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The View

from Vantage Point East

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March 2020



Presidents Message

There are a number of building events and community wide items that you need to be informed about and that your Board would like you to comment on. Therefore, we have scheduled a **VPE Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. in our Vantage Point East Community Room**. The tentative agenda of items are listed below.

For items one and two, if the schedule of a shutdown occurs prior to the Wednesday March 25 meeting, you will be informed in advance and details will be provided.

1. Complete building electrical power shutdown. (Currently scheduled on April 1, 2020).
2. Comcast TV/Internet/phone shutdown for Comcast new main feeder trunk wiring connections in the building. (Date of shutdown currently not known.)
3. Vantage Point West resident use of our parking lot due to construction.
4. Change in homeowner insurance requirements.
5. How to handle an insurance claim in case of an adverse event.
6. Call for new projects to be in the Facility Enhancement Plan.
7. Proposed increase in the Resales Fee when a unit is purchased.
8. Open forum.

Please schedule this event on your calendar. I urge you to attend.

—Henry Jordan

January Board Actions

The Board approved:

- the Mt. Airy Invoice in the amount of \$425.00 to replace window glass panel and broken vinyl strip in unit 510. Funds to come from the Replacement Reserves.
- the Dynalectric Invoice in the amount of \$1,248.66 for Sprinkler Pipe Repairs and to repair leak outside Unit 304. Funds to come from the Fire & Security Account.
- appointment of the following members to VPE Committees for 2020:
Activities Committee: Kathi Carlson, Cheryl Fleming, and Gail Roe
Budget & Finance: Doug Carlson and Michael Spiro
- the purchase and installation of two additional Dog Waste stations to help minimize pet waste issues. Funds to come from the General Maintenance Account.
- The purchase and installation of one smoker's receptacle station to be located 20 feet from the building. Funds to come from the General Maintenance Account.

—Ann Ferren, Secretary



Barbara Halperin hits the mail jackpot!

—Photo by Suzie Offit

Property Manager's Corner

SCHEDULED POWER SHUTDOWN: In April, we will be performing preventative maintenance to the electrical equipment of the building as required by county code. This will involve a disruption in electrical power for a period of time. Although the work is not anticipated to take more than a full workday, you may want to begin looking at supplies such as batteries and flashlights you may need for that day. Of course, another option will be to consider spending the day out with a friend or family. Look forward to receiving full details as soon as all required applications are completed and a date has been confirmed.

COMCAST UPGRADES: Comcast has now installed a hotspot in our Community Room. You and your guests may now connect to the hotspot and connect to the internet! Comcast will also be upgrading the cable that provides service to your unit. Installation of the new cable has been completed; the next step, to disconnect the old and connect the new, will take place soon. You will receive information shortly with additional details.

WALKING YOUR PET: There have been numerous incidents of a dog defecating in the p-level lobby. Please ensure that you are keeping a close eye on your dog as you enter and exit the building. We have also installed an additional pet waste station in the back of the building for your convenience. More importantly, if you have someone else walk your pet, please make sure you talk to them and explain the importance of cleaning up after the dog. Let's do everything we can to keep the building looking beautiful and pristine.

CONTRACTORS: This is just a reminder that you need to inform your contractors to enter and exit the building through the loading dock entrance. This includes housekeeping services that bring cleaning equipment.

—Cris Juarez

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.

Bluegrass Jamming at the Sandy Spring Museum

Let's begin with some trivia: What's a dobro? or, What has a dozen strings and sounds like a guitar? or, How can you play a guitar and a harmonica at the same time? or, What is an autoharp?

Answers to these and other puzzlers could have been found on Sunday afternoon, January 26 at the Sandy Spring Museum, where the monthly Bluegrass Museum Jam took place from 3:00 to 5:00. In the heart of Sandy Spring, the Museum sits on several acres of former farmland, but it retains the small-town charm and lived-in feel that so many enjoy.

Eighteen participants joined their talents to play bluegrass songs here for the sheer fun of it. This visitor felt the joy of these amateur musicians as they took turns leading songs and sharing solo moments with an easy, friendly familiarity, and smiles . . . lots of smiles and toe-tapping.

Some players knew every song by heart, music and words, while others strummed along, improvising. The protocol is that one person starts singing or playing a verse of a song, then nods to someone else, who does a solo riff before singing the next verse. They pass the riffs and the verses around the circle until everyone has had a turn, ending with the classic bluegrass syncopated strum.

The instruments this day were guitar, violin, dobro, mandolin, string upright bass fiddle, harmonica, electric bass, electric bass mandolin, autoharp, 12-string and kazoo. Some of the musicians played several instruments, in fact.

Ready for those puzzlers? A dobro is a guitar with a tuned metal sound board over the hole of the body; it's usually played on the lap and sounds, well, metallic. A 12-string guitar has twice the usual number of strings, which yields a bigger sound. The harmonica fits over the shoulders on a holder, freeing the hands for the guitar. An autoharp is a small stringed box with keys to push that produce chords; held against the chest, it is played by strumming the strings.

