



The View

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Mutual 24

from Vantage Point East

Vol 19 No. 5

May 2021

President's Message



Hurray!
Hurray! It
is the first
of May and
outdoor
flowers
and spring

are here to stay. The grass and trees are green again and the grounds are being beautified. It is time for all to start spring cleaning. The building's air conditioning and your air conditioning unit will be inspected and made ready for summer cooling. Just as a gentle reminder, some of the air conditioning units on the roof are showing their age, and replacement time may be near. A little over 4 years ago we had a program to replace the units and about 30 unit owners participated. With such a large purchase, we obtained a substantial discount on the newer, more efficient systems. If interested, contact the property manager. If enough unit owners are interested, we can repeat the program.

Your VPE Board has been asked a few times, when are we going to open the Community Room? At this moment it is difficult to tell. If you listen to the news, read a newspaper, or listen to the CDC, the advice changes from week to week on what we should do and who is right or wrong as to community



Weeping Cherry on the berm

—Photo by Ruth Gutstein

closeness. What is safe to do? What is not safe to do? So, to be cautious as to who has been

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March Board Actions

The VPE Board approved:

- Policy Resolution #8 Use of Electricity to Charge Electric/Hybrid Vehicles and Rule 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 as described in the Policy Resolution, and agree to the policies and standards outlined in an agreement available from the Association Office.*
- the 2020 Audit as reviewed and recommended by the Budget & Finance Committee.
- the Magnolia Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Invoice in the amount of \$1,765.76 to repair the hot water riser in the master bath in Unit 116. Funds to come from Plumbing Maintenance Account.
- the Shapiro & Duncan Proposal in the amount of \$2,880.00 to replace the defective pulleys in three HVAC rooftop units, repair a broken switch, and replace the insulation in one of the units. Funds to come from HVAC Common Area Account.

—Ann Ferren, Secretary

1st Quarter Financial Report

Following is the unaudited VPE financial report through the first quarter (1Q21):

	Actual	Budget
YTD Total Revenue	\$504,308	\$452,124
Less: Transfer to Reserve	89,935	90,300
Net Revenue	\$414,373	\$361,824
Less: Total Expenses	415,923	375,973
YTD Surplus (Deficit)	(\$ 1,550)	(\$14,149)

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

Property Manager's Corner

HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES: If you have engaged the services of a house cleaning service company or with a housekeeper, please be sure to let them know that they should use the garage entrances and not the front door. We are seeing an increased number of people with cleaning supplies coming through the front entrance. Please help us by giving clear instruction to your service provider.

WE ARE STILL IN A PANDEMIC: While it is wonderful to know that many residents have been vaccinated, we must continue to be vigilant. Please continue to wear your mask when you're outside your unit, even when going to take out the trash or check your mail. Also, please remind your family and friends who are visiting to do the same.

GET IN THE KNOW: I want to encourage you to attend our committee and Board meetings. The best way to know what is going on, plans of future projects and how to get to know your neighbors is by attending the meetings. We are still holding the meetings virtually so you can log on online via Zoom or call in using your phone. You can call our office for the meeting details!

Thanks,

—Cris Juarez



affected the financial condition of the Association. Through the first quarter, the Association's financial performance was ahead of budget, mainly because of lower administrative expenses but also because of somewhat lower maintenance and utility expenses.

The Budget & Finance Committee is currently beginning the development of the 2022 budget. This process will include consideration of a number of major initiatives over the next several years and beyond. 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

Teaching and Bubble Gum

Many years ago, when I was teaching my first day in a Special Education classroom, I experienced an unusual challenge.

I was introduced to my students by my department head, and he told them that classroom rules had already been established and were displayed on the front wall. I had been relieved of that duty, thank goodness.

I welcomed my eleventh-grade class consisting of twelve young men and two young ladies. As I recall, they listened to me with respect and paid attention to my lecture, which was on United States history. I actually made it through fifty minutes of instruction, with plenty of shaking in my boots, so to speak.

