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The View

from Vantage Point East

September/October 2020



During this past difficult summer, these colorful plantings helped lift the spirits of VPE residents as they entered the building. Thank you, VPE Landscape Committee.

—Photos by Marti Iacono

President's Message

Over the past couple of months, many new residents have moved into Vantage Point East. On behalf of all the residents, we welcome you. Unfortunately, we cannot welcome you personally because of the virus restrictions. Your nearby neighbors know who you are, but others in the building have not seen you because of the masking requirements. Normally we have a welcome reception for the new residents, but, unfortunately, we cannot do it at this time. But we do want to welcome you and when conditions permit, we will all get together.

At this time of year we would start to prepare for our annual meeting of all the unit owners and have elections for the Board members of the condominium. We are attempting to follow our bylaws and guidance from the government on how to proceed with the current socialization restrictions in place. Letters have been sent out

My Grandchild Called

At long last I received a phone call from one of my grandchildren. I had been waiting for the call for a long time. "Hello, this is your grandchild calling, Grandpa." I was long prepared for this phone call out of the blue. I immediately asked the questions I was longing to ask: How are you and what is your name and tell me the name of

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from the VPE Elections Committee to all the unit owners on a plan to proceed during the current year. We hope that what the Elections Committee has planned is best for our well-being and still enables us to fulfill our obligations to our community for governance and communication.

Please may we all be well, wear masks, and maintain social distancing for the health of the community.

—Henry Jordan

July Board Actions

The Board approved:

- appointing the following residents to the VPE Election Committee: Jose Castro, Ann Jelen, Sandy Robinson, and Janet Schiff.
- the Mt. Airy Glass quote in the amount of \$2,120.00 to replace a custom order 8 panel fire rated steel door, replace the mortise lock and strike plate, and reinstall the peephole and unit label to Unit 815. Funds to come from the General Maintenance Account.
- requesting reimbursement from the unit owner of 815 for the expense totaling \$2,120.00 for replacement of the unit entrance door.
- requesting reimbursement from the unit owner of 703 for the insurance incident totaling \$1,382.73 for where an ice maker line cracked, causing water damage.
- the proposals from J.P. Seworootor, Inc to clean the horizontal sanitary kitchen sewer lines and the garage interceptor pit at a total cost of \$3,890. Funds to come from the Plumbing Maintenance Account.
- authorizing the Property Manager to spend up to \$3,000 in plumbing expenditures to RV Carey to clear the drain lines under the lower level storage rooms. Cost to come from Plumbing Maintenance Account.

–Ann Ferren, Secretary

Financial Report—2nd Qtr.

Following is the unaudited VPE financial report through the second quarter (2Q20):

	Actual	Budget
YTD Total Revenue	\$ 911,343	\$876,318
Less: Transfer to Reserve	171,831	170,772
Net Revenue	\$ 739,512	\$705,546
Less: Total Expenses	722,406	722,108
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 17,106	(\$ 16,562)

The overall financial condition of the Association remains sound. The Association has been returning accumulated surplus to unit owners through lower condominium fees. This has resulted in a planned deficit but has not, to date, significantly affected the financial condition of the Association. Through the second quarter, the Association's financial performance continued to be ahead of budget, largely because of lower operating expenses.

Additional information may be obtained by attending the monthly Budget & Finance Committee meeting. Also, financial statements are available for examination in the Association Office by appointment with the Property Manager.

–Sid Sussan, Chair

Representative needed to the Leisure World Government Affairs Advisory Committee

Are you interested in state and county government affairs that affect your community? Our community needs a representative to;

- a. Provide the LWCC Board and Leisure World residents with information about all aspects of government that can affect our Community.
- b. Advise the LWCC Board and Leisure World residents about legislation or other governmental actions that may affect the Leisure World community and recommend actions by Leisure World to protect the interests of residents.
- c. Make recommendations and take other actions that will help the LWCC Board and Leisure World residents be as effective as possible in all dealings with elected officials and government bodies.

The term of appointment to the Leisure World Government Affairs Advisory Committee begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of the following year.

If interested, please give me a call.

**–Henry Jordan
301-598-0174**

Property Manager's Corner

AMAZON DELIVERIES- Recently, Amazon has not been delivering packages to front doors. While we always call to report the issue, your help is also needed. There is a space for "delivery instructions," while you are purchasing your items; please be sure to write "access building through loading dock, press 100 to gain entry and deliver to front door of apartment." Also, please make sure to be attentive when you're expecting a package. Amazon will send you an email as soon as the package has been delivered. If you do not find it outside your front door, please submit a complaint with Amazon. This will help us ensure drivers adhere to our building policy.

MAIL AREA TRASH RECEPTACLES- There has been an incident when dog waste was placed in the trash receptacles in the lobby area. Please be sure that you, or anyone who takes your pet out, knows how to properly dispose of dog waste. The trash receptacles are not meant to be used for this purpose. Also, dogs should not be on the lobby level at any time. All dogs should enter and exit the building through the P-level area or stairwell doors.

