

Four Seasons @ Smithville



Official Newsletter of the Four Seasons Community at Historic Smithville

October 2010



Robin, having a Fall Lunch

By Helen Kulak

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Articles

Anyone may submit an article or photograph to our publication. The newsletter staff will decide if it will be used based on appropriateness and space requirements. Articles should be received by October 20 for the November issue. Please email your article, attached as a Word for Windows document, to npgicas@aol.com.

Letters to the Editor

What is appropriate to print has been debated throughout history. It is clear that there are no absolutes, but always limits. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled long ago that "Freedom of speech does not mean you can yell fire in a crowded hall." Letters to the editor also have limits. We encourage challenging letters. They can be tough, but not acrimonious; attack positions, but not persons. We seek a sense of balance and decorum; we reject the inflammatory, and respect reasonableness. Criticism is welcome; slanderous statements are not. Our aim is to create an atmosphere for vigorous discussion.

Like to report, write for the Newsletter?
Contact Editor Nick Gicas at npgicas@aol.com
or 609-652-6572.



Photo taken at the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, by Don Chillemi

COMMUNITY NEWS

Condolences...

All the members of the Four Seasons Softball & Stickball teams extend their deepest sympathies to Jeanne Maglietta and her family on the passing of her husband, Tom. Tom was a devoted family man and a cherished teammate. He had a sharp wit, infectious laugh, and a heart to match. His sudden passing has left our bench a little shorter; but his time here enriched us beyond words. PS Tommy...we left the gun and took the cannoli.

-Sal Gallo & George Maurizi
Softball/Stickball Coordinators

...to the family and friends of Gertrude Williams, Nottingham Village, who passed away on September 26.

...to Anne Belotte, Wayland Village, her family and friends, on the passing of her husband, Peter, on September 29.

Thank you...

I wish to thank the residents of Four Seasons for all their thoughtfulness on the passing of my son, Dale, on August 20, 2010.

-Phyllis Fisher, Devonshire Village

God bless all my friends who were there for me during my hospitalization and my recovery.

-Ramona Walker, Devonshire Village

About Our Cover

"Robin, having a fall lunch"

By Helen Kulak



While I was looking through my art magazines one day, I came across a picture of a robin, having a late fall lunch on apples fallen from a tree in the old orchard. I enjoyed painting this robin in watercolor.

Pet of the Month



Tigger came to live with Diane and Bruni Nicholas of Pembroke last year in June. He is now about 3 years old. He likes to play with his cat friend Shnelly, a black and white 8 year old, who wears him out, and then he has to relax on the couch.

Hawk vs. Duck

By Mary Carey

One afternoon in September one of our resident red-tailed hawks stopped by for lunch by the pond in Wexford Village at the foot of Wicklow Terrace. It seems that duck was on the menu that day. Al Beck, who lives close to the pond, was able to capture the moment.



The remains of the unfortunate duck at his feet



Recreation News

By Emil Dupuy

Although the outdoor recreation season has formally ended, I'm sure play will continue in all sports until the cold weather sets in. Our annual Recreation Picnic, which sort of signals the end of the outdoor season, took place after we went to press, so I'll report on that next month.

Champions Crowned in Several Sports

Playoffs have been completed and each activity has crowned its champion for the 2010 season.

Bocce: Louis and Mary Ann Massucci captured the Social League championship with an exciting three-game victory over Paul and Camille Ricciardi; and Lou and Terry Desiderio won the Competitive League championship with a two-game victory over Sonny Celani and Bill Hunter. A separate story on these playoff matches appears elsewhere in this issue.

Horseshoes: The Skeeters (Dan Favara, captain), finished first in the team standings, followed by the Greenheads (Ron Lewis, captain). Due to medical and other issues during the season, the number of teams was reduced to these two. Eight players qualified for the singles playoffs to determine the overall champ. The playoffs were completed after we went to press, so I'll report on this next month.



Dan and Marian & Margie and Charlie

Shuffleboard: The team of Marian Polizzi and Dan Brando played against the team of Margie McDonald and Charlie Eberle for the 2010 Shuffleboard Championship, with Margie and Charlie emerging victorious.

Bocce Tournaments

Once again we sponsored the annual KHOV Cup Bocce Tournament, and once again, we emerged victorious, although it went down to the final game. See a separate story on this elsewhere in this issue.

Earlier this month, but after we went to press, we were scheduled to host a Charity Bocce Tournament on behalf of Atlantic Prevention Resources, and we were also scheduled to hold our annual Sons of Italy (Galloway Chapter) Bocce Tournament, which is always a relaxing and fun event for us. I'll report on both of these tournaments in the next issue.

Social Billiards

Anyone interested in learning to play Pool/Billiards, both men and women, can sign up in the Indoor Activities Book at the front desk. Expert instruction will be provided by several of our Pool Champions. This program just started a couple of weeks ago and meets once a week, so you can still get in on it. You can contact Mike or Alex Fitzpatrick if interested.

Volleyball and Basketball

These two popular Fall/Winter sports just got underway for the season and are being played at the Smithville Elementary School on Old Port Road. Volleyball is played on Mondays and Thursdays, and Basketball is played on Wednesdays. Contact Tom Ast or John DeFilippis if interested.

More Recreation News

Our annual Bocce Awards Luncheon was held after we went to press at the Sea Oaks Golf Club, with about 220 people signed up to attend, which is a record for this event. Both Social and Competitive League winners and runners-up are recognized, there are lots of door prizes, and it's always a very enjoyable event. I'll tell you about it next month.

Dates to Remember

- October 25 – Canasta Tournament
- November 8 – Mah Jongg Tournament

Stay tuned...

Bocce Champions for 2010 Crowned In Both Leagues

By Emil Dupuy



The Four Seasons at Smithville Bocce Program completed another highly successful season by crowning champions in both the Social and Competitive Leagues. Both championship matches and the playoff games leading up to them were all very exciting, drew large crowds, and most of all, were a lot of fun, which is what it's all about!

Social League Playoffs

The participation in the Social League has increased dramatically over the past several years, going from 4 playing sessions in 2006, where it had been for a number of years, to 9 sessions this year, with well over 200 people participating.

There were a total of 9 teams in the playoffs, one team from each session. Preliminary playoff games were one game matches, played to 15 points, and the championship match was the best two out of three games, played to 12 points, win by two, with each game played on a different court - #1, #2 and #3, respectively.

Championship Match

After the preliminary playoff games were completed, and there were some really close games, the two finalists competing for the Social League Championship were the team of Louis and Mary Ann Massucci, representing the Tuesday morning 10:00 a.m. session, playing against the team of Paul and Camille Ricciardi, representing the Tuesday evening session.

Louis and Mary Ann won the first game in a close match, then Paul and Camille came back strong with an exciting victory in game two. In the third and deciding game, it was close in the early-going, but Louis and Mary Ann

pulled away late in the game to capture the 2010 Social League Championship.

This exciting championship match was the perfect ending to

a great season. Congratulations (*photo above*) Paul and Camille and Mary Ann and Louis!



Competitive League Playoffs

The Competitive League also had another very successful season. Twelve teams qualified for the playoffs, and what an exciting playoff series it was, with a number of upsets along the way. The playoff format for all Competitive League playoff matches is 12 points, win by two, best 2 out of 3, with games being played on courts #1, #2, and if necessary, #3, respectively.

In the early going, the #11 seed, Walter Bauer and Mike Doucette, defeated the #2 seed, Bill Stokley and Jerry Wagenhoffer, in three games; and the #1 seed, Lou and Terry Desiderio, very narrowly averted a major upset by the #12 seed, Phyllis and John Nappi, coming from way behind in the third and deciding game.

Lou and Terry won another close match against Walter and Mike, while the #8 seed, Nick Graziano and Nick Rifice, won upset matches against the #3 and #5 seeds before falling to the #4 seed, Sonny Celani and Bill Hunter. These upsets and many other close matches are a good indication of the strong balance in the league.

Championship Match

In the championship match between #1 Lou and Terry and #4 Sonny and Bill, Lou and Terry proved to be too strong, winning in two games, to capture the 2010 Competitive League Championship for the second consecutive year. Bill and Sonny shot well, but Lou and Terry made some incredible shots – it sure was their day. Congratulations (*photo below*) Bill and Sonny and Terry and Lou!



**And congratulations to all playoff
participants in both leagues
for a great season.**

Photography by Don Chillemi

Boys of Summer

By Sal Gallo

Some 60 Softball/Stickball players and their wives celebrated the end of another fun season @ Fred & Ethel's on September 10th. After a delicious meal, Al Altieri and George Maurizi entertained the group with music and humor.

Special thanks went to Jack King & John Volpe for initiating these groups 9 seasons ago, and to Carl Castoro and George Maurizi for their stewardship these last four seasons. Paul Ricciardi and Dan Favara will pick up the mantle in Stickball next season, while Sal Gallo will continue in Softball.

There was also a moving musical tribute to recently deceased Tom Maglietta via John Fogerty's recording of "CENTERFIELD" that added smiles and a tear to the moment.

