



The Inside Edge

*A Quarterly Neighborhood Newsletter
for Residents of Water's Edge/Woodlands/Spencer's Landing*

Volume 3: Issue 1 Spring 2024

President's Letter

Hello Neighbors,

I hope you are enjoying this nice spring weather; Mother Nature never disappoints! After many years in the making, we are now breaking ground on our new gym and soon thereafter the new expanded community room. This is going to be a great addition to the community center, and I can't wait for us all to enjoy it!! All of the committee's and community input will be coming to life soon - very exciting!

We are now working through our 2024-2025 budget numbers with the many members of our community on the Finance Committee and the Board, reviewing options and proposals. As you know, we are not immune to inflation (and increased usage) and like all other years this will be another challenging cycle to provide the best possible combination of services and amenities while keeping dues as reasonable as possible. Expect to hear more about this in the upcoming Board meetings, and residents' input at the meetings is always appreciated!

I look forward to seeing you around, and let's get ready for another great summer season at Water's Edge/Woodlands/Spencer's Landing!

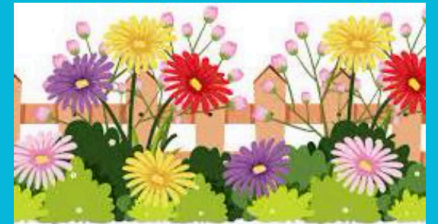
Best, Jason



2024

ACC/HOA Board Meetings

April 10: ACC
May 8: ACC
May 22: Board
June 12: ACC
July 10: ACC
July 13: Annual Meeting



Delight in our Spring Brunch

*Sunday, May 19
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

*Participate in our
Spring Garage Sale
Saturday, June 1
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*Enjoy Guys and Dolls
Saturday, June 29
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

*Celebrate with our
Patriotic Picnic
Saturday, July 6,
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

Bob's Lane

Editor's Note: As part of our quarterly newsletter, General Manager Bob Lane shares some thoughts on current news and events in the community from his unique perspective.



Finally, the construction of our new gym is underway. Despite some early spring snow, we have broken ground and will start seeing significant progress over the next few weeks.

The advisory group that was established to work

on reviewing contractual and procedural details of the construction has been meeting weekly to discuss the layout of equipment and power needs, as well as defining the role of the consulting project manager. Mark Ottati, of Ottati Building Solutions, has been selected to perform periodic inspections and procedural reviews in tandem with management, advisory, and Board oversight of the project. Display boards will be placed on the breezeway walls where the new doors to the addition will be located. Those same drawings will be available on the community website watersedgewoodlands.org once they are provided to the HOA.

With the arrival of spring (sort of) we expect our docks to be ferried from their winter home at the Saratoga Rowing Association. The snow and winds have delayed the expected arrival slightly, but we anticipate the arrival soon. Once in place, several improvements are expected. All dock boards (main stems), cleats and numbers will be replaced. Some cleats will be reused if they are in good shape and are the recessed bolt design. Once this process is completed, the docks will be open for boat delivery. The office will email the opening date once the process is underway. We appreciate your patience as we work through

this improvement. Another significant improvement to the docks this spring is the reinforcement of the outermost sections with a new steel frame, reinforcing the aluminum. These sections of dock take a beating from the wind and rains. This reinforcement should drastically improve the docks' strength and ability to withstand the elements.

Summer is just around the corner, but before we get to that famously busy season, we have the Belmont Stakes this year to prime us for the summer. Just as a reminder... it is required to register your short- and long-term tenants with the office. Tenants, their family, and their guests, whether they intend to use the facilities or not, will require the necessary paperwork and fees/deposits upon arrival. Please contact the office with any questions.

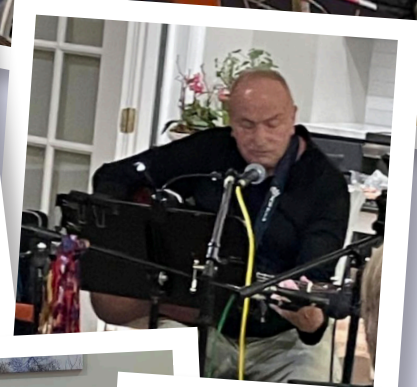
I look forward to seeing many of you to share our progress and to enjoy what promises to be some very exciting times ahead.



Construction has started this week on our new gymnasium

Your Community At Play

Talent Show



Pi Day Celebration



The Way We Were: Steamboats of Saratoga Lake

This is the ninth in an ongoing series of articles featuring the fascinating history of our Water's Edge community. In this article, we will go back to the time when as many as a dozen steamboats sailed on Saratoga Lake. The best-known steamer, the "Alice," first docked right on the shores of Saratoga Lake in 1893. Let's travel back in time and find out more about the Alice and the many other steamboats that sailed on Saratoga Lake from as far back as 1845. How did they get here? What was their purpose? What happened to them all?

