

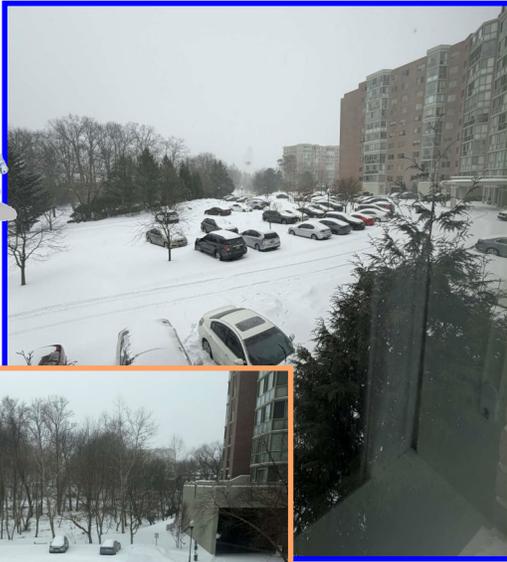
The View

from Vantage Point East

To Inform, Engage and Entertain our VPE neighbors



Goodbye winter?



Photos by Richard Boker and Larry Kurlandsky

Welcome spring!



Photos by Sally Dunford and Cheryl Fleming

President's Message

By Henry Jordan



Looking out the window after the snowstorm, I see piles of snow on the sides of our parking lot. Every year we contract in advance to have extra snow plowing done to keep our parking lot clear of snow. Unfortunately, we cannot clear our parking area at a hundred percent due to parked vehicles. Most of us were able to go out and do errands the day after the end of the storm. In a couple of weeks, the weather will be milder and we can go out and do our business without concern.

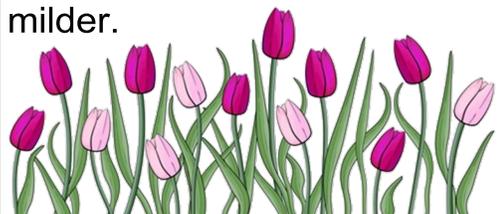
Your VPE Board of Directors openly welcomes suggestions and ideas to help make our Mutual a more effective and open organization. Please come to any of our Board meetings and building social events. All Board meetings are held openly to facilitate unit owner participation in the governance process. Except in cases of emergency, unit owners receive notification of monthly Board meetings and a preliminary agenda at least three days prior to each meeting. During these sessions, each agenda item is discussed in turn, and the Property Manager provides updates on administrative and maintenance matters within the Mutual. An open forum is provided at the conclusion of each meeting, allowing residents to address any topic of interest.

At some Board meetings, attendees are asked to leave at the conclusion so the Board can deliberate privately. It is understandable that an observer who lacks knowledge of standard Board procedures and relevant legal requirements might

perceive the VPE Board as being secretive or withholding information from unit owners. The VPE Bylaws explicitly state that "All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to unit owners as observers, except that the president or presiding officer may call the Board into a closed executive session for matters enumerated in a section of the Condominium Act."

We live in a VPE community of 190-unit owners. Life happens and events occur. Failure to pay the condominium fee, bankruptcy, foreclosure, staff issues, and resident health deterioration where an individual becomes a risk to themselves and the community are just some of the issues discussed in a closed session of the VPE Board. The Board must discuss these issues privately to protect the privacy of the individuals. We also have to make decisions with consultation of legal counsel relative to litigation about owner financial and condominium living obligations. Under the Condominium Act law, we are permitted to discuss these and other related issues in private. As for other community-wide issues, decisions are not made except at an open Board meeting.

Please do come to any of our Board meetings and building social events. Meet with members of your Board of Directors. We welcome your positive energy. Participate and learn about the operations and governance of our Mutual and continue to bundle up until the weather gets milder.



IN THE KNOW AT VPE

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

By The Covenants Committee

There was a recent incident in VPE whereby Carbon Monoxide (CO) was entering a condo. The CO alarm went off and warned the residents, who called the fire department and the gas company. AMD came and after extensive searches, found piping in their HVAC system had been incorrectly installed (not by AMD). Due to this incident, VPE is suggesting everyone purchase a Carbon Monoxide detector. They are available either as a plug-in model (with battery backup), powered by battery (like smoke alarms), hard-wired (in wall), or with a long-life sealed battery. They come individually or as a combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detector. They can all be purchased at Home Depot.