SMOKE-FREE BUILDING- This is a reminder that smoking within the units is prohibited for most units. There have been incidents reported of smoke smell in the interior of a unit. Please be sure that no one, including residents or visitors, is smoking inside your unit. Only those residents that were residing prior to approving the amendment and have registered with the Office may smoke, provided they contain the smoke to their units.

AED LOCATED IN LOBBY- Some may not be aware that we have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) located in our lobby. This machine can help anyone who is in cardiac distress. The machine is equipped to provide you with instructions on how to use it. The moment you open the device, you will hear step-by-step instructions on how to properly use it. We have an instructional poster next to it and you can also find instructional videos online. These devices can be used on anyone, including those with pacemakers.

MASKS ARE REQUIRED- This is a reminder that masks must be worn when walking in the common areas of the building. This includes times in which you may just be taking your trash out or going to get your mail. Please be sure your mask is properly on when you leave your unit!

—Cris Juarez

August Board Actions

The Board approved:

- the proposal from East Coast Building Services in an amount to not exceed \$1,850.00 to identify leaking windows and complete minor sealant repairs as needed. Funds to come from Replacement Reserves Account.
- the Dynalectric Invoice in the amount of \$1,610.00 to replace 2" manifold on the 4th floor stairway 2. Funds to come from Fire & Security Account.
- the proposal from Mt. Airy Glass in the amount of \$950.00 to replace a custom steel door for a garage entry door located in the lower level, east garage side of the building. Funds to come from Replacement Reserves Account.
- the proposal from East Coast Building Services in the amount of \$1,250.00 to remove two PVC pipes that are connected to the penthouse roof and have them redirected closer to a roof drain. Funds to come from General Maintenance Account.
- the Elections Committee proposal to postpone the 2020 election of VPE Board members, provided that no interest in addition to the incumbents is received from the unit owners, and no comments are received regarding the proposed process. Additionally, the terms for Henry Jordan and Sid Sussan shall be extended for one more year until next year's election.
- reimbursing LWMC for the Invoice from Mid-Atlantic Waste Systems in the amount of \$1,007.00 to purchase a new cardboard dumpster. Funds to come from General Maintenance Account.

—Ann Ferren, Secretary

VPE remembers
George Moy
who recently passed away.

VPE wishes a speedy recovery to
Sandra Margulies
and
Cynthia Snyder

Notes from my Travels — North Korea, October 2015

Why would anybody want to go to North Korea other than Trump? I ran marathons in all seven continents, which involves running marathons in many countries outside of United States. About five years ago, when I heard there was going to be a race in the Mt. Paekdu Mountain range, I signed up. This mountain is sacred to South Korea, North Korea and China. The tour was arranged by a British tour company located in Beijing. There were seven runners from different countries. We were the first group to run in that location.

We all met in Beijing for a tour briefing. We were briefed on the Dos and Don'ts. There were more Don'ts than Dos. Important ones: No transistor radios, no Korean papers since they may get news from the outside world, particularly South Korea. Discouraged from taking a Bible into the country. If you took it and left the Bible in the ho-

We took a North Korean airline flight from Beijing to Pyongyang. The hotel for the foreigners was located on an island. We were given two "tour guides." They were with us from the start to finish. There was a bridge from the hotel to the road. We can walk around in the hotel grounds but cannot go to the road. Remember the rule, there were two "tour guides" watching us but maybe others watching them. We were all on the same floor and the other floors were for official use, I was told. If the picture in the room was changed, means they need to change the tape in the camera. Ha!

We were told there was Internet. Two systems, one for North Koreans and one for foreigners. All of us were looking for a person with a cell phone. Never found one. Our system never worked. I suspected it was nonexistent. That goes for the ATM also. Took us to a souvenir shop. Prices



—Photo from Pattu Durairaj, who appears at center

tel room, you will get to experience the local jail. So, it is a good idea not to travel with a Bible. Tablets are not allowed, but they did not confiscate mine. Maybe they did not know what it was. Americans can only fly in and fly out.

were all marked in Euros but they accept only dollars. North Koreans did not understand why we buy all these souvenirs. Every person wears a pin with the picture of Kim Il Sung, the grandfa-

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North Korea

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ther and his son Kim Jon Il. There are huge statues and murals of them everywhere. Kim Il Sung has created a cult and people worship him. Saw newlyweds visit and pay homage to them. One couple was in tears. Our team had to do the same thing. They never say Americans, it is always American aggressors. Remember Korean war was never ended with a treaty. Just the hostilities stopped.

The purpose of my visit to North Korea was to run a marathon. We took an internal flight to a small village at the bottom of the Paekdu Mountain. Nice big hotel with few customers. Power was on between 6:30 and 8:30. We were instructed to carry flashlights. Happy to have power during dinner.