Anyone interested in joining the organized mayhem is encouraged to signup early next Spring @ the clubhouse. You won't be disappointed!



Highlights of Board of Trustees Meeting September 29, 2010

By Lorraine Gicas



Brian Astle, Mike Taxin, Tony Annacone, Jo Mongiello, and Bill Wenz

This evening's meeting witnessed the seating of the new board members, Tony Annacone and Mike Taxin, who fill seats through September 2010. The board reorganization results are: President, Jo Mongiello; Vice President, Bill Wenz; Secretary, Tony Annacone; and Treasurer, Brian Astle. Jerry Hauselt was warmly thanked for his able and amicable service. And in turn, Jerry thanked the board members for listening to his suggestions and thanked the many committees for their service, especially those in the front line of criticism.

Bill Wenz applauded the production of Entertainment Tonight and thanked all the talented people who made the special evening possible. He also went on to explain that since the EPA allotted us an extra 7 million gallons of water, we are reseeded the entire community at this time.

Jo Mongiello thanked all the volunteers, most of whom are here. She stated she will do her best as president and do it honestly. Jo suggests that we "all agree to disagree nicely." Tony Annacone reminded the community that only he and Mike applied for the board positions. He hopes that next year, when three seats will be open that there will be a number of candidates to stand for election.

- Continued on page 9

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- Mike Perro, **Finance Committee** chair, reported they are nearing the completion of the 2011 budget that will be presented to the community in an open meeting in three weeks time.
- Mike Coster, **Transition Committee** chair, said Bruno & Sons has been contracted for concrete replacement starting in Berkshire. The planting of 150 remaining transition trees has started with Devonshire.
- **Pool Committee** chair, Betsy Doyle, stated the new pool company has transitioned smoothly. It has been a really great summer with increased activities and enhanced weekends with “hot dogs for charity.” Water Aerobics will start once again with sign-ups next week.
- Speaking for **Safety & Security**, Jerry Hauselt reported that Jerry Feehan on behalf of “the Hot Dog Guys” presented Sgt. Weir a check in the amount of \$200 for the K-9 unit.
- Brian Astle, Treasurer, said that the HOA has reinstated their membership in CAI (Community Association Institute) which offers free on-line courses for committee chairs and board members.

New Business

- A motion was passed to amend the Committee Policy & Procedure Manual to read: “Election of Committee Members – In October, only the current committee members who have submitted applications to serve on the committee for the next year will review all applications and vote on the members of the new committee for the forthcoming year.”
- The motion was passed to accept the proposal from Viridian Energy to act for the association as their ESCO (energy service company). In discussion, Brian Astle stated that the pricing was the same for both Viridian and EPA. Both companies use a variable basis; a twelve month contract with EPA but a 30-day cancellation policy with Viridian. The anticipated savings is \$18,000 per year.



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Letter to the Editor

More Truth

As a resident who has volunteered many hours of my time for the good of this community, I take offense at the accusations and disrespect that is aimed at Board Members, committee members, committee chairs, etc. printed in the Seasoned Observer. This usually comes from residents who do not give any of their time for the benefit of our community, and do not offer solutions, only criticisms.

The Seasoned Observer has been responsible for **dividing the community and diminishing our property values and contributing** (along with the present economy) **to the already bad home sales market.** This paper has been posted on the internet and the doom and gloom is out there for all to read. I know if I were purchasing a home and had the opportunity to read what is put in this paper, I would certainly not wish to purchase a home in a community that has all the negative problems that are printed month after month in the Seasoned Observer.

I know that watchdogs do serve a purpose and when Hovnanian was in charge, the Seasoned Observer was very useful, but to attack residents who volunteer for the good of the community is unconscionable. We have a

wonderful lifestyle and it is time we started appreciating it instead of looking only for the negatives. Believe me I know there are issues that need fixing, but with the volunteer staff we have, the dues have been kept to a minimum, and we should support these residents who give so much of their time.

Some ideas printed in the SO have been good ones but they are so outweighed by the negativity. We have lost many volunteers on the various committees and boards for fear of being chastised in this publication. If we allow this to continue we can only look forward to a paid Board, etc. **Beware, this will, at a minimum, double your monthly bills.** Remember, this election two seats were open and only two residents applied - next year there will be three seats open - how many do you think will apply?

I can't help but question why, if these people dislike the community and the way it is run, **THEY DO NOT MOVE** and allow the rest of us to enjoy our retirement.

Since I feel the Seasoned Observer is very detrimental to my property values, I respectfully request that it not be delivered to my home in the future.

*Jo Mongiello,
President, Board of Trustees*

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Board of Trustees Report

By Jerry Hauselt - past Member, BOT

I submit this, my last official report of the Board of Trustees, as my term comes to an end. I offer my sincere thanks and best wishes to the members of the Board who had the confidence in me to make the appointment.

My best wishes to Tony Annacone and Mike Taxin as they begin their second terms as members of the Board of Trustees. Having said all that, I offer my sincere thanks to the many residents who have given me the strength, courage and knowledge in my attempt to make a difference.

The Board of Trustees meets every other Monday in a workshop format and holds a monthly meeting to complete the business of the HOA. The public should make an effort to attend some of these meetings so that you can understand the what, why, where and when of the operations of our terrific community here at Four Seasons.

As a means of communication, I have listed some of the areas of interest and focus your Board has discussed during the past month.

- Irrigation water conservation report from Ron Kornafel-L & G.
- Seeding/aeration request to do all villages now-Allen Haller.
- Additional cable box purchase for the lobby TV.
- Amendment change status-Camille Lally-Judiciary.
- Drainage repair status for tennis court area.
- Funds being moved to First Financial-Finance.
- Water aerobics participants requests for continued courses.
- Pool furniture request/purchase for replacement of unusable items.

- Texas Hold'em games and place to play.
- Vending machine commissions-5 %.
- Thermostats settings in clubhouse-cool or hot?
- RMS pool company proposal to test piping for leaks-A. Haller.
- Indoor pool fresh-air/fan system for humidity reduction.
- Clubhouse roof fan wiring and inspection by Township.
- Pool guard room fan installation completed.
- Underground wire inspection completed-awaiting report.
- Bringing Neil Diamond entertainment show to Four Seasons.
- Several meetings with resident problems/requests.
- Clarifications on various items with attorney.
- MUCH MORE-Come to a meeting and hear for yourself.

I would like to offer a suggestion to all that if a problem or situation is allowed to go on too long it really becomes an area of real irritation. It is OK to report them directly to the Board of Trustees. BUT it is better to get on the meeting agenda by contacting the Manager's Office.

Most items have a request for action form to the appropriate committee for the initiative and solution. It is very frustrating to hear people complain but have not tried to get a correct answer or plan. Join a committee and participate in your community. Go to the events, parties, trips, games, Bingo, etc.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Relocating Sprinkler Heads

By Jim Goldsmith

Chair, Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

When a resident starts to plan an addition to the footprint of his structure or increase his planting beds, both the Architectural Control and Landscape & Grounds Committees include a form on the applications for an **Irrigation System Inspection Request**.

This form is for the homeowner's use when he contacts our landscaper, Down to Earth (DTE), to confirm if it will be necessary to relocate the sprinkler heads of our irrigation system **before** the project is started.

It is the resident's responsibility to contact DTE; not the committees'. The reason for this procedure is to allow the proper coordination of the work parties involved in the project to proceed in an orderly way to complete the project.

By removing the committees' involvement, the project can quickly proceed after approval of the concept, by removing a needless layer of communication and follow up, which would complicate and delay the completion.

The bottom part on the form labeled, "For DTE use only," should be filled out by DTE when submitting a request for alterations to ACC or L&G. This is one of the requirements for information the committees need to approve the application.

The contact phone number to notify DTE to set up an inspection is listed at the bottom on the monthly calendar: 1-800-280-1837.

Any other changes not involving the sprinkler heads do not require this inspection. The form is included with the application for use if needed and can be ignored if it's not applicable to the project.

Our L&G Chair, Ron Kornafel, adds the following information:

With any change to the lawn, I would like to have the DTE irrigation people check on the change. I would not count on the resident to know where all the heads and pipes are located and assume that the sprinkler heads do not require an inspection. A five-minute inspection by DTE irrigation could save time and money, if the resident is wrong.

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Finance Committee Report

By Mike Perro, Chair

2011 Operating Budget

The Finance Committee has finished the initial draft of the 2011 Operating Budget. We will now present this proposed budget to our residents at a budget meeting on Wednesday, October 20th at 7:PM in the Ballroom.

This meeting is a great opportunity for our residents to express their comments in regard to our anticipated expenses for 2011. Of course there is still sufficient time to make any changes prior to our submission to the Board of Trustees for their approval. If all goes well then the 2011 budget should be approved at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, October 27th.

Weather Emergency Fund

The snow storms that we had this past winter caused a major catastrophe to our 2010 annual budget. We had allotted \$100,000 to cover our snow expenses for all of 2010 including the snow expense during November

and December of this year.

