed, winds, and rain? Turns out, they have a specialized grip anatomy: each leg has claws acting like grappling hooks; each segment of their feet has pads that conform perfectly to smooth surfaces (like glass or slick leaves); and on smooth surfaces (our car hood) the pads secrete an oily fluid creating an adhesive film strong enough to hold many times the insect's body weight.

In conclusion, I now know more about grasshoppers than I ever expected or wanted to know. I hope this one finds its new environment to its liking and to be able, of course, to avoid ICE as an illegal alien.



August-October BOD Resolutions

August Board Actions

The Board approved:

- Appointment of Sara Lovinger to the Activities Committee, Ceil Combe to the Budget & Finance Committee, and Sandy Robinson to the Elections Committee.
- Valcourt Building Services proposal to perform annual inspections of the roof anchors for a five-year term at a cost of $1,250 per year. Funds to come from General Maintenance.
- A three-year residential HVAC full-service agreement with AMD Mechanical Contractors for 2027-2029 at an annual cost of $73,860. Funds to be charged HVAC Residential Units.
- Phase A of the proposal from Michael Blades & Associates to perform an Elevator Condition Assessment and Report at a cost of $3,800. Funds to come from the Replacement Reserves.
- The proposal from Global Facility Solutions, LLC to develop recommended best practices for the ongoing maintenance of the sanitary risers at a cost of $4,000. Funds to come from the Contingency Reserves.
- A Change Order with Culbertson Company to remove the existing front entrance canopy roof system and install a Tremco PUMA coating system at a cost of $53,855. Funds to come from the Replacement Reserves.

September Board Actions

The Board approved:

- The updated Administrative Resolution No 6: Covenants Committee Terms of Reference effective September 24, 2026.
- The updated Administrative Resolution No 11: Collection of Assessments and Other Charges effective September 24, 2026.
- The updated Administrative Resolution No 12: Insurance Incidents and Claims Handling Procedures effective September 24, 2026.
- Distribution of the 2027 Draft Budget for a 30-day unit owner comment period, with Budget Forums on October 22nd, 2026.
- Return of $342,000 that had been collected for sanitary line cleaning to residents; each unit's share calculated based on its percentage of ownership and days occupying the unit in 2026; and to be distributed in January 2027.

October Board Actions

The Board Approved:

- Officers for 2026-2027: Henry Jordan President, Ann Ferren Vice-President, Sid Sussan Treasuer, and Jim Lieberman Secretary.
- Henry Jordan to be the VPE representative on the LWCC Board, and Ann Ferren and Jim Lieberman as alternates to the LWCC board for VPE.
- The 2027 Budget and distribution to unit owners.
- The allocation of funds as follows:
  - $85,000 from the Contingency Reserves to Maintenance Reserves
  - $50,000 from the Contingency Reserves to the Insurance Deductible Reserves.
  - From the $69,790 in unused budgeted funds from fiscal 2025 allocate $48,415 to the Operating Account and $21,375 to the Contingency Reserves.
- Not renewing the Shapiro & Duncan preventive maintenance contract for common area HVAC equipment.
- The LWCC proposed resale fee increase to 6 percent or $4000, whichever is greater.
- Contracting with AMD to perform quarterly maintenance inspections for the Lochinvar High Efficiency Water Heaters.
- Contracting with AMD to perform quarterly maintenance inspections for common area HVAC equipment other than Daiken rooftop units.

To All Library Card Holders

By: Paula Kasper

The world of books (print, audio, and digital) are yours as soon as you've a Montgomery County Public Libraries card. Please see Lynn in the office if you'd like a public library card application. The nearest public libraries are in Aspen Hill, Twinbrook, or Olney.

Want to see what's available? Visit a branch library or go to https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov. Enter Libraries in search box or click on Library link. After entering the title of the book you'd like to read, there's information as to which branch has the book, whether available in paper, audio, or digital format. Click on the version you want. Book not available? Click on Reserve or click on Hold. You'll be notified via email when the book in the format you've chosen is available for you.
Want to listen to your selected book? Click Audio version.