Although Montgomery County law currently requires CO detectors for only all single, two unit, townhouse dwellings, and rentals, we strongly recommend everyone in VPE obtain one as it can be lethal anywhere there is a fuel-burning appliance (all VPE units have a gas HVAC). Carbon Monoxide is a potentially deadly gas that is odorless. These alarms will alert occupants so quick action can be taken.

Building and Grounds Committee

By Bruce Hulman



The VPE Building & Grounds Committee met on February 18, 2026. The agenda was short and primarily concerned with discussing the updated draft ETC Replacement Reserve Study. The Committee will compare the draft with the previously adopted reserve study to review items listed and lifecycles.

The Well-Stocked and Well-Loved VPE Library



Have you noticed how many new books are in the library? You can check out the table just inside the Community Room for recent additions. However, not all donations make the cut and are on the shelves. And, to make room for new books, others need to go. They are donated to the Montgomery County Friends of the Library Book Store to be passed on to others.

So, how do we decide? A few simple collection guidelines will let you know whether to give to the VPE Library or donate elsewhere. They are based on many years of experience watching books come and go. To make the cut:

- Good condition, clean and not marked up
- Fairly recent unless they are “classics”
- Font size, large print books always welcome
- Reasonable length, less than 500 pages
- Popular authors such as Baldacci, Silva, and Shreve
- Contemporary non-fiction, history and politics
- International authors, cross-cultural perspectives

Even if not for VPE, your books don't need to go into the landfill. If you have cook books, self help books, biographies of movie stars, travel guides, coffee table books, or drug store romances, Friends of the Library can find a home for them.

The Return Basket, emptied daily, shows that VPE residents are avid readers. Thank you to all who donate and keep us intellectually engaged.

Another Successful Outreach Event!!

By the Outreach Team

On Friday, February 13th, the Outreach Team held a winter drive which originally was to be suitcases, backpacks and winter coats, but ballooned into a massive collection of clothing, shoes, purses, etc. We knew we were going to have some heavy items, so this time, arrangements were made for the Inter-Faith Chapel to pick up the donations from VPE. Shown below is the final “haul.”



VPE ENJOYS THE SUPER BOWL (AND PIZZA!)

By Ljuca Belsito

Super Bowl Sunday came and went, but the party was a hit once again. The game was between the New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks. The game was not very high scoring but the Super Bowl Pool once again was a hit. The boxes didn't sell out completely but the boxes that won were all residents of VPE!!!!

The Super Bowl pool is posted below and winners for each quarter were put in boxes.

The Seattle Seahawks won their **FIRST SUPERBOWL!!!!**

The food was great, having a variety of pizzas and subs with cupcakes for dessert. All were delicious.

Thank you to our Activities Committee for another great event enjoyed by all who attended and those who just enjoyed the food. Until 2027!!!!

FOOTBALL POOL TOUCHDOWN

1st QUARTER: 2nd QUARTER: 3rd QUARTER: FINAL:

3 0 4 0 12 0 19 3

HOME TEAM: AFC - NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

AWAY TEAM: NFC - SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

SCORE	4	8	9	7	6	5	2	3	0	1
3	OK	NOV	MAN	X	BBL	CP	IF	MAN	EX	CA
7	ALL	LOU	LS	FS	X	CF	PS	AL	EX	MAN
6	LOU	LOU	PAR	LOIS	BY	MAN	YH	CK	CL	EX
9	LS	X	PW	LS	LS	CF	MAN	LS	LOU	EX
8	CF	X	CF	X	FS	MAN	CL	MAN	LS	NO
5	IF	IF	CF	CF	EX	LS	CF	LOU	CF	CF
4	MAN	ALL	X	P.R.	AR	LOU	FS	X	LS	CF
1	MAN	CF	LS	CF	LS	NOV	OR	LOU	LS	LOU
0	MAN	NOV	MAN	LOU	X	PW	LS	X	X	CF
2	CF	PW	LS	CF	EX	SO	CF	EX	CF	CF

1st QUARTER Winner: MARVIN
2nd QUARTER Winner: C.F.
3rd QUARTER Winner: JOSE + SABINA
4th QUARTER Winner: LS

DID YOU KNOW?



