

+

The Village Voice

VTL NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 12

December 2021

HOA BOARD & COMMITTEE NEWS

From Our HOA Board

By Jay Citraro, President

We had no monthly HOA Board Meeting in November. We invite everyone to join us for our **Annual HOA Meeting on Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 pm in the Clubhouse Ballroom.**

At the meeting we will hear the President's annual report, appoint our 2022 Directors and allow time for a Resident question and answer session.

It's time to vote for the Newly Revised & Amended DCCRs and Bylaws!!

By Your Board of Directors:

Jay Citraro, Fred Growcock, Holly Cooper, Annie Moulder & Marc Jensvold

Our attorneys have blessed the newly revised and amended **Declaration of Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions (DCCRs)** and **Bylaws** that you've been hearing about for over a year. Now it's time to get out the vote. This is a major undertaking and requires the help of everyone in the Village. These documents need to be approved by 67% of all households, so it's critically important that every lot owner in the Village vote. Homeowners can pick up ballot packages from the Clubhouse Office beginning Nov 29 and also turn them in at the Office. These packages will consist of the following:

- A Ballot that must be signed and addressed by one of the owners of a lot
- A Ballot Envelope that also must be signed and addressed by the same lot owner that signed the ballot
- Instructions on filling out the ballot and returning it to the Office
- Some of the Benefits we will all derive from these new governing documents

Certified Volunteers will also go door to door to drop off ballot packages to folks who have not already picked them up at the Office. If you cannot return the completed ballot at the Clubhouse Office in person, call the Office at 281-332-1067, and an Associa staff member will pick it up, or mail the Ballot Envelope with the enclosed Ballot to the Office.

Don't forget to vote YES!! We, your elected Directors and fellow homeowners, unanimously urge you to support approval of these new documents.

From Our Facilities Committee

Submitted by Keith Stine

Should I replace my smoke detectors?

Did you remember to reset your clocks for the time change? This is also a good time to replace the batteries in your home smoke detectors. Most residential smoke detectors take a standard 9-volt battery. To replace the smoke detector battery does not require removing the device. Some models have a 'push in and pop out' small cover door over the battery. Other models require that you twist the smoke detector off of the mounting plate, usually a quarter turn, like removing a jar lid, and the battery is located on the back side of the detector. Building codes require what is called a dual voltage smoke detector. This smoke detector has both a 'hard wired' 110-volt connection and a 9-volt battery for backup during power failures. Because our homes are newer and built to recent codes our homes will have at least one smoke detector in each bedroom and in hallways. If your home has two bedrooms then you will have at least 3 smoke detectors. If you have a 3-bedroom model then you will have at least 4 smoke detectors. If you have a two-story home an extra detector is required on each level. The hard part of replacing the battery in your smoke detectors is climbing a ladder to reach it. If you are unsure, ask a friend or neighbor to help you. For a 9' high ceiling you will need at least a 6' step ladder, an 8' ladder is even better. Just be careful not to 'ding' or scratch walls as you carry the ladder into and out of your house. Again, get help to make this task easier.

How long does a smoke detector last? The Fire Department recommends replacing the battery at least once a year. The normal life of a smoke detector is about 10 years. Some of our homes are now reaching their 14th birthday. How old is your house? Prices for the dual voltage type residential smoke detectors range from under \$20 to about \$40 each. Don't buy the guaranteed 10-year smoke detectors with the built-in lithium battery. These are for much older homes that do not have separate dedicated electrical outlets for each smoke detector.

Dust does the greatest damage to a smoke detector. Even a very clean house has enough fine particle dust to stop a smoke detector from working properly. Vacuuming is recommended but difficult to do on higher ceilings. Why take a chance? It costs so little to take care of the smoke detectors in your home. You will sleep well knowing these devices are there for your protection.



Architectural Review Board / Architectural Control Committee

By John Frye and Michael McDaniel, ARB/ACC Members

Fence Maintenance, Repair and Replacement

As our community continues to age there are areas that show wear and tear more than others. The most common area that requires attention is the cedar fencing around our yards. As a reminder, when the homeowner does a partial repair or replacement of fencing, a Request for Architectural Review Board Review of Proposed Home Improvement must be submitted to the ARB/ACC for approval. This Request is reviewed to make sure the materials and stain used for the project are consistent with the community's guidelines.

From Our Welcome Orientation Committee

By Paul Fox, Chairman

Several New Residents have moved to our Village over the past two months. We all need to take the time to make their acquaintance and make them feel welcome to our piece of heaven here at VTL. I am sure many of them would love to get into the various Village activities we have. All they need is for you to ask them to join.