Imagine that it is a scorching hot July day in the early 1900's. You have just arrived in Saratoga Springs after a long train ride from New York City, and you get on the trolley that will take you out to the brand new Kaydeross Amusement Park (now Water's Edge) on Saratoga Lake. There, steamboats will meet visitors and take them around the lake to the various hotels. You board the Steamboat Alice that is docked right in front of Kaydeross Park, and off you go to the White Sulphur Springs Hotel, on the southeast corner of the lake. The Alice is the best-known, and the fastest, steamboat on Saratoga Lake and, in addition to transporting guests to the hotel, it also distributes moonshine coming in from Montreal via the railroad, to various Saratoga Lake hotels.

The Steamer Alice was built in Detroit in 1893 and was first exhibited at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, where she won first prize. She was then purchased by boat and hotel owner Thomas Luther and delivered to Buffalo, NY. Luther and his crew then sailed the Alice (named after Luther's wife) east through the Erie Canal, and then up the Hudson River to Schuylerville, where she was picked up by railroad and shipped to Fish Creek, where a crane lowered her into Saratoga Lake. She sailed on Saratoga Lake until 1922, when she was sold, shipped down to Erie, Pennsylvania, and was supposedly "lost in a storm" (possibly for insurance purposes).

There is very little information about the Alice and the dozen or so other steamboats that sailed Saratoga Lake. What we do know is that the Alice was a 50' long fantail launch. We also know that although Saratoga Lake is relatively small, many of these steamboats – which were cruising the lake as far back as 1845 - were floating casinos, some of which were 150' or longer, and could accommodate as many as 1,500 guests! Some of these steamers were as large as the Lake George tour boats that you see today, and some had as many as three decks.

The smaller steamboats that belonged to the hotels on the lake were decorated by their owners, and every steamboat had its own unique whistle, to identify it when docking. The advertisements for the various boats proclaimed them "malaria free," and promised, "no mosquitos," which was very important to those who wanted to escape the summer heat, and drink, gamble, and party in the 1800's and early 1900's.



The General Philip Schuyler

So, what became of these Saratoga Lake steamboats? Around 1919, cars, planes, and gas-powered boats began to compete with the steamboats. The Great Depression and World War II followed, thus marking the end of the steamboats on Saratoga Lake. Some of the boats disappeared when they succumbed to fires--not unusual because of their wood-burning or coal-powered boilers. Others were disposed of in the lake by their owners, who drilled holes in them and sank them. Although Saratoga Lake has never been surveyed via sonar to look for possible wrecks (Lake George has done such explorations), many assume that there are parts of old steamboats, especially abandoned boilers, at the bottom of our lake. Other steamboats were reportedly disassembled and trashed, with many camps and cabins around the lake using sections of the boats for their (continued)

The Way We Were . . . (continued)

home décor, since many of the boats were as ornate as the Canfield Casino that we see today.

Now we come to the current day, and one man's dream of keeping the tradition of Saratoga steamboats alive. We introduce licensed Master Captain Hal Raven, who grew up on and around boats on Lake George. His family was also involved in the Dutch Apple cruises on the Hudson River, and he always dreamed of being the captain of a big boat. He originally planned on sailing a boat on Lake George, but after learning about the rich – and mostly forgotten – history of Saratoga Lake, he changed his mind.

He began by purchasing a pontoon boat in 2016, and would take small groups on excursions around Saratoga Lake. However, in 2017 his dream came true when he purchased a 50'- long fantail launch, similar to the vessels that would have been seen on Saratoga Lake more than 100 years ago. His new boat was an almost exact replica of the Alice, although it had a 90 HP Honda outboard motor rather than a wood-fired boiler. He brought his replica boat to Saratoga for a complete overhaul, and launched it on Saratoga Lake in 2018 as "The General Phillip Schuyler." You might have seen this odd-looking tour boat sailing up and down our lake, and perhaps you have even taken one of Captain Hal's tours. If you haven't, you are in for a treat when you go!

Not only is Captain Hal an impressive navigator, but he is a wealth of information on the history of Saratoga Lake, including the Saratoga steamboats. In fact, the source of the information contained in this article is a YouTube video of a Saratoga History Museum lecture that Captain Hal Raven gave at the Canfield Casino on September 26, 2018, entitled, "Steamboats of Saratoga Lake 9/26/18." Although we are unable to include historic steamboat photos in this article because they are under copyright protection, there are many excellent photos of both the Alice and several other steamboats on the Hal Raven video. The Alice is featured approximately 39 minutes into the video, docked right in front of Kaydeross Park.