- Aerosol cans such as whipped cream, spray cooking oil or deodorant can be recycled?
- You can recycle shredded paper! Place it in a paper bag and staple or tape shut and place it with the mixed paper.

By Paula Kasper

Low Vision: Explanation of Terms

By Beth Beaston Belsito

Most people with low vision are not totally blind. Confusing terms like partially blind or poor vision have been used in the past, but newer terms try to describe vision more clearly and with consistency.

Low Vision is a condition caused by eye disease in which visual acuity is 20/70 or poorer in the better seeing eye and cannot be corrected or improved with regular eyeglasses. This definition results from an examination using an eye chart to provide a numerical result. That's great for the ophthalmologist, but what does it mean? Many patients find a functional definition of low vision more useful.

Low Vision is uncorrectable vision loss that interferes with daily activities. Low Vision cannot be corrected with medical or surgical treatment or regular eyeglasses, though treatments may slow the progression of disease, preserving what sight remains. Low vision cannot be corrected, and may be described as hazy, blurry, wavy, tunnel vision, blank spots in central vision or loss of peripheral vision or poor night vision.

Legally Blind is a term used by the U.S. Government to determine eligibility for vocational training, rehabilitation, school, disability benefits, low vision devices and tax exemption programs. The Social Security Administration has a criterion of blindness as visual acuity between 20/100 and 20/200 or

visual field of 20% or less. (visual field is the total area individuals can see without turning their heads). Totally Blind is often thought of as a complete lack of light perception. Most blind people retain some sense of light and darkness or shadows. No light perception (NLP) is a different experience for each person. Most disclose that they see nothing, not darkness and some experience flashes or static snow. Total blindness is usually due to trauma or birth anomaly with absent or damaged eyes or optic nerves. Conditions resulting in Low Vision and available treatments will be covered next.

Junco-the Real Snowbird

By Larry Kurlandsky

This winter you may occasionally notice a dozen or more tiny birds pecking for seeds in the snowy landscape. Although a few species of birds winter over, one comes only in the winter and is truly the "snowbird"—the Junco. It is very social with dark eyes and a dark back and white belly—often resembling a mini penguin. Its groups are referred to as a blizzard, often very appropriate, or a quarrel. There are many species, but here is a picture of one.



Japanese Restaurant on Rockville Pike?

By Ruth Kurlandsky

Twice now, our daughter, along with her husband, 5 year old daughter and 1 year old son, have taken us to Uzu Sushi, in what turns out to feel like a Japanese enclave on Rockville Pike. This is not just any Sushi “joint.”

It’s a robot Sushi restaurant! Almost everything is served by robots, but they’re not made to look like people. They do, however “talk”, saying things like “I’m sorry, I can’t go forward in this space, can you remove the obstacle?”

Here’s the deal: you can order from a menu on a tablet that your server gives you. (You can also see the menu online before you go—just google “robot sushi” and the site will pop right up.) When you order, the price of whatever it is goes in the compilation for your table. The kitchen gets the order and sends it out to you on the rolling robot. There are also human servers, who come at the push of a button to answer your questions, take your drink order, solve any issues. The smaller sushis, such as fish on rice, or small rolls, are on 6” plates, and are continuously circulating on conveyer belts. Once your 5 year old learns to flip the cover and pull out a dish, you should watch your cost mounting! How does the cost of these small plates get to your tab? Turns out there are different color plates,



and each one is a specific price. Your server just counts the colors and adds the total cost to whatever else is on your tab.

Oh, yes, the circulating robots can also sing “Happy Birthday” while delivering a cake!

After lunch, we went to a Japanese department store next door—more fun! And there are several other restaurants along the same stretch of Rockville Pike. Enjoy!



Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration Monday, January 19th The Inter-Faith Chapel

By Phyllis Pratt



Members as well as non-members alike had already begun to fill the Inter-Faith vestibule as the ushers gleefully distributed the programs upon my arrival to the Chapel. The atmosphere was heightened with excitement in anticipation of the esteemed headlined musicians: The Carr-Bratcher Quintet; a program that commanded standing room only!

Promptly, at 10:00 a.m., the festivities opened with a *silent reflection* of one of

Dr. Martin Luther King's quotes about jazz:

"Jazz speaks for life. The Blues tell the story of life's difficulties, and if you think for a moment, you will realize that they take the hardest realities of life and put them into music, only to come out with some new hope or sense of triumph.

This is triumphant music...Much of the power of our Freedom Movement in the United States has come from the music. It has strengthened us with its sweet rhythms when courage began to fail. It has calmed us with its rich harmonies when spirits were down."

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Afterward, the festivities continued with artistic and jazz music, soulful song and empowering words from both The Carr-Bratcher musicians and distinguished guests from throughout the entire Leisure World community. At the closing of the program, the jazz ensemble's director and saxophonist, Mr. Paul Carr, was presented with a memoir about jazz greats from Alabama: *"Tuxedo Junction: Right Back Where I Belong"*, authored by my sister, Mrs. Carol P. Ealons.



The VIEW from VPE

There's Always Room for Jello!

By Beth Belsito

Did you or your mom have a favorite Jello mold recipe? My mom made classic red jello with fruit cocktail pretty often, but my favorite was lime Jello with cottage cheese, pineapple and pecans. Another favorite was canned pears with a cream cheese ball in the "pit" and any flavor of Jello. Many of us had pretty copper Jello molds displayed on our kitchen wall. My Granny liked aspic type molded dishes! These tomato-based creations usually had shrimp or fish, olives and even peas! I was not a fan.

Recipes for Jello molded salad were all over Women's Magazines and church recipe books, and even on the back of the Jello box. They were included in church suppers and pot luck dinners, and women were very proud of their family recipe or personal touch to an old favorite. The worst one I ever saw was made with gelatin: Spaghetti-os in a ring with hot dogs sticking up in the center! Do you have a favorite Jello recipe or gelatin horror to share from Back in the Day?



About the Jewish holiday known as “Purim”

By Ellyn Becker Kaufman

Purim is a joyous holiday that celebrates the deliverance of the Jews of ancient Persia (now Iran) from near-destruction at the hands of Haman, an adviser to King Ahasuerus. The story behind the holiday, told in the Scroll of Esther, recounts how the Jews were saved thanks to Esther, a Jewish woman chosen to be queen. Due to her courage and her role in saving the Jews, the story of Purim is named in her honor.

Purim is a raucous and joyful holiday with many traditions aimed at creating a mood of celebration. Traditionally, there are four *mitzvot* (commandments) associated with the holiday:

- Reading the Megillah (scroll), which retells the holiday story. The scroll is often read twice in synagogues — once at night when the holiday begins, and again the following morning.
- Giving food gifts to friends. (prepared foods, usually sweet treats)
- Giving monetary gifts to the less fortunate.
- Eating a festive meal.

In addition to these formal religious requirements, there are a number of other traditions on the holiday. One is to use noisemakers known as graggers to drown out the name of Haman each time it is chanted from the text of the Scroll of Esther. Many people dress up in costumes on Purim, a practice that likely goes back to medieval Italy. Many synagogues will also put on a Purim shpiel, or comical skit, and host carnivals for children.

This year, Purim begins the evening of Monday, March 2 and ends the evening of March 3. The Jewish Residents of LW will

be observing this joyous holiday on Tuesday, March 3 complete with graggers, hamantaschen (cookies to represent Haman’s 3 cornered hat) a shpiel, and more in the Activities Room of CH2 at 10:00 am. All are welcome to attend. You may come in costume or not. Happy Purim!

The Leisure World Residents Network

Submitted by Sharon Press

Need a ride to medical appointments?

The new Leisure World Residents Network (ResNet) transportation program is currently signing up drivers and riders who live in Leisure World. This volunteer driving service is provided at no charge.