Fortunately, several years earlier we established a \$200,000 Weather Emergency Fund that could be used to cover some of this snow expense shortfall. Unfortunately, the cost to remove the snow at the beginning of this year was approximately \$436,000.

Although the first snow storm happened in December 2009, nevertheless, the expense for this particular December snow storm was paid in January 2010 and, as indicated, had a direct impact on our 2010 cash flow situation.

The total snow storms produced a \$165,000 cash flow shortfall starting in September 2010. In order to avoid this shortfall the Board of Trustees passed a \$30 increase in our monthly maintenance fee during the last six months of 2010.

This action did resolve our negative cash flow problem; however, it did not return any money into our Weather Emergency Fund. At the present time we have \$6,000 remaining in the Weather Emergency Fund. The Finance Committee feels very strongly that this important emergency reserve should be properly funded. The method that we recommend to alleviate this problem is still under final review and will be discussed at the 2011 Operating Budget meeting on October 20th.

Finance Committee Members

During 2010 we had eleven members on our Finance Committee. With eleven members we can evenly portion the workload. Unfortunately, this year only eight volunteers came forward. Therefore we are looking to add a few more residents to this committee.

If you would like some information on the function and responsibility of the Finance Committee please call Mike Perro at 652-2738. If you are unsure then perhaps you might attend one of our meetings. The Finance Committee meets the third Monday of each month at 10 AM in the morning in the Craft Room. All residents are welcome to attend and there is always an open forum at the conclusion of the meeting.

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Buffet Dinner:

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Chef's selection of vegetable

On the table:

Oven-fresh rolls and butter
Individually plated desserts
Coffee, tea, soft drinks

Tables of 10 will be available

Selling Dates:

October 11 & 12 from 11 AM. to Noon.
More selling dates to follow.

The Beneficiaries of Summer Hot Dogs

By Jerry Feehan

From the originators of the "Hot Dogs for Charity" to the many volunteers who tended the grill every weekend to the dozens of residents who supported the project with all your purchases and donations, all of you contributed to make the project a one of a kind summer event.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the launching of this venture a huge success. Your contributions added up to 1,664 hot dogs sold and \$1,973 collected for charity,

The principal beneficiaries of your generosity are the Hearts, Hands and Hospice program, Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Atlantic City Rescue Mission, Linus Project, and Galloway Township Police K-9 Unit.

We hope to meet you again around the pool grill on the Fourth of July weekend in 2011. Our hot dogs are only \$1, compared with \$6 at Yankee Stadium.

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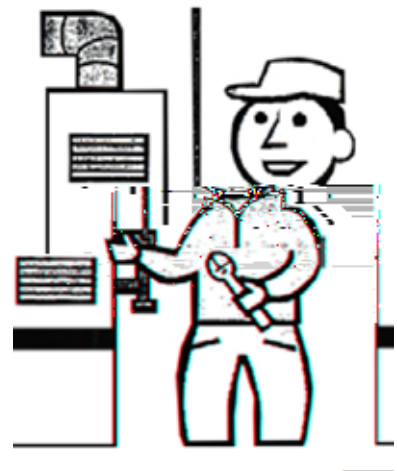
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Smithville Wins Annual KHOV Cup Bocce Tournament – Still Champs!

By Emil Dupuy

It was another beautiful September day, another standing-room-only crowd cheering us on, and once again, our Smithville team won the annual KHOV Cup Bocce Tournament. This makes it the seventh year we have won this tournament (we didn't play in 2008 due to the clubhouse being closed), or every year since its inception.

Other KHOV Four Seasons Participants

A total of 65 people, both men and women, participated in the tournament. In addition to our own Smithville players, the other participating KHOV Four Seasons properties included Mirage, Lakewood and Allentown (Upper Freehold).

Final Standings

Each property played a total of nine games, three games against each other team. Our Smithville teams went 6-3, Lakewood was 5-4, Allentown was 4-5, and Mirage was 3-6. Many of the games were very tightly-contested, demonstrating that the other KHOV properties have really improved over the last few years. In fact, we went

right down to the last game tied with Lakewood, needing a victory over them to clinch the championship – and we won!

More important, however, was the fellowship and camaraderie displayed between our people and the good people from the other Four Seasons properties.

Tournament Sponsor

Once again, we were able to get some support for this tournament, thanks to the efforts of Tom Giachetti. A special note of thanks and appreciation is extended to the Hudson City Savings Bank, and Theresa Smrkovsky, branch manager, for their generosity in agreeing to support the tournament.

Putting on a tournament of this magnitude requires the combined efforts of a lot of people putting in a lot of hours to ensure its success. There are many chores to be accomplished, both prior to and during the day of the tournament, so a special thanks goes out to the entire Bocce Committee, all of whom pitched in and helped put this all together. With everyone sharing the burden, it makes it quite a bit easier on all of us, and that's what this committee is about. Thanks, guys – and ladies!

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Safety And Security Committee Report

By Ed Adams, Chair

The Committee received three new Incident Reports since our last article: (1) ten or eleven mailboxes were vandalized on Southampton Drive. The flags were torn off. 2) A resident was injured when she tripped and fell on a displaced sidewalk on Newbury Court. (3) A resident was awakened by a noise outside her home on Dover Court.

She banged on the wall, thinking it was probably an animal. The next day she found that the outside flood light sensor had been broken. She reported the incident to the police and promptly replaced the light.

Concern About Rear-Seat Belts

A resident wrote to the committee expressing concern about the new law requiring that rear seat passengers be belted in. He is worried that some of us are a little wide and some rear seats are a little narrow, making it difficult to buckle up.

Last month I reported that a resident claimed she had been accosted in the exercise room and the parking lot. Accosted was probably a poor word choice. The incident occurred when she was asked to leave the gym at 11:00 PM by the Clubhouse Watch.

She reported to a board member that she was being harassed. The Clubhouse Watch denied any contact in the parking lot. I hope my poor reporting did not cause anyone concern about their safety in the clubhouse.

Sgt, Weir reported that there were 53 calls for service by the police department into Four Seasons in August. Twenty-two of them were medical calls, a DWI in Wexford (not a resident), a theft from a contractor in Pembroke.

There were three reports of suspicious vehicles in Devonshire. One gray sedan with temporary tags left the area before police arrived, the second vehicle pulled in, turned off lights, and sat occupied. They were waiting for someone. The third pulled up and sat. It turned out they were dropping off a person. These last two were legitimate, but the important thing is that you called them in. Everyone should be so vigilant.

Bids to repair the 270 bad sidewalk panels are out and back. The contract should be let by the time you read this.

Emergency Phones Realigned

The Emergency Phones have been realigned. The phones at the outdoor pool, the indoor pool and the exercise room are all on a separate line and should be used for emergencies ONLY.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is understaffed and over-worked, according to Steve Bonanni, its director. He has been unable to find the time to add more reflective posts along Quail Hill Boulevard.

Extra Reflective Posts Very Effective

The extra reflective posts have been very effective in reducing the number of autos running off the road into our back yards. The posts are put up in the winter to guide snowplows away from curbs and culverts.

DPW agreed to leave them up in the off seasons and add more. Since then some were removed. We're trying to get them back. Hopefully they will be added as the winter season approaches. We were given the same excuse from the DPW regarding painting a crosswalk at Quail Hill and Warwick. It was suggested that we approach the mayor for help.



Extra reflective posts have been installed.



Request to paint crosswalk at Quail Hill/Warwick

– Continued on page 19

- "SAFETY & SECURITY..." cont'd from pg. 18

The teen problem in Wexford seems to have abated. Perhaps they got the word or the extra police patrols have discouraged them.

Lorraine Gicas from Community Education and Frank Senatore from Safety & Security organized an Office of Emergency Management presentation at the clubhouse on September 17th. Over 100 residents heard Mike Brandenberger describe how emergencies are handled in Galloway. An outline of that talk is included in this issue.

Jerry Feehan presented a check for \$200 to Sgt. Weir at the September meeting of the Safety & Security Committee. It was raised by the Hot Dogs for Charity group and presented in support of the Galloway K-9 unit.

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How to Cope with a Hurricane or Other Emergency

By Ed Adams, Chair, Safety & Security Committee

On Friday, September 17th, the Galloway Township Office of Emergency Management conducted a program, at the Clubhouse, to advise Four Seasons residents of how to cope with an emergency in our community. Over 100 residents attended.

Our Community Education and Safety & Security Committees organized the presentation. Lorraine Gicas took the lead for Community Education and Frank Senatore for Safety & Security. Frank is a member of the Galloway Office of Emergency Management as well as Four Seasons Safety & Security Committee.

Michael Brandenberger, Head of the Galloway Township Office of Emergency Management, conducted the presentation.

Mike described the probable damage and difficulties residents will encounter during a hurricane emergency, including pictures of the flooding we experienced in Galloway from recent non-hurricane force storms.

He stressed the need to evacuate early. Most hurricanes will approach from the south. Therefore, Cape May County will probably evacuate first, clogging most of the evacuation routes out of Galloway. In an extreme emergency, the State is prepared to make the Parkway one-way north to the Atlantic City Expressway and AC Expressway one-way west at least as far as Hammonton.