So, if you want to take a trip back in time, book a tour on "The General Phillip Schuyler," the first tour boat on Saratoga Lake since 1922. Open Mother's Day until Halloween, the General Schuyler, with its mahogany, oak, and polished brass fittings, is keeping an 1845 tradition alive, when visitors to Saratoga Springs delighted in tours of our glorious lake. (For tour information contact www.adkcruise.com)

~ Submitted by Laurie Wellman

HOA Bulletin Board: Important Messages from Management and Your Neighbors

Please Observe STOP Signs and SLOW DOWN!

There have been several near-accidents reported within our community, with residents failing to come to a full stop at STOP signs. Intersections where cars reportedly sail through STOP signs include: Julian's Way, coming out of Spencer's Landing onto Kaydeross Park Road; Cliffside Drive, coming onto Vista Drive; and, Lakeview Road, also intersecting with Kaydeross Park Road. Even if you don't think a car is coming, please observe our STOP signs. Better safe than sorry! Also, some residents frequently exceed the 30 MPH speed limit throughout the neighborhood and are asked to please slow down!

Fire Pit Rules at the Water's Edge Beach Point

Now that spring is here, residents are reminded that there are special procedures required for reserving and using the big firepit at the Point. Please sign up ahead of time with Bob or Austin, or by visiting the "amenities" section of the Water's Edge website (watersedgewoodlands.org). Go to "reserve amenities," then to "recreation," and look for the "firepit" section. A tutorial on how to use the big firepit is provided on the website. (These procedures are not required for the smaller firepits in and around the beach area.)

2nd Anniversary of our "Inside Edge" Newsletter

We are pleased to announce that our community newsletter is beginning its third year of publication with this issue. If you missed any issues, or would like to revisit any previous articles, go to watersedgewoodlands.org and check out the newsletter archives in the "Community" section.

Clubhouse Renovation: A Quick Update

As Bob Lane already reported in his quarterly column, ground has finally been broken on the construction of our new gym. To avoid having two or more projects going at once, the completion of the gym--now slated for no later than September (hopefully done much sooner)-- will need to take place before we start any other refurbishments.

Nonetheless, we've been spending our time selecting beautiful tiles that, come the fall, will provide for a sensational spa-like ladies' lounge. In the months between



now and the time we begin its demolition and re-construction, we'll be picking out items like hardware, counters, shower curtains, and paint to complement the tiles we found for the showers, backsplash, and walls.

Also on hold until the fall is the demolition of the wall that currently separates the community room from the existing gym. In addition to designing a new fire place, we'll be looking for furniture, as well as sconces and other lighting fixtures, to furnish the expanded community room we'll be enjoying later this year.

By the time the new gym opens its doors, we will have lined up all our selections and be ready to place our orders so that the rest of the clubhouse renovation can begin.

In the meantime, check out the two new tables we've paired with the white rattan chairs we purchased last year from 550—they're a nice and much-needed addition to our current community room!

~ Submitted by Ilene Angarola,
with significant input from Interior Design
Committee Chair Lisa Constantino

Earth Day in Your Community: Plant a Tree

If you reside in, or have driven through the Woodlands recently, you'll notice a large reduction in our beloved tree canopy that had developed along our streets since the single family homes were built and young trees were planted since 1991.

Many of the tree species that were planted in the curb area have reached the end of their natural lifespan and have begun to split or develop sickness. During the recent tree trimming done by the city, branches were drastically cut back and more than four leafy giants were completely removed.

One of the first things that people notice about the Woodlands (WOODlands) is the presence of a mature tree canopy and lots of shade. Not surprisingly, studies show that tree lined streets add real value to a neighborhood such as ours.

Fortunately, Sustainable Saratoga has a program called Tree Toga, to help replace our precious curb trees that



have been lost. Every spring since 2014, in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day, Sustainable Saratoga organizes an event where volunteers gather to plant native saplings that have been chosen based on their value to wildlife, area tree diversity, and size for that particular spot. This year's event will be on Saturday, April 27th. Homeowners in Saratoga Springs can request a free tree for their curb area by going to the Sustainable Saratoga website and requesting one. If your request can't be granted this year, you may be chosen the following year.

Sustainable Saratoga is always looking for volunteers to host a tree, plant trees on planting day, and even be a caregiver to trees throughout the seasons. For more information, go to: <https://sustainablesaratoga.org/projects/urban-forestry-project/tree-toga/>

~ Submitted by Stacey VanMarkwyk

A Day in the Life of a Café and Bakery Owner: Introducing Jeannette Liebers

In each issue of *The Inside Edge*, we have the pleasure of introducing a member of our community who is doing fascinating work. This issue features an interview with Tyler Drive resident Jeannette Liebers, owner and head chef of one of Saratoga's favorite eating establishments, "Sweet Mimi's Café and Bakery." We will learn about the café, a little bit about Jeannette's background that led her to open Sweet Mimi's in 2013, and reflect on some of the rewards and challenges of operating a business such as hers.

