

# THE GRAPEVINE



Published by and for Mutual 14 of Leisure World

Issued Monthly – No.383,Dec.2009/Jan.,2010

## Mark Your



## Calendar

### Next Board Of Directors' Meeting Thursday, January 21, 2010



## JOIN US!!!

in the Administration Building at 1:30 p.m. All unit owners and residents are encouraged to attend all Board meetings.

- ▶ Property Maintenance Committee, Thursday, January 7, 2010 @ 1:30 P, Administration Building
- ▶ LWCC Organization, Fri., Jan. 8 @ 9:30 A, Montgomery Rm. Clubhouse I
- ▶ LWCC Executive Committee, Friday, Jan. 15 @ 9:30A, Administration Building
- ▶ LWCC BOD, Tuesday, Jan. 26 @ 9:30 A, Montgomery Rm. Clubhouse I

## The President's Corner

The blizzard of 2009 is raging outside, and I hope you are all warm and comfortable at this holiday season. The "Casino Night" party was a grand success (I had a previously scheduled important church committee meeting and was forced to miss it — my loss). Sharon Moores and the Social Committee have done a wonderful job this year and deserve all our thanks. The Mutual Board of Directors voted a "thank you" to them at our December 17 meeting.

At this time of year as we celebrate and gift our families I would like to remind you that here at Leisure World we all benefit from the actions of the Foundation of Leisure World, Inc. The LW Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 with the mission of enhancing the quality of life of the residents of Leisure World in the areas of culture, education, and health. The Foundation subsidizes many performances at Leisure World to help keep ticket prices low, purchases equipment (pianos, projectors, and exercise equipment have all been funded by the Foundation) and it has given seed money to help start new organizations here, such as the Computer Center. All of the funds for the use of the Foundation come from donations; none of the Foundation's money comes from your condo fees. The only way the Foundation can operate is through good people stepping up and giving them money. You get the benefit of the support the Foundation gives your community — and your donations are tax-deductible. Please help out this worthy activity that benefits us all. Donations can be left at the E&R office in Club House 1 or mailed to Foundation of Leisure World, Inc., 1701 Rossmoor Boulevard, Silver Spring, MD, 20906.

Happy holidays — and best wishes for the coming New Year:  
Richard Bambach





## Two gentle reminders:

(1) We all enjoy holiday decorations, but if you have lights displayed, please remember that we all are charged for extra use of electricity by any one of us. Therefore, turn those extra lights on only when they are of use; say from five to ten at night. If you leave the lights on after most have gone to bed then they are simply wasting electricity and costing us all extra money. In the evening when folks are out they are welcome because they add cheer and help us all celebrate a happy time.

(2) Please remember that it is a Montgomery County Ordinance that a pet owner must remove animal waste left by a pet outside. I know most pet owners do this, but, unfortunately, it has been reported that some people have been seen walking dogs and not removing the waste the dogs do create. I am sure you will heed this reminder if you are a resident of our Mutual. If you see someone who is not from our Mutual being careless, you might gently remind them of the requirements of the law and their responsibilities as a pet owner and a citizen to cooperate.

## **Remember, Gloria Robar is the person to call when you need property maintenance work**

**Attention all:** There is a reason we ask you to notify Gloria Robar, our Mutual Assistant (telephone 301-598-1338), when you need repair work done on things such as plumbing or electrical problems that are part of the building you live in. Our Management Service Contract specifies that the Mutual Assistant will “act as primary contact point for Building Representatives and residents for requests for maintenance items and Mutual responsibilities.” Gloria contacts the appropriate people at Physical Properties to get the needed work scheduled, she keeps records of what is done and she gets the information on who is responsible for paying for the work. These tasks are part of her job description and are not the responsibility of your Building Representatives (who do plenty of work for us on a volunteer basis as it is). Please remember to call Gloria when you have a property maintenance problem.

R. B.

## Notable L.W. News Articles

Are you aware of the wealth of important and useful information that appears in our bi-monthly *Leisure World News*? Frequently this newsletter (*The Grapevine*) publishes some of this information because we feel it is so noteworthy. The current issue, dated December 15, 2009, has so many informative and vital articles, that I am listing them here. One of the articles refers to the Tax Forum that only about 300 residents had an opportunity to attend. Hopefully you still have issue so that you can read the articles cited below:

- Shelter-in-Place by Robert “Duke” DuCharme – page 2
- Tips for Winter Driving – page 5
- Important Safety Notice from the Security Department - page 6
- Ten Steps to Take Before Hiring Domestic Help – page 7
- Preparing for Emergency Power Outages – page 7
- **\*Information for Leisure World Residents from Tax Forum – page 15**
- How Do You Decide Which Over the Counter Medicines to Take by Roma Sohn – page 16



## **Personals...**



**1/05 - Kyle Wilson – 12-1G**  
**1/12 – Janet Englehart 11-2E**

## **Greetings!**

Everyone likes to be congratulated, to get a pat on the back, to get a hug from a friend, to be wished a Happy Birthday. That’s why we print these dates in the Grapevine. But our list is in need of up-dating and we ask all residents to please give us your special dates (and we promise not to print the year). Simply note your name, your unit num-

ber (Building # / Apartment #), and your birth date and deliver it to our editor, Jackie Rabinow at: [js.rabinow@verizon.net](mailto:js.rabinow@verizon.net) or 301-598-3672 or tuck it into her door at Bldg 13-#2G.

