

Villas Experience

Social Committee

Valerie Cicconi

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Our next social is our soup night on March 19th @5:00. Please see the signup sheet in the mail house. Deadline for signup is March 13^h. We will be having a 50/50 which as many of you know if our way of purchasing everything that is needed to have a successful event. If you are interested in making soup, please contact Karen @ 724-229-6977. We will be playing BINGO after so bring your lucky charm with you.

Along with the soup we will be serving tossed salad, bread, and poke cake for dessert. Water, Iced tea, Lemonade, Coffee, and Hot Tea. So far, we have a Wedding soup, a ham/bean and barley soup, Italian Sausage/potato soup and a Chili. We like to have around 8/9 soups so there is a variety and enough for everyone.



It has come to our attention that there are many viral, intestinal, and respiratory infections going on that are causing concerns. So, as it nears the time for this social event, if we do not feel the participation is there (which we totally understand your concerns for not wanting to be in closed surrounding with a group) we most likely will cancel the event. If we feel the need to do so we will post a sign in the mail house letting everyone know.

We are looking forward to our April social, which is going to be a Chili Cookoff. So residents get your recipes ready. Unfortunately, we are thinking of limiting it to 4/5 chilis. You will be able to taste them all and vote on the one you like best. Then enjoy your favorites with your meal. There will be a prize for the best liked chili and we would like to put the recipes in the May newsletter.

We would also like to take the time to thank both Gloria and Sandy Warman for their devotion to the Social Committee. They will be missed but we wish them the best in their move to their new home,



This Photo by Un-

Welcome



505 Fair Meadow

Hello, neighbors, and thank you for welcoming me to the community! My name is Holly Riley and I have recently moved back to Washington after living in Avella for the past 20 years with my family. I have two children in college; Aidan, who will soon graduate from Pitt, and Bryn, who is a sophomore at Pitt Greensburg. I was married for almost 28 years to my McGuffey High School sweetheart, John, before he lost his courageous battle with brain cancer last August. John worked for UPS and would sometimes deliver to this neighborhood, which is what made us think of moving here after the kids were out of high school. I am a high school guidance counselor at Burgettstown High School and I really enjoy helping students find their path to graduation and adulthood. My hobbies include cross stitching, puzzles, reading and traveling. We have a cat named Marley, and she is very friendly. I look forward to meeting everyone!



515 Fair Meadow

Hello new neighbors! My name is Susan Barckhoff and I recently moved to 515 Fair Meadow Drive with my furry companion Heinz. Prior to my retirement, I owned Suzie B's Diner. Aside from cooking and baking, I enjoy water aerobics, theater, traveling and my wonderful family and friends. Looking forward to making new friends here at the Villas of Arden Mills.



Bible Study

Karen Neubauer

We are coming to the most hopeful two chapters of the Bible in March - Revelation 21 and 22!! Join us to see what the Lord Jesus has in store for our eternity. We will be meeting on Wednesday, March 5 (Chapter 21) and March 19 (Chapter 22) at 1:00-3:00 in the clubhouse. It's always a time of discovery, worship, enthusiasm and awe at the wonders of the love of God for each of us. It's never too late to look at His Word for us today, right here where we live.

Now I guess you are thinking "Well, this Bible Study thing is finally over". WRONG! We have decided to continue our looking into God's Word for us by going into the Book of Romans in April, and thereafter, attempting to cover one chapter each session. See, it isn't too late to come with us on this journey and we'd love to have you join us. Just let Karen know of your intent to attend and she will get the study notes to you prior to the meeting. Then all you need to do is bring the notes and your choice of Bible and we will proceed one step at a time! Karen can be contacted at (724)229-6977 or karenneubauer@email.msn.com . Looking forward to seeing you there!

Events being held in the community

Here are some events you may be interested in attending. They are being submitted by Karen Neubauer. Some participants may need to carpool. Karen is not arranging transportation. Please let Karen know if you are interested in any of these events. Her contact information is in the article above.

March 24, Monday

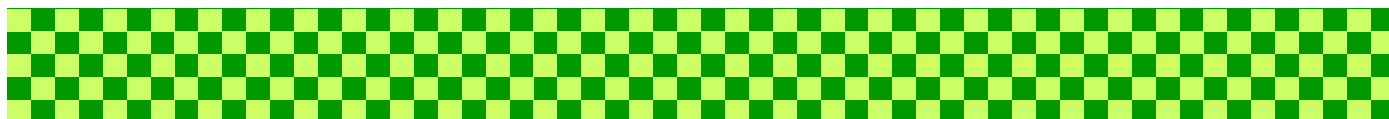
Lunch at the Olive Garden in Greentree at 11:30, and then on to Phipps Conservatory for the Spring Flower Show (20.95 Senior price). We are carpooling with my group from church, so I don't know if I can take people from the community or not, or who from here would be willing to drive. **Deadline for sign-up is March 16.**