Tucked away in Saratoga Springs at 47 Phila Street, Sweet Mimi's Café can be found on the street level of the Caffe Lena building. A favorite gathering spot for breakfast and brunch, for locals as well as for visitors from all over the world, this cozy café has only 35 seats, plus an additional 14 in the summer months, thanks to sidewalk seating new after the pandemic. All of the recipes and menus are created by owner Jeannette Liebers and range from her famous lemon ricotta pancakes to a variety of baked goods that will satisfy even the most discriminating dessert lover! There is a standard menu of dishes, as well an ever-changing variety of "specials," and the café is consistently voted "Best of" in the annual *Saratogian's* "People's Favorite" competition. In fact, owner Jeannette Liebers was even featured on the nationally televised "Beat Bobby Flay" competition - but more about that later.

Jeannette began baking and cooking at age five in her Italian grandmother's kitchen in Queens, NY and knew there was something "magical" about preparing culinary delights for her family and friends. She continued creating in the kitchen throughout high school and college, after which she pursued a culinary degree. When required to declare a major in Italian cooking, French cooking, or baking, Jeannette announced that she would specialize in all three areas and became both a "savory chef" and a baker, in her early twenties.

By age 29, she was married and hosting her own weekly cooking show, called "The Melting Pot," on Time Warner Cable in Syracuse, NY. The program reflected the multi-cultural nature of the city, and Jeannette would go into the homes of the featured cooks and guide them in their meal preparation of mostly ethnic foods. She hosted three seasons of episodes, twice nominated for a Cable Ace Award.

While she and her physician husband were busy raising their three children - one of whom is daughter Mimi, after whom the café is named - Jeannette held onto the dream of someday opening her own restaurant. Until she could one day realize that dream, she was "a mom by day and did baking and catering at night," says Jeannette. She would then put the kids in the car the next day and, together, they would deliver her whole-



Cookies, anyone?

sale baked goods. Her kids were always involved in her business, and they were, and still are, her biggest fans, says Jeannette.

Fast forward to a move to Saratoga Springs, and to the opening of Sweet Mimi's Café in 2013. Her kids were now 11, 13, and 15 when Mimi's opened and have grown up working in and around the café. Also working at the café on Saturdays, incidentally, is Water's Edge HOA Board member Kathy Evans, who acts as a server and hostess. "I can breathe," says Jeannette "when my friend Kathy is there helping out." She loves having Kathy "in the house."

Although planning, creating, and serving an impressive array of fabulous foods is important to Jeannette, several times during our interview she emphasized the importance of making the customers feel welcome and taking good care of them. That is a "must," says Jeannette, and it is her #1 priority. In keeping with that goal, Sweet Mimi's staff of as many as 25 people are well trained and highly experienced, and many of those who began working there as teens have stayed with the restaurant's "family" for many years.

And now on to the "Beat Bobby Flay" story: When Bobby Flay walked into Sweet Mimi's in August of 2019, he was served by Mimi. After he'd finished his meal, she

(continued)

A Day in the Life . . . (continued)

asked if he would like to meet the owner of the Café. So, he met and talked with Jeannette, and several months later, there she was down in NYC for a taping of the Beat Bobby Flay show in what was dubbed “The Battle of Saratoga.” In the first round of the competition, aka the “Battle Round,” Jeannette was up against one of the top brunch chefs in Saratoga-- and won. In the second round, she went up against Bobby Flay. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic hit immediately after the taping, everything was shut down, and the program was not aired until two years later. Although she didn't beat Bobby Flay, the day after the program finally aired, the line in front of Sweet Mimi's went around the block and down Henry Street, and the crowds do not seem to have subsided ever since!



When asked about the rewards and challenges of owning one's own business, Jeannette says that the rewards are too many to list, but that it's the hardest work you'll ever do. She loves meeting all the people and she treasures the relationships she has formed. She especially enjoys mentoring the young people who come to work for her in their teens. When asked what a typical day looks like, Jeannette reported that she is up at 6:00 a.m., goes for a four-mile walk, is at work by 7:30 a.m., and is ready for a morning meeting with all her staff by 7:45 a.m. There, they go over the day's menu and taste any new dishes that will be featured that day. By 7:55 a.m., Jeannette gives the bakery one last check and then, at 8:00 a.m., opens the doors and welcomes her customers. Between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., Jeannette is busy baking, hosting, and testing more new items. As the day begins to wind down, between 1:30 and 4:00 p.m., Jeannette is already busy preparing for the next day, placing orders, doing price checks, meeting with her chefs to review the day, and planning new menus. She also sometimes meets with her bookkeeper and her front-of-the-restaurant managers, and then...she goes home and begins cooking dinner for her family.



