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Mutual 24

The *View* from Vantage Point East

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"To Inform, Engage and Entertain our VPE neighbors"



Fall view from Vantage Point East 8th floor.
Photo by Len Silver



Budget Forum in the VPE Community Room discussing upcoming estimates for 2023 budget.



November 8



Photos by Suzie Offit

September Board Actions

By Ann Ferren, Secretary

The VPE Board voted to approve:

- the 2023 Draft Budget and Condo Fees for distribution to Unit Owners for a 30-day review.
- the three Mt Airy Glass & Door invoices each in the amount of \$585.00 totaling \$1,755.00 for replacement of broken window glass. Funds to come from the Replacement Reserves.
- a request for reimbursement from East Coast Building Services for glass replacement.
- negotiation with the Xınca Cleaning Services to include two full time employees and a part time employee for January 1, 2023, thru December 31, 2025. Costs are \$118,000 for 2023, \$120,000 for 2024 and \$121,000 for 2025. Funds to come from the Janitorial Contract Account.
- appointment of Nicole Dickson to the Building and Grounds Committee for 2022.
- the McFall & Berry Proposal in the amount of \$3,541.71 to repair damaged plantings, for shrub installation and removal, and installation of two trees. Funds to come from the Replacement Reserves.
- the Shapiro & Duncan Proposal at a cost of \$2,337.00 to replace an overload and contractor of unit CSHAU 3 on the west end unit. Funds to come from the HVAC Common Area Account.
- to go into Executive session immediately following the Board meeting to discuss personnel matters.

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.

Halloween (see page 4)

Building and Grounds

By Bruce Hulman

The following is a summary of the Building & Grounds Meeting held at VPE on October 19, 2022.

1. The Building & Grounds Committee will request the Board to approve the proposal from Johnson & Tower to provide emergency generator maintenance. The recommendation is contingent upon Johnson & Tower review of VPE Terms & Conditions.
2. Group discussed requested placement of benches in the front vestibule for purpose of making it easier for VPE residents to be seen by the Leisure World bus drivers.
3. The Landscape Committee discussed the removal of the tree in front of VPE and the reasons that the tree needed to be taken down. The tree was dying due to impact of the asphalt paving performed earlier in the year.
4. The Committee discussed the approved janitorial services contract with the proviso that janitorial employees are legal residents or have green cards.
5. During Open Forum, the topic of the pending Building Energy Performance Standards was mentioned as it relates to what VPE will need to do re using fossil-fuel-based equipment.
6. Also during Open Forum, the topic of storm water management on the VPE site was presented.





President's Message

By Henry Jordan

It is November and winter is in the air. If you are a snowbird about to head south, have a safe journey and we'll see you in the spring. If you are driving south and have a garage space open, please let the office know as there are individuals who might want to rent your garage space. If you are leaving your car outside for the winter, please be sure to park on the side of the building near Overlook and NOT in the snow dumping area.

Thank you for coming to the 20th Annual Meeting of the VPE Council of Unit Owners. We re-elected Bruce Hulman, Earl Reba, and Ann Ferren to our Board. I'm sure you will all give the board members the courtesy of being polite with your concerns and phone calls. The ballot question for the "Disposition of the 2022 excess in assessments over expenses to be applied to the 2023 unit owner assessments", was approved. On Wednesday November 9, at 7 PM, we will hold a VPE Board of Directors meeting. Please come and participate.

All of our VPE Committees have had a banner year. Congratulations to all on their efforts for providing building and grounds monitoring, communications through the VPE View and VPE Web pages, activities with food, conversation, education, and movies for our community, and all the other volunteers who provide service to VPE.

We are a self-governed community. As such, we do need individuals to participate and take a leadership role. Please consider joining the VPE Committees and volunteering your time. Only by being active will we have community spirit and ongoing activities. By the end of No-

vember, we hope you will join or rejoin these 2023 committees. To join a committee, paperwork is available in the Association Office.

We wish you a happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Property Manager's Corner

By Cris Juarez

Fire Alarm System Upgrade- Thanks to all our residents that made themselves available for testing and inspection of the additional fire alarm speakers. With the Fire Marshal's successful inspection, we have finalized the first phase of the project. We can now begin planning for repairs of the handholes that were necessary. Once a plan is in place, you will receive a memo outlining the process and what to expect. Until then, please be sure to hold on to your drywall cut-outs so we can match your wall paint.

Reports of Smoking- Please remember that this is a non-smoking building. Smoking is not permitted within the units or common areas. Smoking includes any lighted legal or illegal products such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and marijuana. This ban extends to residents, owners, visitors, and guests. Please do your part in keeping our residents and environment, smoke-free.