New Residents for October 2021:

- Beryl Wray 1624 Montieri St.
- Richard Wray 1624 Montieri St.
- Rebecca Hopper 716 Cortona Ct.
- Sam Hopper 716 Cortona Ct.
- Luanna Leidy 721 Rufina St.
- Russell Leidy 721 Rufina St.
- Vivian Lehman 702 Rufina St.
- John Lehman 702 Rufina St.
- Karen Heines 1603 Centolani St

New Residents for November 2021:

- Donna Jacobs 1617 Volterra Ln.
- Travis Jacobs 1617 Volterra Ln.

Over sixty Residents came together at the November 13th Meet & Greet Brunch to meet our New Residents and enjoy the great quantity of "Pot-Luck Brunch" food that our Residents provide. Everyone stayed for about an hour and half, just eating, visiting and enjoying each other's company. Marcia Graves was our emcee and had the privilege of introducing six New Residents. Not to be forgotten, we always want to give thanks to the M&GB Team who worked the brunch arranging the food and cleaning up afterwards; Pat & Keith McClung, Laurel & Keith Stine, Mary & Paul Fox. The Team also wants to thank the several Residents and Kara McCadden who helped with the brunch setup and cleanup.

The six new Residents that were introduced:

- Rebecca Hopper 716 Cortona Ct.
- Sam Hopper 716 Cortona Ct.
- Beryl Wray 1624 Montieri St.
- Richard Wray 1624 Montieri St.
- Luanna Leidy 721 Rufina St.
- Karen Heines 1603 Centolani St.



From Our Social Events Committee

By Sandra Rethorn, Leader

Come join us for our SEC (Social Events Committee) meeting Monday the 13th of December at 3pm. Please join us and vote in your new SEC leader, reporter & volunteer coordinator for 2022!

Upcoming Special Events Calendar

DECEMBER

12 – Santa Parade

17 - Christmas Gift Exchange

31 - New Year's Eve Celebration

FEBRUARY

5 - Chinese New Year's Celebration

THE VILLAGE AT
TUSCAN LAKES

New Year's Eve 2021 PARTY

Join us as we ring in the new year!

Friday, December 31st

**SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
Jerry Atwood and Bill Sansom**
Party begins at 6:30 PM until midnight.

*Dinner will begin at 7:00pm to 8:00pm and will be
catered by Arthur Thomas, Dinner for Two Catering.*

**TICKETS \$55 PER PERSON
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

UPDATING & REPAIRS



The new couches for our lobby area were delivered on October 26.



Thanks to our porter Patrick and resident Rusty Laird for installing 4 new fans in the Clubhouse Ballroom in late October. One of the old ones had quit working and we were unable to find one that matched the other three. So, we replaced all four. The new fans' speeds are run by remotes instead of the wall switches. See the office if you need to change fan speed.



Game Court Refurbishing has been completed. Come on out and enjoy a game of horseshoes, shuffle board or bocce ball. Next up is the putting green and driving net area.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

Karen Heines
1603 Centolani



I have 3 major interests: writing, watercolor, and wine. This article is one I wrote earlier in 2021 about watercolor and writing. While it is not a typical profile, it tells a lot about me.

I paint because I write. When I retired, I felt my mental acuity slipping. The cliché that everyone has a book inside them came to mind, but I could never get further than the first paragraph. But the research and writing would help me keep mentally alert.

There was a street banner advertising a writers' conference in my small town in Washington State scheduled for the upcoming weekend. It was cheap for a conference, and I did not have to fly to get there, or stay in a hotel.

What's the worst that could happen? I might write better at the end of the weekend, so I attended.

After participating in the sessions on writing, I saw a path to penning a novel. Other writing conferences followed, and I found a group that met twice a week to write for forty-five minutes, then read their work in groups of four people. There was no critique. It was a safe group. I still believe some of the attendees used the sessions for cheap therapy.

After a couple of months, I asked one of the two group organizers if he thought I would ever be published. He told me not unless I changed from passive verbs to active ones. He emailed me a verb worksheet, and became my first mentor.

There were more conferences, and I met with agents. I've never had trouble selling my concept, but producing a marketable story was still a challenge. My background was technical writing, and the authoring of technical market support materials, strategic plans, and trade journal articles came through. I was a competent writer, but did not create page turners. The right side of my brain needed help.

I felt I had no artistic talent. Then I attended a travel agent class on sketching scenes of my trips. They gave me an empty Altoids box with dabs of six basic watercolors and a small brush. Then we practiced on four by six watercolor paper. My first attempts were far better than I ever thought I could do.