If you feel breathless after hearing about the daily schedule of this Sweet Mimi's Café business owner, so was I! When I asked Jeannette how she feels about owning her own business, she enthusiastically replied, “Some people enjoy being the boss. That's me!” And speaking for our neighbors at Water's Edge, we are glad she is!

~ Submitted by Laurie Wellman

East Side EMS/Fire Station Update

The opening of EMS/Fire Station 3 is still delayed, waiting for installation of final equipment. The station will open as soon as final items are completed, which is expected to be this month (April). A grand opening ceremony is planned, but will be held in the future, after the Belmont Stakes. Upon opening, the station will have one engine full time, staffed with a crew of three firefighters until June when the new recruits graduate, and a crew of four after the graduation. EMS/Fire Station 3 is expected to also have a full time ambulance at some point in the future.



Congratulations to Our Neighbor, Dr. Daoui



Jill J. Van Kuren and Dr. Rachid Daoui

Congratulations to our Water’s Edge/Woodlands neighbor, Dr. Rachid Daoui. Saratoga Hospital recently celebrated the opening and dedication of the Dr. Rachid Daoui Dialysis Unit, given in appreciation by Frank and Colleen Messa, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Dialysis is a type of treatment that helps your body remove extra fluid and waste products from your blood when your kidneys aren’t working as they should.

The Saratoga Hospital’s Foundation states, “This milestone marks a significant step forward in our commitment to providing top-notch care. With this new unit, we’re not just expanding physical space; we’re creating an environment where our incredible nurses can excel, ensuring safer and more effective treatments for all. Special “thank you” to Dr. Daoui and his family, our Dialysis team, hospital leaders, staff, and community members for joining us on this momentous occasion.”

Dr. Daoui is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine with a sub-specialty certification in nephrology. He serves as the Chief of the Division of Nephrology at Saratoga Hospital, and sees patients at Saratoga Hospital Medical Group - Nephrology. Dr. Daoui’s practice is well-known for its individualized care and is much-appreciated by the Saratoga Springs community.

In closing, CEO Jill J. VanKuren stated: “Rachid, getting to know you and your story, from your decision to come to this country, to how you built your career, how you built your professional legacy in the service of others, with no regard to self interest or what will be in it for you, so every time I pass this plaque with your name on it, it’s a reminder of selfless dedication to career, to patients, to community and to family. I’m honored to dedicate this unit to you “



Ribbon Cutting with the Daoui Family and Mr. and Mrs. Messa

Thank you from our neighbors to Dr. Daoui for his dedicated services as a well-known and much-appreciated and talented physician.

~ Submitted by Connie Sullivan

To Be or Not to Be: The Pros and Cons of Being a Snowbird

I don't know if everyone who winters in Florida can look back at a specific moment in time when they first thought of becoming a "snowbird," but for me, it was the moment my head hit the icy pavement after falling in front of my Woodlands home. Never one to like the cold, and with fond memories of warm winter vacations, the decision to become a first-time snowbird was, for me, an easy one.

It didn't take long after getting here to fall in love with the vast blue skies or the lush green hills I look out on. Or the ease of living where it's warm, wearing sandals, tee shirts, and shorts. Still, I wondered how other snowbirds felt about their decision to migrate, as opposed to how those who stay at home feel about staying put. To find out, I asked a handful of Water's Edge neighbors and friends to share their diverse viewpoints. If you've thought of becoming a snowbird, their perspectives might well help you decide.



All Those In Favor, Say "Ahhhhhhh"

While the warmer climate ranks high on the list of reasons to head south for winter, the specific locations where people reside have much to do with their annual pilgrimages. Anne and her husband Mike have been snowbirds since 2012, primarily as owners. They typically stay as long as five months, though they're planning on three months next year. As condo owners in Vero Beach, they "love the proximity to three great beaches, the musical theatre productions, a nice variety of restaurants, a generally laid-back atmosphere, outside pickleball courts, and, last but not least, the many friends they've made over the years."

Like Anne and Mike, Giovanna and Bob enjoy their Florida winters, although they are renters, not owners, and stay for a much shorter time. That said, the two months they spend in Bradenton sound like an action-packed pleasure. According to Giovanna, "there's a ton to do here. With our proximity to Sarasota, there's always something happening--lots of arts shows, seven theaters, classical music. It's a lot like Saratoga Springs, only the weather allows you to do more outdoors."

While I myself don't live on the coast, I'm a short drive to Crystal River, where swimming with the manatees is the very first thing the locals tell you about. Though Ocala is the closest place to go (30 minutes away) for Saratoga-like shopping and culture, the natural beauty, uncrowded roads, and laid-back vibe were reason enough to make this my winter home.

Where the Friends Are...