Shelters will be available, but where will be determined based on the emergency. The three schools on Reeds Road, off Wrangleboro Road are the Galloway designated shelters, unless they are unsuitable due to the nature of the emergency. In the event of a hurricane-making landfall near Atlantic City, the shelters will likely be in Hammonton and farther west, possibly even Philadelphia.

A public shelter is a last resort. They will be uncomfortable and full of people you do not know. In addition, pets will not be allowed into public shelters. You will need to leave them, or make some other arrangement.

If you plan to shelter at home, **be prepared to sustain life without power for two weeks.**

– Continued on page 21

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– “HOW TO COPE...” cont’d from pg. 20

If you plan to evacuate, have a kit prepared. Do not forget: important papers (insurance policies, deeds, etc.), medicines, cash (ATMs might not work for days), food, blankets, a charged cell phone, flashlight, and a battery-operated radio. You may start out to visit a relative, and not be able to get there.

Atlantic City is listed as number 5 on the top ten list of American cities overdue to be struck by a hurricane. It is not a matter of “if” we will be struck by a hurricane, but “when.”

A Category One hurricane has winds in excess of 75 mph. I believe our homes are designed to withstand a Category Two hurricane, winds up to 110 mph. Once sustained winds reach 45 miles per hour, all emergency services stop. If you wait too long to evacuate, it may be too late. You will not be able to get out. You may find yourself sheltering at home when the wind reached 111 mph and your roof flies off.

“New Jersey Register Ready” is a Special Needs Registry. Previously, both the township and the county kept lists of people with special needs. The new “Register Ready” is a statewide registry that all levels of emergency services can use. If you may need help in the event of an emergency or evacuation, register. Forms for that purpose are available in the rack by the front door of the Clubhouse. If you need help registering, contact the Safety & Security Committee.

The Office of Emergency Management has a reverse 911 system that connects to every direct dial landline, which they will use to notify residents of an evacuation. Cell phones are not included. Also, cordless and Comcast phones will not work if there is no power. You can register your cell phone to be contacted at www.aclink.org/oepl and click on Emergency Notification System Link.

Mike fielded numerous questions from the audience and everyone went away with a much better understanding of the systems in place to help in the event of an emergency, and hopefully a better appreciation for the need to evacuate early when a hurricane is approaching. Modern weather forecasting will give us days of forewarning. There is no excuse for being trapped here.



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Bicycle Safety

Safety & Security Committee

By Jim Rocco

Autumn has arrived, the weather is much cooler than during one of the hottest summers in recent history. The days are getting shorter with nightfall arriving earlier. It's a great time to dust off the bike, get out and enjoy the outdoors. We are very fortunate, here at Four Seasons, to have paved bicycle trails that keep bike riders from needing to navigate the roadways with very narrow or no shoulders at all.

Our Committee is dedicated to helping our residents stay safe. A bicycle is not a toy, it is a vehicle. Each year, in New Jersey, bicyclists are killed and injured due to bicycle crashes. Many of these injuries are the result of bicycle-motor vehicle collisions. However, injuries can happen anywhere, including on bike paths, driveways and in parks, and often do not involve motor vehicles.

Head injuries are the most common type of serious injury and the most common cause of death among bike riders.

You can stop or help prevent these tragedies by following simple rules and safety tips:

1. Never ride without a helmet. New Jersey law states that anyone under the age of fourteen riding a bike, even as a passenger, must wear a helmet that is properly fitted and fastened and which meets the standards of the Snell Memorial Foundation and the American Society of Testing and Materials or the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. This does not apply to those over 55 years of age. However, a parent or legal guardian of a person under age fourteen, allowing them to ride without a helmet, can be fined \$25 for the first offense and \$100 for subsequent offenses.
2. Bicycles should be seen and heard. Wear clothing that makes you more visible, especially at dusk or in the early morning. Florescent, neon or other bright colors help. Motorists sometimes don't pay attention to their surroundings as much as they should. I'm sure you've seen the cell phone talkers and the twitterers tooling down the road oblivious to anyone but themselves.
3. Avoid biking at night. But if you must, be sure to equip your bike with a good light on the handlebars and a flashing red light

in the rear of the bike. There are small flashing lights that clip to your belt or can be attached to the rear package carrier. Plenty of reflectors also help. All of these accessories can be purchased at any bike shop. Beacon Bike Shop on Tilton Road in Egg Harbor Township and the Tuckahoe Bike Shop in Consumers Square in Hamilton Township as well as Wal-Mart, K-Mart and Sears are just a few suggestions. An audible warning device such as a bell or horn should also be used to warn runners or trail walkers when approaching them from the rear.

4. Go with the Flow. Always ride on the right side of the road, with the traffic.
5. Obey all traffic laws, signals, and signs. Bicycles are considered vehicles. Try to be courteous. Always signal your intentions. Left turn – using your left arm, point in that direction. Right turn – using your right arm point in that direction, or using your left arm make a 90-degree upward motion.
6. Use caution at intersections. More than 70% of car-bicycle accidents occur at driveways or other intersections. Before entering an intersection use caution and be defensive. Motor vehicle operators don't always yield to bicyclists even if they are in the intersection first.
7. Make sure your bike is in good operating condition. Whether your bike has caliper type hand brakes or the rear wheel brake, make sure the brakes are in good working order. Check the pads at least twice a year. Tires should be inflated according to the recommended tire pressure located on the tire sidewall. Chains, gears and the derailleur should be lubricated periodically. Avoid using oil, as your tires will pick up sand and road grit that can clog up the chain and gears. A non-oil lubricant such as Tri-Flow has an alcohol and graphite base, which will not pick up sand and road grit. Get a good lock and use it whenever leaving the bicycle out of your sight.
8. New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission provides a free bicycle manual. Call (888) 486-3339.

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TMP Committee

By Mike Coster, Chair

Transition - Cure Report

FWH is preparing and validating estimates for repairing/replacing items on the transition punchlists. The Transition Committee reviewed the preliminary Transition Phase I Cure Report and questioned several estimates, which resulted in FWH revising their original scope of effort and the cost to repair/replace the item.

Transition - Tennis Court Drainage

FWH is preparing the remediation design plan, specifications and RFP for eliminating a drainage problem which is undermining the asphalt tennis courts and causing them to seriously crack. FWH will also evaluate all contractor proposals and then provide their recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

In addition, FWH will oversee the construction work and insure that the design and specifications were followed by the contractor. This issue will remain on the transition punchlist and must be resolved between the Homeowners Association (Board of Trustees, Transition Attorney and FWH) and KHOV.

Transition - Sidewalk Replacements

We have given KHOV enough time to replace the 270 sidewalks. Meanwhile, the Board approved the Concrete Sidewalk Replacement RFP, which was sent to a dozen-plus contractors. The contractor proposals are due on Friday, September 17 by 4 PM. As of September 15, only three contractors have responded. Allen Haller and members of the TMP Committee will meet on September 20 to open, review, evaluate and recommend a concrete sidewalk contractor to the Board of Trustees. After Board approval, the work will commence immediately.

Transition - Tree & Shrub Replacement

The replacement of the Phase I. trees is scheduled to resume during the week of September 20. One of the reasons for the delay was attributed to the synchronization of multiple lists from L&G, Absecon Irrigation and Galloway Township. The L&G list was compiled by committee members. Galloway Township's engineer prepared a list of street trees in Oxford, Nottingham, Wexford and Manchester villages that have died.

The Township's list was then submitted to KHOV as part of the conditions for releasing remaining builder maintenance bonds. The last list is comprised of Absecon Irrigation's transition trees, which have died during their one-year warranty period. After the TMP Committee consolidated all the lists, it became evident that there were duplicate entries on these lists.

24 Four Seasons @ Smithville ~ October 2010

The responsibility for replacing the tree became very important, because it provided the Landscape & Grounds Committee with an opportunity to plant about 90+ surplus trees throughout the community.

L&G has identified several open-area locations and then contacted the residents that bordered these locations. The residents were asked if they wanted some additional trees planted in the common-area that bordered their home. The majority of residents that were contacted replied "Yes." The locations where residents declined the offer were removed from the list and then an alternate location was identified.

The preliminary results are as follows: Absecon Irrigation warranty trees – 59; KHOV/Galloway Township – 3, surplus trees – 137 (L&G replacements – 42, remaining surplus trees – 95).

The L&G and TMP committees are requesting the residents to provide a little time and water for the newly planted trees and shrubs, because they will require the water to survive during the first year after planting.

Transition – Highbury Basin

During the last weeks of August through September we have been monitoring the lower water levels in this basin. This basin's level is far lower than any other basin in the community, which has raised a concern that there may be a clay liner leak or another construction defect. The lower level of water could be caused by the high temperatures & humidity and the lack of rain.

Consequently, we have requested assistance from FWH, Galloway Township and KHOV to determine the cause of the lower water level. If the lower water level is attributed to a leak in the clay liner, then this problem becomes a high-priority transition item to be corrected by KHOV immediately. KHOV has scheduled their inspection of the basin for September 30.