Community Room Inspectors- We are looking for volunteers to inspect our Community Room before and after events. Volunteers need only spend a little bit of their time looking through the Room along with the person reserving it to ensure there have been no damages. This is a wonderful way for you to get involved and meet your neighbors. Please contact the Office if you're interested.

Holiday Shopping- As the holiday season approaches, we expect package deliveries to increase. Please help us keep our mail area clean and ensure that you get your packages! When ordering online, please add delivery instructions "access building through loading dock by dialing 100 and deliver to unit door." If your package is not delivered to your door, please call the store and file a complaint.

Getting to Know Our Neighborhood

By Debby Bond Whelan



The Layhill Store, or Hull's Store, as it was later known when the Halls purchased it in 1941, sat on the northwest corner of Layhill Road and Bel Pre Road. In 1881, the original owner purchased the property (which was just under an acre of land) for \$95, and built a structure which housed the general store, the post office and a home. It was there that the old-



timers remember country singer Roy Clark whooping it up on the front porch, and where farmers would sit at night trading stories. The structure was torn down in early 1984 and much of the property was used by the county for the expansion of the intersection of Bel Pre and Layhill Roads.

Above are the before and after photos.



Lyn Tanenholtz presents prizes to costume winners, Pearl Crystal and Barbara Eisen

Resident Dorothy Horvat (left) and guest Photos by Len Silver

Activities Committee Upcoming November Events

By Barbara Eisen

All activities will be in the Community Room unless another location is specified. This is a busy month and there was no room for a Midday Movie event in the calendar.

Poetry Group - The Poetry Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining, call Ruth Gutstein (301-438-7492).

Tuesday, November 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Lunch - Join with others to make new friends. Just bring your own lunch and beverage and visit with your neighbors.

Thursday, November 10 at 12:00 noon

Crafts - Participants will learn Beading in a Craft Class provided by Cheryl Fleming and Sally Dunford. If you have your own supplies, you may bring them. Otherwise, supplies will be provided.

Thursday, November 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday Night Movie – “The Lost City” starring Sandra Bullock and Channing Tatum. The movie has action, adventure, comedy, and romance. Donations are accepted in the amount of one dollar plus.

Sunday, November 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Trivia – Trivia resumes its bimonthly schedule in rotation with Bingo. Sandy Margulies has prepared questions that will make you think. Teams of 4 or 5 are set up at the start of the meeting. Everyone has fun trying to provide answers.

Monday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m.

The Book Club - Members are reading “The Vanishing Half” by Brit Bennett. The moderator will be Barbara Eisen.

Tuesday, November 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Coffee and Conversation –take a break to socialize and meet with other residents. Coffee, tea and maybe a treat will be provided.

Wednesday, November 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Yoga Yes! – Free Senior Yoga classes are being held on **Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.** Group size is limited. If you want to join, call Lyn Tanenholtz (301-288-7770) or Suzie Offit (301-598-1966) to see if there is any room available.

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. Note that masks are appreciated for all gatherings in the Community Room.



The VPE Activities Committee sponsored Collage Workshop was held on Tuesday, September 22. Collage is the art of making a picture from cut and torn paper, and other found objects. Or you can decorate an object like a picture frame or a box. The only tools needed are scissors, paste

or glue, and a little imagination. September 22nd participants had a lot of fun. And everyone had great pictures to take home.

The workshop will likely be offered again next spring. Consider joining us then.

Halloween (continued)



Photo by Len Silver

Baking with Aaden

By Kathi Carlson



Some of my earliest memories are of my grandparents' large country kitchen. My Hungarian great-grandmother would shuffle around the kitchen, her white hair piled on top of her head like a cloud, a flowered bib apron draped around her ample body. Granny, as everyone called her, was always cooking: chicken paprikash, stuffed cabbage and homemade chicken soup. But mainly I remember her baking apple pies, strudels and yeast donuts dusted with powdered sugar from a battered tin shaker and topped with a teaspoonful of currant jelly. In her broken English Granny would teach me how to roll out dough for little pies and use the scraps to make shapes that I sprinkled with cinnamon sugar. I can still feel the warmth of that kitchen and smell the mouthwatering smells, so it was only natural that I'd want to create baking memories with my grandchild.

Aaden calls me Mimi because he couldn't pronounce Grammie when he was little, and it followed that the days I spent helping out with him were named Mimi Days. I almost always planned a baking project and arrived with all the ingredients. "What are we making today, Mimi?" he'd ask as he peered into my carry bag and unceremoniously

emptied it out.