I enrolled in a series of watercolor and sketching classes at a local gallery. The instructor taught at a college level. We traced the illustration, mixed colors, and practiced blending samples before we touched the paper with a brush. Then I moved to Plymouth.

Not confident enough to paint on my own, I found a couple of teachers. First was a local senior center. The two teachers were both accomplished artists that have entries in almost every local juried show. After a year or so with them, I began lessons with another artist who had a much looser style.

Over the last three years I've developed a small portfolio. My original watercolors are not for sale, but I've made blank note cards of most of them. I now have a photo box full of a hundred fifty plus cards that I plan to sell at a future craft show. And I continue to build my portfolio.



**Missy Adams
1542 Brunello**

My name is Missy Adams. I moved from Nassau Bay to VTL in August of this year and live on Brunello St. with my 3 wonderful dogs, Kendal, Fred, and Piper. Piper is actually my mom's dog, who recently moved to an assisted living facility, so I take care of Piper for her. You may see us walking in the evenings, Fred and Kendal on leashes and Piper being pulled in a blue wagon by me. I have already met so many wonderful people and love it here! I am single and still work as a legal assistant. I also have my own travel agency and would love to assist you with your travel needs or answer any questions you may have. Other hobbies I have are cross stitching, learning to play Mah Jong and reading. I am trying to learn to play the guitar and have wanted to learn to speak Spanish for many, many years. I like photography and would like to spend time learning to draw. I clearly have more hobbies than I do time.



**Russ & Lu Leidy
721 Rufina**

We are very excited to be living in The Village. We are originally from Colorado. My husband graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He retired in 1998 from Dow Chemical in Freeport, Texas. We built a home in Durango, Colorado and lived there until he got sick. We have lived in Arvada, Colorado; Idaho Falls, Idaho; The Netherlands; Northern Germany, Lake Jackson, Texas; Clear College Station Clear Lake; Durango, Colorado; College Station, Texas and last stop The Village. We have 3 Children and 6 Grandchildren, all living in the Houston Area.



Travis & Donna Jacobs 1617 Volterra



Donna and Travis went to school together in Port Lavaca. We went our separate ways to college but got back together after that and married when we realized who our ol' best friends were. Travis went to University of St. Thomas in Houston. Donna went to Victoria college. After we were married Travis had a career with AT&T, then SBC Corp., where he did everything from being a technician, tariff compliance, marketing, to handling communications for U.S. presidential visits into the state of Texas. Donna had a career with SONAT Oil Exploration. We raised our two sons in Houston in the Oak Forest neighborhood. After we retired, we bought and moved to 145 acres in Lavaca County which is about 40 miles north of Victoria. It's like living in a state park with plenty of deer, hogs, bobcats, coyotes, creek, pond, pasture and oak woods, etc., but we really missed good grocery stores and restaurants and wanted to be

closer to our sons and the doctors we visit at the Houston Medical Center as we age. We were enamored with The Village due to its security, the community and proximity to our sons.

We've been involved with Weimaraner Rescue of Texas for many years. With two of our Weims passing on we adopted Lacey a year ago who you'll see walking with Travis around the lake. While we still consider our country place our primary residence for now, we are very happy to be able to stay here anytime we want and not in hotels when we come to Houston.

We have two sons; Bradley, who works for Yamaha in Webster and Nathan, who manages the Methodist Hospital campus in The Woodlands. Between the two of them they have given us four granddaughters.

Fur Babies of the Month Teddy Bear and Emma Bear Heines

By Karen Heines



Teddy Bear and Emma Bear are Maltese. They are my constant companions, always in the same room, and seldom more than five feet away. They have been life savers over the last several months.

I write police procedural suspense novels. Teddy and Emma have been very supportive. Here they are encouraging me, and editing "our" work.

They love travel, and have their own Tutto travel case. When I pack, they calm down when they see me get their case out. When we are out of town, they nap in it so they don't get left behind when it's time to go home. As if I could ever leave them behind!

We love living here. The Village in League City is our "fur-ever" home.



HALLOWEEN PARTY

Thanks to everyone who came out to our annual Halloween Party on October 30. We had a great turnout. A special thanks to Marcia Graves for organizing and hosting the party and special events, also for the wonderful decorations. Kudos to our chili judges: Fred & Cookie Growcock and Jay Citraro. After dinner, we all enjoyed the "Witches Dance" performed by Deborah, Holly, Mary Beth, Judy and Cookie. Then everyone was treated to a special play and musical performance written by Deborah Smith and performed by our Theater Guild.