Tennis Court Surface Replacement

A few workshops ago, the Recreation Committee and tennis players requested the Board of Trustees to replace the tennis court surface due to cracks (safety concerns) and water ponding on the court.

An *ad hoc* group comprised of tennis players Allen Haller and Jerry Hauselt was formed and charged with evaluating alternate surfaces. The new surface would have to be installed over the current asphalt tennis court surface.

After several off-site visits and the evaluation of different types of products, the *ad hoc* group recommended that an interlocking resin-type surface be installed at an estimated cost of \$38K.

The group also recommended that the source of funds to purchase the new surface would be the Capital Reserve. The TMP Committee then proceeded to provide to the Board of Trustees the available Capital Reserve amount for resurfacing the asphalt court at \$7,250 or the replacement of the asphalt court at \$45,000.

The committee also brought to the attention of the Board that these reserve funds explicitly said to be used for an asphalt surface tennis court and that the proposed artificial surface was not asphalt. Consequently, the cost of the artificial surface would then have to be funded by Working Capital as a Capital Improvement, which meant that it would have to be approved by the community, because it exceeded \$10,000.

At this point, the Board requested a legal opinion, because the cracking tennis courts were listed on the Transition punchlist. And as a result, the attorney agreed with the committee's opinion that this new surface material could jeopardize any settlement negotiations with KHOV concerning this Transition punchlist item. The request has now been put "on hold" by the Board.

Pool Furniture Replacement

A request to replace some of the outdoor pool furniture is under consideration. But first, the committee has to determine the unused funds portion of the Capital Reserve's \$12,356. In 2006, some new umbrellas and 50 chaise lounges were purchased and we needed to determine the source of funding charged for these purchases. Was it from Working Capital or the Capital Reserve? Wentworth accounting must provide this information before we continue with this request.

Pond Aerator Maintenance

The committee has identified 10 aerators which are due for maintenance. The aerators will be removed from the ponds and sent to Great Blue, our pond maintenance contractor, for servicing.

Returning Committee Volunteers:

- Ed Adams
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- John Callahan
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- Dick Long
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MOVIE Passion by Alan Levin

The dictionary defines wisdom as being wise, understanding, having good judgment, knowledge and so on. The concept of wisdom has been in the news recently: The Dutch girl, 14, who wants to sail solo around the world. Much debate surrounds the **wisdom** of permitting her to take on this challenge.

What about wisdom as it pertains to stars who captured this endearing trait? My first thought was Gregory Peck and his role as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It's the 50th anniversary of the publishing of this great book. Peck's scenes in the courtroom and more importantly with his son and daughter Scout are precious. The scene where he is sitting with Scout in the rocking chair on the porch explaining his defending of an African American is riveting. Peck's voice, cadence, body language and stare throughout the film is that of the consummate professional. Well-deserving of the Academy Award for best actor.

Stay focused now. We are talking about actors who displayed an abundance of wisdom in their roles. June Allyson comes to mind. In *Strategic Air Command*, her husband Jimmy Stewart has difficult decisions to make in

respect to his returning as a pilot. She guides him along with these tough decisions. She doesn't want him up there and would rather he be on the ground with her. She understands his need to fly and gives him the support to do it. Same combo of stars in the *Monty Stratton Story* and the same results.

Phyllis Thaxter was another charming star who displayed the same grasp of understanding a situation. In *Jim Thorpe, All American*, she hung on as long as she could until Thorpe's alcoholism was too much for her. In *Superman*, she had to let her son Clark leave and go "north."

Theresa Wright waited until the right time to tell Dana Andrews how she felt about him in *Best Years of Our Lives*. In the same movie, the unforgettable Cathy O'Donnell as Wilma has the unforgettable scene with Harold Russell as Homer in his bedroom. He has lost both arms in the war and he wants her to understand the burden she is signing on for if she marries him. He shows her what it is like preparing for bed....but it doesn't matter to her. That scene in his bedroom is, no doubt, the most compassionate depiction of wisdom in all of movie history.

Wisdom sometimes disappears when the Academy Awards roll around. My all-time favorite blunder is Alan Arkin in *Little Miss Sunshine* beating Djimon Honsou for *Blood Diamonds* in the best supporting actor category.

Here is a list of others: *Marty* winning best picture in 55? Peter O'Toole and Gregory Peck (winner) each should have received Oscars for best actor for *Lawrence of Arabia* and *To Kill a Mocking Bird* in 62. The whole *Airport* mistake. The film being nominated for best picture and Helen Hayes winning best supporting actress, leaving Ned Beatty out as supporting actor for *Deliverance*. Art Carney in *Harry and Tonto* beating Jack Nicholson for *Chinatown* in best actor category. Another co-award. Dustin Hoffman (winner) *Rainman*, sharing with Gene Hackman for *Mississippi Burning*. *Driving Miss Daisy* beats out *Born On The Fourth Of July(89)???? Shakespeare In Love* beats out *Saving Private Ryan(99)???*

Finally, wisdom seems to be lacking when folks are not that critical of making the site of the civil war battle at Gettysburg into a commercial venture when compared to all the controversy going on two blocks from the site of 9/11.

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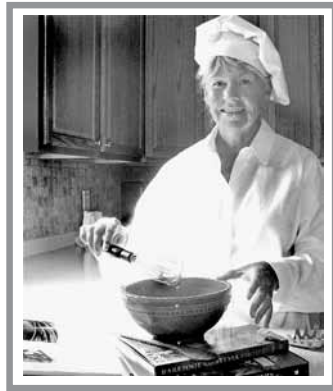
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with Joy

by Joy Olson



My daughter called last night and gave me my column for this month. Her mother-in-law has stopped hinting and down-right-asked when Lisa was going to cook a dinner. Since they've only been married four years I guess the in-laws have a point. Both Lisa and Sean work, are vegetarians, and are restaurant frequenters, and/or mostly Indian take-out. I guess his parents have tired of curry. Lisa is not a bad cook (she can make tea and toast) but asked that I keep the menu fairly simple. So here's what I call "The Mother-In-Law's Dinner."

APPETIZER

ONION TARTLETS: To Be Served with Cocktails (Lots! Just in case...)

INGREDIENTS: (You will need a mini muffin pan)

- 1 package Wonton Shells (usually located near organic produce)
- 1 medium Vidalia onion, chopped (approx. 2 ½ cups)
- 1 ½ teaspoons Fines Herbes or Herbes de Provence
- ½ cup half and half
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- ½ of a one-ounce soup mix envelope
- ¼ cup shredded Parmesan Cheese
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter

METHOD:

Melt butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onions and cook for 17 to 18 minutes or until golden, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and stir in dried herbs; allow to cool. Meanwhile, gently press wonton into a mini muffin indentation. In a measuring cup, whisk together the half and half, egg and onion soup mix. Set aside. Place a heaping ½ teaspoon chopped onion in each wonton. Slowly pour egg mixture into wonton, being careful not to overfill. Sprinkle each top w/a scant ½ teaspoon Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for about 25-35 minutes or until golden brown. Makes approximately 36 tartlets

ENTRÉE

SLOW COOKER CHICKEN MERLOT (a one-pot-tastes-like-gourmet dish & the pot does the work!)

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan Cheese
- 6 oz. tomato paste
- 1 onion, chopped
- ¾ cup chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons quick-cooking tapioca
- 1 ½ teaspoon dried basil, crushed or 2 tablespoons fresh snipped
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 3 cups mushrooms, sliced
- 3 lbs skinless chicken pieces - breasts, thighs, legs
- ¼ cup dry red wine, preferably Merlot
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed.

METHOD:

Combine onion, mushrooms, garlic, add salt and pepper to taste in a 3 ½ to 5 qt. slow cooker. Arrange chicken pieces over vegetables. Combine stock, tomato paste, tapioca, sugar and red wine, add dried basil (if using fresh basil wait until cooking completed) and pour over chicken. Cover and cook on low 7-8 hrs or on high about 4 hrs. Stir in fresh basil now if using. Serve over noodles, sprinkle w/parmesan cheese. Serves 6

DESSERT

COCONUT PIE – Thanks, Marie Florio

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups milk
- ½ cups Bisquick Mix
- ¼ cup butter or margarine
- ¾ cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup coconut

METHOD

Combine milk, sugar, Bisquick, eggs, butter and vanilla in an electric blender. Cover and blend on low speed for 3 minutes. Pour into greased 10" pie pan. Let it stand about 5 minutes then sprinkle with coconut. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min. Serve cool.

Buon Appetite, Lisa's Mother-In-Law! (Don't screw it up, Lisa!)

Come on neighbors, send me some recipes...

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Book Club Notes

By Ginney Dominic



At the September meeting of the Book Club, we discussed *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks, one of our favorite authors. The novel was recommended by members Edie Hackbarth and Gertrude Williams, and offered our readers a fascinating tale of a historic book, as well as an uncommon romance.