Next morning a bus took us half-way up the mountain. We have to run back to the village to finish the marathon. Rushed back to the hotel and get to dinner before the power cutoff. No hot water for shower. We were told hot water will be turned on at 6:30 next morning and the airport bus will leave at 8:00. Only time in my life I went to bed without a shower after a marathon.

One guide ran the race with me the whole time. One of our marathoners was wearing a smart watch. Our guide was interested to know what it was. So, John was bragging about all the capabilities of the watch including GPS. Our guide wanted to borrow the watch and wore it. On the day of the marathon John wanted his watch back to run the race. So, he returned the watch. After the race he politely asked John whether he could have his watch. We were all wondering whether he is going to keep the watch or return it. The watch was returned to John only on the day of departure. Managed to take a carton of cigarette as gift. Gave it to them secretly.

More on the rules. There were rules for taking pictures. Cannot take pictures of anybody in uniform. No pictures from the moving bus. When you take a picture of the father or grandfather you must take the picture complete with the pedestal. You cannot cut out the pedestal. I got caught a few times. Once I went really close to the statues, my guide thought I was cutting the pedestal out of the picture. I told him about my wide-angle camera and show him the picture. Another time I was taking a picture of a large mural from 200 yards away. My guide stopped me. Because there was an electrical wire crossing the street. You could hardly see it. So, I had to walk down to the street and take the picture. If there was a picture of the leader you cannot fold

Come Chat

The "Come Chat" gatherings on August 18th and 19th, sponsored by the Activities Committee, were well attended and successful. The outside terrace was set up for 15 persons with the seats spread out to obey social distancing rules. There was nothing to eat or drink and attendees had to wear masks. However, there was no restriction on conversation. A number of new residents attended and mixed with those who have lived here prior to the virus.

The Activities Committee is planning two more "Come Chat" events and hope that both new and continuing residents will attend. If this goes well, additional sessions will be scheduled. Watch the notices in the elevators and the tabletops opposite the elevators for specific information on dates, times and RSVP takers.

–Barbara Eisen

Welcoming New Residents

The Activities Committee has recently created a Welcome Committee to greet new residents of Vantage Point East. Since current restrictions rule out an actual visit, the committee, consisting of Cynthia Halper and Lyn Tanenholtz, is taking a first step by preparing welcoming information about Leisure World and Vantage Point East and nearby restaurants. In addition, they are providing the handy wrist curly wire to hold keys. Other goodies may also be added. We hope the information will be helpful to new residents and that they will be encouraged to attend building functions whenever activities can start again.

–Barbara Eisen

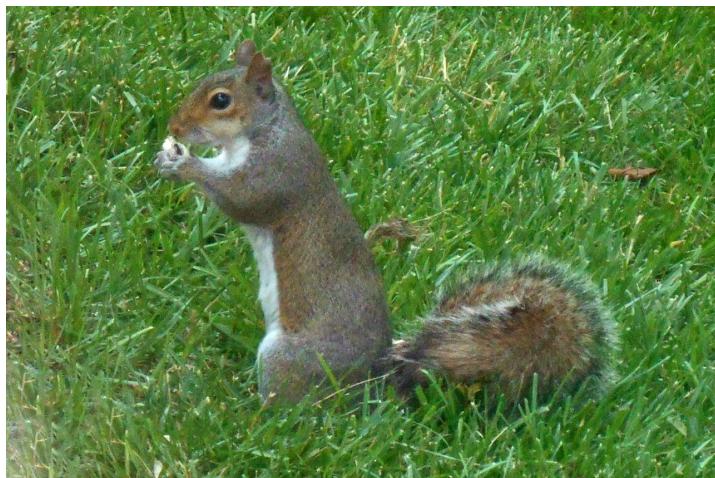
the newspaper in the middle, which will fold the leader. You have to fold the paper on all four sides and keep the picture with no folds.

Departure security was easy. Our visa was printed on a sheet of paper which was given to us in Beijing and no stamps on the passport. However, my trip was legal.

This American aggressor was happy to return to Beijing with the feeling that we saw the places they wanted us to see and heard stories they wanted us to hear.