I made it that first day through five periods of both history and English instruction. Note: At that time, teachers in Special Education taught classes in at least two disciplines.

I made it through the first day of school and was glad to get home and rest. But to my dismay, I looked in my hall mirror and noticed that my hair looked different. You will never guess what my students had bestowed upon me. A large clump of bubble gum had been placed on the left side of my hair. That was before I knew about peanut butter, so I took a pair of scissors and proceeded to cut out a large clump of my hair. Needless to say, I was not very happy. It is interesting to note, however, that none of my new colleagues mentioned anything unusual about my appearance.

The next day, I went to my first class looking lopsided and I tried to maintain my positive attitude. I had a gut feeling that one of my students in my first period class might be the culprit. I said the usual morning pleasantries and questioned the young people in this group. As I talked with them, I noticed that two of the young men were slouching in their seats and that their faces were turning a deep pink. I then knew who the culprits were. I told the class that this time I would give them a pass and let the incident go, with their promise that this prank would never happen again. This class, especially, behaved almost like angels for the rest of the school year.

I must tell you that I began my career teaching

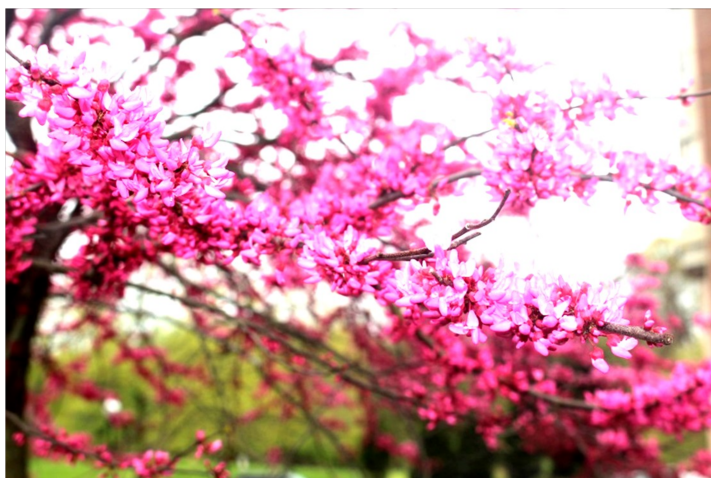
President's Message

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vaccinated and to try to maintain the highest level of safety, we will probably wait until Montgomery County decides what to do about opening community and public facilities. We know that is not an answer some of you want to hear, but we just want to be on the safe side.

We do realize that at times we have mobility issues, and we obtain handicapped parking stickers for our vehicles. The building does have handicapped parking near the entrance to assist individuals with mobility issues. The number of these spaces is limited. We have noticed residents, aides and guests who are very mobile take up these handicapped parking spaces. Please be courteous and do not use these spaces if the driver does not have a mobility issue.

—Henry Jordan



A redbud branch in back of VPE

—Photo by Sid Sussan

Special Education high school students and, with a second certification, taught first grade in regular education during the final year of my career. I enjoyed teaching and I cared very much about the children I taught.