Another factor that has a place in selecting a location is having one or two family members or friends who got there first. Anne and her husband visited friends who had a home nearby where they wintered, and Bob had cousins, and Giovanna a friend, who lived in a nearby town. While I also have friends and family down here, the fact is, I'm nowhere near them. That's why we chose a community that thrives on

interaction, with a fitness center, scores of clubs, and nightly social events.

There is a Downside

While Anne, Giovanna, and I agree there's much to be said for snowbirding, being away for two to five months has its disadvantages. For example, Giovanna admits to missing "my friends, my daughters and grandchildren, and my volunteer activities." She also misses her "routines," like her weekly mah jongg game. "Being in Florida such a short time, it's difficult to make the same types of friends here as I have at home," she says.

Anne acknowledges missing "friends and family the most, but also Saratoga and the surrounding area." She also loved to downhill and cross-country ski but hasn't done so now for 12 years. "Just watching a new snowfall from my window" is yet another thing Anne says she's missed.

(continued)

To Be or Not to Be . . . (continued)

For me, it's mostly my family and friends, and especially my grandkids, and missing out on those special events, like seeing my grandson in his school play. While Face-Time and Zoom help me keep in the loop, I'm missing my in-person involvement with the committees I serve on at Water's Edge.



The only other “negative” is the travail of getting down here “in a comfortable and timely manner,” says Giovanna. She and her husband take the auto train—not the most comfortable option-- while David and I had a grueling drive down with 3 cats and a dog in the back seat of my SUV.

Other than that, we all have found the logistics to be fairly easy. It's mostly a matter of taking the following steps: (1) notifying the post office of your change of address; (2) temporarily shutting down your cable service; (3) turning off the water; (4) having someone you trust check your house for leaks or fallen trees. If someone else is using your house during your winter absence, your primary task is packing up and storing your valuables.

So, would we recommend being a snowbird? The answer for us is “Yes!” On the other hand, there are those who much prefer staying at home through the winter. And while logistics are a big factor for some who are opposed to being a snowbird, so too is a love of the local scene, including the cold and the snow.

All Those Against, Say “No Thanks!”

For example, one couple in Water's Edge was quick to point out the beauty of “our community, clubhouse, and grounds when covered in snow,” before subsequently noting that the city “hosts many winter events,” both indoors and out. Furthermore, “The Adirondacks and Vermont are a short ride away, and both offer their own beauty and winter activities.”

A second couple would be quick to agree, stating that they “enjoy the view of the lake in the winter.” They also enjoy activities with their friends in the area. While the same couple visits Florida for two weeks or so, they prefer to be in Saratoga because “it's peaceful, quiet, uncrowded,” and there are “plenty of parking spaces, and easier access to restaurants and entertainment venues” than during the summer months. Another advantage of staying put is being “close to family that lives in NYC and Long Island” and, also, not having to disrupt their “normal activities.”