A favorite project from early on was Bready Bears. When he was little I'd bring the dough with me, rising in a metal bowl, so it was a simple matter of him pulling off globs and fashioning a teddy bear: plump body, head, arms, legs, ears and a nose. The first Bear was a bit lopsided but still delicious. Now that he's older and an avid watcher of *The Great British Baking Show*, he mixes and kneads the dough himself, and the resulting bread definitely looks like a bear.

We've made cookies, cupcakes, brownies and cakes. I got him a little crepe maker one week, and after only a few tries he was using the little wooden spreader like a pro. Another Mimi Day we decided to try a Pavlova, something he'd seen on a recent GBBS episode, and the result was a crisp meringue shell topped with fresh berries and a mountain of whipped cream. Delicious! Upping the ante I gave him a frosting piping set and turntable, and together we made a scrumptious 4-layer cake alternately layered with raspberry filling, lemon curd and covered with vanilla frosting, piped on of course. Aaden did lots of taste-testing along the way which I assured him was a necessary part of the baking process.

Now that Aaden is in first grade our Mimi Days are not as frequent, but lucky for me as I type this he has two days off from school and will be arriving soon for an overnight. He had his mother, my daughter Leah, text, "Tell Mimi I want to make pies. Apple AND pumpkin." These days my heart is as warm as my Granny's kitchen.

VPE RESIDENTS ARE AMAZING!

By Cheryl Fleming

Once again, our VPE community has proven itself to be among some of the most generous folks around. On October 19-20, the Activities Committee co-sponsored a coats-and-caps drive in tandem with the Club to Help the Homeless and Working Poor (CHWP). To say the contributions from our residents were overwhelming would be an understatement. One needed only to see the expressions of shock and delight as the lovely ladies at the Interfaith Chapel saw what was inside the trunk of my SUV! As they pulled out armful after armful of coats and jackets, they kept exclaiming how huge the donation was! I was proud to say they were from our community, and I took a photo of the table with just our donations piled up!

We are indeed fortunate to have such a generous and thoughtful community.



Photos by Cheryl Fleming



VPE volunteers Rebecca Boker (left) and Cynthia Halper



The VIEW from VPE

**VPE remembers
Robert Gallagher**



New Address!

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

vpe-the-view@googlegroups.com

VPE Is Lucky to Have “Plenty” by Paula Donnelly Roark

Plenty Magazine is the latest publication to be added at our VPE entrance, and we are particularly lucky to be its first ‘distribution partner’ in Leisure World. Plenty Magazine, begun in 2019 as a free publication, has already received several awards, the latest being the *Royce Hanson Award* in recognition of “outstanding commitment toward the protection of Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve.”

Did you know that northern Montgomery County is home to the largest Agricultural Reserve in the United States? It totals 93,000 acres of protected farmland, which is actually one-third of the County itself. Although I lived in Montgomery County for years, I had no idea it existed.

When Jane Perini and Wib Middleton moved back to Montgomery County from Sedona, Arizona in 2019, they began hiking and roaming the northern county. They found themselves astounded by the gorgeous countryside and the ‘forever farmland’, and asked themselves---how did it come into being? Was anyone telling its stories? Working with the “Montgomery County Alliance,” they decided to start Plenty Magazine.

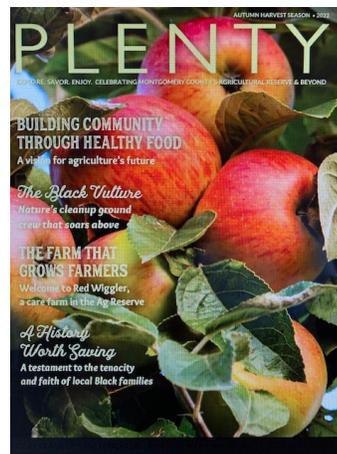
Over the past three years it has become a popular, even beloved, magazine in the County. Because it is distributed free of charge, with Wib and Jane at its helm, it relies on volunteer writers (I am one), and volunteer photographers (interested?) in addition to well-situated distribution partners such as VPE.

The fall edition is here. Several of its articles include: “Building Community Through Healthy Farming” and “A History Worth Saving: A Testament to the Tenacity and Faith of Local Black Families.” Be sure to pick up your copy soon.

Mark These Dates

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Activities	Nov 2nd	10:30 a.m.
Communications	Nov 9th	1:30 p.m.
Building & Grounds	Nov 16th	1:30 p.m.
Budget & Finance	TBA	
Board of Directors	Nov 9th	7:00 p.m.



The View Crew

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