Marcia Graves

Costume Winners

- Best Ladies' Costume: Judy Myers
- Best Men's Costume: Martin Rieck
- Best Couple's Costume: Rusty & Connie Laird

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Gloria Roman

Best Chili

Nancy Schapper

POKER TOURNAMENT



Tom McLean with Judy Foster - 1st Place

Thanks to Tom McLean for hosting our first (in a very long time) poker tournament on Saturday November 13. We started with 18 players who bought in for \$25 and received \$2500 in chips. Play started at about 1 pm with 2 tables of 9 players. The blinds doubled every 20 minutes. By the time 3:30 rolled around we were down to 3 players and the Ladies dominated. The top 3 players received a nice cash prize. They were Judy Foster – 1st place, Ines Rodriguez – 2nd place, and Debbie Coutorie – 3rd place. Honorable mention goes to Jay Citraro for being the last man standing.



Final Table



Ines Rodriguez – 2nd Place



Debbie Coutorie – 3rd Place

VTL Golf Society

By Iain Hutchinson

November Texas Scramble



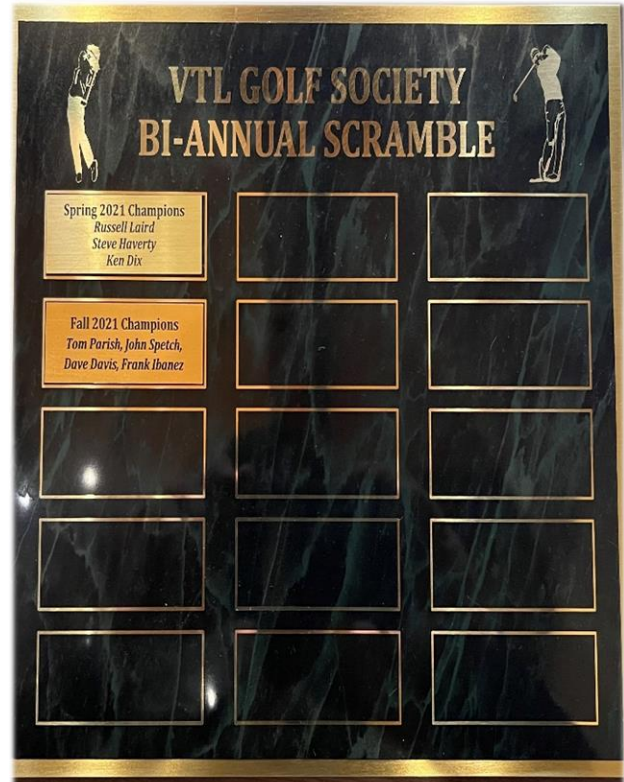
First Place Team: Frank, John, Dave, Tom

The VTL-GS held its second VTL Texas Scramble championship returning to the Bay Forest Golf Course in La Porte which was in great condition, but windy. The professional team at BFGC are once again to be thanked for providing assistance in making our outing successful. This tournament was held in honor of Joe Ignacio a keen golfer and VTL resident who passed away earlier this year. His wife Penny generously provided a number of golf items which were used as prizes in our Tournament. We dedicated a special trophy the “Joe Ignacio Memorial Long Drive Trophy” which was won for the first time today by John Spetch.

Six teams of four (including some very welcomed participation from the VTL lady golfers) played a no

handicap Texas Scramble, and enjoyed a combination of strategy, camaraderie, skill, and heartbreak. In addition, to the main competition for the VTL Championship Plaque we also had a Nearest the Pin competition on all 5 of the par 3’s and the “Joe Ignacio Longest Drive” on hole 10. The tournament results are as follows:

VTL Texas Scramble Championship November 2021			Nearest the Pin	
Team	Players	Score/Place	Hole	Name
A	Iain Hutchinson Russell Laird Dave Harold Joe Hernandez	70/3rd	3	Bob Loyd
B	Bryan Foster Jim Bollom Tom McLean Tom Viner	65/2nd	6	Tom Parish
C	Darrell Landry Marc Jensvold Wayne Lovett Bill Shinpaugh	77/4th	8	Jim Bollom
D	John Boswell Chris Boswell Marianne Citraro Paula Towner	79/5th	13	Darrell Landry
E	Tom Parish John Spetch Dave Davis Frank Ibanez	63/1st	17	Dave Davis
F	Bob Loyd Tom Burns Steve Haverty Ken Machen	77/4th	Joe’s Longest Drive John Spetch	



CROKNITTERS

By Joan Kamien

I am a guest of the Tuscan Village Cro-Knitters group. For the past year, I have enjoyed teaching its members how to knit and crochet comfort dolls. These dolls are approximately thirteen inches long and are filled with poly-fil. The dolls are used to provide psychological comfort to children during difficult times. The Cro-Knitters group has made and donated over thirty dolls to the Nassau Bay Police Department. I also donated forty to Texas Children's Hospital. Comfort dolls are being made for a future donation to Project Linus. Making these dolls is fun and it gives us satisfaction in knowing that they provide a little comfort to a child in need.