Want to read your selected book on a Kindle, Nook, or tablet? Click on the version you want. If you'd like help, please ask me or any of the multiple readers in VPE.

Next time, how to read books or watch movies and use Kanopy, Hoopla, and Libby.

A November Story:

Politics We Can No Longer Argue About

By: Ruth Kurlandsky

On November 3, 1948, the Chicago Tribune published the daily paper with the headline "Dewey Wins." The next day, of course, the correction appeared: Truman was elected the next president of the United States. So, the story I heard, but can no longer verify, was that my mother was so excited on the day of the correction, she went into labor, and I was born a month early!



Yes, it was cold in Chicago!!

The Games We Play

By: Paula Kasper

It's always fun to enter our Community Room and see neighbors engaged in playing various games. But where did these games originate? How long have people played them? Time to answer these questions.

BRIDGE:
One version on the origins of bridge is that the earliest recorded form of bridge is Biritch (or "Russian Whist") published by John Collinson in England in 1886. Collinson was a British railway engineer and financier who played the game in Constantinople in the early 1880s. Bridge historian Thierry Depaulis concluded that the game likely developed within diplomatic circles in Istanbul around the 1860s. Variants of the game were played in Greece and Constantinople before spreading to the French Riviera by the 1870s. Official rules were adopted in Paris and London in the late 1890's.
Another version is that the history of bridge may be dated from the early 14th-century and the invention of Trifoni in Italy, a trick taking game where a card was turned over to pick a trump suit which was the ancestor of all the games in the Triomphe family.
Bridge rapidly replaced Whist, which had been played for centuries, in the mid-1890s in the UK and US.
Called by various names in earlier years, we now say contract bridge, People who play bridge are simply called bridge players. There is no special collective noun (like "grandmasters" in chess). The average age of a bridge player is generally between 70 and 75 years old in organized groups like the American Contract Bridge League. In past decades (such as the 1970s), bridge was heavily played on college campuses and by younger adults. Today, the primary new recruits are typically retirees or empty nesters. While the overall average remains high, organizations and community efforts are working to introduce the game to younger generations through school programs, online platforms like IntoBridge, and youth world championships.
Check the next editions of The View for the history of more games...

Recent VPE Events

Katherine Bloom at the VPE Art Show



Chair Exercise Class



Join us for chair exercise every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:15 A.M!

Bring Your Own Dinner





Meet the Candidates Night



Halloween Birthday Party











Thank you all for attending!



WOW, SHE DID IT!

By: Suzie Offit

VPE's star athlete is neither a golfer nor a pickleball player. She's 92-year-old Pauline Yang who, in her first ever swimming competition, won three GOLD medals in the September 2026 Maryland Senior Olympics breaststroke swimming finals. Pauline's backstory began during WWII when she was a 9-year-old living in occupied Taiwan. To help provide food for her family, she had a vegetable garden (which she still does in the LW garden plots), and she also swam in the nearby watering hole attempting to catch fish.

Years passed, the War ended, and Pauline entered a middle school that had a swimming pool as well as softball and volleyball teams. In the ensuing years at Taiwan University, she starred on the University's women's basketball team. Pauline emigrated to the United States where she attended the University of Wisconsin and earned a PhD in biology. While there, she met and married her husband who was earning his PhD in plant biology. After graduation, he became employed at the US Department Of Agriculture in Beltsville, where their only mode of transportation was a bicycle! Flash forward to Leisure World, where the couple moved into VPE as original owners.

Pauline currently teaches a popular class in Ba Duan, which she defines as the oldest of Chinese exercises. Her daughter Isabel now resides in Hawaii, and Pauline visits annually. This year, Isabel accompanied her mother back to Silver Spring along with her Tai Chi teacher, who demonstrated her skills to Pauline's class.

At the urging of friends, Sue and Shane Wu, Pauline entered into her in her first competition ever – the 2026 Maryland Senior Olympics. Fast forward to next year – VPE, let's form a cheering squad to bring our senior super athlete back to the podium!