You might consider attending next month's Museum Bluegrass Jam on March 29 in Sandy Spring. Come as player, singer or audience member. Whichever you are, you'll be smiling in no time.

—Bob Gallagher

On the Lighter Side...

You Can't Teach an Old Dog New Tricks

Eating a balanced diet is something we all strive to do in order to stay healthy. I always integrate fruits and vegetables into each meal. I put blueberries in my yogurt, mixed vegetables in my chicken and stay away from high sugar foods.

Animals in our family seem to have a much different view of a healthy diet. Last Chanukah, my son's dog Mickey ate the Chanukah lights that were hanging in his house. Mickey must have been trying to have a bright holiday! My daughter's dog, Mackenzie, ate a chocolate graduation cake. She obviously took the celebration too far! Years ago, our family dog, Rusty, ate a whole pan of potato knishes. I wonder if she was trying to get a doggy bag! I once heard a funny quote, "You can trust a dog to guard your house, but never trust your dog to guard your sandwich."

Enjoy your meals, but if you haven't learned how to always eat healthy don't worry because you can't always teach an old dog new tricks!

—Zena Stoller



A banjo player takes a solo turn at the bluegrass jam in Sandy Spring.

Super Bowl Pizza Party on February 2



Kansas City Chiefs won upset victory over the San Francisco 49ers 31-20.

Activities Committee Events for March 2020

Floor Parties are Back!

Coffee and Conversation – Tues., March 3 – 10:00 a.m.

Poetry Group – Tues., March 3 - 1:00 p.m.

Wise Aging – Tues. – March 10 – 10:30 a.m.

Activities Committee Meeting – Wed., March 11 - 10:30 a.m.

Floor Party for 7-8-9-10 – Wed. – March 11 – 6:00 p.m.

Floor Party for 4-5-6 – Sun. - March 15 – 6:00 p.m.

Book Club – Mon., March 16 - 9:45 a.m. – *The Two-Family House* by Lynda Cohen Loigman

Sing-A-Longers – Tues., March 17 – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Movie – Sun. – March 22 - 7:30 p.m. – *The Blind Side*

Wise Aging – Tues. – March 24 – 10:30 a.m.

Salon Discussion – Wed., March 25 - 2:30 p.m.

Bingo – Mon., March 30 - 7:30 p.m.

Floor Party for 1-2-3 – Tue. - March 31 – 6:00 p.m.

Yoga – Wed. and Fri. - 9:00-10:00 a.m.

If you can't attend the party on your floor's date, plan to attend one of the other floor parties.

Wise Aging is a new group that will be studying the book *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience, & Spirit* by Rabbi Rachel Cowan and Dr. Linda Thal.

–Barbara Eisen for the Activities Committee
Cynthia Snyder, Co-Chair

Our Sunshine Lady



Gloria Pearlman, an original resident of VPE who passed away recently, was truly a ray of sunshine. Cheerful and spunky, she came to the Communications Committee with some experience in copyediting that she wanted to use. Initially, she submitted articles warning of speed traps, and her natural curiosity led her to interview VPE staff for *The View*. She loved a good story, but she found her true niche in creating Gloria's Glo,' topical word finds that were eagerly anticipated by many residents. A kid at heart who liked to tease and joke, she was also a natural teacher who loved working with children in daycare and helping Hispanic workers improve their English. Just Do It! was her motto, which several of her friends had printed on a t-shirt. Her husband George recently said, "One of the best decisions I made was to marry my wife." Extending our condolences to George and the rest of her family, we are happy to have known her and worked with her, and we will miss Our Sunshine Lady.

–The Communications Committee



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.

Unwanted Phone Calls

As the years have passed, I have honed my skill in dealing with the calls. I no longer panic when the gentleman tells me I have a problem with my computer. "No, I will not go and turn it on."

I find it amusing to hear the Anglo names they use with their unmistakable South Asian accents. Shouldn't laugh. They are just trying to make a buck – at our expense. Now I get calls for "Senor Bernardo" followed by a torrent of Spanish. I now say "Yo no entiendo!" and hang up..

Recently I threw away the chance of my lifetime.

My 'phone rang at 9:15 AM. A slightly accented, well spoken voice asked for me. He was calling to tell me I had been selected for THIRD prize in Publishers Clearing House (PCH) Awards – \$3.5 million.

I said, "I have not entered."

PCH "Oh, but you have been entered!"

I asked "Who am I speaking to?"

PCH "My name is James Walker. Before we proceed, you must promise not to tell anyone about this call."

I said "Not even my kids?"

PCH "Yes, that's OK. Now do you want a camera crew to come to your house, and media coverage?"

I began sounding hesitant.

James said, "if you don't want the prize let's stop here!"

I replied "I still want it."

PCH "Now let's confirm your address and do you want the payment in a lump sum. Taxes will be taken, and you get the net, you understand"

I exclaimed, "Oh yes!"

PCH "Now before we can initiate this transaction there are a few things you have to do. First, to cover processing costs, you will have to provide us with a cashier's check from your bank in the amount of \$1,800 and send it to us.." A little bell rang!

I said to James, "This sounds familiar. It was at this exact point two years ago that I said no to a similar offer." THUD!