The Sarajevo Haggadah is a rare book, a lavishly illuminated medieval Hebrew text that traveled from Barcelona, Spain--where it was first created in the 15th century--to Sarajevo, Bosnia, where it was discovered preserved in the National Museum.

Our discussion was quite timely, since this past summer the Yeshiva University Museum and Center for Jewish History in New York City held an exhibition entitled "A Journey through Jewish Worlds," which showed the extraordinary collection of Rene Braginsky. Curators considered it "the most remarkable private collection of illuminated Hebrew manuscripts in the world."

When Hanna Heath, a rare book conservator living in

Australia, is summoned by the United Nations to report on the condition of the Sarajevo Haggadah, she slowly uncovers a story of the people who have protected and preserved the precious book down through the ages.

Through Hanna's extensive research and careful examination of clues hidden within its pages, she unravels the story of the many people who have had a hand in preserving the book and learns about the travels it has made.

While working on this assignment, Hanna becomes romantically involved with Ozren Karaman, the Muslim librarian who risked his life to save the book from destruction during the Bosnian war. As she travels from Vienna to Boston, and then to London in hopes of decoding her data, she also uncovers truths about her own family that are exposed to her as she pursues the secrets within the pages of the book.

Our readers were captivated by Brooks' ingenious story and the remarkable characters portrayed in it. The various settings in so many different countries of Europe helped to make *People of the Book* even more intriguing, we thought. We agreed that it is an exciting, intelligent, and thoughtfully written novel.

Australian-born Geraldine Brooks is an award winning novelist and journalist who has created many novels that our Book Club has read and enjoyed in the past, including *March*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in fiction in 2006, and *Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women* published in 1995.

Recently, Geraldine Brooks, 54, was named the recipient of the 2010 Dayton Literary Peace Prize for Lifetime Achievement. In congratulating her, the founder of the organization, Sharon Rab said, Ms. Brooks "reveals to her readers what their political leaders try to hide." We admire Ms. Brooks' talent and diversity, and look forward to her future publications.

The next meeting of the Book Club will be held in the clubhouse at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 22. We will watch a movie and later discuss the book it relates to, as we enjoy lunch. The book and film will be announced at a later date. All residents are welcome to attend.

*"Dreams, books, are each a world; we know,
Are a substantial world, both pure and good.
Round these, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness will grow."*

--William Wordsworth

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Freedom+Invention+Science = Prosperity

A Book Review by Dick Shuss

The record is clear: those societies where people are free to dream, innovate, experiment, create and question dogma flourish while tyrannical rulers flounder in a sea of ignorance, despair and death. We used to hear a great deal about freedom, preached all over the world by American leaders, but the word apparently needs to be reinvented by those who have forgotten the policies that brought this country to preeminence.

Timothy Ferris, emeritus professor at the University of California, Berkeley has written a grand book called *The Science of Liberty* to help us sort out our values and see the difference between two concepts of governing and contrast and compare the results. History is replete with examples of autocratic top-down control of economic affairs where monarchs and bishops held the purse strings and bragged about how they had prevented financial chaos. This while millions were intentionally kept in poverty, ignorance and fear.

In 1939 the Soviet Union was convinced that Marxism held the answers to all questions. The head of genetics research saw that he could use what he had learned to save millions of Russians from malnutrition. A government functionary questioned why he was following Charles Darwin's theories rather than the Marx-Engels program. The functionary – I. E. Lukyanenko - won. So a new plan was implemented. Stalin was trumpeting the exporting of grain while six million Russians starved to death in the concocted famine.

It is true that we were lucky to have a blank slate – a new country without a government where lessons learned from the past informed our leaders, not so much what to do but more about what not to do. Ferris notes that the founding fathers were very familiar with John Locke's natural rights and the consent of the governed and John Stuart Mill and Montaigne but more impressed with Montesquieu, a philosopher who turned to scientific experimentation. Our own homegrown scientist, Benjamin Franklin, become famous all over the world. This turn to reason and science rather than poetry and philosophy then made all the difference in the two revolutions – French and American.

The French put their faith in Jean-Jacques Rousseau – of whom it was said that he invented nothing but set everything on fire - who espoused a “return to nature” where people lived peacefully off the land – ignoring the continual wars where people were killing each other since time immemorial and continued to do so. The result was

the horror that became a blood bath. Edmund Burke, the genius legislator, saw the revolution coming and predicted that “Europe will be torn limb from limb” and he was right as usual.

America got lucky again. John Adams proposed that the “Age of Reason” should be called the “*Age of Thomas Paine*,” such was Paine's influence on the American Revolution and the worldwide democratic revolution that eventually followed. When the Continental Army was at its lowest ebb, George Washington rallied his troops by reading Paine's *American Crisis* to them. (It is still worthwhile reading today and perhaps particularly relevant.) Many of his ideas arose from his self-education in science. Ferris quotes theoretical physicist Lee Smolin: “Good science comes from the collision of contradictory ideas...people questioning and trying to do better than their teachers. Here we have a model for what a democratic society is all about. That is the strength of our democratic way of life and science is at the root of it.”

Ferris claims “Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* has been cited as perhaps the one book between Newton's *Principia* and Darwin's *Origin of Species* that actually substantially and almost immediately started improving the quality of human life and thought.” Some define progress as the creation of more options for more people and that seems to be happening at a rapid pace. Education too has a big role to play since more than 80% of adults are now literate compared with 37% as recently as 1970. The advent of the Internet and the opening up of the whole world right on your PC has made literacy paramount for living in the modern world.

The logic and proven results are irrefutable: those subsumed under the thumb of egotistical and cruel tyrants cannot question, cannot speculate, cannot experiment, cannot even think about different ways of doing things. The freedom-loving countries continue to succeed in ways no one planned or imagined could be. All it takes is liberty.

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The Lore of Precious Stones **JADE**

By Ilda O'Biso

Jade has long been revered in China where it was considered a stone of good fortune and divine blessing. It was considered to be a link between Heaven and Earth.

Emperors used it in ceremonies and it was also taken medicinally in powdered form to cure just about everything, from insomnia to flatulence. Immortality was even possible if enough of the precious substance were consumed.

Jade is an ancient love-attracting stone. Carved into a butterfly, in China it is worn to draw love, or is given to another in the hope of obtaining love. It is often presented by a man to his bride before their wedding.

In New Zealand, the Maori (Polynesian people native to New Zealand) carve jade in the image of ancestral figures. These carvings are worn on ceremonial occasions.

The soothing green color of Jade is also healing. It is particularly helpful for kidney, heart, and stomach complaints.

Wearing Jade can bring money into your life. When contemplating a business deal, hold a piece of Jade in your hand and allow it to infuse you with its prosperous energies.



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The Wine

Rack

By Michael Grieco

Marietta Old Vine Red Lot #51

A short time ago I received a telephone call from Bob Wilkenloh, a fellow wine lover, who wanted to share his experience with the Marietta Old Vine Red Lot #51 wine he recently tasted.

There are certain people in our lives who, when rendering an opinion, we take notice and embrace their finding. Bob Wilkenloh is such an individual. Bob is a true gentleman with a fine palate whose wine expertise is truly formidable.

Marietta Cellars is located in Geyserville, Sonoma Valley, California, where winemaker Chris Bilbro founded the winery in 1978 in a rented cow barn and named the winery after his aunt Marietta.

Aunt Marietta, not having any children of her own, took Chris under her wing and taught him the art of taste, which has been used by Chris to perfect his winemaking.

Since 1978, Chris' greatest accomplishment has been his ability to produce wines of incredible consistency in quality and price with relative anonymity.

Those of us who enjoy wine have become alarmed at the prices of those treasured Napa cabernets, which takes a small fortune to purchase. It's within this context that I was so impressed by the philosophy of Marietta Cellars.

Chris Bilbro states: "In recent years, wine for many

consumers has become too much of a symbol of status. In our opinion, an inordinate amount of emphasis is placed on what appellation a wine comes from, who makes the wine, or how much it costs.

It seems many wineries have followed the same path; little or no emphasis seems to be put towards the challenge of producing consistent or genuine value, year in and year out. What's in the bottle should taste good and what's on the bottle should tell you what you're drinking.

Marietta Cellars doesn't have a tasting room or wine club. They don't buy advertisements in wine magazines or enter wine competitions. They don't make "trophy wines;" nor do they charge "trophy wine" prices.

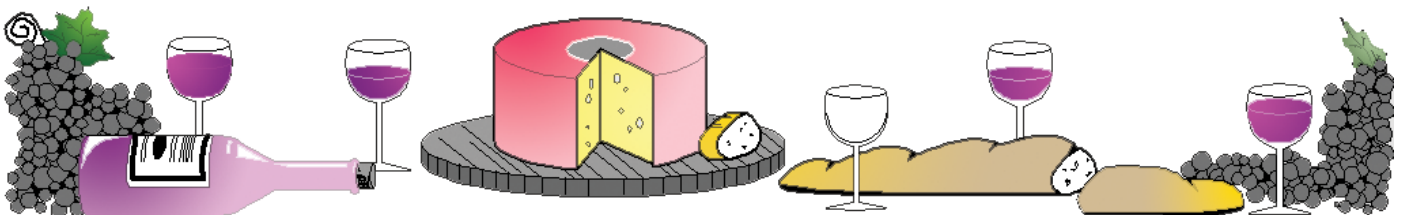
That being said, Marietta wine is allocated on release due to demand and routinely sells out prior to the next release. Their wines don't sell because of ratings, the view from the tasting room or because of a fancy label. Marietta wines sell because they make consistent great wine at a fair price.

