

Villas of Arden Mills

# Villas Experience

## Social Committee

Valerie Cicconi

### Special points of interest:

- Ladies Card Luncheon .....7th
- Finance Committee Meeting.....17th
- Board Planning..27th

The Social Committee is taking a break for the month of February but will hold Soup Night on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. We are asking for soup maker volunteers. Please contact Karen Neubauer at 724-229-6977, if you are able to provide a soup for us. Looking forward to seeing everyone as hibernation will be coming to an end, hopefully. We will be having a 50/50. Also we will be playing Bingo after the meal with prizes.



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For all the new residents who don't know, we wanted to explain what the 50/50 is all about. Not only does someone get to win and feel good there is a necessary monetary reason we do it. The Social committee is not a committee with a budget from the HOA fees. We use our half off the 50/50 for the food we supply. Such as the meats, salads, desserts, paper products, plastic wares, drinks, any decorations, condiments, and anything else I forgot to mention. For anyone who is thinking they might like to be a part of our committee, again let me stress you would do what you feel you can do. Mostly the committee members set the tables, make the drinks, set up the drink table, put out the food and cleanup after. Also, a big part is just coming up with ideas of things to do and eat of course. It's all about the food! No just kidding, it's really just all about socializing with your neighbors and getting to know everyone.

Sneak preview of what's cooking for April. CHILI COOKOFF!! Get your recipes ready. We will be asking for crockpots of chili and see whose recipe wins. More details in the March newsletter.

## How About Mammals

As many of you know from our previous newsletter articles, we have been observing and counting the birds that visit our area up here on the hill at the VOAM. Our 7-year “yard” bird total is now over a 100 species and we thought it was time to discuss the various mammals we have seen over the years.

Exclusive of domesticated dogs and cats, the number of mammal species we have observed (15) in the VOAM does not come close to the birds, but it is a very diverse group with some interesting features. The most primitive species seen is the Virginia opossum, a marsupial that does not have a placenta but possesses a pouch where the young complete their development after they are born prematurely. Marsupials are the large group of mammals that inhabit Australia and South America. Although it is now believed that opossums do not routinely eat ticks as used to be thought, however, they apparently do eat most of the ticks that attach themselves to the opossum, which is still a lot and very beneficial.

The mammalian order having the most species found in our “yard” (6) is the rodents. This is the group that has by far the most members in the world with over 2,000 species and contains beavers, mice, porcupines, and squirrels. The three squirrel species and chipmunk are probably the most often actually seen mammals in the Villas, particularly if you have bird feeders near your property. The squirrel species are fairly easy to tell apart as their size and color varies quite a bit. Up here on the hill the two most common are the largest of the three, the eastern fox squirrel, which is rusty yellowish with a pale yellow to orange belly, and the tail bordered with tawny-tipped hairs and the medium-sized eastern gray squirrel, which has a general grayish color, and a tail bordered with white-tipped hairs. The head and body of the fox ranges from 10-15 inches, while the gray's dimensions are 8-10 inches. The smallest of the three, which we see less frequently is the red squirrel, 7-8 inches in size, with yellowish or reddish upper parts and a whitish belly. We suspect everyone knows the eastern chipmunk with its face and body stripes ending at the red rump.

The other two rodents we have observed are the woodchuck and the deer mouse/white-footed mouse. We have indicated that there probably are two different species involved with the mouse, which are almost impossible to tell apart even in the hand, but suffice it to say one of these is probably the rodent in your attic, as we have caught over 60 of these on our property over the years. However, if you happen to trap any of these mousy rodents, and want to check if you might actually have a house mouse, notice whether the color is overall grayish not brownish, and if the tail is scaly.

We will continue with part 2 of our mammal discussion next month.

Written by Roy and Judi Ickes

# Welcome

Hello to all my neighbors! My name is Jane(Sefcik) Pellenz. I have moved back to the area after being gone for about 15 years, to be closer to my family.

I am a retired Registered Nurse, having last worked right here at Washington Hospital. I enjoy reading, games, water exercises, and making new friends.

My pup, Tootsie, is adjusting very well to her new home. She seems to just love the snow, which is a good thing, since there has been plenty!

Looking forward to meeting all of you,  
Jane Pellenz 131 Fair Meadow Drive.



We also want to recognize all the new residents in 2024 who have joined our community. If you have not met them, please reach out. We are always glad to meet these new residents at our social events and joining our committees.

516 Fair Meadow - Phil Kelly & JuliAne Martin  
509 Fair Meadow - Tom & Linda Prezel  
404 Pine Brook Ct. - James Bedillion  
313 Mike Creek Lane - Jay & Joyce Rush

## Puzzlers



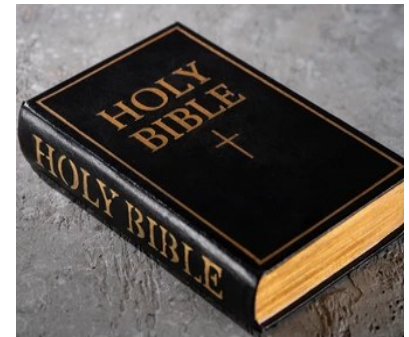
We have completed our first winter puzzle.  
To all of you who contributed,  
**GREAT JOB.**



Now it is time to start a second puzzle for these cold winter days. Stop in to the clubhouse and add a piece or two. **ENJOY**

## Bible Study

Bible Study is on Wednesday, Feb. 5 with Chapter 19 of Revelation and Wednesday, Feb. 19 with Chapter 20, both attached. We will be meeting at the clubhouse at 1:00-3:00. Never too late to jump into God's Word - it's always relevant and informative! Only two chapters left for March in this amazing book of the Bible. Also, the ladies have enjoyed this experience so much that they are going to continue into the Book of Romans starting in April. Again, all are welcome. Should you have any questions, please contact Karen Neubauer (724)229-6977 or Karenneubauer@msn.com. Looking forward to seeing you there!



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## Winter Weather Issues

We have fielded several queries about icicles and iced gutters in the last few weeks. Each one may have different circumstances to deal with. I respond to each Service Request with whatever assistance is needed. Some require special attention by MMM. We have volunteers on site to investigate, if the issue cannot be handled remotely by me.

Ice dams' form in gutters in periods of extended snow cover on the roof. Properly installed and operated heat tape is the only available solution to ice dams forming. Residents without heat tape will have gutter overflow and icicle issues. Residents with heat tape who don't turn it on when there is a threat of snow may experience the same issue, since it is nearly impossible for the heat tape to work effectively after ice dams have formed. The melting agent applied beneath the icicles will keep the area safe for footing. Periodic removal of the icicles before they get big and dangerous by using a broom will keep them under control. Many times, a family member or neighbor will assist our elderly or infirm residents. MMM knocks them down during the snow removal on the sidewalks. Warmer weather above freezing will eventually rid the gutters of the ice dams but will produce more icicles until the ice dams reduce in size.

Ice dams are a universal issue in the northern climates. We have been fortunate over the years to only have a few winters where ice dams have been this bad. Heat tape should only be installed during temperatures above 50 degrees so as not to damage shingles. Is it worth it to install heat tape? Many just live with the icicle issue and deal with it in the rare instances that it is needed.

**BOTTOM LINE :** If you have a problem or issue needing resolved, submit a Service Request to CMA and we will evaluate each independent problem.



*Happy Valentines Day*