April 5, Saturday

Dinner at Generations, 338 National Rd., Wheeling at 4:30 PM and then DOO WOP Concert at the Capitol Theater, Wheeling at 7:00PM. My church group has already gotten tickets for Doo Wop, but anyone can buy more tickets, they just won't be sitting with our group, and all are welcome at dinner. **Deadline for letting me know about dinner is Mar. 30.**

April 11, Friday

Dinner at Applebee's in McMurray at 5:00 and "9 to 5 The Musical" at Little Lake Theater (\$25.00 ea unless I can get 20+, then \$19.00 ea.) **Deadline for sign up is March 9.**



Building & Roads Report

Ron Richards

Bad weather, more bad weather and then the Groundhog joins the chorus! Extended periods of below freezing temperatures, extended periods of snow on the roofs, ice dams in gutters, icicles hanging everywhere, icy conditions making footing treacherous underneath the gutters at sidewalks and garage areas, is why I am in Florida right now! Bob Romain and David Bouterse have fielded each Service Request and Mow, Mulch & More has been challenged like never before to keep the Community drivable. You have been asked to assist in keeping yourself safe by applying a melting agent to icy footing areas and being extra careful when moving around the Community. There is no magic fix to deal with all of this. We have found similar and unique issues at each location. Let us at least listen to your concern and help where we can.

When the snow is gone and Spring returns, you can have a short memory about these conditions. We will not, however. The Committee will review all Service Requests and try to find a better way to address these issues in the future, where possible. New products have come on the market to address ice dams, for example. Heat tape is not the only way to deal with this now. Let's all hope that warmer weather returns soon.

WANT TO PLAY POOL??

Every Friday night there will be pool being played at the clubhouse. Men and women can join in. Just meet at 6:30 pm and have some fun on our quiet Friday nights.

All are Welcome. Come and have Fun.



Happy St Patricks Day



How about the Mammals Part 2

As promised, we want to finish our discussion of the mammals seen over the years at the VOAM. Several of these we have not actually seen, however, others of you have and we have heard of your experiences.

Last month we discussed the rodent order that has the most species (6) in our yard. The carnivore or meat-eating order contains the second most species recorded here (4). The only one we have seen is the raccoon, as several came to our feeders at night before we learned to take them in after dark. At that time six were trapped and relocated 20 miles away insuring they would not return. The other three carnivores known to be around are the striped skunk, coyote, and red fox. Our northeastern skunk, one of four species found in the United States, is closely related to the weasels, in part because of the odor it produces with its anal scent glands. We have only ever smelled this species, thank goodness, but one was found in the clubhouse pool last year and rescued successfully.


The other two carnivore species are canids and related to the domestic dog. Several folks have heard what probably was a coyote up on the hill of the VOAM and they definitely are being seen in Washington County. However, as coyotes are known to hybridize with both dogs and wolves, being sure what has been attributed to a pure coyote can be very tricky. As for the foxes, there are four species in the United States, two of which are found in Washington County. In general the gray fox prefers brushy areas and is more elusive than the red fox and the latter is much more likely to be observed in our county. At least one red fox has been seen in the villas, but we have seen only one gray and that was in Washington Cemetery.

Of the four additional mammal species we have observed, the white-tailed deer is the most dramatic. When one of us sees them stroll by our property, the other person is alerted with a here come the deer, and we rush to the window to watch. Our record number on the hill is a group of eight; two bucks and several does with fawns. Sadly, chronic wasting disease is increasing in the state and the number of healthy deer may be dropping at the VOAM. The least dramatic of the other four, the short-tailed shrew, is one of the most common species in Pennsylvania and also the one you are least likely to see. Shrews are insectivores or insect-eaters, closely related to moles, spend most of their time underground and are only about 3 inches in length. Consequently, if when you are digging around in your garden and a little gray mouse-like creature scoots along in the leaves/soil, you probably have encountered a shrew.

The other two species are the ubiquitous eastern cottontail and a member of the less obvious chiroptera or bat order, the only truly flying mammals. We have seen many bats flying around our home at dusk, which are difficult to identify even in the hand. Therefore, the best guess as to what species we have here at the villas is either the eastern pipistrel or little brown myotis, both relatively small, or the big brown bat, slightly larger in size. As the only vampire bat in the United States is found in Texas, all the bats in our area are beneficial insect eaters and will not fly into your hair.

What can you add to the VOAM mammal list?

By Roy and Judi Ickes



Andy Rooney *Written by Andy Rooney, a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words. Rooney has passed away but used to be on CBS's 60 Minutes TV show.*

- I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person
- I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows
- I've learnedThat just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.
- I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.
- I've learned... That being kind is more important than being right.
- I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.
- I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand
- I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.
- I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.
- I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.
- I've learned... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.
- I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.
- I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
- I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.
- I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.
- I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.
- I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.
- I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.
- I've learned.... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.
- I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.
- I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.
- I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.
- I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.
- I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.
- I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.
- I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.
- I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Share this to everyone you consider a FRIEND, If it comes back to you, then you'll know you have a circle of friends.