Lot #51 is the latest release of Old Vine Red, Marietta's trademark blend first released almost 30 years ago. The demand for Old Vine Red has grown steadily since Lot #1.

The wine taste is rich in ripe berry and peppery spice, as well as nuances of dried cherry and herbs that add to the complexity of the wine. The color is deep ruby and the immediate taste on the palate is dense with a Zin-like style. The wine is full bodied with silky tannins and reminds one of a fine Chateaufeuf du Pape.

Circle Liquors in Somers Point was the only local store that carried Lot #51, although you can purchase other Marietta varieties at Canals and Joe Canals locally.

Thank you, Bob Wilkenloh, for making me a believer, and I hope you enjoy Marietta wines in the near future.



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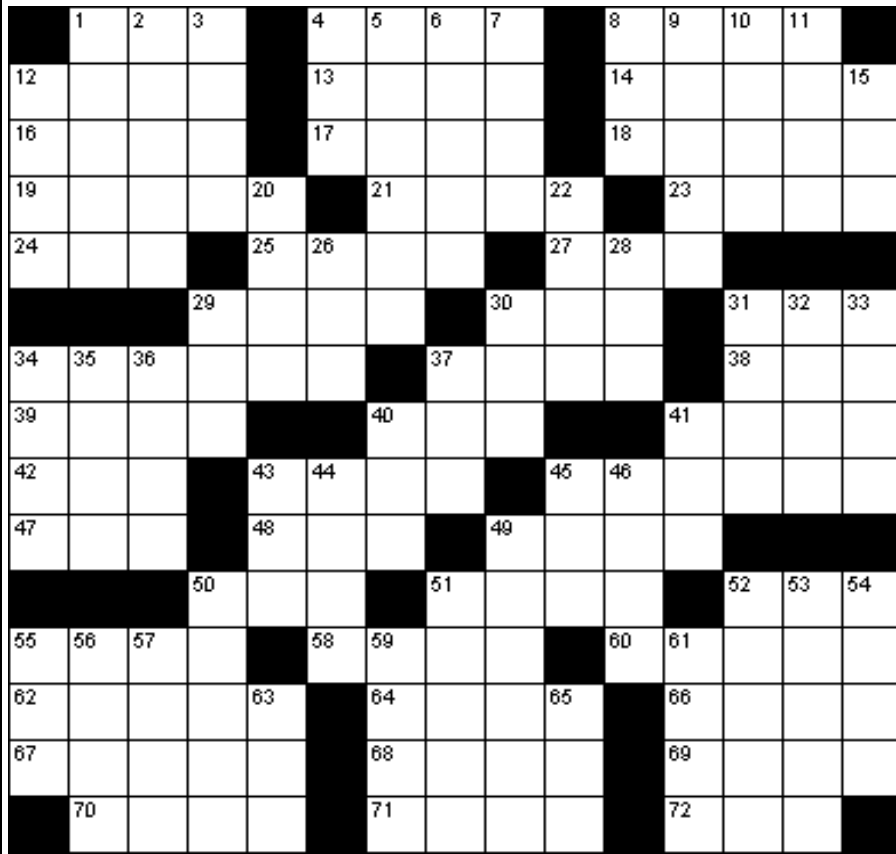
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE - Solution on page 40



Across

1. Snakelike fish
4. Assist in crime
8. Particle
12. Imitate
13. Fruit
14. Pulsate
16. Bad time for Julius
17. Border
18. Wipe out
19. Laconic
21. Sediment
23. Additional to or different from
24. Attempt
25. Slightly open
27. Cut down
29. Form of transport
30. Vitality
31. Fuss
34. Study of plants
37. Bill of fare
38. Napkin

39. Quartz used in cameos
40. Used to control a horse
41. As well
42. High mountain
43. Fraud
45. Each
47. Cereal grass seeds
48. Paddle
49. Aromatic herb
50. Fitting
51. Champion
52. Droop
55. Tablet
58. Aspersion
60. Languish
62. Residence
64. In the middle
66. Halo
67. Defamation
68. Shade of blue
69. Pack tightly
70. Medieval land worker
71. Hinge joint

72. Conifer

Down

1. Type of duck
2. Mineral used as an abrasive
3. Not as great
4. Simian
5. Pandemonium
6. Avid
7. Woody plant
8. Consumed
9. Tossed
10. Unwritten exam
11. Flowerless plant
12. Glove
15. Insect
20. Yield
22. Tibia
26. Crested bird
28. Flightless bird
29. Charge
30. Animal doctor, in short
31. Fit
32. Saucer
33. Woodwind instrument
34. Male hog
35. Merely
36. Variety
37. Coalesce
40. Saloon
41. Be unwell
43. Jump
44. Annual grass seeds
45. Melody
46. Gambit
49. Infer
50. Tree with conelike fruit
51. Person
52. Fry quickly in fat
53. Pointer
54. Chew
55. Buddy
56. Wading bird
57. Part of the ear
59. Long and thin
61. Facile
63. Mischievous fairy
65. Staining substance

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R	Y	E			O	A	R		D	I	L	L				
					A	P	T		H	E	R	O		S	A	G
P	I	L	L		S	L	U	R		Y	E	A	R	N		
A	B	O	D	E		A	M	I	D		A	U	R	A		
L	I	B	E	L		N	A	V	Y		S	T	O	W		
	S	E	R	F		K	N	E			Y	E	W			

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WARNING: I need to set the record straight. Before we go further I have to be brutally honest. Read on, **ONLY** if you are serious about your skin care!
We're just getting started and you've already read some pretty bold statements. And if I were you, I'd be wondering...

Is This a Bunch of Hype?
And your absolutely right to ask that question. Look, if I didn't try this myself and saw the difference in my skin with my own two eyes, there's no way I'd believe it was true. In other words, I know how you feel. So let me put your mind at ease by pulling back the curtain and show you exactly what it takes to reverse the aging process and have younger, healthier looking skin.

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Pool Challenge Winners

By Karen Skruodys



Move over, Esther Williams. Here comes Elaine Paterson and Elena Giardina, our two winners in the Summer Pool Challenge. Elaine Paterson logged in almost 12 miles in the outdoor pool, swimming twice a week for 40 to 50 minutes each day. "The challenge motivated me to continue to swim my laps all summer," said Elaine. Elaine, a native of Atlantic County, has lived in Devonshire for seven years with her husband of 50 years, Harry. She has twin daughters and three grandchildren. Elena Giardina logged in the most distance in the indoor pool (five miles), water walking and deep water running. "I looked forward to coming almost daily and spent over two hours doing my laps," said Elena. Elena, a 10 year resident of Devonshire, has two grandchildren. Congratulations, ladies!



More of the participants: Elaine Paterson (outdoor pool winner), Susan Herman, Joan Trukowski, Gerry Stone, Elena Giardina (indoor pool winner), Ellie Maloney, Karen Biache.



The Bargain Box

Buy or barter in the Bargain Box. It's free! Residents may place up to four (non-commercial)

lines per household at no charge. **For the November 2010 issue the deadline is October 20.** Value limit \$500.



FOR SALE: Beveled, floral etched glass chandelier, \$100. Call 377-5952.

FOR SALE: Blond mink coat, medium length, \$350. Black beaver coat, medium length, \$350. Full length storm door w/screen, \$75. Call 652-7712.

Important Dates in October & November



October 12 - Columbus Day

October 31 - Halloween



November 7 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 11 - Veterans Day



November 25 - Thanksgiving

Four Seasons Veterans' Club Update

By Phil Abbott, Veterans' Club Chair

Attention all Four Seasons Veterans

A few weeks ago you received a Veterans' Survey with your Scoop. We still have not heard from all our veterans. Please fill out the survey and leave it at the clubhouse front desk or bring it to the next Veterans' Club meeting. We want current club members to complete the survey as well. If the survey form has gotten away, there are additional forms in the clubhouse lobby. Thanks.

September Speaker

Our guest speaker this month was Whitey Swartz, the Atlantic County Fire Marshal and the Director of the Canale Fire and Police Training Center.

Whitey began photographing fires and accidents back in the 50s. If it burned in Atlantic County, he has a picture in his files. He spent 34 years as a firefighter and is now involved in fire safety training. He set up a display showing a sampling of his many photos; very impressive! Whitey plans to assemble a book of his photos.



Whitey flanked by two of our members, Jim Cavallo and Lou Cannizzaro. *Photo by Al Beck*

Firefighters Museum

Whitey and his wife, Joy Ann, are the curators of the Firefighters Museum of Southern New Jersey. The museum started with a 1929 fire truck and added four more trucks. Recently they acquired an 1854

hand pumper truck. Over 2,500 school children have visited this museum. It sounds like a great place for the grandkids and us older kids. The address is 333 E. Ridgewood Ave., Galloway, NJ 08205. Phone: 609-652-8895.