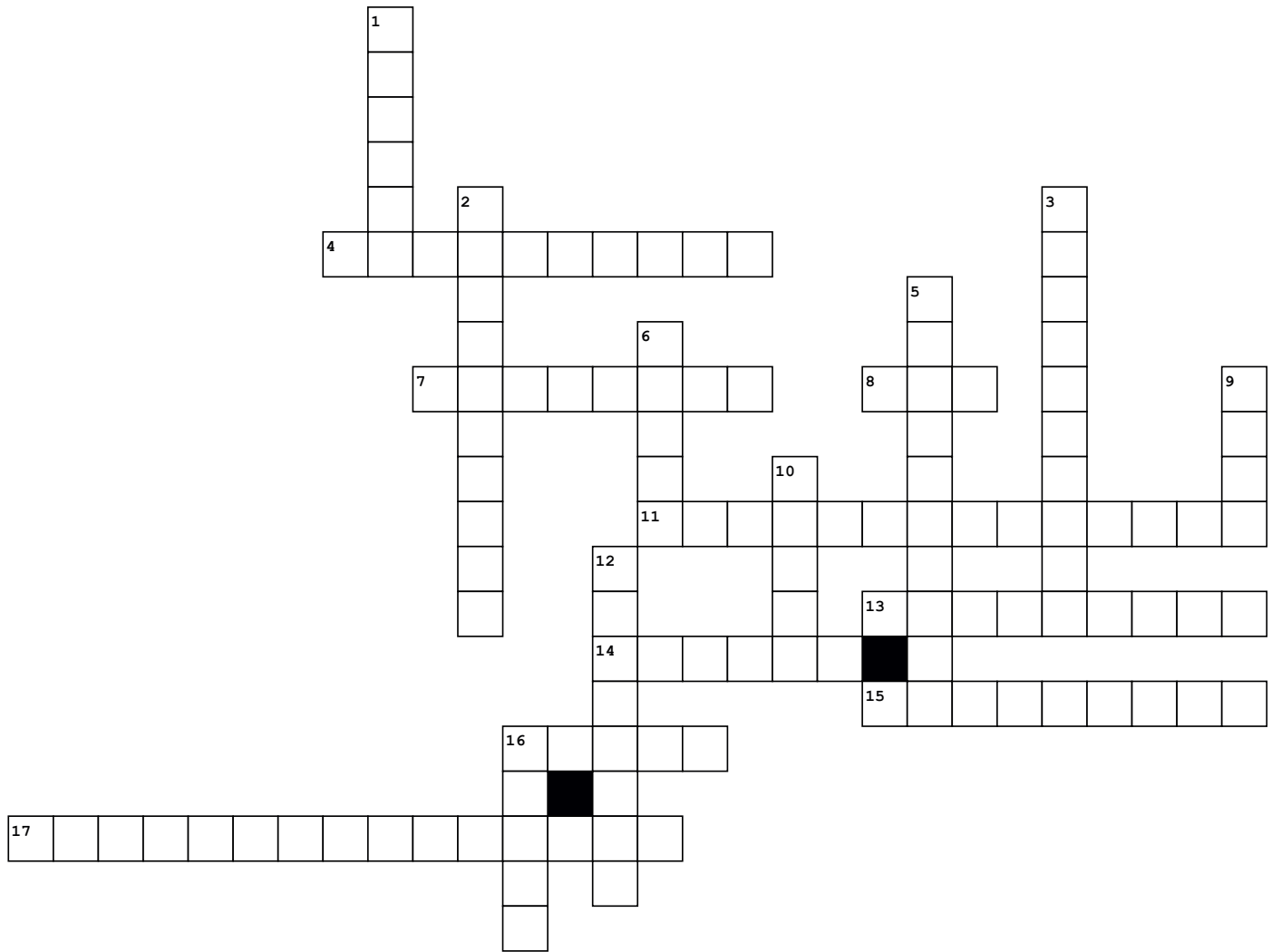
Still, for this couple, the biggest reason to winter at home is that they “don't want to worry about the safety, security, and maintenance of two houses.” They also “don't want to deal with forwarding (and possibly losing) mail or shipping cars.” Another concern is leaving their “familiar primary service providers.” Essentially, “we feel comfortable and at home in Saratoga, and if the weather gets too cold, we just stay home.”



So there you have it – the pros and cons of being a snowbird. While both points of view have their merits, there's a lot to be said for the Florida sunshine—though I have to confess I'll be glad to be home once the warmer weather returns.

~ Submitted by Ilene Angarola

KYC: How Well Do You Know Your Community?



Across

- 4. Our resident recreation director (2 words)
- 7. Popular watersport
- 8. Initially, you'll have to check with this committee before making any changes
- 11. Street name that points to our native American heritage (2 words)
- 13. First name among amusement parks
- 14. These avian Americans are known to hang out by our lake
- 15. Gathering place for meetings, sports, parties, etc.
- 16. We have two of them
- 17. Most recent addition to our community (2 words)

Down

- 1. Where the boats are
- 2. Before there were homes on Cliffside Drive, this was the place to dance all night (2 words)
- 3. Home sweet home to most of our residents (2 words)
- 5. Increasingly popular indoor and outdoor sport
- 6. Drive that circles through The Woodlands
- 9. Laura or Bob
- 10. This sport has a few leagues of its own
- 12. Our very own lakeside landmark (2 words)
- 16. How sweet it is: mathematical holiday recently celebrated at the clubhouse (2 words)

Solution appears on Page 13

~ Submitted by the Newsletter Committee, with a welcome assist from Austin Lane

Amendments to Architectural Control Committee Regulations

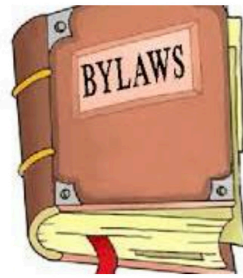
As we all know, Water's Edge/Woodlands is a beautiful place to live. By complying with the rules and regulations regarding our individual properties, we have created an ambiance of harmony and attractiveness that preserves the integrity of the community as a whole. In many ways, the presence of the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) has enhanced the ability of the Homeowners Association to maintain a community that is a pleasure to enjoy and reside in.

As background, let us remind you that the purpose of the ACC, whose members are appointed directly by the Board in view of the scope of the committee's responsibilities, is to ensure that any alterations in the community conform to and harmonize with the existing surroundings and structure. The long-standing regulations state "No changes, improvements or additions shall be made unless complete plans and specifications have been submitted to and approved in writing by the ACC."

However, a few homeowners have not observed the standards set in the Amended and Restated Declaration by the ACC and approved by the Board as far back as 2014. As a result, the Board of Directors has had no choice but to approve changes to allow the Board to impose fines for various infractions related to non-compliance with those standards. These changes, outlined in the Board-Approved Owner Handbook (Rules and Regulations of the HOA), specifically strengthen the Board's ability to manage, and ensure adherence with, the regulations governing the role of the ACC, in accordance with the original Declaration and By-Laws.