—Marylin Jordan

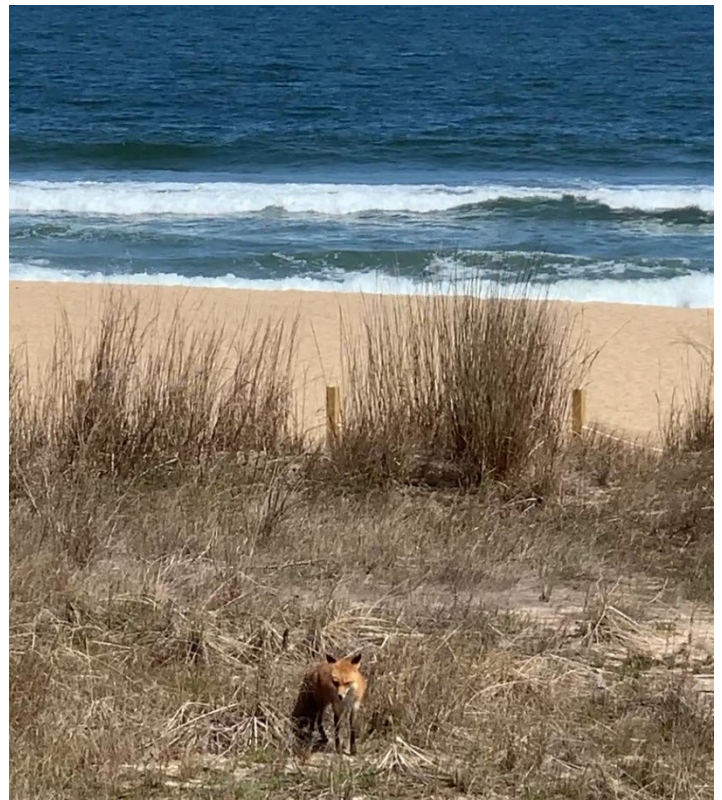
Many VPE residents are teachers. We welcome your recollections. (Send to: tom@mcgrathusa.net)

A Fox On the Dune



My family took me on an off-season getaway to see and smell the sea in the comfort of the Dunes Manor Hotel, Ocean City, MD. We have been enamored of the place since it was a billboard announcing its construction in the mid-1980s. The hotel is parallel to the beach, which requires perennial restoration. The natural dune line had disappeared over the years in the excessive construction. In the 1990s, the City Fathers decided Nature had the answer to frequent storm surges in the city streets. A frenzy of dune restoration was carried out from the north end of the Boardwalk to the Delaware border. The dune grasses flourished. Wildlife crept back. We could observe the changes from our room balcony. As the years have changed, so have the sand dunes. They are now very desert-like, with sparse, withered shrubs; a tuft of dry grass clings here and there. A lone grackle will light and have a solitary meander in the scrub.

While I was engaged in the other seaside activity of sitting in a rocking chair on the deck, and chatting with a fellow guest (not to worry, we wore masks) they said, "OH! LOOK! A fox, there on the dune!" I finally spotted it, in a freeze pose, looking directly at us. He was much larger than the one I have seen here. But it still had the low, long profile of a fox, with a tail that a hunt club would swoon over. He was doing the hunting on the dune. He dug up several tasty morsels, chewed them and disappeared into his barely visible den. We could see where he had excavated a lot of sand onto the area around the en-



—Photos courtesy of Pamela and Elliott Levine
(Bernard Patlen's children)

trance. This is the brooding season. We speculated as to there being a vixen and her kits in the den. We talk about a jaunt to the shore in early October. I like to think there will be an interesting aftermath to report.

—Bernard Patlen

The Spring Walkers Challenge Is On!

After a 3-month winter hiatus, The VPE Walkers Challenge officially resumed on April 2 with 20 participants.

Last fall 19 VPE residents signed up to participate in our first Walkers Challenge and set out for the virtual destination of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, a distance of about 137 miles. Over the course of 3 months a good number of participants not only made it to the Liberty Bell but walked all the way home again, and one star walker completed two round trips!

Inspired by such enthusiasm, the group's record keeper and statistician, Phil Roark, suggested that we increase the distance this spring to 225 miles. By his calculation this represents the average distance walked last fall, making it an ambitious but achievable goal. This is a challenge after all! Walkers were asked to choose between 2 virtual destinations: The Neptune Statue on the Virginia Beach boardwalk or The Statue of Liberty. Lady Liberty won by a landslide.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the Fall Challenge was gathering informally on the VPE Terrace every Friday afternoon, weather permitting. This spring we will be doing the same, meeting at 3:00 and following the building's safety guidelines. As the days grow longer and warmer, we will advance the time so as to avoid the heat of the day.

If you are interested in participating in the Spring Walkers Challenge, you can still join in. This is NOT a race nor is it a competition, so if you start mid-way that is just fine. Please note that we do not walk as a group. You walk whenever you want, wherever you want, and you keep track of your distance walked in whatever way is easiest for you: Fitbit, pedometer or phone app. All you have to do is each Friday email your total miles walked for the week to Phil Roark. If you'd like to be added to our roster, email Kathi Carlson at kathicrlsn@gmail.com or call her at 551-655-5475.