Kathy Viney



## WELCOME to

- **Donald & Dorothy Patterson of B16-3E**
- **Jackie Butler of B10-3E**
- **Raymond & Kaye Bennett of 15149 VHR**

**Please introduce yourself and welcome these new residents of our Mutual.**



### Social Committee

Many thanks to Sharon Moores and the Mutual 14 Social Committee for hosting our Holiday Party, a "Vegas Night", held on December 15<sup>th</sup>. It was a resounding success, with more than 100 of our neighbors, and some of their friends and family, coming together for an evening of socializing, dining, and entertainment.

The bountiful buffet included chicken wings, Italian sausage, meatballs, egg rolls, shrimp cocktail, chips & dip, fruit, and cheese & crackers. Once everyone's appetites were satisfied, the gaming began: Darts, Put-Put, Roulette, Poker, and Blackjack to name a few. Every guest received a string of tickets as they entered, and easily amassed more by winning at the games, and these were the 'dollars' used in the final act. In a lively competition, 21 prizes were auctioned off. The prizes included: a putter, an American flag afghan, a Redskins sweatshirt, a board game donated by Borders Books, bottles of wine, free oil service and safety inspections from Butler's in Rockville, a lovely gift basket donated by Roots Market, free lunches for two at Spring Garden, \$15 toward lunch at Dempsey's and Tabasco's,

and \$25 for dinner at Café Bello. And all of this for only \$10!

Everyone depends on the kindness of their neighbors at some point, so it is to everyone's benefit that we all get to know each other. It is the aim of the Social Committee to create the opportunity for friendly exchanges between neighbors while 'breaking bread' together.

It's an easy and inexpensive way to spend a few hours; we hope more of our neighbors will join us at the next Mutual 14 social event.

The Social Committee could not do what it does without the leadership of Sharon Moores. Because of her enthusiasm, experience, and organizational skills it operates as a well-oiled machine. Each member of the team knows what they are responsible for, and it gets done without much ado. As there are only five events each year, the time invested is relatively minimal. There's always a need for more members so if you're interested in helping out, please contact Sharon Moores.

Kathy Viney

### Reminders & Vital Info



### **ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS!**

#### • **Kitchen Drain Test - Check It Out!!!**

All apartment residents should perform the following test of your kitchen drainage **monthly** in order to avert a flood:

- 1) Fill the sink with water up to 1-1/2 "from the top.
- 2) Remove the stopper and let it drain.
- 3) If the water flows out quickly, all is well; your drain has 'passed' the test.

4) **BUT**, if the water drains sluggishly, your drain may be clogging up and could cause a flood in your apartment. **REPORT** this at once to our Mutual Assistant so that the drain can be checked and cleaned out by the plumber.

- **MUTUAL 14 - RULES FOR TRASH - RECYCLABLES - NEWSPAPERS - MAGAZINES.**

**SEE ATTACHED LIST**

**\*\*\* Please be certain to point these rules out to your caretaker and/or cleaning help. \*\*\***

**It is important that these rules are followed to ensure that our recyclables are collected and not thrown in the trash because they are improperly**



packaged. And, following these rules also ensures that our Trash Room isn't impassable or odoriferous.

• **File of Life**

Do you have the "File of Life" information in a red vinyl case magnetically attached to the outside of your refrigerator? If your answer is "YES", this is reminder to update the information on it.

What is the File of Life? This is an information sheet which contains your known medical problems, the current medications you are taking, your primary doctors, and family members or others to be notified in case of serious illness. This information is exceedingly important to an emergency crew or to a nurse when they are called in case of sudden illness. In times of confusion, your spouse or housemate might have difficulty supplying this information and you may be unresponsive. The rescue crew can, then, check your refrigerator door for your File of Life.

In the event you do not have the File of Life, check with the L. W. Medical Center for a packet. In order to easily, periodically update the information on this sheet, it is advised that you fill it in, in pencil.

• **Snowbirds**

It's getting close to that time of year when many of our residents fly south for the winter. If you will be away for 3 or more days, please take the following steps before you leave.