Making these changes was not an easy decision. However, it was necessary to remedy an issue that has plagued previous boards for years while also giving the current and future Boards the authority to act in those rare instances where a homeowner chooses not to adhere to community guidelines. These changes specifically allow the Board to impose fines for various infractions related to exterior modifications to homeowner properties and failure by owners to follow the required procedures.

A great deal of thought has gone into these changes. The Board is not eager to impose fines and will do so with great discretion. The language in the amended Regulations gives the Board the authority to act when a homeowner chooses not to be in compliance with approved rules and regulations. The fines enable the Board to provide better balance in achieving harmony and conformity within the community for the benefit of all residents.



Examples of those infractions may be: changing or adding to an existing structure without applying to the ACC; commencing or finishing a project prior to ACC approval; or changing the appearance, scope, or outcome of a project without approval by the ACC. The compliance

consequences are separated into two categories: minor and severe. The Board may impose fines based on the severity of the violation, and could include either one-time or recurring penalties, depending on the circumstances.

The rare imposition of fines will be the responsibility of the Board, with the recommendation of the ACC. The Board appreciates that a substantial majority of homeowners have willingly complied with the ACC regulations, and anticipates that this section of the ACC guidelines will be rarely used. A full description of the role of the Board and the ACC is found in Section IIIB, pages 5-13 of the Board-Approved Owner Handbook, which can be found on the HOA website, watersedge-woodlands.org.

~ Submitted by Connie Sullivan with assistance from Linda Tokarchuk, ACC Chair and Bob Lane

And Another Thing . . .

Spring Brunch

Join us for our annual Spring Brunch on Sunday, May 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with omelets created by the Omelette King. Enter in the spring raffles and create spring-like crafts. Children will delight in the annual egg hunt. RSVP to kathyevans530@gmail.com by May 12.



Calling All Kayakers!

Watch your email for an announcement of an upcoming meeting for anyone interested in forming a kayaking group here at Water's Edge! Stay tuned!

Annual Garage Sale

The annual garage sale is scheduled for June 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Begin your search for items you would like to sell, including home décor, furniture, antiques, clothing, toys, house wares, and other items to make your sale the best it could be. Volunteers will be welcome to place signs, balloons, and other tasks related to a successful sale. Details will be available closer to the event.



Guys and Dolls

We are looking forward to our first partnership with Opera Saratoga and Universal Preservation Hall on June 29,th to attend the Guys and Dolls performance. We have community member John Zizzo to thank for this opportunity. As a member of the Opera Saratoga Board, John has made all of the arrangements for us. What a wonderful way to gather together for a stellar performance.



The Saratoga Opera Package includes:

- Exclusive admission and wine party in the Opera Saratoga lounge prior to the performance. (Wine, beverages and hors d'oeuvres to be provided

and coordinated by Water's Edge/Woodlands residents.)

- 10% discount on the regular price of Guys and Dolls tickets using Code WATERSEGE when using the Proctor's website or calling Proctor's. Regular ticket prices range from \$65 to \$125.
- Complimentary libations in the Opera Saratoga lounge during intermission.

If you purchase tickets and wish to join us in the event, please let Connie Sullivan know at jcsul@aol.com. We are maintaining a list of participants so that we can notify individuals of details and arrangements prior to the event.

Patriotic Picnic

The long-awaited Patriotic Picnic celebration will be held this year on Saturday, July 6, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be a wonderful array of barbecued foods, from hamburgers to sausages to hot dogs, as well as a vegan option. Neighbors are always welcome to volunteer to be our "community grillers" and join in the grilling fun and enjoyment. Community members are also invited to provide "pot-luck" side dishes and desserts, resulting in a broad array of food options for all. In this annual lakeside event, community members will not only have the opportunity to socialize in an informal atmosphere, but also enjoy the music of Jeff Walton throughout the afternoon. The annual fireworks display will once again be held in the fall.



~ Submitted by Connie Sullivan

The Inside Edge

A Quarterly Neighborhood Newsletter for Residents of Water's Edge/Woodlands/Spencer's Landing

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*Jason Mazzotti, President
Kathy Evans
Rich Hand
George Morabito
Steve Porto*

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*Connie Sullivan, Co-Chair
Laurie Wellman, Co-Chair
Ilene Angarola
Stacey VanMarkwyk*

Special thanks to Paul Hein and Austin Lane for their formatting expertise.

*Comments and suggestions may be sent to the HOA office at
hoawatersedge@nycap.rr.com*

*Please put Newsletter in the subject area so that correspondence may be forwarded to
the correct person.*