A special effort is underway to sign up more drivers. Completing as few as 2 rides a month will make a difference here in Leisure World. ResNet is particularly eager to work with drivers who can sign up for 6 months to a year.

Since its beginning in July 2025, ResNet drivers have completed over 100 free rides for their neighbors. The ResNet Program is provided with guidance and support from Montgomery County Senior Connection. Their staff handles all the background checks and training to make sure drivers are safe and prepared to drive people with walkers and special needs.

To learn more about becoming a driver or a rider, come to a transportation group meeting on the first Monday of the month from 1:00 until 2:00 in the Baltimore Room in Clubhouse 1. You can also get more information at seniorconnectionmc.org and sign up at that time.

Should you have additional questions, please contact Senior Connections at 301-962-0820 or email

lw.resnet@gmail.com.

Driving Safety

By Judith Oliver, Security & Transportation

There will be several opportunities in 2026 for learning more about driving safely. Not all are fully scheduled yet, so stay poised to see final plans as they emerge.

First, the Lifestyle department is sponsoring an AARP Safe Driving Course on Thursday, to be held every other month this year in Leisure World. Some insurance companies operating in Maryland will consider drivers who take the course to be qualified for an automobile insurance premium or discount. Sign up for the class at the Lifestyle office in Clubhouse I and be prepared to bring a check for \$20 for AARP members or \$25 for non-members. The course is open to residents only.

The Security and Transportation Committee has an agreement with the Maryland Department of Transportation to hold a Driving Safely As We Age presentation in the Clubhouse II auditorium on March 27 at 1:00. Topics they are covering will include:

- Driving risks that come with age
- How medication can affect driving
- Resources for safe driving, especially at night

There is no charge for this presentation, and an insurance discount is not offered. Registration will begin on February 24 in Clubhouse II.

CarFit will be offered later in the spring. It is a free educational program developed by AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association that allows older adults to check how well their personal vehicles “fit” them. A team of trained technicians will work with each participant to ensure they “fit” their vehicle properly for maximum comfort and safety.

The event will be held by the main entrance of Clubhouse II and each appointment will take approximately 30 minutes. The driver will remain in their car and two CarFit technicians will complete the 12-point checklist.

More information on the date and registration requirements for CarFit will be provided as soon as it is scheduled.

Pi(e) Day Potluck Dinner

By Kathi Carlson

According to Wikipedia, Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant pi, or π . Pi Day is observed on March 14 since pi is written as 3.14... (goes on forever!)

To celebrate Pi Day, the Activities Committee is having a **PIE POTLUCK DINNER** celebrating everything **pi** and **pie**. Bring a savory (main course) pie or dessert pie to share **OR**, if you prefer not to bake or buy a pie, pay \$12 and come and enjoy what is sure to be a delicious assortment of pies. Any and all kinds of pies are welcome – use your imagination!

Space in the Community Room is limited, so please make sure to sign up. Indicate what kind of pie you will be bringing **OR** pay \$12 cash or check made out to the VPE Activities Committee.

Sign Up: Wednesday, March 4th, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Community Room or till maximum number of attendees is reached.

Pi Day Potluck Dinner: Saturday, March 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room.



Creative Community

By Beth Belsito

The VPE Art Show has been postponed until Spring, so we all have time to consider our submissions. This show is not juried, nor is it a sale. This show is about sharing our creativity. Many of us enjoy creative hobbies as an expressive outlet, but may not consider our work as Art. Some of us no longer work on our art, but still have examples from when our eyes and fingers worked better. Here are some ideas of the kinds of art we are looking for:



- Fiber Arts such as weaving, knitting or crochet, embroidery or needlepoint, quilting, felting, macrame, hooked rugs or slow stitch.
- Paper Arts such as paper folding and origami, collage, decoupage, quilling, and paper and ink such as printing or calligraphy.
- Beading or jewelry making, glass-painting, etching, stained glass or mosaics. Pottery molded or fired.
- Photography.
- Wood carving or inlay.
- Sculpture- molded or carved and soft sculpture.
- Painting and drawing in any medium.