Today's Firefighter

There are 46 fire companies in Atlantic County. Seven are paid and 39 are volunteer departments. In days gone by, volunteers learned on the job. This is no longer true. They must go through the same training the paid firefighters do. Before you can set foot on a truck, 180 hours of level 1 training and 90 hours of level 2 are required. The Canale Training Center is training new personnel from Cape May.

Fire Seasons:

Autumn and the holidays, springtime forest fires, cool nights with Kerosene and summer barbecues, camp fires and electric heaters, chimneys that were not cleaned, careless smokers, and forest fires. Winter is a quiet season.

Fire Safety

Whitey brought a number of fire prevention brochures plus smoke detectors as hand outs. Smoke detectors are now available with very bright strobe lights for the hearing impaired. If you don't have a fire extinguisher in your home, get one.

A quick response to a stove fire, candle fire, or similar small fire could save your house. It is important to have an exit plan for your family and a pre-arranged meeting place. If you can tell the firemen that all are out safely, they can begin fighting the fire immediately.

Ladders have a 10 story limit. New high-rise buildings have fire towers. They are stairwells under positive pressure to keep the smoke out. Go to the fire tower and start on your way down.

Business Meeting

- Mike Perro conducted a brief business meeting. Mike informed us that a modern facility will replace the Ventnor Clinic next year.

– Continued on page 46

September 11 – Mural Dedication

By Linda Telli

An Idea

It began as an inkling in the mind of Chief Butch Stewart. It grew into a massive 113-foot by 20-foot mural that began attracting citywide attention before it was finished.

The Commitment

When Chief Stewart arrived at his installation dinner in Atlantic City, he suggested to the other firefighters that they beautify the wall of the firehouse with a mural to honor those firefighters who have protected the city since the early 1900s and to remember the 343 New York City firefighters who died on 9/11.

Local residents as well as local businesses and national giant Home Depot embraced the idea. Maryann Cannon, of Mays Landing and her assistant Kristy Midgette of Absecon took on the massive task of painting the mural.



This statue was a donation by Bob Wysocki, a friend of Smith.

It is a 41" concrete statue with a pewter finish.

A group from the Four Seasons enjoying the tour.....



Completion

From the initial idea to completion, the project took two years. As mentioned repeatedly, at the dedication ceremony, small town America coupled with corporate America shows what makes America great. The mural will be a lasting tribute to the history of the Absecon fire department and the 343 firefighters who died at the World Trade Center.

The firehouse is located at the intersection of New Road (Route 9) and New Jersey Avenue.

Be sure to stop by and visit this magnificent work of art first hand.

Photography by Linda Telli

Wexford Hawaiian Pig Roast & Luau

By Mary Carey

Hawaiian shirts, leis and hula skirts, banana leaves, colorful table cloths and the most delicious odors wafting from the steam tables greeted us as we entered the ballroom Saturday evening, September 11th. This event was the brainchild of Camille Ricciardi. She and her enthusiastic team of helpers had thought of everything to have a fun-filled evening. The menu consisted of whole roasted pig, pulled pork, jerk barbeque beef, Hawaiian chicken with pineapple, banana & Captain Morgan rum sauce, pineapple & macadamia nut potato salad, Jack Daniels mashed sweet potatoes, corn on the cob, baked beans, rolls, fresh fruit & desserts. The luau was catered by T.W. Howell's of Galloway, who served up this tasty array of foods. It could not have been a nicer end to the summer.

*The presentation was a
feast for the eyes.
Succulent & juicy, what a pig!*



*Camille and her
ever-helpful husband -
better know as DJ Paul.*

*Left to right: Mary Carey,
Karen Knudsen,
Mary Boris,
Camile Ricciardi, and
Marsha Brown.*





A Touch of History
By Ilda O'Biso

The Huguenots

Whenever we think of our early settlers, it is the Pilgrims that, invariably, come to mind.

But they were not the only ones. The Huguenots were early settlers, too, rarely mentioned, apparently forgotten in the pages of our past history. The Pilgrims, for the most part, came from England. The Huguenots instead, emigrated from Belgium and France. The year was 1678, just 58 years after the landing of the Pilgrims.

If any of my readers are familiar with the beautiful Hudson River Valley in New York State, it might be of interest to them to know that the town of New Paltz was built by the Huguenots.

In 1678 a small group of French-speaking refugees from southern Belgium and northern France set out to create a refuge of their own. In their search, they arrived at the mid-Hudson Valley, where they befriended the Esopus Indians, and from them they purchased 40,000 acres of land along the Wallkill River. So started a new American story.

Finally, in the peace they had been denied in their own country, they worked the land, their families thrived, children arrived, and a small village soon was born, a special and diverse village.

That special, diverse, and unique village is today's New Paltz, an eclectic, free-thinking town that attracts people from all over, drawn to the natural beauty of the area and to the singularity of this town.

The history of the Huguenots was one of great oppression. They were members of the Protestant Reformed Church of France. Inspired by the writings of John Calvin, they were also labeled Calvinists. They became known for their criticism of the Catholic Church. They believed that the rituals, saints, prayers, and hierarchy of the Catholic Church

did not help anyone toward redemption. Their belief was that one should rely upon God for salvation, not upon the Church's sacraments or rituals.

The Catholic Church in France opposed the Huguenots, and there were incidents of attacks on Huguenot preachers and congregants as they attempted to meet for services.

The height of this persecution was the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre. The massacre lasted from August 24th to October 3rd, 1572. It was estimated that 70,000 Huguenots were killed during the massacre. The exact number of fatalities is not known, but it is believed that by September, 25,000 Protestants had been killed in Paris alone.

This pattern of warfare continued, on and off, for the next 25 years, making life so intolerable for the Protestants that many fled the country.

The advent of Louis XIV brought about additional restrictions. He aggressively moved to force the Protestants to convert to Catholicism. He imposed penalties and closed their schools. He employed armed soldiers to occupy and loot their homes. Finally, in 1685 Louis XIV declared Protestantism to be illegal. Protestant services were forbidden and children had to be raised in the Catholic faith.

During all these years of unrest and warfare, it is known that at least 180,000 Protestants were successful in fleeing the country. They fled to Britain, Prussia, Holland, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, and South Africa.

In 1562 a small group of Protestants tried unsuccessfully to start a settlement in the area of what is now Jacksonville, Florida, but the Spanish wiped them out.

Eventually, another group of Huguenots found its way to the mid-Hudson Valley in New York State; virgin land, in which they could at last live in peace and practice their religion as they wished.

When the Huguenot refugees purchased the large tract of land from the Esopus Indians, they knew that, in spite of the peaceful transaction, they would

– Continued on page 46

– “A TOUCH OF HISTORY” cont’d from pg. 42

always be vulnerable to unexpected attacks from sporadic groups of Indians. The Huguenots had no other refuge other than the simple dwellings in which they lived.

It was imperative, therefore, that they forge peaceful relations with the local tribesmen. The people of New Paltz seem to have been successful in this mission, because there is no record of any Indian uprising against them.

However, as better protection, in the 1700s they slowly replaced their simple, log and wooden dwellings with stone houses, thus giving birth to the original New Paltz village, along what is now Huguenot Street. To this day, New Paltz has the oldest street in the current United States.



Today, seven of the original stone houses still exist. The domestic environments of the early colonial period and the early years of the Republic are preserved to inspire and educate. Three hundred years of history are told on Huguenot Street, showing both continuity and, at the same time, change, in American history.

Today the houses are furnished with period and heirloom artifacts, many of which are descended from the original occupants. They are open to the public, for those who are interested in spending a little time in a 300-year-old world. The stone houses of New Paltz offer us an opportunity to appreciate, enjoy, and investigate the origin and development of our distinctly American culture.

– “FOUR SEASONS VETERANS’...” cont’d from pg. 42

- Frank Hackbarth: Survey is going well.
- Mike for Don Cleary: We are solvent.
- Charles Hollway: 10 shoe boxes went to overseas troops last month.

Welcome to New Members

Lewis Gatto, Gerald P Gladue, Donald J Minkel.

Upcoming Events

Sports fans, plan to come in October. On Oct 11 Harry Scott will focus on baseball by telling us about his 30-day trip to 30 major league stadiums to see 30 home games. He trekked over 20,000 miles in the USA and Canada. On November 8 we will again celebrate Veterans Day in the clubhouse. Spouses and significant others are invited to share desserts and listen to Lucy Jerue present Philadelphia as the “City of Murals”.



KIRMS PHOTOGRAPHY

African Safari

I had the fortune of taking a photo safari in Kenya this summer. Here are some images from our trip. As always you can send me an email at bill@kirmsphotography.com. If you'd like to see more of my images, visit my web site at www.kirmsphotography.com. Keep shooting and trying to improve your images, but most importantly, have fun with your camera.



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