—Kathi Carlson

Activities Committee Events for May 2021 Activities Are Picking Up!

"Dinner Delivered" - The "Dinner Delivered" program has been a great success with dinners already delivered from several area restaurants. Our next meal will be a Deli "Dinner Delivered" in June. Keep looking under your door for a flyer with the details of this event.

Come Chat - We have scheduled every Tuesday for a "Come Chat" session at 10:30 a.m. on the outdoor terrace. Note that we have changed the time to the morning instead of the hot afternoon. Masks will be required, and seating will be provided for appropriate social distancing. Come chat with your VPE neighbors. We're hoping for good weather on Tuesdays.

Poetry Group - The Poetry Group continues its meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. However, the May 4 meeting has been changed to April 27. The regular schedule resumes on June 1.

Book Club - The next Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18 at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom. The book is *Born A Crime: Stories from A South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah. The moderator will be Barbara Eisen.

The Walkers Challenge - The walkers have already started on their journey to the Statue of Liberty. They meet informally on the Terrace on Fridays at 4:00 p.m. if the weather is OK.

—Barbara Eisen for the Activities Committee



Come Chat participants on the terrace on April 27

—Photo by Suzie Offit

Meet new residents

Martin (Marty) and Ellyn Kaufman, Apt. 517

"We never wanted to leave that house. We loved it," Ellyn told me wistfully. It was in Annapolis with water views on several sides, and they loved the city with all its charms: cobblestone streets, amazing restaurants, and so much history.

Ellyn grew up in Portsmouth, Virginia and Marty was raised in Montgomery County, so the shore - both ocean and the Chesapeake - is in their blood. They met 20 years ago in Arnold, Maryland, married, and found that perfect water-side home in Annapolis.

But Marty has faced some physical challenges in recent years and caring for the home became increasingly difficult. As more responsibilities fell upon Ellyn's shoulders, they made the difficult decision to sell their home. "It was too much to handle," they said. They needed to downsize to a place with little maintenance, elevator access, covered parking, and with a gym and other recreational opportunities nearby. Marty's mother lives in a neighboring Leisure World mutual as do both of his sisters, so moving to Vantage Point East made sense.

Marty commuted to the butcher shop he co-owned in Union Market in D.C., and handling the business end of things meant for very long and full days. "A forty hour work-week felt like a vacation to me," he said. As he steps back from the business with plans to retire completely in the near future, he acknowledges that adjusting to retirement and a relaxed life-style will be challenging. Marty loves sports and participated in athletics until he was forced to slow down, so he is looking forward to going to the gym and playing golf. "I've only been to the driving range thus far" he told me, "but I'm hoping to get out and play a game soon." I assured him there are several golfers in this building who would love to see him on the course. He also likes to bowl and play poker.



—Photo by Kathi Carlson

Ellyn left Tidewater to attend college in Israel and continued living there for several years after graduation. She loves working with children and currently is in her 51st year of teaching. She's been a preschool director, taught grades 5-12 and was the principal of several Hebrew schools. She continues to teach via Zoom, including preparing students for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and she can also officiate at weddings. Ellyn recently volunteered to teach conversational Hebrew through the

Center for Lifelong Learning.

Ellyn likes to stay active and enjoys a new challenge. The week we spoke she had just taken her first pickle ball lesson and was eager to head out for another session. She also loves Zumba and was recently trained to teach Zumba Gold, which involves no jumping and is easier on the knees. She has been in discussion with the VPE office staff, and as soon as it can be safely scheduled, she hopes to teach Zumba Gold at VPE.

Like many of us at Vantage Point East, Marty and Ellyn are looking forward to traveling again once it's safe to do so. They have 6 grandchildren between them, 2 in Portland, Oregon, and 4 in the Nashville area, and they are very anxious to reunite with them. In years past they've vacationed at Disneyworld with family and taken cruises, and they are hopeful they will be doing activities like those again soon.