1. Notify your building representative and the gate of the dates you will be away and provide contact information.
2. Have your mail stopped (or forwarded) and have newspaper delivery held until you return
3. Just before your leave, turn off the lights.

**Landscape Committee**



Be sure to mark your calendars: The next meeting of Landscape Committee will be February 8, 2010 at 1:30pm in Clubhouse I.



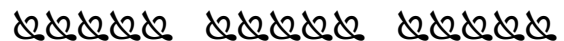
We Have a Poop Problem

We have many woodland neighbors, the geese and the deer, for example, who we expect to poop in the woods and on the common lawns. That's something we can't do too much about. But our domestic animals should not be allowed to add to the problem.

Dog owners should not allow their animals outside without a leash. Dog owners should not allow their animals to poop in the apartment buildings' atrium gardens. Dog owners should clean up their animals' poop, wherever it may fall. It's not always pleasant but it has to be done in order to maintain a clean, attractive, and healthy environment. It's been noted that certain residents are not cleaning up after their pets and this article is a gentle reminder for them to do so in future.

We also don't want birds and squirrels dropping their poop outside our doors and patios. Bird feeders are prohibited in our by-laws because they draw these critters too closely to our living space, where they leave their poop. It's been noted that certain residents are tossing out bread crumbs. This is a gentle request that they stop.

Kathy Viney



January 18<sup>th</sup>  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



**Homestead Tax Credit No Longer**

**Automatic**

By Ruth Gutstein,  
Vantage Point East, November, 2009

Maryland has a Homestead Tax Credit law that limits the amount of assessment increase on which eligible resident homeowners actually pay county and State property taxes each year. The requirements are



quite simple. Your unit must be your principal residence, which applies to married couples as well as singles. The application for the credit must conform to income tax and motor vehicle records of the State. A checklist on the application requests information to satisfy the residency requirement.

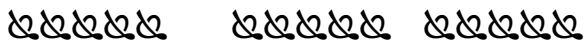
Maryland assesses a property's value every three years, mailing notices to one-third of owners each year. According to the Montgomery County office of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, the next assessment notices for VPE units will be mailed at the end of December for 2010. These notices will have application forms enclosed that unit owners will have to submit to continue receiving the Homestead Tax Credit. Previously, we were receiving this credit automatically, but a law that took effect in 2007 mandates that property owners make this one-time application to ensure that the credit is granted only on eligible properties and not on rentals or vacation homes. For more information, you may contact the abovementioned county office at 240-314-4510, the state office toll-free at 1-866-650-8783, or [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us) where the application can be made online.

 **IN MEMORIAM**

Regretfully several of our residents passed away recently. They are:

- Anna Mocca** of Vantage Hill Road on November 10<sup>th</sup>
- Lena McCarthy** of Building 12 on November 19<sup>th</sup>
- Patricia Schroeder** of Building 15 on November 30<sup>th</sup>

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to their families and friends.



**These are Precious**

1. She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without

thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and her answers were always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these, yourself!"

8. When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pesky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

9. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised, "mine says I'm 4 to 6."



10. A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, "how do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

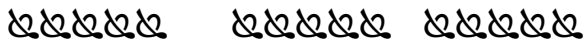
11. Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

12. A grandfather was delivering his grandchildren to their home one day when a fire truck zoom-ed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another. "He's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants."

13. A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

14. Grandpa is the smartest man on earth! He teaches me good things, but I don't get to see him enough to get as smart as him!

15. My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over; you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President:** Richard Bambach
- Vice President:** Frank Lozupone
- Secretary:** Agnes Glass
- Treasurer:** Paulina Garner
- Director:** James Moores
- Director:** Jackie Rabinow
- Director:** Ralph Romano

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- Advisory:** Agnes Glass & Aleen Phillips
- Budget & Finance:** Paulina Garner
- Landscape:** Sharon Moores
- Property Maintenance:** Frank Lozupone & Bill Buck
- Social:** Sharon Moores & Mary West

**Web Site:** <http://www.professionalusa.net/m14/>

**Mutual Assistant: Gloria Robar - 301-598-1338**

- Building Problems? - **Call** Gloria at 301-598-1338
- Emergencies, when Gloria is not available - **Call** Physical Properties -301-598-1500
- After hours & weekends – **Call** Main Gate – 301-598-1044

**Comcast Issues** - contact 301-920-9941



### December 2009 M14 Lobby Decor

M14 is fortunate to have many talented residents, some of whom are kind enough to decorate our lobbies. The following is a sample of some of their work and we want to thank them roundly for taking the time to provide for our pleasure:

Building 10 Lobby



Building 12 Lobby



Building 13 Lobby



Building 15 Lobby



Building 17 Lobby