Tables will be provided and artists are required to provide easels or other display needs.

Artists can contact Kathi Carlson, Marylin Jordan or Katherine Bloom for more information. Come share and learn about your community's artists.

Why is my winter Pepco bill so high?

If you've had sticker shock from your recent Pepco bills, you're not alone. Most Pepco customers have seen substantial increases in their monthly bills in recent years—an experience that can be exacerbated by high energy usage amid cold temperatures.



Why are bills going up?

Your energy bill is going up in part because the costs Pepco charges to deliver electricity to your home have been rising significantly in recent years. Very cold or hot temperatures also drive up your bill because you use more energy to heat or cool your home.

Since 2020, Pepco's delivery charges—to pay for the distribution system, not the electricity itself—have increased 33 percent from 4.6 cents per kWh to 6.2 cents per kWh overall. A kilowatt hour (kWh) is the unit used to measure how much electricity you use in your home. Because Pepco's summer rates apply for five months of the year and its winter rates apply for seven months, the overall rate reflects a weighted average of those two seasonal rates.

Pepco also recently requested a further distribution rate increase of 23 percent—an increase of 15 percent to summer rates and 33 percent to winter rates, which would push rates to 7.6 cents per kWh overall.

When combined with increased electricity use because of especially cold or hot temperatures, increased distribution rates will cause customers to experience much larger bills than usual.

[Ed. Note: this lengthy and informative article continues on the web page, opc.maryland.gov.]

Activities Committee Events March– April 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

March 1st & March 21st at 10:30 a.m.

April 4th and April 12th at 10:30 a.m.

1st & 2nd Tuesdays– Outdoor Walking

March 3rd & 10th and April 6th & 13th

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Good for the heart, gets you moving with no bouncing or jumping.

Canasta Classes

March 4th, 12th, 18th, and 25th
at 7:00 p.m.

Pi(e) Day Sign-up

March 4th from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Purchase a ticket or sign up to bring a pie to share!

Once a Month: Brown Bag Lunch & Rick Steves Travel Video

March 9th & April 29th at 12:30 p.m.

Second Wednesday: Current Events

March 11th & April 8th at 7:30 p.m.

Pi(e) Day

March 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Come celebrate all things pi and pie!

Third Tuesday: Book Club

March 17th & April 21st at 3:00 p.m.

One Friday a Month: Bring Your Own Dinner

March 20th & April 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Last Sunday: Movie Night

March 30th & April 26th at 7:30 p.m.

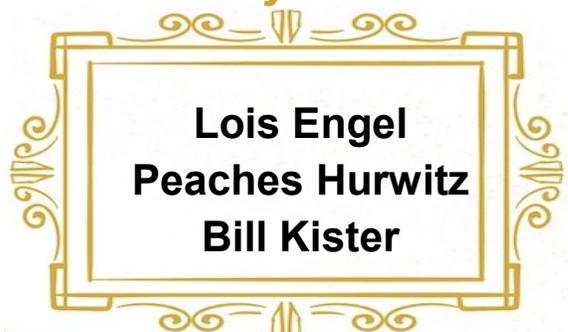
Keeping up with Events – Watch for flyers in the elevators, on the tables on each floor, on the bulletin boards, and under your doors for further details about events.

Mark These Dates

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Activities	Mar. 4th	1:00 p.m.
	Apr. 1st	
Communication	Mar. 11th	1:30 p.m.
	Apr. 8th	
Building & Grounds	Mar. 18th	1:30 p.m.
	Apr. 15th	
Budget & Finance	Mar 3rd	1:30 p.m.
	Apr. 28th	
Board of Directors	Mar. 26th	2:30 p.m.
	Apr. 30th	

VPE Fondly Remembers



Birthday/Valentine's Day Party



NEW Address!

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

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

The View Crew

Communications Committee

Ruth Kurlandsky, Chair
Cheryl Fleming, Editor
Tom McGrath, Technical Advisor
Suzanne Offit, Copy Editor
Beth Belsito, Member
Sally Dunford, Member
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 April 15, 2026. Let's make this newsletter a reflection of our amazing community!

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.