March Book Club

Swapping Babies: Does it Work?

Lynda Cohen Loigman's debut novel is an engrossing family saga set in post-war Brooklyn, N.Y. It focuses on two families inextricably linked by blood, marriage, and a long-held secret. Brothers Abe and Mort took over their family box business when their father died, even though Mort had his heart set on studying mathematics. The brothers share a two-family house with their children and wives. As the story opens in 1947, wives Rose and Helen are themselves as close as sisters, happily raising their children together. Rose and Mort have three young daughters, and Helen and Abe, on the top floor, are bringing up four sons. Then, the two women get pregnant at the same time, deliver their babies together during a horrible blizzard, and make an instant decision to swap the babies that will change all their lives forever. The story follows the brothers, their wives, and the Lynda Cohen children through decades. Loigman's use of shifting perspectives allows readers to witness first-hand the growing consequences of long-festering secrets and the insidious lies that cover them up. This historical family drama has a dark underbelly, but Loigman's decision to let the reader in on the secret allows the setting and mood of the novel to take over as the characters move haltingly toward redemption and peace. (Publishers Weekly)

The VPE Book Club will meet at 9:45 a.m. on Monday, March 16, to discuss *The Two-Family House*. All residents are welcome.

—Ruth Gutstein



Can you imagine his face as he ended his call. At least I had fifteen minutes of fun, before getting to answer MY nature call!

—Bernard Patlen
(With a nod to Gene Weingarten)

High Teas in VPE Community Room on February 29

VPE's Latest Cello Player

Did you know that Bernard Patlen is taking cello lessons? His instructor Adam Gonzalez plays the cello in a group known as "The Sunrise String Trio." The other members are Teri Lazar on violin and Osman Kizrak on viola. Bernard and the Activities Committee sponsored an event on Saturday, February 29 at 3:30 p.m. in the VPE Community Room. The Activities Committee set up card tables with individual English teapots and cup sets. Plates filled with delicious refreshments including scones, brownies and several different kinds of tea sandwiches were at each place setting. Adam Gonzalez opened the program at 4:00 p.m. with several cello solos by Bach. Then the Sunrise String Trio continued the classical concert with selections from Mozart and Beethoven. It was a delightful way to spend the leap year day.

—Barbara Eisen



Elliott Levin, Pamela Levin, Osman Kizrak, Adam Gonzalez, Bernard Patlen, Teri Lazar and Larry Patlen.

Cosponsors of the tea party with the Activities Committee.



—Photos by Len Silver

Government Affairs Advisory Committee

During our January meetings, the GAAC voted to support 4 bills that the Maryland Legislature is considering:

HB30—Clarifying that certain provisions of law relating to closed-door meetings of a Board of Directors of a condominium do not allow the Board to withhold or agree to withhold any information about a legal agreement to which the Board is a party from the unit owners; etc.

HB58—Requiring the governing body of certain cooperative housing corporations, condominiums, and homeowners associations to have a study of reserves required for future major repairs and replacements conducted by a certain date and at certain 5-year intervals; requiring a certain reserve study to meet certain criteria; establishing that the governing body of a cooperative housing corporation or a homeowners association and the board of directors of a condominium have authority to increase a certain assessment; etc.

HB 108—Specifying that the council of unit owner's property insurance deductible is a common expense if the cause of any damage to the condominium originates from an event outside of the condominium units and common elements; increasing, from \$5,000 to \$10,000, the maximum amount of the council of unit owners' property insurance deductible for which a unit owner is responsible; etc.

HB 218—Requiring a developer of a condominium or a declarant of a homeowners association to convene a certain annual meeting at which the agenda is open to any matter relating to the homeowners association; and requiring certain meetings to include an opportunity for unit owners or lot owners to provide comment.

—Glenn Rahmoeller, Vice Chair, GAAC

VPE remembers
Jim Naccarato
who recently passed away.

Mark These Dates!

ACTIVITIES

See Page 5 for the Activities Calendar

COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETINGS

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Activities	Mar. 11	@10:30 a.m.
Communications	Mar. 11	@ 3:00 p.m.
Building and Grounds	Mar. 18	@1:30 p.m.
Budget and Finance	Mar. 24	@ 1:30 p.m.
Board of Directors	Mar. 26	@ 1:30 p.m.

Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds Committee met on February 19. We discussed dog waste station placement in rear of building. We also discussed Leisure World bulk trash removal policy. We discussed buying a new TV for the community room. We approved the application of a new committee member.

—Marvin Wolf, Chair



The View Crew

Suzanne Offit, Chair, Communications Committee

Ruth Gutstein, Vice-Chair

Florence Golomb, Recorder

Len Silver, Editor

Tom McGrath, Layout Editor

Henry Jordan, Webmaster

Copy Editors/Writers

Barbara Eisen

Bernard Patlen

Zena Stoller

India Cox, Production Manager

Contact the Vantage Point East Office

Cris Juarez, Property Manager

cjuarez@lwmc.com

India Cox, Administrative Assistant

icox@lwmc.com

(301) 598-1075