(As a SERVICE GROUP, the Cro-Knitters have been honored by some excellent service minded guests at weekly meetings. Joan is such a guest, whom we have asked to let you know more about COMFORT DOLLS.)



VTL BOWLING LEAGUE

By Iain Hutchinson

2021 Winter Season November Update

The winter season is now well underway and it could not be closer. There are less than 4 points separating the top four teams. We are expecting a very exciting finish to the season. There have also been some high scratch scores so far this season with a couple of members scoring in excess of 230 in a single game. The fireball split program is proving to be very popular. Pick up a split and you receive a fireball shot. The introduction this season of the lottery draw has meant that we will have the funds for the end of season prize giving banquet. Remember buy your ticket 50% goes to the winner and 50% goes to the bowling team funds.

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday January 12, 2022 Fall Season Banquet and Awards

All Bowlers, Subs and +1's are invited to attend the banquet. RSVP, menus, what to bring, byob will be published when finalized.

Wednesday January 19, 2022 First Week, Spring Season Start Date

Please consider confirming your participation in the spring. Teams, singles, substitutes who want to join a full-time team, new substitutes, or those who wish to opt out let us know. We will need to confirm numbers soon.

Thanks to all players and substitutes for your participation and please let the bowling Czar Mr. Tom McLean know if you wish to participate in the next season. Spread the word to join our league. All are welcome. Remember this is a handicap league and high handicaps keep the team scores close.

LATE OCTOBER & NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

Flu & Booster Shots – October 28



Trick or Treat Parade – October 29



Halloween Party – October 30



Best Men's Costume

Best Couples' Costume

Best Ladies' Costume





Best Chili



Best Decorated Pumpkin

Veteran's Day Celebration – November 11



Acoustic Duo – Garage Concert – November 13



Turkey Trot – November 20





And The Winners Are:



*Best Decorated Cart - The Ladybugs
- Sharon, Clarice, Wanda, Judy-*



Relay Winners - Trot Squad - Rose, Tom, Annie, Jim-



Happy Birthday, Amber

THE FINE PRINT

Office Staff

Alexandra Kircus-Manager
akircus@houcomm.com
Amber Parsons - Asst. Mgr.
aparsons@houcomm.com
Kara McCadden - PT Clubhouse Attd
Patrick Davis - Porter

HOA Board

Jay Citraro – President
Fred Growcock -Vice President
Holly Cooper – Treasurer
Annie Moulder – Secretary
Marc Jensvold - Director
Email: vtlboard5@gmail.com
Website: Thevillageattuscanlakeshoa.com

Board Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday
Of every month time to be announced

Social Events Committee

Sandra Rethorn – Leader
Julie Ludanyi – Recorder
Penny Ignazio – Volunteer Coordinator
Pat Haverly – Historian
Judy Myers
Cookie Growcock
MaryAnn Crowder
Fred Growcock – Board Liaison

Facilities Committee

Tom McCadden – Chairman
Tom Stiebler – Vice Chairman
Tom McLean – Secretary
Paul Pollino – IT
Joe Hernandez
Paul Rohner
Keith Stine
Marc Jensvold – Board Liaison

Clubhouse Hours:

9am-5pm on Saturday & Monday
9am-9pm on Tuesday thru Friday
Closed on Sunday
Phone: 281-332-1067

Landscape Committee

Loyce Knighton
Michelle Lewis
Laurel Stine
Holly Cooper – Board Liaison
Email: vtllawncare@gmail.com

Welcome Orientation Committee

Paul Fox – Chairman
Sandra Rethorn – Vice Chairman/Secretary
Elaine Guyote
Penny Ignazio
Cookie Growcock
Valerie Adams
Marcia Graves
Holly Cooper – Board Liaison

Architectural Review Board

John Frye – Director
George Foster – Director
Bill Smith – Director
Mike McDaniel – Alternate
Annie Moulder – Board Liaison

Governing Doc Rev Committee

Wayne Lovett – Chairman
Marcia Graves
Genie Frye
Fred Growcock – Board Liaison

Newsletter Editor: Marianne Citraro

Contributing Photographers: Frank Ibanez, Jane Marie Tumelty

To suggest & submit future articles, including memorials, please email: jmccitraro@gmail.com

Please Note: The editor reserves the right to edit the content of submitted articles for the sake of space and/or grammar and sentence structure.

Deadline for the January issue is December 24.