In spite of the social challenges of this pandemic, Marty and Ellyn have managed to meet several neighbors, remarking on how friendly everyone is. They are looking forward, as are we all, to the day when Leisure World and VPE reopen fully. "There will be SO many things to do!" I assured them, from small gatherings to large group activities. And now we know we can add Zumba Gold to that list!

—Kathi Carlson

Welcome New Neighbors

It's been just over a year since Governor Hogan effectively closed down the state of Maryland because of COVID. Many of our normal activities in Leisure World and Vantage Point East were paused. What has not paused, however, is the influx of new residents to VPE. Since mid-March, 2020, 31 individuals have made Vantage Point East their new home.

Hopefully in the months ahead we'll be able to resume all our many and varied activities at VPE, but in the meantime please reach out and welcome your new neighbors who moved here since the COVID closures.

Apt. #	Resident
104	John Mark Jr. and Judith Mark
114	Sung H. Kim and Linda Kim
305	Raj Shekar and Ranukamba Shekar
314	Melvyn Shapiro
514	Mona Cassidy Davis
517	Martin Kaufman and Ellyn Kaufman
602	Judy Jiaxin Wu, Xugeng Zhou and
609	Barry Ploff and Ruth Ploff
615	Patricia Christiansen
618	Marina Rappoport
707	Berta Buchberger
716	Philip Roark and Paula Roark
801	Earlene Kendrick
803	Andrea Beagles
805	Jeannette Oliver
812	Tom Schweer
903	Tom Evans and Elizabeth Evans
905	Tanya Chamberlain
1009	Ellen Hall
1011	Michael Dunford and Sally Dunford
1020	Ceil Combe

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.

Poetry Group *The Secret of Youth*

by Micah Daniels

*Last night I asked my mother to cornrow my hair
A skill I had been practicing since last summer
But always ended with a tumbleweed excuse of a
braid*

*My black has always resided in braids
In tango fingers that work through tangles
Translating geometry from hands to head*

*For years my hair was cultivated into valleys and
hills
That refused to be ironed out with a brush held in
my hand
I have depended on my mother to make them plains*

*I am 18 and still sit between my mother's knees
I still welcome the cracks of her knuckles in my
ears
They whisper to me and tell me the secret of youth*

*I want to be 30 sitting between my mother's knees
Her fingers keeping us both young while organizing
my hair*

*I never want to flatten the hills by myself
I want the brush in her hand forever*



Micah Daniels is a student at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is from Oak Park, Illinois.

**—Photo Credit:
Yolanda Richards**

"My poetry is often about my complex relationship with my parents and my Black identity. One of the main components of me and my mother's relationship that has lasted through the years is her doing my hair. I'm almost nineteen and unfortunately still don't know how to braid. One of the ways I feel my mother's love the strongest is when she does my hair, and the poem describes a bit of that experience."

—Micah Daniels

—Submitted by the Poetry Group in honor of Mother's Day and National Poetry Month.



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.



Barbara Halperin delivers dinners from Villa Maya to hungry VPE'ers.

—Photo by
Suzie Offit



This robin decided to spend the spring in Leisure World!

—Photo by
Bob
Gallagher

Mark These Dates

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Activities	May 5	@ 10:30 a.m.
Communications	May 12	@ 11:00 a.m.
Building & Grounds	May 19	@ 1:30 p.m.
Budget & Finance	May 25	@ 1:30 p.m.
Board of Directors	May 27	@ 1:30 p.m.

Note: As of now all committee meetings have been online. Find the login information on the agendas posted on the bulletin boards in the main and "P" level lobbies.

The Board of Directors is discussing open meetings.

Leisure World Community Shred Day

Saturday, May 22nd
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Administration Building Parking Lot

The View Crew

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Ruth Gutstein, Vice-Chair
Florence Golomb, Recorder
Len Silver, Editor
Tom McGrath, Layout Editor
Henry Jordan, Webmaster

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