–Pattu Durairaj

Neighbors at Rest and Play



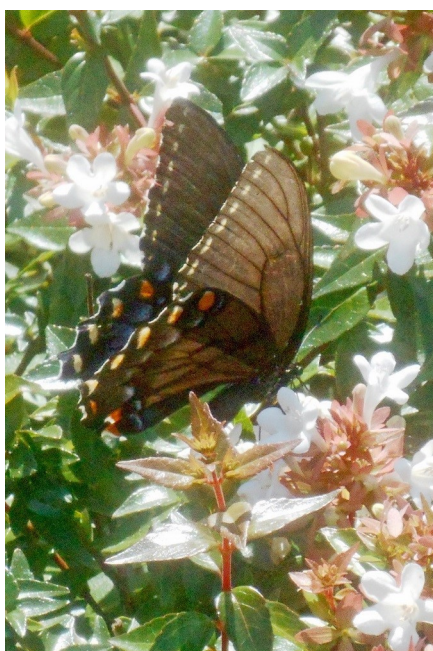
–Photos by Fred Shapiro



–Photo by Fred Shapiro



–Photo by Suzie Offit



–Photos by Fred Shapiro



On the Lighter Side... **Coffee, Tea Or Soy?**

Going food shopping used to be so simple. Now it can easily turn into a 2-hour trek. Of course, I'm wearing my reading glasses in order to see the very fine print at the bottom of the cans, packages and boxes. Many times, I'm not quite sure whether the ingredients listed are safe or lethal.

Recently I made an interesting discovery in the dairy case. I noticed there were non-dairy milk, non-dairy cheese and margarine by the brand name "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter." The same company added a new off-brand, "Is It Butter?"

Have you noticed the introduction recently of a squeeze bottle that dispenses blue margarine? Try some on your mashed potatoes and tell me what you think about it. Bright green catsup seems to be another hit with the younger set. Have you seen them squeeze it out of its dispenser on their hamburgers? Do you think YOU could eat a green hamburger? I believe that would send some of us quickly to the E.R. even if it were mind over matter.

As I'm rushing up and down the aisles, I try for low fat, high fiber, low carbohydrates and dark leafy vegetables.

Finally, quite exhausted, I come to a sudden halt in front of the frozen food cases. Right next to each other, almost touching, are the frozen vegetables, on the left, and the cartons of ice cream, on the right. WOW!! For a couple minutes, I become frozen in time.

It seems like forever until I decide between the vitamin packed Brussels sprouts and the SINFUL "death by chocolate" flavor ice cream!

By the way, at times, I think "us seniors" should NOT eat healthy foods because we certainly need all the preservatives we can get!

—Zena Stoller

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 Eisen (301) 598-8658.

Tales from the Pandemic

We've all been learning new ways of procuring the supplies that we need. One of these is groceries. Our son brings us some food from Roots, and I've been ordering online every two weeks from a market with its own refrigerated delivery truck. Orders placed on Sunday usually get delivered on Wednesday. Generally, it works well, except when it doesn't.

The first mishap occurred when the order did not arrive one Wednesday, even though the driver claimed that a man came to the door and accepted it. The store sent a replacement order on Thursday. On Friday, the VPE office called to say that VPW was sending over a package of groceries that belonged to us. By this time, it didn't smell so good, so all the perishables had to be thrown out. The store offered to credit the entire order, but I didn't mind paying for what I could use.

Of course, it's not the same as when you do your own shopping. You may not like what someone else has picked out. Sometimes you may even receive things you didn't order, such as a pound of pricey, extra lean corned beef. The store could not take it back, so it ended up being distributed among three LW residents. On another occasion, I ordered two challah rolls and received two large, braided challah breads instead. Fortunately, we found takers for one of the challah breads, and we consumed the other.

One mishap was my fault. I inadvertently clicked on one key twice, ending up with two 20-ounce containers of dark raisins when I only wanted one. If there's a lover of raisins out there, speak up and the extra box is yours, gratis! The Best Before date is November 4, 2021.

If you have any pandemic adventures to report, send them to lenirenesil@comcast.net and tom@mcgrathusa.net.

—Ruth Gutstein



COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS

Notices will be posted or members called when committee meetings are able to resume.

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

Building and Grounds Committee met via Zoom on August 19. We discussed the letter from Bruce Hulman about our HVAC equipment on the roof. We also discussed the proposal from Becht Engineering and decided to get more information from them before making any decision. We discussed and passed the proposal from East Coast Building Services on penthouse drainpipe and sent it to the Board. We passed the proposal for replacement of one of the stairwell steel doors and sent it to the Board.

–Marvin Wolf, Chair

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

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

My Grandchild Called

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your brothers and sisters? I then heard a loud click and the phone call was over.

It was the start of the unfortunately current scam where a person posing as your grandchild says they are in trouble somewhere and you need to send money.

The person on the line will tell you a story that they need money to get out of jail, or get the car fixed and they are somewhere far away.

When you receive a phone call from a relative and you are unsure who is on the line, ask the person questions about their identity without supplying the name of any persons.

Ask their birth dates, names of family relatives, etc. If there are any hesitations, you are dealing with an imposter. Sometimes the person on the line says they are speaking for the grandchild. If so, get a call back number and say you will call back in a couple of minutes. Then check with other family members as to the location of the grandchild before you call back.

Just be wary when your grandchild calls asking for money on an emergency basis.

–Henry Jordan



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