Honoring John Tremaine

By: Ann Ferren & Elizabeth Tremaine

In 2008, John Tremaine, an original owner in Vantage Point East, became intrigued by pickleball. Improvising with a rope between two chairs as he had no net, with wooden paddles the whiffle balls took flight on the tennis courts lined out with masking tape. By 2010, an instructor came with a collapsible net to give lessons to the nascent LW Pickleball Club. Sharing the court meant improvising and negotiation.

Despite significant opposition from the LW Tennis Advisory Committee, John was confident they could be swayed to share their courts if they could see the joy the game brought. Under the leadership of Club President Donna Leonard, formal documents were drawn up and John took on the role of building support and camaraderie while ensuring the conditions of the courts and equipment. His preference for this type of "field work" stemmed from his long career as a mineral explorer for U.S. Steel in remote places.

By 2015, they were ready to propose double-purpose tennis/pickleball courts. Now a fast-growing sport nationwide, those initial 35 members have lots of company in LW. Upon John's passing at age 94 in March 2026, the LW Pickleball Club graciously named the courts after him in recognition and appreciation of what he contributed to Leisure World.



Cris' Going Away Party: You will be missed!















Activities Committee Events November– December 2026

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays- Guided Audio Yoga
from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
All residents, including beginners, are welcome.

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays- Chair Exercise Class
10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
Seated, low impact exercises for seniors.

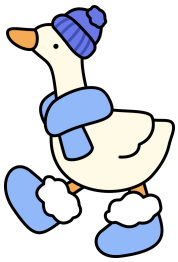
Coffee and Conversation
November 21st at 10:30 a.m.
December TBD

Once a Month: Brown Bag Lunch & Rick Steves Travel Video
November 6th at 12:30 p.m.
December TBD

Second Wednesday: Current Events
November 12th at 7:30 p.m.
December 9th

Third Tuesday: Book Club
November 17th at 3:00 p.m.
December 15th

One Friday a Month: Bring Your Own Dinner
November 13th at 6:00 p.m.
December TBD



Sunday Movie Night
December 27th at 7:30 p.m.

- *A Smokey Mountain Christmas*

The insert included contains important details about the resale fee increase.



Keeping up with Events – Watch for flyers in the elevators, on the tables on each floor, on the bulletin boards, and under your doors for further details about events.

Mark These Dates

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Activities	Nov. 4 Dec. 2	1:00 p.m.
Communication	Nov. 12 Dec. 9	1:30 p.m.
Building & Grounds	Nov. 18 Dec. 16	1:30 p.m.
Budget & Finance	None	
Board of Directors	Dec. 1	2:30 p.m.

VPE Fondly Remembers

Harriet Block



Please join us for the VPE Holiday Party held on Dec. 17 at 6p.m. in the Community Room. Watch out for flyers for more information.



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

Happy Holidays, Happy Thanksgiving and Happy New Year! Stay Warm!

All submissions must be in Microsoft Word Format

Apple users can export work to Word format.

Email your work to:

VpeTheView@googlegroups.com
Submission deadline is December 15, 2026

The View Crew

Communications Committee
Ruth Kurlandsky, Chair
Cheryl Fleming, Editor
Tom McGrath ,Technical Advisor
Suzanne Offit,Copy Editor
Beth Belsito,Copy Editor
Paula Kasper, Member

WE WANT YOU ON OUR TEAM!



The View is created by residents, for residents! It exists because neighbors like you pitch in to share stories, tips, and updates.

Want to contribute? We welcome:

- Resident recommendations – Books, movies,
- restaurants—tell us what you love!
- Events & Activities – Recap past gatherings or highlight upcoming ones.
- Creative Corner – Poetry, original stories, or photography.

No experience needed—we'll help with editing. Send your article to VpeTheView@googlegroups.com by December 15, 2026. Let's make this newsletter a reflection of our amazing community!